

EU Leaders to Debate Push for Zero Emissions by 2050

BRUSSELS - EU leaders will this week discuss setting a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, European officials said Monday, following elections that highlighted climate fears.

European Union leaders meeting Thursday and Friday in Brussels will debate the 2050 target of "climate neutrality" that the environmental group WWF says now has the support of 16 of the EU's 28 countries.

"As the effects of climate change become more visible and pervasive, we urgently need to step up our action to manage this existential threat," a draft of the EU's strategic agenda for the next six years says.



"The EU can and must lead the way, by engaging in an in-depth transformation of its own economy and society to achieve climate neutral-

ity," according to the draft, which was obtained by AFP. The draft contained a footnote saying the word-

ing may be adjusted to reflect the results of the summit debate, which an EU source said would focus on the 2050 target.

The source told AFP on condition of anonymity that a number of EU countries still want to discuss ways to finance the transformation from an economy dependent on fossil fuels to one driven by clean energy.

"There is a huge difference in cost for Sweden and Romania. Eastern Europeans are not necessarily against the target," the source said, referring to the region's dependence on coal-fired plants.

He added: "I'm sure everyone will agree on this target, ... (More on P4)...(9)

Safety and Pollution Top of the Agenda as Paris Air Show Opens

LE BOURGET (France) - Aviation executives descended on the Paris Air Show on Monday with pledges to improve transparency over plane safety in the wake of the Boeing 737 MAX crisis and to reduce emissions.

Few blockbuster products or orders are expected at the world's biggest aerospace show, which brings together nearly 2,500 firms from 49 countries, and 290 official delegations, including government leaders and military

chiefs.

With passenger traffic slowing this year, the atmosphere at the fair, where arch-rivals Boeing and Airbus vie for aircraft orders, was markedly less self-congratulatory than in recent years.

President Emmanuel Macron inaugurated the event at Le Bourget airport after flying in on a hulking grey Airbus A330 refuelling tanker operated by the French Air Force.

He then attended the ... (More on P4)...(13)

BEIJING - Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, will pay a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) from June 20 to 21, at the invitation of Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.

Hu Zhaoming, spokesperson for the International Department of the CPC Central Committee,

made the announcement here on Monday.

This will be the first visit to the DPRK by the top leader of the CPC and China's head of state in 14 years, and also General Secretary Xi's first visit to the country since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, Song Tao, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, said here Monday when briefing the press on the upcoming visit.

The visit, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of

Xi to Pay State Visit to DPRK



China-DPRK diplomatic relationship, Song said. Noting that China and the DPRK are good neighbors with a ... (More on P4)...(10)

Boris Johnson Gets Boost in Race to Become Britain's New PM



LONDON - Boris Johnson got a boost in his campaign to replace British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday when one of his

former rivals and EU supporter Matt Hancock backed him saying he was almost certain to win the contest.

Johnson, a former Lon-

don mayor and foreign minister, is way out in front in the race to become leader of the Conservative Party and despite so far deciding to steer clear of debates with his rivals, his popularity has yet to be dented.

Most of the other five hopefuls concede that Johnson, whose career has been marked by gaffes and scandals, will almost definitely make the final two in the race, when mainly pro-Brexit Conservative Party members will cast the

deciding votes. But the race is on to decide who will challenge him.

Health Secretary Hancock, who dropped out of the race on Friday after winning 20 votes in the first ballot of Conservative lawmakers, said Johnson was the best candidate to lead the party.

"Boris has run a disciplined campaign and is almost certainly going to be our next prime minister," Hancock said in an article in The Times ... (More on P4)...(11)

Dozens of New Indian Parliamentarians Face Criminal Charges

NEW DELHI - India's recent national election delivered a historic victory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party, but also exposed the influence of money, power and questionable morality on the world's largest democracy.

Nearly 43% of the new members of the lower house of Parliament that convenes Monday for the first time since the election won despite facing criminal charges. More than a quarter of those relate to rape,

murder or attempted murder, according to a report by the civic group Association of Democratic Reforms.

The loophole that allows them to take office is that they have not been convicted - in part because the Indian legal system has a huge backlog of an estimated 30 million cases and trials often last decades. When asked about the charges against them, they invariably accuse a political rival of framing them. (AP)

Chadian Rebel Chief Arrested in France on War Crimes Inquiry

PARIS - A Chadian rebel leader is among three people detained in France in an investigation into allegations of crimes against humanity. The Paris prosecutor's office and the national gendarmerie confirmed the arrest Monday of Mahamat Nouri and the two others in three separate locations around France on allegations of crimes against humanity for acts committed in Chad and Sudan between 2005 and 2010. The prosecutor's office said France opened an investigation in 2017.

Nouri launched a failed coup against Chadian leader Idriss Deby in 2008 and was sentenced to death in absentia that year. His rebels freely crossed the border between Chad and Sudan's Darfur region. In a 2016 interview with the French magazine Paris Match, Nouri said he went into exile in Qatar and was denied asylum in France. (Fox News)

Vatican Formally Opens Debate on Married Priests in Amazon

VATICAN CITY - The Vatican formally opened debate Monday on letting married men be ordained as priests in remote parts of the Amazon where priests are so few that Catholics can go weeks or months without attending a Mass.

The call for study on the proposal was contained in the working document, released Monday, for an October meeting of South American bishops on the Amazon.

The document, prepared by the Vatican based on input from the region, affirmed that celibacy is a gift for the Catholic Church. (AP)

Sudan Protesters Urge Night Rallies amid Standoff with Army

KHARTOUM, Sudan - Sudan's protest leaders are calling for nighttime demonstrations and marches in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country, amid a tense standoff with the ruling military.

The protest leaders said on Monday they've begun a "revolutionary escalation" to pressure the country's generals to hand over power to civilians and to condemn the military's violent dispersal of their sit-in camp in Khartoum earlier this month. At least 128



people have died in the military's crackdown since the June 3 dispersal. The group representing the protesters - known as the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change - says the night rallies

will begin on Tuesday and marches on Thursday. The military, which took over after ousting longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April following mass protests, refuses to relinquish power. (Fox News)

CEO: Boeing Made Mistake in Handling Warning-System Problem

PARIS - The chief executive of Boeing said the company made a "mistake" in handling a problematic cockpit warning system in its 737 Max jets before two crashes killed 346 people, and he promised transparency as the aircraft maker works to get the grounded plane back in flight.

Speaking before the industry-wide Paris Air Show, Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg told reporters Boeing's communication with regulators, customers and the public "was not consistent. And that's unacceptable."

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has faulted Boeing for not telling regulators for more than a year that a safety indicator in the cockpit of the top-selling plane didn't work as intended.

Boeing and the FAA have said the warning light wasn't critical for flight safety.

It is not clear whether either crash could have been prevented if the cockpit alert had been working properly. Boeing says all its planes, including the ... (More on P4)...(12)

Opposition Says 'Injustice' Will Galvanize Istanbul Voters

ISTANBUL - The opposition candidate for mayor of Istanbul said Monday he believes "the injustice" caused by the cancellation of his electoral win in March will galvanize voters in his favor in Sunday's rerun election.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ekrem Imamoglu also said a second victory for him on June 23 would amount to a win for "democracy and for Istanbul."

In a major blow to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the 49-year-old from the center-left Republican People's Party narrowly won the March 31 local election in Istanbul, Turkey's financial center. Erdogan's ruling party, along with a predecessor religious and conservative party, had controlled Istanbul for 25 years.

Erdogan's party also lost control of the local government in Ankara, the Turkish capital.

After weeks of recounting requested by the ruling party, Turkey's electoral authority annulled the result of the vote, revoked Imamoglu's mandate and ordered the new election, citing irregularities in the composition of officials overseeing the vote. Critics say the body bowed to pressure from the ruling party. "I believe the people of Istanbul will give the necessary response to this injustice at the polls as a result of their belief in democracy," Imamoglu said. He added: "This election is to repair, to treat, the oppression of democracy, the mistake against democracy, this conspiracy. And God willing, the victors will be Istanbul and democracy." (AP)

Neighbor News

'Countdown Has Begun': Iran to Exceed Uranium Stockpile Limit Set by Nuclear Deal in 10 Days

TEHRAN - Tehran will increase uranium production beyond the limits set by the 2015 nuclear deal by June 27, a spokesperson for the nation's atomic energy agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said on Monday. Iran has "already increased" uranium production at a nuclear research site in Natanz in the central Isfahan province, Kamalvandi told reporters at a heavy water nuclear complex in Arak.

From today, the countdown has begun, and by June 27, our uranium production will have surpassed 300kg.

The move is set to place the nation's nuclear program beyond the limits laid out in the 2015 deal, known as the JCPOA, under which Iran's uranium stockpile could not exceed 300kg until 2031. Last month, Tehran announced that it would partially suspend its commitments under the JCPOA, giving the European Union 60 days to

reaffirm their part of the agreement. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Kamalvandi lambasted the EU, saying that they "either do not want to do something, or they just don't have the ability to do it," but stressed that "Europeans still have time" to save the deal.

The JCPOA began to fall apart last year when the US unilaterally withdrew from the agreement. President Donald Trump called the deal "defective at its core," and accused Tehran of secretly violating its provisions. Iranian officials denied any wrongdoing. Their position was backed by nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which affirmed in its reports that Iran was implementing its part of the agreement.

Trump's move was heavily criticized by the EU, Russia and China, all of which are signatories of the deal. (RT)

Dollar in Uzbekistan Rises for 8th Weeks in Row; Euro Falls

TASHKENT - The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has published exchange rates that will be effective from June 17, Trend reports with reference to the Central Bank.

The official dollar rate rose by 17.06 soums and amounted to 8,535.74 soums, the Central Bank reports.

In turn, the euro fell by 86.52 soums and amounted to 9,566 soums. (Trend)

The dollar in Uzbekistan has been growing for the eighth week in a row.

The Central Bank can influence the level of demand and supply of foreign currency through monetary policy by restraining the growth of money supply and increasing the attractiveness of assets in national currency, read the message. (Trend)

China-Tajikistan Practical Cooperation Yields Remarkable Fruits

DUSHANBE - Students of Confucius Institute at Tajikistan Nationality University perform traditional Chinese instrument guzheng. Photo by Chen Shangwen, People's Daily

Tajik capital Dushanbe embraces the best time of the year every summer when fruits turn ripe under the bright sunshine.

The city is currently experiencing a facelift as the China-Tajikistan practical cooperation reaps increasingly remarkable results, which has further improved the livelihood of the local people.

I used to be stationed in Central Asia. When I came to Dushanbe for the first time four years ago, I was always greeted by the hospitable locals with "Nihao"-a way to say hello in Chinese, and they always asked to take photos with me.

Later I found out that this was a special courtesy for the Chinese people. As a mountainous country, Tajikistan suffered slow development of infrastructure and has been further burdened

by the civil war that happened at the beginning of the independence. When the country regained peace, it was facing huge tasks of development, and the Tajik people had to leave their country for work in overseas destinations. It was the arrival of the Chinese that changed the situation. The Chinese enterprises paved roads and built bridges, constantly improving local infrastructure and facilitating logistics.

They also established factories and industrial parks, creating massive jobs that enabled those who worked overseas to secure a job at home, which resulted in family reunions of many. A textile agricultural industry park built by China's Zhongtai Group is now the largest textile company in Central Asia, and also the largest exporter in Tajikistan in terms of foreign currency earnings. The jobs it created have offered opportunities for local women to make money, largely improving their status at home. (Agencies)

President Stresses Greater Parliamentary Exchanges with Australia

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed the need for greater parliamentary contacts and exchanges with Australia to strengthen people-to-people relations.

The President was talking to outgoing High

Commissioner of Australia Margaret Adamson who paid a farewell call on him, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President congratulated the High Commissioner on successful completion of her tenure in Pakistan. (Monitoring Desk)