

World Leaders Pay Tribute to France's Former President Jacques Chirac

PARIS - A funeral service for France's former president Jacques Chirac, who died last week aged 86, is being held at the Saint-Sulpice church in central Paris as France holds a national day of mourning for its president who served from 1995-2007.

Many world leaders are attending alongside current French president Emmanuel Macron to pay their respects, including former US president Bill Clinton and Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Thousands of people queued to view the coffin yesterday and thousands of tributes have poured out across the world for Chirac, whose high-profile political



career spanned four decades. He was president for 12 years from 1995 to 2007.

But questions have also resurfaced surrounding how much Chirac actually achieved during his

lengthy spell in office, as well as discussion surrounding his 2011 conviction for graft when he was mayor of Paris.

Despite this, in a recent poll in Le Journal du

Dimanche the French voted him the best president of the modern era, alongside Charles de Gaulle, with Chirac's opposition of the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq considered his greatest political achievement.

National mourning for Chirac will continue throughout Wednesday and stretch as far as Japan, where the French rugby team will don black armbands in a sign of mourning for Chirac when they play the United States for their World Cup game in Fukuoka.

There is a private service for family members at Les Invalides and then Chirac's coffin will be driven under military escort through the ...**(More on P4)...(13)**

Neighbor News

Pakistan to Invite Manmohan Singh to Kartarpur Corridor Inauguration

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday announced that Pakistan has decided to extend an invitation to former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh for the inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor, which is scheduled to be opened in November.

"Kartarpur corridor is an important project, the prime minister has a personal interest in it," said Qureshi in a video message. "After consultations, Pakistan has decided to invite Manmohan Singh to the inauguration, who we hold in high regard. He will represent the Sikh community."

"On behalf of the government, as the foreign

minister of Pakistan, I invite him to attend the inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor," said Qureshi, adding that the government also intends to send Singh a formal written invitation.

The foreign minister also invited Sikh pilgrims in his message, saying: "We also await the Sikh yatris [...] to come and take part in the 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak." Earlier this month, Pakistani project director Atif Majeed had said the visa-free border crossing from India to Kartarpur, Pakistan, would be inaugurated on Nov 9, just ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Baba Guru Nanak on Nov 12. (Agencies)

2020 Olympics Radiationgate? Tokyo Posts Daily Updates on S. Korea & Japan Radiation Levels after Seoul Critics' Claims

SEOUL - The Japanese Embassy in Seoul is now posting daily updates on radiation levels in Japan and South Korea. It comes after Korean civil groups and officials suggested Japan may be unsafe for athletes competing in the 2020 Olympics. The updates are published on the embassy's website and show readings in the capitals of the two nations, as well as in Fukushima city and Iwaki, the capital and a large city in the Fukushima prefecture.

Fukushima was the scene of the world's second-worst nuclear incident in 2011 after a powerful quake and tsunami damaged a nuclear power plant, causing reactor meltdown. "The Japanese government intends to continue providing accurate information based on scientific evidence, and to communicate carefully and transparently," the website said. "We hope that the Korean people will better understand Japan's radiation levels." (RT)

Xi Focus: Xi Jinping and China's New Era

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping will take his place on Tian'anmen Rostrum on Tuesday at a grand celebration marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

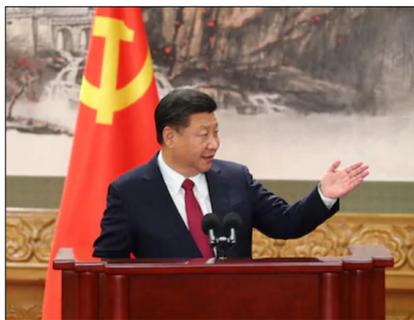
It was there on Oct. 1, 1949 that Mao Zedong announced the birth of New China. Over the seven decades, the socialist country has blazed an extraordinary trail, rising from a "poor and blank" state to a major country on the world stage.

Xi, the first top Chinese leader born after 1949, is at the helm in a new era, steering the country through wind and waves to a brighter future.

INTO NEW ERA

Xi was elected general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Nov. 15, 2012.

The world at that time was transforming. The impact of the 2008 global financial crisis still lingered. Emerging economies were rising. And China, after overtaking



Japan as the second-largest economy, had entered a critical period in its modernization. Two weeks later, Xi proposed the "Chinese Dream" of national rejuvenation. Soon after assuming the ...**(More on P4)...(14)**

Erdogan: Khashoggi Murder is Most Controversial Event in 21st Century, Apart from 9/11



ISTANBUL - Turkey has vowed to continue its efforts to shed light on the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, with its president calling it the

most controversial event of the 21st century after the 9/11 attacks.

In an article in the Washington Post earlier today, President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey will proceed with its investigation into the murder and its search for Khashoggi's remains, as well as for those responsible.

Throughout the article, Erdogan outlined the numerous questions that are still left unanswered about the details in the investigation, particularly the court proceedings in Saudi Arabia which has been held responsible for ordering the murder in October last year. "The near-complete lack of

transparency surrounding the trial, the lack of public access to hearings and the allegation that some of Khashoggi's murderers enjoy de facto freedom fail to meet the international community's expectations and tarnish the image of Saudi Arabia," stated Erdogan. This is "something that Turkey, as its friend and ally, does not desire."

Erdogan also emphasised the seriousness of the matter, the extent to which it has affected ...**(More on P4)...(15)**

Houthis Announce Release of 350 Prisoners

YEMEN - Houthi rebels have announced the unconditional release of 350 prisoners, including three Saudi Arabians, days after the Yemeni group claimed to have captured thousands of Saudi troops following an incursion into Saudi Arabia, according to Houthi-run Al Masirah TV.

A statement by the Houthi National Committee for Prisoners' Affairs (NCPA) carried by Al Masirah TV said the individuals were on the list of persons drawn up as part of the

prisoner exchange deal agreed in Stockholm in December.

The United Nations-brokered prisoner swap, one of the three pillars of the breakthrough deal, involving some 7,000 detainees on each side had stalled as the two sides - the Houthis and the Yemeni government - struggled to agree on its implementation. "We decided to release 350 prisoners because nothing from Sweden agreement have been achieved. (ALJAZEERA)

Kazakhstan Appoints New Ambassador to Azerbaijan



NUR-SULTAN - By the decree of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Serzhan Abdykarimov has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Trend reports with reference to the press office of the embassy.

According to the decree, Serzhan Abdykarimov has been relieved of his duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Czech Republic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Slovak Republic concurrently.

Diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan were established on August 27, 1992. On December 16, 1994, the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Azerbaijan was opened in Baku. Since March 2004, the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Kazakhstan has been operating in the city of Nur-Sultan. (Trend)

'Arrest for Treason?' Trump Blasts Adam Schiff Again for 'FAKE & Terrible' Statement on Ukraine Call

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump has suggested that House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Schiff should be arrested for "treason" for reading a "fake" statement about his call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump blasted Schiff amid a fresh batch of tweets early Monday, saying that he "illegally made up a FAKE & terrible" statement, pretending it was the words the US president had said on his controversial call with Zelensky. Schiff read his own "parody" interpretation of the call during a congressional hearing last week, prompting outrage from the



president and other Republicans. "It bore NO relationship to what I said on the call. Arrest for Treason?" Trump wrote.

The latter previously tweeted that Schiff should be investigated "at the highest level" and said he deserved a chance to "meet his accuser."

Democrats have accused Trump of pressuring the Ukrainian leader to investigate former VP Joe Biden after

he allegedly interfered in a corruption investigation into a Ukrainian company that his son Hunter worked for.

Schiff has been known to dramatize Trump's alleged wrongdoings, even claiming during the years-long Russia-gate investigation that he had personally seen evidence that the president had "colluded" with Russia to win the 2016 election.

The Russia-gate ...**(More on P4)...(16)**

Belt and Road Initiative Will Continue to Drive Global Economy: Malaysian Official

KUALA LUMPUR - The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will continue to be key economic driver with the expected global economic slowdown, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Ong Kian Ming said on Monday.

Speaking at the World Bank's launch of a report on BRI in Malaysia, Ong explained the ongoing U.S.-China trade tensions would move China to seek new markets.

"This could have positive consequences from a global trade and investment standpoint, especially with the predicted slowdown in the global economy. China will want to seek new markets, new economic opportunities and new supply chains for its companies," he said.

Ong also said there is a need for countries participating in the BRI to gain a greater understanding of the initiative and to identify and benefit from the opportunities presented by it as it goes beyond just the scope of infrastructure development.

"The common understanding of BRI projects have to do with the infrastructure sector - roads, rails, ports and energy. But these projects also pave the way for other investments from Chinese companies, for example state owned-enterprises in the manufacturing sector as well as privately owned-enterprises in the services and construction sector, just to give a few examples," he said. (Xinhua)

Syria, Iraq Open Key Border Crossing

Damascus - An Iraqi vehicle is seen at the Bukamal-Qaim border crossing between Syria and Iraq on Sept. 30, 2019. The Bukamal-Qaim border crossing between Syria and Iraq, which connects the town of Al-Bukamal in Syria's eastern province of

Deir al-Zour to the city of Husaybah, in the Al-Qaim District of Iraq's Anbar Governorate, was reopened on Monday for the first time since its closure in 2014 when Islamic State (IS) militants captured areas on both sides of the border. (Xinhua)

US Dollar Growing in Uzbekistan; Euro, Pound Falling

TASHKENT - The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has set new foreign exchange rates for the soum that will come into force on Oct. 1, Trend reports citing the Uzbek media.

The US dollar is growing in Uzbekistan, while the single European currency continues to lose ground.

The American currency went up by 22.11 soums up to 9446.65 soums. Euro weakened by 50.17 soums. From October 1, it will cost 10,332.75 soums. The

Russian ruble fell by one soum to 146 soums. The British pound also fell significantly in price by 150 soums to 11,608.04 soums.

The Uzbek currency began to rapidly depreciate in early August. In a few days, it fell by more than 10 percent against the dollar.

From August 20, commercial banks of Uzbekistan began to sell cash foreign currency. For the first day alone, Uzbeks bought up \$10 million in currencies. (Trend)

Turkmenistan Mulls Co-Op with UAE, Oman & Bahrain

ASHGABAT - Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov met in New York with the foreign ministers of the UAE, Oman and Bahrain, Trend reports citing the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

The meetings were held within the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

During the negotiations with the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the importance of developing trade and economic relations was emphasized. The parties touched on the issue of cooperation within the World Exhibition Expo 2020, which will be held in Dubai, the report said.

At the meeting with Omani Foreign Min-

ister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, a discussion was held on cooperation in the field of oil and gas chemistry and the further development of the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman transport corridor.

During negotiations with Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the sides talked about the implementation of the agreements reached at the meeting of the president of Turkmenistan with the King of Bahrain in March this year.

Among the Arab countries, the United Arab Emirates actively operate in the Turkmen market, especially in the fuel and energy sector. (Trend)