

Poland Wants Sanctions against Russia over Crimea to Continue

WARSAW - President Andrzej Duda said on Saturday that Poland saw a need to maintain Western sanctions against Russia over its 2014 annexation of the Crimea region from Ukraine. He also said Ukraine should have closer relations with the European Union and the NATO military alliance. The EU and the United States have both imposed sanctions on Russia over its role in the Ukraine conflict. U.S. President Donald Trump has said it would be appropriate to have Russia rejoin what used to be the G8 group of advanced economies, from which Russia was excluded in 2014 over Crimea's annexation and for backing pro-Russian rebels



in Ukraine.

But the European Council president on Aug. 24 rebuffed Trump's suggestion, saying there were even more reasons than before for keeping Moscow out. (Reuters)

Saudi Arabia Splits Industry and Mining from Energy Ministry

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia created a new ministry for industry and mineral resources, separating it from the kingdom's colossal energy ministry, and replaced the powerful head of the royal court, in a series of royal orders issued late on Friday. Bandar Alkhorayef, an investor and industrialist plucked from the private sector, was named to head the new entity, which will become independent on Jan. 1. The move appears to diminish the sprawling

authority of Khalid al-Falih, who retains control of the energy portfolio and chairmanship of state oil giant Saudi Aramco. Falih had overseen more than half the Saudi economy through the super-ministry, which was created in 2016 to help streamline new reforms. But despite ambitious plans for industry and mining, the sectors have seen relatively little development. Two sources said Saudi industrialists were unhappy ... (More on P4)...(12)

Thousands Protest British PM Johnson's Move to Suspend Parliament

LONDON/BELFAST - Thousands of people across Britain and Northern Ireland protested on Saturday against Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend parliament for about a month before the deadline for the country to leave the European Union. Johnson has pledged to take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal on future relations with the bloc. The move to shut parliament for around a month in the period be-

fore that will hinder efforts by his opponents to stop him. About 2,000 people gathered outside his office in Downing Street, chanting: "Liar Johnson, shame on you!" A sign read: "#StopTheCoup. Defend our Democracy. Save our future." The government says it is usual for parliament to be suspended before a new prime minister outlines his policy program in a Queen's speech, now scheduled for Oct. 14. His supporters also



say parliament usually breaks in late September, when the main political parties hold their annual conferences. But his critics say the

Neighbor News

Iran Official Says U.S. Showing 'Some Flexibility' on Oil Sales

DUBAI - A senior Iranian official said on Saturday the United States had shown flexibility on the licensing of Iranian oil sales and this was a sign that Washington's "maximum pressure" policy against Tehran had been defeated, state media reported. French President Emmanuel Macron paved the way at a G7 summit a week ago for a potential diplomatic solution to a confrontation between the United States and Iran brewing since President Donald Trump withdrew Washington last year from world powers' 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. "Macron met with ... Trump during the G7 meeting and the U.S.

side has shown some flexibility in the licensing of Iranian oil sales," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi was quoted by the state news agency IRNA as saying. "This is a breach in the U.S. maximum pressure policy and a success for Iran's policy of maximum resistance," he said. Araqchi did not elaborate, and there was no immediate French or U.S. comment. Since ditching the nuclear deal, calling it flawed to Iran's advantage, Trump has reimposed sanctions to strangle its vital oil trade and force Tehran to accept stricter limits on its nuclear activity, curb ... (More on P4)...(17)

Pakistan Ready for 'Conditional' Talks with India, Says Qureshi

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that Pakistan could hold talks with India over the issue of occupied Kashmir if New Delhi meets certain conditions, including allowing him to meet with the Kashmiri leadership. In an exclusive interview with BBC Urdu, the minister said Pakistan had no objection to holding bilateral talks with India and that it would also welcome mediation by a third party. He said the talks could take place if: India lifts the crippling curfew that has been imposed in occupied Kashmir for nearly four weeks,

restores the rights of local residents, releases the entire imprisoned Kashmiri leadership and allows him (Qureshi) to meet with the Kashmiri leadership. But he added as a caveat that while Pakistan has never shied away from talks, he did not see a favourable atmosphere for negotiations from the Indian side considering New Delhi's oppression of the Kashmiri people. "There are three disputes to this conflict: India, Pakistan and Kashmir," Qureshi told the BBC. "I think if India is serious it should first set Kashmiri leaders free and allow me to meet ... (More on P4)...(18)

North Korea Berates 'Thoughtless' Mike Pompeo, Warns Hopes for Talks Fading



PYONGYANG - A senior North Korean diplomat on Saturday berated U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo over his

comments describing North Korean behavior as "rogue" and warned that Pyongyang's hopes for talks with Washington are fading. In a statement carried by state media, North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said Pompeo's "thoughtless" comments increased North Korean people's animosity toward Americans and made it harder for working-level nuclear dialogue between the countries to resume. North Korea is extremely sensitive to outside criticism about its authoritarian leadership. It has also repeatedly expressed displeasure

about a months-long stalemate in negotiations and ramped up testing of short-range ballistic missiles and rocket artillery in recent weeks in an apparent effort to build bargaining leverage. "Our expectations of dialogue with the U.S. are gradually disappearing and we are being pushed to re-examine all the measures we have taken so far," Choe said in the statement, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA. ... (More on P4)...(9)

Merkel Hints at Return to Academia after Politics

LEIPZIG, Germany - German Chancellor Angela Merkel appeared to suggest on Saturday that she might return to academia at the end of her current term in office, which ends in 2021. "All universities that have given me an honorary doctorate will anyway hear from me again when I'm no longer chancellor," Merkel, who has been in office since 2005, said in a speech at the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management. HHL gave Merkel, a former physicist, the

Turkmenistan Presents UN Special Program for Aral Sea Basin

ASHGABAT - The UN Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin (UN SPAS) was presented at the headquarters of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Trend reports referring to Turkmen Foreign Ministry. Turkmenistan's initiative was announced at the sixth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. A Turkmen delegation met with Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development at UN ESCAP Kaveh Zahedi during the event. Turkmenistan presides over the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). With the founding from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, IFAS was established in the 1990s with the aim to finance joint projects and programs to save the Aral Sea and improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region. IFAS obtained the observer status in the UN General Assembly in December 2008. The special attention is paid to improving the regional action plan for environmental protection in Central Asia and accelerating the process of accession of the regional countries to the Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia within IFAS. (Trend)

Uzbekcosmos Space Research Agency to Appear in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - On August 30, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a decree on the development of space activities in the country, according to which an Agency for Space Research and Technology ("Uzbekcosmos") will be created under the Cabinet of Ministers, Trend reports citing Uzbek media. The decree notes that active investment policies and measures to improve the standard and quality of life of the population require the engagement of unused opportunities of high-tech and large-scale areas of activity, such as

innovation, nanotechnology, nuclear energy, and the space industry. The Agency "Uzbekcosmos" is defined by the government as a body responsible for the development and implementation of a unified state policy and strategic directions in the field of space research and technology. Among its main tasks: - realization of state programs for the development of the space industry in Uzbekistan; - development of the infrastructure of the space industry, space research and technology, research and development, experimental ... (More on P4)...(19)

Kazakhstan and Russia Continue Developing Demarcation Documents

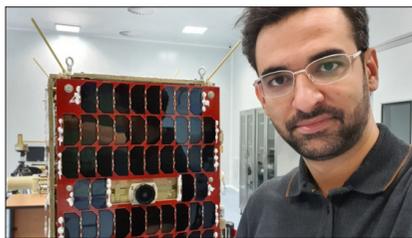
NUR-SULTAN - The 97th meeting of Kazakh-Russian Joint Demarcation Commission was hosted in Kazakhstan's Pavlodar city from August 26 to August 30, Trend reports with reference to the press office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. Thus, parties continued the work on developing and approving projects of final demarcation documents, and jointly conducted field investigation at the Pavlodar-Altai section of the state border. The negotiations were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, the report said. The next meeting of the commission is to be held in September-October 2019 in Russia. ... (More on P4)...(14)

Hong Kong Protests Turn to Chaos amid Tear Gas and Petrol Bombs

HONG KONG - Hong Kong police fired tear gas and water cannon on Saturday as pro-democracy protesters threw petrol bombs in the latest in a series of clashes that have plunged the Chinese-ruled city into its worst political crisis in decades. Police fired round after round of tear gas and protesters took cover behind umbrellas between the local headquarters of China's People's Liberation Army and the government. Protesters also threw bricks dug up from pathways at police. The water cannon unleashed blue-dyed water, traditionally used elsewhere in the world to make it easier for police to identify protesters later. Riot police ... (More on P4)...(15)

'Good Morning, Donald Trump': Iran Shows Off Satellite 'Undamaged' in Launch Pad Explosion

TEHRAN - An Iranian satellite involved in this week's failed launch miraculously survived a large on-site explosion, according to a Tehran minister who taunted the US president with the photo of the "undamaged" device. "Me & Nahid 1 right now. Good Morning Donald Trump!" tweeted Communications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi, uploading a picture that purported to show him with the Nahid 1 - a solar-powered communications satellite that was set to be taken into space this Thursday. But the mission failed



before it started, as the Safir-1B rocket reportedly exploded on the launch pad. Commercial satellite imagery published by international media also indicated an explosion, showing a thick plume of black smoke rising from the launch site. The minister's tweet was apparently in response

Thousands of Russians Rally to Demand Free Elections

MOSCOW - Thousands of Russians took to the streets of central Moscow on Saturday to demand free elections to the capital's city legislature on Sept. 8, defying a ban which has been enforced with violent detentions during previous protests. Weeks of demonstrations over elections for the city legislature have turned into the biggest sustained protest movement in Russia since 2011-2013, when protesters took to the streets against perceived electoral fraud. Chanting "Russia will be free!" and "This is our city!", up to 2,000 protesters marched through one of Moscow's thoroughfares. The demonstrators have been demanding that opposition-minded candidates be allowed to stand in the election after they were prevented from being put on the ballot. Protesters are now also calling for the release of activists detained over earlier rallies. "If we stop going out (and protesting) there will be no hope left at all," said protester Alexandra Rossius, 23. "We must show the authorities we are not just going to give up and accept the fact that innocent people are being jailed and elections are being stolen." Artyom, a 16-year-old school student, said it was "indignation and fear" that brought him to the rally. "I do not want ... to have my legs broken, to be killed, to be thrown in prison," he said. "The authorities are refusing to ... (More on P4)...(16)

'Anti-Semitic': Benjamin Netanyahu Slams HBO Series about Murder of Palestinian

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for a boycott of the producers of a HBO series which, he says, is "anti-Semitic" and "slanders Israel." Netanyahu took to Facebook to call for a boycott of "propaganda" Channel 12 and its owner Keshet for creating the show 'Our Boys', which he says "besmirches the good name of Israel." He urged his followers to

stop watching the channel, especially those who have a ratings meter in their homes. "Our Boys" tells the story of the murder of Palestinian Mohammed Abu Khdeir, who was kidnapped and burned alive by two Israeli teenagers and an adult in 2014. Netanyahu slammed the series for not focusing on the kidnapping and murder ... (More on P4)...(11)