

## EU Lost over €100bn Because of Its Own Anti-Russia Sanctions – Lavrov

MOSCOW - The EU is punishing itself for doing Washington's bidding and sanctioning Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said. However, while the restrictions policy does not harm the US, the EU suffers billions in losses.

In an interview with the Spanish newspaper El País, Lavrov lamented the dismal state of EU-Russia relations, describing them as far from normal. The divisions are being fueled from across the pond, he said. "The mythical 'Russian threat' is forced upon the Europeans, primarily, from the outside," Lavrov said. The main bone of contention between the EU and Russia –sanctions– were imposed by the European nations "on direct orders" from



Washington.

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## Neighbor News

### Iran Has Managed to Sell as Much Oil as It Needs: VP Jahangiri

TEHRAN - First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri says the United States has failed to fulfill a pledge to cut Iran's crude exports to "zero," and that Tehran's oil sales have remained unaffected by Washington's sanctions to this day. "The Americans have constantly said they would bring Iran's oil sales to zero, but I have to say that we have been able to sell oil as much as we need up until today," Jahangiri noted in remarks on Tuesday.

The US, he added, was seeking to misrepresent the realities by

resorting to a propaganda campaign. Jahangiri's remarks came one day after the administration of US President Donald Trump unleashed a second round of sanctions against Iran. The punitive measures targeted 700 individuals, banks, aircraft, ships and companies tied to Iran's energy and financial industries. They came months after Washington scrapped the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), despite international objections. (Press TV)

### Border Tension Dropped Significantly after Pashinyan-Aliyev Agreement in Tajikistan

YEREVAN - The border tension has significantly decreased after the agreement of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and an operative communication exists between the two countries, caretaker defense minister Davit Tonoyan told reporters ahead of parliamentary debates on the 2019 state budget.

"Border tension has significantly dropped after the Dushanbe agreements. An operative communication – telephone communication – exists between the two sides. We call immediately

in the event of incidents of concern to us or the Azerbaijani side, movements or actions, in order to stop," Tonoyan said, adding that until now this communication has been constructive. But he mentioned that there is no direct communication between Pashinyan and Aliyev. He said that the Armenian side immediately reacts when the Azerbaijani side is carrying out reinforcement of positions. Pashinyan and Aliyev agreed on the sidelines of the CIS summit in Tajikistan to de-escalate the situation at the border and prevent incidents. (Agencies)

### First in Central Asia: Uzbekistan Builds Plant for Production of French Fries

TASHKENT - The first plant in Central Asia, on the basis of which the industrial production of frozen French fries and potato flakes will be launched in November of this year, has been built in Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan News reported. The production capacity of the plant will be up to 20,000 tons of finished products per year.

Work on the project has been going on for more than three years. As a result, a non-traditional production line for Uzbekistan has been built by Dutch specialists, and consists of the most advanced European equipment. The Agrovor company, one of the largest domestic potato growers, which has been operating in the

local market for more than 12 years, is making investments in construction of the plant and supply of the expensive production line. The total amount of investments in the project has amounted to about \$30 million, and this includes not only the cost of equipment, but also the cost of its delivery and assembly in Uzbekistan. A large part of the investments has been allocated for creation of a scientific basis for growing the desired potato varieties, preparation of infrastructure – crop areas and equipment for planting and harvesting of potato, storage warehouse for raw materials and refrigeration systems for finished products. (Trend)

### Saudi Arabia, Pakistan to Sign Oil Refinery Establishment Agreement

ISLAMABAD - Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malkiy called on President Dr Arif Ali on Tuesday at the President's office. A press release issued by the President Media Office stated that the Saudi Ambassador in his visit told that Saudi Minister for Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources will soon visit Pakistan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing an oil refinery in Pakistan. Arif Alvi particularly stressed more business delegations between the two countries. He appreciated the role of Pakistan armed forces

for re-establishing the peace and defeating terrorism in the country which had resulted in revival of its economy. The Saudi ambassador briefed the president about two recent visits of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to Saudi Arabia and said they had been very successful resulting in enhanced and multi-faceted economic cooperation between the two countries. He appreciated the peace and stability prevalent in Pakistan and steps taken by the government to invite foreign businessmen to invest in various sectors of economy. (Agencies)

### Five Arrested after London Fire Disaster Effigy Torched

LONDON - Five men have been arrested over a video showing a laughing group of people burning a model of the Grenfell Tower, British police said Tuesday. The London residential block went up in flames in June last year, claiming 71 lives. It was Britain's worst residential fire since World War II. The video clip, posted online, showed a large effigy marked "Grenfell Tower", complete with paper figures at the windows, being set ablaze on a bonfire. Raucous

laughter can be heard. "Five men have been arrested on suspicion of a public order offence in connection with an investigation into a video posted online that showed an effigy of Grenfell Tower being burnt," Scotland Yard police headquarters said in a statement. The men, aged 19, 46, 49, and 55, were arrested after handing themselves in at a south London police station late Monday. "They have been taken into custody," police said. (AFP)

ZHUHAI (China) - China unveiled on Tuesday a replica of its first permanently crewed space station, which would replace the international community's orbiting laboratory and symbolizes the country's major ambitions beyond Earth. The 17-metre (55-foot) core module was a star attraction at the biennial Airshow China in the southern coastal city of Zhuhai, the country's main aerospace industry exhibition.

Outside, China's J-10 fighter jet and J-20 stealth

fighter wowed spectators as they zoomed across Zhuhai's sky. Back inside, the country displayed its fleet of drones and other military hardware. Crowds gathered around the cylindrical space station module representing the living and working quarters of the Tiangong – or "Heavenly Palace" – which will also have two other modules for scientific experiments and will be equipped with solar panels. Three astronauts will be permanently stationed in the 60-tonne orbiting lab, which will



enable the crew to conduct biological and microgravity research. Assembly is expected to be completed around 2022 and the station would have a lifespan of around 10 years.

The International Space Station – a collaboration between the United States, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan – has been in operation since 1998 but is due to be retired in 2024. (AFP)

### China Unveils New 'Heavenly Palace' Space Station as ISS Days Numbered

### Turkey's Erdogan Says Joint U.S.-Kurdish Patrols Near Syria Border Unacceptable



ANKARA - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday that joint U.S.-Kurdish patrols just over the Turkish border with Syria were unaccept-

able and he expected U.S. President Donald Trump to stop them. Erdogan, set to meet Trump in Paris this weekend, told reporters he would discuss the

patrols that he said were being carried out inside Syria by the United States and allied Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). "I believe when we speak with Trump, they will probably stop this process," he said. The SDF said on Friday that U.S. troops had started patrolling the border in a bid to defuse tensions with Ankara – though it did not say whether its own forces had joined in. The U.S.-led coalition in Syria said there had been no increase in patrolling. Erdogan's concerns un-

derlined the complex web of allegiance and enmity along the border that has been exacerbated by the civil war over the frontier in Syria. The United States has backed and armed the SDF, describing them as allies in its fight against Islamic State militants in Syria. That U.S.-Kurdish alliance has alarmed Turkey – which says that Kurdish YPG fighters inside the SDF coalition are an offshoot of outlawed militant group inside its own territory. (Reuters)

### Bill Gates, on China Trip, Lauds Free Trade - and Futuristic Toilets

BEIJING - U.S. billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates unveiled on Tuesday in Beijing a futuristic toilet that doesn't need water or sewers and uses chemicals to turn human waste into fertilizer. The Microsoft Corp co-founder, who a day earlier was one of the high profile guests at a major trade event in Shanghai, also lauded the globalized and free trade systems that made the toilet technology possible. "I honestly believe trade allows every country to

do what it's best at," he told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday. "So when I talk about components of this toilet being made in China, others in Thailand, others in the United States – you really want to be bringing together all of that IQ so that you're getting that combination." Gates' trip comes amid trade tension between China and the United States, the world's two largest economies, which have slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on goods worth billions of dollars. (Reuters)

### British Cabinet Will Meet Again When It's Decision Time for Brexit

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May's cabinet of top ministers will meet again when there is a decision to be taken on a Brexit deal, but so far no such meeting has been scheduled this week, a government source said on Tuesday. With a Brexit deal nearing completion with Brussels, May is trying to secure the agreement of her cabinet to press on with finalizing the terms for Britain's exit from the European Union. A cabinet meeting can be called at any time. (Reuters)

### Thai Junta Says No Need for Foreign Observers at Next Year's Election

BANGKOK - Thailand does not need international observers to monitor next year's general elections, the foreign minister said on Tuesday, despite criticism from pro-democracy activists that the junta has restricted fundamental civil rights.

The government has promised to hold elections between February and May after repeated delays, a contest between supporters of the military and royalist establishment and the populist political forces now led by the Puea Thai Party that was ousted by the military in a 2014 coup. Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai said past elections in the Southeast Asian country have been credible. "To have others observing means the country is having a problem," he told reporters. (Reuters)

### Asian Shares Meander, Oil Lower Ahead of US Midterms Vote

BANGKOK – Share prices are mixed in Asia as markets await the outcome of the U.S. midterm elections. KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.0 percent to 22,104.37 and the Kospi in South Korea added 0.1 percent to 2,078.75. The Shanghai Composite index slipped 1.1 percent to 2,637.35 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.2 percent lower to 25,894.70. Australia's S&P ASX 200 advanced 0.3 percent to 5,940.22. Shares fell in Taiwan but rose in Jakarta and Thailand. Markets were closed in Singapore for a public holiday. ELECTION WATCH: Financial markets have



been on a roller-coaster ride and the election Tuesday could roil things further. U.S. midterm elections, votes on lawmakers and other officials that fall between presidential elections, are often marked by low voter turnout. But political watchers are expecting voter angst over which party will control the U.S. House and Sen-

ate to drive more Americans to cast votes. Asia will be watching to see how the vote might influence U.S. trade and security policies. ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "The markets are understandably jumpy given the next 48 hours of headline risk," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary. (AP)

### New Taiwan Performing Arts Center Billed as Largest in World

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan – A sprawling complex of four theaters billed as the biggest performing arts center in the world has opened in southern Taiwan. The National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts houses a 1,981-seat concert hall, a 2,236-seat opera house, a play house and a recital hall under a single roof covering

3.3 hectares (8.2 acres). The opening season offers a range of artistic performances. The debut installation opera "Paradise Interrupted" is an international co-production with New York's Lincoln Center Festival, the Spoleto Festival USA and the Singapore International Festival of Arts. (AP)

### Qatar's Ruler Hopes Gulf Crisis Will End for Sake of Region

DOHA - Qatar's ruler voiced hope on Tuesday the country's bitter dispute with Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies would pass, saying it had harmed regional security by weakening a Gulf Arab bloc. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut transport and trade ties with Qatar in June 2017, accusing it of supporting terrorism and their foe Iran. Doha denies the charges and says the boycott aims to undermine its sovereignty.

"History teaches us that crises pass, but if they are handled badly then this may leave traces which last for a long time," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said in a speech to the country's consultative Shoura council. "It is very regrettable that the continuation of the Gulf crisis exposed the failure of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ... which has weakened its ability to face challenges and threats and marginalized its role in the region," he said, urging the bloc to adopt dispute resolution mechanisms.

The United States, an ally of the six-nation Sunni Muslim GCC, sees the rift as a threat to efforts to contain Shi'ite Iran and has pushed for a united Gulf front. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have repeatedly said the dispute is not a top priority and assured Washington it will not affect defense cooperation. (Reuters)