

## Trump Arrives in Tokyo for State Visit, Golf and Sumo

TOKYO — President Donald Trump needed Japan over the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance as he kicked off a state visit to the country Saturday that's been tailor-made to his whims and ego.

Speaking at a reception with several dozen Japanese and American business leaders at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Tokyo shortly after his arrival, Trump said the U.S. and Japan "are hard at work" negotiating a new bilateral trade agreement that he said would benefit both countries. "I would say that Japan has had a substantial edge for many, many years, but that's OK," Trump told the group, joking that, "Maybe that's why you like me so much."

The comments underscored



the competing dynamics of a state visit designed to show off the deep ties between the U.S. and Japan and the close friendship be-

tween Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, even as tensions are high. Abe has rolled out the carpet for Trump as

part of a continued charm offensive, giving him the honor of being the first head of state invited to meet Emperor Naruhito since he ascended to the throne on May 1. Trump will also play golf with Abe and have the chance to present a "Trump Cup" at a sumo wrestling championship Sunday. While the visit is expected to be largely ceremonial, the stakes are also high. Trump is threatening Japan with potentially devastating U.S. tariffs on foreign autos and auto parts, and has suggested he will go ahead with the tariffs if U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer doesn't manage to wrest concessions from Japan and the European Union. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### Race to Replace May Leaves Brexit in Limbo

LONDON - Contenders to succeed Theresa May as Britain's prime minister prepared to launch their leadership campaigns on Saturday, leaving Brexit shrouded in uncertainty. A tearful May announced her resignation on Friday, leaving the Brexit process for exiting the European Union in limbo and raising the risk of Britain crashing out of the bloc in a few months. May's statement inevitably triggered the starting gun on a two-

month contest to replace her. May will step down as Conservative leader on June 7 but stay on as prime minister until party members have chosen her successor, which will happen by July 20. Britain's EU departure date is currently fixed for October 31, although any new leader could ask for a further delay. Conservative Party leadership contests are typically bloodthirsty affairs, with plot twists and betrayals. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### The EUROASIA FORUM Discusses the Realization of Major Changes in The World Geopolitics

ALMATY, Kazakhstan - The annual Eurasian Media Forum conference started on May 22, and was rapped up on May 24, in Almaty Kazakhstan. The conference started the opening speech of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Welcoming warmly the participants, "This platform, where the journalistic community exchanges views on a wide range of the most topical issues, emerged more than a decade and a half ago." The state-

ment said. "This Forum was created in the wake of realization of major changes in the world geopolitics which followed the well-known events in September 2001 in New York. "Every year, the media forum discusses the most acute and critical problems on the international and regional agenda," Kazakh Minister of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan Dauren



Abayev read out the welcoming address on behalf of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian, said his country has been one of the main supporters of the idea ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

### Pompeo Confirms \$8.1bn Arms Sales to Arab Nations Without Congress Approval to 'Deter Iran'



WASHINGTON - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has confirmed that the administration has invoked a rarely-

used legal statute to "immediately" clear \$8.1 billion in arms sales to its Arab allies in order to "deter Iranian aggres-

sion." The transfer of weapons to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, which reportedly includes a number of Raytheon precision-guided munitions (PGMs) and Javelin anti-tank missiles, cannot be delayed any longer "during a time of increasing regional volatility," Pompeo said in a statement on Friday. That "volatility," according to the top US diplomat, comes from Iran, whose perceived "threat" the Trump ad-

ministration has been drumming up in the recent weeks. The Pentagon has sent a carried group, bombers, air defense missiles and 1,500 troops to the region, having accused Tehran of an ongoing "campaign" against Washington's allies and interests. "These sales will support our allies, enhance Middle East stability, and help these nations to deter and defend themselves from the Islamic Republic of Iran," ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### Jews Warned Against Wearing Kippah in Germany

BERLIN - Germany's government commissioner on anti-Semitism has warned Jews about the potential dangers of wearing the traditional kippah cap in the face of rising anti-Jewish attacks. "I cannot advise Jews to wear the Kippah everywhere all the time in Germany," Felix Klein said in an interview published Saturday by the Funke regional press group. In issuing the warning, he said he had "alas, changed my mind (on the subject) compared to previously." Klein, whose post was

created last year, cited "the lifting of inhibitions and the uncouthness which is on the rise in society" as factors behind a rising incidence of anti-Semitism. "The internet and social media have largely contributed to this - but so have constant attacks against our culture of remembrance." And he suggested police, teachers and lawyers should be better trained to recognise what constitutes "clearly defined" unacceptable behaviour and "what is authorised and what is not". (AFP)

### Pope: Abortion is Never OK, Equates It to 'Hiring A Hitman'

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis says abortion can never be condoned, even when the fetus is gravely sick or malformed. He is urging doctors and priests to support families to carry such pregnancies to term.

During an audience Saturday with participants of a Vatican-sponsored anti-abortion conference, Francis said opposition to abortion isn't a religious issue but a human one: "Is it licit to throw away a life to resolve a problem? Is it licit to hire a hitman to resolve a problem?"

Francis denounced decisions to abort based on prenatal testing, saying a human being is "never incompatible with life." (AP)

### North Korean Missile Test Violated U.N. Resolution, Says Bolton

TOKYO - U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said on Saturday North Korea's recent missile launches violated a U.N. Security Council resolution and urged leader Kim Jong Un to return to denuclearization talks.

It was the first time a senior U.S. official has described the tests as a violation of U.N. resolutions aimed at halting North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and came ahead of a four-day visit to Japan by U.S. President Donald Trump who arrives later in the day.

"The U.N. resolution prohibits the launch of any ballistic missiles," Bolton said at a press roundtable. North Korea's test firings included short range ballistic missiles and so there was "no doubt" it was a violation, he added. (Reuters)

### India Explodes 500-Kg Bomb as Tit-For-Tat Tests Raise Tensions with Pakistan

NEW DELHI - While the leaders and top diplomats of India and Pakistan exchanged polite pleasantries in recent days, their respective militaries have been testing powerful weapons, raising the stakes in their decades-long conflict.

India announced Friday that it had successfully tested a guided 500-kilogram bomb, capable of correcting its flight path with steering rudders during the free-fall from an aircraft.

"The guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision. All the mission objectives



have been met," read a press release from the Indian military's research and development division. It came two days after the test of the BrahMos, a cruise missile with a 300 km range.

Between India's two tests, neighboring Pa-

kistan field-tested a deadly projectile of its own on Thursday: the Shaheen II, a "deterrence" ballistic missile with a range of 1,500 kilometers. The testing of the weapons - all capable of carrying nuclear warheads, ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### 'Rational Americans & Experienced Commanders' Won't Let Radicals in US Go to War - Tehran

WASHINGTON - Cooler heads among the US population and the army will not allow hardliners to steer the country into an open war with Iran, a senior military official in Tehran said amid growing tensions in the Persian Gulf.

"We believe rational Americans and their experienced commanders will not let their radical elements lead them into a situation from which it

would be very difficult to get out, and that is why they will not enter a war," Brigadier General Hassan Seifi, an assistant to the nation's army chief, told Mehr News Agency on Saturday.

The defense official said that throughout the years the US "was able to accurately assess the strength of our armed forces," and for that reason ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Deaths of British, Irish Climbers Add to Everest Toll

KATHMANDU - The deaths of an Irish and a British climber on Mount Everest took the toll from a deadly week on the world's highest peak to 10, expedition organisers said Saturday.

British climber Robin Fisher, 44, reached the summit Saturday morning but collapsed when he had got just 150 metres back down the slope.

"Our guides tried to help but he died soon after," Murali Sharma of Everest Parivar Expedition told AFP.

On the northern Tibet side of the mountain, a 56-year-old Irish man died Friday morning, his expedition organisers confirmed in a statement on their Facebook page.

The man decided to return without reaching the summit but died in his tent at the North Col pass at 7,000 metres (22,965 feet).

Four climbers from India and one each from the United States, Austria and Nepal have already died on Everest in the past week. Another Irish mountaineer is missing presumed dead after he slipped and fell close to the summit.

A traffic jam of climbers in the Everest "death zone" has been blamed for at least four of the deaths, heightening concerns that the drive for profits is trumping safety.

Nepal issued a record 381 permits for mainly foreign climbers, costing \$11,000 each, for the spring climbing season.

Each climber with a permit is assisted by at least one sherpa, adding to the summit logjam. (AFP)

## Neighbor News

### China, Pakistan Strive to Build Closer Community of Shared Future in New Era- Chinese Ambassador

ISLAMABAD - China and Pakistan will join hands in building a closer community of shared future in the new era against the backdrop of changing international landscapes, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said.

"The Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era is a concrete measure taken by leaders of the two countries as per the concept of building a new type of international relations and a community of a shared future for all mankind," Yao told Xinhua in a recent inter-

view. A China-Pakistan joint statement in this regard was released in November last year when Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan made his first visit to China. The closer community of shared future in the new era is based on mutual trust, friendship and amity, as well as shared interests and political consensus reached between the two countries and two peoples on the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador said. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan PM Warns Against War in Region Amid Iran Tensions with U.S., Saudi

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan warned against the risk of conflict in the region, following a visit to Islamabad by Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif as tensions between Washington and Tehran escalated.

Strains have increased between Iran and the United States, which is a firm backer of Tehran's regional rival Saudi Arabia, in the wake of this month's attack on oil tankers in the Gulf region that Washington has blamed on Iran.

Tehran has distanced itself from the bombings, but the United States has sent an aircraft carrier and an extra 1,500 troops to the Gulf, sparking

concerns about the risks of conflict in a volatile region. Khan, who has been seeking to improve Pakistan's strained relations with neighbor Iran, said he was concerned about the "rising tensions in the Gulf", but did not specifically name the United States or Saudi Arabia.

"He underscored that war was not a solution to any problem," Khan's office said in a statement late on Friday, citing the premier. "Further escalation in tensions in the already volatile region was not in anyone's interest. All sides needed to exercise maximum restraint in the current situation." (Reuters)

### Iran Slams as Politically-Motivated France's Extradition of Iranian Engineer to US

TERHAN - Iran has denounced as politically-motivated a French court's verdict to extradite an Iranian engineer to the United States over accusations of importing American technology for military purposes.

The condemnation came on Saturday after the court in Aix-en-Provence, southern France, approved the extradition of Jalal Rouhollahnejad to the US to face charges of "attempting to illegally import US technology for military purposes on behalf of an Iranian company."

The Iranian non-governmental Center for Civilian Drones along with a number of knowledge-based firms working in the field of aerospace said in a joint statement that the French court's verdict was politically-motivated and against the principles of the Iran nuclear deal as well as other international rules.

Rouhollahnejad was detained on February 2 at Nice airport as he got off a plane coming from Tehran. The US judicial officials claimed that the Iranian engineer might have been seeking to import high-power industrial microwave systems from the US to be later used for military purposes in Iran. (Press TV)

### Zarif Says Iran Ready to Connect Pakistan's Gwadar to Chabahar

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says he is putting forward a "proposal" during his ongoing trip to Islamabad for connecting Pakistan's Gwadar port to its "complementary" port Chabahar in southeastern Iran.

"We believe that Chabahar and Gwadar can complement each other," Zarif said upon arrival in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on Thursday.

"We can connect Chabahar and Gwadar, and then through that, connect Gwadar to our entire railroad system, from Iran to the North Corridor, through Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, and also through

Azerbaijan, Russia, and through Turkey," he noted.

"I've come here with a proposal for the government of Pakistan for connection between Chabahar and Gwadar. Pakistan's arch-rival India is trying to develop the port of Chabahar as a way to gain access to the markets of Central Asia as well as Afghanistan by bypassing Pakistan. The port is about 72 km from its Pakistani counterpart Gwadar, which is being developed by China.

The strategic Iranian port city created a unique opportunity for India to send its goods to landlocked Afghanistan through a safe new route. (Press TV)