

Ivanka Trump in Africa to Promote Women at Work Program

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia - Leaving behind the White House battles over border walls and tax returns, Ivanka Trump is visiting Ethiopia and Ivory Coast in pursuit of a very different goal - advancing a global women's program she hopes will outlast an administration better known for "America First" isolationism. The president's daughter and senior adviser arrived in Africa on Sunday, opening a four-day swing to advocate for an initiative that aims to boost 50 million women in developing countries by 2025. Her plans include visiting with women working in the coffee industry and touring a female-run textile facility, as well as meeting with dignitaries and appearing at a World Bank policy



summit.

But even thousands of miles from Washington, Trump is sure to be shadowed by her father's efforts to cut international aid, as well

as his past disparaging comments about the continent. While she has drawn praise for taking on this project - and for making this trip - the contrast between her priorities

and those of many others in the White House was evident. On the continent, reactions to the visit reflected the contradictions of her role. Activist Marakie Tesfaye, who founded a group in Ethiopia for women, welcomed the attention, saying: "I think she's coming genuinely to empower women and it's good that she's coming because she will push forward our agenda." Ethiopian journalist Sisay Woubshet was more skeptical, citing President Donald Trump's past comments and adding: "I don't think people will have a good feeling about his daughter's visit this time around to promote her global initiative towards women." (Fox News)

Japan's PM Visits Fukushima Nuke Plant in Revival Message

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday visited the Fukushima nuclear plant, which sank into meltdown after a tsunami eight years ago, in an effort to highlight revival and safety as the nation prepares to host the 2020 Olympics. The visit by Abe, who last went to the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant five years ago, was seen as damage control after Yoshitaka Sakurada, a ruling party minister overseeing the Olympics, resigned for a re-

mark appearing to belittle reconstruction in northeastern Japan. "Our basic policy is that every minister is that reconstruction minister," Abe said during his visit. "We reaffirmed our commitment to work for the revival of Fukushima and northeastern Japan." Abe wore a business suit as he was shown around the plant - a contrast to the special head-to-toe suit and mask visitors had to wear five years ago, reflecting progress with the cleanup. (AP)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have issued statements in support of Sudan's transitional military council after mass protests forced longtime President Omar al-Bashir from power. Saudi Arabia says it "stands by the Sudanese people" and calls on all Sudanese "to give priority to the national interest" of their country. The UAE called on the Sudanese "to work for protecting legitimacy and ensuring a peaceful transfer of power."

Saudis, UAE Express Support for Sudan Military Council



Saudi King Salman ordered an unspecified package of aid for Sudan that includes petroleum products, wheat and medicine.

In separate statements issued late Saturday, Saudi Arabia and the UAE specifically expressed support for Sudan's transitional council formed by the military. The UAE said it welcomed the swearing-in of Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan on Friday as head of that council. (Fox News)

Hundreds Evacuated in Frankfurt So WWII Bomb Can Be Defused



BERLIN - Some 600 people have been evacuated from their homes in the old city of Frankfurt

so specialists could remove a World War II-era bomb that was discovered in the Main River.

The German news agency DPA reported the bomb was defused, as planned, underwater on

Sunday, which led to a loud detonation and a big water fountain on the river. Police told DPA "the bomb is no longer a danger." Firefighters had discovered the American 250-kilogram (550-pound) bomb during diving training in the river on Tuesday. Even more than 70 years after the end of the war, bombs and other munitions still turn up regularly in Germany, a testament to the ferocity of the fighting in World War II. (AP)

Ukraine President Holds 1-Man 'Debate' before Runoff Vote

MOSCOW - With one week remaining until Ukraine's presidential election runoff, President Petro Poroshenko has come to the country's largest sports stadium for a proposed debate where his opponent didn't show up. There also weren't any spectators in Kiev's Olimpiskiy Stadium, though a large crowd stood outside to listen to a broadcast of Poroshenko making a statement and answering journalists' questions. He stood next to an empty lectern

Over 43,000 Workforce Exported to Qatar in 3 Years

ISLAMABAD - Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development have sent as many as 43,000 skilled and semi skilled workforce to Qatar for prospective job opportunities in construction and other sectors during the last three years. The government is committed to fulfill the 100,000 manpower quota, recently announced by Qatar, till the end of 2019, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis, Sayed Zulfikar Bukhari told APP here. "Following the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan to create employment for youth in and out of the country, the Overseas Ministry is eyeing to increase the quota," he remarked while expressing his resolve of accomplishing

Airport Construction in Turkmenistan's East to Start Soon

ASHGABAT - Construction of an airport in the Kerki town of Turkmenistan's Lebap province will begin in May, Trend reports referring to the "Neutral Turkmenistan" newspaper. The project is being implemented by the local company "Gündogdy", which previously built an airport in Turkmenabat, the administrative center of Lebap. Commissioning is scheduled for April 2021. An airfield of 200 hectares will be designed to handle 100 passengers per

Commander Calls US Blacklisting of IRGC as Foolish Decision

TEHRAN - A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has blasted the United States for blacklisting the elite Iranian military force as a foolish decision. Brigadier General Hossein Salami said on Saturday that the US itself was a main sponsor of terrorism and has always supported tortures around the world despite laying claims on democracy. Salami, the second-in-command of the IRGC, made the remarks while visiting the flooded regions in southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan where the Iranian military forces have been assisting the locals in affected towns and villages. His comments came sev-

eral days after the White House announced its plans for designating the IRGC as a terrorist entity, a first time the US blacklists a military force of another country. The move has sparked global outrage with many countries calling it unreasonable. Critics inside the US have also warned the administration of President Donald Trump about the ramifications of the move for US forces in the Middle East. Salami said Iran has been a victim of terrorism since the victory of Islamic Revolution in the country in 1979, adding that the designation of the IRGC as terrorist should be viewed as a "foolish decision". (Press TV)

Trump Sanctuary City Idea Could Help Migrants Stay in US

PHOENIX - An idea floated by President Donald Trump to send immigrants from the border to "sanctuary cities" to exact revenge on Democratic foes could end up doing the migrants a favor by placing them in locations that make it easier to put down roots and stay in the country. The plan would put thousands of immigrants in cities that are not only welcoming to them, but also more likely to rebuff federal officials carrying out deportation orders. Many of these locations have more resources to help immigrants make their legal cases to stay in the United States than smaller cities, with some of the nation's biggest immigration advocacy groups based in places like San Francisco, New York City and Chicago. (AP)

Shifting Brexit Date Gives Map-Makers a Headache

LEMPDES (France) - In or out? The repeated delays to Brexit are a nightmare for map makers and guidebook printers who have to decide how to depict Britain's relationship with the European Union. "We are completely lost," said Henri Medori, manager of publisher AEDIS. In a hangar that serves as his firm's logistic hub in Lempdes, near Clermont-Ferrand in central France, dozens of copies of laminated leaflets on "Europe at 27" rest on boxes. They reflect the number of countries that will be part of the EU once Britain finally leaves. "We have at least ten books that have a map of Europe, of the European Union. So it's a little complicated," he told AFP. (AFP)

China Sees Great Potential in Closer Cooperation with World Bank: Finance Minister

WASHINGTON - China is willing to deepen its cooperation with the World Bank on lending programs and knowledge sharing, Chinese Finance Minister Liu Kun said here in a meeting with World Bank President David Malpass. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 99th Meeting of the Development Committee launched by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on Friday and Saturday. There is great potential for China, the world's



largest developing country and an important partner of the World Bank, to cooperate with the international lender in the future, Liu said, according to a statement released by the Chinese Ministry of Finance on Saturday. Liu said he hopes other developing countries can learn from China's experience in successfully alleviating poverty. (Xinhua)

UN Envoy Holds "Detailed Discussions" with Syrian Officials

DAMASCUS - UN envoy to Syria Geir Pedersen said he held "detailed and substantial" discussions with Syrian officials in the capital Damascus on Sunday. Pedersen, who arrived in Damascus on Saturday afternoon, held the meetings Sunday morning and will continue the discussions in the afternoon of the same day. He told reporters upon returning from the first session of talks Sunday that his talks with Syrian foreign ministry officials are covering all issues.

"We have had very detailed substantial discussions and we are continuing the discussions this afternoon so it's fair to say that we are now addressing all the issues so all the issues are on the table and let's see how we are able to proceed later this afternoon," he said. Pedersen has been discussing, throughout his previous visits to Syria, the formation of a constitutional committee that would be tasked with discussing and suggesting amendments to the Syrian constitution. (Xinhua)

Philippines: US DNA Tests Confirm Death of IS-Linked Leader

MANILA, Philippines - US DNA tests have confirmed the death of a Muslim militant commander who helped lead the 2017 siege of a city in the southern Philippines and was considered a key leader of the Islamic State group in the region, officials said Sunday. Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said the tests confirmed that Owaida Marohombsar, who was also known by his nom de guerre Abu Dar, was one of four militants killed in a March 14 gunbattle that also left four soldiers dead near southern Tubaran town in Lanao del Sur province. The Philippine military asked U.S. authorities to confirm Marohombsar's death through DNA tests. Marohombsar helped lead the May 23, 2017, siege of Marawi, which troops quelled after five months of ground assaults and airstrikes that left more than 1,100 people, mostly militants, dead and destroyed the mosque-studded city's commercial and residential districts. Most leaders of the attack were killed, but Marohombsar survived with a large amount of looted cash and jewelry from Marawi that authorities feared he could use to rebuild the militant's battered organization and plot new attacks. One regional official, Zia Adiong, said at the time that Marohombsar escaped from Marawi with at least 30 million pesos (\$566,000) in stolen money. But troops hunted the extremist leader and his men down across Lanao. (AP)