

## Pope Makes Strategic Visit to Mozambique after Peace Deal

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is opening a three-nation pilgrimage to southern Africa with a strategic visit to Mozambique, just weeks after the country's ruling party and armed opposition signed a new peace deal and weeks before national elections.

Thirty years after St. John Paul II begged Mozambicans to end their civil war, Francis is expected to endorse the new Aug. 1 accord and urge its full implementation when he meets with government authorities on Thursday, his first full day in the region. He arrives Wednesday evening but has no public events scheduled after his brief airport welcome ceremony.



The timing of the visit is not coincidental, coming just weeks after the signing of the accord between the ruling Frelimo party and the armed Frenamo opposition and before national elections on Oct. 15. The vote is considered crucial

because a new constitutional amendment has decentralized power so that provincial governors will now be elected directly, rather than appointed by the central government. Mozambique's 15-year civil war, which ended

with a 1992 peace deal, killed an estimated 1 million people and devastated the former Portuguese colony. The permanent ceasefire signed Aug. 1 was the culmination of years of negotiations to end fighting that has flared sporadically in the 27 years since.

In central Mozambique, Gorongosa National Park warden Pedro Muagura said there are hopes the pope's visit will strengthen the deal.

"In general, people are very, very optimistic that the pope will be a good influence for peace and good elections," said Muagura. "In 1992, our peace agreement was signed after the ... (More on P4)...(12)

## Heavy Rains Cause Commuter Chaos in India's Financial Hub

MUMBAI - Monsoon rains stalled trains, delayed flights and disrupted traffic in Mumbai on Wednesday, and forecasters warned of more wet weather for India's financial capital. Authorities advised people to stay indoors and asked schools and colleges to close for the day.

"Those living near the Mithi river have been evacuated to safer places, but there are no reports of any harm or casualties so far," a police spokesperson said, referring to the city's

main river.

Flights were delayed at Mumbai airport, one of the busiest in the country, and trains carrying thousands of commuters to work were halted on many routes, authorities said on Twitter.

"It took me three hours to cover a distance that usually takes less than an hour," Vishwanath Acharya, an executive who works in the city, told Reuters.

Mumbai has been hit by heavier-than usual rain this monsoon, affecting the city's crumbling infrastructure. (Reuters)

## Huawei Accuses US of Cyberattacks, Coercing Employees

BEIJING — Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei accused U.S. authorities on Wednesday of attempting to break into its information systems and of trying to coerce its employees to gather information on the company.

Huawei, which faces mounting American pressure including possible loss of access to U.S. technology over accusations the company is a security risk, said in a statement that Washington has used "unscrupulous means" in

recent months to disrupt its business.

American officials have given no evidence to support claims Huawei might aid Chinese spying, accusations the company denies. The United States, Australia, Japan and some other governments have imposed restrictions on use of Huawei technology.

Huawei Technologies Ltd. is the No. 2 global smartphone brand and the biggest maker of network gear for phone companies.

Export controls an-



nounced by the Trump administration in May would limit Huawei's access to U.S. technology. Implementation has been postponed to mid-

November. Washington is lobbying European governments to exclude Huawei from next-generation telecom ... (More on P4)...(13)

## Jailed Russian Protester Speaks after Surprise Release



MOSCOW — Sales manager Sergei Abanichev had just finished washing his hair in his Moscow prison cell's sink and was sit-

ting on his cot reading when a warden came in and told him to get his things. An hour later, he signed release papers and walked out of the

detention center with a broad smile to greet his distraught parents.

The 25-year-old had been caught up in what has been seen as widening crackdown on Russia's opposition, and was one of five released from prison Tuesday after all charges were dropped in a government U-turn.

Portrayed along with others arrested July 27 as a dangerous criminal bent on wreaking havoc on the streets of Moscow in protests instigated by foreign puppet-masters,

Abanichev told The Associated Press he had actually been clothes shopping on Tverskaya street that day when he saw the crowds swell, and got curious.

Abanichev, a young, thick-set man with a ginger beard, said in his first interview after his release that he ended up getting trapped behind police lines but somehow managed to escape while hundreds were detained that day.

A week later, plainclothes men laid siege to his ... (More on P4)...(14)

## Italian PM to Set Seal on New Government, Unveil New Cabinet

ROME - Italy's head of state is set to sign off on a new government on Wednesday after two rival political parties agreed an unlikely coalition that is expected to improve ties with the European Union and adopt a softer stance on immigration.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who led the outgoing administration, arrived at the presidential palace at 2.40 p.m. (1240 GMT) to unveil his new cabinet lineup and request a new mandate from

President Sergio Mattarella.

The alliance between the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party (PD), formerly sworn enemies, followed a month of political upheaval triggered by the sudden collapse of the previous ruling alliance.

The far-right League party of outgoing Interior Minister Matteo Salvini pulled out of its coalition with the 5-Star party, declaring it ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Malaysia Had Plan to Use Chinese Money to Bail Out 1MDB, Court Hears

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's former leader Najib Razak approved a plan to bail out troubled state fund 1MDB by offering stakes in several big infrastructure projects to Chinese firms in 2016, a former aide told a court on Wednesday. Najib, who was voted out of power last year amid public anger over alleged graft at 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), is on trial for allegedly receiving hundreds of millions of dollars from the state fund he set up in 2009.

He has pleaded not guilty. Former special officer Amhari Effendi Nazaruddin said Najib sent him to China in June 2016 on a "secret mission" to reaffirm economic ties and investments between the two countries. (Reuters)

## Iran to Release Seven Crew Members of Detained British Tanker

DUBAI/LONDON - Iran will free seven crew members of the detained British-flagged tanker Stena Impero, Iranian state television reported on Wednesday, although the vessel's owner said it had yet to receive any official confirmation of the release date.

The Swedish-owned Stena Impero was detained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards on July 19 in the Strait of Hormuz waterway for alleged marine violations, two weeks after Britain detained an Iranian tanker off the territory of Gibraltar. That vessel was released in August.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told the TV that the seven, who include Indian ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Pence Defends Stay at Trump Property in Ireland

DUBLIN — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Tuesday defended his decision to stay at one of President Donald Trump's properties while in Ireland in the face of criticism by Democrats and good government groups that he's enriching Trump at taxpayers' expense. He called the Trump property a "logical" choice.

Speaking to reporters in Dublin, where he spent the day, Pence spoke about his personal connection to the village of Doonbeg — the site of both the Trump International Golf Links &



Hotel as well as family history.

"It's deeply humbling for me to be able to come back to Ireland and have the opportunity to go to the very hometown of my mother's grandmother," said Pence.

Pence added that he

understood "political attacks by Democrats," but said the State Department had signed off on the decision. He said Doonbeg is a "fairly small place" and the opportunity to stay at the property, "to accommodate the unique ... (More on P4)...(15)

## Russia, OPEC Sources Say Saudi Shake-Up Won't Affect Oil Pact

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia/LONDON - Leadership changes in Saudi Arabia's oil industry will have no effect on cooperation between Moscow and Riyadh, two top Russian officials said, indicating the shake-up won't derail a global pact to support oil prices by curbing output.

Separately, senior sources from OPEC and the oil industry said they expected Saudi Arabia to stick to its policy of restraining oil output as long as Riyadh wants to sell a stake in state oil firm Aramco. Saudi Arabia this week named a re-

placement for Khalid al-Falih as Aramco chairman, and a few days earlier created a ministry for industry and mineral resources separate from the energy ministry, in a move that appears to diminish Falih's authority. He remains Saudi energy minister. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak praised Falih and said the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries would continue to coordinate output with non-OPEC producers.

"We will continue our international cooperation ... (More on P4)...(16)

## 'We Share Love for Tigers': Modi Boasts of 'Special Chemistry' with Putin

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a passion for protecting tigers is among many things he and Russian President Vladimir Putin have in common. The leaders are holding talks at an economic event on Wednesday.

Modi said that he and Putin are kindred spirits of sorts, given their love of the outdoors and nature. "I love that he is a physically very developed person, he leads an active lifestyle, keeps himself in shape. I love it," he told reporters on Tuesday, right before heading off for a trip to Russia.

"He is also interested in the environment, wildlife, the underwater world, especially interested in the problem of conservation of tigers and so on. I'm the same by nature. Therefore, it is natural that many things connect us."

The bond reflects traditionally friendly relations between Russia and India, Modi said, adding that "we do not have a common border, but our souls are similar."

Modi has traveled to the city of Vladivostok in Russia's Far East on Wednesday, where he is holding talks with Putin at the Eastern Economic Forum. The meeting's agenda is expected to include trade and cooperation in space and defense, among other things. The trip "will give a new direction, new energy" to the countries' ties, Modi said before the visit. Putin is ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Neighbor News

### China Updates Deal to Invest \$400 Billion in Iran: Report

TEHRAN - Iran and China have updated a 25-year deal signed first in 2016 that foresees \$400 billion of Chinese investment in the resource-rich Middle Eastern nation, well-regarded energy industry publication the Petroleum Economist reports. The update came during a visit at the end of August by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to Beijing where his Chinese counterpart State Councilor Wang Yi called the two countries as "comprehensive strategic partners".

According to the Petroleum Economist, the deal represents "a potentially material shift to the global balance of the oil and gas sector" and could mark a "seismic shift in the global

hydrocarbons sector" where no US dollars will be involved in commodity transaction payments.

Investment in oil, gas, petchems projects "The central pillar of the new deal is that China will invest \$280 billion, developing Iran's oil, gas and petrochemicals sectors," said the monthly magazine which spoke to "a senior source closely connected to Iran's Petroleum Ministry" during Zarif's visit.

This amount may be front-loaded into the first five-year period of the deal but the understanding is that further amounts will be available in every subsequent five-year period, subject to both parties' agreement, it said. (Press TV)

### UAE, Saudi Fms Arrive on One-Day Visit

ISLAMABAD - United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Saudi Arabia's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir landed in Islamabad on Wednesday on a one-day official visit to hold talks with Pakistan top civil and military leadership amid the tensed regional situation.

Both the dignitaries were received by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the airport. During their stay, both ministers are expected to hold meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Army

Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa.

According to a statement issued by the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad a day earlier, the top Saudi diplomat will discuss bilateral matters and the regional situation, including the held Kashmir crisis with the Pakistan leadership. Earlier on Tuesday, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) discussed "latest developments in the region" in a telephonic conversation. According to a news agency, the two "reviewed relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the region". (Agencies)

### Kyrgyzstan Holding Talks with Turkmenistan on Electricity Import

BISHKEK - Kyrgyzstan is holding talks with Turkmenistan on electricity supply, Head of the Kyrgyz National Energy Holding Aitmat Nazarov said, Trend reports referring to Kyrgyz media outlets.

The similar negotiations are underway with Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, according to Tazabek news website.

"Kazakhs and Turkmen are ready to supply electricity, while the price and delivery period should be determined,"

Nazarov added. "Up to one billion kilowatt hours are planned to be imported in 2020."

Presently, Turkmen electricity is exported to neighboring Afghanistan and Iran. A project is underway to build a 500-kilovolt high-voltage power line in the direction of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP). The prospects of electricity supply to the markets of the Caucasian countries and Central Asian countries are explored. (Trend)

### UN Advises Turkmenistan on Intellectual Property Rights

ASHGABAT - Employees of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan took part in a regional seminar on ensuring intellectual property rights, held in the city of Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan, Trend reports referring to the customs service.

The event was organized by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The seminar is held for discussing matters regarding intellectual property rights, exchanging experience, as well as studying international practice in this area, the information reads. During the event, experts from the World Customs Organization (WCO) presented reports on new counterfeit goods.

Representatives of the countries participating in the seminar presented brief reports on the main indicators of national structures and approaches of departments in the field of intellectual property. Turkmenistan actively cooperates with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and joined the organization in 1995. WIPO currently has 192 member states. Turkmenistan adopted the Law on the Protection of Industrial Designs, prepared with the participation of WIPO experts, in 2017. The Program for the Development of the Intellectual Property System of Turkmenistan for 2015-2020 is currently being implemented. (Trend)