

## U.S. Adviser Bolton Travels to Japan, South Korea amid Trade Dispute

WASHINGTON - U.S. national security adviser John Bolton departed on Saturday for a trip to Japan and South Korea, two key allies of Washington that are embroiled in a trade dispute. A White House National Security Council spokesman said on Twitter that Bolton planned to "continue conversations with critical allies and friends". President Donald Trump on Friday offered his help to ease tensions in the political and economic dispute between the United States' two biggest allies in Asia, which threatens global supplies of memory chips and smartphones.



Lingering tensions, particularly over compensation for

South Koreans forced to work for Japanese occupiers during World War Two, worsened this month when Japan restricted exports of high-

tech materials to South Korea. Japan has denied that the dispute over compensation is behind the export curbs, even though

one of its ministers cited broken trust with Seoul over the labor dispute in announcing the restrictions. The export curbs could hurt global technology companies.

Lee Seok-hee, chief executive of SK Hynix, the world's No.2 memory chip maker, headed to Japan on Sunday and will meet Japanese suppliers to discuss ways to secure raw materials, the company said.

Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday that South Korean President Moon Jae-in had asked him whether he could get involved.

A spokeswoman for Moon confirmed Moon had asked ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Neighbor News

### PM Imran Invites Businessmen, Investors in US to Benefit from Economic Opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - In a meeting at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC, Prime Minister Imran Khan invited businessmen and investors to benefit from economic and business opportunities in Pakistan.

The premier is on a three-day official working visit to the US.

The premier, who began his official engagements soon after his arrival in the US capital on Saturday, will go to the White House on July 22 for an extensive three-hour visit, which includes a one-on-one meeting with President Donald Trump, and two meetings and a working lunch with the president's team.

PM Imran met with Tahir

Javed, a Texas-based Pakistani businessman and a member of the Democratic Party, Javid Anwar, a Pakistani American businessman, as well as a group of prospective investors.

According to a post shared by the government's official Twitter account, the premier invited the businessmen to "benefit from the economic and business opportunities afforded by Pakistan's strategic location and the connectivity to the broader region". Additionally, the investors appreciated the improved security situation in Pakistan and identified areas of interest for investment in key sectors such as energy and tourism sectors. (Agencies)

### Failing to Lure Trump into War, Bolton Dragging UK into Quagmire

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says after failing to lure US President Donald Trump into war with Iran, the B-Team is now trying to drag the UK into a quagmire by stoking confrontation between Tehran and London over a British-flagged tanker seized in the Persian Gulf.

The hawkish group referred to as the "B-team" by Iran's foreign minister is comprised of US National Security Adviser John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. On Friday, Iran's Islam-

ic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that it had captured a British oil tanker for breaching international maritime law while crossing the Strait of Hormuz. The elite force then guided the vessel to the port in the Iranian city of Bandar Abbas for a maritime casualty investigation.

Referring to these developments and also to earlier shooting of a modern US drone by the IRGC over the Persian Gulf, Zarif said in a tweet on Sunday that the B-team is now dragging Washington's ally, the UK, into "a quagmire" after the hawkish group failed to persuade the US president into waging war on Iran. (Press TV)

### Rosatom Talks about Second Stage of Construction of NPP in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - In June 2019, the second stage of engineering surveys on the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Uzbekistan was launched, a source from Rosatom told Trend in an interview.

"At the moment, a very important stage is undergoing, which includes engineering surveys at a priority site near Lake Tuzkan of Aydar-Arnasay lakes system in the Jizzakh region. The site was determined following the results of the first stage of work," the spokesperson said.

Engineering and survey work at the site of

the future NPP will last 18 months. "Within this stage, all the necessary initial data for the development of project documentation will be obtained," the source stated. In particular, it concerns the data on the seismicity of the power plant site, the characteristics of the soil, the annual temperature cycle, precipitation and other characteristics. According to the source, all these data together will form the basis for the development of project documentation and optimal requirements for equipment to be installed at NPP. (Trend)

### Modern Airport Navigation System Opened Near Iranian Capital

TEHRAN - Iran has launched a modern airport radar system near the capital Tehran which allows for more accuracy in terminal navigation operations and drastically improves the safety of the flights.

The radar site was opened on Sunday by Mohammad Eslami, Iran's transport and housing minister, in Kushk-e-Bazm region located more than 40 kilometers southwest of Tehran.

The new system is equipped with some of the most modern airport navigation appliances in the world, including a Monopulse

Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR), which reduces almost to zero the chances for so-called garbling in ground systems when they seek to decode signals from several approaching aircraft. The radar covers an area of 250 nautical miles (more than 400 kilometers). It will work along primary radars, known as PSR, which normally cover an area of around 120 kilometers, to expand the Terminal Maneuver Area covering major airports inside and near Tehran, including the Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA). (Press TV)

### Hong Kong Residents Deface Chinese Emblem in Latest Protest

HONG KONG - Hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators took to the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday, with some of the marchers defacing a national Chinese emblem in their latest expression of protest against mainland authorities.

After the march reached its designated end point in Hong Kong's Wan Chai district, thousands continued onward, at various points occupying key government and business districts before

departing for the Liaison Office, which represents China's Communist Party-led central government within the city.

Protesters threw eggs at the building and spray-painted its surrounding surveillance cameras. China's national emblem, which adorns the front of the Liaison Office, was splattered with black ink. Organizers said 430,000 people participated in the march. Police had yet to release their estimate, ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### Hammond to Quit Over No-Deal Brexit If Johnson Become PM

LONDON - British finance minister Philip Hammond said on Sunday he would resign if Boris Johnson became prime minister because he felt unable to support a leader happy to take the country out of the European Union without a deal.

Hammond's decision underlines the strength of feeling in parliament against a no-deal Brexit, which some lawmakers and many businesses say would be catastrophic for the economy.

A loyal Conservative who has served in a number of ministerial roles, Hammond is an unlikely rebel. He said his fears over a no deal forced him to vote against the government for the first time in his 22-year political career last week.

Britain's new prime minister is tipped to be former London mayor Johnson, who has promised to leave the EU "do or die" by an Oct. 31 deadline. That leaves him facing a tricky Brexit challenge from the



moment he would take office on Wednesday.

Johnson has said he would ramp up preparations for a no deal to

try to force the EU's negotiators to make changes to the agreement that Prime Minister Theresa ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### Russian Capsule Carrying 3 Docks with Space Station



BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan - A Russian space capsule with three astronauts aboard has docked with the International Space

Station after a fast-track trip to the orbiting laboratory.

The Soyuz capsule docked at 22:48 GMT Saturday,

just six hours and 20 minutes after blasting off from Russia's launch complex in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The launch took place on

the 50th anniversary of the day U.S. astronauts landed on the moon.

The capsule is carrying Andrew Morgan on his first spaceflight, Russian Alexander Skvortsov on his third mission to the space station and Italian Luca Parmitano.

They will join Russian Alexey Ovchinnikov and Americans Nick Hague and Christina Koch have been aboard since March. The crew patch for the expedition echoes the one from Apollo 11's 1969 lunar mission. (AP)

### Future Relationship with EU can be Changed, Ireland's Coveney Tells New UK PM

LONDON - The European Union would be willing to change parts of the political declaration, or agreement on a future relationship with Britain, when the new British prime minister is elected, Irish foreign minister Simon Coveney said on Sunday.

Repeating a warning to the new prime minister, likely to be former London mayor Boris Johnson, that the bloc will not reopen the divorce deal, or Withdrawal Agreement, Coveney said there would be an

opportunity to get rid of the so-called Northern Irish backstop through the future relationship.

"If a new British prime minister decides they want to change the future relationship ambition between the UK and the EU, then certainly we hope that the backstop that many in the UK don't seem to like can be avoided," he told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show.

"We are simply not going to move away from that withdrawal agreement." (Reuters)

### British Airways, Lufthansa Suspend Cairo Flights

LONDON - British Airways and Lufthansa both said Saturday they were suspending flights to Cairo for unspecified reasons related to safety and security.

The British carrier said it was canceling flights to the Egyptian capital for a week. The German airline said normal operations would resume Sunday.

Both carriers delivered two-sentence statements via email.

British Airways attributed its cancellations to what it called its constant review of security arrangements at all airports, calling them "a precaution to allow for further assessment."

Lufthansa said it was suspending its flights as a precaution, mentioning "safety" but not "security" as its concern.

Company ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

### DPRK Holds Local Elections

PYONGYANG - Voting was held on Sunday in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to elect deputies to the provincial, city and county people's assemblies.

The elections, which started at all polling stations across the country from 9:00 a.m. (0000 GMT) and lasted through the day, will also produce governors, mayors, and other local officials. The election turnout was 99.98 percent, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The voting for the country's Supreme People's Assembly took place in March. The last local elections in the DPRK were held in 2015. (Xinhua)

### Japan's Ruling Bloc Secures Upper House Majority

TOKYO - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition appeared certain to hold onto a majority in Japan's upper house of parliament following Sunday's election, with exit polls indicating he could even close in on the super-majority needed to propose constitutional revisions.

NHK public television said that Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its partner Komei were sure to win from 67 to 77 seats in the upper house, and that the two-thirds majority needed for constitutional revision could be within reach if the bloc is joined by supporters



from another party. Up for grabs were 124 seats in the less powerful of Japan's two parliamentary chambers. There are 245 seats in the upper house - which does not choose the prime minister - about half of which are elected every three years. If the exit polls prove

accurate, the results would match or even exceed pre-election polls that indicated Abe's ruling bloc was to keep ground in the upper house, with most voters considering it a safer choice over an opposition with an uncertain track record...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### Israel to Make Exception in Allowing BDS-Supporting Omar & Tlaib into The Country

JERUSALEM - Israel said it will allow BDS-supporting US congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib to enter the country, in a departure from its travel ban on supporters of the pro-Palestinian movement.

"Out of respect for Congress and the great alliance between Israel and America, we would not deny entry to pro-BDS congresswomen,"

Israel's ambassador to the US, Ron Dermer, said.

The congresswomen are scheduled to make an official visit to Israel and the West Bank in August, and there was uncertainty around whether they would be turned away at the airport due to the 2017 law Israel passed that bans anyone who "makes a public call for boycotting Israel" or "...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Sink-Or-Swim Showdown Beckons for Italy's Fractious Coalition

ROME - Italy's fractious coalition partners are gearing up for a showdown this week that is likely to determine if the government will collapse, triggering autumn elections, or survive to the end of the year.

The far-right League and anti-system 5-Star Movement have been at each other's throats for months, but tensions have risen even further this month with each accusing the other of betrayal and ill faith.

League leader Matteo Salvini warned last week he would quit the 14-month-old government unless 5-Star dropped its opposition to projects close to his party's heart, including a drive to hand greater autonomy to the League's wealthy northern heartland.

With 5-Star fearing the planned reform would cut funding to its bastions in the poorer south, the issue has become a major flashpoint.

League leaders deny they are favoring the north, and say 5-Star is using the reform to tarnish their reputation.

"I am deeply offended that these charlatans are portraying us as fraudsters scamming the country and the south," Attilio Fontana, the League chief in the rich Lombardy region, said on Saturday.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is due to hold another round of consultations on Monday and has said he hopes to present a final proposal on the reform to a cabinet meeting penciled in for Friday.

"Either (Conte) ...*(More on P4)...(18)*