

Newt Gingrich Says Iran Is 'Very Close to Breaking' Under Tough Sanctions: 'This Is a Very Shaky Regime'

WASHINGTON - Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Tuesday that he believes the Iranian regime is "shaky" and "very close to breaking" under the weight of tough economic sanctions.

"The sanctions are really biting and, month by month, their economy is getting worse and people are getting more and more unhappy. I think they're lashing out desperately, trying to somehow change the circumstance," he said on "Fox & Friends," adding that the regime may want the U.S. to attack so they can use "nationalism" to rally the people in defense of the homeland.

Gingrich said President



Trump was "very wise" to hold off on a military response two weeks ago after Iranian attacks on oil tankers and a U.S. drone.

"Be calm, be patient. Just continue to increase the pressure economically and I think they're very

close to breaking. I think this is a very shaky regime," said Gingrich, host of the "Newt's World" podcast.

Speaking exclusively with Tucker Carlson, Trump said Monday he "built up a lot of great

capital" after his decision -- but said that means "if something should happen, we're in a position to do far worse by not doing it."

He quickly added, "But, hopefully, we don't have to do anything." Trump also said Monday he believes the Iranians are "playing with fire."

On Monday, a source told Fars News Agency that U.N. inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) weighed Iran's stockpile of uranium and said it exceeded the threshold for the Islamic Republic's low-enriched uranium stockpile agreed upon in the 2015 nuclear deal. Gingrich ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Riot Police Clear Away Protesters from Hong Kong Legislature

HONG KONG - Hundreds of protesters swarmed into Hong Kong's legislature Monday night, defacing portraits of lawmakers and spray-painting pro-democracy slogans in the chamber before vacating it as riot police cleared surrounding streets with tear gas and then moved inside.

The three-hour occupation, which ended early Tuesday, came on the 22nd anniversary of the former British colony's return to China, a city holiday, and reflected

mounting frustration with Hong Kong's leader for not responding to protesters' demands after several weeks of demonstrations. The protests were sparked by a government attempt to change extradition laws to allow suspects to be sent to China for trial.

Protesters whacked away at thick glass windows until they shattered and then pried open steel security gates. Police initially retreated as the protesters ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Turkey Orders Arrest of 122 Military Personnel over Suspected Gulen Links

ANKARA - Turkey has ordered the arrest of 122 military personnel over suspected links to the network blamed by Ankara for orchestrating a failed military coup, prosecutors and the state-run Anadolu news agency said on Tuesday. Ankara has accused U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen of masterminding the attempted putsch in July 2016. He has denied any involvement.

Police have launched one operation in Istanbul, prosecutors there

said. Authorities have also launched separate operations in the western coastal province of Izmir and the central province of Konya, Anadolu added.

Almost three years after the failed coup, more than 77,000 people have been jailed pending trial and about 150,000 civil servants, military personnel and others have been sacked or suspended from their jobs.

Rights groups and Turkey's Western allies have criticized the scope of the crackdown, say-



ing President Tayyip Erdogan has used the abortive coup as a pretext to quash dissent. The government has

said the security measures are necessary due to the gravity of the threat Turkey faces, and has ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Australian Parliament Resumes for First Time Since Election



CANBERRA, Australia - The Australian government returned to Parliament on Tuesday claiming a new mandate

from the May election to pass 158 billion Australian dollars (\$110 billion) in tax cuts into law. Prime Minister Scott

Morrison won a surprise third three-year term at elections on May 18.

The conservative government is giving priority to passing tax cuts that will cost A\$158 billion over a decade. The government doesn't hold a majority in the Senate, so it will need either the support of the center-left opposition Labor Party or at least four of six unaligned senators to make the tax cuts law.

The opposition is divided on whether they should pass the cuts.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said the tax cuts were needed to stimulate a slowing economy. "We are focusing on delivering these tax cuts for the Australian people as they endorsed at the most recent election," Frydenberg told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"The Australian people spoke with a very clear voice just six weeks ago," he added.

The government was returned to office with a relatively narrow ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Taiwan's Manufacturing Continues to Contract

TAIPEI - Taiwan's manufacturing activity contracted for the second consecutive month in June, indicated by the latest purchasing managers' index (PMI) reading by the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER). The PMI for June stood at 48.1, down 0.1 percentage points from the previous month. A PMI reading above 50 suggests expansion while below 50 indicates a contraction.

Among the five sub-indices, new orders, production, employment

and inventory levels continued to contract and supplier deliveries continued to drop, according to CIER.

Among the six major manufacturing industries, the basic raw materials, transportation and electricity/machinery industries saw contractions in June while the food/textile, electronics/optoelectronics and chemicals/biotech industries saw expansions.

For the services sector, the non-manufacturing index (NMI) dropped by ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Neighbor News

Nations Become 'More United When Bullied,' Trump Should Understand - Iranian Top Official

TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani responded to Donald Trump's threats on Monday following Tehran's announcement that its stockpiles of enriched uranium have exceeded the limits set out in the 2015 nuclear deal.

The US threats would have the opposite effect on Iranian nation, the head of Iran's parliament said during a live broadcast on state television on Tuesday:

Mr Trump should understand that when one uses bullying language against a civilized nation, they become more united.

Although Trump himself had unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 nuclear agreement, he

warned Iran on Monday that its decision to exceed the terms of the agreement was "playing with fire." He also reiterated that he had not forgiven Iran for the downing of US surveillance drone last month. Although he had not gone through with a counter-strike at the time, Trump stated that his clemency had given him license to "do far worse, if something should happen" in the future.

Tehran had repeatedly said it would partially suspend its commitments if the European Union failed to take "practical and tangible steps" to help facilitate trade and protect the Iranian economy from US sanctions. (RT)

Action Against Smuggling Started Under PM's Leadership: Firdous

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Tuesday said forceful action against the scourge of smuggling has been started under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

In a tweet, the SAPM said that after control of smuggling, local industries would grow and national economy would be strengthened.

Firdous Awan said that the prime minister has taken an important step by constituting a committee headed by interior minister. She said that the committee would suggest amendments in the prevailing laws and would propose measures to improve monitoring of the borders and stop misuse of Afghan Transit Trade Agreement. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan Signs MoU with UN Office in the Field of Emergency Response

ASHGABAT - A memorandum of understanding was signed in Ashgabat on cooperation between the government of Turkmenistan and the UN office in the coordination of preparedness and response to emergency situations, Trend reports with reference to Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

The ceremony was held as part of a meeting at the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan with heads and representatives of UN agencies and specialized agencies accredited in Ashgabat.

The event was attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, UN Resident Coordinator Elena Panova,

and representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Population Fund and WHO.

The prospects for future cooperation and implementation of joint plans and cooperation programs were discussed. The parties stressed several documents concluded between the government of Turkmenistan and the UN. They include the Partnership for Development Framework Program, the co-financing agreement with UNDP, as well as the country program action plans with UNICEF and United Nations Population Fund for 2016-2020. (Trend)

Uzbek President to Visit Japan

TASHKENT - The President of Uzbekistan will pay an official visit to Japan, Trend reports with reference to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

It has been announced at the meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov and the Ambassador of Japan Nobuaki Ito, who is completing his diplomatic mission in Uzbekistan, made this announcement.

Currently, the sides are preparing for the 15th meeting of the Uzbek-Japanese and Japan-Uzbek economic cooperation committees (Tokyo, July 10) and the 3rd conference of university rectors of the two countries (Tashkent, July 8-9). These and other joint activities are considered important stages of preparation for the upcoming

visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Japan.

There are more than 15 enterprises with participation of Japanese investments in Uzbekistan. The main areas in which Japanese enterprises operate are the oil and gas, petrochemical and chemical industries, the production of power equipment, engineering products, the provision of transport and logistics services, trade operations, tourism and others.

An example of successful interaction is the cooperation between Uzavtosanoat and the Japanese Isuzu. On the basis of the units of the Japanese company, more than 10,000 buses and more than 11,000 trucks were produced and production of new models using natural gas was mastered. (Trend)

Thailand's Largest Airport to Welcome over 66 Mln Passengers in 2019

BANGKOK - Thailand's largest airport Suvarnabhumi Airport is expected to welcome more than 66 million passengers in the whole year, a two to three percent increase from last year amid gloomy forecasts for the country's tourist industry.

Airport director Sutteerawat Suwanawat said on Tuesday that more arrivals are expected during the winter travel season, which will raise Suvarnabhumi's arrivals to between 66 million and 68 million this year.

The number of passengers arriving at the Bangkok's ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

China Donates 1,067 Tons of Wheat to Lebanon

BEIRUT - China donated on Tuesday 1,067 tons of wheat to Lebanon for the country's vulnerable citizens and Syrian refugees.

"This is not the first time that China supports Lebanon and helps its people on the humanitarian, social and national levels," Minister of Social Affairs Richard Kuyumjian said during a signature ceremony held at the ministry's headquarters in Beirut. Kuyumjian, who signed the wheat agreement with Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon Wang Kejian, said he hoped to boost relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, Wang said that this donation aims to support Syrian refugees and their host communities in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Yemen. Wang assured that China is committed to working with the international community to solve regional conflicts while seeking to secure stability in the Middle East. (Xinhua)

India's Congress Party in Turmoil after Gandhi Resignation

NEW DELHI - Rahul Gandhi has spurned appeals to reconsider his resignation as leader of India's Congress Party after losing a second general election to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an aide said on Tuesday, as the party faces its worst crisis in a decade.

Stuck between a leader determined to quit and party officials unwilling to accept his leaving, Congress is effectively leaderless more than a month after its election drubbing and facing key state polls later this year.

Chief ministers from five Congress-ruled states went to New



Delhi on Monday where they spent two hours trying to convince Gandhi to reverse his May 25 decision to resign.

"We told him our point of view, openly, in a long conversation," Ashok Gehlot, a senior Congress leader and chief minister of western Rajasthan state, told

reporters. "We hope he will consider our view and take the right decision," he said.

A close aide to Gandhi, speaking to Reuters after the meeting, said the 49-year-old was firm about stepping aside as Congress president, a ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

OPEC Inks New Charter with Russia and Other Allies

VIENNA - The OPEC bloc of oil producers on Tuesday formally signed a new charter of cooperation with other major producers -- including Russia -- a day after thrashing out the document at a marathon meeting.

The new agreement between OPEC and its so-called OPEC+ partners is being seen as a sign of the cartel's efforts to stay relevant in a market which has been transformed by

booming US shale oil output.

The growing influence of Russia on the bloc was already in evidence on Monday when Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak declared that all of OPEC's ministers had agreed to prolong its daily production cuts. The cuts had been agreed by Russia and OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia at the G20 summit in Osaka last weekend, ...*(More on P4)...(17)*