

Russia, Iran, Turkey to Have Meeting on Syria in Nur-Sultan Soon

NUR-SULTAN - The Astana process guarantor nations, namely Russia, Iran and Turkey, will organize a high-level meeting on Syrian settlement in the Kazakh capital city Nur-Sultan soon, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin said on Monday, Trend reports citing TASS.

"The practice of international high-level meetings on Syria in the Astana format will be continued," he said. "The next such meeting will be held in the Kazakh capital in the near future."

The Russian senior diplomat called for a broad international support to Syria's constitutional com-



mittee. "We believe that all of us must be very careful about this intra-Syrian dialogue that is to begin in Geneva in late October," he stressed.

He warned against "attempts to interfere into the intra-Syrian dialogue and impose scenarios that are incompatible with their cultural, religious and ethnic traditions."

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen told the Security Council that the constitutional committee comprised of 150 nominees from the Syrian government, opposition and civil society would gather for its first meeting in Geneva on October 30.

Earlier, he said in an interview with TASS that representatives from the countries of both Astana format and the Small Group format (the United Kingdom, Germany, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and France) had been invited to the committee's first meeting. (Trend)

North Korea and US to Hold Working-Level Talks on October 5: KCNA

SEOUL - North Korea and the United States have agreed to hold working-level talks on Oct. 5, North Korea's state news agency KCNA said on Tuesday, a development that would break months of stalemate since a failed summit in February. Talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes have been stalled in a holding pattern since the second summit between U.S. President

Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam ended without a deal. The two leaders had agreed to restart working-level talks at a surprise meeting at the heavily-guarded border between the two Koreas in June, but the outcome remained uncertain as North Korea repeatedly launched short-range ballistic missiles and often criticised the United States for continuing joint military ... (More on P4)...(13)

Saudi Multi-Million Company Interested in Projects in Kazakhstan

NUR-SULTAN - Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Saudi Arabia Berik Aryn and Chairman of the Zamil Group Holding Company Abdullah Al Zamil discussed issues of cooperation in Kazakhstan, Trend reports with reference to the press office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

The sides discussed issues related to step up cooperation between Kazakhstan and the holding, as well as the investment opportuni-

ties in Kazakhstan. Kazakh diplomat briefed Chairman about national legislation in the field of protection of foreign investments and presented some priority investment project in Kazakhstan.

Zamil Group Holding Company was founded by the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hamad Al Zamil as a trading entity selling food items and textiles in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the 1930s. Today Zamil Group is a renowned and internationally respected, mul-



ti-million dollar global investment company known for its diversified industrial operations and commercial inter-

Iran's Top General Says Wiping Israel Off Map is an 'Achievable Goal'



TEHRAN - Hossein Salami, deputy head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, speaking during Tehran's Friday prayers.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander on Monday said that wiping Israel off the map is now an "achievable goal"

thanks to the country's technological advances. Gen. Hossein Salami's comments, delivered before an audience of IRGC leaders, were carried by multiple news outlets, including the state-funded IRNA agency.

"This sinister regime must be wiped off the map and this is no longer ... a dream (but) it is an achievable goal," Salami said.

He added that the country has "managed to obtain the capacity to destroy the imposter

Zionist regime," four decades after the Iranian Revolution.

"The second step of the revolution is the step that rearranges the constellation of power in favor of the revolution. Iran's Islamic evolution will be on top of this constellation," Salami said, adding, "In the second step, we will be thinking of the global mobilization of Islam." Salami's incendiary comments come amid heightened tensions between Tehran and ... (More on P4)...(11)

Roundup: Egypt Displays 2,100-Year-Old Looted Coffin Returned from New York

WASHINGTON - A gilded coffin that dated back to the Ptolemaic dynasty, dissolved in 50 B.C., was displayed on Tuesday in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Cairo's Fustat district. The coffin of Nefertiti, an ancient Egyptian priest, was returned to Egypt on Wednesday after it was determined to be a looted antiquity, said Egyptian Minister of Antiquities, Khaled al-Anany in a press

conference.

The coffin was featured at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art after being bought from a Paris art dealer in 2017 for about four million U.S. dollars.

It was removed in February. The Met has apologized to Egypt. The coffin was smuggled by fraudulent documents including a forged 1971 Egyptian export license, Anany said. ... (More on P4)...(14)

Thai Shippers Association Slashes Annual Export Growth Forecast

BANGKOK - The Thai National Shippers Council (TNSC) on Tuesday released its latest forecast report, indicating a trim in its annual export growth forecast to -1.5 percent from -1 percent in July.

However, the TNSC forecasts the Thai economy to grow by zero to 1 percent in the year 2020.

In August, overall imports fell by 14.6 percent to 19.9 billion U.S. dollars, yielding a trade surplus of 2.05 billion U.S. dollars.

For the first eight months, exports fell by 2.2 percent year-on-year to 166 billion U.S. dollars, with imports down 3.6 percent at 160 billion dollars, for a surplus of 6.10 billion dollars. (Xinhua)

7 Killed in Rain-Triggered Accidents in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Seven people were killed and 11 others injured in separate incidents of roof collapse due to torrential rains in Pakistan's east Punjab and northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces on Tuesday, local reports said. Two people were killed and seven others injured when a residential building collapsed in Lahore, the capital city of Punjab, Samaa News reported, adding that at least four people were still trapped in the debris.

Local authorities, who visited the site following the incident, told media that the building was in a dilapidated condition, and they had time and again issued advisory to vacate it, foreseeing the unlucky incident that ... (More on P4)...(15)

France Backs Russia's Presence at European Human Rights Body

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron has strongly advocated for Russia's presence at the Council of Europe, the continent's key human rights organization, despite its 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine.

In an address Tuesday to the Strasbourg, France-based body's assembly, Macron stressed it "allows Russian citizens to defend their rights at the European Court (of Human Rights) against their government."

The Council of Europe, made up of 47 countries, allowed Russia to start



voting again this year, five years after its rights were suspended over its annexation of Crimea.

Macron also met with Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov, who was freed after five years in a

Russian prison last month following a prisoner exchange between those two countries. (ABC news)

Finland School Attack: One Dead and 10 Injured after 'Violent Incident' in Kuopio Shopping Centre

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

NEW DELHI - India's car manufacturer Maruti Suzuki has reported a decline in sales by over 26 percent on year in September, company's statement said on Tuesday.

The company sold 110,454 domestic passenger vehicles (PVs) in September, as compared to 151,512 PVs in September 2018.

In all, the company sold 112,500 vehicles, including commercial vehicles in September ... (More on P4)...(16)

Neighbor News

Iran Beaten by Russia at FIVB World Cup

TEHRAN - Iran national volleyball team lost to Russia 25-21, 25-18, 24-26, 25-22 at the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Men's World Cup on Tuesday, Tehran Times daily reported. The game was played at the White Ring Hall in Japan's Nagano.

Yaroslav Podlesnykh led the Russian team with 18 points and Milad Ebadipour scored 18 points for Iran. Iran will meet Egypt on Wednesday. Japan hosts this event for the 20th consecutive time since 1977. (Xinhua)

Turkmenistan, Austria to Hold Joint Business Forum

ASHGABAT - A meeting with trade adviser to the Austrian embassy (residence in Kazakhstan's Nur-Sultan) Rudolf Thaler was held at the Turkmen Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs on Oct. 1, Trend reports referring to the Union.

During the meeting, issues of organizing a joint business forum in Ashgabat in December were discussed. Thaler stood for the intensification of trade and economic cooperation. The agricultural industry, the use of high technologies and the creation of capacities for the processing of natural resources were named among the most promising spheres.

Chairman of the Union Alexander Dadayev stressed the dynamics of the dialogue between business circles of the two countries. The partnership in the field of animal husbandry, as well as the work of the trade office of the Union in Austria were mentioned as an example.

The plans for the implementation of joint tourism projects were dis-

cussed at the meeting. Thaler was informed about the main economic indicators of the Union and the export potential of Turkmen entrepreneurs.

Such companies as WOMA GmbH, Schöeller Bleckmann AG, Unger Stahlbau GmbH, Schrack Seconet AG, Oswelt GmbH, AME International, Landhof, Schlafhorst, Trutzschler, Uster, Strabag SE show interest in Turkmenistan. Austria is exploring local projects in the field of agricultural processing and food production.

The possibility of Austria's participation in the projects for the construction of livestock complexes in Turkmenistan, the supply of equipment for the production of meat and dairy products is being considered.

The negotiations on establishing business contacts between the Turkmen joint-stock commercial bank Rysgal and Raiffeisen Bank International, the Austrian leading corporate and investment bank are being held. (Trend)

Eight Killed in Rain, Flood Related Incidents in KP

ISLAMABAD - Eight people were killed and four injured in rain and flood related incidents in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a report quoting Rescue 1122, five people died and four wounded when

the roof of their houses collapsed in Mardan. In another incident, three children were washed away by a flashflood in Maidan area of District Lower Dir. The flood also damaged crops in the area. (Agencies)

President of Uzbekistan to Visit Russia in February 2020

TASHKENT - President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev will visit Russia in February 2020, as stated by First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Uzbekistan Sadyk Safaev at the fourth meeting of the Russian-Uzbek Business Council, Trend reports citing Uzbek media.

The event was held as part of a visit of Chairperson of the Federation Council of Russia Valentina Matvienko to Uzbekistan.

"I am sure that the upcoming visit of Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Russia at the beginning of next

year will be another step in strengthening our ties," Safaev said at the opening of the meeting.

The first vice speaker noted that relations with Russia are the primary foreign policy task of Uzbekistan.

As expected, during the visit of Matvienko, a memorandum of cooperation between the Institute of Legislation and Parliamentary Studies under the Parliament of Uzbekistan and the Analytical Legal Department of the Office of Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia will be signed. (Trend)

Imran Takes Notice of Delayed Petitions with Public Entities

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday took notice of delay in service delivery by public entities and directed the relevant ministries and divisions to dispose of applications and petitions by citizens within four weeks.

According to a notification issued by prime minister's secretary, the prime minister in order to build the public confidence on government

functionaries, desired that all tiers must work out minimum timelines for case processing and display the same at their websites and notice boards within ten days.

The notice was taken in view of several applications, petitions and references from citizens received by the ministries, divisions and provincial governments, which were either... (More on P4)...(17)