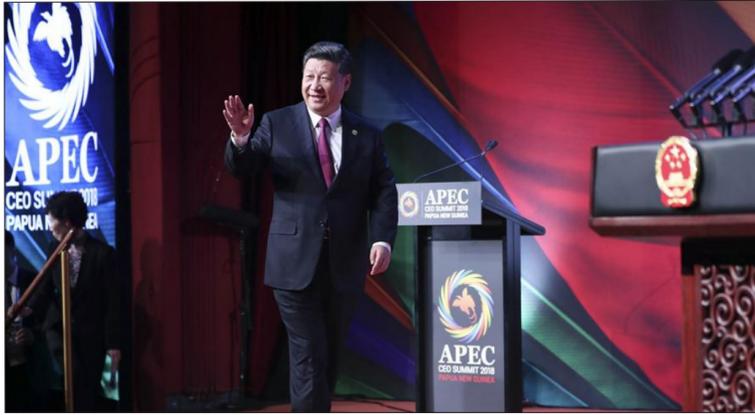


Xi Urges Higher-Level Asia-Pacific Cooperation as Mankind at Historical Crossroads

PORT MORESBY - Chinese President Xi Jinping called on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies to bring their cooperation to a higher level based on a keen appreciation of the trend of the world and its economy.

Underlining the trend of economic globalization, economic integration in the region, and an open economy, Xi urged the economies to keep the momentum of Asia-Pacific cooperation during a speech at the 26th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting hosted by Papua New Guinea (PNG) Prime Minister Peter O'Neill here on Sunday.

"Our world is undergoing rapid development and changes," Xi said at the meeting under the theme Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digi-



tal Future.

"We have reached a crossroads of history, when we must have a keen appreciation of the trend of our world and take the pulse of the world economy," he said, "That is how we will be able

to respond to the call of our time and chart our future course accordingly."

Firstly, the economies need to advance economic integration in the region so as to build an open economy in the Asia-Pacific, the Chinese

president said.

"We should continue to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation," he said.

He called on the economies to adopt an open, inclusive and transparent approach to the various kinds of free trade arrangements to ensure coordinated and positive interactions among them.

"We need to firmly uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system and say no to protectionism," he said.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is exploring a new round of reform, Xi noted, saying such reform should be designed to uphold the core values and underlying principles of the multilateral trading system. (Xinhua)

Interpol Renews Arrest Warrant for MOL's CEO, Croatia Says

ZAGREB - International police organization Interpol has decided to renew an arrest warrant for the head of Hungarian energy group MOL issued by Croatia, Croatian police said, while MOL on Sunday called the move surprising.

MOL Chief Executive Zsolt Hernadi has been indicted in Croatia for allegedly bribing former Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader to allow MOL to become the key decision-maker in Croatian energy company INA, in which MOL is the biggest but not the

majority shareholder.

Last month Croatia began the trial of Sanader, who served as prime minister from 2003 to 2009, and Hernadi in that case. Both deny any wrongdoing. Hernadi is being tried in absentia. Neither Interpol nor Hernadi could be immediately reached for comment. Hungary refused to heed the international arrest warrant for Hernadi and two years ago Interpol dropped it, saying Croatia and Hungary, as European Union members, must first handle the case within the bloc. (Reuters)

Trump Says Report on Khashoggi's Death Coming in 2 Days

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump said Saturday that his administration will release a full report in the next two days about the death of a Saudi journalist, which has created a diplomatic conundrum for the president. How to admonish Riyadh for the killing yet maintain strong ties with a close ally in the Middle East.

"We'll be having a very full report over the next two days, probably Monday or Tuesday," Trump said. That will include "who did it," he said.

Reporters asked Trump about the death of Jamal Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who was slain Oct. 2 inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Saudi Arabia's top diplomat has said the crown prince had "absolutely" nothing to do with it. American intelligence agencies have concluded that the crown prince ordered the killing in the Saudi Consulate in Turkey, according to a U.S. official familiar with the assessment. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter



publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Others familiar with the case caution that while it's likely that the crown prince was involved in the death, there continue to be questions about what role he played. "The United States government is determined to hold all those responsible for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi accountable," the State Department said in a statement. (AP)

Interpol Meets to Select New President after China's Arrest



DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - Police chiefs from around the world gathered in Dubai on Sunday for Interpol's general assembly to se-

lect a new president after the agency's former leader was detained in China.

Meng Hongwei - who was China's vice min-

ister of public security while also leading Interpol - went missing while on a trip to China in September. It later emerged that the long-time Communist Party insider with decades of experience in China's security apparatus was detained as part of a sweeping purge against allegedly corrupt or disloyal officials under President Xi Jinping's authoritarian administration.

Interpol member-states will also be deciding whether to accept Ko-

sovo as a full member, which would allow officials there to file red notices for Serbian officials that Kosovo considers war criminals. The red notices are alerts circulated by Interpol to all member countries that identify a person wanted for arrest by another country. Interpol says there are 57,289 active red notices around the world. Interpol acts as a clearinghouse for national police services that want to hunt down suspects outside their borders. (Fox News)

Thailand Hits Out at US Series over Monarchy Reference

BANGKOK - Bangkok has hit out at the CBS show "Madam Secretary" on Sunday in response to an episode that referenced the country's monarchy, calling it "misleading". Thailand has some of the world's harshest royal defamation laws and monitors potential insults both in Thailand and abroad, with suspects facing maximum sentences of 15 years if convicted in domestic courts.

"Madam Secretary", a popular political drama starring Téa Leoni and now in its fifth season, came under fire after a

character travels to Thailand and opines about the monarchy at a conference before being hauled away by police. Though no legal action was threatened, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it had asked its embassy in Washington to "convey our concern and disappointment to CBS" over the November 4 episode. The statement added that the monarchy has been a "symbol of unity and pillar of stability in our kingdom for more than seven centuries" and is beloved and respected by the public. (AFP)

Azeri Opposition Leader Faces Charges after Illegal Rally

BAKU, Azerbaijan - The head of Azeri opposition party Popular Front faces legal action after authorities arrested him in Baku for attempting to lead an unsanctioned demonstration.

Ali Karimli was detained Saturday while leading a procession through Baku's Alley of Martyrs, a national cemetery, to honor Azerbaijan's fallen on a holiday marking independence from the Soviet Union.

A Baku police statement said Sunday that "as a result of police efforts to prevent an unauthorized rally, 52 participants were detained by the police." The statement said that 41 were released and 11 remained in detention. (AP)

Ukraine Ex-President Yanukovich to Miss Treason Hearing

MOSCOW - Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich won't be able to appear before a Kiev court on Monday because of injuries sustained on a Moscow tennis court, his lawyer said. Yanukovich "cannot appear in court seeing as he has been hospitalized" and is unable to move due to spinal and knee injuries, lawyer Aleksandr Goroshinsky told Russian news agencies Sunday. Yanukovich fled Ukraine in 2014 as tensions in the capital flared up following a brutal and deadly police crackdown on protesters calling for the president to follow through with an association agreement signed with the European Union.

Shortly after disappearing from Kiev, he surfaced safely in Russia. (AP)

Israel's Netanyahu Makes 'Last Effort' to Save Government

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he was heading into a meeting with his top coalition partner in a "last effort" to prevent the collapse of his government, which has been rocked by the resignation of its defense minister over a cease-fire agreement with Gaza militants.

Speaking at his weekly Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said it would be unwise to embark on a divisive election campaign during such a sensitive time for Israeli security. He said he would try to con-



vince Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon and his centrist Kulanu party to stay in the fold. "It would be both unnecessary and incorrect to go to elections. We remember well what happened when elements inside the coalitions took down

Likud governments in 1992 and in 1999," he said, noting the past two elections in which the Labor Party came to power. "We need to do everything we can to prevent repeating these mistakes," he added. (Fox News)

US to Expand Pacific Military Base Together with Australia in Bid to Stop China's Growing Influence

WASHINGTON - The US said it will join Australia in the development of a naval base on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island to "protect the freedom of the seas," in a move apparently aimed at curbing China's presence in the Pacific.

Australia, a staunch US ally in the Pacific, had already set its sights on Papua New Guinea's Lombrum Naval Base on Manus Island earlier in November, seeking to build a deep-water facility for its Navy. Now, Washington apparently

has also decided to join the effort, in a move clearly aimed at sending a signal to Beijing, which is already locked in a trade war with Washington and in disputes over the South China Sea.

It is no surprise that the US decision apparently came on the heels of rumors that China might also emerge as the eventual developer of the deep-water base. Some other reports suggested that China approached another Pacific island nation, Vanuatu, seeking to open a military base there. (Russia Today)

North Korea's New 'Tactical' Weapon Test Highlights Military Modernization

SEOUL - North Korea's claim last week that it had tested an unidentified "ultramodern tactical weapon" highlighted its desire to upgrade its conventional arms and reassure its military even as talks are under way to end its nuclear program, analysts said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un witnessed the test of a newly developed tactical weapon that could serve as a "steel wall", state media reported on Friday, without giving details of the weapon.

It was Kim's first observation of a weapons test this year and could complicate already stalled nuclear talks with the United States, although Washington and Seoul downplayed the development in an apparent effort not to derail negotiations.

Experts say the test was part of Kim's initiative to shift the mainstay of the conventional military power from a nearly 1.3 million-strong army to high-tech weapons.

"This is sort of like the North Korean version of military reform," said Choi Kang, vice president of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul.

"If we have to find an underlying message to the outside world, it's 'Don't underestimate us, we are modernizing too.'"

New advanced weapons might be even more crucial if the country were to abandon at least some of its nuclear arsenal. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Islamabad Hosts Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Council Conference

ISLAMABAD - A Video Link Conference was held at the Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad on Saturday between the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the members of Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Council (UPBC), Pakistan's Dispatch News Desk agency reported.

More than 50 representatives from the business community of Islamabad and Rawalpindi attended the meeting.

The speakers from both the sides expressed their enthusiasm and keen interest in exploring and exploiting the business opportunities existing in Pakistan and Uzbekistan and also the investment opportunities in the fields of textile, information technology, hospitality/tourism, agriculture

and agricultural machinery, raw construction material mainly cement industry, and mutual exchange of students in academic programs.

The Uzbek Ambassador Furqat Sidikov expressed his enthusiasm regarding the development of new firms and companies in Uzbekistan which will help to foster smooth and good trade relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan via importing/exporting the goods through Afghanistan.

The UPBC Deputy President Khalid Taimur highlighted the major activities/events of the Uzbek-Pakistani Business Council to improve the business environment and development of entrepreneurship in Pakistan and Uzbekistan. (Trend)

US Set to Allege Iran Violating Chemical Weapons Treaty

TEHRAN - In a bid to ratchet up pressure on Tehran, the United States appears to be preparing to level a new allegation against Iran, claiming that country is not abiding by the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention.

Two US officials have said that the Trump administration will announce Monday that Iran is in non-compliance with the treaty outlawing the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.

The announcement does not seek to allege that Iran has used chemical weapons but rather that it has maintained

facilities and equipment which can be used for their production, apparently referring to Iranian production of fertilizers for agricultural use. Although the claim does not carry immediate American penalties, it could be used to lodge an anti-Iran complaint with the Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Many Iranians are still suffering from the effects of chemical weapons used by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, who was backed by the US and Europe during his eight-year war on Iran in the 1980s. (Press TV)

Pakistan Eyes Expanding Ties with Iran in All Fields

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Islamic Republic of Iran is a friend and neighboring country to Pakistan.

In response to a question raised about relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, "Iran is a friend country to Pakistan

and has age-old relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that Pakistan intends to expand and develop its relationship with Iran." Turning to Pakistan's economic cooperation with China and Saudi Arabia, he said, "China and Saudi Arabia solved many economic problems facing Pakistan." He also referred to the investment of China and Saudi Arabia in Pakistan and said, "China and

Saudi Arabia will definitely invest in Pakistan." Financial corruption has faced the world's wealthiest countries with critical problem, he said, adding, "in this regard, Pakistan government will spare no effort to tackle this problem decisively."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Imran Khan pointed to Pakistani government's 100-day plan which had promised before election and reiterated, "Pakistan is grappling with several problems, so that problem facing this country will not be resolved in a 100-day program but I promise to take effective steps in the field of restoration of wealth of Pakistani people from abroad into the country." (Agencies)

Japan Helps Improve Air Quality Monitoring Systems in Tehran: Report

TEHRAN - The old air quality monitoring systems in Iran's capital Tehran will be replaced with new instruments from Japan, Eghtesdonline news website reported on Sunday. The project is part of cooperation between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Tehran Municipality to reduce air pollution in the capital city.

The instruments, imported from Japan, will replace Tehran air quality control infrastructure being used for at least 15 years. The new devices will be used for analyzing the emissions released in the air, categorizing them

based on the type of pollutants, and identifying their sources in Tehran metropolitan. JICA will also help Tehran Municipality launch a diesel engine emission test center for buses, minibuses, and trucks in Tehran.

Several other joint projects between JICA and Tehran Municipality are to be launched in the next two years, said Yukiharu Kobayashi, head of JICA office in Tehran. Besides the air quality monitoring systems, portable emission measurement systems will be supplied for vehicles that use gasoline and compressed natural gas (CNG). (Xinhua)