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NEWSIN

UN seeking access to Xinjiang camps REUTERS, Geneva

The top United Nations human rights official Michelle Bachelet yesterday said that her office is seeking access to China's Xinjiang region to verify "worrying reports" of re-education camps holding Uighurs and other Muslim minorities. China says security measures are needed to combat the influence of "extremist" groups that incite violence

Qatar receives Saudi invite to GCC summit

AFP, Doha

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has received an invite from Saudi Arabia to attend this month's Gulf Cooperation Council summit, despite an ongoing diplomatic crisis, Doha state media said Tuesday. Saudi and its allies have suspended all relations with Qatar, claiming Doha supports terrorism and is too close to Riyadh's great rival, Iran. Qatar denies the allegations

Yemen govt team heads to crunch peace talks

AFP, Rimbo

Yemeni government representatives were expected to join a rebel delegation in Sweden yesterday for highstakes peace talks aimed at ending four years of devastating war. A 12-member team from the Saudibacked government left Riyadh early yesterday.

BITS OF HISTORY (DECEMBER 5)

1914: Italy announces neutrality in World War One. 1926: The French Impressionist

painter Claude Monet died. 1977: Egypt broke ties with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen after they all opposed its peace moves with Israel.

2001: Afghan factions signed an accord to set up a post-Taliban government headed by Pashtun chief Hamid Karzai. 2003: An explosion tore through a

morning commuter train just outside Yessentuki station on Russia's southern fringe. Forty-six people were killed and more than 160 injured.

Mexico president

to scrap his own

immunity

Mexico's new President

Obrador said Tuesday he was

sending a bill to Congress to

eliminate presidential immu-

establishment leftist says has

nity established in the consti-

tution. It will now be possible

like any other citizen," he told

"Of course, that means it

to put the president on trial

will be possible to try him

for corruption, including

while he is still in office."

initials, AMLO, Lopez

Widely known by his

Obrador has also slashed

rity detail -- all part of his

and lead an austere govern

Under Mexico's current

constitution, the president

can only be tried for "high

crimes" and acts of treason.

office Saturday after win-

ning a landslide election

victory, promising to "trans-

form" a country fed up with

89 years of rule by the same

The coalition led by the

four years ago, Morena, has

upstart party he founded

strong majorities in both

Lopez Obrador also

108,000 pesos (around

\$5,270) a month.

addressed backlash against

his plan to slash the salaries

of the highest-earning public

houses of Congress.

crime and corruption after

two parties.

Lopez Obrador, 65, took

vow to battle corruption

ment by example.

his own salary by 60 percen and spurned the presidential jet, residence and secu-

"We are ending the impu-

Andres Manuel Lopez

nity, which the anti-

fueled corruption.

a press conference.

AFP, Mexico City



High school students set fire to block the tramway during a demonstration against French government Education reforms yesterday in Bordeaux, southwestern France. After days of protests, the French government yesterday signalled that it was prepared to make further concessions to "yellow vest" protesters, even raising a possible rollback on a controversial move to cut taxes for high earners last year. PHOTO: AFP

Meanwhile 25 her own Conservative MPs voted with

Labour to give the Commons a bigger say in what hap-

pens if, as expected, the Brexit deal is voted down on

The government yesterday finally published the six-page

stop, which could keep the whole

country in an EU customs union

for years after Brexit, while also

keeping the province of Northern

Ireland in the bloc's single mar-

approve an amendment tabled

by Conservative former attorney

general Dominic Grieve, which

allows parliament to determine

If May loses the vote next

week, the government has 21

what happens if the deal falls.

MPs on Tuesday also voted to

advice from the attorney general to cabinet. It confirms

Britain risks remaining "indefinitely" in the so-called back-

ket.

days to return to MPs to propose what happens next.

Grieve's amendment could allow MPs to amend that state-

ment, raising the possibility they could demand a re-

the vote next Tuesday but the question of what happens

There are few people who believe May's deal will survive

negotiation, a second referendum or even staying in the EU.

May's future uncertain too as she is accused of misleading MPs

BREXIT ROW

Northern Irish DUP

says will vote against

May's deal

25 Conservative MPs to

back Labour in case of

deal voted down

Brexit deal.

December 11.

next remains wide open.

Brexit future looks bleak Turkey seeks arrest of MBS's key allies

AFP, Istanbul

A Turkish court has issued arrest warrants for two suspects close to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, raising pressure on the kingdom's de facto leader after two US senators accused him of ordering the hit.

The chief prosecutor's office in Istanbul filed an appli cation on Tuesday to obtain the warrants for Ahmad al-Assiri and Saud al-Qahtani, described in court documents as being "among the planners" of Khashoggi's grisly killing.

Then yesterday, an Istanbul court issued the arrest warrants for Assiri and Qahtani on the charge of "deliberately killing (someone) with monstrous feeling or causing torment".

Assiri, the former deputy head of general intelligence, often sat in during Prince Mohammed's closed-door meetings with visiting foreign dignitaries, while Qahtani was a key counsellor to the crown prince.

Both were sacked after Riyadh admitted Khashoggi was killed in the Saudi consulate.

Saudi Arabia has sought to distance Prince Mohammed from the murder and has received support from the administration of US President Donald Trump, which has downplayed possible links between the crown prince and what happened to Khashoggi.



Trump shaping

US President Donald Trump's top diplomat promised on Tuesday a new democratic world order in which Washington will strengthen or jettison international agreements as it sees fit to stop "bad actors" such as Russia, China

and Iran from gaining. "America First" policy, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Trump was not abandoning its global leadership but instead reshaping the post-World War Two system on the basis of sovereign states, not

multilateral institutions. "In the finest traditions of our great democracy, we are rallying the noble nations to build a new liberal order that prevents war and achieves greater prosperity," Pompeo told diplomats and

"We are acting to preserve, protect, and advance an open, just, transparent and free world of sovereign

states," Pompeo said. Pompeo's address rejected concerns among many US allies that Trump is undermining the West by withdrawing from climate, freetrade and arms control accords. He said Trump was reforming the liberal order, not destroying it. He cited Britain's decision to quit the European Union as a sign

He also doubted on the EU's commitment to its citizens. Alluding to Trump's policies in a speech on Monday in Cambridge, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini warned of "the rule of the jungle" replacing the rule of law.

World figures pay respect to George HW Bush

series of stunning defeats in parliament which threaten her

government and ultimately could change the course of

She effectively lost her majority in the Commons after

the Northern Irish party on which she relies sided with the

Labour party to find her ministers in contempt of parlia-

ment for failing to publish in full the legal advice on the

British Prime Minister Theresa May was accused yesterday of

misleading MPs over her Brexit deal as her government

published legal advice likely to increase opposition to the

Scottish National Party (SNP) lawmaker Ian Blackford

was twice reprimanded by the House of Commons speaker

agreement ahead of a crucial vote next week.

for suggesting May had misled

MPs "inadvertently or other-

wise", before withdrawing the

she had been always clear about

her government's dealings about

Brexit. But she emphasised nei-

ther side wanted this to happen,

and repeated that the withdrawal

agreement struck with Brussels

last month was the only viable

May on Tuesday suffered a

May denied the claim and said

CNN, Washington

AFP, London

claim.

option.

Brexit.

The hilltop cathedral in Washington filled Wednesday with recollections of George HW Bush as a modest but mighty president, a man whose characteristic humility was belied one final time with all the pageantry of a state funeral.

"He valued character over pedigree and he was not a cynic. He looked for the good in everybody, and usually he found it," President George W. Bush told 3,000 political leaders and family members who congregated at the National Cathedral to say goodbye. "To us," the younger Bush said, "he was close to perfect."

As Christian hymns echoed through the cathedral's arches, sung and played by military orchestras and choirs, there seemed to be more laughter than tears in the pews.

His eulogists each captured the successive roles Bush played in his lifetime: World War II flyboy, statesman, friend and father.

"He showed me what it means to be a president who serves with integrity, leads with courage and acts in love with his heart for the citizens of our country," George W. Bush said, describing his father as a man who preferred steaks and vodka martinis over broccoli, speed-boated and skydived as an octogenarian...."



Policemen stand as an Indonesian Muslim woman holds a placard during protest against Myanmar's treatment of its Rohingya minority in front of Myanmar's embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

No jail time sought for Flynn

Russia ties.

AFP, Washington

Robert Mueller, the special prosecutor in charge of the Russia election meddling probe, recommended Tuesday that President Donald Trump's former national security advisor Michael Flynn face no jail time due to his "substantial" cooperation with the investigation.

Mueller said in a court filing that Flynn, who admitted last year to lying about his contacts with

Russians following Trump's November 2016 election victory, had helped in his and other unspecified federal criminal investigations, including being interviewed 19 times. Mueller also told the Washington

Federal court that despite his "serious" offense, the retired three-star general and former Pentagon intelligence chief had a strong record of military and public service.

The surprise recommendation came ahead of Flynn's upcoming sentencing, which had

been postponed four times over the past year. Those postponements indicated that, once hostile to the

servants and cap their pay at what he himself now earns: had possibly become a valuable witness. Flynn's was the first guilty plea secured by the Mueller

investigation that threatens Trump and his inner circle, he

investigation into alleged collusion between Trump's elec-

tion campaign and Russia. In an interview with investigators on January 24, 2017, four days after Trump's inauguration, Flynn lied about conversations he had the previous December with Russia's ambassador to the US, Sergei Kislyak.

In those conversations, apparently recorded by US intelligence, Flynn appeared to be trying to undermine the policy of then-President Barack Obama

by making separate political deals **MUELLER'S RUSSIA COLLUSION PROBE** with Moscow. Obama at the time was planning

sanctions on Russia for its interference in the 2016 election. Flynn urged the Russians not to retaliate, suggesting Trump would reverse the sanctions.

Within weeks, Flynn was forced to resign after it was alleged that he also had lied to top White House officials about his Kislyak talks.

Then in March 2018, in a second interview with the FBI, Flynn lied about the fact that before and after the election, he had a \$530,000 lobbying contract

on behalf of Turkey that he had not reported. Despite the light sentence recommendation, the memorandum gave no hint as to what Flynn had told the Mueller team about the operations of the Trump campaign and its

Russia has '60 days'

US gives timeline for complying with nuclear treaty; Moscow denies breaching deal; EU calls for saving it

AFP, Brussels

The United States warned Russia on Tuesday it will withdraw from a major Cold War treaty limiting mid-range nuclear arms if Moscow does not dismantle missiles that Washington says breach it within 60 days.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington would no longer be bound by the 1987 Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty unless Moscow withdraws a new system that has threatened to trigger an arms race.

President Vladimir Putin yesterday dis-

missed US claims Russia is violating the treaty, as a senior general lashed out at Washington's attempts to "contain" Moscow.

has been provided," he said.

"First the American side stated its intention to withdraw from the treaty... then it began to look for the justifications for doing so," Putin said in comments carried by

Russian news agencies. "The primary justification is that we are violating something. At the same time, as

The comments echoed earlier statements from the Russian foreign ministry, which dismissed the accusations against Moscow as "groundless".

In October, President Donald Trump sparked global concern by declaring the United States would pull out of the deal and build up America's nuclear stockpile "until people come to their senses".

But on Monday, the US leader said he wants talks with Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping "to head off a major and uncontrollable arms race".

Meanwhile, the Russian Army Chief of Staff Vasily Gerasimov said that Moscow would increase the capabilities of its ground-based strategic nuclear arms.

EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini yesterday pleaded for the treaty to be saved, warning that Europe did not want to become a battlefield for global powers once

"The INF has guaranteed peace and now," Mogherini said.

usual, no evidence of violations on our part

again, as it had been during the Cold War. security in European territory for 30 years

Terrorism deaths down in 2017

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 6, 2018, AGRAHAYAN 22,1425 BS

Far-right terrorism rising **CNN ONLINE** Deaths from terrorism declined in 2017 for the third straight year, but far-right extremism was on the rise, according to a new report released yesterday.

The 2018 Global Terrorism Index found that deaths resulting from terrorism decreased 27% worldwide last year. Ninety-six of the 163 countries tracked by the index saw an improvement; 46 had declines. Sixty-seven countries had at least one death from terrorism in 2017 -- a drop from 2016's

record high rate of 79 countries, according to the report. There was a sharp decrease (52%) in deaths from terrorist attacks attributed to Islamic State. Iraq and Syria remain among the top 10 most affected by terrorism, along with Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Pakistan, Egypt, Congo, the Central African Republic and India. Europe saw its deaths by terrorism drop by 75% in 2017.

The report also found that IS was "still the deadliest terrorist group globally in 2017."

The report found that far-right terrorism was on the rise in Western Europe and the United States, calling it "a growing concern."

"In the four years between 2013 and 2017, there were 66 deaths and 127 attacks caused in Western Europe and North America by far-right groups and individuals," the report stated. The index identified 31 far-right extremist attacks and 17

deaths associated with them. The reporting on the increase in far-right attacks echoes the jump in hate crime reports in the US and Canada. The

FBI said in November that reported hate crimes had jumped 17% in 2017 from the year prior. Canada saw an almost 50% jump in hate crimes in 2017.



'liberal' world order: Pompeo

REUTERS, Brussels

In a twist on Trump's

officials in a foreign policy speech.

supranational organisations

were not working.