

## Leaders Meet in Italy to Find Settlement in Libya

ROME - A gathering of leaders of Libya's quarrelling factions and of countries keen on stabilizing the North African nation opens Monday in Sicily, aimed at finding a political settlement that would bolster the fight against Islamic militants and stop illegal migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe's southern shores.

But the meeting's chances of success appear uncertain, not least because of the difficulties involved in any attempt to get all stakeholders - two rival administrations, unruly militias with considerable firepower and an ambitious army general - to agree on a road map that would reunite Libya after seven years of chaos and bloodshed while not infringing on their current spheres of power.



Gen. Khalifa Hifter, commander of the self-styled Libyan National Army, is unlikely to go to the Palermo event, according to officials close to him. The Egyptian- and UAE-backed

Hifter, who also maintains close ties with France, views the meeting as lacking a "clear agenda" and designed largely as a media event favoring Italy, the host, according to the

officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

Hifter's absence would render the meeting largely irrelevant. Dealing a further blow to the meeting's chances of success, some European heads of state that Italy had hoped would come - including U.S. President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin - are also staying away, sending lower-ranking State Department or Foreign Ministry officials instead.

France's foreign minister is expected, and Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte will be greeting arrivals Monday evening, ahead of the first event, a closed-door dinner. (Fox News)

### Chinese Start-Ups Growing from Passive Learners into Innovators

SAN FRANCISCO - Chinese entrepreneurs are growing from passive learners into leaders in innovation, a leading venture investor has said.

Kai-Fu Lee, chairman and chief executive officer of Sinovation Ventures, a leading venture capital in China, told Xinhua in a recent interview that in general Chinese entrepreneurs have experienced three phrases in innovation.

In the first phrase, Chinese entrepreneurs mainly followed the footsteps of other tech or market lead-

ers, said Lee, who used to work for top tech companies including Apple, Microsoft and Google.

"This is a good way of learning as long as it risks no disputes on intellectual property rights," said Lee, who founded Sinovation Ventures in 2009 to invest mainly in Chinese start-ups. In the third stage, Chinese entrepreneurs began to take the lead globally in innovation in certain areas, such as shared-bikes, mobile payment and short video application, he noted. (Xinhua)

MOSCOW - Separatist leaders in eastern Ukraine have secured their hold on power in weekend local elections that have been denounced by Ukrainian authorities and the West as illegitimate.

Local election officials in the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics said Monday that acting leaders Denis Puschilin and Leonid Pasechnik won the votes with 61 and 68 percent respectively.

Voters also cast ballots for local legislatures in

the provinces, where Russian-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014 in a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people. Although a 2015 peace deal called for local elections in Donetsk and Luhansk, critics, including Ukraine's president, the U.S. and the European Union say the vote is illegitimate because it was conducted in areas where Ukraine has no control. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko discussed the elections with German Chancellor Angela Mer-



kel and French President Emmanuel Macron during ceremonies in Paris on Sunday commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. In a statement after the meeting, Merkel and

Macron said that holding "so-called" elections undermines Ukraine's territorial integrity, and urged all sides to respect the cease-fire and release political prisoners. (Fox News)

### Separatists Win Vote in Ukraine Rebel Regions by Big Margins

### Pence in Japan to Discuss Trade, N. Korea before Summits



TOKYO - U.S. Vice President Mike Pence arrived in Tokyo on Monday to discuss North Korea and other issues with Japanese officials before

heading to two regional summits.

Pence is expected to also discuss China's growing regional influence and bilateral trade with Japa-

nese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when they meet Tuesday, officials said.

During a stopover in Alaska, Pence told reporters that he planned to "talk about our important alliance, our economic relationship, current negotiations for a free trade agreement of course, and we'll be focusing on our ongoing commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Japan's NHK public television reported.

Pence said in a recent opinion piece in the Washington Post that

America will soon begin negotiations for "a historic trade agreement with Japan."

The two countries agreed in September to start negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement. Talks are expected to begin early next year.

President Donald Trump's administration has reached a trade pact with South Korea and another with Mexico and Canada. Pence said in the article that the new trade deals "will put American jobs and American workers first." (Fox News)

### S.Korea, DPRK, UN Command Hold Follow-Up Talks to Disarm JSA

SEOUL - South Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United Nations (UN) Command on Monday held follow-up talks to disarm the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the inter-Korean border, Seoul's defense ministry said.

The trilateral talks began at 10 a.m. local time (0100 GMT) at the Freedom House, a South Korean building in the border village of Panmunjom.

As the disarmament of the JSA inside the

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas was completed in late October, the three parties would discuss ways to adjust surveillance equipment and share information.

On Oct. 25, South Korea and the DPRK completed the pullout of firearms, ammunition and guard posts from the JSA, and for the next two days, the two Koreas and the UN Command conducted a joint verification for it. (Xinhua)

### India's Modi to Get a Test in State Votes as General Election Looms

NEW DELHI - India began on Monday the first of five state elections to be held in coming weeks, important tests for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he plots a course that he hopes will ensure him victory in a general election due by May.

Voters in the central state of Chhattisgarh went to the polls on Monday to elect representatives for 18 of the state assembly's 90 seats in a staggered poll complicated by logistical problems and left-wing guerrillas. The state of about 26 million people has been ruled by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since 2003, and he will be hoping to hold on to power. (Reuters)

### Abu Dhabi Summit: Oil Production Cuts May be Necessary

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates - OPEC and allied oil-producing countries will likely need to cut crude supplies, perhaps as much as 1 million barrels of oil a day, to rebalance the market after proposed U.S. sanctions on Iran failed to cut Tehran's output, Saudi Arabia's energy minister said Monday. The comments from the minister, Khalid al-Falih, show the balancing act the U.S. allies face in dealing with President Donald Trump's actions related to the oil industry. Trump in recent weeks demanded the oil cartel increase production to drive down U.S. gasoline prices. Meanwhile, Trump's administration allowed some of its allies - Greece, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey - as well as rival China to continue to purchase Iranian oil despite re-imposed sanctions on Tehran and as long as they work to reduce their imports to zero. (AP)

### Fighter Jet Off USS Ronald Reagan Crashes in Philippine Sea

KITADAITOJIMA - An F/A-18 naval fighter jet from the aircraft carrier USS 'Ronald Reagan' crashed into the Philippine Sea near Japan's Okinawa Prefecture, with both pilots rescued.

The aircraft crashed after suffering a "mechanical issue" while traveling on a routine mission in the Philippine Sea, the US Navy said in a statement, adding that both pilots successfully ejected and were quickly recovered by the USS 'Ronald Reagan.'

According to the Japanese Coast Guard, the incident happened 300km southwest of Kitadaitojima Island, which is part of the nation's Okinawa Prefecture. The aircraft carrier



is based in Yokosuka, Japan. Over the past two years, the fleet gained a notorious reputation of the most 'disaster-prone' detachment of the US Navy. It was blighted by high-profile incidents, including ship collisions, which claimed the lives of numerous servicemen. (Russia Today)

An F/A-18 fighter jet lands on the deck of the USS Ronald Reagan. © Reuters / Bobby Yip

The lost plane belonged to the US 7th Fleet, which

### Stock Markets Subdued as Oil Rises, Breaking Losing Streak

SINGAPORE - Global markets were subdued Monday as the price of oil rose and investors looked to the release of economic data by the U.S. and China that could show the effects of a trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies.

KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX lost 0.8 percent to 11,442 while Britain's FTSE 100 shed 0.1 percent to

7,099. France's CAC 40 lost 0.2 percent to 5,098. Wall Street appeared set for a weak opening. Futures for the S&P 500 index were 0.1 percent lower while Dow futures dropped 0.2 percent.

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.1 percent to 22,269.88. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.1 percent to 25,633.18. (AP)

## Neighbor News

### Good Relations with Iran in Iraq's Best Interests: President Salih

TEHRAN - Iraq's newly elected president says it is in his country's best interests to have "good and stable relations" with Iran, urging the United States to consider Baghdad's political and economic position in talks about imposed sanctions on Iran.

"Iran is a neighboring country and our interest lies in having good and stable relations with Iran," Barham Salih said while speaking to reporters during a visit to Kuwait on Sunday. The administration of US President Donald Trump announced on November 5 the re-imposition of the "toughest" sanctions ever against Iran's banking and energy sectors with the aim of cutting off its oil sales and crucial exports. The bans had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Washington has been pushing governments to cut imports of Iranian oil to zero. However, it has finally agreed to grant waivers to eight biggest importers of Iran's oil - China, India, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Greece, Taiwan and Turkey - in fear of a price spike.

In a video published on its official Facebook page on Thursday, the US Embassy in Iraq said Baghdad could continue to import natural gas and other energy supplies from Iran for a period of 45 days, provided that it did not pay Iran in US dollars.

"The United States has given Iraq a temporary relief from the sanctions for 45 days to continue purchasing natural gas and electricity from Iran," it added. (Press TV)

### Multifunctional Technology Park to Appear in Tashkent

TASHKENT - A multifunctional technology park, called Oklon, will be created in Tashkent, and projects for manufacture of new types of products, materials and components will be implemented in the park, Uzbek media reported. The technology park will be created in Shaykhontohur district.

The Uzbek government instructed Uzpromstroybank JSCB jointly with PSB-Capital LLC to ensure and attract investments until Sept. 1, 2019 to organize the production of high-quality, competitive import-substituting products in the territory of the Oklon multifunctional technology park. (Trend)

### Turkmenistan Holds Harvest Festival

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan celebrated the harvest festival, summing up the results of the agricultural year. The chief celebrations took place in Ashgabat, bringing together representatives of the best performing farms from all the regions of the country, turkmenistan.ru reports.

By President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's decree, best farmers, machine operators, agronomists and other agrarians who achieved the highest results in work this year were awarded the medal "Watana bolan

söygüsü üçin" (For love of the Fatherland) and the title "Honored Worker of Agriculture of Turkmenistan" in a ceremony at "Mekan" (Motherland) palace in Ashgabat.

The guests of the festival viewed with great interest an exhibition of achievements of the agro-industrial complex of Turkmenistan. At the exhibition, relevant departments presented the products of cotton growing and processing, melon growing, animal husbandry, food and textile industry, as well as modern agricultural machinery. (Trend)

### Turkey Extends Period of Visa-Free Stay for Tajik Nationals

DUSHANBE - Turkey has reportedly extended the period of visa-free stay for Tajik nationals, news.tj reports. According to T.C. Resmî Gazete, which is the national and only official journal of Turkey, the maximum duration of stay in Turkey without visa has been extended for Tajik nationals from 30

days to 90 days. Turkey has reportedly increased the period of visa-free stay in Turkey to 90 days for citizens of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as well. Nationals of these countries now can stay in Turkey without visa during 90 days during every six months (180 days). (Trend)

### Israeli Gadot Agro, Metzger Enter Agriculture Sector of Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Israeli companies Gadot Agro and Metzger have established a joint venture in Tashkent, UzDaily reported.

"Having studied the special geographical, climatic, topographical and soil conditions of Uzbekistan, we can confidently say that we are ready to contribute to a more efficient use of agriculture lands and reclamation of new

lands." "The use of specially developed methods for growing crops in soils with high salt content is just one example of our capabilities," the companies said in a statement. A team of specialists of Gadot Agro and Metzger will reside in Tashkent in order to provide services to clients in Uzbekistan, offering suitable solutions. (Trend)