

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Trump moves to pull US out of Pacific-Rim trade deal

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump moved to pull the United States out of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact Monday, fulfilling a campaign promise as he began his first full week in office.

"Great thing for the American worker that we just did," Trump said as he signed a notice in the Oval Office.

The president also signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring, though he noted an exception for the military, and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

Following a tumultuous first weekend in office — consumed by Trump's criticism of the media's inauguration coverage followed by pushback against his comments — the president was seeking to refocus on the sweeping, yet often vague, promises he made as a candidate. He campaigned as a fierce opponent of multilateral trade agreements, particularly the 12-nation Pacific Rim deal agreed to by President Barack Obama.

Earlier Monday, Trump huddled with business leaders and warned that he would impose a "substantial border tax" on companies that move their manufacturing out of the United States. He also promised tax advantages to companies that produce products domestically.

"All you have to do is stay," he said during a meeting in the White House's Roosevelt Room.

Trump staff, properties face terror risk with presidency

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Businesses around the world bearing U.S. President Donald Trump's name face an increased risk now that he is in the White House, security experts warn, especially as several are in areas previously targeted by violence.

As Trump remains a brand overseas, criminal gangs or militants could target buildings bearing his name in gold, abduct workers associated with his enterprises for ransom or worse, they say.

"They may kidnap a Trump worker and not even want to negotiate," aiming for publicity instead, said Colin P. Clarke, a political scientist with the RAND Corporation who studies terrorism and international criminal networks.

Predicting an attack keeps police, intelligence agencies and security experts awake at night around the world — and, by its very nature, it remains speculative.

U.S. brands have been targeted in overseas violence before, but they never belonged to a president. That's the difference. Trump becoming America's 45th president presents a unique challenge given the range of his international business interests.



AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

Hardly anything remains of the home of Jessie and Diana Mills of the Pine Grove Community near Magee, Miss., following a direct hit by a possible morning tornado Thursday. Several homes and businesses were affected by the strong winds that blew through several central Mississippi counties.

18 die amid apparent winter tornadoes, other storms in South

ADEL, Ga. — First there was the roar of the wind, then mere seconds to scoop up her grandson and run: Bridgit Simmons and her family knew the weekend storms that claimed more than a dozen lives around the South were threatening.

They had heard storm warnings all day Sunday, but that afternoon it all happened so fast as storms that killed at least 18 over the weekend moved across the Deep South. She, along with her parents, her daughter, and her grandson were in their brick home in the southwest Georgia city of Albany when the sky got dark and the wind began to howl.

"I was in the den and I heard that loud roar and I grabbed the baby and I said, 'Let's go guys. This is it.' We laid down and that was it." The wind was so loud, she added, "you could hear it beating back and forth."

Tense minutes went by. Then the storm moved on, the sky lightened and the winds calmed.

Their home was largely unscathed, save for a carport that collapsed atop two cars. But trees were down all around, police sirens wailed and authorities would add three more deaths for an overall count of at least 18.

Syria talks focused on cease-fire get underway in Kazakhstan

ASTANA, Kazakhstan — Syria talks brokered by Russia, Turkey and Iran and seeking to bolster a shaky cease-fire in place since last month opened on Monday in Kazakhstan, marking the first face-to-face meeting between the Damascus government and rebel factions fighting to overthrow it.

The gathering in Astana, the Kazakh capital, is also the start of a new effort to end six years of carnage that has killed hundreds of thousands, displaced half of Syria's population and sent millions of refugees to neighboring countries and Europe.

The U.N. envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, is participating in the talks, which if successful, are expected to be followed by more

political talks in February in Geneva.

The new U.S. administration is not directly involved, because of the "immediate demands of the transition," the State Department said on Saturday, but Washington is represented by the U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan, George Krol, who attended Monday's opening session held at the luxury Rixos President Hotel in Astana.

Osama Abo Zayed, a rebel media representative to the talks, told The Associated Press before the start that the scope of the negotiations is limited to strengthening the cease-fire.

Samsung: Batteries only problem with fire-prone Note 7s

SEOUL, South Korea — Samsung Electronics said Monday that tests of more than 200,000 Galaxy Note 7 smartphones found defects in two sets of batteries from two different manufacturers that made the devices prone to catch fire.

Samsung's mobile division president, Koh Dong-jin, ruled out any problems with other aspects of the Note 7, either in its hardware or its software. He said Samsung would use what it learned from its investigations to improve lithium ion battery safety for the industry, though analysts questioned if the company had really gotten to the heart of the problem.

Samsung discontinued the Note 7 just two months after it was launched on Aug. 2, in one of its worst product fiascos ever.

The company said 700 hundred researchers and engineers tested more than 200,000 devices and more than 30,000 batteries and replicated what happened with the Note 7 phones trying to pin down why some of the phones were overheating.

U.S. companies UL and Exponent also examined the batteries supplied by South Korea-based Samsung SDI and China-based Amperex Technology Ltd., or ATL. The German company TÜV Rheinland analyzed the Note 7 supply chain as part of the investigation, Samsung said.

US lawmakers call for action on Venezuela food corruption

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan officials may face U.S. sanctions for profiting from food shortages that have exacerbated hunger in the South American country.

The calls by members of Congress on both sides of the aisle come in response to an Associated Press investigation that found trafficking in hard-to-find food has become big business in Venezuela, with the military at the heart of the graft. Embattled socialist President Nicolas Maduro has given the military increasingly broad control over the food supply as shortages have led to widespread malnutrition this year.

"When the military is profiting off of food distribution while the Venezuelan people increasingly starve, corruption has reached a new level of depravity that cannot go unnoticed," said Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The AP report published last month detailed a chain of dirty dealing by the military, including kickbacks to generals for food contracts and bribes to move food out of the port. Some of the food is purchased in the U.S. and some of the bribes passed through the U.S. banking system.

Gillnetters: 'I can't afford to get kicked off the main stem'

Continued from Page 1A

On Friday, the commercial fishery won the day, their case made by a parade of gritty Astoria gillnetters who spoke of generational ties, community businesses and family fortunes at risk if they were no longer able to make a living.

The commission had previously appeared more likely to continue phasing out gillnets in the river's main channel, a move long favored by the sports fleet, the recreational anglers and guides who hit the river with line and hook. Washington state and Oregon agreed to such a plan, set in motion in 2012 by then Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Instead, the commissioners approved an "enhanced" rebalancing plan, one of six options analyzed by staff.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Recreational anglers are allowed to account for 80 percent of the spring and summer Chinook, the wild fish protected under the Endangered Species Act. Commercial anglers will get 20 percent of what is called the "ESA impact" and will be allowed to fish the main stem with tangle nets.

- The harvest of fall Chinook would be split 66 percent recreational, 34 percent commercial, with main stem gillnetting allowed in Zones 4 and 5 and coho tangle nets in Zones 1, 2 and 3.

- Anglers can use barbed hooks in the Willamette River.

- The Youngs Bay control zone will continue to be closed to sports fishing.

Gillnetters had offered their own plan that would have

given them a greater share of the salmon. Steve Fick, owner of Fishhawk Fisheries in Astoria, said he wasn't disappointed in the commission's action.

"When everybody's a little unhappy, it's probably a reasonable decision," he said.

Recreational anglers maintain that gillnetting takes fish indiscriminately, with no way to differentiate between wild fish and hatchery fish, for example. They argue that gillnetting should be relegated to the river's side channels and say the sports fleet has a much bigger economic impact.

"We fill the hotels to bursting in Astoria," said Liz Hamilton, executive director of the Northwest Sportsfishing Industry Association.

'A deal is a deal'

During Friday's hearing,

recreational anglers said the commission shouldn't vary from the path set by Kitzhaber and the "concurrent management" agreement between Oregon and Washington. "A deal is a deal," one man testified.

Earlier this month, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to remove gillnetting from the main channel in two years and increase recreational anglers' share of fall, spring and summer Chinook.

The Washington commission also directed the wildlife department to "aggressively pursue" a buyback program for commercial gillnet licenses.

Oregon chose a different route. Fick, of Fishhawk Fisheries, shrugged off the split between the states. If neces-

sary, he said, there is technology to "draw a management line down the river" and let each go its own way.

He said commercial fishing is like logging, farming and ranching — a mainstay of economic life in rural areas.

"It's not a dying industry," he said. "You can't start chopping away at people's opportunities."

Making a living

At least a dozen commercial fishermen testified along those lines Friday. Several said they are sole providers for their families, and need the main stem fishery to make a living.

"Is this the time of our lives to take away jobs from people?" asked Bill Hunsinger, a fisherman who serves on Port of Astoria Commission.

"Commercial fishermen and the ocean are what's going to feed the world."

"I can't afford to get kicked off the main stem," said one man, adding that he is a fifth generation gillnetter with a wife and daughter. "I'm a 40-year-old uneducated man," he said. "What am I going to do?"

Alex Hendricks, a 17-year-old senior at Clatskanie High School, said he is a fourth-generation gillnetter, following his mother, grandfather and great-grandfather.

"I ask you for the opportunity to embrace the heritage the generations before me have created," he said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings MONDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KATU, KOMO, KOIN, KIRO, KGW, KRCW, KOPB, KPDX, KCPQ, KBCS, KZJW, ESPN, ESPN2, NICK, DISN, F4M, F5C, LIFE, ROOT, FS1, KOI, SPIKE, COME, HIST, A&E, TLC, DISC, NGE0, TNT, ANI, USA, FOX, HGTV, FX, CNN, CNC, CFB, BRAV, TCM, SYFY, RFD) listing their respective programs.