

## Pope Honors Rome's Legacy of Integration over Centuries

ROME - Pope Francis has crossed the Tiber River for a visit to Rome's city hall, paying homage to an ancient city that integrated diverse peoples over centuries of its existence.

During his visit to the Rome's City Hall on Tuesday, Francis said that "Rome, over its nearly 2,800 years of history, has been able to welcome and integrate different populations and people from all over the world ... without humiliating or crushing their respective peculiar characteristics and identity."

He also warned against letting the Eternal City become degraded now.

Rome is struggling with problems of garbage removal, polluted streets and other issues



of decay that have worsened on the watch of Mayor Virginia Raggi, who welcomed him to the Capitoline Hill, where city hall is located. (Fox News)

### Mexican President Demands Apology from Spanish King, Pope Francis for 16th Century Conquests

MEXICO CITY - Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has formally requested an apology from both Spanish King Felipe VI and Pope Francis for the Spanish conquest some 500 years ago.

The letter cited massacres that took place during the Spanish conquests of the indigenous peoples of Mexico throughout the 16th century. He also referenced the imposition of the Catholic faith as well as the human rights abuses com-

mitted by forces acting on behalf of the Spanish crown.

"The churches were built above the temples, our patriotic heroes were excommunicated," he said speaking among the ruins of an ancient Mexican city in a video posted to his social media accounts. "We are going to reconcile but first we ask for forgiveness."

Spain's foreign ministry immediately published a statement rejecting the contents of Obrador's letter. (RT)

### Pilot: Cruise Ship Woes Off Norway Started with Engine Snags

COPENHAGEN, Denmark - The Norwegian pilot on the cruise ship carrying more than 479 passengers was caught in a hefty storm off the coast of mid-Norway last weekend, says the situation became problematic when engine problems appeared. Inge Lockert told the Vesterdaalen newspaper Tuesday that "everything went as it should until we got engine problems."

Lockert could not be reached by The Associated Press.

Viking Sky subsequent-



ly made a mayday call Saturday afternoon, and helicopters winched off 479 passengers.

The evacuation was halted Sunday when the ship with about 900 people still on board,

limped into a nearby port on its own engines after they were restarted. (Fox News)

### New Power Outage Leaves Much of Venezuela in The Dark



CARACAS, Venezuela - Much of Venezuela remains without electricity as a new power outage spread across the country in what many fear

will be a repeat of the chaos almost two weeks ago during the nation's largest-ever blackout.

The outage began around midday Monday

and appeared to have affected most of Venezuela's 23 states. While the lights did flicker back after officials declared service would be restored

within hours in the late evening the power went out again in much of the country.

As with the previous outage, the government of President Nicolas Maduro blamed U.S.-backed opponents, accusing them of sabotaging the Guri dam, which supplies the bulk of Venezuela's electricity. Opposition leader Juan Guaido said the outage lays bare the socialist government's incompetence and promised actions to end Maduro's rule. (Fox News)

### 'Dark Day for Internet Freedom': EU Lawmakers Approve Controversial Copyright Reform

STRASBOURG - The European Parliament has voted to adopt the highly controversial Article 13 provision which would govern the production and distribution of content online under the auspices of increasing copyright protections.

Tuesday's move will update the EU's 20-year-old copyright rules and will govern audiovisual content, much to the dismay of many social media users who have already begun outpouring their grief online.

However the parliament said in a statement that sharing memes and gifs has been protected "even more than it was before" and they will continue to be available and shareable on online platforms.

MEPs passed the legislation by 348 votes to 274 Tuesday. Opponents had hoped for last-minute amendments to be made but their efforts were in vain.

Julia Reda, a German MEP with the Pirate Party, described it as a ... (More on P4)... (14)

### EU Parliament Backs Landmark Copyright Bill

STRASBOURG, France - The European Parliament approved Tuesday a landmark copyright bill which seeks to give creative writers and artists better protection of their rights and income.

However, the bill, which still needs to go to the 28 member states for approval, has faced criticism by some for stifling internet freedom and creativity.

The legislature approved the bill after a three-year process with 348-274 votes, with 36 abstentions. It now goes to the member states for a final approval next month after they have already given it their provisional backing last month. The most controversial section would require companies such as YouTube and Facebook to take ... (More on P4)... (15)

### Gerrymandering Back Before the US Supreme Court

WASHINGTON - The US Supreme Court is set Tuesday to once more hear arguments on gerrymandering, the dark art of redrawing political boundaries to extract partisan advantage: a practice that is almost as old as the country itself. The latest cases to come before the highest bench are from North Carolina, where Republican lawmakers are accused of devising electoral maps to favor themselves; and Maryland, where Democrats are accused of the same.

According to court documents, the Republican authors of North Carolina's 2016 congressional map explicitly stated their intentions.

"I propose that we draw the maps to give a partisan ... (More on P4)... (16)

### Trump's Golan Gift to Israel Condemned by UN, Gulf & European Allies

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump's decision to recognize Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan has been met with condemnation by the international community, with the UN and Washington's Gulf and European allies slamming the move.

The US president signed a declaration on Monday recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was present at the signing ceremony, praised Trump's unilateral move, comparing the president to biblical and Zionist heroes. But reactions among the in-



ternational community - including Washington's closest Gulf and European allies - were considerably less enthusiastic. The United Nations, which has long maintained that Israel's occupation of the Golan is illegal under international law, signaled that its position had not changed. A UN spokesman said

that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will continue to honor a December 1981 resolution which called Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights "null and void and without international legal effect." The declaration was similarly unpopular among nations which ... (More on P4)... (13)

### 'PR Disaster': NASA Ditches Historic All-Female Spacewalk after Spacesuits Won't Fit

WASHINGTON - People on social networks are struggling to understand how NASA prepares for its missions after the space agency announced that its historic all-woman spacewalk will be canceled due to problems with spacesuit sizes. Astronauts Anne McClain and Christina Koch were about to make history as the first all-female crew to walk outside the International Space Station on March 29, but NASA

suddenly changed its plans. In a press release on Monday, the agency said it had to adjust assignments "in part" due to "spacesuit availability" problems. Anne McClain, who successfully performed her first spacewalk on March 22 with Nick Hague, is now "tentatively scheduled" for April 8 alongside Canadian Space Agency astronaut David Saint-Jacques, NASA said. (RT)

### Macron Calls on China and EU to Strengthen Multilateralism

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday said competition between the European Union and China must not lead to a breakdown in world trade systems or political isolationism, as his Chinese counterpart promised to work side-by-side with Europe.

Macron, who invited German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to talks with Xi Jinping in Paris, said he wanted to build a fairer, more balanced multilateral trade framework with China. "We must show through actions that cooperation brings more than confrontation and that we have more to win through openness than through closing doors," Macron said.

The French leader has sought to forge a united European front to confront Chinese advances in trade and technology and foster a more balanced relationship with Beijing, and called on Tuesday for a partnership with China built on trust. Xi sought to reassure Macron, saying cooperation was the main trend in the Sino-European relationship, even if the two sides had their differences and there was competition between the two. "Cooperation is greater than competition. We should increase the positive energy," Xi said. "We are working side by side and helping each other, and we shouldn't be always worried about watching our back with suspicion while moving forward."

Merkel said Europe wanted to play an active part in China's Belt and Road initiative, but that it must lead to more trade reciprocity. (Reuters)

## Neighbor News

### Zarif Mocks Trump Administration for Attempt to Take Credit for Daesh 'Defeat'

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has ridiculed the administration of US President Donald Trump for attempting to take credit for "defeating" a notorious terror group of Washington's own making in the Middle East.

"Trump & Co try to take credit for the 'defeat of ISIS' - which was created & nourished by their invasion of Iraq & their fomenting of unrest in Syria," Zarif said in a message posted on his Twitter account on Monday, using an acronym for the Takfiri Daesh terror group. The White House and

Trump on Friday announced that Syria was now free from Daesh. White House Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters that the terror group's territorial rule had been "100 percent eliminated" from Syria, while showing a map to reporters that she said displayed the eradication of Daesh's so-called caliphate over the last two years, in what was viewed as an attempt to give the US president credit for the "defeat" of Daesh.

Later in the day, Trump took to Twitter and said Daesh no longer held any territory in Syria. (Press TV)

### Turkmenistan Aims to Co-Op with Toyota

ASHGABAT - President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov instructed to expand cooperation with Japan's Toyota Motor Corporation, Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen TV channel Watan.

It is expected that this issue will be raised during the working visit of the Turkmen representative delegation to Japan planned for the near future.

The Turkmen president instructed to visit the Toyota plant and get acquainted with the organization of production, various brands of modern environmentally friendly hybrid vehicles and electric cars.

In this context, it was instructed to work out the

issue of supplying new modifications of motor vehicles to Turkmenistan, the report said.

Turkmenistan has long-term productive contacts with Komatsu and Itochu Corporation, motor transport, road construction and earthmoving equipment used at almost all construction sites in the country, in the fuel and energy sector, transport and agriculture.

Speaking about the need to consider the possibility of purchasing new types of motor vehicles, the Turkmen president stressed that particularly high standards of safety, reliability and environmental friendliness should be required for these vehicles. (Trend)

### WB to Send \$200M to Develop Small Businesses in Uzbek Villages

TASHKENT - The World Bank (WB) Board of Directors has approved a loan worth \$200 million to the government of Uzbekistan for the development of rural entrepreneurship in three areas in the east of the country, Trend reports with reference to the World Bank office in Uzbekistan.

"The project was approved by the Board of Directors of the World Bank. It will be implemented through a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (part of the WB) in the amount of \$200 million," WB noted.

The representative office stated that the project will provide technical assistance and loans for the development of entrepreneurship in Andijan, Fergana and Namangan regions. Enterprises in rural areas will be assisted in establishing value chains and expanding access to markets in urban areas of the region, in other economic centers of Uzbekistan and Central Asia. The project will help the development of small businesses in such promising sectors as agriculture, food processing, handicraft production, and tourism. (Trend)

### China, France Strengthen Consensus on Global Governance, BRI at Joint Forum: Senior Chinese Official

PARIS - A senior Chinese official said Monday China and France agree on the need for stronger global governance while stressing the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will be a boon for the world.

Wang Xiaohui, executive deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), made the remarks in a speech delivered at the opening ceremony of a global governance forum co-hosted by China and France and held at the French Foreign Ministry during Chinese President Xi Jinping's current state visit to France.

"Improving global governance requires a consensus. We need to accelerate changes, build

partnerships and to be inclusive," said Wang, calling for a global governance featuring greater multilateralism. Wang added that global issues should be tackled through the joint efforts of all countries.

Multilateralism is also needed to promote an economic globalization that is more open, inclusive and balanced and benefits all, he told a 200-strong audience including high-level officials, think tanks, business figures and representatives of international organizations.

In his speech, Justin Vaisse, director general of the Paris Peace Forum, listed three reasons for France and China to jointly address the need for stronger global governance. (Xinhua)