

# Pence to Begin Latin America Tour as Global Crises Grow

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence will visit Colombia amid escalating tensions with neighboring Venezuela and North Korea. Pence is set to meet with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Sunday at the start of a weeklong trip to Latin America that is likely to be dominated by conversations about the deepening crisis in Venezuela, where the U.S. accuses President Nicolas Maduro of a power grab that has sparked deadly protests and condemnation across the region. Trump appeared to complicate the discussions Friday with an unexpected statement that he would not rule out a



“military option” in response to the Venezuelan government’s attempt to consolidate power. The statement drew immediate push-back, including from the Colombian Foreign Ministry, which condemned any “military measures and the use of force,” and said that efforts to resolve Venezuela’s breakdown in democracy should be peaceful and respect its sovereignty. Pence’s trip will also take him to Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; and Panama City, Panama, where he is expected to deliver a number of speeches, meet with the country’s leaders and tour the newly expanded Panama Canal. (AP)

## Neighbor News

### Chinese Vice Premier Arrives Islamabad

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Vice-Premier of the State Council of People’s Republic of China Wang Yang along with a high powered delegation Sunday arrived here on a two-day official visit. At the airport, he was warmly received by the high officials. According to the Foreign Office, Vice Premier Wang Yang is undertaking the visit to Pakistan on the directions of President Xi Jinping as a special gesture to participate in 70th Independence Day celebrations of Pakistan. During his visit, the Vice Premier will attend the flag-hoisting ceremony on 14th August as a special guest and call on President Mamnoon Hussain. He will also call on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and will participate in the inauguration ceremony of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and witness the signing of bilateral MoUs/Agreements between the two countries. His visit on this important milestone is a reflection of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. (APP)

### Iran Lawmakers Raise Missile, Guard Spending to Challenge US

TEHRAN — Iran’s parliament voted unanimously Sunday to increase spending on its ballistic missile program and the foreign operations of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, part of a sanctions bill mirroring a new U.S. law targeting the country. While offering hundreds of millions of dollars in new funding, the lawmakers’ bill offered a tactic as old as the slogan shouted since the 1979 Islamic Revolution — using America’s own tactics against it. The vote saves public anger in Iran over U.S. President Donald Trump’s constant threats to renegotiate or abandon the nuclear deal struck by world powers under his predecessor. While lawmakers stressed the bill wouldn’t violate that agreement, it ensures those both home and abroad know Iran will continue confronting America either in the Persian Gulf or legislatively, analysts say. “They want to show that the pressure that the U.S. is exerting on Iran, they can respond with similar measures,” said Adnan Tabatabaai, an Iran analyst based in Germany who is the CEO of the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient. “It’s not that important that those measures may not hurt the U.S. in the same way. ... They want to show they are not just standing still and watching this happening.” In the session Sunday, 240 lawmakers voted for the bill, with only one abstention from the 247 legislators on hand, Iran’s state-run news agency IRNA reported. The bill now heads to an oversight committee called the Guardian Council, which is expected to approve it. Abbas Araghchi, a deputy foreign minister and senior nuclear negotiator on hand for the vote, said moderate President Hassan Rouhani’s government supported the bill. (AP)

### Merkel Challenger Remains Confident of Unseating Chancellor

BERLIN — Angela Merkel’s main challenger in the country’s upcoming general election said Sunday he remains confident he can unseat the chancellor despite her wide lead in the polls. Martin Schulz, who was president of the European Parliament until January, said on Germany’s ZDF television’s “Berlin Direkt” program that there are still six weeks of campaigning to go before the Sept. 24 vote. “I think that I still have a good chance to lead the next government,” he said. Still, with Germany enjoying record-low unemployment, a balanced budget and a strong economy, the 61-year-old Schulz faces an uphill battle to defeat Merkel and was challenged in the 15-minute interview to say why people should vote for his party over her Christian Democrats. “Germany is doing well... but the statement that Germany is doing well doesn’t mean that all Germans are doing well,” he said. (AP)

### Britain Says Brexit Talks should Move to next Phase, as Ministers Show Unity

LONDON - Britain said on Sunday that it wants talks with the EU to move on to the next phase, as it set out details of the future relationship it envisages with the bloc and senior ministers presented a united approach to negotiations. Britain is keen to start talking about its post-Brexit relationship with Europe, wary of the need to reassure anxious businesses, citizens and investors. But Brussels has insisted that progress must be made on divorce arrangements first. “We need to get on with negotiating the bigger issues around our future partnership to ensure we get a deal that delivers a strong UK and EU,” Brexit minister David Davis said in a statement. Britain’s call to move forward with Brexit talks came as finance minister Philip Hammond and trade minister Liam Fox presented a united front that there should be a time-limited transition period - signalling a truce between rival factions in Prime



Minister Theresa May’s cabinet. Davis’s Brexit department said it was preparing to publish several papers, including plans for a new customs arrangement and a proposal on how to resolve the difficulties of a non-physical border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. (Reuters)

### Trump Condemns Hatred in Wake of Violent White Nationalist Rally



WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump condemned hatred “on many sides” after at least one was killed and another 19 injured during a violent white nationalist rally on Saturday in Charlottesville in the state of Virginia. “We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides,” Trump said in a short statement at a press conference in New Jersey, where he is having a working vacation. “It’s been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump, not Barack Obama. This has been going on for a long, long time,” he continued, referring to the violent clashes erupting at the pre-planned white nationalist rally in downtown Charlottesville earlier on the day. “We ALL must be united & condemn all that hate stands for. There is no place for this kind of violence in America,” Trump tweeted hours earlier. He didn’t mention white nationalists and the alt-right movement in his remarks. At least one person was killed and 19 injured in a multiple car crash during the violent “Unite the Right” rally in the downtown, according to Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer and local hospital officials. Police said at least three vehicles were involved in the incident. (Xinhua)

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### Amid Criticism, UK Govt. Tries to Show Unity on Brexit

LONDON - The British government tried to fight back Sunday against criticisms that it is divided and unprepared for Brexit, saying it will set out detailed plans for the U.K.’s exit from the European Union and issuing a joint statement by two Cabinet rivals over Europe. Trade Secretary Liam Fox, a strong supporter of leaving the European Union, and the more pro-EU Treasury chief Philip Hammond, wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that they agreed there should be a “time-limited” transition period after Britain formally leaves the bloc in 2019, to avoid a “cliff-edge” for people and businesses. Fox and Hammond said the transition period “cannot be indefinite; it cannot be a back door to staying in the EU.” They didn’t say how long the transition would last or what rules would apply during that period. The government also said Sunday it wants to increase pressure on the 27 other EU nations to start negotiating a “deep and special” future relationship that would include a free trade deal between Britain and the EU. (AP)

### Argentina Primary Vote Measures Appetite for Populist Ex-President

BUENOS AIRES - Argentines vote on Sunday in a closely watched mid-term primary election that will test their appetite for bringing back the left-wing populism of former President Cristina Fernandez. Fernandez, who was indicted for corruption last year, is vying for a Senate seat in Buenos Aires province, home to nearly 40 percent of the country’s voters. She is running against business friendly President Mauricio Macri’s former education minister and other candidates from a divided opposition. Investors and wealthy Argentines fear a Fernandez comeback in Congress could pave the way to her running for president in 2019. Her return to power would likely mean the end of Macri’s reforms and a resumption of rampant spending, protection of industry and isolation from trade agreements and international capital markets. A seat in Congress would give the 64-year-old Fernandez immunity from arrest, though not from trial. She dismisses the corruption accusations as politically motivated. The compulsory primary vote on Sunday will essentially serve as a detailed poll ahead of the Oct. 22 election for one third of the Senate and half the lower house of Congress, as no major candidates are being challenged from within their own parties. Though her chosen successor lost to Macri in Buenos Aires province in 2015, Fernandez now appeals to many in its struggling industrial belt, where Argentina’s emergence from recession in the second half of last year has yet to take hold. (Reuters)

### German FM Warns Against Escalation of U.S.-DPRK War of Words

BERLIN - German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned Sunday that the provocations between Washington and Pyongyang could escalate to a military conflict. “I am really concerned that the rhetorical escalations and mutual upheaval would end up in a military conflict,” Gabriel said in an interview with Bild am Sonntag, a leading Sunday newspaper in Germany. The nuclear and missile program of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a serious threat to global peace,



far beyond the Korean Peninsula and the region, added Gabriel. “We must do everything we can to ensure that further provocations are not taken,” the German minister said. Earlier last week, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened “fire and fury” for DPRK’s nuclear program, and the DPRK responded by saying it is making plans for “enveloping fire” targeting the U.S. territory of Guam, using intermediate missiles. (Xinhua)

### Trump to Direct USTR to Determine whether to Investigate China’s Trade Practices

WASHINGTON - The U.S. administration said here on Saturday that President Donald Trump will direct on Monday the U.S. trade representative (USTR) to determine whether to investigate China’s trade practices, triggering concerns that Washington may take unilateral moves harming China-U.S. trade and economic ties. The USTR Robert Lighthizer would consider whether to probe China’s trade practices under Section 301 of the Trade Act, senior administration officials said, but they declined to say when

the USTR’s decision would be made. If Lighthizer decides to go ahead with an investigation, the United States would first consult with China and the investigation process could take as long as a year, officials said. The Section 301, which was passed in 1974 and heavily used in 1980s and early 1990s, would allow the U.S. president to unilaterally impose tariffs or other trade restrictions against foreign countries. But the United States has rarely used that obsolete trade law since the World Trade Organization (WTO) came into effect in 1995. (Xinhua)

### Israel Pins Hope on U.S. Delegation for Peace Talks Resumption

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel welcomes a delegation that U.S. President Donald Trump will send later this month to the Middle East in an effort to reignite the peace talks. “President Trump will soon send his representatives, Jared Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, for talks in the region including, of course, in Jerusalem, in an effort to advance the peace process,” Netanyahu told his weekly cabinet meeting. “We will welcome them as always,” he added. On Friday, the White House said Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and his senior adviser, and negotiator Jason Greenblatt would soon be sent to the region to hold meetings with regional leaders and discuss a “path to substantive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.” They will meet leaders from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, a white house official said. Trump believe regional talks are important but he “reaffirms that peace between Israelis and Palestinians can only be negotiated directly between the two parties and that the United States will continue working closely with the parties to make progress towards that goal,” the official added. Kushner was appointed to help broker a deal between Israel and the Palestinians after Trump took office in January. During his first trip to the region in May, Trump visited Saudi Arabia, Israel and the West Bank. (Xinhua)

### India, Turkmenistan to Hold Talks on Boosting Economic Ties

ASHGABAT - India and Turkmenistan will hold talks on Monday on ways to enhance trade and boost scientific and technological cooperation. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, is on a visit to India from August 13-15 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. Swaraj and Meredov will tomorrow co-chair the sixth meeting of the Turkmenistan-India Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, a Ministry of External Affairs statement said. Meredov will also hold a series of other meetings and review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, it said. (Agencies)

### Uzbekistan Starts Second Phase of Development of Largest Copper Deposit

TASHKENT - Almalik Mining and Metallurgical Combine (AMMC, Almalik city, Tashkent region), a monopoly coproducer in Uzbekistan, has started implementation of the second phase of the “Development of the Dalneye deposit” project, the press service of the AMMC reported. The work was started on the instruction of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who arrived in Almalik to participate in the solemn ceremony dedicated to the beginning of the work. It was earlier reported that Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev by his decree approved measures to expand production capacities of AMMC on basis of Dalneye deposit in early March 2017. The project will be implemented from 2017 to 2028 in two phases. The first phase of the project will be implemented from 2017 to 2021. The combine started implementation of the first phase, which envisages development of the Central quarry of the Dalneye deposit, execution of overburden and mining operations and creation of facilities for production, transport, energy and other auxiliary infrastructure, in April 2017. The second phase (2019-2028) envisages construction of a complex of processing, smelting, associated and auxiliary facilities with processing capacity of 23 million tons of ore per year with the continuation of overburden and mining operations. (Monitoring Desk)