

## UK Ambassador to US Who Criticized Trump Resigns, British Foreign Office Says

LONDON - The British ambassador to the U.S. who criticized President Trump has resigned, the U.K. Foreign Office said Wednesday. Ambassador Kim Darroch - in documents leaked in recent days - slammed the Trump administration as "diplomatically clumsy and inept," and said he doubted it would become "substantially more normal."

In a resignation letter on Wednesday, Darroch said "the current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like."

"Although my posting is not due to end until the end of this year, I believe in the current circumstances the responsible course is to al-



low the appointment of a new ambassador," he wrote, noting the situation "has brought home to me the depth of friendship and close ties between our two countries."

Darroch said he is "grateful to all those in the U.K. and the U.S., who have offered their support during this difficult few days."

Prime Minister Theresa May said Wednesday

it was a "matter of regret" that Darroch resigned.

A day before Darroch's resignation Downing Street said he "continues to have the prime minister's full support," adding that "we have made clear to the U.S. how unfortunate this leak is" and that "the selective extracts leaked do not reflect the closeness of, and the esteem in which we hold, the relationship."

The memos Darroch wrote about the Trump administration were meant for a limited audience. The documents were published in Britain's Mail on Sunday newspaper.

Following the leak, Trump described Darroch as ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Neighbor News

### 'Sad Irony': Rouhani Mocks US for Calling Emergency Meeting on Iran Nuclear Deal...Which It Left

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called it a "sad irony" that an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting is being held at the behest of the US despite President Trump being the main contributor to the demise of the Iran deal.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA is scheduled to meet Wednesday to discuss the current status of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) at the request of the US, which famously withdrew from the so-called 'Iran Deal' before introducing a raft of new sanctions against the Middle Eastern nation in 2018.

"On one side, Americans described the JCPOA as the worst possible deal and withdraw from it without any excuse and on the other side, when Iran reduces its commitments to the deal, they all express concern; while all should concern about US that has violated the whole deal," Rouhani said during a Wednesday cabinet session as cited by the Mehr News agency.

"They have called for an emergency meeting of [the] Board of Governors, asking why Iran has abandoned some of its JCPOA commitments. This is a funny story that

US is following and such measures are rare in the world's political history," Rouhani added.

The president also called out what he alleged was US hypocrisy over uranium enrichment when the US is the only country in history to have ever deployed nuclear weapons in an offensive capacity.

Iran has yet to withdraw fully from the agreement but has recently announced cuts to its commitments in response to new rafts of US sanctions imposed following the US withdrawal in 2018.

Rouhani said that Iran's moves were within the framework of the deal and he rejected a warning from European parties to the pact to continue its full compliance. He called on other signatories of the deal to shield Iran from US sanctions while also issuing a stern warning to the UK over its seizure of an Iranian supertanker off the coast of Gibraltar last Thursday.

"I warn England that you are the initiator of insecurity in seas and you will later understand its repercussions," Rouhani stated, adding that British forces had seized the vessel "unjustly," claiming that the US had, in fact, seized the tanker "by proxy" through its ally. (RT)

### Caught Between US and Iran, Europe Struggles with Diplomacy

BERLIN - France on Tuesday sent a top diplomat to Tehran to urge Iran to scale back its recently increased uranium enrichment activities, a mission underscored by a call from Europe for the Islamic Republic to return to complying with the terms of the unraveling nuclear deal "without delay."

France, Britain and Germany, who remain a part of the 2015 nuclear accord along with Russia and China, said they planned to convene a meeting of the signato-

ries amid "deep concern that Iran is not meeting several of its commitments."

They said the meeting to address Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA as the deal is formally known, needed to be "convened urgently," but they did not say when that would happen. "Iran has stated that it wants to remain within the JCPOA," the countries said in a statement. "It must act accordingly by reversing these activities ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

### Israeli Education Minister Likens Marriage Between US Jews and Non-Jews to 'Second Holocaust'

JERUSALEM - Israel's minister of education recently compared intermarriages between U.S. Jews and non-Jews to "a second Holocaust."

Rafi Peretz made the statement during a cabinet meeting on July 1, according to Axios. The news outlet reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in attendance at the meeting.

Discussing trends among the Jewish community throughout the world, Peretz and other ministers reportedly

discussed intermarriage - with Peretz allegedly claiming that six million Jews have been lost over the last 70 years because of it.

In response, Yuval Steinitz, minister of energy, reportedly chimed back: "First we need to stop disregarding and looking down on Jews in America that see themselves as Jews not only religiously but even more culturally and historically."

Netanyahu concluded the meeting by telling the cabinet he is most



concerned by U.S. Jews who are straying from Jewish traditions.

According to a Pew Research Center study re-

leased in 2013, intermarriage between U.S. Jews and non-Jews has "risen substantially over the ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### Fuel Tanker Explosion Turns Night to Day as Flames Rain Down on S. African Town



WORCESTER - An enormous fireball engulfed multiple buildings in the town of Worcester in South Africa's Western

Cape following a fuel tanker explosion in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Preliminary reports in-

dicating the fuel tanker hit an electricity pole, which created a massive explosion that lit up the night sky.

The vehicle reportedly overturned as a result of the blast and, miraculously, no fatalities have been reported. However, several firefighters battling the blaze have been injured.

Eyewitness video from the scene shows several drivers make a U-turn upon seeing the sheer extent of the destruction and the height of the flames

Local residents reported hearing and feeling the explosion some five kilometers away from the hellish site.

"We can confirm that a truck exploded as you enter town, but we are not certain of the damage or whether anyone was injured. Police and emergency services are on the scene to investigate," Worcester police spokesperson Captain Lindikhaya Mkhontwana said.

The explosion occurred near an agri-petrol station ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Gaza's Traditional Crafts Industries Rapidly Disappearing

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - When Gazans think of better economic times, images of clay pottery, colorful glassware, bamboo furniture and ancient frame looms weaving bright rugs and mats all come to mind.

For decades, these traditional crafts defined the economy of the coastal Palestinian enclave, employing thousands of people and exporting across the region. Today, the industries are almost non-existent.

While such professions have shrunk worldwide

in the face of globalization and Chinese mass production, Gazan business owners say Israel's 12-year blockade of the territory has accelerated the trend.

"We have been economically damaged. We are staying, but things are really difficult," said Abed Abu Sido, one of Gaza's last glassmakers, as he flipped through a glossy catalog of his products. At his quiet workshop, layers of dust covered the few remaining glass ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

### Ending Corruption Key to Poverty Alleviation: President

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi Wednesday termed corruption as a major cause behind poverty, said ensuring the people's access to basic needs of health, education and shelter could bring real change in their lives.

Addressing a day-long seminar on 'Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan - Learning from Success Stories' organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) here, the president said change of a few leaders could not realize the dream

of a New Pakistan unless the common man enjoyed the real change in the shape of socio-economic equality.

President Alvi said it was a test case for every public institution and ministries to ensure how Pakistan could witness a real change in terms of poverty alleviation. He said the prime basis of the foundation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was to give realization to the common man about his right to basic needs, including health and education. (Monitoring Desk)

### US Wants Coalition to Protect Strategic Gulf Waters: General

WASHINGTON - The US aims to form a coalition to guarantee freedom of navigation in strategic Gulf waters amid fraught relations between Washington and Tehran, a top general told media on Tuesday.

Tensions in the area - through which nearly a third of the world's oil is transported - have spiked in recent weeks, with the US blaming Iran for multiple attacks on tanker ships in the region, and Tehran shooting down an American drone.

"We're engaging now with a number of countries to see if we can put together a coalition that would ensure freedom of navigation ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

### Lebanon Speaker Condemns US Sanctions on Hezbollah Lawmakers

BEIRUT - Lebanon's parliament speaker said Wednesday the new U.S. sanctions targeting two Hezbollah lawmakers are an aggression against the whole country, describing them as irrational.

Nabih Berri's comments were first carried by Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV. They came a day after the U.S. Treasury Department said it is targeting two Hezbollah lawmakers and a security official suspected of using their positions to further the aims of the Iran-backed group as well as bolster Tehran's "malign activities."

Berri, a Hezbollah ally and parliament speaker for years, said the sanctions were an attack on Lebanese democracy. It's the first time the U.S. has targeted lawmakers currently seated in Lebanon's parliament. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

### 'Dangerous Times Ahead': Duterte Seeks to Bolster Philippines Army Against State Enemies & Terrorism

MANILA - The Philippines security forces must be better equipped to deal with any potential enemies of the state, President Duterte stressed, fearing in particular that Islamist extremist groups could rise up once his term runs out.

Rodrigo Duterte said his hands start to "sweat" when he is thinking about a possible resurgence of Islamic State-linked groups (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) in Basilan and Sulu provinces in the southern Philippines island chain of Mindanao, groups he has been trying to eradicate since taking



office three years ago.

Warning of "very dangerous" times once he leaves office in 2022, the 74-year-old leader called on lawmakers to support his drive to equip the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) with modern weapons.

"I'd rather leave with a strong military and police [that are] equipped to challenge the enemies of the state, especially terrorism," Duterte said Tuesday.

I see very dangerous times ahead. And I hope that we will be able to contain whatever there is ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### Merkel Seen Visibly Shaking AGAIN, This Time as She Welcomes Finnish PM

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel was seen visibly shaking during another high-profile diplomatic meeting, this time as she welcomed Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne as the countries' anthems played.

Merkel has repeatedly played down concerns over her health in recent weeks following high-profile episodes of shaking in public during meetings with other world leaders.

The German Chancellor was seen shaking beside German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier as she swore in the new justice minister at Berlin's Bellevue Palace in late June.

Prior to this instance, she appeared unsteady and in distress when meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in mid-June as the national anthems of the two countries blared at an ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

### Saudi Royals Would Face U.S. Visa Restriction in New Senate Bill

WASHINGTON - Senate Republicans seeking a way to punish Saudi Arabia over its human rights record without provoking a veto by President Donald Trump are trying a new strategy: denying visas for members of the kingdom's royal family.

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Jim Risch, an Idaho Republican, plans to unveil legislation on Wednesday that includes a measure to bar members of the royal family who work in the Saudi government from entering the U.S., according to a person familiar with the legislation.

If signed into law, hundreds of people could face the restrictions.

"This legislation is an effort to move the U.S./Saudi relationship in a different direction and I am hopeful to have the support of my colleagues in doing so," Risch said in a statement. "We are all in agreement that we need to see a change in Saudi conduct going forward, and this bill would have a real impact in doing that."

The bill has at least one Democratic co-sponsor: Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, and the committee plans to vote on it this month, along with a bill from the panel's ranking Democrat, Bob Menendez, to bar some arms sales to Saudi Arabia and impose sanctions over the killing of the columnist Jamal Khashoggi. That measure is co-sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican and Trump ally who nevertheless has urged the administration ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

### PM Invites Business Community to Help Govt Achieve Its Economic Targets

KARACHI - Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday said the government was fully facilitating the business community as it wanted to end poverty and accelerate the economic process in the country.

He said the country's economy could not be run on the previous pattern and called upon the business community to help the government in achieving its economic objectives.

The prime minister

was talking to delegations of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Automotive Parts Association that called on him.

The prime minister told the delegations that he had arrived in Karachi along with his economic team to address their issues and find immediate solution to them. (Monitoring Desk)

### Uzbekistan Airways Resumes Flights from Karshi to Moscow

TASHKENT - The national airline Uzbekistan Airways resumes flights on the route Karshi-Moscow (Vnu-kovo) -Karshi from July 26, Trend reports via Uzbek media.

The flights will be operated once a week on Fridays (with a switch to Saturday) on A320 aircraft:

- HY623. Karshi 06:10 (GMT +5) - Moscow 08:25 (GMT +3) (on Saturday)
- HY624. Moscow 20:25 (GMT +3) - Kar-

shi 02:25 (GMT +5) (on Friday)

The first (transit) flight to Moscow from the air port of Karshi was made in 2006 on the route Andijan - Karshi - Moscow - Karshi - Andijan on Tu-154.

Uzbekistan Airways has suspended flights from Karshi to Tashkent and Moscow since the winter of 2018. Flights to this city from Moscow are carried out by Russian Ural Airlines and Nordwind Airlines. (Trend)