

Trump Makes History as He Crosses into N. Korea, Speaks of 'GREAT FRIENDSHIP' with Kim

WASHINGTON/PYONG-YANG - Donald Trump has become the first sitting US president to cross the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, meeting with Kim and promising that big things are in store for the Korean Peninsula. After briefly crossing into North Korean territory, the two leaders offered some thoughts on the historic moment.

"It's a great honor to be here. A great honor," Trump said, adding that "a lot of really positive things are happening" and that there is "tremendous positivity."

The US president also hailed his "great friendship" with Kim, noting that "we met and we liked each other



from day one, and that was very important." Kim for his part argued that by crossing the DMZ, Trump had demonstrated his desire to "open a new future" regarding North Korea. The surprise gathering came after Trump used

his favorite social media tool, Twitter, to invite Kim to have a brief meeting. The invitation came as the US president attended a G20 summit in Japan, meaning that only a short journey was required.

He is the first-ever sitting US head of state to set foot on North Korean soil. Two former presidents, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, have visited the country - but only after they had left office.

Thanking Kim for coming to the historic meeting, the US leader said that media would have gone berserk if the North Korean counterpart had failed to show up. The unprecedented event was witnessed by a gaggle of photographers, who were seen pushing and scuffling with one another to get the best shot. In one humorous moment, what appeared to be two North Korean photographers ... (More on P4)... (14)

India's PM Calls for Water Conservation Push as Drought Hits Crops

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pushed for greater grassroots water conservation efforts amid concerns weak monsoon rains would push millions of drought-hit people to the edge and hammer agricultural production in Asia's third-biggest economy. The monsoon season is responsible for around 70% of India's annual rainfall, and is particularly important for the farm sector since more than half of the coun-

try's arable land is rain-fed. "Only 8% of all the rain water in India is conserved," Modi said in his first monthly radio broadcast after winning re-election last month. "It's now time to solve this problem." India received 24% less rainfall than the 50-year average in the week ended on June 26, data from the India Meteorological Department showed, with scant rains over central and western regions of the country. ... (More on P4)... (19)

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping has led a chorus for safeguarding multilateralism and charting the course for the world economy and global governance at a summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies. To lead economic globalization toward the right direction, Xi said in a much anticipated speech on Friday that the G20 members should embrace development opportunities with greater openness and seek win-win re-

At G20, Xi Leads Chorus for Multilateralism

sults with better cooperation. The Chinese leader also pledged that the country, as a leading global economy, would undertake further opening-up measures, such as releasing the 2019 edition of the negative list on foreign investment, further bringing down China's overall tariff level, and introducing a punitive compensation mechanism for intellectual property infringement cases - all demonstrating China acting as a flag-bearer of free



trade and multilateralism. CHAMPION OF MULTILATERALISM Multilateralism has been one of the keywords in Xi's speech at the Osaka summit and his meetings with other ... (More on P4)... (15)

Japan's Abe Offers Saudi Crown Prince Help in Reducing Oil Dependency



OSAKA - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday praised Saudi Arabia's efforts to reduce its dependence

on oil and promised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that Japan will help the kingdom with a sweeping

reform plan. "Saudi Arabia's 'Vision 2030' is an unprecedented major reform aimed at shifting away from dependence on oil and at diversifying industry, under your majesty's initiative," Abe told the crown prince at the beginning of a bilateral meeting after a summit of Group of 20 leaders in the city of Osaka. "Japan will continue its utmost efforts by government and the private sector to help achieve its success," Abe said. Riyadh announced the

reform plan in 2016, with goals ranging from overhauling its state-owned Public Investment Fund to increasing visits of Muslim pilgrims and encouraging more Saudis to play sports. Despite last October's murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the hands of Saudi agents, big investors are pushing ahead with deals and pouring money back into its stock market as well as Vision 2030 projects that aim to ... (More on P4)... (16)

A Small, But Growing Group of Hong Kong People Find a New Life in Taiwan

TAINAN, Taiwan - Kitty Wong and Adolf Yim, both from Hong Kong, are finalizing work on a hostel in Taiwan's southern city of Tainan that they hope will open its doors to holiday-makers next month. This is the third hostel they are opening after arriving in 2016. The couple is part of a small but growing number of people from Hong Kong who have moved to Taiwan in recent years, many of them in search of a lower cost

of living and worried about Beijing's tightening control over the former British colony, which was given special autonomy under Chinese rule in 1997. Many Hong Kong people have also been increasingly upset in recent years by mainland immigrants and sky-high property prices, partly pushed up by investors from China. "As they are unable to attack Uncle Xi (President Xi Jinping), they go ahead and attack ... (More on P4)... (20)

Cool Reprieve for Parts of Europe as Germany Roasts

PARIS - A welcome dip in temperatures came to parts of Europe on Sunday, bringing relief to areas which have sweltered through a widespread, deadly heatwave for nearly a week. Hot-weather warnings were lifted across north and west France, days after the country posted all-time high temperatures as it sizzled along with Italy, Spain and some central European nations. Six days of intense heat fuelled huge blazes and pollution peaks, and officially claimed four lives in France, two in Italy and another two in Spain, including a 17-year-old harvest worker, a 33-year-old roofer and a 72-year-old homeless man. ... (More on P4)... (21)

Philippines Trash War: 69 Containers of 'Unique Material' Arrive Back in Canada

VANCOUVER - A massive cargo vessel carrying 69 containers of trash has docked in Vancouver, a month after the Philippines refused to become Canada's 'dumping ground' and finally sent back some 1,500 tons of contaminated household waste.

The hazardous cargo full of plastic bottles, electric appliances and even diapers returned to Canadian shores after rotting in the Philippines for nearly six years. Container ship 'Anna Maersk' was filmed docking at Deltaport in Vancouver early on Saturday morning, following a month-long voyage from Southeast Asia. Fearing possible contamination, the city will soon ... (More on P4)... (22)

Anything to Cut Costs? Boeing Accused of Outsourcing 737 MAX Software at \$9 an Hour

Boeing has been partially outsourcing software development to low-paid subcontractors to save costs, Bloomberg has learned, suggesting that inadequate quality control practices may have contributed to fatal 737 MAX crashes. Newly graduated programmers employed by third-party software developers - including Indian HCL Technologies Ltd and Cyient Ltd - were making as little as \$9 an hour, roughly four times less than their own experienced engineers who Boeing was actively laying off. The company reportedly outsourced flight-display software and



programs for flight-test equipment. While the final code allegedly complied with their strict specifications, the efficiency of such work was below expectations, as subcontractors were pressured to avoid any major changes that could cause delay. "It was controversial

because it was far less efficient than Boeing engineers just writing the code," Mark Rabin, a former Boeing software engineer who worked in a flight-test group that supported the MAX, told Bloomberg. It took many rounds going back and forth ... (More on P4)... (17)

After Decades, Japan Courts Controversy Resuming Commercial Whaling

TOKYO - Japanese fishermen set sail on Monday to hunt whales commercially for the first time in more than three decades after Tokyo's controversial withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) triggered outrage from environmental groups. The planned hunts, while small and far from internationally protected waters, have also sparked anger in

countries where whaling is considered outdated and harmful. But in Japan, whaling communities hailed the return of the practice, with Tokyo defending it as a tradition that should not be subject to outside interference.

For years, the issue of whaling was a diplomatic headache for Japan, which came under attack for exploiting an IWC ... (More on P4)... (18)

Palestinians Release Businessman Who Attended US Conference

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian security official on Sunday confirmed the release of a Palestinian man who was arrested after participating in the White House-led Mideast peace conference in Bahrain last week.

The Palestinian Authority arrested Saleh Abu Mayala on Saturday in the city of Hebron for interrogation.

The security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said Abu Mayala had been released late Saturday. The official did not elaborate on the reason for the arrest.

The Palestinian Authority boycotted the Bahrain conference, saying the U.S. is unfairly biased toward Israel. Abu Mayala attended the conference with a small group of Palestinian colleagues, led by businessman Ashraf Jabari, who is viewed with deep suspicion by fellow Palestinians and authorities in the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority has boycotted the Trump administration since its 2017 recognition of contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital and relocation of the U.S. embassy to the city the following year. The Trump administration has also halted aid to the Palestinians, pressuring them to resume peace negotiations with Israel.

U.S. Mideast envoy Jason Greenblatt welcomed Abu Mayala's release. "We look fwd to continuing our conversation w ... (More on P4)... (23)

Neighbor News

Pakistan to Share Details of Federal Budget with IMF Board

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan will share the details of the federal budget with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board, which is scheduled to meet on July 3, after its passage in the National Assembly.

The final budget measures along with a report on compliance with all prior actions will be key elements in the board's decision to grant Pakistan's request for accession to a \$6 billion bailout facility. The final, approved version of the budget is expected to be transmitted to the IMF by Monday, an official said. "Completion of all prior actions has paved the way for the board meeting on third of July. Sharing of budget approved

by the parliament was one of the prior actions," said the official.

He said the budget approval was the final thing for Pakistan to deliver before the IMF meeting. "The latest exchange rate, SBP policy rate, electricity and gas rates and budget approval were the key prior actions." Other officials said the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) had already been transmitted to the IMF in line with the staff level agreement reached on May 12. Pakistan will remain committed throughout the 39-month programme period to what the State Bank calls a "market determined exchange rate". (Agencies)

US Deploys Advanced F-22 Warplanes to Qatar for 1st Time Amid Iran Tensions

TEHRAN - The US Air Force has deployed its F-22 Raptor stealth jet fighters to its military base the Persian Gulf state of Qatar amid a continued show-of-force effort in the strategic region following Washington's recent provocations against Tehran and Iran's shot-down of an intruding US spy drone in the Strait of Hormuz. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on Friday that the warplanes have arrived in Qatar's al-Udeid Air Base for the first time to "defend American forces and interests," US-based news outlet Military.com reported without specifying the number of the deployed aircraft. It further noted that nearly a dozen F-22s are already based in the

region. Al-Udeid serves as one of US military's most important air bases in the region with operations launched from there throughout the Middle East. The base plays host to nearly 11,000 American and US-led coalition forces and more than 100 operational war planes. In the aftermath of the US-initiated Persian Gulf War in 1991, Washington and Doha signed a military cooperation pact after which the US regional air force moved to Qatar in 2003, evacuating the Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia. According to Qatari officials cited in press reports, nearly 80 percent of US-led aerial refueling in the region is being carried out from al-Udeid air base. (Press TV)

Britain's William and Kate Announce Pakistan Visit

ISLAMABAD - Prince William and his wife Kate will visit Pakistan later this year on the first royal trip to the country in more than a decade, Kensington Palace announced Sunday.

Pakistan has battled homegrown militants for more than a decade, with tens of thousands of people killed, but the security situation has stabilised recently after crackdowns on insurgents.

The royal couple's visit, requested by the Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, shows London's renewed interest in the country. "Further details (of the visit) will be advised in

due course," Kensington Palace tweeted. Many Western countries continue to have travel warnings in place, warning their citizens about kidnappings and bomb attacks - particularly near the restive Afghan border.

Pakistan welcomed the royal visit. "Government and the people of Pakistan warmly welcome the announcement of the Royal visit," tweeted Pakistan's envoy to Britain, Nafees Zakaria. He wrote: "People of Pakistan cherish & fondly recall visits of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II to Pakistan during 1961 and 1997." (Agencies)

Iran Defense Industry to Help Car Project Abandoned by Peugeot

TEHRAN - Iran's defense industry is to offer expertise to save a major car project which suffered after France-based company PSA Peugeot Citroën left the country under pressure of sanctions from the United States.

Sources close to the car industry in Iran said on Saturday that the defense sector in the country had become involved in attempts to make electronic parts needed for production of Peugeot 301, a project that stalled three years ago after Peugeot withdrew from its partnership with Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) citing US sanctions on Iran's

nuclear program. "There have been good negotiations with the ministry of defense," said Maziar Bigloo, secretary general of Iran's association of parts makers, adding, "There is good infrastructure in defense industries in production of electronic items like integrated circuits and special transistors ..."

Based on a deal signed in January 2016, Peugeot was supposed to invest up to 400 million euros over a five-year period to produce, launch and market three of its models, including the 301, through a joint venture with IKCO. (Press TV)