

Xi Says 'No Clash' of Civilisations amid US Trade War

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping declared Wednesday there was "no clash" of civilisations and denounced racial supremacy as "stupid" amid tensions with the United States and concerns over Beijing's rising global power. His remarks came after a top-level US official last month described the rivalry between China and the US as "a fight with a really different civilisation and a different ideology". Kiron Skinner, the director of policy planning at the US State Department, put it in racial terms, telling a security forum that China was the first US "great power competitor that is not Caucasian". "Thinking that one's own race and culture are superior, and insisting on transforming or



even replacing other civilisations is stupid in its understanding and disastrous in practice," Xi said at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilisa-

tions in Beijing. "There is no clash between different civilisations, (we) just need to have the eye to appreciate the beauty in all civilisations," he added, without mentioning the United States. Xi's speech comes less than a week after trade negotiations between Washington and Beijing took a turn for the worse, with the US hiking tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese merchandise and targeting duties on \$300 billion more. On Monday, China retaliated with an announcement that it would raise tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods from June 1. The two countries are locked in a ...**(More on P4)...(9)**

In India Election, a \$14 Software Tool Helps Overcome Whatsapp Controls

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI - WhatsApp clones and software tools that cost as little as \$14 are helping Indian digital marketers and political activists bypass anti-spam restrictions set up by the world's most popular messaging app, Reuters has found. The activities highlight the challenges WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook Inc, faces in preventing abuse in India, its biggest market with more than 200 million users. With fervent campaign-

ing in India's staggered general election, which concludes on May 19, the demand for such tools has surged, according to digital companies and sources in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its main rival, the Congress party. After false messages on WhatsApp last year sparked mob lynchings in India, the company restricted forwarding of a message to only five users. The software tools appear to overcome those restrictions, ...**(More on P4)...(14)**

Iranian Presidential Aide Says Trump Will 'Get A War' for Listening to 'The Mustache' John Bolton

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's advisor assailed President Trump Tuesday, saying he will get a "war" for listening to National Security Advisor John Bolton, referring to him as "the mustache." Hesamoddin Ashena, Rouhani's key advisor, took to Twitter after U.S. military experts suggested "Iran or its proxies" damaged four commercial ships off the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday. "You wanted a better



deal with Iran. Looks like you are going to get a war instead. That's what happens when you listen to the mustache. Good luck in 2020!" Ashena wrote in a tweet. Ashena's comments were also echoed by Iran's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Hamid Baedinejad, who warned the U.S. in an interview with Sky News on Tuesday. "Don't test us," he said in the Iranian regime's ...**(More on P4)...(10)**

Japan Approves Coverage by Health Insurance of 300,000 USD Cancer Therapy



TOKYO - A panel from Japan's health and welfare ministry on Wednesday approved a new cancer treatment to be covered by national health insurance, in a

move marking the most expensive treatment to be covered by public health insurance. The price of the new drug therapy to treat leukemia and other forms

of blood cancers, marketed by Swiss pharmaceutical firm Novartis and called Kymriah, has been set at 33.49 million yen (305,000 U.S. dollars), the panel said. The cost of the drug will be a record high for any single drug currently available through doctors and hospitals in Japan and coverage by national health insurance will begin from May 22, the panel decided. The drug was first approved for use in Japan in March and will be the country's first cancer treatment involving CAR-T cell therapy, which works by genetically modifying a patient's own immune system T-cells to boost their ability to fight the disease. The drug that has already been approved in the United States and in clinical trials in Japan was effective in improving the symptoms of patients suffering from leukemia and lymphoma. The health ministry estimates that more than ...**(More on P4)...(11)**

U.S. Says China's Focus on Its South China Sea Operations Unwarranted

SINGAPORE - The head of operations of the United States Navy said on Wednesday that its freedom of navigation movements in the disputed South China Sea get more attention than they deserve. The U.S. military said two of its warships sailed near islands claimed by China in the South China Sea on Monday last week, a move that angered Beijing at a time of tense ties between the world's two biggest economies. "The operations) get more attention in the media and also have, sometimes from China, than they warrant, to be honest," John Richardson told reporters on the sidelines of a maritime defense conference in Singapore. China claims most of the energy-rich waters through which trillions of dollars worth of shipborne trade passes every year. Neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims. ...**(More on P4)...(15)**

Neighbor News

Iranian Nuclear Program Peaceful in Nature: Russia's Lavrov

TEHRAN - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says Iran's nuclear program is peaceful in nature and used for civilian means, stressing that Moscow and Washington have a great deal of differences over the issue. Speaking after a meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi on Tuesday, Lavrov denounced US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, officially named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The top Russian diplomat further highlighted that Moscow is working with European signatories to save the nuclear agreement. Pompeo, for his part, said Washington will press ahead with its "maximum pressure campaign" on Iran. He added that the United States does not seek a war with Iran, but will respond appropriately to any Iranian attacks on its interests in the Middle East region. Last year, Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the nuclear deal with Iran, and unleashed the "toughest ever" sanctions against Tehran despite international objections. Since then, the US has been trying to coerce the European parties to the JCPOA into following its lead and scrapping the agreement. (Press TV)

Turkey Introduces Visa-Free Regime for Uzbek Truck Drivers

TASHKENT - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a decree on the abolition of entry visas for Uzbek truck drivers for a period of 30 days, Trend reports with reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. The corresponding resolution was signed on May 9 by the president of Turkey and entered into force on May 10, 2019. Uzbek-Turkish Strategic Cooperation Council of the highest level was established at the end of April 2018 with the framework of the state visit of Erdogan to Uzbekistan. In 2018 the volume of trade between the two countries increased by 40 percent - up to \$2.1 billion, about 75,000 citizens of Turkey visited Uzbekistan, which is almost two times more than the previous year. At the end of October 2017, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited Turkey for the first time. During the talks, the parties signed more than 20 documents on the development of cooperation, as well as agreements and contracts worth more than \$3.5 billion. During the return visit of Erdogan to Uzbekistan at the end of April 2018, the parties signed agreements worth about \$3 billion, and also agreed to bring the trade to \$5 billion in the medium term. (Trend)

Russia's Astrakhan Hosts Presentation of First Caspian Economic Forum

ASHGABAT - The Consulate of Turkmenistan, together with representatives of Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Iran, held a briefing in Russia's Astrakhan city on the first Caspian Economic Forum to be held August 12 in Turkmenistan's Avaza tourist zone, Trend reports with reference to the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper. The event was attended by employees of the ministries of the Astrakhan region: international and foreign economic relations, industry, transport and natural resources, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Astrakhan Fund for the Support of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The forum aims to intensify multidimensional interaction in the Caspian Sea basin and the creation of a new economic space that unites Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea and Baltic regions, the Middle East, South and South-East Asia. At the briefing, focus was made on the significant economic, transport and logistics, innovation and recreational, as well as tourist potential of Turkmenistan, which creates wide opportunities for effective cooperation for the sustainable development of the region, the report said. (Trend)

Shahid Khaqan Was Puppet PM Who Followed Sharif's Dictations: Firdous

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Wednesday said that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi should tell the nation as to how the Airblue was in profit while the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was running into losses during past Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) rule. In a tweet, she said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was a puppet prime minister and followed the dictations of Sharif family. She urged him to better think as a Pakistani and not Sharif's only. The SAPM said accountability process could only be carried out by a person, who was sincere and whose hands were clean. The special assistant said the PML-N leadership used to claim that it would recover money from Asif Zardari. She said that the leaders and spokespersons of the opposition were hypnotized by their corrupt leaders and speak whatever was being dictated to them. (Monitoring Desk)

UN Leader Travels to Pacific to See Climate Change Firsthand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand - U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that he's traveling to three South Pacific island nations to see the effects of climate change firsthand. Speaking in Fiji, the U.N. leader said he wanted to learn about the work being undertaken by island communities to bolster resilience. He said the Pacific needs stronger international support because climate change is taking place faster than efforts to address it. "The last four years were the hottest on record. The loss of ice in Greenland and Antarctica is accelerating, meaning that sea levels will rise a full meter (over 3 feet) by 2100 if nothing is done to avoid it," Guterres said. ...**(More on P4)...(16)**

\$10M XPRIZE for Software that Teaches Illiterate to Read

LOS ANGELES - The challenge was to develop software that could easily be downloaded onto tablets that poor children around the world could use to teach themselves to read, write and do simple arithmetic. The incentive was \$10 million for the winner. Nearly 200 teams from 40 countries around the world jumped at the chance to become the latest winner of an XPRIZE, a coveted international award funded by future-looking entrepreneurs, billionaires and philanthropists who have banded together with the goal of making the world a better place through technology. After 15 months of building software, putting it on ...**(More on P4)...(17)**

'Israel Is Not Safe, You Will See': Hackers Target Eurovision with Missile Threat

JERUSALEM - The preliminary rounds of the Eurovision Song Contest broadcast from the Israeli capital Tel Aviv on Tuesday were interrupted for some viewers by hackers, who issued a chilling missile attack warning. A live stream of the competition was reportedly hijacked and replaced with a two-minute video featuring a fake logo which aped the Israeli Armed Forces and featured the ominous warning: "Israel is not safe, you will see" and "Warning: Risk of Missile Attack, Please Take Shelter."



Israeli broadcaster KAN revealed that its website had been hacked for several minutes but was limited in scope. "We believe the messages were not distributed to many people. The EBU and KAN view cybersecurity with the utmost importance and the matter is being investigated," the broadcaster's statement read, as cited by the Jerusalem Post. It is not immediately clear who was behind the attack and no one ...**(More on P4)...(12)**

US Orders All Non-Emergency Personnel to Leave Iraq - Embassy

WASHINGTON - Washington has ordered the withdrawal of its "non-emergency" staff from Iraq, the US Embassy in Baghdad said on Wednesday. The move follows an alert on tensions in the country. Some government employees are set to leave the embassy in Baghdad, as well as the US Consulate in Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. Normal visa services will be temporarily suspended. American nationals were advised to avoid US government sites in Iraq and leave the country "as soon as possible." On Sunday, the embassy warned of "heightened tensions" in Iraq and called on US citizens there to "remain vigilant." The move comes a week after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned of "very specific threats" coming from "Iranian activity" in Iraq. These threats pose a "substantial risk" for US diplomatic outposts and servicemen stationed in the country, he told Sky ...**(More on P4)...(13)**

Indonesia Tightens Security Ahead of Presidential Race Result

JAKARTA - Indonesia's counterterrorism squad has rounded up at least 10 people suspected of planning attacks during next week's announcement of the results of April's hotly contested presidential election, police said on Wednesday. The arrests come as tension runs high and security is tightened in the world's third-largest democracy ahead of the May 22 announcement by the General Election Commission (KPU). It is expected to confirm unofficial counts by private pollsters that showed incumbent President Joko Widodo winning the race over ex-general Prabowo Subianto last month. Nearly 32,000 police and military personnel are on standby in the capital Jakarta, including troops drafted in from other provinces, to safeguard the event, national police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said. "Through interrogation we found the suspects planned to attack mass gatherings on May 21, 22 or 23," Prasetyo said, referring to demonstrations planned for next week. "Their aim is to create chaos and target as many victims as possible, including police." The suspects belonged to Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), the largest Islamic State-linked group in the country, and authorities were on the hunt for more members, he added. Last week authorities shot dead one Islamist militant and detained six for plotting to ...**(More on P4)...(18)**