

Russian S-400 Defense Systems Arrive in Turkey after U.S. Warns of Sanctions

ISTANBUL - The first shipment of Russia's S-400 air defense missile systems arrived at an airbase near Ankara, Turkey Friday despite Washington's warning that such a move would bring sanctions. U.S. officials are worried the Turkey-Russia deal could give the Kremlin access to crucial intelligence shared between Washington and Turkey and compromise NATO developments. Experts are especially concerned about the development of the F-35 fighter jet, with which Turkey is involved. Officials told Turkey if the S-400 purchase went through the country would be barred from the F-35 program.



The U.S. has strongly urged NATO member Turkey to pull back from the deal -- reportedly costing more than \$2 billion -- warning the country that it will face economic sanctions under

the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act if it goes ahead with the purchase. It has also said Turkey won't be allowed to participate in the program to produce high-tech

F-35 fighter jets. Sanctions would mark a new low in the already-tense relations between Turkey and the U.S. Last year, the United States imposed sanctions on Turkey over its detention of an American pastor, triggering a Turkish currency crisis. The deal with Russia -- the first such deal between Russia and a NATO member -- has also raised concerns that Turkey is drifting closer to Moscow's sphere of influence. Turkey has refused to bow to U.S. pressure, insisting that choosing which defense equipment to purchase is a matter of national sovereignty. It has said it was forced to buy the S-400s ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Association of British Chinese Professors Holds First Annual Conference in UK

LONDON - The Association of British Chinese Professors (ABCP), an independent organization representing senior Chinese academics working in Britain, held its first annual conference between July 10 and July 12 at the University of Surrey. Over 100 ABCP members and guests celebrated decades of successful UK-China collaboration in research, education, innovation and cultural exchanges. At the opening ceremony, Orlando Edwards,

regional manager at the British Council, the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities, said: "It is fantastic to see the ABCP bring together Chinese professors and scholars to share experiences and exchange ideas. I am confident this will make a great contribution to education and research collaboration between the UK and China." Professor Max Lu, president and vice chancellor ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran on Friday demanded the British navy release an Iranian oil tanker seized last week off Gibraltar, accusing London of playing a "dangerous game" and threatening retribution, while London announced it was sending a destroyer to the Persian Gulf. The comments from Iran's Foreign Ministry came the day after police in Gibraltar, a British overseas territory on the southern tip of Spain, said they arrested the captain and chief of

Britain Sending Destroyer to Gulf Amid Iranian Threats

ficer of the supertanker suspected of breaching European Union sanctions by carrying a shipment of Iranian crude oil to Syria. Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told Iranian state news agency IRNA that "the legal pretexts for the capture are not valid ... the release of the tanker is in all countries' interest." "This is a dangerous game and has consequences," Mousavi warned. During Friday prayers,



Kazem Sedighi, an adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, threatened retribution. "Rest assured, Britons will soon feel the slap of the powerful hands of the Islamic Republic," he said. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Neighbor News

UK Urged to Immediately Release Iranian Supertanker, Avoid 'Dangerous' Game

TEHRAN - Iran has urged the UK to immediately release the Iranian supertanker it has illegally seized in Gibraltar, warning London against entering a "dangerous game with no end in sight". On July 4, Gibraltar police and customs agencies, aided by a detachment of British Royal Marines, boarded and impounded Iranian supertanker Grace 1 in the Strait of Gibraltar, upon a request from the United States. The British and Gibraltar officials claim that the 300,000-ton supertanker was possibly transferring up to 2 million barrels of oil to the Baniyas refinery

in Syria in breach of EU sanctions against the Arab country. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi rejected the claim Friday, saying the tanker was not bound for Syria because no Syrian port could receive a vessel of such capacity. "The documents and evidence and the contradictory remarks made by the British all indicate that London's allegation, legally speaking, is not that significant and noteworthy unless they would want to enter into a dangerous game under the influence of the Americans with no end in sight," Mousavi said. (Press TV)

Chinese Corporate Heads Assure \$5 Billion Investment in Pakistan in 3-5 Years

ISLAMABAD - Heads of different Chinese companies on Friday gave assurance to Prime Minister Imran Khan to invest five billion dollars (US \$5 billion) in Pakistan in next three to five years. The investment and transfer of industrial set-up by Chinese companies will generate over 50,000 jobs in Pakistan the first year, the PM Office said, as a delegation comprising heads and representatives of 55 Chinese com-

panies met the prime minister. The Chinese corporate leaders with their businesses in multiple areas including small and medium enterprise showed keen interest to invest in Pakistan. The meeting was the follow-up of Prime Minister Khan's visit to China in April where the leadership of two countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relationship in key areas, particularly trade and investment. (Monitoring Desk)

'Don't Play with Fire': Beijing Warns US over Taiwan



BEIJING - China strongly warned Washington against shipping weapons to Taiwan, and urged the US to consider

the "gravity" of the issue after the Pentagon authorized selling tanks to Taipei. Foreign Minister Wang

Yi blasted Washington for allowing arm sales to Taiwan during his trip to Hungary on Friday. "We urge the US to fully recognize the gravity of the Taiwan question... [and] not to play with fire on the question of Taiwan," he told reporters via an interpreter, cited by Reuters. Beijing considers Taiwan its territory and opposes its recognition as an independent country. The US, which does not formally recognize Taiwan in accordance with the 'one-China

principle', had made diplomatic overtures towards the island nation under President Donald Trump. In 2016, he became the first US leader in more than 30 years to speak over the phone with his Taiwanese counterpart, Tsai Ing-wen. The move prompted a protest by Beijing. Earlier this week, the Pentagon announced that it had authorized the sale of M1A2T Abrams tanks and FIM-92 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Taiwan. China ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

'Unexpected': Hubble Discovers Supermassive Black Hole 'That Shouldn't Exist', Says NASA

The Hubble space telescope has discovered a supermassive black hole 130 million light-years from Earth that scientists say "shouldn't exist" if Albert Einstein's theories of relativity are to be believed. The mysterious black hole has an "unexpected" thin disk of material furiously whirling around it. The conundrum, the space agency explains, is that according to current astronomical theories, the disk shouldn't be there.

"We've never seen the effects of both general and special relativity in visible light with this much clarity," said Marco Chiaberge, a member of the team that conducted the Hubble study. Their research is published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. The black hole is located at the heart of a spiral galaxy called NGC 3147. Black holes like this one are described as "malnourished" for ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Turkmenistan Holds Presentation on Caspian Economic Forum in Iran

ASHGABAT - The Embassy of Turkmenistan in Tehran held a briefing on the first Caspian Economic Forum, which will be held on August 12, 2019 in Turkmenistan's Awaza tourist area, Trend reports referring to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry. The event, held with the assistance of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), was attended by heads and representatives of various departments of Iran, including the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and representatives of Iranian business circles. The representatives of both countries expressed a positive vision of their countries re-

garding the initiative of Turkmenistan to organize the forum, and expressed their conviction that this platform will be able to fully provide an opportunity to demonstrate the economic potential of the countries themselves and of the region as a whole, the information says. According to website of the organizing committee of the 1st Caspian Economic Forum, the forum agenda includes the creation of conditions for large projects, discussions on the role of economy of the Caspian region on global scale, investment attractiveness of oil and gas, electric power, transport, trade, agro-industrial, tourist and various other sectors of the economy of economy of mutual interest for the littoral Caspian States. (Trend)

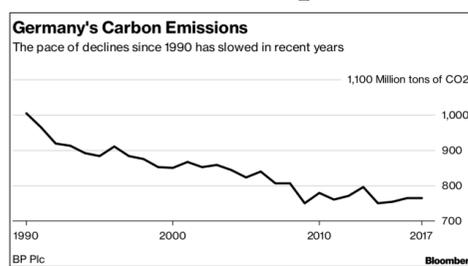
Uzbekistan to Buy U.S. Chinese Sovereign Bonds

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan will move to investing in sovereign bonds of other countries and reduce the share of gold in stocks, Trend reports citing Bloomberg. "We want to buy US treasury bills and the debt obligations of other countries, including China. The share of gold is about 50 percent, but in the future it may be lower," Chairman of the Central Bank of Uzbekistan Mamariso Nurmuratov said. Uzbekistan currently scoops up all the gold produced locally and its holdings have been increasing in recent years. The Central Bank states that on June 1, gold and foreign exchange reserves amounted to \$25.8 billion (\$ -557 million since the

beginning of the year). Nurmuratov's reform plan envisages a shift to investing in the sovereign debt of other nations and a reduced share for the metal in the reserves. "The share of gold will be less, because the volume of foreign exchange reserves will grow, and we will be selling more gold," the head of the Central Bank said. Nurmuratov stressed that, in four to five years, Uzbek producers should be able to sell directly to the global market. For now, the central bank buys gold produced locally for soum and sells dollars in the currency market to offset the impact of purchases that can be about \$350 million per month. (Trend)

Germany Inches Toward Carbon Tax with Merkel Panel Proposals

BERLIN - Germany took a step toward introducing a sweeping levy on carbon dioxide emissions to help recover lost ground on its international climate pledges. A panel of government advisers appointed by Chancellor Angela Merkel recommended Germany either introduce a carbon dioxide tax or extend the European Union's Emissions Trading System to include the transport and heating sectors. The government should also work toward a 2030 deadline to include all



sectors of the economy in the ETS, where polluters have to purchase permits to pump out carbon dioxide. The panel recommended a carbon price of between 25 and 50 euros per ton under the trading system to discourage fossil-fuel use. Transport and heating

account for about 40% of Germany's greenhouse-gas emissions but aren't yet covered by the EU's carbon market. Merkel has made it a priority this summer to get coalition backing for putting a price on the transport and heating industries. While Germany ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

World Bank Lends Morocco 500 Mln USD to Improve Education

RABAT - The World Bank has lent Morocco 500 million U.S. dollars to improve the education system up to 2030. The loan agreement was signed Thursday in Rabat by Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance Mohamed Benchaaboun and World Bank Maghreb Country Director Marie Francoise Marie-Nelly, said the official news Agency MAP Friday. The loan is aimed at creating an envi-

ronment for quality early childhood education, enhancing teachers' training and strengthening the education sector's management capabilities, said the agency. The program is part of the strategic partnership (2019-2024) between Morocco and the World Bank, it added. In a statement published on its website, the World Bank stated that the program is designed to "support improved ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Hundreds of Murders Threaten Cape Town's Tourist Mecca Image: 'We Are Living in A Warzone'

CAPE TOWN - When most Americans think of Cape Town, South Africa, they probably think of it as a mecca for tourists - the beaches, Table Mountain, and the winelands. But there's a side to the city that is becoming more of a frightening reality - murder, much of it gang-related. "Going to a shop is life-threatening, traveling in a taxi is life-threatening," Elsies River Community Policing Forum Chair Imraahn Mukaddam told Fox News. "We are living in a war zone. A lot of violence here is orchestrated by a third force - the street gangs, who want to make the Western Cape almost ungovernable." The violence is not in Cape Town's tourist areas. But in the neighborhoods of crowded apartment blocks and low-income housing near the Cape Town International Airport, known as the Cape Flats. There have been some 1,600 murders in this area since the beginning of the year, 900 of them believed to be gang-related. These include 55 unnatural deaths just this past weekend, including 6 young women shot dead, allegedly execution-style, in one house last Friday night in Phillippi East. 5 young men shot dead nearby the next day. "We have a crisis on our hands. Our problem is essentially around gang violence", JP Smith, Cape Town's Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security, told Fox News. "Prison ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

AU Envoy: Sudan Military, Protesters to Sign Political Deal

KHARTOUM, Sudan - A political transition agreement between Sudan's military and a pro-democracy coalition is expected to be signed Saturday, a top African Union diplomat said early Friday. Mohammed el-Hassan Labat's announcement came just hours after the Sudanese military claimed it thwarted an attempted military coup. The transition agreement sets up a joint sovereign council that will rule for a little over three years while elections are organized. The deal is meant to break the political deadlock that has gripped the country following the ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Ex-Israeli Premier Plays Down Relationship with Epstein

JERUSALEM - Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is playing down his ties with Jeffrey Epstein - the U.S. financier jailed on sex-trafficking charges. Barak's connection with Epstein has emerged in Israel just days after the 78-year-old former premier announced his political comeback in a bid to unseat Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. According to U.S. tax records, Barak received some \$2 million in grants last decade from the Wexner Foundation - a philanthropic organization that supports Jewish causes founded by U.S. billionaire Leslie Wexner. The documents say the grants were for unspecified "research." At the time of the grants, Epstein was a trustee of the foundation. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*