

Top Saudi Prosecutor Expected in Turkey over Writer's Death

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia's attorney general is scheduled to arrive in Turkey on Sunday to hold talks with investigators looking into the slaying of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi, who was killed in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate earlier this month.

Turkey has said Saudi Arabia's top prosecutor, Saud al-Mojeb, is expected to discuss the latest findings of the investigation with Turkish investigators. There has been no announcement by the Saudis about the visit, which comes just days after CIA director Gina Haspel was in Turkey to review evidence before briefing the U.S. president.

Turkey is seeking the extradition of 18 Saudi suspects de-



tained in the kingdom in connection with the Oct. 2 killing. Saudi Arabia's foreign minister appeared to reject that notion in remarks on Saturday, saying the kingdom would try the perpetrators and bring them

to justice after the investigation is completed.

Some of those implicated in the killing are close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose condemnation of the killing

has failed to ease suspicions that he was involved.

Khashoggi, a onetime Saudi insider and U.S. resident who lived in self-imposed exile for almost a year before his death, had written critically of the crown prince in columns for the Washington Post.

Under mounting international pressure, the kingdom again changed its narrative about Khashoggi's killing, acknowledging in recent days that it was "premeditated," citing information from Turkey as part of a joint investigation. Saudi officials, however, continue to characterize the killing as a rogue operation carried out by agents who exceeded their authority. (AP)

Brazil's Bolsonaro Poised to Win Presidency in Dramatic Swing Right

BRASILIA - Brazilians fed up with corruption and rising crime are expected to elect former army captain turned politician Jair Bolsonaro as their president as voting begins on Sunday in a turbulent swing to the right in the world's fourth largest democracy. Bolsonaro's sudden rise was propelled by rejection of the leftist Workers Party (PT) that ran Brazil for 13 of the last 15 years and was ousted two years ago in the midst of the country's worst recession and biggest graft and bribery scandal.

His leftist rival Fernando Haddad, standing in for the jailed PT founder and former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been trailing Bolsonaro since the first round vote three weeks ago. But final opinion polls on Saturday showing Haddad gaining momentum and endorsements from leading legal figures in Brazil's unprecedented fight against political corruption have raised hopes among his supporters that he can pull off what would be a stunning upset win. (Reuters)

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling coalition faces its second test in as many weeks on Sunday when voters go to the polls in the western state of Hesse for a regional election that could torpedo the national government. Should Merkel's conservative ally in Hesse, Volker Bouffier, lose his post as state premier, the chancellor's enemies will be emboldened ahead of her Christian Democrats' (CDU) party congress in early December and may try to hasten her demise.

Merkel Government Braces for High-Stakes German State Election

The other risk for Merkel is that her SPD coalition partners come third in Hesse, which is home to financial hub Frankfurt. Such an outcome would increase pressure from the SPD's rank-and-file for the party to pull out of the coalition with Merkel in Berlin. A growing swell of SPD members feel their party is tarnished by its alliance with Merkel and would be best to rebuild in opposition - a scenario SPD leader Andreas Nahles has resisted. "It is not advisable for the SPD to act hastily or reck-



lessly," Nahles said ahead of the vote.

Merkel's preferred successor as leader of her conservatives, CDU Secretary General Annegret

Kramp-Karrenbauer, has also warned the SPD that pulling out of the ruling coalition after the Hesse vote would trigger a federal election. (Reuters)

Vatican Meeting Ends with Call for Greater Role for Women in Church



VATICAN CITY - A major meeting of Catholic bishops ended on Saturday with a call for women to play a greater role in Church decision making as a "duty of justice", but

appeared to water down language that would have been more welcoming to gays. The role of women took center stage at the synod, which was focused on

reaching out to young people but has been overshadowed by the scandal over sex abuse in the Church and acrimony between social conservatives and reformers. In a sign of the divisions, the synod used what appeared to be compromise language on the topic of homosexuality, saying people could not be identified solely by sexual orientation. A working paper for the gathering, which began on Oct. 3, had used the acronym LGBT, but this did not appear in the 60-

page final document. The document also called for stricter measures to combat sexual abuse, including more transparency in Church structures, and denounced a culture of elitism among some Church leaders which it said can facilitate cover-up and corruption. All three issues were among the subjects debated at the gathering, officially titled "Young People, Faith and Discernment of Vocation" and attended by some 300 bishops, priests, nuns and lay participants. (Reuters)

Qatar Easing of Foreign Worker Exit System Comes into Force

DOHA - Long-awaited reform of Qatar's controversial exit visa system, which requires foreign workers to obtain their bosses' permission to leave the country, came into force on Sunday, the government said. "Law No. 13 of 2018... regulating the entry, exit and residency of expatriates is being implemented starting today," the interior ministry announced on Twitter. Qatar announced in September it had approved legislation to scrap the visa system --

a lynchpin of the country's "kafala", or sponsorship, system which many liken to modern-day slavery. Under the new law, all but five percent of a company's workforce -- reportedly those in the most senior positions -- can leave without prior permission from employers. Those not allowed to leave Qatar "for any reason" can file a complaint to the Expatriate Exit Grievance Committee that will "take a decision within three working days", the ministry said. (AFP)

Syria Reopens Damascus Antiquities Museum

DAMASCUS - Syria reopened a wing of the capital's famed antiquities museum on Sunday after six years of closure to protect its exhibits from rebel rocket fire in the civil war. Officials swung open the large wooden door of the building in central Damascus for the first time since 2012. On display were "some of the artefacts that used to be exhibited at the National Museum dating... from prehistory to the Islamic era", antiquities official Ahmad Deeb said.

Authorities were working "to prepare the whole museum in the coming period" to be reopened, he said.

The Damascus museum, founded in 1920, was closed one year into the civil war as the then national head of antiquities took action to protect its artefacts from rebel rocket fire or shelling. (AFP)

Healthy China-U.S. Relations Benefit Two Countries, Int'l Society: Chinese Diplomat

HOUSTON - China and the United States should work together to ensure the sustained and healthy development of bilateral relations, Chinese Consul General in Houston Li Qiangmin said Friday night. Delivering a speech at the 12th annual friendship ambassador award gala by the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) Houston Chapter, Li said the sound and steady development of China-U.S. relations serves the fundamental interest of the two peoples and meets the expectation of the international community. (Xinhua)

Mexico Torn between Stoppings, Aiding Migrant Caravan

TAPANATEPEC, Mexico — The Mexican government seems torn between stopping several thousand Central American migrants from traveling toward the U.S. border in a caravan or burnishing its international human rights image.

On Saturday, more than a hundred federal police dressed in riot gear blocked a rural highway in southern Mexico shortly before dawn to encourage the migrants to apply for refugee status in Mexico rather than continuing the long, arduous journey north. U.S. President Donald Trump has urged Mexico to prevent the caravan from reaching the border.



Police let the caravan proceed after representatives from Mexico's National Human Rights Commission convinced them that a rural stretch of highway without shade, toilets or water was no place for migrants to entertain an offer of asylum. Many members of the caravan have been travelling for more than two weeks, since a group first formed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Not long after the caravan resumed the trek north Saturday, government officials were seen for the first time directly helping the migrants by giving rides in trucks and providing water along the scorching highway. (AP)

Sri Lanka's Crisis Deepens as President Suspends Parliament

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's president suspended Parliament even as the prime minister he fired the previous day claimed he has majority support, adding to a growing political crisis in the South Asian island nation. Chaminda Gamage, a spokesman for the parliamentary speaker, confirmed that President Maithripala Sirisena had suspended Parliament until Nov. 16. He

made the move while ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was holding a news conference Saturday in which he asserted that he could prove his majority support in the chamber. Sirisena sacked Wickremesinghe and his Cabinet on Friday and replaced him with former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa, creating what some observers said could be a constitutional crisis. (AP)

Germany's Hesse Kicks Off Crucial State Election

BERLIN - Germany's southwestern state of Hesse on Sunday kicks off a crucial state election, which may further shake the already fragile federal government in Berlin. Some 4.4 million eligible voters are to elect a new state parliament and a preliminary result will be released at 6 p.m. local time (1700 GMT).

The regional election for the state which hubs Germany's financial center Frankfurt am Main, is closely watched and stylized into a test for the governing parties at the federal level.

In the latest poll on Hessian voter preference made by Infratest Dimap, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) both suffered a severe setback.

The CDU gained 26 percent, a sharp decline from the 38.3 percent five years ago, and the SPD at 21 percent, also down from 30.7 percent, according to the polls. Some analysts forecast that CDU will have to draw another party to the current CDU and Green alliance state government in order to secure a majority, which means that the CDU's influence will be further diluted and the CDU's state premier Volker Bouffier, seen as a close ally of Merkel, will possibly be replaced.

The regional vote could also push the German federal government into a fresh crisis. Local media reported that Merkel is gradually losing grip of her own party and the possible failure in Hesse could be another hit for her, which may influence her reappointment as the CDU leader at the party congress set in the coming December. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Iran's Khamenei Calls for Fight against Enemy 'Infiltration'

TEHRAN - Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Sunday for the stepping up of efforts to fight enemy "infiltration" in a speech to officials in charge of cyber defense, state television reported.

"In the face of the enemy's complex practices, our civil defense should ... confront infiltration through scientific, accurate, and up-to-date ... action," Ayatollah

Khamenei told civil defense officials, who are in charge of areas including cyber defense. The television report did not give details of the "infiltration" Khamenei was referring to. Iranian officials have long warned about Western cultural influences through entertainment, social media and the Internet as a threat against Islamic and revolutionary values. (Reuters)

Pakistan's Agri Sector to Invigorate under CPEC

ISLAMABAD - The recent inclusion of agriculture sector in the Long Term Plan of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provides Pakistan an opportunity to significantly reduce its huge trade deficit of around US\$9 billion with China by exporting more value added agriculture products to China to tap its growing demand of food commodities.

Under the project, China would transfer its technology to Pakistan to increase per acre yield of various crops, and to add more value to the agriculture products.

The CPEC long term plan envisages significant development of the agriculture sector of Pakistan - an often-overlooked area amidst the developments be-

ing made in the energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors of the country, said an annual report "State of Economic 2017-18" launched by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Pakistan can enhance its exports through various CPEC initiatives and by tapping into the growing import dependence of China.

In agriculture sector, out of China's global food imports of around \$99.6 billion, Pakistan's share is only around 0.37 percent (roughly \$ 0.4 billion).

According to the report, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), in its 2018 Food Security Policy, envisages the development of nine agricultural development zones along the CPEC. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran: US 'Lying To The World', Unable to Halt Our Oil Exports

TEHRAN - Iran's First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri's remarks on Sunday come ahead of the looming US sanctions on Tehran's oil sector, set to go into effect on November 4. Iran's First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri said on Sunday that the United States could not halt the export of Iranian oil, since there is no substitution for it on the market.

He also said that Tehran has been exporting 2.5 million barrels of oil per day over the past several months, IRNA news agency re-

ported. Jahangiri further stated that Tehran expected that the US would not reduce the country's oil exports to the level of less than one million barrels a day. In a June tweet Trump wrote that he had spoken to the Saudi King about the need to increase Riyadh's daily oil production to two million barrels due to an unstable situation in Iran and Venezuela and added that King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud had agreed with the suggestion. (Agencies)

Turkmenistan Makes Personnel Appointments in Banking, Financial Sector

ASHGABAT - President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has made a number of personnel appointments in the financial and banking sector.

Silap Velbegov has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. (Trend)

Uzbekistan, Russia Sign 3 Agreements in Textiles, Garments

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan and Russia signed three agreements at the textile forum held within the First Forum of Interregional Cooperation between the two sides recently. The Uztextileprom Association and the government of the latter's Ivanovo region signed an agreement to expand cooperation between enterprises in the textile, garment and hosiery sectors. Uztextileprom and Business Russia also

concluded a similar agreement, according to Uzbek media reports. The total investment attracted by Uzbekistan in export supplies will exceed \$15 million. The Agency for Advertising and Marketing of Textile Products under Uztextileprom and Samara Textile Company LLC signed the third agreement to facilitate ties during the implementation of export deliveries and the attraction of investments. (Agencies)