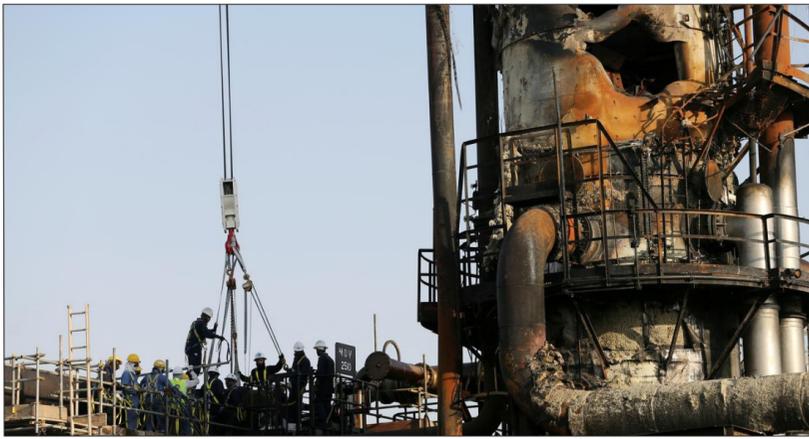


China's Xi Says Disputes in Gulf Should be Resolved Peacefully

BEIJING - Disputes in the Gulf should be resolved peacefully via talks and all sides should remain calm and exercise restraint, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Iraq's visiting prime minister on Monday.

Riyadh is preparing to provide evidence to the U.N. General Assembly which it says will prove Iran was behind a Sept. 14 drone and missile assault on Saudi oil facilities, a view shared by Washington. The assault initially had a drastic impact on Saudi oil output.

Riyadh says Iranian weapons were launched from the north and that it is working to pinpoint the exact location. Tehran has denied any involvement and vowed



to retaliate against even a limited military response.

Meeting Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi in Beijing, Xi reiterated China's previous calls

for calm, according to Chinese state television. "At present the situation in the Gulf region of the Middle East is complex and sensitive," the report cited Xi as saying, without directly

mentioning the attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities. "All relevant parties must remain calm and exercise restraint, and appropriately resolve their differences peacefully via dialogue and negotiation on the basis of mutual respect, to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability."

China is ready to communicate with all parties in this regard, including Iraq, Xi added. The United States, an ally of Saudi Arabia, has deployed additional troops to the Gulf region for "deterrence and defense", though U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday that Washington aims to avoid war with Iran. (Reuters)

World Dairy Summit Urges Collaboration against Poverty, Malnutrition

ISTANBUL - The International Dairy Federation (IDF) on Monday opened its 2019 World Dairy Summit in Istanbul, calling on sector representatives to work together to combat growing challenges facing the world today, including poverty, insecurity and malnutrition. "If we work collaboratively, we can overcome all the challenges that face us and have a sustainable future," IDF President Judith Bryans said in her opening remarks. The four-day summit with a focus on sustain-

able solutions to the problems, is drawing more than 1,000 participants including those from about a dozen of Chinese dairy producers. Feeding the world's growing population with nutritious, sustainable, safe and affordable foods with limited global resources tops the agenda of the summit. Bryans said the IDF has been doing its best to produce high-quality milk and other nutritious, safe and sustainable dairy products. (Xinhua)

Ukraine Official Says Any Investigation Would be Transparent: Report

KIEV - An aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy was quoted on Monday as saying any investigation in Ukraine would be conducted transparently, after U.S. media reports said President Donald Trump asked Zelenskiy to investigate Joe Biden, a rival in next year's U.S. election. Trump's July 25 call with Zelenskiy stoked controversy in Washington after reports that Trump repeatedly asked the Ukrainian leader to investigate whether Biden,

the Democratic front-runner in next year's election, misused his position when he was vice president. Trump told reporters on Sunday he had discussed Biden and his son in a call with Zelenskiy but said their phone conversation was largely congratulatory. Andriy Yermak, an aide to Zelenskiy, was quoted in Ukrainian media outlet lb.ua as saying that he had told Trump's lawyer Rudolph Giuliani that any investigation would be transparent.



"We can guarantee that during our term in office all investigations will be carried out transparently," Yermak said. "These are the fundamental principles and basis of President Zelenskiy's program which we campaigned on." (Reuters)

South Korea Vows to Continue Work on North Korea Relations



SEOUL - The South Korean government "will not just sit on [its] hands" regarding relations with North Korea, Minister of Unification Kim Yeon-

chul said Monday, vowing to "leverage various opportunities to resume inter-Korean relations." Kim gave the keynote speech commemorating

the 30th anniversary of the University of North Korean Studies, just hours before South Korean President Moon Jae-in was scheduled to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump about North Korea and denuclearization in New York. In Seoul, analysts and scholars huddled to discuss security, peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. The mood, though sobered by a lack of recent diplomatic progress, seemed somewhat optimistic. During his speech, Kim

brought up several accomplishments scored by the United States and South Korea during its diplomatic run with the North, including the shutdown of loudspeaker propaganda and several guard posts within the Demilitarized Zone, the construction of a new DMZ peace trail and the repatriation of U.S. soldier remains. "It has opened up rare and valuable turning points in the process toward denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula," Kim said through an interpreter. (UPI)

Uzbekistan Joins the Turkic Council

TASHKENT - Speculations of Uzbekistan relaxing its stance toward the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and possibly joining the Russia-led organization abound after President Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed his anxiousness to find markets for Uzbek products earlier this year. Tashkent moved to join the Turkic Council after floating its interest in membership in April 2018. Under Uzbekistan's previous president, Islam Karimov, Tashkent stub-

bornly stuck to bilateral relations after several failed experiments with regionalism in the early 1990s. This stance seems have come to an end with the abandoning of Karimov's isolationist policy. The last regional organization Uzbekistan joined was the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in 2006, which it exited in 2012. The Turkic Council membership is the first regional organization to welcome Tashkent in the past 13 years. (The Diplomat)

UK Supreme Court to Rule Tuesday on Parliament Suspension

LONDON - Britain's Supreme Court is to give its verdict Tuesday on legality of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's five-week suspension of Parliament. Britain's highest court plans to announce the decision Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. It is deciding whether Johnson acted improperly by shutting down Parliament for five weeks during the period before Britain's Oct. 31 Brexit deadline, when the country is scheduled to leave the European Union. The topic has deeply divided British politicians as well as the public. The government says the decision to suspend Parliament was routine but activists, including many legislators, say Johnson overstepped his authority in an attempt to avoid scrutiny by Parliament. (The Herald)

Kazakhstan Temporarily Halts Vehicles Registration

NUR-SULTAN - Citizen Service Centers of Kazakhstan temporarily halted the admission of documentation for registration and secondary registration of vehicles, the Head of Government for Citizens corporation Murat Zhumanbay said on his Facebook page, Trend reports. "On September 23, 2019 due to technical maintenance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan data base, the admission of documentation for registration and secondary registration of vehicles will be halted from 10:30 to 12:30 and from 17:00 to 19:00," he said.

According to Zhumanbay, this service will also not be available on the site of Electronic government of Kazakhstan during the mentioned above period. (Trend)

US May Attempt to Sabotage Venezuela's Parliamentary Vote in 2020, Maduro Says

CARACAS - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro warned that Washington is looking to derail the nation's parliamentary election because "they can't win" otherwise. The parliament is currently run by the US-backed opposition. The US may try to sabotage the nation's general election, scheduled for 2020, Maduro told Russia's Rossiya 24 TV in an interview, broadcasted on Monday.

Washington wants to meddle in the upcoming vote because "they know that they can't win" otherwise, Maduro said. The parliament is currently controlled by a coalition of opposition parties whose leader, Juan Guaido, declared himself "interim president" of the nation in January, openly challenging Maduro's rule. Guaido has since held numerous mass anti-government protests in the nation's capital, Caracas and urged the army and police to join his supporters in toppling the government. The military and law enforce-



ment, however, remain loyal to Maduro. Guaido is openly backed by the US and its allies in Europe, as well as the majority of South American countries, including Venezuela's neighbors, Brazil and Colombia. States such as China, Russia, Iran, and Turkey continue to recognize Maduro as the legitimate president. (RT)

UK's Harry and Meghan in South Africa on First Tour Since Baby's Birth

CAPE TOWN - Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan were in South Africa on Monday for their first overseas tour since the birth of their first child.

Later in the trip, Harry will rekindle memories of the couple's courtship in Botswana and of his mother Diana in Angola. Meghan, an American former actress, has had only one official engagement since giving birth to

Archie in May. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are expected to meet anti-apartheid cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other dignitaries in South Africa, but chose to begin their tour in a township known as the country's "murder capital". Nyanga, about 20 km (12 miles) from Cape Town, recorded more murders - 289 - than any other police precinct in 2018/19. (Reuters)

UN Envoy Concludes "Successful Talks" with Syrian FM

DAMASCUS - Geir Pedersen, UN special envoy for Syria, said here Monday that he has concluded "very successful" discussions with Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem on the formation of a constitutional committee.

Pedersen, who arrived in Syria's capital of Damascus a day earlier, said his Monday's meeting with al-Moallem tackled old standing issues regarding the formation of a constitutional committee that would be tasked with rewriting the Syrian constitution. "I have concluded another round of very successful discussion with Foreign Minister (Walid) al-Moallem. We addressed all the old standing issues related to the constitutional committee," he told reporters. The envoy also said that he had concluded similarly successful talks with the head of the oppositional Syrian Negotiation Commission (SNC) Nasr al-Hariri, who is based in Turkey. Pedersen's next step is to brief the Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres about the outcome of his discussions, and then he will be heading for New York to attend a UN session on Sept. 30. On Sept. 18, Guterres said that all relevant parties in Syria have agreed on the composition of a committee tasked to rewrite the country's constitution, and Pedersen is doing "the final work" with the parties in relation to the terms of reference. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Iran Resists Sanctions, U.S. Is 'Desperate,' Rouhani Says

DUBAI - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday new U.S. sanctions, under which Iran's central bank was blacklisted for a second time, pointed to U.S. "desperation" in face of Iranian resistance. The United States on Friday imposed another round of sanctions on Iran, including on its central bank which was already blacklisted, following the Sept. 14 attacks on Saudi oil facilities that Riyadh and U.S. officials have blamed on Iran.

Tehran denies involvement in the attacks which was claimed by Yemen's Houthi movement, an Iran-aligned group fighting in Yemen's civil war. "Americans are sanctioning institutions that have already been blacklisted. This signals America's complete desperation and shows that it's 'maximum pressure' has failed...as the great Ira-

nian nation has resisted successfully," Rouhani said in remarks carried by state television.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday the United States aimed to avoid war with Iran and the additional troops ordered to be deployed in the Gulf region were for "deterrence and defense". But Rouhani said the situation had become "intense" in the region and blamed it on Washington.

"The region has become intense...They make propaganda about damage (in Saudi) which can be repaired in two weeks... because America wants to conquer the region," Rouhani said. Rouhani said he would introduce a regional peace plan dubbed HOPE (Hormuz Peace Endeavour) at the United Nations General Assembly this week. (Reuters)

Doctors, Paramedics Hold Strike against PIMS 'Privatisation'

ISLAMABAD - Doctors and paramedical staff of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) as a protest closed services at OPD and other departments against its possible privatization. The patients came to the hospital from the far-flung areas are im-

mensely facing difficulties doctors and paramedical staff due to strike and protest. On the other hand, the dengue patients have flocked to the hospital in huge numbers, however, emergency services were available. (Agencies)

ADB Vice-President Reaffirms Commitment to Uzbekistan's Development

TASHKENT - Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President Diwakar Gupta reiterated ADB's support for the government's development and reform agenda during his two-day visit to Uzbekistan on September 20-21, Trend reports with reference to the press office of ADB.

Within the visit, Gupta met with Deputy Prime Minister Elyor Ganiev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Djamshid Kuchkarov, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov, Minister of Energy Alisher Sultanov, First Deputy Chairman of Central Bank Ilkhom Norkulov, and other high-ranking government officials of Uzbekistan. As ADB's Vice-President who is responsible for the bank's private sector operations, Gupta commended the

government on its bold reforms to strengthen the country's macroeconomic stability, while promoting better investment climate and business environment for private sector development. Gupta also congratulated the government on the significant progress made in advancing the public-private partnerships (PPP) agenda and committed ADB's continuous support to PPP projects in various sectors of Uzbekistan's economy.

"ADB is here to support and accompany Uzbekistan in the process of transition, be it for stimulating private investments and other sector reforms, or for driving up the uptake for renewable energy through public-private partnerships and private sector investments," said Gupta. (Trend)

Exhibition of Turkmenistan's Economic Achievements Opens in Ashgabat

ASHGABAT - An exhibition of economic achievements of Turkmenistan, traditionally held on the eve of Independence Day of the country (September 27), kicked off in Ashgabat, Trend reports referring to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan, which is the organizer of the event.

The exhibition is attended by representatives of structural units of the public sector of the economy and local private business enterprises. The exhibition presents such sectors as energy, oil and gas, construction, transport, com-

munications, textile, chemical industry, agriculture and medical industry. Turkmenistan, according to a British Petroleum (BP) report, ranks fourth in terms of natural gas reserves in the world and currently exports it to China and Russia.

Ashgabat is looking for new gas export routes; at the same time, it is conducting large-scale diversification of the economy. Presently, the textile and oil products industries have advanced, the oil and gas chemical industries and the building materials industry are actively developing. (Trend)