

## Russian Opposition Leader May Have Been Poisoned, Doctor Says

MOSCOW - Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny remained hospitalized for a second day on Monday after his physician said he may have been poisoned. Details about Navalny's condition were scarce after Navalny was rushed to a hospital Sunday from a detention facility where he was serving a 30-day sentence for calling an unsanctioned protest. He was arrested several days before a major opposition rally on Saturday that ended with nearly 1,400 people detained. Tensions were high in Moscow on Monday as dozens of protesters remained in custody and the opposition called for a new rally over the weekend.



Access to Navalny is restricted, and Dr. Anastasiya Vasilyeva, who has been Navalny's physician for several years, only managed to see him Sunday afternoon. Doctors at the hospital initial-

ly said that Navalny was taken in with a severe allergic attack but Vasilyeva said that the swelling and the rash on his face could be consistent with chemical poisoning.

At least 21 people including Navalny's supporters and journalists were briefly detained outside the hospital late on Sunday. Vasilyeva said that hospital officials who previously diagnosed Navalny with an allergic reaction refused to run the necessary tests on him. Vasilyeva said that she would be allowed to visit Navalny again later on Monday. The source of the allergic reaction or poisoning wasn't immediately clear. But Navalny ally Leonid Volkov on Sunday complained about "anti-sanitary conditions" at the detention facility where he had also been detained before. Navalny ... (More on P4)...(15)

### Japan's Abe Unlikely to Meet South Korea's Moon at U.N. in September: Sankei

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is unlikely to meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in during the United Nations General Assembly in September, the Sankei newspaper said on Monday, the latest sign of strained ties between the key U.S. allies. Abe will not hold talks with Moon unless Seoul takes constructive steps over World War-Two era forced labour and other issues, the paper said. He will also forgo meeting Moon at an Octo-

ber meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation gathering in November, the paper added. The leaders did not meet during June's Group of 20 summit in Japan's western city of Osaka. Separately, Korean Air Lines said it would suspend flights between the South Korean city of Busan and Sapporo in northern Japan from Sept. 3 because of falling demand amid the ... (More on P4)...(19)

### Trump's Not Enough? Netanyahu Bets on 'Big League' Putin & Modi in New Election Campaign

JERUSALEM - In a bid to prove Benjamin Netanyahu's superiority over opponents, Israel's Likud party has boasted of his handshakes with the leaders from a totally different 'league' - Russia's Vladimir Putin and India's Narendra Modi. Massive billboards showing the Israeli Prime Minister shaking hands with Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin and Narendra Modi have graced the Likud party's 15-story head-

quarters on Sunday, kick-starting the election campaign under the motto "Netanyahu: In another league." The colossal posters overlooking central Tel Aviv mirror a similar campaign ahead of the April elections, which showed Netanyahu shaking hands with the US President and helped Likud secure a narrow win. However, betting only on Trump again might not be enough this time, Netanyahu might have thought after his failure to form a coalition gov-



ernment forced a snap election. The fourth façade of the Likud tower will remain empty - for now - par-

ty's spokeswoman confirmed, probably in case Netanyahu needs additional PR boost later. (RT)

### Talks Only Possible with 'Tangible Results,' but US Does Not 'Seek Dialogue'



WASHINGTON - There is no point in talking when no "practical results" can be achieved, and Washington is not interested in good-

faith dialogue, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said amid rising tensions with the US. "Dialogue and negotia-

tion can be held when we have a certain agenda in place, and when we could get some tangible and practical results out of it," Abbas Mousavi said on Monday, as cited by Reuters. The Americans "are not seeking dialogue," he added. Problems have been piling up between the US and Iran over the Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile programs, as well as attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, which the US blames Tehran for. Iran

denies any wrongdoing and urges Washington to stop meddling in regional affairs. Earlier this week, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo proposed traveling to Iran to "speak directly to the Iranian people." Mousavi rebuffed Pompeo's offer as a step in "psychological warfare" and a "defensive move" by the US in response to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's recent trip to New York. The ... (More on P4)...(16)

### China Defends Hong Kong Police, Blames Western Forces

BEIJING - China blamed Western forces and defended police conduct in remarks Monday about Hong Kong after the city endured another week-end of violent clashes between protesters and police. Yang Guang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, said at a news briefing that some "irresponsible people" in the West have applied "strange logic" that prompted them to be sympathetic and toler-

ant to "violent crimes" while criticizing the police force's "due diligence." "At the end of the day, their intention is to create trouble in Hong Kong, make Hong Kong a problem to China, in order to contain China's development," Yang said, without mentioning any specific individuals or countries. He added that such attempts will come to nothing because Beijing will tolerate no outside interference in ... (More on P4)...(20)

### British PM Johnson: We Need a New Trade Deal with EU

FASLANE, Scotland - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said there was every chance of striking a new Brexit deal with the European Union and that he wanted a grand new trade deal too. "What we want to do is to make it absolutely clear that the backstop is no good, it's dead, it's got to go. The Withdrawal Agreement is dead, it's got to go. But there is scope to do a new deal," Johnson said during a visit to a naval base in Scotland. "What we want need to do is to build a new partnership with all the things that matter to us, sharing cooperation on defense, on security, on intelligence, cultural, scientific collaboration, everything that you would expect," Johnson said. "At the core of it all a new free trade deal that allows us to take back control of our tariffs and our regulations and to do things differently where we want to," he said. (Reuters)

### Mexican President Says Country Is Not in Recession

MEXICO CITY - Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Monday the country was not in recession and that the economy was performing increasingly well, rejecting concerns that it may have contracted for two consecutive quarters. Mexico's national statistics agency is on Wednesday due to publish a preliminary estimate for the economy's performance during the second quarter. The economy contracted by 0.2% quarter-on-quarter in the January-March period. (Reuters)

### Parched Manufacturing City in India Brings in Water by Rail

JOLARPET, India - Amid the green Yelagiri hills of southern India, the train inches along the tracks, carrying what has become precious cargo: drinking water bound for Chennai, India's parched Motor City. Demand for water in the manufacturing and IT hub on the Bay of Bengal far outstrips supply, forcing authorities to take extreme and costly measures to serve the city's 10 million people. And so, every day, the train sets out on a four-hour, 216-kilometer (134-mile) journey, its 50 tank cars carrying 2.5 million liters (660,000



gallons) of water drawn from a dam on the Cauvery River. The train is classic Indian "jugaad," the Hindi word for a makeshift solution to a complicated problem. Executive engineer K. Raju confessed this is not the best engineering

solution to Chennai's water problem. "But this is a timely way to help and that's all. This is not a permanent solution," he said. Building an underground pipeline that brings in water from closer areas would be better, he said. ... (More on P4)...(17)

### Israel Invests in High-Tech Upgrades at West Bank Crossings

QALANDIA CROSSING, West Bank - It's just after 6 a.m. and a Palestinian man's face is momentarily bathed in crimson light, not by the sun rising over the mountains of Jordan, but by a facial recognition scanner at an Israeli checkpoint near Jerusalem. The Israeli military has installed the face scanners as part a multimillion dollar upgrade of the Qalandia crossing that now allows Palestinians from the West Bank with work permits to zip through with relative ease.

But while the high-tech upgrades may have eased entry for Palestinians going to Israel for work, critics say they are a sign of the ossification of Israel's 52-year occupation of the West Bank and slam the military's use of facial recognition technology as problematic. Qalandia is one of the main crossings for the thousands of Palestinians who enter Israel each day for a variety of reasons, including work, medical appointments ... (More on P4)...(18)

### Britain Hosts 'Five Eyes' Security Alliance Ministers for Cyber Talks

LONDON - Britain hosted a meeting of senior security ministers from the U.S.-led 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance on Monday for talks on tackling cyber threats ranging from political hacking to child pornography. British interior minister Priti Patel, appointed last week by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, hosted the ministerial meeting to focus on emerging threats and how to deal with the "opportunities and risks" posed by new technologies. Patel said in a statement that specific topics included cyber security, encryption and "online harms." "The UK is a global leader on national security and child protection and we are committed to working with our close partners on shared challenges," Patel said. According to Patel, at some point governmental participants will attend an industry roundtable to discuss "countering online child sexual exploitation and abuse" which will include discussions with Facebook, Google and Microsoft. Last year, representatives of social media companies declined government invitations to participate in the same annual conference. Facebook said it would attend the meeting this week. Google and Microsoft did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Security ministers from the Five Eyes alliance - Britain, the United States, Canada, ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Neighbor News

### Iran Ready to Unleash 3rd Nuclear Step If EU Fails Again

TEHRAN - Iran has warned the UK, France and Germany -- the three European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal -- that it will not hesitate to take the third step in reducing its commitments under the agreement if they once again fail to meet its demands. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said Monday diplomatic efforts to save the agreement - known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - is underway but Tehran's patience is limited. "We are still waiting for the Europeans' practical and concrete steps in implementing the JCPOA," he told reporters during a daily briefing in Tehran. The remarks came after an extraordinary meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission held in Vienna Sunday, where Tehran and the other signatories - the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany -- discussed the future of the landmark accord over a year after US President Donald Trump's withdrawal. Ever since announcing his departure from the deal in May 2018, Trump has tried to block trade between Iranian and European companies by imposing sanctions that target a wide range of Iranian exports, including its crude oil. The European signatories of the deal refused

to follow Trump's suit and said they would try to salvage the deal by protecting European businesses through a special payment channel, called INSTEX. Months after unveiling their solution to the sanctions, Iran has yet to reap any benefits from it. Frustrated with Europe's lack of action, Iran announced earlier this year that it would cut back on its JCPOA commitments using the mechanisms defined in the deal if its demands are not met after a 60-day ultimatum that started in May. As a first step, Iran increased its enriched uranium stockpile to beyond the 300 kilograms set by the JCPOA. Next, it announced that it had begun enriching uranium to purity rates beyond the JCPOA-limit of 3.76 percent. Mousavi said Monday that Iran would not hesitate to take the third step should the Europeans fail once more. He said the European appeared more serious in the latest round of talks but "talk is cheap" for them and "we couldn't count on these words and would rather look forward to their practical steps." The diplomat said President Hassan Rouhani had laid out in detail Iran's plan forward in a letter to his counterparts and "the other parties know what they need to do." (Press TV)

### Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan Sign Border Demarcation Protocol

TASHKENT - Working groups of the Uzbek-Turkmen Intergovernmental Commission on delimitation and demarcation of the state border between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan held a meeting in Bukhara, Uzbekistan from July 22-28, 2019, Trend reports with reference to the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. The parties reviewed the proposals for the

project demarcation line of the State border at its individual sites and agreed at subsequent meetings to present recommendations. As reported, the negotiations were held at a high level and in mutual understanding. At the end of the meeting, the heads of the delegations Tulkin Abdullayev (Uzbekistan) and Mamed Mamedov (Turkmenistan) signed the final Protocol. (Trend)

### Turkmenistan Increases Export of Fruits and Vegetables

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan continues to strengthen its positions as an exporter of fruits and vegetables, Trend reports referring to Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper. More than 15,000 tons of tomatoes and cucumbers were grown in greenhouses and sent abroad in 2019, which is almost twofold more compared to 2018. Moreover, over 7,500 tons of onions were shipped to foreign consumers. Vegetables worth \$16 million and produced in greenhouses have been exported since the beginning of the year.

According to the statistics, the harvest of tomatoes grown in the country has exceeded the needs of the domestic market. Presently, there are sufficient volumes of vegetables in the domestic market. At least 15,000 tons of fresh vegetables are planned to be harvested by the end of the year. The Turkmen vegetables are in demand in Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates. The Turkmen products can be quite competitive in the European market. (Trend)

### Darul Ahsas Centers to Support More Than Ten Thousand Children: PM Briefed

ISLAMABAD - Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Aon Abbas Buppi Monday apprised Prime Minister Imran Khan that the Darul Ahsas centers, being set up under the

Ahsas programme in the current fiscal year, would fully support more than ten thousand children with lodging, education and grooming facilities. (Monitoring Desk)