

## Trump to Meet Xi, Putin at G20 in Japan

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump will meet an array of world leaders on the sidelines of this week's G20 summit in Japan, including China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin, a US official said Monday.

Also on the list are Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Trump will also sit down with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman for talks that are especially timely given the soaring tensions between the United States and Iran.



The meeting with the Chinese president --

which is highly anticipated as the two sides try to reach a deal on trade -- is expected to

take place on Saturday, the second day of the summit, in Osaka.

After the Group of 20 summit, the Republican president will head to Seoul.

When asked if Trump was planning a visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the border of North and South Korea, the official neither confirmed nor denied.

The official did however say there were "no plans" for Trump to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his trip to Asia.

Trump and Kim have so far met twice -- in Singapore in June 2018, and in Hanoi in February 2019. (AFP)

### Russian, North American Astronauts to Return to Earth

ALMATY (Kazakhstan) - The first crew to blast off to the International Space Station following a launch accident that deepened doubts over Russia's space programme is set to return to earth Tuesday.

NASA astronaut Anne McClain, veteran cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko of Roscosmos, and Canadian Space Agency record-holder David Saint-Jacques are expected to touch down on the steppes of Kazakhstan at around 0248 GMT.

The trio's launch on December 3 was the first after a Soyuz rocket carrying Russia's Aleksey Ovchinin and US astronaut Nick Hague failed in October just minutes after blast-off, forcing the pair to make an emergency landing.

They escaped unharmed but the failed launch was the first such incident in Russia's post-Soviet history and a new setback for the country's once proud space industry.

- Record-breakers and space tourism - McClain, Kononenko and... (More on P4)... (17)

### 'Dialogue at Gunpoint': Bolton Says Iran's 'Silence' Is DEAFENING While It's Actually Pretty Vocal

TEHRAN - US National Security Advisor John Bolton has said that defiant Iran stays silent over meaningful talks with Washington, when, in fact, Tehran repeatedly argued that a barrage of threats and sanctions has made talks impossible.

Bolton blamed Iran for avoiding dialogue with the US during his visit to Jerusalem on Tuesday.

As we speak, American diplomatic representatives are surging across the Middle East, seeking a path to peace. In



response, Iran's silence has been deafening. The official insisted that Washington "has held the door open for real

negotiations," and all Iran needs to do is to "walk through that open door." Bolton explained that by doing so Iran must fulfill a laundry list of demands put forward by the US, including the one to "completely... (More on P4)... (14)



### Russia, US & Israel Hold Security Talks as Middle East Turns into 'Battlefield' against Iran



MOSCOW - Blaming Iran for all the problems of the Middle East is just bad policy, Moscow has said as the national

security advisers from Russia, Israel and the US meet in Jerusalem to discuss escalating tensions in the region.

"Just like us, Iran is legitimately present on Syrian territory to help fight terrorists, invited by the legitimate Syrian

government," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in Moscow on Monday, after a meeting with his Egyptian colleague Sameh Shoukry. Much of their press conference was dedicated to another meeting, however, as Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev was in Jerusalem for talks with his Israeli counterpart Meir Ben-Shabbat and US national security advisor John Bolton. Further meetings between... (More on P4)... (15)

### Egypt Arrests 8, Including Ex-Lawmaker and Secular Activists

CAIRO - Egyptian police arrested at least eight people on Tuesday, including a former lawmaker and key secular activists in the country's 2011 uprising, for their alleged ties to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group, authorities said.

The arrests mark the latest in a years-long crackdown by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's government on Islamists, critics and dissent in general. Last week, Egypt's former President Mohamed Morsi who hailed from the Brotherhood, collapsed and died in a Cairo courtroom during one of his trials. His death sparked criticism of el-Sissi's government with rights activists accusing it of mistreating Morsi in jail and failing to provide adequate medication, allegations denied by authorities. Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, had been imprisoned since his ouster by the military in 2013, after... (More on P4)... (18)

### Countdown to NATO Space Strategy

BRUSSELS - NATO will launch its first strategy for space this week as the alliance heads beyond the skies to defend against the likes of China and Russia.

As concerns grow about the possible militarisation of space - alongside more mundane worries about debris orbiting the Earth - allied defence ministers will sign off on a policy framework. The aim is for NATO to make space a full operational domain - alongside land, sea, air and cyber - perhaps as early as the alliance summit in London in December, diplomats say. "Space is part of our daily lives, and while it can be used for peaceful purposes, it can also be used for aggression," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters. (AFP)

### After Loss, Erdogan Vows to Listen to People's 'Messages'

ANKARA, Turkey - In his first public appearance since a crushing defeat in a re-run election for mayor of Istanbul, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday vowed to draw lessons and make adjustments in line with "the messages given by the people."

Addressing legislators from his ruling party in Parliament, Erdogan again congratulated opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu who garnered 54.21% of the vote in Istanbul on Sunday to become Istanbul's mayor. Erdogan had previously congratulated Imamoglu in a tweet. Sunday's results came as a rare electoral defeat for Erdogan and broke the Islamic-leaning ruling party's decades-old grip on Turkey's most important city. It was also a personal blow to Erdogan whose rise in Turkish politics had started with his own election as Istanbul mayor 25 years ago. (AP)

### China, U.S. Trade Officials Talk Ahead of Trump-Xi Meeting

SHANGHAI - Senior Chinese and U.S. trade officials spoke by telephone on Monday ahead of talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump set for later this week, as the world's two largest economies remain locked in a tariff war.

Trump and Xi are expected to meet on the second day of the Friday-Saturday Group of 20 summit in Japan, the first face-to-face meeting for the leaders since trade talks broke off in May.

China's Vice Premier Liu He held a phone conversation with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, China's



Ministry of Commerce said in a statement posted to its website on Tuesday morning.

During the call the Chinese and U.S. officials exchanged opinions on trade in accordance with the instructions of the two countries' heads of state, and agreed to maintain communications, the statement said.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said on Tuesday that the call took place at the request of U.S. officials.

A senior U.S. official said Monday that Trump views the meeting with Xi as a chance to see where Beijing stands on the two countries' trade war, and is "comfortable with any outcome." (Reuters)

### Alphabet Unveils Vision for High-Tech Toronto Waterfront Project

OTTAWA - Sidewalk Labs, a subsidiary of Google parent-company Alphabet Inc., on Monday officially unveiled its plan for a massive technology-driven neighborhood on Toronto's waterfront that it hopes will become a blueprint for the future, but which has already generated controversy.

The 1,500-page master plan covers

a 4.8-hectare (12-acre) parcel on the eastern shore of the city's harbor. The Lake Ontario site would merge sustainable design with new technologies, such as trash-picking robots, sensors that measure pedestrians' gait, sidewalks that melt snow and street-side parking that can be booked. But, in an... (More on P4)... (16)

## Neighbor News

### Iran Calls New US Sanctions 'Outrageous and Idiotic'

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran on Tuesday sharply criticized new U.S. sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and other top officials, saying the measures spell the "permanent closure" for diplomacy between the two nations. Iran's president described the White House as "afflicted by mental retardation."

President Hassan Rouhani went on to call the sanctions against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "outrageous and idiotic," especially as the 80-year-old Shiite cleric has no plans to ever travel to the United States.

From Israel, Trump's national security adviser John Bolton said

talks with the U.S. were still possible and that the U.S. is leaving an "open door" for Iran to walk through.

But the comments from Tehran clearly show its leaders think otherwise at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran over its nuclear program and Iran's downing of a U.S. military surveillance drone last week.

"The fruitless sanctions on Iran's leadership and the chief of Iranian diplomacy mean the permanent closure of the road of diplomacy with the frustrated U.S. administration," said Abbas Mousavi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. (AP)

### Turkmenistan Discusses Employment Issues with UN

ASHGABAT - The Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan (UIET) held a meeting with the Chief of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Coordination Section at United Nations Christopher O'Donnell, Trend reports referring to the UIET.

The participants of the meeting were unani-

mous in their opinion that the solution of issues of employment of the population is one of the factors that counteract negative phenomena in the life of society.

Representatives of the UN mission praised the work of the UIET, emphasizing its importance in creating new jobs. (Trend)

### Uzbekistan Airways Intends to Transport Russian Tourists to Georgia

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan Airways is going to ensure transit of tourists from Russia to Georgia after the opening of direct flights scheduled for July, Trend reports with reference to RIA Novosti. From July 16, Uzbekistan Airways opens direct flights to Georgia, which is absent after the collapse of the USSR.

Direct communication between Tashkent and Tbilisi opens with the expectation of transit passengers, in particular, tourists from Russia.

Passenger flights on the route Tashkent - Tbilisi will be operated twice a week - on Tuesdays and Fridays - by plane A320. The company also noted that now the Georgian side is discussing the organization of charter flights for tourists from the Russian Federation,

the CIS, and the countries of South-East Asia, the report says.

The airlines could provide transportation of Russian tourists primarily from the regions of Siberia and the Far East. Earlier, Trend reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 21 signed a decree banning Russian airlines to transport Russian citizens to Georgia from July 8. Tour operators and agents are advised not to sell vouchers.

The government is instructed to ensure the return of the Russians to their homeland.

Association of Tour Operators of Russia states that now there are about 5,000 to 7,000 organized tourists from Russia in Georgia and independent ones are two to three times more. (Trend)

### State Bank of Pakistan Bans Sale of Rs.40,000 Prize Bond

KARACHI - The State Bank of Pakistan has banned the sale of old Rs40,000 Prize Bonds from today (Tuesday). The expiry date for enchantments of these bonds is March 31, 2020 after that the bonds will become useless since they would no longer be included in draws.

The SBP has also directed banks to stop selling old and unregistered Rs.40,000 Prize Bonds.

According to State Bank, the bonds would be converted into Rs.40,000 Premium Prize Bonds and they can also be converted into saving certificates.

Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Shabbir Zaidi Saturday said all the prize bonds worth Rs 40,000 would be registered till 2020 as it was mandatory. The unregistered prize bonds would be considered useless if not registered, he said talking to

a private news channel. The chairman said the prize bonds of Rs 948 billion were still unregistered in the country and hectic efforts were being made to register them.

Terming holding unregistered prize bonds as an unlawful act, he said it was imperative for the prize bonds holders to register them forthwith.

The government on Thursday offered relaxation to the bearers of Rs40,000 denomination prize bonds, allowing the investors to register their unregistered bonds up to March 31, 2020.

Following the decision of Economic Coordination Committee's (ECC) of the cabinet, the holder of Rs40,000 denomination prize bond could take benefit of various facilities in registering their bonds, according to press statement issued by the Finance Ministry here. (Agencies)