

Bolton Made a 'Serious Mistake,' Ankara Won't 'Swallow' His Comments on Syria's Kurds – Erdogan

ISTANBUL - US National Security adviser John Bolton has made a "huge mistake" naming Ankara's security guarantees for Kurds a precondition for US pullout from Syria, Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said.

The Turkish leader unleashed a bitter verbal attack on Bolton while speaking before the country's ruling party parliamentary group on Tuesday.

"It is not possible for us to accept and swallow Bolton's statements made in Israel," Erdogan said. "Bolton is making a huge mistake, his statement is unacceptable."

Erdogan's remarks referred to the US National Security Adviser's statement made



on Monday. Bolton revealed that the US President Donald Trump told him he would not "not allow Turkey to kill the

Kurds." "We don't think the Turks ought to undertake military action that's not fully

coordinated with and agreed to by the United States, at a minimum, so they don't endanger our troops but also so that they meet the president's requirement that the Syrian opposition forces that have fought with us are not endangered," he said.

The Turkish leader, on his part, stated that Ankara seeks only to kill "terrorists," while actually protecting its "Kurdish brothers" in the neighboring country.

"Those, who spread the lie that Turkey is killing Kurds in Syria, are trying to manipulate the international community's opinion," Erdogan stressed. (RT)

Austria to Loosen Ban on Dual Citizenship for Brexit-Hit Nationals

VIENNA - Austria will create an exception to its ban on dual citizenship for its nationals living in Britain facing the prospect of Brexit, its foreign minister said on Tuesday, leaving open whether it would do the same for Britons in Austria.

Austria is one of just a handful of European Union countries that ordinarily bans dual citizenship. Austrians who acquire citizenship in another country usually lose their Austrian nationality, and

foreigners are expected to give up their passports if they become Austrians.

There are exceptions to that long-standing ban, and the conservative and far-right coalition government plans to create a new one for the roughly 25,000 Austrians who have made Britain their home, Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl said.

Kneissl told a news conference she would bring up the issue at a cabinet meeting later this week. (Reuters)

German Far-Right Politician Brutally Beaten in 'Assassination Attempt,' Party Says

BERLIN - A member of Germany's parliament from the far-right party Alternative for Germany (AfD) suffered serious injuries after he was attacked by three people in the northern city of Bremen Monday in what the party described as an "assassination attempt."

According to a statement on the AfD Bremen Facebook page, Frank Magnitz was knocked unconscious as he left a New Year's reception at a theater in the city. The party said the attackers continued to beat Magnitz on the head after



he was down.

The statement credited "the courageous intervention of a builder" with saving Magnitz's life. AfD

said police and the Bremen prosecutor's office were investigating the attack.

"In the coming days, we will closely monitor the re-

actions of other parties," said the statement, adding: "Today is a black day for democracy in Germany." (Fox News)

North Korea's Kim Jong UN Arrives in Beijing for Talks Just Days after 'Alternative Path' Speech



BEIJING - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in China Tuesday to meet with Chinese President



Xi Jinping, just days after ushering in the new year with a warning that his country may take an

alternative path should the United States not ease economic sanctions, Reuters reported.

The planned four-day visit, which is the fourth summit in a year between Kim and Xi, was confirmed by North Korean and Chinese state media. The Kim-Xi meeting comes ahead of a likely second summit with President Donald Trump, after the two leaders met in June to discuss denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

Last year marked unprecedented progress in denuclearization talks, with Kim holding summits with Trump, Xi, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Fox News)

Nigeria's Buhari Accepts Setbacks in Boko Haram Fight

LAGOS - Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has acknowledged setbacks in the fight against Boko Haram as the jihadists launched fresh attacks in the restive northeast.

The 76-year-old head of state was elected in 2015 on a promise to end the Islamist insurgency, which has killed more than 27,000 people since 2009 and left 1.8 million homeless.

But as Buhari seeks a second term in elections next month, a

wave of attacks, including against military bases, has undermined his repeated claim that the group is virtually defeated.

Soldiers have also complained that Boko Haram fighters are better armed and that morale is low, particularly because of a lack of rotation and support.

In a recorded interview broadcast late on Monday on Arise TV, Buhari conceded that troops had come under pressure from the Islamists' guerrilla warfare. (AFP)

Father of Saudi Teen Asylum Seeker in Thailand, Seeks Meeting

BANGKOK - The father of an 18-year-old Saudi woman asylum seeker who fled to Thailand saying she feared her family would kill her, has arrived in Bangkok and wants to meet his daughter, Thailand's immigration chief said on Tuesday.

But Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun's father and brother would have to wait and see whether the UN refugee agency would allow them to see her, immigration chief Surachate Hakpan said. "The father and brother want to go and talk to Rahaf but the U.N. will need to approve such talk," Surachate told reporters. (Reuters)

UK's Brexit Vote Planned for Jan. 15, No Plans to Delay EU Exit

LONDON - Britain plans to hold a vote in parliament on the government's deal to leave the European Union on Jan. 15, Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said on Tuesday after a meeting of senior ministers.

May again told her cabinet it was not government policy to delay Brexit by extending the so-called Article 50 notice, the spokesman said, adding the idea may have been discussed by EU officials but not by British officials.

"Subject to parliament approving a business motion, the debate will be opened tomorrow ... The prime minister said that she would close the debate next Tuesday, which is January 15, when the vote will take place," her spokesman told reporters. (Reuters)

German Arrested in Politician Data Hack Says He Acted Alone

BERLIN - A German student has admitted to obtaining and publishing online hundreds of politicians' and celebrities' data and told investigators that he acted alone, authorities said Tuesday.

The 20-year-old, who wasn't identified in line with privacy regulations, lives with his parents and is still at school, said Georg Ungefuk, a spokesman for the Frankfurt prosecutors' office that specializes in internet crime.

Investigators searched his apartment in central Hesse state on Sunday evening before detain-



ing and questioning him. He has no previous convictions and appears to regret his actions, Ungefuk said at a televised news conference in Wiesbaden.

Authorities say almost 1,000 people were affected by the data breach. In most cases,

the information made public was limited to basic contact details, but in up to 60 cases more extensive personal data was published. It was posted via Twitter before Christmas, but only came to most people's attention on Thursday night. (AP)

China The Only Place to Do It, Says BYTON President

LAS VEGAS - Daniel Kirchert, president and co-founder of the intelligent electric vehicle brand BYTON, said Monday he is confident about making smart electric vehicles in China.

BYTON, as a new energy and intelligent electric vehicle startup, is full of confidence in "China Speed," he told Xinhua in an interview.

Kirchert said this as a press preview was held on the day by members of the Chinese corps attending the 2019 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, which is set to open Tuesday in the U.S. city.

BYTON will unveil at the show new details of its first production model M-Byte SUV, which represents the transformation of the traditional car into a next-generation smart device for every user.

The M-Byte features a digital cockpit that improves driving experience, including an eye-catching 48-inch Shared Experience Display that is the world's largest in-car display for a production automobile, a driver tablet at the center of the steering wheel, a touch pad between the driver and the front passenger, independent rear-seat entertainment screens and multiple interaction modes with the vehicle. Users could have access to BYTON Life, an open digital ecosystem that connects applications, data and smart devices. Kirchert told Xinhua that production of the BYTON M-Byte is slated to debut in mid-2019, with mass production starting at the end of this year. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Iran Says to Work with Partners to Neutralize U.S. Sanctions

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday that the country will keep working with its global partners to neutralize U.S. sanctions against the Islamic republic.

Iran will keep working with Europe to put into effect a special purpose vehicle (SPV) which the European countries are devising for trade with Iran despite Washington threats against engagements with Tehran, Zarif was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

Zarif made the remarks on the sidelines of a meeting with India's minister of road, transport and highways in the

Indian capital of New Delhi on Tuesday. Iran will also work with its traditional partners in order to fulfill the interests of Iranians, he said.

Zarif urged the Europeans to speed up their efforts to finalize the SPV mechanism.

Accompanied by a high-ranking political and economic delegation, Zarif arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday and is slated to hold talks with senior Indian officials.

The visit to India comes against the backdrop of Iran's efforts to boost its trade with traditional economic partners to counter the U.S. sanctions. (Xinhua)

'Thank You Sheikh Mohamed... Long Live UAE-Pakistan Friendship': Imran Khan

ABU DHABI - Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, has personally thanked His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for his visit to Pakistan on Sunday.

In a post on his official Instagram account, Khan praised the relations between the two countries in Arabic, the official language of the UAE, saying, "Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates have long-standing brotherly relations, that strengthen day by day especially after the recent visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan, in which the two leaders discussed peace and prosperity between the two countries by supporting each other." Imran Khan thanked the UAE government for its support to Pakistan, the message said, adding, "The two leaders discussed various issues of regional and global importance." "The identical approach on these issues forms the basis of lasting and reliable friendship," the message concluded.

The message carries a picture of the two leaders showing their support for the Special Olympics of World Games that will be hosted by Abu Dhabi from 8th to 22nd March, 2019. (Agencies)

Uzbekenergo to Receive Subsidies to Cover Debts

TASHKENT - Uzbekenergo and heat supply organizations will be allocated subsidies of more than 700 billion soums from the state budget of Uzbekistan to cover their debts, Trend reports with reference to the Uzbek media. Subsidies for Uzbekenergo and its enterprises will be allocated to cover a part of the cost of natural gas. This is 354 billion soums, which will be distributed among power plants and other generating facilities.

Heat supply companies will be allocated al-

most 360 billion soums to cover losses arising from the application of reduced tariffs for the population. Since Nov. 16, 2018, the price of gas for domestic consumers in Uzbekistan amounted to 320 soums per cubic meter and the price of electricity rose up to 250 soums per kilowatt. In addition, it is planned that from July 1, 2019, the price of gas in the country will reach 350 soums and the price of electricity will rise to 280 soums from June 1, 2019. (Trend)

Turkmenistan Expected to Double Gas Output by 2040

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan is expected to double its gas output by 2040, according to the 2018 Global Gas Outlook of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

GECF believes that Eurasia is assumed to expand its gas production by 300 billion cubic meters (bcm) to maintain its position as the second largest gas producing region in the world, Trend reports.

"Russia, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan will be the main contributors to this expansion. Turkmenistan is expected to double its production to around 160 bcm by 2040 thanks to the expansion of pipeline export facilities that will enable the country to invest in extraction projects. Expansion in the Galkynysh field is also partly behind this increase," said the GECF report. Galkynysh is the second

largest gas field in the world and is already one of the raw sources of Turkmen gas supplies to China. According to independent audit, the reserves of Galkynysh field together with the Yashlar and Garkel fields total to 27.4 trillion cubic meters of gas.

In July 2017, it was announced that in the near future it is planned to start the third stage of the development of Galkynysh field, which will increase the production capacity by another 33 billion cubic meters of commercial gas per year with the expectation of supplies to South Asia. To date, production facilities of the first stage, with a capacity of 30 billion cubic meters of commercial gas per year, have been commissioned here, and in 2014 the second stage with a similar capacity was launched. (Trend)