

China Says Will 'Never Surrender' as U.S. Trade Row Heats Up

BEIJING - China will never surrender to external pressure, the government said on Monday, though stopped short of announcing how Beijing will hit back after Washington renewed its threat to impose tariffs on all Chinese imports in an escalating trade dispute. The trade war between the world's top two economies jumped up a gear on Friday, with the United States hiking tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods after President Donald Trump said Beijing "broke the deal" by renegeing on earlier commitments made during months of negotiations. Trump also ordered U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to begin imposing tariffs on all remaining imports from China, a move that would af-



fect about an additional \$300 billion worth of goods.

Beijing has vowed to respond to the latest U.S. tariffs, but has announced no details

yet. "As for the details, please continue to pay attention. Copying a U.S. expression - wait and see," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily news briefing. "We have said many times that adding tariffs won't resolve any problem. China will never surrender to external pressure. We have the confidence and the ability to protect our lawful and legitimate rights," Geng added, responding to a question on Trump's threat of putting duties on all Chinese imports. State media also kept up a steady drum beat of strongly-worded commentary on Monday, reiterating that China's door to talks was always open. *... (More on P4)... (15)*

Rape Case Against WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange to be Reopened, Swedish Prosecutors Say

LONDON - Swedish prosecutors said on Monday they will reopen a rape case against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, at the request of the alleged victim's lawyer. The case's reopening comes a month after he was removed from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Sweden's deputy director of public prosecutions Eva-Marie Persson made the announcement at a news conference in Stockholm. She said that "there is still a probable cause to suspect that Assange

committed a rape." Swedish prosecutors filed preliminary charges against Assange after he visited the country in 2010. Assange, who has denied the charges, has avoided extradition by seeking refuge in London's Ecuadorian embassy. Seven years later, a case of alleged sexual misconduct was dropped when the statute of limitations expired. That left a rape allegation, which couldn't be pursued while Assange was living at the embassy. *(Fox News)*

MOSCOW - Satellite photos that purport to show Soviet-made S-300PT air defense systems at a US military site have surfaced online, prompting various theories about how and why they ended up there. The speculations began after an image of what appear to be two 5P85PT launchers on semi-trailers and a 30N6 fire control system were posted online by a military enthusiast. The installations are an integral part of the S-300PT surface-to-air missile systems.

Satellite Images of 'Russian S-300 in US' Spark Guessing Game

The blogger, who says he is "geolocating all sort of military stuff" in his profile description, has since deleted the post but not before it gained traction online and attracted the attention of Russian media and the Defense Blog online magazine. In his original post on May 1, tamydoolittle (@border9999) did not provide any details on where the installations were deployed apart from a vague "somewhere in the USA." Manufactured in the So-



viet Union in 1975, the first S-300 air defense complexes were delivered to over a dozen countries, including China, Algeria, Venezuela, Iran, *... (More on P4)... (16)*

Pompeo Cancels Moscow Visit to Talk about Iran in Brussels - Official



WASHINGTON - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is not coming to Moscow on Monday as previously planned, according to a report citing a State Department

official. He will still meet the Russian president and foreign minister on Tuesday. Instead of heading straight for the Russian capital, on Monday

Pompeo will hold talks with European officials about "Iran and other issues," an anonymous State Department official told Reuters. The cancellation of the Moscow leg of Pompeo's visit will reportedly not affect his planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, which is scheduled to take place in Sochi on Tuesday. Pompeo is expected to talk to them about what Washington calls Russia's "aggressive and

destabilizing actions." The US has repeatedly accused Russia of meddling all around the world, including most recently in Venezuela, where, according to Pompeo, only the US is allowed to meddle. Pompeo has spent the past week escalating pressure on Iran, threatening it with "swift and decisive" US action in response to nebulously defined "attack on American interests or citizens" by "[Iran] or their proxies." On Tuesday, *... (More on P4)... (17)*

Argentine Legislator Dies 3 Days after Attack by Gunmen

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - Argentine legislator Héctor Olivares died three days after being seriously wounded in a gun attack that killed a provincial official, a Senate official said Sunday. Acting Senate president Federico Pinedo said Olivares died of his wounds earlier in the day. "A great pain the death of Deputy Olivares," Pinedo tweeted. President Mauricio Macri decreed a 48-hour period of national mourning. At least six people have been detained in what has been described as

a "mafia-style" attack Thursday that shocked Argentines. Officials have said two gunmen in a parked car shot wounded Olivares and killed Miguel Marcelo Yadón near the country's congressional building in Buenos Aires. Olivares, a member of the pro-government Radical Civic Union party, represented La Rioja province in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of congress. Yadón worked for La Rioja's federal electric transportation system. *(AP)*

Kudlow's Admission about Who Pays Tariffs Contradicts Trump

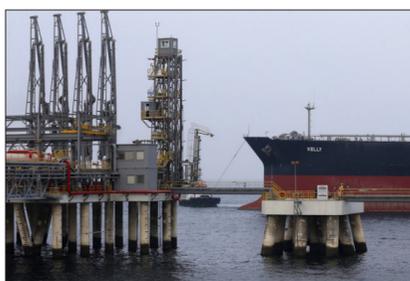
WASHINGTON - The White House's top economic adviser has acknowledged that U.S. consumers and businesses pay the tariffs that the Trump administration has imposed on billions of dollars of Chinese goods, even as President Trump himself insisted in a tweet, incorrectly, that China pays. Chris Wallace, host of "Fox News Sunday," asked him, "It's U.S. businesses and U.S. consumers who pay, correct?" "Yes, I don't disagree with that," said Larry Kudlow, the head of the president's National Economic Council. *(AP)*

Japan Uses Turtle Divination for Emperor Enthronement Rites

TOKYO - Japanese palace officials used an ancient turtle-shell divination Monday to choose sites to harvest sacred rice to be used in an upcoming harvest ritual - the most important one new Emperor Naruhito will perform after enthronement. Naruhito succeeded the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1, the day after his 85-year-old father, Akihito, abdicated. The mid-November Daijosa, or Great Thanksgiving Ceremony, will be Naruhito's first as emperor to pray for a good harvest for his people. A group of officials in traditional outfit and headdress who took part in the turtle divination - originally used in ancient China - chose the prefectures of Kyoto in western Japan and Tochigi in the east to grow the rice. *(AP)*

2 Saudi Oil Tankers Targeted by 'Sabotage' Near UAE - Energy Minister

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia says two of its oil tankers were among the ships the United Arab Emirates earlier said were targeted in "sabotage operations" off its coast. The alleged attack damaged the ships, but caused no casualties or oil spill. One of the two vessels was on its way to pick up crude for delivery to the US when it was hit, according to a statement by Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih, carried by state broadcaster SPA. Earlier, the UAE said that commercial vessels were hit in "sabotage operations" near its waters, apparently referring to the same incident. Neither elaborated on the nature of the alleged sabotage. According to both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the "sabotage" took place in waters



near the emirate of Fujairah, in the Gulf of Oman just outside the Strait of Hormuz, the chokepoint for about a third of the world's oil tanker traffic, with Iran on one side and Saudi Arabia and the UAE on the other. *(RT)*

Sudanese Protesters Renew Talks with Army after over A Week

KHARTOUM, Sudan - Sudanese protesters who drove President Omar al-Bashir from power last month are resuming negotiations with the ruling military council in renewed efforts to find common ground on forming a transitional government. Shams al-Deen al-Kabashi, a spokesman for the military council, says Monday's meeting - the first in over a week - is being held "in a more optimistic atmosphere." The protesters are represented by

the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, a coalition of opposition groups. The two sides are divided over what role the military, dominated by al-Bashir appointees, should play in the transitional period. The protesters demand a full transfer of power to a civilian government during this time. The military seeks a two-year transitional period during which army generals would retain most of the power. *(Fox News)*

World Markets Fall after No Deal in China-US Trade Talks

BANGKOK - Shares retreated in Europe and Asia on Monday after talks between the U.S. and China wrapped up without an agreement, as economist said the escalating dispute over trade and technology would likely hurt growth. The CAC 40 in Paris dropped 0.5% to 5,300.81 while Germany's DAX gave up 0.7% to 11,979.22. The FTSE 100 in Britain edged 0.1% lower to 7,199.50. New York shares looked set for losses, with the future contract for the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 1.1% at 25,668.00, while that for the S&P 500 lost 1.3% to 2,850.90. Oil prices surged after Saudi Arabia said two of its oil tankers were sabotaged in the Gulf of Oman near the coast of the United Arab Emirates. The kingdom said the unspecified act of sabotage did not lead to any casualties or oil spills, but the attack Sunday raised concerns about the security of oil supplies. U.S. benchmark crude oil added 78 cents to \$62.44 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 3 cents to \$61.66 on Friday. Brent crude, the international standard, gained \$1.14 to \$71.76 per barrel. China said it would take unspecified countermeasures after U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion of its exports rose to 25% from 10% as of Friday. After trade talks broke up later in the day, U.S. officials said they were preparing to expand those tariffs to cover another \$300 billion of goods, covering most imports from China. *(AP)*

Neighbor News

Pakistan Finalizes \$6bn IMF Bailout Package

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan have agreed terms for a \$6bn bailout package, to be disbursed over a span of more than three years, bringing an end to months of negotiations with the international lender. The agreement was confirmed by the IMF which added that the funds would be disbursed over 39 months. "Pakistan is facing a challenging economic environment, with lackluster growth, elevated inflation, high indebtedness, and a weak external position," said

Ernesto Ramirez Rigo, the head of the IMF's mission to Pakistan, said in the statement. "This reflects the legacy of uneven and procyclical economic policies in recent years aiming to boost growth, but at the expense of rising vulnerabilities and lingering structural and institutional weaknesses." Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Prime Minister Imran Khan's adviser on finance, said on Sunday that "after negotiations over many months, Pakistan and the IMF have reached a staff level agreement". *(Monitoring Desk)*

Americans Will Be 'Hit On Head' in Case of Any Move: IRGC Commander

TEHRAN - A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says at the present time, US forces stationed in the Persian Gulf are in close range for the Iranian forces and "will be hit on the head" if they make a mistaken move. Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division, made the remarks on Sunday, when explaining the situation of the United States' military bases in the region and the IRGC's missile capability.

previously a threat to us, but they are not an opportunity," General Hajizadeh added. The Iranian commander added that if the Americans say nothing about waging war against Iran it is because "they are vulnerable." The IRGC commander emphasized that Iran's missiles are capable of targeting US vessels from a distance of 300 kilometers and the new missiles have an even enhanced range of 700 kilometers, which enables them to hit targets beyond the Persian Gulf.

"If Americans make a [mistaken] move, we will hit them on the head." "This is the current state of affairs in the region.... It was not like this in the past. These [American forces] were

"An aircraft carrier with at least 40 to 50 fighter jets and 6,000 personnel was a serious threat for us in the past, but is now a target and threats have turned into opportunities," Hajizadeh said. *(Press TV)*

E3 Foreign Ministers to Discuss Iran's Nuclear Announcement in Brussels

TEHRAN - The foreign ministers of France, Germany, and the UK are to meet in the EU headquarters in Brussels later on Monday to discuss Iran's recent decision to stop implementing parts of its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal. During the meeting, which will also be attended by EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini, the top diplomats will discuss their response to the deadline Iran gave Europe for the implementation of their commitments under the deal. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, British Foreign Sec-

retary Jeremy Hunt, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, and Mogherini will also discuss progress on their efforts to ensure that trade with Iran will continue despite the US sanctions against the Islamic Republic. On May 8, Iran announced that it would stop exporting excess uranium and heavy water, setting a 60-day deadline for the five remaining parties to the deal - France, the UK, Germany, China, and Russia - to take practical measures toward ensuring Iran's interests in the face of the American sanctions. *(Press TV)*

EBRD Honors Greenhouse Project in Turkmenistan with Gold Award

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan's Hosh Zaman company received an award from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for its outstanding contribution to ensuring environmental sustainability. Trend reports referring to the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan (UIET). The award ceremony was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of EBRD's 28th annual meeting and business forum. The Turkmen company received gold in the Climate Resilience category. According to experts,

the work of an agricultural enterprise in the Central Asian zone, with a predominantly dry climate, is associated with special production risks. Taking into account the effects of climate change, Hosh Zaman has become a more competitive enterprise, the report reads. The company introduced hydroponic greenhouses into its production with a highly efficient technology that allows growing tomatoes without using soil and with reduced water consumption, thus saving a huge amount equivalent to the filling volume of 34 Olympic pools annually. *(Trend)*