

## Trump Shows He Will Turn Blind Eye to Khashoggi Killing, Turkey Says

ANKARA - Donald Trump's comments about Jamal Khashoggi's killing show the U.S. president will turn a blind eye to the issue no matter what investigators uncover, Turkey's foreign minister said on Friday.

On Tuesday, Trump vowed to remain a "steadfast partner" of Saudi Arabia despite saying that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman may have known about the plan to murder Khashoggi last month.

Criticizing Trump's stance for putting commercial deals with Riyadh ahead of justice, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said human life should take precedence.

"This statement that Trump made also means: 'No mat-



ter what happens, I will turn a blind eye.' This is not a correct approach. Not everything is money," Cavusoglu told broadcaster CNN Turk.

He also said the United States had not informed Turkey of an audio recording regarding Khashoggi's killing, a day after a Turkish newspaper said that the CIA

had signaled to Turkey it had a recording in which the crown prince ordered to "silence Khashoggi".

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan has said the order for Khashoggi's killing came from the highest level of the Saudi government but probably not King Salman, putting the spotlight instead on Salman's heir and de facto ruler Prince Mohammed.

A day after conflicting Turkish media reports over whether Erdogan would meet Prince Mohammed at a G20 summit in Argentina next week, Cavusoglu said there was no reason why a meeting could not take place, but the final decision was Erdogan's. (Reuters)

### UK Releases New Clips of Russian Nerve Agent Attack Suspects

LONDON - British police have released CCTV footage of two suspected Russian intelligence agents walking toward Sergei Skripal's home on the day of the former spy's poisoning with a nerve agent. The clips show the Russians - known by the aliases Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov - appearing to take photographs on their arrival in the English city of Salisbury on March 4. Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found slumped unconscious on a park bench that same afternoon. British police be-

lieve they were poisoned by a Soviet-era nerve agent called Novichok designed by Moscow specifically to conduct assassinations abroad. Russia denies that the two men are members of its GRU military intelligence service. It also says the Novichok could have come from a nearby British or some other laboratory. Nick Bailey, a British police officer who searched Skripal's home after the father and daughter were found, was also exposed to the nerve agent and spent weeks in hospital. (AFP)

### Chinese Investments Create Job Opportunities for Many Ethiopians: State Minister

ADDIS ABABA - Chinese investments in Ethiopia over the past two decades have created job opportunities for many Ethiopians, said Ethiopian State Minister of Foreign Affairs Aklilu Hailemichael on Friday. The state minister made the remarks at China Zhejiang-Ethiopia Trade and Investment Symposium co-hosted by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Council for the Promotion of International Trade Zhejiang Provincial Committee (CCPIT Zhejiang)

in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

The government of China and companies from China have over the past two decades "invested significantly in Ethiopia, creating job opportunities for a large number of Ethiopians," Hailemichael said. "My country also expects even more through the Belt and Road initiative that China launched with a focus on economic cooperation and connectivity among nations," he said. He noted that the growing investment and trade ties between "the two sisterly countries" are part of Ethiopia's "historic relations with China covering a range of areas including but not limited to trade, culture, education and development cooperation." "The relations between



the two sisterly nations have been based upon diplomatic adherence, mutual respect, win-win formulation, shared development and mutual understanding," he said. (Xinhua)

### India Strongly Condemns Terror Attack on Chinese Consulate in Pakistan



NEW DELHI - India strongly condemned Friday's terrorist attack on the Chinese consulate in Pakistan's south-

ern city of Karachi, in which two Pakistani policemen, two civilians and three terrorists were killed.

According to India's external affairs ministry, the perpetrators of the terror attack should be brought to book as soon

as possible.

"We condole the loss of lives in this dastardly attack. There can be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism. The perpetrators of this heinous attack should be brought to justice expeditiously," said an official statement issued by the ministry. It added that "such terrorist attacks only strengthens the resolve of the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." (Xinhua)

### Turkey's Foreign Minister Says EU Comments on Rule of Law 'Out of Line'

ISTANBUL - Turkey on Friday criticized the European Union's foreign policy chief for her comments on the rule of law in Turkey, a day after she and another official rebuked Ankara over arrests of journalists and the detention of a Kurdish politician.

In an interview with broadcaster CNN Turk, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu criticized the comments from Federica Mogherini as "out of line" after she took Turkey to task at a news conference on Thursday over

detentions of journalists and academics and said she hoped that politician Selahattin Demirtas would be released soon. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled this week that Turkey should swiftly process Demirtas' case, saying his pre-trial detention had gone on longer than could be justified. Cavusoglu described the ECHR ruling as motivated by politics, not the law, and said the case would be determined by Turkey's courts. (Reuters)

### Swedish Parliament to Vote again on Stefan Lofven as New PM

STOCKHOLM - Sweden's parliament will vote in early December on whether the caretaker prime minister, Social Democrat Stefan Lofven, should form a new administration, the speaker said on Friday.

September's election left the center-right and center-left blocs short of a majority, and the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats - which the mainstream parties refuse to deal with - holding the balance of power.

Parliament has already passed a vote of no confidence in Lofven, prime minister from 2014, and parties have shown little sign of changing their positions since then. (Reuters)

### Hungary's Orban Defends Asylum for Fugitive Macedonian Ex-Leader

BUDAPEST - Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday defended Hungary's granting of asylum to a former Macedonian prime minister facing a jail term at home, describing him as an ally and accusing Macedonia's justice system of involvement in political "games".

Former Macedonian premier Nikola Gruevski fled to Hungary earlier this month after being sentenced to two years in prison over corruption-related charges. Hungary's foreign minister said Hungarian diplomats accompanied him to Budapest.

Gruevski received political asylum on Tuesday, prompting criticism from Macedonia, the European Union and the United States. (Reuters)

### UAE to Consider 'Clemency' in Case of Convicted Briton

LONDON - The ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in London said Friday his government is studying whether to grant clemency to a convicted British academic sentenced to life in prison for espionage.

Ambassador Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui said that academic Matthew Hedges' family has requested clemency and the government is considering it.

He said the espionage case against the 31-year-old Hedges "was an extremely serious case" and that he had been convicted based on



"compelling evidence" after a full and fair judicial process.

"The crimes Mr. Hedges was accused of are extremely serious. For the UAE, like all countries, protecting our national security must be our first priority," he said. (Fox News)

The ambassador denied claims that Hedges received only a brief court hearing before being convicted on very serious charges and said the British academic had proper legal representation in court. (Fox News)

### North Korean Still Working at Main Nuclear Site, IAEA Says

VIENNA - North Korea appears to be still expanding operations at its main nuclear site, the U.N. atomic watchdog indicated on Thursday.

The statement by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is a further sign that North Korea is pressing ahead with its atomic activities despite pressure from the United States for it to scrap its nuclear weapons program.

At a leaders' summit in June both sides pledged to work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Penin-

sula. Since then, few concrete steps have been made toward the full and irreversible dismantling of North Korea's nuclear arms program that Washington has called for.

At Yongbyon, North Korea's main nuclear facility which is widely believed to have provided fissile material for its bombs, components appear to have been brought into a light-water reactor being built there, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano said. (Reuters)

## Neighbor News

### Iran Denies U.S. Chemical Weapon Allegations

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday dismissed the recent U.S. accusations that Iran has breached the Chemical Weapons Convention.

"During the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague on Thursday, the U.S. mission to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) once again leveled groundless accusations against the Islamic republic, which we strongly reject," the Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi said in a statement on Friday.

"The crystal-clear point here is that the U.S. is the only OPCW member state with chemical weapon arsenals, which has so far failed to fulfill its commitment to destroy them," Qasemi said. Besides, the United States sides with Israel's chemical weapon program and levels such "wrong and false accusations" against Iran, he added. The Iranian mission to the OPCW will give an appropriate response to these baseless accusations at the end of the general debates in The Hague, he added. (Xinhua)

### Pakistani PM Claims Jesus 'Had No Mention in History', Twitterati Don't Turn the Other Cheek

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan decided to share an unexpected historical insight: Jesus Christ apparently never existed. Predictably, this landed him in hot water. To make matters worse, Khan made the remarks at a conference celebrating the birthday of none other than the Prophet Mohammed. Praising the greatness of the Muslim prophet, the politician suddenly delved deeper into religious history than anyone was expecting.

"Moses does find some mention but we don't find mention of Hasrat Isa [Jesus Christ] in human history," Khan said.

The video of the speech went viral, with many observers left baffled by Khan's sudden authority on Bible matters. Some mocked him, accusing him of ignorance. Commenters rushed to remind the PM that Jesus is even mentioned multiple times in the Quran. "Jesus Christ is by far the most mentioned both verbally & written individual in history," Senator Tahir Hussain Mashhadi wrote. Other said that attacking Jesus is not something a leader of a Muslim-majority country should do, and noted that these types of statements offend Pakistan's Christian community. (Russia Today)

### Tajikistan Will Receive 88 Million USD for Completion of Rehabilitation of the Qairoqqum Hydropower Plant

DUSHANBE - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are providing a US\$88 million financing package to Tajikistan to complete the rehabilitation of the Qairoqqum hydroelectric power plant (HPP) in the northern Sughd province to support Tajikistan improve its electricity supply, news.tj reports.

The loan will allow completing an ambitious program of investment that was commenced in 2014 with financing from the EBRD, Austria and the United Kingdom and the Climate Investment Funds' Pilot Program for Climate Resilience. The government of Austria is

again funding technical cooperation support. Speaking to lawmakers, Tajik Minister of Finance Faiziddin Qahhorzoda noted on November 23 that the financing package includes US\$ 38 million EBRD loan, US\$ 27 million GCF loan and US\$ 23 million GCF grant. The new financing will fund the second and final phase of the rehabilitation and modernization of the 60-year old Qairoqqum HPP, which provides electricity to 500,000 people. Measures include concrete dam works and the installation of hydraulic steel components, turbines and electromechanical equipment for the four hydropower units. (Trend)

### Oil & Gas of Turkmenistan 2018 Conference - Important Step in Strengthening Trade Ties

ASHGABAT - The 23rd International Conference "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan 2018", which was held in Ashgabat on November 20-21, has become another important step forward in strengthening economic and trade relations between Turkmenistan and its international partners.

Over 330 leading industry experts from 42 countries of the world, heads and representatives of 161 top oil and gas companies, major world international organizations and financial institutions took part in the conference. Among them: Petronas, Dragon Oil, CNPC International, British Petroleum, Hyundai Engineering Co. Ltd, ARETI International Group, Shell, Total, Credit Suisse, EBRD, ADB, TAT-NEFT, Exxon Mobil, Schlumberger, KPMG, Eni, Gap Insaat, LUKOIL, Roxar, National Maritime Shipping Company "Kazmorftransflot" LLP, Haldor Topsoe, LLC, Valvitalia SpA, Coral Energy and many others. Petronas, Dragon Oil, British Petroleum, Shell, Buried Hill Energy, CNPC, Hyundai, Total, SUN Group, LG International, ARETI, Eni, ILF Consulting Engineers, Thales Alenia Space became OGT-2018 Sponsors. (Trend)

### U.N. Ready to Help Run Vital Yemen Port in Danger of Destruction

HODEIDAH/GENEVA, Yemen - The United Nations said on Friday it was ready to help supervise Yemen's vital Hodeidah port to protect it from "potential destruction", as its envoy met managers of the Houthi-held harbour. Western countries are pressing for a ceasefire and renewed peace efforts to end the country's three-year-old conflict amid fears that half the population, some 14 million people, could soon be on the brink of famine.

"We discussed ... how the United Nations can take a leading role in operating the port, we have to do this quickly through discussions with all the parties," U.N. envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, said after his meetings. "We think that by playing this role we would help preserve a lifeline to the people in Yemen," he said, according to an Arabic translation of his remarks which was supplied to local reporters.

U.N. spokesman Rhea LeBlanc told reporters earlier in Geneva that Griffiths had specific ideas about managing the port that he would present to the parties to the conflict.

The aim was to "protect the port itself from potential destruction, and preserve the main humanitarian pipeline to the people of Yemen," LeBlanc said. Griffiths arrived earlier in the day in Hodeidah, the latest focus of the war between the Houthi group, which controls the city, and pro-government forces backed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. (Reuters)