

## China Gives Ivanka Trump 5 New Trademarks as Trade Talks Continue

BEIJING - Ivanka Trump has been granted five trademarks from China as her father's administration continues to negotiate with the Asian powerhouse over trade and ethics experts raise concerns about the first family's business dealings.

Trademarks, including ones for wedding dresses, sunglasses and child care centers, were approved Sunday, according to an Associated Press report. An additional trademark regarding brokerage, charitable fundraising and art valuation services was also approved earlier this month.

The applications were made in 2016 and 2017 and will be made official if there are no objections in 90 days.

Trump, a senior white House



adviser, shut down her namesake clothing brand in July. In doing so, she became the first Trump family member to go further than any others in keeping politics separate from

business ventures. Her brothers, for example, have remained active in both politics and business.

Trump's representatives say trademark ap-

plications are a routine business practice to safeguard her name from copycats trying to capitalize on it, the AP reported. Trump's expanding intellectual property holdings have long raised ethical concerns, particularly in China, where the courts and bureaucracy tend to reflect the will of the ruling Communist Party. Critics argue that by asking a foreign government for valuable intellectual property rights, White House officials could open themselves to pressure in government negotiations. There is also concern that the family's global trademark portfolio would open the way for lucrative business opportunities once Donald Trump leaves office. (Fox News)

## Neighbor News

### FAO Supports Tajikistan's Book on Plant and Animal Biodiversity

DUSHANBE - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has provided financial support in publication of the second edition of Tajikistan's Red Book of flora and fauna, according to FAO Resident Office in Tajikistan, Trend reports referring to news.tj.

The edition contains 267 of plants and 222 types of animals of Tajikistan. This remarkable initiative was reportedly carried out upon request of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan. 2000 sets of the book has been printed and distributed among the Committee for Environmental Pro-

tection and other key partner organizations. Biodiversity is a vital part of human existence. It supports healthy ecosystems, which are an important factor for the agricultural productivity. The book contains various species of rare plants and animals, including those endangered with extinction. It elaborates on their character, habitat areas, and status of environmental conservation, as well as on the level of threat. "The Red Book of flora and fauna has critical importance because it provides information that helps in compiling protection priorities at local and global levels. (Trend)

### Turkmen Envoy Presents Credentials to President of Philippines

ASHGABAT - Turkmen Ambassador to the Philippines (with residence in Tokyo) Gurbanmamet Elyasov has presented his credentials to President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte, Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry Jan. 23.

Duterte noted the importance of developing relations with Turkmenistan. In December 2017, political consultations between Turkmenistan and the Philippines were held in Ashgabat. The delegation from Manila was headed by the Director General

of the Office of Middle East and African Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Hjayceelyn Quintana. Touching upon the issues of intensification of trade and economic relations, the parties expressed interest in the development of cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food industry. In addition, the sides exchanged views on the mutual import and export potential, on the improvement of the legal framework and the development of cooperation in the fields of education, sports and tourism. (Trend)

### Iran Finds 'Very Light and Sweet' Oil in Abadan for First Time

ABADAN - Iran has discovered a new oilfield containing unspecified reserves of "very light and sweet" crude in the southwestern Khuzestan province, Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh said on Wednesday. The discovery on Mino Island is the first ever oil find in the general area of Abadan which is home to Iran's largest and oldest oil processing facility.

"Yesterday at 10 o'clock in the morning, a well being drilled on Mino Island reached oil. This is the first time we discover oil in the Abadan area," Zangeneh told

reporters after a cabinet session. "We have a lot of hope to discover (more) oil in the Abadan area and this grade discovered at a depth of 3,770 meters has an API gravity of 40 which is very light and sweet," he added. Zangeneh said drilling will continue to estimate the total volume of the reservoir and the possibility of production. Iran has also to determine whether it is an independent resource or an extension of an Iraqi oilfield currently producing on the other side of the border. (Press TV)

### Oil-Rich Iran Cannot Be Barred from Global Energy Market: Rouhani

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani says Iran, as a country rich in oil and gas resources, cannot be excluded from the global energy market despite US attempts to cut the country's oil exports.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, Rouhani said that Iran's discoveries of oil has almost doubled over the past 40 years. "Today, the country possesses higher amounts of oil reserves and condensates compared to the early days of the [1979 Islamic] Revolution; this shows that we have made great achievements in discovering new resources," he said. "Given its capabilities in oil and gas [sectors], Iran is not a country that they could exclude

from the energy market," the chief executive said. Under the administration of President Donald Trump, the US has stepped up its pressure campaign against Iran. Trump's hostile approach intensified last May, when he unilaterally withdrew America from the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and unleashed the "toughest ever" sanctions against Iran. Washington had initially vowed to cut Tehran's oil exports to "zero," putting pressure on customers to stop their purchase of Iranian oil. A few months ago, however, it gave waivers to almost all of Iran's major customers. (Press TV)

### South Korea 'Selective' in Implementing Sanctions on North: Group

SEOUL - South Korea failed to notify a U.N. sanctions committee when it sent about 300 tonnes of petroleum products to North Korea in 2018, the website NK News reported on Wednesday, suggesting South Korea was slipping on sanctions. South Korea has urged the partial easing of U.N. Security Council sanctions at a time of improving ties with the North, as the United States continues to pressure Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear

weapons and missile programs. "Seoul has chosen to implement UNSC sanctions on North Korea on a selective and often inconsistent basis," NK News, a group that follows North Korea, said in a report on its website, citing its analysis. South Korea sent 342.9 tonnes of petroleum products to North Korea in 2018, according to the South's Ministry of Unification, but NK News said the shipments were not reported to the United Nations. (Reuters)

### House Passes Bill Preventing Trump from Leaving NATO, Tells Allies to Start Pulling Weight

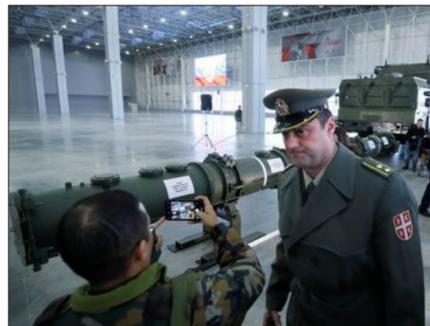
WASHINGTON - The US House of Representatives has passed a bill to prevent President Donald Trump from withdrawing the country from NATO, but called on European allies to pay their dues - just like Trump has demanded. The bipartisan NATO Support Act was passed on Tuesday in a 357-22 vote that reiterated US commitment to the military bloc and included a provision that rejects any effort made by the president

to withdraw from it, banning funding for such actions. "It's crazy that we have to be introducing this bill. But it is, unfortunately, both necessary and urgent," said Rep. Tom Malinowski, one of the Democratic co-sponsors of the bill. "I believe it's necessary that I take the president of the United States seriously. President Trump has made no secret of his disdain for NATO and his willingness to consider leaving it."



and enjoy protection it offers without sharing the burden. The US is by far the biggest contributor to the alliance in terms of finances and soldiers carrying out its missions. (RT)

### Russia, in Effort to Defuse U.S. Nuclear Dispute, Displays New Missile



MOSCOW - Russia showed foreign military attaches and journalists a cruise missile system on Wednesday that

the United States says breaches a Cold War-era arms control pact, its latest attempt to disprove an allegation it denies

and stop Washington quitting the treaty. Washington has threatened to pull out of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), alleging that the new Russian missile, the Novator 9M729 (called SSC-8 by NATO), violates the pact, which bans either side from stationing short and intermediate-range, land-based missiles in Europe. Russia says the missile's range puts it outside the treaty altogether and is not as long as Wash-

ington alleges, meaning that it is fully compliant with the INF. It has accused the United States of inventing a false pretext to exit a treaty it wants to leave anyway so as to develop new missiles. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told a news briefing on Wednesday that Washington had made it clear through diplomatic channels that its decision to exit the pact was final and that it was not open to dialogue. (Reuters)

### Czech Lawmakers Approve Taxation of Church Restitution Plan

PRAGUE - The Czech Parliament's lower house on Wednesday approved a proposal drafted by Communist lawmakers to tax the compensation that the country's churches receive for property seized by the former Communist regime. The 106-56 vote showed the rising influence of the far-left Communists on Czech politics. The party is not part of the center-left ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Andrej Babis, but helped the minority

Cabinet survive a confidence vote. A power-sharing deal that Babis, a populist billionaire, signed with the maverick Communists last year gave them a role in governing for the first time since the country's 1989 anti-communist Velvet Revolution. The taxation was one of the key conditions for the Communists to support the government. Babis agreed with them, saying the compensation is too generous. (AP)

### Situation in Syria's Idlib Province Is Rapidly Deteriorating: Russia

MOSCOW - The situation in Syria's Idlib province where Russia and Turkey have tried to create a de-escalation zone is rapidly deteriorating, Maria Zakharova, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said on Wednesday. The territory is now almost under full control of Nusra militants, she said. "Continuing provocations pose a threat to civilians, Syrian military personnel and the Russian Khmeimim air base," Interfax citing Zakharova as saying. (Reuters)

### Iraqi President Says Keen on Promoting Relations with Pakistan in All Fields

BAGHDAD - Iraqi President Barham Salih stressed on Wednesday the importance of strengthening cooperation between Iraq and Pakistan in all fields. The president made the remarks during a meeting at As Salam Palace in Baghdad with Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari, the special assistant to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, Alghad Press quoted the Iraqi presidency as saying in a statement. During the meeting, Salih stressed the importance of enhancing means of joint cooperation between Iraq and Pakistan in a manner that achieves interests of the two countries in all fields. They also touched on means ways to strengthen bilateral relations in the fields of economy and industry. For his part, Bukhari voiced his country's keenness to promote and develop relations with Iraq, stressing that "Pakistan is ready to provide support for Iraq in all fields." (Agencies)

### Qatar's Emir Expresses Support for Sudan Stability as He Meets Bashir

DOHA - Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said he supported Sudan's unity and stability as he met Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir on Wednesday, the Qatari royal court said. Bashir arrived in Qatar on Tuesday amid near-daily protests that have broken out across Sudan calling for the end of his 30-year rule. The two leaders dis-



cussed the "latest process in Sudan's developments" and war-torn Darfur region, the statement said. (Reuters)

### Japan's PM Seeks Trade Reform as Risks to World Economy Loom

DAVOS, Switzerland - Japan's prime minister says China's slowing growth, Brexit woes and U.S.-China trade disputes pose risks to the world economy, while decrying the World Trade Organization as "behind the curve" and in need of reform to help ease trade tensions. Shinzo Abe used his return to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, after five years to hail the benefits of two "mega deals" in trade - on the Pacific Rim and between Japan and the European Union - at a time when populism and isolationism have elbowed in on an era of globalism. "The world economy is gradually and moderately improving. I think without a doubt this is taking place,"

he said. "Worldwide, however, there are risks. U.S.-China trade friction is one of those risks and Japan traditionally has said tit-for-tat trade-restrictive measures are of no benefit." Abe said the WTO needs to be changed, calling for a trading system that protects intellectual property rights. That was a veiled reference to China, which the Trump administration and others say is cheating on trade rules and stealing intellectual property from Western companies. "Major changes are taking place and the WTO is behind the curve - it's not keeping up with pace." Abe said in a brief question-and-answer session with the forum's chief. "We have to make the WTO into a more credible existence. We need to reform it." (AP)