

Trump Accuses U.S. Justice Dept. of Protecting Clinton in Email Probe

WASHINGTON - Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Saturday accused the U.S. Justice Department of protecting his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in her email probe.

"The Department of Justice (DOJ) is trying so hard to protect Hillary," said Trump at a rally in Colorado over media reports that DOJ had warned the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) against announcing less than two weeks before the Election Day the finding of new emails that appeared to be linked to the FBI's Clinton email probe completed in July.



According to the U.S. daily The Hill which cited U.S. government sources, the DOJ did not agree with FBI Director James Comey's decision to inform the Congress of the existence of possibly new

emails linked to Clinton's email probe at the moment.

"The AG's (attorney general) position is consistent with the department's position not to take investigative steps that would influence an election so close to an election and to not comment on ongoing investigations," the official told The Hill.

"Director Comey decided to operate independently of that guidance by sending that letter to the Hill," the official added.

Comey said in a letter sent to the U.S. Congress on Friday that new emails had emerged recently that ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Australian Govt. Plans Lifetime Ban for Illegal Asylum Seekers

CANBERRA - Asylum seekers who use people smugglers to illegally come to Australia by boat will be given a lifetime ban from entering the country, under a government plan set to be put to Parliament next week. Even if they are found to be legitimate refugees, those who employ the use of illegal people smugglers to make their way to Australia will never be allowed into the country, even as a tourist. According to the government, the lifetime ban

will extend to those who have been sent to Australian detention centers on Nauru or Manus Island since July 19, 2013, however the laws will not affect children.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the law was a follow-up to former Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's pledge in July 2013 that any asylum seeker who comes to Australia by boat without



a visa would "never be settled in Australia". "They must know that the door to Australia is closed to those who seek to come

here by boat with a people smuggler," he told the press on Sunday. Foreign Minister Julie ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Saudi-Led Airstrikes Kill 60 Prisoners in Yemen Red Sea City

SANAA - At least 60 prisoners were killed and 38 others injured when Saudi-led airstrikes hit a prison in Yemeni Red Sea port city of al-Hodayda on Sunday morning, medics, residents and Houthi-controlled state Saba news agency said.

The targeted prison, located in al-Zaydiya district of al-Hodayda, was bombed to the ground in a series of airstrikes that began at dawn and lasted hours, said the source.

Medics told Xinhua that the death toll reached to

60 and 38 injured. Saba news agency later confirmed the toll on its Arabic and English website. Rescue teams were still searching on the site. Meanwhile, the Health Office of AL-Hodayda sent an emergency call to people to donate blood to save the injured.

It was the latest in a series of airstrikes that targeted civilians in Yemen since the war began in March last year.

On Saturday, the coalition warplanes killed a total...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Brexit Biggest Opportunity in Decades: Northern Ireland First Minister

LONDON - Northern Ireland First Minister Arlene Foster told the annual conference of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Saturday that Brexit represents the biggest opportunity in decades. Making her first keynote speech as leader of the DUP, Foster told delegates: "I respect those who believed that the United Kingdom's best interests were served by remaining within the European Union, but I have no time for those

who want to refight the referendum. That debate is over."

"Rather than talking up the challenges, we should be looking towards the opportunities. Brexit represents the biggest economic opportunity for this country in decades," Foster told the conference in Belfast. She said the DUP had stood shoulder to shoulder with those who wanted the British people to take back control of their futures.

"I...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Syrian Airstrikes on Aleppo Amid Intense Clashes

BEIRUT - Syrian government forces launched a counteroffensive Saturday under the cover of airstrikes in an attempt to regain control of areas they had lost to insurgents the day before in the northern city of Aleppo, activists and state media said. Meanwhile, insurgents launched a fresh offensive on the city, a day after embarking on a broad ground attack aimed at breaking a weeks-long government siege on the eastern rebel-held neighborhoods of Syria's largest city. The insurgents were able

to capture much of the western neighborhood of Assad where much of Saturday's fighting was concentrated, according to the Syrian army and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory said the new offensive by Syrian troops and their allies went under the cover of Russian and Syrian airstrikes but government forces did not

succeed in regaining control of areas they lost. The group said the fighting and airstrikes are mostly on Aleppo's western and

southern edges. The Syrian army command said troops and their allies are pounding ...*(More on P4)...(22)*



Former Leader of Spanish Socialist Party Resigns as MP

MADRID - Former leader of Spain's Socialist Party, Pedro Sanchez, resigned on Saturday as member of the parliament hours before investiture vote.

The investiture vote on Saturday evening would allow People's Party leader Mariano Rajoy to be prime minister, due to the abstention of the Socialists, a decision made in a Federal Committee last Sunday.

Sanchez said his reasons to resign were clearly known. "I deeply disagree with allowing Mariano Rajoy to govern. Like many socialists, I maintain a firm, clear 'no'," he said. He said it was a difficult decision, but emphasized that he would not leave politics and wanted to be a member of the Socialist party ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Eight Al-Shabaab Militants, four Soldiers Die in Fierce Gun Battle

MOGADISHU - Eight Al-Shabaab militants and four soldiers died following a fierce gun battle near Baidoa town in southwest Somalia, government officials confirmed to Xinhua on Sunday.

Information Minister for Southwest State in Somalia, Ugaas Hassan, said the Al-Shabaab militants had ambushed a military base when soldiers allied to Somalia National Army killed them.

"The Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a military base near Baidoa and eight of them died during a gun battle with soldiers. We lost four soldiers," said Hassan. He denied claims by Al-Shabaab militants that they captured a government controlled territory in southwest Somalia. (Xinhua)

Turkey Dismisses over 10,000 Civil Servants

ANKARA - A total of 10,131 civil servants were dismissed and 15 media outlets were closed according to a new legislative decree in Turkey, reported the state-run Anadolu Agency on Sunday.

According to the decree published in the official gazette on Saturday, members of "terrorist organizations or groups involved in activities against the country's national security or those in contact with terrorist organizations or groups" were dismissed. Some 32 parliamentary officials, 183 members of the Court of Cassation, 249 members of the Di-



rectorate of Religious Affairs, 2,534 members of the Justice Ministry, 102 members of the Foreign Ministry, 2,219 members of the Education Ministry, 2,774 members of the Health Ministry and 101 members of the Turkish Armed Forces were removed from their posts. In addition, 1,267 academics were also dismissed as per the new decree, including several from prestigious universities. At least 1,082 police officers, including former officers and retired ones, were dismissed and stripped of their ranks in line with the decree due to ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

ISIS Defeats Cause Collapse of Online Propaganda

DAMASCUS - Military advances against territory held by the Islamic State group (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria have produced a welcome byproduct: a marked decline by 70 to 80 percent in the output of social media propaganda by the group.

ISIS fighters were recently chased out of the Syrian village of Dabiq by Syrian rebel forces without offering much resistance (despite Dabiq's apocalyptic symbolic significance in ISIS lore), and the battle of Mosul has begun as Kurdish, Iraqi and

U.S. forces tighten the noose around ISIS's largest stronghold.

A new report by West Point's Combating Terrorism Center, "Communication Breakdown: Unraveling the Islamic State's Media Efforts," describes in detail the impact of military action on ISIS's capacity to wage ideological warfare. Promising the coming of the caliphate and portraying the Islamic State as utopian reality about to happen has become all but impossible. Not only that, but ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Washington's Anxieties in Asia-Pacific Region

BEIJING - In recent days, Washington seems to be agonizing over the colorful rhetoric of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, while its "pivot to Asia" policy faces even more uncertainties.

The United States believes that it has some sort of natural rights to write what outgoing President Barack Obama called "the rules of the road" for the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, it wants all nations in the region to observe that same playbook.

Yet without obedient partnerships underpinned by strong economic, military and security cooperation, America's such geopolitical arrangement could go nowhere.

In recent months, Washington has been troubled by a sense of worry.

Since Duterte took office in late June, the new leader in Manila has kept flashing out signals that have perplexed the Americans, if not enraging them. Perhaps the U.S. leaders have now begun to miss the "good old days" when former Philippine President Benigno Aquino III was in power.

Now that the Philippines has vowed to send all foreign troops home, including the U.S. forces stationed in the Southeastern Asian country, many are wondering how far Manila would go to push forward its independent foreign policy. While the Philippines seems to be pivoting away, the bleak picture for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact has also raised qualms of America's allies in the region about Washington's determination and ability to close the deal. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Pervaiz Rasheed Did Not Make Any Attempt to Stop Dawn's Story: Nisar

ISLAMABAD - In a press conference held to shed light on the reasons behind Pervaiz Rasheed's dismissal from office as information minister, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar on Sunday said Rasheed should not have let Dawn's story go into print. A day after Pervaiz Rasheed was asked to step down from his post as information minister during a probe into Dawn's story on a high-level meeting, Nisar said, "Some documented and undocumented records involving Pervaiz Rasheed say the reporter contacted him for comments about a story regarding [Punjab Chief Minister] Shahbaz Sharif and the ISI chief."

"Pervaiz Rasheed called the reporter into his office. Through my entire

investigation... I reached the conclusion that Pervaiz Rasheed should have told the reporter that this story is wrong. 'Do not publish this story in view of national interest', Nisar said.

"He should have spoken to [Dawn Editor] Zaffar Abbas, Dawn's management or the government. So there is a lapse. He had a duty as information minister when these decisions [his resignation] were made... He should have understood the implications of the story and stopped it." Nisar maintained that all information given to Dawn about an altercation between Shahbaz Sharif and the ISI chief, or the foreign secretary's comments that Pakistan stands isolated in the world are all false. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Most Powerful State in Middle East: Zarif

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the Islamic Republic is the most powerful state in the Middle East region through reliance on the high values and genuine principles of the Islamic Revolution.

The ongoing international developments have created an outstanding position for Iran, Zarif said in an address to a conference featuring the country's military attaches as well as defense and police representatives of the Armed Forces in Tehran on Sunday.

As the topmost power in the region, Iran has an

undeniable influence on the recent developments in the region and across the world, he said, adding that Iran's power can at the current juncture be transformed into an institutionalized and long-term influence and power on the international scene. The top Iranian diplomat added that the country is currently at a tense, sensitive and decisive period, stressing the importance of remaining vigilant, identifying threats and relying on domestic capabilities, including the country's military and economic potential, as well as the Islamic principles. (Presstv)

Tajikistan Starts Building World's Tallest Dam for Hydro Plant

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan on Saturday diverted the flow of a major river to start building the world's tallest dam and the main element of the Rogun hydroelectric power plant, a \$3.9 billion project which Dushanbe hopes will secure its energy independence.

The Central Asian nation which borders Afghanistan lacks hydrocarbon resources and relies heavily on hydroelectric power, although its neighbours downstream complain that this disrupts their traditional agricultural works.

President Inomali Rakhmonov's office said in a statement he attended Saturday's ceremony at

which explosions were used to block the main riverbed of the Vakhsh river, paving way for the construction of a 335-metre dam for which Italy's Salini Impregilo this year won a \$3.9 billion contract.

Uzbekistan, another former Soviet republic and Central Asia's most populous nation of 30 million, has repeatedly urged Tajikistan not to build Rogun. In order to power the hydro plants, Tajikistan needs to accumulate water during the summer - when it is needed downstream for irrigation - and then release it in the winter, causing spring floods downstream. (Reuters)

US Leadership Interested in Development of Ties with Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - The US leadership is interested in consistent and stable development of multifaceted relations with Uzbekistan, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon, who is on a visit to Uzbekistan, said. Shannon made remarks at the meeting with Uzbek acting president Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Uzbek national news agency (UzA) reported.

During the meeting, Mirziyoyev and Shannon stressed the successful development and strengthening of the Uzbekistan-US relations based on principles of mutual respect and trust, the message said. According to the message, Mirziyoyev and Shannon highly ap-

preciated the level of mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investments and high technologies.

The purposeful activity of the American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce contributes to the development and expansion of full-scale economic cooperation, the message said. The US and Uzbekistan exchange views on a wide range of issues on the bilateral agenda, including security and stability in Central Asia, as part of the annual political consultations. Special attention is paid to the processes of peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan and assistance in the social-economic recovery of this country. (Trend)