

Find Khashoggi's Killer or You'll be Helping Iran, Boris Johnson Tells Saudis

ISTANBUL - Former UK foreign secretary Boris Johnson has put forth an intriguing argument for finding the killers of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi: not doing so will help Iran! Oh, and maybe the war on Yemen is bad, also. Khashoggi, a self-exiled critic of the current Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2. Ankara immediately accused Riyadh of murdering the journalist, with anonymous government officials offering many graphic accounts of his death. After initially denying the accusations, the Saudis admitted Khashoggi was killed inside the consulate. The investigation is ongoing. Writing in the Post on Thurs-



day, Johnson seemed confident he knew all the facts already. "I don't have any doubt about what happened: the plot to lure him to the Saudi consulate; the

savage attack by heavies from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's own security team; the dismembering of the body," he said. "Nor do I doubt for a second that this disgusting

assassination was ordered at the highest levels of the Saudi regime." Interestingly, Johnson's phrasing about the "highest levels" is identical to that of Turkish President Recep Erdogan, who wrote that the Turks "know that the order to kill Khashoggi came from the highest levels of the Saudi government," in an opinion piece the Post published last week. Though Erdogan did not once mention Bin Salman's name, it was abundantly clear from the piece that he was advocating a palace coup in Riyadh in which King Salman would pick another successor - someone less hostile to Turkey and Qatar, perhaps. (Russia Today)

Neighbor News

Iran: Europe Stances 'Very Good,' But Progress Slow

TEHRAN - An Iranian deputy foreign minister has commended the political stances of the European Union in supporting the country in face of US sanctions, but criticized the rate of the bloc's progress towards the enactment of mechanisms to keep a nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic alive. "Their political stances have been very good," Abbas Araqchi said, but critiqued "their failure so far to bring about operational approaches and meet our expectations." He was speaking in response to a question about a decision made by the EU to set up a 'special-purpose vehicle' (SPV) to bypass the US sanctions, the Iranian news agency the Young Journalists Club reported on Friday. "It is a fact that the Europeans moved much slower than we expected" in the direction of introducing the system, Araqchi said. He, however, expressed hope that "in a very near future, this mechanism will be announced and formally registered in Europe before going gradually operational." (Press TV)

Yemen Rebels Battle to Slow Loyalist Advance in Key Port City

ADEN - Yemeni rebels battled Friday to slow an advance by pro-government forces deeper into Hodeida seeking to recapture the city's lifeline port, launching fierce barrages of mortar fire and aiming to cut off supply routes, military sources said. The Shiite Huthi rebels, whose chief has vowed his troops would never surrender despite being vastly outnumbered, shelled government positions in the south of the Red Sea city, loyalist officials said.

But despite the "intense attacks", loyalist forces made fresh advances in eastern sectors of Hodeida. The rebels, for their part, said their fighters had cut off government supply routes in four sectors of Hodeida province. On Thursday, after a week of intense battles on the outskirts of the city, loyalist troops entered residential neighbourhoods, using bulldozers to remove concrete road blocks installed by the rebels. (AFP)

EU Foreign Policy Chief Urges Serbia, Kosovo Resolve Ties

BRUSSELS - The European Union expects Serbia and Kosovo to "swiftly deliver" on their commitment to talks on normalizing relations, which is the key for the two nations to advance toward membership in the bloc, the EU's foreign policy chief said Thursday. Federica Mogherini met with the presidents of Serbia and Kosovo as part of an EU-mediated dialogue that is designed to solve their decades-long dispute, which has threatened the stability of the Balkans.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, but Belgrade does not recognize the move. Tensions recently have increased, with the two sides accusing each other of undermining efforts at reconciliation following a 1998-99 war. Mogherini urged Serbia and Kosovo at the meeting to "refrain from words, actions and measures that are contrary to the spirit of normalization," a statement issued after the meeting said, adding "they discussed the necessary steps for the



way forward." It was not immediately clear when the next round of talks could be held. Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic complained in an interview with the

state Serbian TV that Kosovo must first revoke tariffs it has imposed on good from Serbia and Bosnia, arguing they are in violation of a regional trade agreement. (Fox News)

World Customs Organization to Assist Uzbekistan's Accession to WTO

TASHKENT - The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Belgium Dilyor Khakimov has met with Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WTO) Kunio Mikuriya in Brussels, UzDaily.uz reported. The head of the organization emphasized that the world community has been following with great attention the large-scale reforms carried out under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in recent years, and in this sense the World Customs Organization sees a positive trend directed towards the openness of borders, acquisition of access to the market of Uzbekistan and strengthening of trade and economic relations with neighboring countries in Central Asia region. It was emphasized that the World Customs Organization welcomes Uzbekistan's efforts to join the World Trade Organization and is ready to provide support and assistance to the country, given that many issues are closely interrelated with the World Customs Organization during the accession process of the candidate country. The Secretary General stressed that the accession of the country to the WTO will contribute to the integration of the Uzbek national economy into the global trading system, will make Uzbek goods more competitive, and along with that they will gain wide access to the consumer. (Trend)

Macron Weakened Ahead of Trump, Putin Meeting



LENS, France - It's a weakened Emmanuel Macron who'll be hosting U.S. President Donald Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and

other world leaders at centennial commemorations in Paris this weekend to mark the end of World War I. The French president is

coming off a bruising week, with his domestic popularity at a new low and following a turbulent tour of northeastern France where ordinary citizens he hoped to reconnect with instead repeatedly bent his ear over unpopular policies. The six-day swing across regions, towns and villages that were among the most brutalized by the 1914-1918 war was conceived by Macron himself, and billed by his office as unprecedented in its duration and scope since

the presidency of Gen. Charles de Gaulle. With stops at once-bloody battlefields and poignant WWI memorials, Macron achieved one of his main goals: To highlight soldiers' sacrifices and sound renewed warnings about European division and rising nationalism, dangers he is increasingly concerned about. But the commemorative pathos and broader message were also polluted by the more immediate concerns of citizens he met. (Fox News)

Austria Accuses Colonel of Spying for Russia for Decades

VIENNA - Austria has launched a probe into a colonel suspected of spying for Russia for several decades, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said Friday, the latest in a string of cases where Moscow has been accused of espionage in EU states. Kurz told a press conference that the 70-year-old army official, now retired, is suspected to have begun working with Russian intelligence in the 1990s and carried on until 2018.

The public prosecutor's office in Salzburg province confirmed the colonel was being investigated for the crime of revealing state secrets. Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl has summoned the Russian charge d'affaires over the matter and cancelled an upcoming trip to Russia. Russia's foreign ministry meanwhile said it was calling in the Austrian ambassador to discuss the issue. (AFP)

U.S. Embassy Supports International Education Week

DUSHANBE - International Education Week will be celebrated around the world November 12-16, 2018, news.tj reports. To commemorate this event, the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe will host an Education Fair at the Tajik State University of Commerce on November 12, 2018 from 14:00 to 17:00 with a range of educational organizations including American Councils, Education USA, and American Spaces. Each organization will introduce their programs, provide information on educational opportunities, and answer questions from attendees. International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of an effort to both prepare Americans for a global environment as well as attract future leaders from countries around the world to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States. Exchanges are critical to developing mutual understanding and respect between countries. (Trend)

Turkey, Turkmenistan Discuss Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline

ASHGABAT - Turkey and Turkmenistan have discussed the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline and the supply of Turkmen gas to world markets through the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP). This issue was discussed during a meeting between Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and his Turkmen counterpart Rashid Meredov, the Turkish media reported Nov. 9. Cavusoglu noted that Turkey and Turkmenistan have signed a document on a program of cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs for 2019-2020. At the moment, Cavusoglu is on a two-day visit in Turkmenistan. The TANAP pipeline has been laid from the Georgian-Turkish border to the Western border of Turkey. The TANAP pipeline together with Trans Adriatic Pipeline is part of the Southern Gas Corridor project, which envisages transportation of gas from the Azerbaijani Shah Deniz field to Europe. The initial capacity of TANAP is expected to be 16 billion cubic meters of gas per year. About six billion cubic meters will be supplied to Turkey, and the rest to Europe. After completion of the TAP, the gas will reach Europe in early 2020. The share distribution in TANAP is as follows: Southern Gas Corridor CJSC - 51 percent, SOCAR Turkey Enerji - 7 percent, Botas - 30 percent, and BP - 12 percent. (Trend)

DUP Declines to Say Whether Will Support UK Finance Bill

DUBLIN - The Northern Irish party which props up Prime Minister Theresa May's government on Friday refused to say whether it would back the legislation underpinning the British budget in parliament next week amid a dispute with the government over Brexit. Asked by Ireland's RTE radio whether the DUP would support the bill, Democratic Unionist Party member of parliament Sammy Wilson said "we will be making our decisions on how we progress." "We are saying nothing ... other than to say time and time again that there will be consequences if the government breaks its side of the bargain." (Reuters)

Italian Populist Leader 'Guarantees' Nation Won't Exit Euro

ROME - The head of one of Italy's ruling parties says he guarantees that Italy won't exit the euro currency bloc nor exceed its targeted deficit limit. Deputy Premier Luigi Di Maio, a coalition leader in the populist government, told reporters Friday that domestic spending cuts plus economic growth spurred by public investment will keep the country from exceeding its deficit target for next year, as European Union officials predict. Di Maio says "there's still a lot to cut." He added: "The guarantee we're giving is that 2.4 percent (of GDP) is the maximum deficit term" Italy will run up next year. Economy Minister Giovanni Tria told lawmakers Friday that Italy will stick to its 2019 budget plan, despite EU officials' concerns about a big increase in spending. (AP)

U.S. Accuses China of Violating Bilateral Anti-Hacking Deal

WASHINGTON - China has been violating an agreement with the United States aimed at stopping cyber espionage through the hacking of government and corporate data, a senior U.S. intelligence official said on Thursday. When asked if China was violating the 2015 agreement between then President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping, National Security Agency official Rob Joyce said: "We think they are." But he added that the quantity and number of attacks had dropped "dramatically" since the agreement.



"While it's not black and white, (China) met the agreement or they didn't meet the agreement, it's clear that they are well beyond the bounds today of the agreement that was forged between our countries," Joyce said. Speaking in Beijing on Friday, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying rejected the U.S. allegations. "The U.S. accusations lack factual basis. China firmly opposes them," she told a daily news briefing. China and the United States have important shared interests in cyberspace, Hua said. (Reuters)

India Clears Sale of 'Enemy Shares' Held by People Who Moved to Pakistan

NEW DELHI - India's government said it will sell stocks worth millions of dollars seized from people who moved to Pakistan following partition in 1947 and the wars since, as a way to make up for a shortfall in revenues. The stocks worth at least 30 billion rupees (\$412.26 million) are part of what India calls "enemy properties" that once belonged to people who went to Pakistan and China, with which India also fought a war. Once these Indian nationals became citizens of these two countries, they were treated as "enemies" and their assets in India including land and houses as well as shares were seized and held by the Custodian of Enemy Property of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been tightening the provisions of the Enemy Property Act 1968 to include even lawful heirs who stayed behind and were Indian citizens. Modi's cabinet on Thursday approved a plan to sell stocks in 996 companies held by 20,323 shareholders, deemed as "enemy shares" the government said in a statement. The government said 588 were active firms including 139 listed on the stock exchange. "The decision will lead to monetization of enemy shares that had been lying dormant for decades since coming into force (of) the Enemy Property Act in 1968," it said. Those who left India for Pakistan were Muslims, and relations between the two countries remain fraught after numerous conflicts. (Reuters)

German President Calls for 'Democratic Patriotism'

BERLIN - Germany's president is calling on his compatriots to embrace an enlightened, "democratic patriotism" and reject aggressive nationalism that romanticizes the country's history. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Friday that acknowledging and remembering Germany's dark Nazi past should be considered a strength, not a weakness.

Steinmeier's remarks came in a speech to Parliament marking the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of a German republic after World War I. The Nov. 9 ceremony also commemorates the 1938 Nazi pogrom against Jews, known as the "Night of Broken Glass," and the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall widely seen as ending the Cold War. (AP)