India's Gandhi Ratchets Up Pressure on PM Modi to Waive Farm Loans

NEW DELHI - Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi pressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday to write off farm loans in a bid to garner goodwill ahead of general elections due to be held by May. Gandhi's Congress party, which lost the last poll season, has started raising the issue of farm loans, a central theme of his party's campaign this election.

The opposition leader has been speaking up against farmers' suicides and demanding loan waiver to help the farming community. Gandhi, who is expected to announce his plan to write off farm loans, will meet with key stakeholders, including farmers and government officials, before announcing the details.

Gandhi has accused the government of not doing enough to address the needs of the farming community, which contributes significantly to the country's economy.

The Congress has been critics of the government's policies and has been vocal about the need for a loan waiver to help farmers. The party has been seeking an end to the economic crisis in the country, which has been worsening in recent months.

India's President, Prime Minister, and other political leaders will meet to discuss the current situation and announce steps to be taken to address the crisis. The meeting is expected to focus on measures to support the farming community, including loan waivers and other financial assistance.

China Will 'Never Seek Hegemony', Xi Says in Reform Speech

BEIJING - China will never seek hegemony, President Xi Jinping said Sunday, adding that his country would remain committed to global peace and development.

Xi said China has no intention of seeking hegemony, but would continue to promote international cooperation and mutual learning.

He also reiterated the need for China to continue to develop its own economy and to strengthen its global influence.

Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China, has been in power since 2013. He is expected to seek another term in the upcoming 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

The speech comes amid growing concerns about China's role in the world, particularly its military buildup and its growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Uzbekistan's Currency Trading Site's Trade Volume Reaches Almost $9M

DUSHANBE - Sixty countries and international organizations provided some 70 million U.S. dollars worth of humanitarian aid to Tajikistan during the eleven months of this year.

UN Commendations North Korea Rights Violations and Nuke Speaking

UNITED NATIONS - The U.N. General Assembly has condemned North Korea's " systematique, widespread and grave" human rights violations and nuclearSpeaking.

The resolution, sponsored by Japan and the European Union, was adopted by consensus, including Russia, comments on issues such as human rights, nuclearSpeaking and terrorism.

The resolution expresses concern that "one million North Koreans are estimated to be at risk of multiple chronic and acute malnutrition" in the region.

The resolution strongly condemns North Korea's claims and seeks an end to the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea.

Russia, Iran and Turkey Seek Deal on New Syria Constitutional Framework

GENEVA - Russia, Iran and Turkey on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Syrian constitutional committee that was established on Friday.

The signatories, in a statement, called for "resolute and peaceful action to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Syrian constitutional committee and the constitutional reform process in Syria".

The memorandum also states that the three countries will continue to work together to achieve a political solution to the conflict in Syria.

The memorandum was signed by President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, President Hassan Rouhani of Iran and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

The three leaders agreed to work towards the establishment of a Syrian constitutional framework that would be acceptable to all parties in the conflict.

Iraqi Spy Hamas Nehal Ansari Crosses over to India after Repatriation from Pakistan

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Ansari in a statement, saying that the move was a step towards "reconciliation and peace".

The move comes as India and Pakistan are working towards "normalizing" their ties after a series of border incidents.

The move is expected to have a "positive" impact on the region, said experts.

Fighting in Yemeni City Dies Down as Cease-Fire Takes Hold

Yemen - Prime Minister of Yemen, Abdullah Hadi, announced on Wednesday that the fighting in the city of Hodeida is over.

The announcement comes after the UN-brokered agreement on a cease-fire in the city.

The agreement was reached after a UN-backed talks in Sweden last week.

A joint committee led by U.N. officers will oversee the cease-fire and the evacuation of the warring parties from the city.

The agreement was welcomed by the Hodeida Defense Ministry, which said the cease-fire would "put an end to the war".

The agreement was reached after weeks of negotiations between the parties.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to comment on the agreement, saying that he is "not interested in the details."