

## Pompeo Meets Saudi King on Khashoggi Case, Turks Study 'Toxic Materials'

RIYADH/ISTANBUL - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Saudi Arabia's king and crown prince to discuss the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi on Tuesday and Turkey's foreign minister said the envoy would bring information about the case to Ankara.

Khashoggi, a U.S. resident and leading critic of the Saudi crown prince, vanished after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2. Turkish officials say they believe the Saudi journalist was murdered there and his body removed, which the Saudis strongly deny.

President Donald Trump, who dispatched Pompeo to Riyadh amid strained ties with the key ally, has speculated that "rogue killers" may be responsible after speaking with King Salman.



After talks with the king, Pompeo met Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir and will see Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for a second time at a dinner. He is then expected to go to Turkey.

Overnight, Turkish crime scene investigators entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, the last place Khashoggi was seen before vanishing, for the first time and searched the premises for over

nine hours, Reuters witnesses said.

They will continue on Tuesday, expanding their search to include the residence of the Saudi consul as well as consulate vehicles, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, speaking to reporters in parliament, raised the possibility that parts of the consulate had been repainted since Khashoggi disappeared. "The investigation is looking into many things such as toxic materials and those materials being removed by painting them over," he said.

The case has provoked an international outcry against the world's top oil exporter, with media and business executives pulling out of an investment conference next week. (Reuters)

### Russian Press Warns of 'Orthodox War' over Church Split

MOSCOW - Russian media on Tuesday warned of one of the gravest crises in the history of the Orthodox Church after the Moscow branch announced it would break ties with the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The rupture on Monday came after the Istanbul-based clerics ruled to grant independence to the Ukrainian Church, a move Russia has long campaigned against.

Constantinople's decision last week ended more than 300 years of Moscow's

control over Orthodox churches in Ukraine and affects millions of believers in Russia and Ukraine. The religious split comes amid deep political tensions, with Ukraine fighting a Moscow-backed uprising in its east.

RBK business daily warned of a "war between (Holy) Synods" on its front page, referring to the Churches' ruling bodies.

A Russian expert on religion, Roman Lunkin, told RBK that Moscow's move has created "two warring Orthodox worlds". (AFP)

### Russia, Pakistan to Hold Joint Military Drills

MOSCOW - The Russian-Pakistani military drills "Friendship 2018" will be held in the mountains of Pakistan from Oct. 21 to Nov. 4, a Russian press official said Tuesday.

According to Vadim Astafeyev, head of the press service of the Russian Southern Military District, the joint drills will be held at the training range in Pakistan's northwestern town of Pabbi. More than 70 mountain shooters from Karachay-Cherkessia will take part in the drills.

The servicemen from the two countries' armed forces



will perform tasks at an altitude of 1,400 meters above sea level, Astafeyev said.

Russia and Pakistan have

been holding the "Friendship" drills since 2016. In 2017, over 200 servicemen took part in the drills,

which were held in the North Caucasus at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level. (Xinhua)

### Two Koreas, U.N. Command Wrap up First Talks on Disarming Border



SEOUL - North and South Korea held their first three-way talks with the United Nations Command (UNC) on Tuesday to discuss ways to demilitarize the border as the

neighbors push for peace, South Korea's defense ministry said. The two Koreas agreed this week to begin reconnecting rail and road links, in spite of U.S. con-

cerns that a rapid thaw in relations could undermine efforts to press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Tuesday's meeting followed a summit between leaders of the two countries in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, last month.

The two leaders agreed to hold talks with the UNC, which overlaps with U.S. forces in the South and oversees affairs in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, to smooth the way to disarming one of the

world's most heavily fortified frontiers.

The meeting on Tuesday lasted for about two hours at the border village of Panmunjom, and was led by military officials of the rank of colonel from the two sides and Burke Hamilton, secretary of the UNC Military Armistice Commission, the ministry said.

"They discussed practical issues regarding demilitarisation steps to be conducted in the future," the South Korean ministry said in a statement. (Reuters)

### Macron Seeks Fresh Start with French Government Reshuffle

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron's government sought to give itself a fresh start after a difficult summer with a limited reshuffle on Tuesday that included a new interior minister.

The restructuring comes two weeks after the surprise resignation of Gerard Collomb as interior minister, who is responsible for policing including the fight against extremism. Macron named key ally Christophe Castaner to replace Collomb.

Castaner, 52, was heading Macron's party, Repub-

lic on the Move, and was junior minister in charge of parliamentary relations. In a brief handover ceremony at the Interior Ministry, Castaner said security issues remain the government's priority.

"I am thinking, of course, about the fight against terrorism. I am thinking, of course, about the day to day work being done night and day led by the teams from the Interior Ministry to dismantle (the terrorist cells) and to preserve and to guarantee once again, the safety of everyone," he said. (AP)

### Global Stocks Rise amid Strong Earnings Reports

SINGAPORE - World stock markets were mostly higher Tuesday after strong earnings reports in the United States.

KEEPING SCORE: France's CAC 40 added 0.4 percent to 5,116, while Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.2 percent to 7,016. Germany's DAX rose 0.6 percent to 11,687. Italy's FTSE MIB jumped 1.1 percent to 19,498.17, avoided last-minute delays in presenting a budget plan. The proposal raises the deficit to as much as 2.4 percent of GDP next year, in defiance of European Union guidance.

U.S. shares were set for an upbeat open, with Dow futures gaining 0.6 percent and S&P 500 futures up 0.5 percent.

EARNINGS: Among the companies reporting stronger earnings figures were bank Morgan Stanley, Johnson & Johnson, which is the world's biggest maker of health care products, and health insurer UnitedHealth. The reports suggest company profits have been helped by the government's tax cut as well as the overall strength of the economy, which has seen unemployment drop steadily. They augur well for the rest of the earnings season, with thousands of more companies to report in coming weeks.

U.S. TREASURY REPORT: The U.S. Treasury will release a currency report later Tuesday. Reports that U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was advised against labeling China as a currency manipulator have raised hopes it won't do further damage to relations. Mnuchin met with Yi Gang, the head of China's central bank, on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meeting last week and said they had a "constructive discussion." But Mnuchin expressed concern about the weakness of the yuan, which weakened against the dollar in recent months. (AP)

### Australia Considers Moving Embassy to Jerusalem

CANBERRA, Australia - Australia has raised the prospect of following the United States by relocating its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in a policy shift that critics described Tuesday as a desperate grab for domestic political gain to win a crucial by-election.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the idea was suggested to him by a former ambassador to Israel, Dave Sharma, who is a candidate for the ruling conservative Liberal Party in a by-election Saturday in a Sydney electorate with a large Jewish population. At stake is the government's single-seat majority in the House of



Representatives and Morrison's ability to retain power without doing deals with independent lawmakers. Morrison said Australia remained committed to finding a two-state solution to Israel's conflict with the Palestinians.

"When sensible suggestions are put forward that are consistent with your policy positioning and in this case pursuing a two-state solution, Australia should be open-minded to this and I am open-minded to this," Morrison told reporters. (AP)

### Mattis: Trump Says Defense Chief's Job Is '100 Percent' Safe

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam - Amid speculation that he may soon be replaced, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said President Donald Trump told him he supports the retired Marine general "100 percent."

The assertion comes just days after Trump mused on national television about Mattis leaving his post.

Mattis said Trump gave him this assurance during a phone call while Mattis was flying from Washington to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on Tuesday. A few hours earlier, Mattis told reporters traveling with him that he and Trump had never discussed the possibility of Mattis leaving the Pentagon job. (AP)

### Under Growing EU Pressure, May Meets Her Ministers on Brexit

LONDON/BRUSSELS - British Prime Minister Theresa May will discuss Brexit with her ministers on Tuesday, under pressure to rethink her plans from both some members of her Conservative Party and the European Union.

A day before May heads to Brussels for a summit, a senior EU official again made clear that parts of May's plan could not work and said the time was right to step up plans for Britain leaving the bloc without a deal.

With less than six months before Britain leaves the EU, Brexit talks have reached a stalemate over the so-called Irish backstop, a fallback plan to ensure there is no return to a hard border between Northern Ireland and EU-member Ireland. May told parliament on Monday she would not accept the EU's proposal for such a backstop because, she said, it could break up the United Kingdom. On Tuesday, a German official repeated the EU's line that the backstop needed to be legally watertight and without it there would be no Brexit deal.

Germany's European Affairs Minister Michael Roth offered this advice to May: "Take responsibility and be constructive." But other ministers arriving in Luxembourg for a meeting of EU ministers pointed to the progress made so far in the Brexit talks.

May will update her cabinet of top ministers on the Brexit negotiations later on Tuesday, aware that some have come under pressure from Conservative euroskeptic lawmakers to persuade her to change tack over her so-called Chequers plan. (Reuters)

## Neighbor News

### Iran's Vision for Iraqi Market on Track despite US Sanctions

TEHRAN - Iran is pushing forth with a 2025 vision plan to raise its exports to Iraq to \$20 billion a year despite US pressures on Baghdad to keep Tehran at its arm's length.

Iran's business adviser at the country's embassy in Baghdad was quoted as saying Tuesday that the Islamic Republic was already ahead of its plan, with non-oil exports currently standing at \$4.5 billion.

"Based on the average growth rate of 8.5% of non-oil exports and the realization of about \$4.5 billion worth of these exports, we can say that we are 28% ahead of our export targets to Iraq," Nasser Behzad said.

Iran is currently Iraq's

top trade partner, with annual turnover of about \$12 billion, according to Iraqi officials. By comparison, annual trade between Saudi Arabia and Iraq stands below \$6 billion.

Foodstuff, livestock, construction material and plastic products constitute the bulk of Iran's exports to Iraq. Iranian vehicles and food items are a ubiquitous sight in Iraq.

Behzad said as many as 26 programs have been drafted and approved for expansion of trade ties between Iran and Iraq, which will be pursued "with seriousness" once the political situation stabilizes in the Arab country. (Press TV)

### Expensive Power Plants set up by PML-N Govt behind Hike in Electricity Cost: Fawad

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Tuesday said due to electricity generated at high cost by the expensive power projects commissioned by the previous regime, the present government was facing a loss of Rs 2.63 per unit.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said it was necessary to brief the people about the facts that as to how the wrong policies of last government had contributed to accumulation of massive circular debt causing huge losses to the national exchequer.

He said presently per unit cost of electricity stood at Rs 14.22 while the consumers were being

charged Rs 11.71, thus the government had to bear the difference amount of Rs 2.63.

During the last two years of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, he said, per unit cost of the electricity had reached Rs 15.53. Due to the difference between the electricity generation cost and its sale, around Rs 36 billion was being added to the circular debt every month, he added.

He said in the wake of its dwindling political fortunes its last one and a half years, the PML-N government did not take corrective steps and pass on the burden of increased electricity generation cost to the consumers. (Monitoring Desk)

### UN Consults Turkmenistan in Fight against Terrorism

ASHGABAT - Regional training on "Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen National and Regional Capacities in Countering Terrorism" started in Ashgabat, the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia said.

It is attended by officials and counterterrorism practitioners from Central Asian states and Afghanistan, as well as by international experts.

The training, which aims at strengthening national and regional border security in the context of counterterrorism and prevention of free movement of foreign terrorist fighters, is being organized by the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

(UNRCCA), in cooperation with the UN Office for Countering Terrorism (UNOCT).

"This event is a timely opportunity to join forces and enhance cross-border exchanges and harmonization of policy around border security for effective counterterrorism," said SRSG Natalia Gherman in her remarks.

She also praised the significant efforts made by Central Asian states in countering terrorism and assured that UNRCCA, with its regional and preventive mandate, would continue encouraging such cooperation as part of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia. (Trend)

### Nobel Laureate in Chemistry to Deliver Report on Dev't of Science in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of North Carolina, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Aziz Sanzar, at the invitation of the National University arrived in Uzbekistan, according to Xalq so'zi ("People's Word") newspaper.

Uzbek Minister of Higher and Secondary Special Education Inomjon Majidov has received the scholar, with whom they visited the memorial complex of first Uzbek President Islam Karimov.

During the visit, Professor Sanzar will de-

liver an online lecture on 'DNA repair, cancer and chemotherapy' for students, graduate students, doctoral students and researchers, which will be broadcast at the country's universities. Moreover, the professor will deliver a report entitled "Science and national development" to young scholars.

Sanzar will also take part in the opening ceremony of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Molecular Biology at the National University. On October 7, 2015, Sanzar was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. (Trend)