

CIA Determines Khashoggi's Death Was Ordered by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman: Report

ISTANBUL - The death of Jamal Khashoggi, the writer and activist who was killed in the Saudi Consulate in Turkey last month, came at the directive of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), the CIA has determined according to a report out Friday.

The agency's conclusion came as a result of "an understanding of how Saudi Arabia works," rather than a "smoking gun," a U.S. official with knowledge of the situation told The Wall Street Journal. Khashoggi's death "would not and could not have happened" if MBS was not connected, an official told the outlet.

The CIA did not offer a comment on the story when contacted by Fox News. The story was first reported by The Washington Post. Separately, a government official



told Fox News that the Khashoggi assessment is not a public document, and is not aware of plans to make it public. The official said the intelligence has been briefed at very senior levels. The revelation comes a day after Foreign Minis-

ter Adel al-Jubeir insisted that the crown prince did not play a role in the Washington Post columnist's death. "Absolutely, his royal highness the crown prince has nothing to do with this issue," he told reporters.

MBS has also "denied any knowledge" of the circumstances that led to Khashoggi's disappearance, President Trump said. "Just spoke with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia who totally denied any knowledge of what took place in their Turkish Consulate," the president tweeted on Oct. 16. News of the CIA's findings comes one day after the Treasury Department announced they were sanctioning 17 Saudi government officials over Khashoggi's death. "These individuals who targeted and brutally killed a journalist who resided and worked in the United States must face consequences for their actions," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. (Fox News)

Neighbor News

Tajikistan Launches Giant Power Plant to Tackle Energy Problems

DUSHANBE - Tajik President Emomali Rahmon has launched a new hydroelectric station that had been vehemently opposed for years by the late leader of neighboring Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, tajikistannews.net reports. At a large ceremony on November 16 at the Roghun power plant, Rahmon pressed a red button to switch on the plant's first of six planned turbines. Other top Tajik officials and foreign guests attended the ceremony in the Central Asian nation's south. Dushanbe hopes the 3.9 billion dollars project built on the Vakhsh river will not only make the country energy self-sufficient, but plans to export some of its output to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan. The project was launched in the late 1970s but halted after the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991. Construction restarted in late October 2016, less than two months after the announced death of Karimov, the long-term president of neighboring Uzbekistan. Karimov opposed the project, saying the dam would reduce water flows to Uzbekistan's cotton fields. Last year, Tajikistan raised 500 million dollars from an inaugural international bond offering to help finance the construction, which is being carried out by an Italian company, Salini Impregilo. Dushanbe hopes to generate money to finance further construction at the plant after its starts producing energy. Filippo Menga, a lecturer on human geography at Britain's University of Reading, told RFE/RL on November 15 that the inauguration of the dam's first turbine is "only a first step of a construction process that will still take several years." "And indeed, it is still unclear how the dam is going to be paid for and if construction works will ever come to an end, and this is something that with Roghun is always going to be an issue, given the turbulent story of the project and the many interruptions of construction works that it experienced in the past. (Trend)

Trump Says He Answered Mueller Questions 'Very Easily'

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump says he "very easily" answered written questions from special counsel Robert Mueller, though he speculated that the questions had been "tricked up" to try to catch him in a lie. He said he hadn't submitted his answers to investigators yet. "You have to always be careful when you answer questions with people that probably have bad intentions," Trump told reporters Friday in his latest swipe at the probe into 2016 election

interference and possible ties between Moscow and the president's campaign. The president did not say when he would turn over the answers to Mueller, but his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, indicated it could happen next week. The special counsel has signaled a willingness to accept written answers on matters related to collusion with Russia. But Giuliani has said repeatedly the president would not answer Mueller's questions on possible obstruction of justice. (AP)

China's Xi Intends to Visit North Korea Next Year, South Korea Says

SEOUL - Chinese President Xi Jinping intends to visit North Korea next year after receiving an invite from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, South Korea said on Saturday, which would make Xi the first Chinese leader to do so since 2005. Xi told South Korean president Moon Jae-in in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) summit in Papua New Guinea that he would "make time" to visit North Korea next year.

Xi added that China would continue to play a constructive role in building peace on the Korean peninsula, Kim Eui-kyeom, spokesman for South Korea's presidential office, said at a briefing after the meeting between Xi and Moon. This comes at a time when negotiations between North Korea and the United States appear to have stalled over how to remove the Pyongyang's nuclear weapons. At an unprecedented summit in Singapore, U.S. President Donald



Trump and North Korean leader Kim agreed in June to work toward denuclearization and peace on the Korean peninsula and establish new relations. But the agreement was short on specifics, and negotiations have made little headway since. Xi's trip to North Korea would be the first by a Chinese president since his predecessor Hu Jintao's visit in 2005. (Reuters)

'Go Find a Court for Monsters': Duterte Lashes out at ICC 'Idiots'



MANILA - The International Criminal Court (ICC) consist of idiots, tough talking Philip-

pines leader Rodrigo Duterte said, launching another attack on the body, which is target-

ing his "war on drugs." Speaking in Papua New Guinea on Friday, the Philippines presi-

dent refused to recognize the authority of the ICC, adding it is a mere "creation" of the European Union, hungry to spread its "international governance." "So why would I allow myself to be tried by a few idiot human beings in this world?" Duterte has been long on the radar of human rights groups and the ICC for his controversial anti-drug operation in which 4,000 alleged drug dealers have been killed. (Russia Today)

Merkel Protégé Eyes Female Quota for Lawmakers, Takes Aim at Dual Citizenship

BERLIN - Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, leading polls to succeed Angela Merkel as head of Germany's Christian Democrats, said she would consider legislation to ensure better representation of women in parliament, unless her party changed its approach. A new poll conducted for public broadcaster ARD showed 46 percent of CDU supporters backed Kramp-Karrenbauer for the post, compared to 31 percent for businessman Frie-

New Turkmen Minister of Agriculture & Water Resources Appointed

ASHGABAT - Anageldi Yazmyradov has been appointed Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan, according to the Turkmen presidential decree. Yazmyradov previously held the position of the head of the

Baharden district of Turkmenistan's Ahal region. Former head of the Turkmen Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Ovezmyrat Enermyradov was dismissed from this post due to his transfer to another job. (Trend)

Uzbek Karakalpakstan's Industrial Sector Growing

TASHKENT - As a result of improving the investment climate and creating necessary conditions, the share of industry in the gross regional product of Uzbekistan's Karakalpakstan Republic increased from 36 to 41 percent, the press service of the Uzbek president said referring to the meeting chaired by the Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the city of Nukus, Karakalpakstan. According to the information, due to measures taken to fully support artisans, their

number increased from 460 at the beginning of the year to 1,480. The head of the state gave instructions on creating even more jobs, organizing new and expanding existing enterprises. In 2019-2020, it is planned to implement 1,018 investment projects for development of industry, services and agriculture. For these purposes, it is planned to allocate 11 trillion soums, including \$895 million of foreign direct investment. (Trend)

Italy's 'Anti-Netflix' Law to Protect Film Industry

ROME - Italy is to introduce an obligatory delay between Italian films screening in cinemas and being shown on streaming services like Netflix, in a bid to protect its domestic film industry. The law comes after the thorny issue reared its head at this year's Venice Film Festival, where several films came from US streaming giants Netflix or Amazon, including the festival's Golden Lion winner "Roma". Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón's movie was the first by Netflix to win a major festival prize. Thanks to its festival success, it will start being released in theatres around the world on November 21 and then on Netflix on December 14. In contrast, France's Cannes Film Festival opted only to accept films with a guaranteed cinema release, in a bid to protect theatres. (AFP)

Mexico's Lopez Obrador to Hold New Public Consultation on Policy Platform

MEXICO CITY - Mexico's incoming government will hold a national public consultation on Nov. 24-25 for residents to voice their opinion on 10 key policy proposals ranging from a new rail line and oil refinery to reforestation and free public internet initiatives. The new consultation comes on the heels of another informal referendum that called for canceling the construction of a partially-built \$13 billion new airport for Mexico City. President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador used the results of that consultation to say his administration, which takes office on Dec. 1, would halt the airport project. (Reuters)

Gaza Strategy Has Nothing to Do with Shooting, Netanyahu Failed to Shape It

GAZA - Benjamin Netanyahu failed to come to terms with the Palestinians and has only increased the suffering of people in Gaza by ditching peace efforts, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak told RT's Sophie Shevardnadze. The sitting Israeli prime minister has done nothing to even attempt to make peace with the Palestinians, but has only made matters worse, former Prime Minister Ehud Barak told RT's Sophie Shevardnadze. The political heavyweight, who is now unofficially leading the opposition, remarked that Netanyahu's cabinet "will be



replaced by a better government for Israel and Israelis." The recent spike in violence is explained by the fact the Israeli government "abandoned" people in landlocked Gaza, Barak said. "You know, when Netanyahu visited the football matches

in Moscow, the people around Gaza were suffering, but he never came to see them." "There's a price for it, and the government pays the political price for being unable to shape a consistent strategy vis-a-vis Hamas in Gaza. (Russia Today)

Argentine Navy Submarine Found 2,600 Feet Deep in Atlantic One Year after Disappearing

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) - Argentina's navy announced early Saturday that searchers had found the missing submarine ARA San Juan deep in the Atlantic a year after it disappeared with 44 crewmen aboard. The vessel was detected more than 2,600 feet deep in waters off the Valdes Peninsula in Argentine Patagonia, the statement said.

The navy said a "positive identification" had been made by a remote-operated submersible from the American ship Ocean Infinity, which was hired for the latest search for the missing vessel. The discovery was announced just two days after families of the missing sailors held a commemoration one year after the sub disappeared on Nov. 15, 2017. (Fox News)

Rouhani Sees Iran, Iraq Expanding Trade Despite U.S. Sanctions

DUBAI - Iran and Iraq could raise their annual bilateral trade to \$20 billion from the current level of \$12 billion, President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday, amid concerns in Tehran over the economic impact of renewed U.S. sanctions. Rouhani's remarks, made after a meeting with visiting Iraqi President Barham Salih, came about two weeks after the United States restored sanctions targeting Iran's key oil industry as well as its banking and transportation sectors. "... through bilateral efforts, we can raise this figure (for bilateral trade) to \$20 billion in the near future," Rouhani said in comments broadcast live on Iranian state television. "We held talks on trade in electricity, gas, petroleum products and activities ... in the field of oil exploration and extraction," Rouhani said. Iraqi officials told Reuters last week that Iraq had agreed to trade Iraqi food items in return for Iranian gas and energy supplies. Baghdad is seeking U.S. approval to allow it to import Iranian gas for its power stations. Iraqi officials say they need more time to find an alternative source than a 45-day waiver granted to it by the United States. "It will be important to create free trade zones at our shared border and to connect the two countries' railways," Salih said. "We will not forget your support for the Iraqi people in the fight against (Iraqi dictator) Saddam (Hussein)." (Reuters)

Pakistan PM Imran Khan to Visit UAE

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will be visiting the UAE, November 18. It will be PM Khan's second visit to the UAE. According to PTV News, Khan, who will be accompanied by several ministers; will be in Abu Dhabi for a day-long visit at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Matters of bilateral, regional and global interest will be discussed during their

meeting. The Pakistani Prime Minister is also scheduled to meet His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, during his visit. Chamber Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Senior Vice President, Iftikhar Ali Malik Saturday, November 17 said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's tour to United Arab Emirates (UAE) would help boost Pakistan's export besides exploring new trade potential between the two countries. (Khaleej Times)