

Indian PM Modi Sworn in for 2nd Term in Ceremony Attended by Asian Leaders & Bollywood Stars

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been sworn in for a second term in office after his ruling party won a landslide victory in elections last week.

Modi's Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 303 out of 525 seats, easily giving them the simple majority needed to form a government, in an election which saw some 600 million people go to the polls.

The ceremony took place at the presidential palace in the center of New Delhi and was attended by more than 7,000 guests, including other regional leaders, Bollywood celebrities and sporting stars.

There were some notable absences, however, including Pakistani Prime Minister Im-



ran Khan, as well as some Indian opposition figures. Earlier, Pakistan had downplayed reports that Khan had not been invited to the

swearing-in ceremony, saying that it was a logical decision since the election campaign had been full of "Pakistan bashing."

India threatened to globally isolate Pakistan in February after ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Stand Firm or Face a New Cold War, Guterres Warns Europe

BERLIN - The world risks a descent into lawlessness and a new Cold War if multilateralism fails, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday, calling on the European Union to take a lead role in fighting to preserve a rules-based global order.

Speaking in the western German city of Aachen, where he was being awarded the annual Charlemagne Prize for promoting European unity, Guterres described the 28-nation

bloc as a pillar of multilateralism that was "too big to fail".

"If you want to avoid a new Cold War, if you want a real multilateral order, then we have to have a United States of Europe as a strong pillar of it," he said after being presented the medal in Aachen city hall's ornate Coronation Room.

The prize, first awarded in 1949, is named after the medieval monarch who in 800 was crowned emperor of a Europe...*(More on P4)...(19)*

China, Japan Jointly Charting Course Toward Brighter Future for Asia: Chinese Former Minister of Commerce

TOKYO - Chen Deming, former minister of commerce of China, said here Friday that the economic structures of China and Japan are highly complementary, and that the two countries, by joining hands and combining strengths, will boost their own development and at the same time, play an even bigger role in building a more stable and prosperous Asia.

The development of Asia closely connects to and profoundly influences the trend of the

world, Chen said here at the 25th International Conference on the Future of Asia.

Asian countries have participated in and deepened value chains, and have been advancing regional economic integration. Growing into the region with most development potentials, Asia has also become an important constructive force to global economic governance, Chen said.

As the second and the third largest economies in the world, China and Japan, both Asian eco-



nomical powerhouses, are bound by a historical duty to jointly work for the future prosperity of Asia, the former official said.

Chen said that China and Japan cooperation should go beyond the bilateral limits and be put under the regional ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

'Approaching Competitive' US 2nd Fleet Seeks to Confront Russia in Arctic



WASHINGTON - The US Navy has announced that its resurrected Second Fleet is finally operational and ready to confront Russia in the

North Atlantic and the Arctic with all its 250 personnel - starting with wargames in the Baltic Sea next month. Though it sounds im-

posing on paper, one could say that in practice the new Second Fleet is a glorified office. It has no ships and amounts to a command and coordination unit based in Norfolk, Virginia, run by Vice-Admiral Andrew 'Woody' Lewis.

"The North Atlantic has some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and with the opening of waterways in the Arctic, this traffic will only grow," Lewis said on Wednesday, announcing the fleet's operational status. "This is a fact

acknowledged by both our allies and competitors, and as such, it is critically important US 2nd Fleet reinvigorates the way our forces are employed in this influential theater."

It isn't clear how exactly Lewis intends to accomplish these ambitious goals, or with what forces. Once upon a time, the Second Fleet had up to 126 ships and submarines in service - but that was before it got disbanded in 2011. Orders for its reactivation, ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Crop Fires, A Weapon of War, Ruin Iraqi, Syrian Harvests

IRBIL, Iraq - It was looking to be a good year for farmers across parts of Syria and Iraq. The wettest in generations, it brought rich, golden fields of wheat and barley, giving farmers in this war-torn region reason to rejoice. But good news is short-lived in this part of the world, where residents of the two countries struggle to cope with seemingly never-ending violence and turmoil amid Syria's civil war and attacks by remnants of the Islamic State group. Now, even

in areas where conflict has subsided, fires have been raging in farmers' fields, depriving them of valuable crops.

The blazes have been blamed on defeated IS militants seeking to avenge their losses, or on Syrian government forces battling to rout other armed groups. Thousands of acres of wheat and barley fields in both Syria and Iraq have been scorched by the fires during the harvest season, which runs until mid-June. "The life that we live here ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Pence Says US-Canada Relationship Has 'Never Been Stronger'

OTTAWA, Ontario - Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that President Donald Trump is a "great friend of the Canadian people" and that the U.S.-Canada relationship has "never been stronger," less than a year after Trump assailed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in unprecedented attacks on America's longtime ally.

Pence was in the Canadian capital hoping to build momentum to pass a new trade deal with Canada and Mexico. But after Pence left to return to Washington Trump tweeted that he is slapping a 5% tariff on all ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Univision Says It Recovered Contentious Maduro Interview

CARACAS, Venezuela - The Univision television network said Thursday that it has recovered the video of a contentious interview with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro that was confiscated after he cut it short, angered by critical questions from journalist Jorge Ramos. Ramos said the recovery of the video was "a real triumph against censorship" and that it was returned by "confidential sources" who cannot be named out of concern for their safety.

On its website, Spanish-language Univision showed an excerpt of the 17-minute interview in late February in the presidential palace in Caracas. Ramos said the video will be broadcast in full on Sunday.

The journalist and his team were deported from Venezuela after Maduro abruptly ended the ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

'Where Is the Evidence?' Malaysian PM Says Attempts to Pin MH17 Downing on Russia Lack Proof

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia has accepted the Dutch report that a 'Russian-made' missile shot down its civilian airliner MH17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014, but has yet to see evidence it was fired by Russia, said Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

"They are accusing Russia but where is the evidence?" Mahathir told reporters at the Japanese Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC) in Tokyo on Thursday. "You need strong evidence to show it was fired by the Russians," the prime minister went



on, according to the Malaysian state news agency Bernama. "It could be by the rebels in Ukraine; it could be Ukrainian government because they too have the same missile." Malaysian Airlines

flight MH17, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014 - amid heavy fighting between residents of two eastern ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Japan Says Russia Supports Its Plan to Help Ease U.S.-Iran Tensions

TOKYO - Russia expressed support for Japan's intention to play a role in helping ease tensions between Iran and the United States, an official in Tokyo said on Thursday after a meeting of Japan and Russia's foreign and defense ministers.

On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's help in dealing with Iran, after Japanese broadcaster NHK reported that Abe was considering a trip to Tehran as early as mid-

June. "Traditionally Japan has had friendly ties with Iran," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official told a media briefing after the meeting of the four ministers. "There were comments from the Japanese side that Japan aims to play a role by taking advantage of such ties. The Russian side made a very positive comment in response," the official said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga has ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Pope Urges Romanian Leaders to Shun Personal Interests, Seek Common Good

BUCHAREST - Pope Francis urged Romania's leaders on Friday to shun personal interests and work together for the common good, arriving in the former communist country amid political upheaval caused by a corruption scandal. Francis arrived to a low-key welcome in the overwhelmingly Orthodox Christian country where Catholics, who suffered persecution in the communist era, make up little more than five percent of the population.

The trip comes just days after the country's most powerful politician, Liviu Dragnea, was jailed for corruption. The scandal has shaken the stability of the government of Prime Minister Viorica Dancila, a protege of Dragnea.

In a speech at the 19th century presidential palace, Francis praised achievements in the 30 years since the fall of communism but said problems of social stability and governance remained.

"It is necessary to move forward together with conviction in following the highest calling to which every state must aspire: that of responsibility for the common good of its people," he said.

Romania joined the EU in 2007 but corruption has kept it from admission in the borderless Schengen area and the European Commission has warned the government to clean up its act. When Pope John Paul visited Romania in 1999, the visit was restricted to the capital Bucharest because that trip was part of a larger Vatican project to mend ties with the Orthodox Church, which split with Rome in the Great Schism of 1054. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Pakistan, Egypt Agree to Enhance Cooperation in All Fields

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Egypt Friday agreed to comprehensively upgrade cooperation in all fields and increase the frequency of bilateral political contacts and exchanges. The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and President of Egypt Abdul Fattah Al Sisi, on the

sidelines of the 14th Islamic Summit in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, a PM Office statement said. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the whole range of bilateral, regional and international matters. The issues being faced by Muslim Ummah were also discussed. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Stays Within Nuclear Deal's Key Limits, IAEA Report Shows

VIENNA - Iran has stayed within the central limits on its atomic activities set by its deal with major powers, a quarterly report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog indicated on Friday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency report, which was sent to the agency's member states and which Reuters reviewed, said Iran had stayed within caps on items including the level to which it enriches uranium and its stock of enriched uranium.

Iran pledged to curb its nuclear program in a 2015 deal with world powers in return for the lifting of international sanctions against Tehran. The United States withdrew from the deal a year ago and has reimposed sanctions, which

were tightened further this month.

Tehran says it is still abiding by the agreement despite the U.S. withdrawal, although it threatened three weeks ago to increase its uranium enrichment program if countries do not find a way to shield it from the impact of U.S. sanctions.

While the deal allows Iran to use thousands of its first-generation IR-1 centrifuges - machines that enrich uranium - it restricts the number of more advanced models to single or double digits. The agency's report flagged the number of IR-6 models installed as a potential issue, saying: "Technical discussions in relation to the IR-6 centrifuges are ongoing". (Reuters)

Uzbek Airport of Bukhara Becomes Best in CIS Countries

TASHKENT - International Civil Aviation Organization of the UN recognized the Bukhara air harbor in Uzbekistan as the best airport in the CIS countries in 2018, Trend reports with reference to Uzbekistan's State Committee on Tourism.

Moreover, Director of Bukhara Airport Takhir Bakhronov was elected as the president of the International Civil Aviation Organization of the CIS countries.

Earlier it became known that a duty free jewelry shop would be opened in the arrival area of Bukhara International Airport.

Bukhara airport received international status in 1999, according to Uzbekistan Airways. In 2011, it earned a new terminal complex with a capacity of up to 400

passengers per hour. Over 120,000 passengers use the airport's services annually; more than 15,000 among them are foreign tourists.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a UN specialized agency, established by Member States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

ICAO works with the Convention's 193 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies in support of safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector. (Trend)

Protocols Approved by Council of CIS Heads of Government in Ashgabat

ASHGABAT - A meeting of the Council of the CIS Heads of Government was held in Ashgabat under the chairmanship of Turkmenistan on May 31, Trend reports referring to the CIS Executive Committee.

A number of protocols aimed at introducing changes to previously adopted documents were signed during the meeting, which will expand and deepen the interaction of the CIS countries in the areas of trade, customs clearance and control of goods, as well as their transit through the territories of the CIS countries, the report said.

In addition, a report was read during the meeting by Alexander Shumilin, Interstate Council for Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation. Following his report, the heads of government decided to prepare a draft of

the Interstate Program of Innovative Cooperation of CIS Member States for the period until 2030.

Furthermore, the agreement on interaction of customs authorities of CIS member states in the field of protection of intellectual property rights was approved. Information on this issue was given by Vladimir Bulavin, head of the Federal Customs Service of Russia.

In addition, the agreement on the coordination of interstate relations in the field of basic research of the CIS member states and the agreement on cooperation in the field of museum affairs were signed, the report says.

The Council of CIS Heads of Government also made a decision on the appointment of Colonel Zhanat Saypoldayev (Kazakhstan) as the first deputy head of the Anti-Terrorism Center of the CIS Member States. (Trend)