

## 'I'll Make Britain Great again', PM Johnson Says, Echoing Trump

LONDON - Boris Johnson promised on Thursday that Brexit would make Britain the greatest place on earth, echoing the patriotic rhetoric of U.S. President Donald Trump in his first speech to parliament as prime minister. Johnson, who was hailed by the U.S. president as Britain's Trump, has promised to strike a new divorce deal with the European Union and to energize the world's fifth-largest economy after what he casts as the gloom of Theresa May's premiership. On entering Downing Street on Wednesday, Johnson set up a showdown with the EU by vowing to negotiate a new deal



and threatening that, if the bloc refused, he would take Britain out on Oct. 31 without a deal to limit economic dislocation. "Our mission is to deliver Brexit on the 31st of October for the purpose of uniting and re-energizing our great United Kingdom and making this country the greatest place on earth," Johnson proclaimed. He said Britain could be the most prosperous economy in Europe by 2050, a feat that would mean drawing far ahead of France and then overtaking Germany. Johnson promised that British children and grandchildren "will be living longer, happier, healthier, wealthier lives". (Reuters)

### Germany Flirts with Hormuz Naval Patrol Mission, But Plans in 'Early' Stages

BERLIN - As tensions continue to ramp up in the Persian Gulf over tanker detention incidents with Iran, Germany has signaled that it may take part in the proposed European effort to protect commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier reports claimed that Foreign Minister Heiko Maas asserted Germany's interest in joining the mission, but his office said on Thursday that it was "too early" to talk about any involvement of German

troops, which would still require a vote in parliament for authorization. "It is too early to talk about possible forms of German participation," the spokesman told Reuters. "Requests for German military participation were so far not the subject of" talks with Britain and France. Newly appointed Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer also downplayed the reports, suggesting that German involvement ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

### North Korea Tests 'Super-Powerful' Missile in Response to Seoul Stockpiling US Arms & Holding Drills

PYONGYANG - Pyongyang says it has no other choice but to continue developing and testing new types of deterrence weapons as long as 'warmongers' in the South keep buying modern arms and holding joint military drills with the US. The test launch of the "new-type tactical guided weapon" on Thursday morning was personally supervised by the country's leader Kim Jong-un, KCNA reported, noting that the weapons test was carried

out "as part of the power demonstration" to warn "South Korean military warmongers" against introducing "ultra-modern offensive weapons" and holding joint military exercises with American forces. We cannot but develop nonstop super-powerful weapon systems to remove the potential and direct threats to the security of our country that exist in the south. Accusing Seoul of "double-dealing," North Korea lashed out at its neighbor for talking



peace while stockpiling American weapons. Besides opting to purchase Terminal High Altitude Area Defense systems (THAAD), Seoul has recently received two more F-35A Lightning II fifth-generation stealth ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Neighbor News

### Iran Test-Fires Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, US Official Says

TEHRAN - Iran successfully test-fired a medium-range ballistic missile Wednesday which flew more than 600 miles from the southern part of the country to an area outside the capital, Tehran, in the north, a U.S. official told Fox News. "We are aware of reports of a projectile launched from Iran, and have no further comment at this time," a senior administration official told Fox News Thursday evening. The test of the Shahab-3 comes amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the west. Iran has held a British-flagged oil tanker and its 23 crew members captive since last week when the ship was seized by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seized in the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian officials have said the action was in

retaliation for Britain's role in impounding an Iranian supertanker off the coast of Gibraltar earlier this month. Other incidents in past weeks have threatened security in the strait, through which one-fifth of all globally traded crude oil passes. Most prominently, Iranian forces shot down a U.S. surveillance drone of the Strait of Hormuz last month, claiming it had violated Iranian airspace. Iranian officials on Wednesday denied the U.S. military's claim that it had taken out two Iranian drones last week. Last year, President Trump pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal agreed between Washington, Iran and five other global powers that promised an easing of sanctions if Iran backed off its nuclear ambitions. (Fox News)

### Pakistan Sets Up FATF Cell to End Terror Financing

NEW DELHI - To ensure timely implementation of steps against terror financing carried out through currency smuggling, Pakistan's principal revenue collection agency, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established a Financial Action Task Force (FATF) cell, a Pakistani daily has reported. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has set up the FATF cell with the aim of gathering information on reported incidents of terror financing through currency smuggling. The FATF cell will monitor customs compliance issues, Federal Board of Revenue field formation activities, as well as its directorates and records of its meetings, Pakistan's daily Dawn reported on Friday. According to the report, the Director-General of Intelligence and Inves-

tigation, Waheed Marwat, based in Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad, will oversee the FATF cell's operations. Four other officers -- Muhammad Asif (Additional Director); Wajid Zaman (Deputy Director); Zahoor Ahmed (Superintendent), and Sajid Mehbub (Intelligence Officer) -- will assist Marwat in the discharge of his responsibilities, the newspaper reported. One of the FATF's recommendations is for Pakistan Customs to install an effective tracking system to deal with currency smuggling and terror financing, particularly at the country's entry and exit points. Pakistan Customs is determined to identify whether proscribed entities and individuals are using illegal money. (Agencies)

### President: Turkmenistan Eyes to Strengthen Ties with UK

ASHGABAT - President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov congratulated Boris Johnson on the occasion of election as prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Trend reports referring to the released congratulatory letter of the president. Giving a high assessment to the interstate dialogue, the Turkmen president expressed firm conviction that these relations will develop and strengthen in the interests of the peoples of the two countries. Earlier, the two countries signed an intergovernmental convention on the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. The common interests in such key areas of coop-

eration as investments, energy and transport were stressed during negotiations between the representatives of the two countries. UK's companies hold important positions in the Turkmen market. Dragon Oil has been operating in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian since 1999 and is one of the biggest foreign investors. Petrofac company implemented a service project to develop Galkynysh gas field in the Mary region in September 2013. Galkynysh gas field is the second biggest field in the world. Gaffney, Cline & Associates is actively involved by Ashgabat in conducting an independent audit of gas fields. Turkmenistan ranks fourth in the world in terms of gas reserves. (Trend)

### Turkey Ratifies Agreement with Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Turkey has ratified an agreement with Uzbekistan, Trend reports referring to Resmi Gazete on July 26. The ratified agreement aims at developing of bilateral cooperation in the field of metrology between the two coun-

tries. The agreement was signed on April 30, 2019, within a three-day visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. It comes into force from the date of ratification. (Trend)

### Turkey Ready to 'Actively' Use S-400s in April, Expects US to be 'Reasonable' - Erdogan



ANKARA - Ankara is looking forward to starting the deployment of Russian-made S-400 air defense missile systems in April, while hoping

the US will be reasonable enough not to target its NATO ally over the deal, President Erdogan said. Turkey will be able to

"actively use" the S-400s from April 2020, after their assembly and personnel training is completed, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a speech at the HQ of the ruling Justice and Development Party on Friday. Moscow began shipping the S-400 components and equipment to Ankara earlier this month. Under the \$2.5 billion contract, the nation is set to receive four batteries of the top-notch missile system. Ankara is implementing the deal despite repeat-

ed protests from its ally Washington. The US insists that the purchase of the Russian-made weapons hurts NATO's security, and has frozen the delivery of F-35 fighter jets to Turkey in an effort to pressure it into scrapping the contract with Russia. Speaking to Defense One on Thursday, Senator Lindsey Graham warned that "there are no options left" but to sanction Turkey should it deploy the S-400s. Turkey, meanwhile, ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Under Siege, Venezuelan Opposition Lawmakers Keep Their Congress Alive

CARACAS - Venezuela's opposition says President Nicolas Maduro is seeking to close down the last institutional space they have left to contest his government - the National Assembly legislature, headed by Juan Guaido. Since Guaido invoked the constitution to assume a rival presidency in January, opposition lawmakers have been assaulted by pro-government groups at the assembly's gates, arrested and accused of treason. Many say they

are barely getting by financially after the Maduro administration stripped them of their salaries. "We have done titanic work while we have a sword hanging above us," said Nora Bracho, a 47-year-old lawmaker who was physically attacked in June by a pro-government activist while defending journalists blocked from entering the assembly. Guaido's momentum has flagged since an ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

### Broken Promise: Philippines Duterte Vetoes Bill on Short-Term Contracts

MANILA - Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has vetoed a measure that would have ended companies' practice of hiring workers on short-term contracts, his spokesman said on Friday, reneging on a campaign promise that helped put him in office. Philippine law lets employers hire workers to meet demand at peak times by using contracts that run five months, to avoid a six-month rule that requires employers to give them permanent job status and provide health and other benefits. "Security Tenure Bill vetoed by the president," ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

### U.N. Says Syria Air Strikes Killed at Least 100 Civilians in Past 10 Days

GENEVA/BEIRUT - Air strikes by the Syrian government and its allies on schools, hospitals, markets and bakeries have killed at least 103 civilians in the past 10 days, including 26 children, U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said in a statement on Friday. "These are civilian objects, and it seems highly unlikely, given the persistent pattern of such attacks, that they are all being hit by accident," Bachelet said, adding that the rising toll had been met with "apparent international indifference". The government began its offensive against the rebel enclave in northwest Syria, the last area of active insurgent opposition to President Bashar al-Assad, at the end of April, saying it was responding to violations of a truce. (Reuters)

### France Tells Johnson: Let's Work on Post-Brexit Relationship

PARIS - France is ready to work with Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson, but Paris and other European capitals will not renegotiate the terms of the hard-fought Brexit deal, a French minister said on Friday. State minister for European affairs Amelie de Montchalin said President Emmanuel Macron would hold Brexit-related talks with Johnson in France in the coming weeks. She said there was no question of renegotiating the divorce deal agreed between Johnson's predecessor and the European Union,



but that the two sides still had much to talk about. "What is still to negotiate is the future relationship," Montchalin said. "We have to create a working relationship and not get into games, gestures and provocations."

On entering Downing Street on Wednesday, Johnson set up a showdown with the EU by vowing to negotiate a new deal and threatening that, if the bloc refused, he would take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 without a deal. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### Istanbul Hosts 1,600 Artists for Int'l Culture, Art Festival

ISTANBUL - A total of 1,600 artists from around 70 countries on Friday gathered in Istanbul for a culture and art festival that will last ten days. The 20th International Buyukcekmece Culture and Art Festival began with symbolic performances by Spanish, Ukrainian and Panamanian dance groups at Istanbul's iconic Taksim Square, which attracted many locals and tourists. Kate from the Ukrainian dance troupe said she was very excited about per-

forming at the square and "feel very happy." Milan Mutapcic, assistant director of the Serbian dance troupe, said traditional dances from all parts of his country shall be performed throughout the festival. "We heard that this is a great festival, and we are very happy to be here," he said, adding the works of his troupe, consisting of 40 amateur dancers, have been recognized by so many people in Serbia. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

### China, Philippines Reach Important Consensus Through Diplomatic Consultation

BEIJING - China and the Philippines have reached important consensus on bilateral ties, the South China Sea issue and regional cooperation and development during the 22nd diplomatic consultation between the two countries, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday. Spokesperson Hua Chunying told a routine news briefing that this consultation, held on Tuesday in Manila, is the first diplomatic consultation after the relationship between the two countries has been upgraded to a relationship of comprehensive strategic cooperation. The two sides agreed to adhere to the direction of good-neighborly friendship. They both believe that since China-Philippine relations saw a turnaround in 2016, the two sides have renewed their friendship, properly handled their differences and expanded cooperation, which not only promoted the common development of the two countries but also contributed to regional development and prosperity. The two countries also stressed to continue to deepen cooperation on the Belt and Road and always be good neighbors, good friends and good partners. The two sides agreed to adhere to the direction of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. They believe that the current situation in the South China Sea is generally stable thanks to the joint efforts of China ...*(More on P4)...(21)*