

Putin opponent Navalny freed after 30 days in jail



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny leaves the detention centre in Moscow

Moscow, Russia

Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was released yesterday after serving 30 days in jail for planning opposition protests, which have grown into a movement that has shaken Moscow since last month. Police were present outside the prison on his release but made no move to re-arrest him, as they have when other opposition figures were freed recently. But he has continued to urge his supporters to take to the streets, which could lead authorities to detain him once again. Navalny emerged from jail smiling, wearing a sweatshirt and sports trousers and with a bag slung over his shoulder.

The opposition leader and anti-corruption campaigner immediately condemned “acts of terror” by Russian authorities in putting down protests in Moscow in recent weeks. “The movement will continue to grow and the regime will strongly regret what it has done,” he told journalists. Navalny was arrested in Moscow on July 24 as he left his home to go jogging and buy flowers for his wife’s birthday. The 43-year-old Yale-educated lawyer was sentenced to 30 days in jail for violating laws on the organisation of demonstrations. During his incarceration, he was treated in hospital for what doctors called a “severe allergic reaction”, while Navalny said he might have been “poisoned”.

Erdogan to continue gas search off Cyprus

- The discovery of huge gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has triggered a race
- Cyprus is divided between Republic of Cyprus and a breakaway state set up after the 1974 Turkish invasion

Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday hit out at EU measures to punish Ankara for drilling activities in the eastern Mediterranean and vowed to press ahead with gas search in the region. Brussels unveiled last month measures including cutting 145.8 million euros (\$164 million) in pre-accession financial funds to Turkey allocated for 2020. The move came after Turkey defied warnings from the European Union and the United States to stop its drilling activities off Cyprus. “The EU which has announced so-called measures



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

... is not harming us but itself,” Erdogan told a televised press conference in the capital Ankara. “We are continuing right now the exploration activities and will continue to do so with the same determination,” he said. The discovery of huge gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has triggered a race to tap the region’s underwater resources and sparked a dispute between Turkey and Cyprus. Ankara has sent two drilling ships, as well as two seismic exploration ships to the region, whose security is ensured by the Turkish naval and air forces elements, the Turkish leader said.

Cyprus is divided between the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus and a breakaway state set up after the 1974 Turkish invasion, following a coup sponsored by the military junta then ruling Greece. Turkey says the island’s resources should be equally shared between both communities. EU member Cyprus in July rejected as “unacceptable” a Turkish Cypriot proposal to share offshore energy resources aimed at easing tensions. Erdogan on Thursday said no project that excludes Turkey or northern Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean could be put into practice.

Sri Lanka ends emergency Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has ended a four-month state of emergency declared after Easter suicide bombings by Islamist extremists that killed 258 people, officials said Friday. President Maithripala Sirisena has been extending the emergency on the 22nd of each month since the April 21 attacks on three hotels and three churches.

Six EU nations agree to take 356 Ocean Viking migrants On board the Ocean Viking, Undefined

Six EU countries Friday agreed to take in 356 migrants stranded on a rescue ship in the Mediterranean after a two-week standoff again exposed the failure of European leaders to quickly deal with desperate people fleeing conflict and poverty in Africa. The Norwegian-flagged Ocean Viking, run by charities MSF and SOS Mediterranee, had been seeking a port after rescuing four boats of migrants off the Libyan coast between August 9 and 12. The migrants screamed with joy as the news broke.

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