

## Pompeo Heads Back to N.Korea with Historic Deal in Play

WASHINGTON - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo heads back this weekend to North Korea as the contours of a potentially historic deal begin to take shape, even if Kim Jong Un's regime publicly stays firm in demands. The top US diplomat will pay his fourth visit this year to the onetime US pariah as he looks to arrange another summit between Kim and President Donald Trump, who has declared himself "in love" with the strongman. Pompeo arrives Saturday in Japan, a treaty-bound US ally which has been privately uneasy about Trump's rapid reconciliation with the totalitarian state, before he meets Sunday in Pyongyang with Kim.

Just a year after Trump threatened to wipe out North Korea, Pompeo is hopeful that diplomacy can



coax Kim to give up the regime's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

"This is a long-term problem. This has been outstanding for decades. We've made more progress than has been made in an awfully long time,"

Pompeo told reporters on Wednesday. Pompeo has repeatedly declined to be drawn out publicly on the shape of an eventual agreement. The United States has called for a comprehensive accord and rigorous enforcement of sanctions on

North Korea in the meantime. South Korea - whose left-leaning president, Moon Jae-in, helped pave the way for Trump's diplomacy and who will meet Pompeo in Seoul after he visits Pyongyang - gave a preview of what a deal may look like.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, in an interview with The Washington Post, said that the North could agree to dismantle Yongbyon, its signature nuclear site. In exchange, the United States would declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War - which closed with an armistice rather than a full-blown peace treaty - but North Korea would stop short of delivering an exhaustive list of its nuclear facilities, she said. (AFP)

## Neighbor News

### EU Says Determined to Save JCPOA despite US Exit

TEHRAN - European Union Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker says the bloc is determined to keep the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran in place despite US withdrawal. "We are sticking to the agreement with Iran," Juncker said while addressing the Austrian parliament in Vienna on Friday. He added that the EU was engaged in "intensive talks" with the Americans about the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Juncker further said the bloc needed to strengthen its role in the world and urged member

states to take the required steps to the same effect. "We have locked ourselves in the darkness of unanimity," he said, stressing that EU needed to abandon the requirement for unanimity when deciding on foreign policy issues. Iran signed the JCPOA with the permanent members of the UN Security Council - the US, Britain, France, Russia and China - as well as Germany in 2015. Based on it, Iran agreed to restrict certain aspects of its nuclear energy activities in return for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions against the country. (Press TV)

### Pakistan's Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif Arrested in Corruption Case

LAHORE - Pakistan's opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif was arrested here on Friday afternoon by the country's anti-graft body in an alleged corruption case, an official statement said. According to a statement issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Shahbaz, opposition leader in the National Assembly or the lower house of the parliament, was detained for the alleged misappropriations in Ashiana Housing Scheme in Lahore during his tenure as chief minister of Punjab province from 2013 to 2018. The NAB started probe after the housing scheme for poor people failed due to alleged corruption. The NAB said Shahbaz, the younger brother of

former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and president of the opposition party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, will be presented before the accountability court on Saturday. Earlier in the day, Shahbaz appeared before the NAB authorities to record his statement in the case, but he was detained after he failed to answer to the questions, local media said. The accountability watchdog had alleged that Shahbaz had misused his authority during his tenure as Punjab's chief minister and was involved in corruption. The NAB has arrested several close aids of Shahbaz in connection with the corruption scandal. (Xinhua)

### Japan to Skip Naval Event after South Korea Protests over 'Rising Sun' Flag

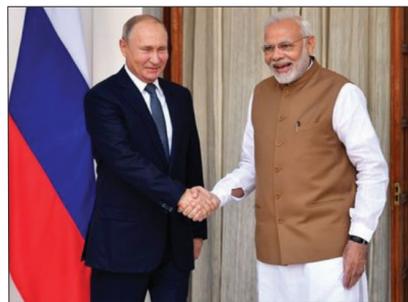
SEOUL/TOKYO - Japan has decided not to take part in an international fleet review in South Korea next week after Seoul effectively asked Tokyo not to fly its "Rising Sun" flag on a warship, Japan's defense minister said on Friday, the latest spat between the two sides. Japan's relations with both South and North Korea have long been strained by lingering resentment over its 1910-45 colonization of Korea, territorial rows and the issue of Korean girls and women forced to work

in Japan's wartime brothels. Japan's decision comes after South Korea this week asked participating countries not to fly flags at the bow or at the stern of their vessels, Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters. "When it comes to the Maritime Self-Defence Force ensign, domestic laws and regulations stipulate that it must be hoisted at the stern," Iwaya said. "Regrettably, we have reached a decision that we cannot help forgoing the participation." (Reuters)

### India Quietly Seals Missile Deal with Russia despite U.S. Warning

NEW DELHI - India agreed a deal with Russia to buy S-400 surface to air missile systems on Friday, the Kremlin said, as New Delhi disregarded U.S. warnings that such a purchase could trigger sanctions under U.S. law. Although there was no public signing, the deal was sealed during President Vladimir Putin's ongoing visit to New Delhi for an annual summit. "The deal was signed on the fringes of the summit," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Reuters. The contract is

estimated to be worth more than \$5 billion and gives the Indian military the ability to shoot down aircraft and missiles at unprecedented ranges. But the United States has said countries trading with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors would face automatic sanctions under a sweeping legislation called Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). A State Department spokesperson said this week that the implementation of the sanctions



act would be focused at countries acquiring weapons such as the S-400 missile batteries. Last month, the United States imposed sanctions

on China's military for its purchase of combat fighters as well as the S-400 missile system it bought from Russia this year. (Reuters)

## Nobel Peace Prize Honours Champions of Fight against Sexual Violence



OSLO - Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi campaigner Nadia Murad won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their work in

fighting sexual violence in conflicts around the world. The pair won the award "for their efforts to end the use of sexual vio-

lence as a weapon of war and armed conflict," Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said in unveiling the winners in Oslo, an announcement which won international praise. "A more peaceful world can only be achieved if women and their fundamental rights and security are recognised and protected in war," she said. One a doctor, the other a former Islamic State sex slave, both have come to represent the

struggle against a global scourge which goes well beyond any single conflict, as the #MeToo movement has shown. The prize was announced as #MeToo marks its first anniversary after a year in which allegations of sexual abuse, rape and harassment have topped dozens of powerful men. By recognising the pair's work, the Nobel committee has placed a spotlight on the use of sexual violence in war as a global problem. (AFP)

### Denmark Proposes Building New Island near Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN - Denmark plans to build a new island near Copenhagen's harbor to create more space for the city's growing population, the prime minister said on Friday. The island proposal could be fully established by 2070, host housing for 35,000 people and also protect the city from rising sea levels, Lars Lokke Rasmussen said at a press briefing. "The capital is in rapid development, being built as never before. That's good but it also means that Copenhagen will run out of plots eventually, and that's

why we want to build a new island," Rasmussen said. The liberal prime minister was joined at the briefing by Copenhagen's Lord Mayor Frank Jensen, a social democrat, indicating support for the project from the main opposition party in the national parliament. The project, tentatively called Lynetteholm, would demand investment of around 20 billion Danish crowns (\$3.1 billion) including in a harbor tunnel and a metro line, but will be self-financing over time, the prime minister said. (Reuters)

### Chinese Interpol Chief Reported Missing on Home Visit, Say French Police

PARIS - Interpol's president Meng Hongwei has been reported missing after traveling to his native China last week, French police said on Friday. Meng's wife contacted police in Lyon, the French city where the international police cooperation agency has its headquarters, after not hearing from him since his departure on September 29, police sources said. Interpol said it was aware of reports in connection with Meng's "alleged disappearance". "This is a matter for the relevant authorities in both France and China," the agency said in a statement. French police sources told Reuters their investigation was into what is termed in France a "worrying disappearance". Interpol's main function is to provide a mechanism for police forces in different countries to notify each other of wanted suspects. (Reuters)

### Lebanese Party Dials down Optimism on Government Break through

BEIRUT - The leader of one of Lebanon's main Christian parties said on Friday he didn't want to create "artificial optimism" about a breakthrough in talks over a new government, a day after Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri said one would be formed soon. Five months since a parliamentary election, Lebanese politicians remain unable to agree on how to share out ministerial portfolios in the new unity government that Hariri is trying to form. (Reuters)

### Israel's Prime Minister Questioned Again in Corruption Probe

JERUSALEM - Israeli police questioned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the 12th time on Friday in connection with a long-running corruption investigation. Investigators questioned Netanyahu's for several hours at his official residence in Jerusalem. Army Radio and other news outlets said questioning focused on two cases in which police have already recommended indictments against him. One case deals with gifts allegedly given to Netanyahu and his family, and the other with claims he discussed securing better coverage



in Yedioth Ahronoth, one of Israel's largest newspapers, in return for curbs on rival daily Israel Hayom. No charges have been brought against the Israeli leader, who denies any wrongdoing and has called the allegations baseless. It will be up to Israel's attorney general to decide whether to file charges. Partners in Netanyahu's governing coalition have stood by him, saying they are awaiting the attorney general's next moves. (Reuters)

### EU Negotiators See Brexit Divorce Deal 'Very Close'

BRUSSELS - The European Union's Brexit negotiators see a divorce deal with Britain as "very close", diplomatic sources said, a signal that a compromise might be in the making on the most contentious issue of the future Irish border. The EU signaled on Thursday it was engaging with new proposals emerging in Britain on avoiding extensive

Irish border checks after Brexit, a potential deal-breaker in the unprecedented talks to end Britain's four decades in the bloc. A member of EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier's team told a briefing with national diplomats in Brussels late on Thursday that a divorce deal with Britain was "very close", according to two sources at the meeting. (Reuters)

### Hong Kong Press Freedom in Question as FT Journalist Denied Visa

HONG KONG - Hong Kong has refused to renew a work visa for the Asia news editor of the Financial Times, who is also an official of the city's Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC), a decision that has shocked many in the financial hub's international community. The news comes two months after government officials in China and Hong Kong condemned the FCC, one of Asia's leading press clubs, for hosting a speech by an independence activist, reigniting debate about the viability of the city's promised freedoms. "The Hong Kong authorities have rejected an application to renew the work visa of Victor Mallet, Asia news editor at the Financial Times," the newspaper said in a statement. "This is the first time we have encountered this situation in Hong Kong. We have not been given a reason for the rejection." Mallet, who is the FCC's vice-president, did not immediately respond to a request for comment, while Hong Kong's immigration department said it did not comment on specific cases. In August, Mallet, who was the FCC's acting president at the time, hosted a speech by pro-independence activist Andy Chan in a move strongly condemned by China's Foreign Ministry. The ministry had urged the FCC to withdraw its invitation to Chan, a founder of the pro-independence Hong Kong National Party, which was formally banned by Hong Kong authorities last month. (Reuters)

### Unemployment Rate among Young People in Uzbekistan Amounts to 15.9%

TASHKENT - According to the new method of calculation, the unemployment rate in Uzbekistan in January-June was 9.3 percent, Gazeta.uz reported with reference to the press service of the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations. Starting from this year, the Ministry of Labor is developing a balance of labor resources, job placement and employment of the population, survey among households on employment issues, as well as determining of the number of people who need job in accordance with the de-

cision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated December 22, 2017. In July-August, the Republican Scientific Center for Employment, Labor Safety and Social Protection of the Population under the Ministry of Labor carried out a social research in 62 cities and districts of the country. The research has covered 310 citizens' self-governing bodies, 3,100 households and 16,425 citizens. The full texts of the report on and the methodology of the research are published on the website of the ministry. (Trend)

### Turkmenistan Bypassed: Azerbaijan-Tajikistan Use New Alumina Supply Route

ASHGABAT - An alternative route has been established for the supply of raw materials from Azerbaijan to Tajikistan for the needs of the Tajik Aluminum Company (TALCO), the Tajik Embassy in Azerbaijan told Trend on Oct. 5. This route implies deliveries from Azerbaijan through Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to Tajikistan bypassing Turkmenistan. The transit through Turkmenistan has recently been closed, and trucks with Azerbaijani raw materials have been waiting on the border with Turkmenistan for about 50 days. It should be noted that recently, transit through Turkmenistan has been closed, and

trucks with Azerbaijani raw materials have been idle on the border of Iran with Turkmenistan for about 50 days. A source in the TALCO shared this information with Trend earlier, adding that the parties are looking for alternative ways to supply raw materials from Baku through the ports of Aktau and Kuryk in Kazakhstan. This information has been confirmed in the port of Aktau, which said that the matter is being discussed between Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. "There was a request from the TALCO to KIZ Express [transportation operator] to provide tariffs and confirm the possibility of transshipment of alumina. (Trend)