

China Says Xi-Trump Phone Call 'Extremely Positive'

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping had an "extremely positive" phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump about trade and other issues, the foreign ministry said Friday.

The two leaders agreed to "strengthen economic exchanges," said a ministry spokesman, Lu Kang. He gave no indication whether they made progress on settling an escalating tariff war over Beijing's technology policy. Trump said earlier on Twitter that he and Xi had a "very good" conversation.

"I agree, this phone conversation was an extremely positive phone conversation," Lu said at a regular briefing.

Trump has imposed penalty tariffs of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese goods in a dispute over Beijing's plans for



state-led development of technology industries. Washington, Europe and other trading partners

say those violate China's market-opening obligations and some American officials worry

they might erode U.S. industrial leadership. (AP)

Koreas to Inform IOC of Intent to Co-Host 2032 Games

SEOUL, South Korea — North and South Korea on Friday agreed to officially inform the International Olympic Committee of their intent to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics as they continued with reconciliation efforts.

Korean sports officials after meeting at the North Korean border town of Kaesong also agreed to send a combined team to the world handball championships in January, according to a statement. The rivals vowed to "actively participate" in international sports events

hosted by each other and organize more friendly competitions between them.

"The plan is to organize friendly competitions marking meaningful anniversaries between the South and North, for example the first anniversaries of the (April) inter-Korean summit and the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics," said South Korean Vice Sports Minister Roh Tae-kang, according to a pool report. North Korean officials at the meeting were led by a counterpart, Won Kil U. (AP)

ISTANBUL — An adviser to Turkey's president has said the team that killed prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul cut up his body in order to dissolve for easier disposal, the newspaper Hurriyet reported on Friday.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist critical of the Saudi government and its de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, disappeared after he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul exactly one month ago on Oct. 2.

The Saudi government initially insisted Khashoggi had left the consulate, later saying he died in an unplanned "rogue operation". Last week, the kingdom's public prosecutor Saud Al Mojob said the attack was premeditated.

Istanbul chief prosecutor Irfan Fidan said this week that Khashoggi was suffocated as soon as he entered the consulate, and his body was then cut up and disposed of. Turkey has demanded that Saudi authorities tell them where the body is.



But Yasin Aktay, who advises President Tayyip Erdogan and was a friend of Khashoggi's, told Hurriyet newspaper that the corpse was disposed of by dismembering and dissolving it.

"According to the latest information we have, the reason they dismembered his body is to dissolve it easier." This was the first time this detail has been mentioned. (Reuters)

Erdogan Adviser Said Khashoggi's Body was Dismembered and Dissolved

Putin to Meet New Cuban Leader on First Moscow Visit



MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin was set to meet Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Friday on his first official visit to long-term ally

Moscow. Diaz-Canel took office in April in a historic transition of power on the Caribbean island, succeeding Raul Castro, who took over from his elder

brother Fidel, father of the 1959 revolution. Cold War ally Moscow has affirmed "unshakable solidarity" with Communist Cuba and last year criticised US President Donald Trump for reversing Barack Obama's deal to restore ties with Havana.

The visit comes a day after the US, which has slapped several rounds of sanctions on Russia, imposed new economic restrictions on Cuba. Diaz-Canel flew into Moscow on Thursday evening for a three-day visit accompanied by foreign minister Bruno

Rodriguez and other officials. "We would like to confirm the unchanged policy of Cuba... towards Russia," Diaz-Canel told parliament speaker Vyacheslav Volodin on Friday morning, in translated comments reported by TASS state news agency.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also stressed the warmth of "friendship and cooperation with Cuba" the day before, telling journalists: "Russia intends to continue these relations and do everything possible to develop them." (AFP)

France Is Threatened 'Like Never Before,' should Stay Vigilant— Ex-French Spy Chief

PARIS — France is facing unprecedented menace — both internal and external — as it is struggling to battle terrorism, Bernard Squarcini, former head of the French Internal Security Bureau has warned speaking to RT's SophieCo show.

Sitting in with RT's Sophie Shevardnadze, the ex-spy chief underscored that France does not feel secure at all. He explained that threats exist both beyond and inside its borders, including people in the French territory using the Internet

to serve their malign purposes.

"France is very much threatened, like never before," — he proclaimed adding that France is struggling to deal with those threats, especially in the wake of the terrorist attacks that bloodied the country in recent years.

Paris is part of a global intelligence approach, but this area faces its own challenges not to allow data mining to "attack [the] national sovereignty" of each state. (Russia Today)

56,800 Migrant Dead and Missing: 'They Are Human Beings'

JOHANNESBURG — One by one, five to a grave, the coffins are buried in the red earth of this ill-kept corner of a South African cemetery. The scrawl on the cheap wood attests to their anonymity: "Unknown B/Male." These men were migrants from elsewhere in Africa with next to nothing who sought a living in the thriving underground economy of Gauteng province, a name that roughly translates to "land of gold." Instead of fortune, many found death, their bodies unnamed and unclaimed — more than 4,300 in Gauteng between 2014 and 2017 alone.

Some of those lives ended here at the Olifantsvlei cemetery, in silence, among tufts of grass growing over tiny placards that read: Pauper Block. (AP)

Dominican Republic Leader in China after Cutting Taiwan Ties

BEIJING — China rolled out the red carpet Friday for the second time this week for a Latin American leader whose country recently switched its allegiance from Taipei to Beijing. President Danilo Medina of the Dominican Republic met with Chinese President Xi Jinping after a formal welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People. The summit came one day after a similar ceremony and meeting for Salvadoran President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.

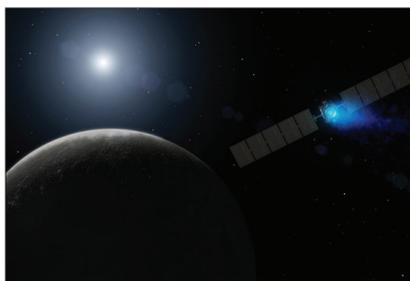
Both El Salvador and the Dominican Republic broke their diplomatic ties with Taiwan earlier this year. They are among a number of countries that have established or resumed relations with China in recent years. (AP)

Nasa's Asteroid Belt Mission Runs out of Fuel

WASHINGTON — After 11 years, 4.3 billion miles (6.9 billion kilometers) and two planetary orbits, NASA's Dawn mission has been declared over after the craft failed to communicate with Earth for two days in a row.

The 11-year mission to investigate "time capsules from the solar system's earliest chapter" in the asteroid belt concluded after Dawn finally ran out of hydrazine fuel, which meant it could no longer turn to face Earth, to communicate, or the sun, to recharge.

The probe, currently in orbit around the dwarf planet Ceres, missed communications with NASA's Deep Space Net-



work on Wednesday and Thursday; and mission managers were forced to confirm the end of the mission.

"Today, we celebrate the end of our Dawn mission — its incredible technical achievements, the vital science it gave us, and the entire team who enabled the spacecraft to make

these discoveries," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "The astounding images and data that Dawn collected from Vesta and Ceres are critical to understanding the history and evolution of our solar system." (Russia Today)

U.N. Urges End to U.S. Embargo on Cuba, U.S. Raises Rights Concerns

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted its 27th annual resolution calling for an end to the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba after a failed bid by Washington to amend the text to push Cuba to improve its human rights record. The U.N. vote can carry political weight, but only the U.S. Congress can lift the more than 50-year-old embargo. The United

States and Israel voted against the resolution, 189 countries voted in favor and Ukraine and Moldova did not vote.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told the General Assembly that the resolution was an opportunity for countries "to feel they can poke the United States in the eye." "But you're not hurting the United States when you do this. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Pakistan, China Look Forward to Cementing Bilateral Ties through Bus Service

ISLAMABAD — The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is bringing further avenues of investments and cooperation for Pakistan as well as ease to the people of both the countries as a local private transport company is all set to launch a bus service connecting Pakistan and China from Nov. 3 under the flagship CPEC project.

The new bus service called Pakistan-China bus service is launched by "Shuja group" under their brand name of "Shuja Express" which will cover the one-way journey in two days (approximately 30 hours of travel time).

According to Chief Executive Officer of the company Muhammad Anwar, the new bus service is expected to start regular operations from Nov. 3. It will be in operation four days a week, that is Monday, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from Pakistani eastern city of Lahore to Chinese border city Kashgar, and same manner from Kashgar to Lahore on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The bus will set off at 12 p.m. (local time) from Lahore and at first it will reach federal capital Islamabad where breakfast will be served. (Xinhua)

Maulana Samiul Haq Assassinated in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI — Maulana Samiul Haq has been assassinated at his residence in Rawalpindi.

The religious scholar's family and Jamiat Ulama Islam-Sami (JUI-S) officials confirmed the news of his death.

"He was trying to reach the protest in Islamabad but came back home due to roads being blocked. He was resting in his room during Asr time when his driver/guard went out for 15 minutes. When he returned, he found Maulana Samiul Haq dead in his bed and his body covered in blood," Haq's son, Hamidul Haq, told media via telephone. His party has been an

ally of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The PTI also gave him ticket for the 2018 Senate election, but he could not be elected to the upper house.

The JUI-S chief headed a committee formed for peace talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in 2014.

The talks, despite repeated rounds, failed to yield results and the then Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led government subsequently launched a crackdown on militants following terrorist attacks on Karachi's Jinnah International Airport and then the Army Public School in Peshawar later that year. (Agencies)

US Grants Waivers to 8 Countries Importing Iranian Oil

TEHRAN — The US administration has agreed to allow eight countries to continue purchasing Iran's crude oil after Washington's sanctions on Tehran take place next Monday, a senior official said Friday.

The administration official told Bloomberg that waivers were aimed at preventing oil price hikes and would be granted in exchange for continued import cuts.

The source said US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo was expected to announce the number of exemptions later on Friday. In addition to Japan, India, and South Korea,

the US would grant the oil waiver to China as well, two people familiar with Washington-Beijing discussions said on the condition of anonymity.

The other four countries to get waivers remained to be identified, but Turkey was predicted to be one of them. Turkish Energy Minister Fatih Donmez announced on Friday he had heard rumors that the US is going to exempt Ankara from the upcoming sanctions.

However, he said, he had not received written notification regarding the possible exemption. (Press TV)

US Exploring Opportunities for Private Business in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT — A meeting with the Scott Ticknor, the Acting Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs (CBA) in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB) of the US Department of State has been held at the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan (UIET), the UIET said in a statement.

At the meeting, the high technologies, agriculture, and the production of electronic equipment have been mentioned among the promising areas of cooperation. The interest was noted regarding development of cooperation in the spheres of trade and transport and logistics.

In this context, the guests stressed the importance of holding business forums and other international events to be organized by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB) of the US Department of State structure on business and trade activities, and inviting the members of the UIET to participate in such events, the message says.

The total trade and economic turnover of Turkmenistan and the United States in 1H2018 has increased by more than 27 percent. Some 156 projects totaling more than \$2.5 billion have already been implemented in Turkmenistan with the participation of US companies. (Trend)

Uk Police Probe Labour Party 'Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes'

LONDON — British police announced Friday they were investigating alleged "anti-Semitic hate crimes" within the main opposition Labour Party after receiving a leaked internal dossier.

The criminal investigation comes after a national radio station obtained what it said was an internal Labour document detailing 45 cases involving messages posted by party members on social media.

Labour, led by veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn, spent the British summer dogged by accusations of anti-Semitism.

The issue has bubbled under the surface for years, but intensified in recent months with a series of incidents coming to light.

"A criminal investigation has commenced into some of the allegations within the documentation," London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement. Britain's top police officer Cressida Britain was handed the leaked dossier two months ago after an interview at LBC. "The complainant alleged that the documentation included evidence of anti-Semitic hate crimes," the Met Police said.

"The contents have been examined by specialist officers."

The Met said early investigative advice was being sought from the Crown Prosecution Service.

The CPS, England's state prosecutors, decides on whether to bring criminal charges once an investigation is complete. (AFP)