

## Putin to Washington: We'll Develop New Nuclear Missiles If You Do

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin warned on Monday that Russia would be forced to start developing short and intermediate-range land-based nuclear missiles if the United States started doing so after the demise of a landmark nuclear arms control treaty. The United States formally left the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia on Friday after determining that Moscow was violating the treaty, an accusation that the Kremlin has denied. Putin on Monday blamed the United States for the demise of the treaty, but said it was essential for Moscow and Washington to resume arms control



talks to prevent what he described as an "unfettered" arms race breaking out. (Reuters)

### Turkish, US Officials Meet for Talks on Syria Safe Zone

ISTANBUL - Turkish and American military officials met Monday for negotiations about establishing a safe zone in northeastern Syria to address Ankara's concerns about U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish-led forces in that region. The Turkish defense ministry tweeted that the meetings were taking place in Ankara. Turkey wants to control - in coordination with the U.S. - a 19-25 mile-deep zone within Syria, east of the Euphrates River, and wants no Syrian Kurdish forces

there. Turkey sees the Syrian Kurdish fighters as terrorists aligned with a Kurdish insurgency within Turkey. American troops are stationed in northeastern Syria, along with the Kurdish forces, and have fought the Islamic State group together. In recent weeks, Turkish-U.S. negotiations on the safe zone stalled, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened a new military operation. On Sunday, Erdogan renewed that threat. For ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

SYDNEY - U.S. intermediate-range missiles will not be deployed in Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday, after the United States revealed ambitions to site missiles in the Asia-Pacific region. Officials from both governments held talks in Sydney over the weekend that ended with a joint statement in which the two allies pledged to strengthen opposition to Chinese activities in Asia-Pacific, as both sides have become increasingly concerned

### Australia Won't Host U.S. Missiles, Prime Minister Says

about China's spreading influence. During the talks, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper spoke of hopes to deploy missiles in the Asia-Pacific region in coming months following Washington's withdrawal from a landmark arms control treaty last week. Esper's comments prompted speculation that Australia had been asked to host the missiles, but Morrison denied that any request had been made and said Australia would decline



if it was asked in the future. Morrison told reporters in Brisbane, the state capital of Queensland. A recent increase in tensions between the U.S. and China has led to speculation that Australia had been asked to host the missiles, but Morrison denied that any request had been made and said Australia would decline

### Russia Says It Would Respond to U.S. Missile Deployments in Asia



MOSCOW - Russia said on Monday it would take measures to defend itself if the United States stationed missiles in Asia following the collapse of a landmark arms control treaty and that it expected Japan to deploy a new U.S. missile launch system.

U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper said on Saturday that he was in favour of placing ground-launched, intermediate-range missiles in Asia relatively soon. The U.S. official made the comment a day after Washington withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a Cold War-era pact signed in 1987 that banned land-based missiles with a range of between 310 and 3,400 miles (500-5,500 km). Asked about the possi-

ble U.S. missile deployment, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia did not plan to get sucked into an arms race with Washington, but that it would respond defensively to any threats. "... If the deployment of new U.S. systems begins specifically in Asia then the corresponding steps to balance these actions will be taken by us in the direction of parrying these threats," Ryabkov told a news conference. He said Moscow expected ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

### Syrian Army Declares Resumption of Military Operations in Idlib

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army on Monday declared in a statement the resumption of military operations in the northwestern Idlib province, citing the cease-fire violation by the rebels, the state news agency SANA reported. The Syrian army said the "terrorist groups" refused to abide by the cease-fire deal in the de-escalation zone in Idlib and launched several attacks on civilians in nearby areas. The army statement assigned the blame on the Turkish-backed rebels, saying that the "Turkish government allowed its tools of terrorist groups in Idlib to continue their attacks and aggression." Given the fact that the cease-fire was conditional, the Syrian army will resume its military operation against the groups, the statement added. Earlier in the day, the pro-government al-Watan newspaper said the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front rejected to ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### India Scraps Special Status for Kashmir in Step Pakistan Calls Illegal

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR - India on Monday revoked the special status of Kashmir, the Himalayan region that has long been a flashpoint in ties with neighboring Pakistan, moving to grasp its only Muslim-majority region more tightly. In the most far-reaching political move in one of the world's most militarized regions in nearly seven decades, India said it would scrap a constitutional provision that allows its state of Jammu and Kashmir to make its own laws. "The entire constitution will be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir," Interior Minister Amit Shah told parliament, as opposition lawmakers voiced loud protests against the repeal. (Xinhua)

### EDB Plans to Implement Up to 5 Projects in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) is currently considering about 70 projects, of which from three to five projects are planned to be implemented in Uzbekistan, Trend reports citing TASS.ru.

"We have about 70 projects under review at various stages. The total amount is at least \$2 billion," Deputy Chairman of the Bank Amangeldy Isenov said. The major part of the projects, according to Isenov, falls on Russia and Kazakhstan, which are the founders of EDB. Isenov did not rule out the possibility of financing projects in countries that are not participants of EDB, in particular, in Uzbekistan. (Trend)

### UN Probes Corruption in Its Own Agencies in Yemen Aid Effort

CAIRO - The United Nations investigators assembled in the departure hall of Sanaa's airport were preparing to leave with precious evidence: laptops and external drives collected from the staff of the World Health Organization. These computers, they believed, contained proof of corruption and fraud within the U.N. agency's office in Yemen. But before they could board their flight out, armed militiamen from the Houthi rebels ruling northern Yemen marched into the hall and confiscated the computers, according to six former and current



aid officials. The stunned investigators were left unharmed, but flew out without the telltale devices. The Houthis had been tipped off by a WHO staffer with connections to the rebel movement who feared her theft of aid funding would be uncovered, according to the six former and current officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the seizure of the computers had not previously been made public. The October 2018 scene at the Sanaa airport is another episode in the continuing struggle over corruption that has diverted donated food, ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### UK's Johnson Pledges \$2.2B More to Public Health System

LONDON - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he will pump an additional 1.8 billion pounds (\$2.2 billion) into the National Health Service, feeding speculation he wants an early election to bolster his one-seat majority in Parliament and support for his Brexit plans. Conservative Party chairman James Cleverly says the ruling party that made Johnson its leader and prime minister last month won't "initiate a general election."

Cleverly told Sky News on Sunday that Johnson made "a number of explicit commitments" when he campaigned to become the Conservatives' leader "and he is setting about delivering on those commitments." He says fulfilling a series of recent spending pledges is possible because of Britain's growing economy. Johnson vows to take Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31 with or without a withdrawal deal. (AP)

### Journalist's Death Helps to Reshape US Handling of Hostages

WASHINGTON - Diane Foley learned her son's fate not from any government official but from a sobbing journalist who asked if she'd been on Twitter.

Foley had not, but the ghastly images weren't hard to find. President Barack Obama soon confirmed the news to the world: James Foley, a 40-year-old American journalist kidnapped in Syria two years earlier, was the American beheaded by Islamic State militants in a video circulating online.

For many in the United States, the August 2014 video brought home the extent of the Islamic State's violence and brutality. For Diane Foley it was a galvanizing moment, emblematic of the helplessness she felt during her son's captivity and the lack of urgency she sensed from American officials tasked with helping her. The New Hampshire woman channeled her grief into action, becoming an unofficial ambassador for hostages and their loved ones and helping reshape the U.S. government response when Americans are captured by terrorists and kidnapers across the globe.

"I wouldn't be doing this work had everything remained the way it was," said Foley, who retired from nursing after her son's capture. Though she always thought of doing something more global, "I didn't expect or ever want to do it in this way."

In the five years since her son's murder, Foley and the foundation she formed ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Neighbor News

### Iran Signals More Escalation with Warning on Gulf Violations

TEHRAN - Iran is responsible for security in the Persian Gulf and is acting more vigorously to protect it, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said, suggesting that a showdown between his country and Western powers over crucial shipping lanes could escalate. "We used to overlook some violations but no longer," Zarif said at a press conference at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran. Iran has the longest stretch of coastline with the waterway in the region and is responsible for its security, he added.

The remarks indicate that Iran could step up its operations against tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important maritime chokepoint for oil, amid a confrontation with the U.S. over sanctions that have battered the Iranian economy. On Sunday, the Islamic Republic said it had impounded a third vessel last month, a small oil tanker in the Per-

sian Gulf it suspects of smuggling fuel. Iran's state-run Press TV reported that the ship impounded on July 31 was an Iraqi tanker, but Iraq denied that.

Iran began capturing vessels two weeks after U.S. forces seized an Iranian tanker on July 4 near Gibraltar.

Unraveling Deal The drama in the region's waterways has been a dangerous side-show to the broader confrontation that broke out last year after U.S. President Donald Trump quit the 2015 multipower nuclear deal with Iran and embarked on a crusade to bring Tehran to its knees by choking off the oil exports that are the lifeline of its economy. In response, Iran has abandoned restrictions on uranium enrichment, downed a U.S. drone and test-fired a ballistic missile. It's also been accused of carrying out a number of attacks on tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### India's Illegal Move to Deteriorate Regional Peace: PM Tells Dr Mahathir

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday said India's illegal move over the status of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK) would deteriorate the peace and security of the region and further undermine the relations between the two neighbors with strategic capabilities. The prime minister made a telephonic call to Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr. Ma-

hathir bin Mohamad to apprise him of the recent developments in the Indian Occupied Kashmir, PM office media wing in a press release said. The prime minister told him that India's announcement regarding the status of the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir was in clear violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. (Monitoring Desk)

### Caspian Economic Forum in Turkmenistan's Avaza to Give Impetus to Regional Co-Op

ASHGABAT - The first Caspian Economic Forum, to be held in Turkmenistan's Avaza tourist zone on August 12, will give an additional impetus to the cooperation in the region, Trend reports referring to 'Foreign Policy and Diplomacy of Turkmenistan' magazine, citing Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as saying. "The issue is the cooperation in such spheres as trade, investments and tourism, which will also help turn the Caspian Sea into one of the world's biggest transport and transit hubs," the diplomat said. In his interview with the magazine, Lavrov stressed that solving of the problem of economic development of the Caspian region on a rational and mutually beneficial basis is of particular relevance

after the signing of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea in August 2018. "It is obvious that the document meets the interests of all Caspian countries not only because its provisions clearly define their mutual rights and obligations to use the Caspian Sea, the measures to strengthen confidence and security in this region of the world as a whole," he added. "The value of this international agreement is that it creates the necessary legal conditions for accelerating the cooperation in the trade, investment and transport sectors." Lavrov also drew attention to the fact that in the current circumstances there is need of creating a specialized platform for direct contacts between the ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### Euro in Uzbekistan Jumps again after Falling

TASHKENT - The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has published exchange rates that will operate in the country from August 6, Trend reports with reference to the Central Bank. One dollar in Uzbekistan will cost 8704.87 soums (+38.16), and one euro - 9668.50 (+26.79). The previous week, the euro fell by 34.99 soums.

The Russian ruble fell a little (-2.78) and will amount to 133.85 soums. After the currency reform in 2017, the Central Bank managed to stabilize its position in the market, but the sum gradually lost its position against world currencies. However, the changes in the course are seasonal, according to the bank. (Trend)