

'We're Living the End of Western Hegemony': Macron Urges to Stop Pushing Russia Away from Europe

BIARRITZ - French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that it would be a "strategic mistake" for Western nations not to change their attitude toward Moscow.

"We are living the end of Western hegemony," Macron told diplomats on Tuesday, after hosting the G7 meeting in the city of Biarritz on France's Atlantic coast over the weekend. He named the rise of Beijing and Moscow as signs of a shift on the world scene.

"We're either pushing Russia into isolation, which increases tensions, or to ally itself with other major powers like China, which would not be in our interest," Macron said, calling



for the "rethinking" of relations with Moscow. Otherwise, Europe will be stuck with "frozen conflicts" and will remain "a theater for strategic struggle between the US and Russia," he stressed.

"It's being shaken because of errors made by the West in certain crises, but also by the choices made by the United States in the past few years - and not just by the current administration." These "choices" are impacting "the conflicts in

the Middle and elsewhere, making it necessary to rethink military and diplomatic strategies," the president noted. (RT)

Hong Kong Violence Becoming More Serious, But Government in Control, Says Lam

HONG KONG - Violence in Hong Kong's anti-government protests is becoming more serious but the government is confident it can handle the crisis itself, the embattled leader of the former British colony said on Tuesday.

Carrie Lam was speaking in public for the first time since demonstrations escalated on Sunday, when police fired water cannon and volleys of tear gas in running battles with protesters who threw bricks and petrol bombs.

The Chinese-ruled city is grappling with its biggest political crisis since its handover to Beijing in 1997 and Communist Party authorities have sent a clear warning that forceful intervention is possible to quell the violence.

Hong Kong's Beijing-backed leader said she would not give up on building a platform for dialogue, although the time was not right to set up an independent inquiry into the crisis, one of the cornerstone... (More on P4)... (11)

CANBERRA, Australia - The Australian government said on Tuesday it was "very concerned and disappointed" that a Chinese Australian writer had been formally arrested in China on suspicion of espionage.

Yang Hengjun has been in Chinese custody since he arrived in southern China's Guangzhou from New York on Jan. 19 with his wife, Yuan Xiaoliang, and his 14-year-old stepdaughter. China revealed in July that the 54-year-old

Australia Concerned Writer Faces Espionage Charge in China

academic and former Chinese government official had been detained. "The government is very concerned and disappointed to learn that Australian citizen and academic Dr. Yang Hengjun ... was formally arrested in China on suspicion of espionage," Foreign Minister Marise Payne said in a statement. She described him as being held in "harsh conditions" without access to his lawyers or family visits, though embassy officials have visited him.



China's foreign ministry has said Yang is suspected of engaging in criminal activities that endanger China's security. Yang was formally arrested Friday by the Beijing branch of China's National Security... (More on P4)... (8)

Italy's Opposition PD Says Coalition Talks at Risk of Failure



ROME - Talks between Italy's ruling 5-Star Movement and the opposition Democratic Party (PD) to form a

new coalition government are at risk of failure over who should become the next interior minister, a PD

spokesman said on Tuesday. The anti-establishment 5-Star party and center-left PD, traditional

political enemies, are trying to forge a government after 5-Star's 14-month-old coalition with the right-wing League party broke down this month after months of infighting. The PD spokesman accused 5-Star leader Luigi Di Maio of hindering talks with his request to serve as interior minister as well as deputy prime minister. Shortly after, 5-Star sources said Di Maio had never demanded the interior ministry. (Reuters)

Azerbaijan Invests Over \$70 Million in West Regions of Kazakhstan

NUR-SULTAN - Azerbaijan has invested over \$70 million into the West regions of Kazakhstan over the last three years, Trend reports with reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. The ministry made the remarks on the occasion of 27th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

The ministry further stated, that currently, 524 legal entities with participation of Azerbaijan's capital are registered in Kazakhstan. ... (More on P4)... (12)

Iran's Rouhani Rules out Talks with U.S. Until Sanctions Lifted

DUBAI - Iran will not talk to the United States until all sanctions imposed on Tehran are lifted, President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday, a day after President Donald Trump said he would meet his Iranian counterpart to try to end a nuclear standoff.

Trump said on Monday he would meet Iran's president under the right circumstances to end a confrontation that began when Washington pulled out of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with six powers and reimposed sanctions on the country. Trump also said talks were under way to see how countries could open credit lines to keep Iran's economy afloat. ... (More on P4)... (13)

Offer They Can't Refuse: US Wants to Block China from Buying Ukraine Aircraft Engine Factory

BEIJING - The prospect of a Ukrainian engine factory selling out to China has so alarmed Washington that none other than national security adviser John Bolton is seeking to stop it. The US didn't bother making a counter-offer, either.

Bolton is headed to Kiev after the G7 summit in France, and said on Monday he was looking forward to meetings with "partners" there, to support the government's vision for a "stronger and more prosperous Ukraine."

He did not comment, however, on the Wall Street Journal story from Friday that one of those meetings will involve the fate of Motor Sich, which is seeking approval from a Kiev watchdog to sell the... (More on P4)... (14)

Norway Nuclear Monitor Backtracks on Theory of Second Russia Blast

OSLO - Reports of a second blast from a deadly Russian rocket engine test may be wrong, and the signals could stem from unrelated mining activity, the Norwegian nuclear monitor that first presented the double explosion theory said.



Norsar, Norway's nuclear test-ban monitor, last week said an Aug. 8 explosion that killed five Russian scientists was followed by a second blast two hours later, and that this was the likely source of a spike in radiation.

The second explosion was detected by infrasonic air pressure sensors in the Norwegian town of Bardufoss, but further analysis, taking in additional data from Norway and Finland, pointed to a different explanation, Norsar said on its website.

"The direction shows a small deviation of 1-2 degrees difference from the first event to the station in Bardufoss. Further analysis of the event with additional seismic data indicates that the event also may stem from mining activity in Finland," it added. ... (More on P4)... (9)

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Farage Offers UK PM Johnson an Electoral Pact for No-Deal Brexit

LONDON - Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage offered British Prime Minister Boris Johnson an electoral pact if he goes for a no-deal EU exit, but warned that if he tried to fudge Brexit then he would face a battle over every seat at the next election.

More than three years since the United Kingdom voted 52-48% to leave the European Union, Brexit remains up in the air: Options range from an acrimonious divorce on Oct. 31 and an election to an amicable exit or even another referendum.

The United Kingdom is heading towards a constitutional crisis at home and a showdown with the EU as Johnson has vowed to leave the bloc without a deal unless it agrees to renegotiate a Brexit divorce.

Farage, who in 2013 piled so much pressure on then Prime Minister David Cameron that he promised an EU referendum, said that unless Johnson went for a no-deal Brexit he would face an electoral challenge in every parliamentary seat. He said... (More on P4)... (10)

In Spotlight after Trump Offer, Greenland Sees Chance for an Economic Win

COPENHAGEN - Greenland's leaders want to use global interest in the Arctic island aroused by President Donald Trump's eye-catching offer of a sale to stimulate investment and earn more from U.S. military activity there.

Some business leaders and officials are seeking to translate the unexpected publicity into badly-needed ventures in roads, airports, hospitality and mines.

"When you stimulate investment in an area like Greenland, magic wonders can happen in mining, tourism, and infrastructure," said Verner Hammeken, chief executive of Greenland's Royal Arctic Line.

Trump last week called off a planned visit to Copenhagen, where he was to meet Greenland's leader, after his idea to buy the vast island, home to only 56,000 people, was rebuffed.

Greenland is important for the U.S. military and its ballistic missile early warning system, as it balances a Russian and Chinese commercial and military buildup in the Arctic.

The United States maintains an air base in Thule in Greenland's northwest but doesn't pay any rent under a 1951 treaty with Denmark.

Greenland had long wanted more in return for the base's use. But discontent worsened in 2014 when the U.S. military canceled a contract with Greenland Contractors, a partly state-owned firm that had serviced the base for more than four decades. And in... (More on P4)... (15)

Neighbor News

Iran Foreign Minister Zarif Looks Forward to Japan Talks

YOKOHAMA, Japan - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif looks forward to discussions with his Japanese counterpart, as both countries have special interests in the security of the energy market and stability in the Gulf, he said on Tuesday.

Zarif made the comment in Yokohama, outside of Tokyo, ahead of a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono.

Japan has historically had friendly ties with Iran. It is also Washington's closest ally. Tension between Tehran and Washington have risen since U.S. President Donald Trump's administration last year quit an international deal to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and began to ratchet up sanctions. (Reuters)

PM Imran, Mbs Discuss Held Kashmir in Telephonic Conversation

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) on the latest developments in occupied Kashmir in a telephonic conversation late Monday night.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that "Prime Minister Imran had called the crown prince and discussed the regional situation along with the ongoing situation in Indian occupied Kashmir".

In a televised address to the nation a day earlier, the premier had vowed to "act as Kashmir's ambassador" and discuss the issue on every platform.

"I will tell the world about this, I have shared this with heads of states that I have been in contact with. I will raise this issue in my speech at the UN General Assembly as well," he had said.

He had also addressed the lack of action by Muslim countries, including the Middle East, and assured the nation that "if some Muslim countries are not raising this issue because of their economic interests, they will eventually come on our side. They will have to, with time."

Monday marked the third time when both leaders discussed the burning dispute between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Last week, crown prince dialed the premier to discuss the rights violations in the occupied valley. Prior to this, PM Imran had a telephonic conversation with MBS on Aug 7 and told him about the worsening situation in the held valley amid Modi government's unilateral move to strip it of its special status through a rushed presidential decree on Aug 5. (Agencies)

Uzbekistan, India Enter New Level of Economic Co-Op

TASHKENT - First meeting of the Uzbek-Indian Committee on coordination and practical implementation of bilateral projects was held at the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, Trend reports citing the press service of the ministry. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India Farhod Arziev, the heads of ministries and departments that are part of the Committee, as well as senior officials of the ministry and representatives of the Andijan region administration.

During the meeting, the sides thoroughly analyzed projects that are being implemented in Uzbekistan together with leading Indian companies. In particular, they discussed the prospects of the projects that will be implemented in the territory of the Andijan-Farm Free Economic Zone. The parties considered proposals for the further development of the bilateral relations, for new agreements on the implementation of investment projects and for the increase in trade. (Trend)

Turkmen President: Singapore Promising Trade and Economic Partner

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan sees Singapore as a promising trade and economic partner, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said at a meeting with Singapore's business community, Trend reports referring to Turkmenistan's Altyn Asyr TV channel.

The government delegation of Turkmenistan is on a state visit to Singapore on August 26-27.

Last year, the volume of mutual trade between the two countries amounted to \$102.8 million.

As of July 1, 2019, six investment projects with the participation of Singaporean companies and five enterprises with the participation of Singaporean capital have been registered in Turkmenistan.

"The data presented does not fully reflect the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation," the Turkmen leader said, expressing confidence that the agreements reached at the recently-held joint business forum will serve as the basis for further productive work. During the meeting held at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel, an exchange of views took place on the prospects of cooperation in the oil and gas industry, the chemical industry, the financial sector, the transport sector, agriculture and water management. Representatives of Singaporean companies and corporations including world leaders in the production of high-tech products, presented their proposals for cooperation and its long-term and systematic development, the Turkmen Dovlet Habarlary (TDH) state news agency noted in its commentary. (Trend)