New Delhi - Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been invited by Speaker of the American House of Representatives John Boehner to address a joint meeting of Congress on June 8 when he visits that country. The media reported Friday. “The Prime Minister of the U.S. and India is a pillar of the Indo-Pacific region of the world,” Ryan told the media in Brussels Wednesday. “This relationship enjoys a special opportunity for the three nations to work together to provide a balance of power to the region.”

BRUSSELS - The European Commission (EC) on Friday proposed the Council of the European Union (EU) to lift the controversial European Union (EU)-East Timor data protection framework. The Commission and the United States finalized the negotiations in September 2015, and in February this year, U.S. President Barack Obama signed the Judicial Redress Act, granting judicial redress for EU citizens. After opening the way for the Umbrella Agreement’s signature, the agreement would put in place a comprehensive high-level data protection framework for EU-US law enforcement cooperation.

Moldova Invited to Address Joint Meeting of U.S. Congress

The move to address a joint meeting of Congress comes at a time when the two countries are working closely on issues of importance to both, including the ongoing Donbas conflict, the situation in Ukraine, and the need for the EU to provide continued support to the Moldovan government.

Russian Surnames Officially Banned in Tajikistan

The law, which was passed by the Supreme Court of Tajikistan on Thursday, bans the use of Russian surnames and requires all citizens to adopt Tajik surnames. The move has been met with mixed reactions, with some in the country welcoming the ban as a way to strengthen national identity, while others have expressed concern over the potential for discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Syrian Army Announces “Regime of Silence” in Certain Hotspots

The Syrian army announced a “regime of silence” in certain hotspots in Damascus and the Rif Dimashq Governorate, effective from midnight to 3:00 AM in the morning, according to a state media report. The announcement comes as the Syrian army continues its offensive against rebel forces in the area.

European Union Memberships—Britain’s Economic Strength: Merkel

The German Chancellor Angela Merkel is expected to discuss the benefits of EU membership and the economic strengths of Britain during her visit to London later this month. The talks come as the UK prepares to hold a referendum on its future in the EU, with both sides emphasizing the advantages of remaining as a member.

Syria: US Tensions Raised over Air Strike in Damascus

The US military has launched an airstrike in Damascus, targeting a government facility, according to a statement from the US Department of Defense. The strike, which was reportedly carried out in response to a recent Chemical Weapons Organization (CW) attack in Syria, has raised tensions between the US and Syria.

Olympic, UN Values More Important than: UN Chief

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the importance of UN values and UN in a world of single principles and all too often forced. He said that the UN must be a beacon of hope in a world of conflict and division.

Iran Urges UN to Push Washington to Release Iran’s Assets

The Republic of Iran has called on the United States to release all Iranian assets in the U.S. banks, including the $4 billion in the U.S. Treasury. Iran has also called for a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the issue.

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EU Proposes Signature, Conclusion of EU-US DPUA

The European Commission has formally proposed the conclusion of the EU-US Data Protection Framework Agreement (DPUA). The Commission and the United States finalized the negotiations in September 2015, and in February this year, U.S. President Barack Obama signed the Judicial Redress Act, granting judicial redress for EU citizens. After opening the way for the Umbrella Agreement’s signature, the agreement would put in place a comprehensive high-level data protection framework for EU-US law enforcement cooperation.

UN Rights Chiefs Concerns “Shameful” Global Response on Syria

The UN Human Rights Council has expressed concern about the “shameful” global response to the recent chemical attack in Syria. The council has called for an immediate cessation of violence and for the protection of civilians in the conflict, but has faced opposition from Russia and China.

ICJ Admits Error, Removes Name of Nawaz Sharif

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has admitted an error in its decision to remove the name of Nawaz Sharif, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, from its list of individuals against whom it has found guilty of violations of the 1983 truck bombing of the US diplomatic mission in Beirut. The court has expressed regret for its decision and has removed Sharif’s name from the list.

Chinese Voice Concern over Deployment of Missile Defense System in South Korea

China has expressed concern over the deployment of a missile defense system in South Korea, which it says could undermine regional stability. The Chinese government has called for dialogue and cooperation to address the issue.

Minister for Syria’s state registry office, a court ruling that all children “separate in two parts” is written in Tajik and Farsi respectively. “In Tajikistan, all the names are written in Tajik and Farsi.”

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