

China Announces Tariff Hike on \$75 Billion of US Products

BEIJING — China on Friday announced tariff hikes on \$75 billion of U.S. products in retaliation for President Donald Trump's latest planned increase, deepening a conflict over trade and technology that threatens to tip a weakening global economy into recession. China also will increase import duties on U.S.-made autos and auto parts, the Finance Ministry announced. The announcement comes as leaders of the Group of 7 major economies prepare to meet in France this week-end.

Tariffs of 10% and 5% will take effect on two batches of goods on Sept. 1 and Dec. 15, the ministry said in a statement. It gave no details



of what goods would be affected but the timing matches Trump's planned duty hikes.

Washington is pressing Beijing to narrow its trade surplus and roll back plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robot-

ics, electric cars and other technology industries. The spiraling conflict has battered exporters on both sides and fueled concern it might drag down weakening global economic growth. China's government appealed to Trump this

week to compromise in order to reach a settlement.

That came after Trump warned that the American public might need to endure economic pain in order to achieve long-term results.

The United States, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say Beijing's development plans violate its market-opening commitments and are based on stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. Some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership. Chinese leaders have offered to alter details but are resisting giving up a development ...**(More on P4)...(13)**

Neighbor News

Macron Meets Iran FM to Push for G7 Detente

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with Iran's foreign minister Friday ahead of a G7 meeting, where he will attempt to soothe tensions between Tehran and Washington at what risks being a stormy summit.

"We're at a critical moment," Macron warned on Wednesday, acknowledging that Iran is "laying out a strategy for exiting the JCPOA," the name of the 2015 accord reining in the country's nuclear ambitions.

He admitted this week there were "true disagreements" over Iran within the G7 club of the world's biggest economies, which are meeting in France this weekend. But Macron had pledged to "try to propose things" in the talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Ja-

vad Zarif at the Elysee Palace on Friday.

France has stepped up its outreach to Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, with Macron twice dispatching his diplomatic advisor Emmanuel Bonne to Tehran in recent months.

"President Rouhani instructed me to go and meet with President Macron (to see) whether we can finalise some of these proposals in order to be able to have everybody comply with their obligations under the JCPOA," Zarif said in Norway on Thursday.

"It's an opportunity to review the proposal by President Macron and to present the views of President Rouhani and see if we can find more common ground. We already have some common ground." (AFP)

Finance Ministry Rejects Indian Media Reports of FATF Blacklisting Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Finance on Friday rejected Indian media reports stating that Pakistan has been blacklisted by the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international anti-money laundering watchdog.

"Media reports circulating about Pakistan being blacklisted by APG are incorrect and baseless," a spokesperson from the ministry said, adding that a press release would follow shortly.

The APG, in its meeting last week, adopted Pakistan's third mutual evaluation report which covered the period from February to October 2018 and identified a number of areas where further actions were required to strengthen the AML/CFT framework.

However, the report did not cover areas in which the Pakistani government made substantial progress since October 2018. The Pakistan delegation to the meeting was headed by State Bank Governor Dr. Reza Baqir. During the discussion, the delegation welcomed engagement with the international community in its efforts to counter terrorism and money laundering. (Agencies)

Dollar Depreciates Against Uzbek Soum for Third Day in Row

TASHKENT - The rate of the national currency of Uzbekistan continues to strengthen against the dollar and the euro on the currency exchange, Trend reports citing Uzbek media.

Soum strengthened to 9366 soums (-5.00) per dollar. The European currency fell to 10.469 soums (-33.00).

It is noteworthy that the last time the national currency showed growth in July, and

then began to plummet. Earlier Trend reported that Central Bank of Uzbekistan no longer sets prices for the sale and purchase of foreign currency.

Prices for the purchase and sale of currency will now be formed on the market independently. Moreover, from August 20, commercial banks began selling foreign currency in cash through exchange offices. (Trend)

Turkmenistan, US Mull Political Issues

ASHGABAT - Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov has met with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale in Nur Sultan city (Kazakhstan). Trend reports citing Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

The sides met as part of a high-level meeting in the format of C5+1, which is a multilateral mechanism of interaction between the five countries of Central Asia and the US. The main topics of the dialogue cover issues of economic development,

regional cooperation and security. The agenda includes issues on support for economic security and partnership in the region, peace in Afghanistan, and ensuring security in Central Asia.

The meeting participants emphasized the advisability of political and diplomatic cooperation in the C5+1 format and considered possible mechanisms to ensure and achieve sustainable development, stability and prosperity of the entire Central Asian region, the report said. (Trend)

Amazon Fires Turn Political as Brazil's President Calls Out France's Macron

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday took to Twitter to urge countries from around the world to respond to the massive fires in the Amazon, but his remarks were met with hostility by Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, who essentially warned Macron to stay out of it.

The comments played out on Twitter as news reports indicated there is international concern about Bolsonaro's environmental policy and its effect on the forest.

The European Union called the forests there the world's "lungs and life support system." The exact number of burning fires is somewhere around 2,500. Sao Paulo was in the dark for about one hour Monday afternoon as a result of the fires about 1,600 miles away. One Twitter user posted a photo of the clouds and said: "Imagine how much has to be burning to create this much smoke."

Brazil's National Institute for Space Research ...**(More on P4)...(15)**

Putin Orders Russia to Respond after US Missile Test

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military on Friday to work out a quid pro quo response after the test of a new U.S. missile banned under a now-defunct arms treaty.

In Sunday's test, a modified ground-launched version of a Navy Tomahawk cruise missile accurately struck its target more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) away. The test came after the U.S. and Russia withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear

Forces (INF) Treaty.

The U.S. said it withdrew from the treaty due to Russian violations, a claim that Moscow has denied. Speaking Friday, Putin charged that the U.S. waged a "propaganda campaign" alleging Russian breaches of the pact to "untie its hands to deploy the previously banned missiles in different parts of the world."

He ordered the Defense Ministry and other agencies to "take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetri-



cal answer." The Russian leader noted that Sunday's test was performed from a launcher similar to those de-

ployed at a U.S. missile defense site in Romania. He argued that the Romanian facility and a ...**(More on P4)...(14)**

Angela Merkel Calls for EU-Wide Climate Neutrality by 2050



THE HAGUE, Netherlands — German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Thursday for the European Union to support ambitious targets for

the entire 28-nation bloc to become climate neutral.

Merkel made her appeal after she and members of her "climate Cabinet" met

their Dutch counterparts at the official residence of Prime Minister Mark Rutte to share experiences on how best to shift their economies to sustainable energy sources.

The working lunch came as Germany is set to miss its own emissions goals for 2020 by a wide margin, even as Merkel's government acknowledges that it has to further ramp up its ambition by next year as part of its commitment under the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Merkel said Germany aims to become climate

neutral by 2050. While she acknowledged the challenge of winning support from all EU countries, she said "it would be very important" to make that the goal for the entire bloc.

Merkel said Germany, as it grapples with how to reduce emissions, could learn from Dutch transport infrastructure. The Netherlands has an efficient public transport system, bicycle tracks throughout the country and giant bike parking garages at major railway stations for commuters. (AP)

Turkey Aims to Invest in Lebanon: Turkish FM

BEIRUT - Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said here on Friday that Turkey is highly interested in investing in Lebanon, the National News Agency reported.

"Turkish companies want to invest in the energy field in Lebanon," Cavusoglu said during a joint press conference held in Beirut with Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil.

Cavusoglu arrived in Lebanon on Thursday to meet with Lebanese officials and discuss bilateral ties and regional

developments. Cavusoglu said his country will keep on supporting Lebanon because it is keen on maintaining stability and growth in the country.

"Lebanon's stability is very important to Turkey and to the whole region," he said. The minister also said that Turkey is awaiting Lebanon's approval for the free trade agreement in a bid to achieve comprehensive trade cooperation between all countries in the region. (Xinhua)

Hong Kong Protesters Join in 'Baltic Chain' Link of Hands

HONG KONG - Thousands of chanting Hong Kong protesters joined peaceful "Baltic Chain" links of hands on Friday, with almost three months of anti-government demonstrations showing no sign of let-up across the Chinese-ruled territory. Demonstrators, some masked, some using hand wipes to stay clean, linked hands across different districts as others held up banners thanking overseas nations for supporting "freedom and democracy" in Hong Kong.

In 1989, an estimated two million people joined arms across three Baltic states in a protest against Soviet rule that became known as the "Baltic Way" or "Baltic Chain". (Reuters)

Four Die, More Than 100 Hurt in Thunderstorm in Poland's Tatra Mountains

WARSAW - Four people, two of them children, died and more than 100 were injured during a thunderstorm in Poland's Tatra mountains on Thursday, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said.

A fifth person was killed by the storm in the West Tatras in neighbouring Slovakia, mountain rescue services reported. Lightning hit a group of tourists on Giewont, a 1,894-metre mountain in Poland, after a sunny morning turned stormy, according to witnesses quoted on private broadcaster TVN24.

Tourists climbing Giewont often aim to end their trip at the summit, where a 15-metre iron cross was installed in 1901. The cross is believed to attract lightning. (Reuters)

Kazakhstan and Germany to Develop a Roadmap for Expansion of Investment Cooperation

NUR-SULTAN - German investors commended Kazakhstan's investment potential and agreed to develop a roadmap for expansion of Kazakhstan-Germany investment cooperation and create a list of joint strategic projects, Trend reports with reference to the press office of Kazakh Invest company.

The discussion took place during the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Beibut Atankulov to Germany where he headed the Kazakhstan-Ger-



man business round-

table. During the discussion, Deputy CEO of Kazakh Invest Rustam Issatayev elaborated on the investment opportunities for German companies in Kazakhstan, growth prospects and

measures of state support for investment activities. He noted that intensive negotiations were being conducted with five companies expressing interest in implementing investment projects in Kazakhstan. (Trend)

Xi, Duterte to Attend Opening Ceremony of 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup

BEIJING - During Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's visit to China, Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold talks with him in Beijing and attend the opening ceremony of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 with him, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said Friday. At Friday's regular press briefing, Geng introduced the schedule for Duterte's visit to China.

During Duterte's visit to China, Premier Li Keqiang will also meet with him, while Vice President Wang Qishan will accompany him to travel to south Chi-

na's Guangdong Province and watch the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 games happening there, Geng said.

Noting that the Philippines is a friendly neighbor of China and an important partner of the Belt and Road Initiative, Geng said China-Philippines relations have been continuously consolidated and deepened since Duterte took office. The two countries have actively enhanced the synergy of development strategies and have achieved fruitful results in pragmatic cooperation. (Xinhua)