

US to Stop Refueling Planes in Yemen War: Report

WASHINGTON - The United States will stop refueling aircraft from the Saudi-led coalition that is bombing Yemen, the Washington Post reported Friday.

The move comes amid an ongoing international outcry over Saudi actions in Yemen, particularly after a string of high-profile coalition strikes that have killed scores of civilians, many of them children.

The Pentagon would not confirm the Post's story.

"We continue to have discussions with the Saudis. We have nothing to report at this time," Pentagon spokeswoman Commander Rebecca Reberich said.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in August warned that US



support for the coalition was "not unconditional," noting it must do "everything humanly possible to avoid any innocent loss of life."

Currently, the Pentagon provides refueling capabilities for about 20 percent of coalition planes flying sorties over Yemen. Mattis last month made a surprise call for

a ceasefire in Yemen and urged warring parties to enter negotiations within the next 30 days. (AFP)

Macron Hosts Trump Amid Row over European Defence

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron attempted to defuse a row with visiting US counterpart Donald Trump on Saturday, hailing the "great solidarity" between their countries after Trump blasted his proposals for a European army.

The two leaders held talks at the presidential palace in Paris ahead of World War 1 commemorations taking place in the shadow of a new nationalist surge worldwide.

Their body language was markedly less warm than during Trump's last visit to Paris in July 2017, un-

derlining a general cooling in relations which were further strained by a late-night tweet by Trump attacking Macron. Appearing anxious to appease Trump, who has accused the EU of failing to pull its weight on NATO spending, Macron said he shared his view that "we need a much better burden-sharing within NATO". His calls for closer European integration on defence would mean "more Europe in NATO", he argued, later patting Trump's knee affectionately. (AFP)

Seoul Says 2 Koreas Complete Disarming 22 Guard Posts

SEOUL, South Korea - The North and South Korean militaries completed withdrawing troops and firearms from 22 front-line guard posts on Saturday as they continue to implement a wide-ranging agreement reached in September to reduce tensions across the world's most fortified border, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said. South Korea says the military agreement is an important trust-building step that would help stabilize peace and advance reconciliation between

the rivals. But critics say the South risks conceding some of its conventional military strength before North Korea takes any meaningful steps on denuclearization - an anxiety that's growing as the larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang seemingly drift into a stalemate. South Korea reportedly has about 60 guard posts - bunker-like concrete structures surrounded with layers of barbed-wire fences and manned by soldiers equipped



with machine guns and mortars - stretched across the ironically named Demilitarized Zone. The 248-kilometer (155-mile) border buffer peppered with millions of land mines has been the site of occasional skirmishes between the two forces since the 1950-53 Korean War. The North is believed to have about 160 guard posts within the DMZ. (Fox News)

Polish Leaders to Walk with Nationalists on Independence Day



WARSAW, Poland - The Polish government and the organizers of a yearly march organized by nationalist groups have agreed to hold a joint

march on the 100th anniversary of Poland's rebirth as a state on Sunday. The announcement late Friday means President Andrzej Duda,

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and other state officials will march in the capital with groups whose Nov. 11 march last year included racist banners and white supremacist symbols. Michal Dworzczyk, the head of Morawiecki's chancellery, tweeted that both sides reached an agreement, adding: "Poland won. On Nov. 11 there will be a great communal march to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Independence!"

The deal was also announced by the top march organizer, Robert Bakiwicz. He is a leader of the National Radical Camp, which traces its roots to an anti-Semitic movement of the 1930s.

The development underscores how the socially conservative ruling Law and Justice party has at times sought to embrace the same base that supports far-right groups. It's a source of controversy in Poland, where many are furious at how radical nationalists in past years have come to dominate the Independence Day holiday. (Fox News)

UK Ministers Present May with 'Plan B' for No-Deal Brexit Scenario: Sun

LONDON - British cabinet ministers have drawn up a 'plan B' for a no-deal Brexit in case parliament votes down Prime Minister Theresa May's proposed plan to leave the European Union, The Sun reported on Friday.

The unnamed pro-Brexit ministers have briefed May on their alternative plan, the newspaper reported, without citing sources.

The ministers have proposed that Britain continue to pay EU membership fees up to 2021

and follow the bloc's rules to avoid a cliff edge exit when it leaves in March 2019, the Sun said.

The country would then be able to negotiate with Brussels as a 'third country' for two years, making it easier to agree on a new free trade deal and avoid having to pay the full 38 billion pounds (\$49 billion) divorce bill. As negotiations with Brussels enter their final stage, May's approach is under fire from all sides of the divisive Brexit debate. (Reuters)

Fox Says Britain May Not Get a Deal with The EU

LONDON - Britain may not be able to reach a divorce deal with the European Union because a number of contentious issues still stand in the way, trade minister Liam Fox said on Saturday.

"We are seeing a difficult end to the negotiation," he told Sky News. Asked what would happen if Britain failed to get its way over outstanding issues such as Northern Ireland, he said: "Well in that case we may not be able to reach an agreement with the European Union." (Reuters)

Turkey's President Erdogan Says May Meet U.S. President Trump in Paris



ISTANBUL - Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday he may meet U.S. President Donald Trump in Paris during the commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

"When we go to Paris, we will try to secure an opportunity and we will realize a bilateral meeting," Erdogan said ahead of his departure. (Reuters)

Taipei Mayor Candidates Face Off in Televised Debate

TAIPEI, Taiwan - The candidates vying to become the mayor of Taiwan's capital, Taipei, faced off in a televised debate on Saturday, two weeks before a host of local elections seen as a barometer of the ruling party's popularity.

The Nov. 24 mayoral election is one of hundreds being held in Taiwan for local government posts that are seen as a test of confidence in the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which swept to power in 2016 with the election of President Tsai Ing-wen and a solid majority in parliament. The DPP's main opposition is the Nationalist Party, which relocated



from mainland China amid civil war in 1949 and governed Taiwan for decades, first under martial law, then under full democracy beginning in the 1990s. The presidency has since alternated between the two parties, with the Nationalists, also known as the KMT, seen as more pro-China, and the DPP

backing formal independence for Taiwan. In Saturday's debate, incumbent Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je, an independent, asked voters to continue supporting him, but the ruling party's candidate, Pasuya Yao, said Ko has failed to make any changes in Taipei in the past four years. (Fox News)

US, NATO Consulting on Russia Nuclear Pact

PARIS - French officials say the Trump administration has agreed to consult with NATO partners on its plan to pull out of an arms control treaty with Russia. Aides to French President Emmanuel Macron said the decision was made during a meeting between President Donald Trump and Macron in Paris on Saturday.

The White House did not immediately comment. But Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, told reporters in Paris on Friday that the U.S. is in "very close consultation" with allies on the treaty issue and are "very optimistic about a common position."

The U.S. and NATO have accused Russia of violating the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty.

Trump's decision to exit the pact has worried many in Europe, where the treaty is seen as a cornerstone of the post-Cold War era. Macron has warned that if its scrapped and Russia deploys such missiles, they could easily reach Europe but not the U.S.

The White House is calling off President Donald Trump's scheduled visit to a World War I cemetery due to poor weather. Trump was slated on Saturday to visit Aisne-Marne American Cemetery near the village of Belleau, France. It's the site of a 1918 battle in which the American and French repelled German forces. More than 1,800 Americans died there. The battle looms large in the history of the U.S. Marines Corps. Trump was supposed to participate in a wreath-laying and a moment of silence at the site. (AP)

Germany, France, Britain, U.S. and Saudi Arabia Listened to Khashoggi Tapes, Erdogan Says

ISTANBUL - Turkey has given recordings on the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi to Saudi Arabia, the United States, Germany, France and Britain, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday.

Turkish sources have said previously that authorities have an audio recording purportedly docu-

menting the murder.

Speaking ahead of his departure for France to attend commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, Erdogan said Saudi Arabia knows the killer of Jamal Khashoggi is among a group of 15 people who arrived in Turkey one day ahead of the Oct. 2 killing. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

President Rouhani: New US Sanctions Have No Effect on Iran

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani says the US administration is seeking to exert pressure on the Iranian people through imposing "inappropriate" sanctions that he said would affect their livelihood.

Rouhani made the remarks at the end of a meeting of the heads of the three branches of power in Tehran on Saturday.

He rejected Washington's claim that it is not after putting pressure on the Iranian nation, but rather on the Iranian government and the Islamic establishment.

The claim, Rouhani said, is "totally incorrect and inaccurate, and they (the Ameri-

can officials) have themselves exposed this fact." He further stressed that the Iranian people were already standing against US sanctions contrary to what Washington expected. "The Iranian nation have demonstrated their resistance and withstanding and it is clear that the one who is thinking about pressure and oppression against the people is the ruling US administration not the other side," Rouhani said.

"They are the ones who want to negatively affect people's lives and their everyday livelihood through inappropriate and wrong sanctions," he added. (Press TV)

Russian Multifunctional Migration Center to Appear in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan and Russia are planning to create a multifunctional migration center of the Russian Federation in Uzbekistan.

This was announced after talks of a delegation of the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of Uzbekistan, led by First Deputy Minister Erkin Mukhitdinov, in Moscow, the Uzbek media reported.

The sides of the meeting discussed a num-

ber of important issues, including creation of a multifunctional migration center of the Russian Federation, providing services for issuing permits to citizens of Uzbekistan for labor activities in Russia, drafting an agreement on reciprocal recording of work experience and pension rights of citizens, as well as exchanging electronic databases between the pension funds of the two countries. (Trend)

UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia First Time Visited Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe, Afshan Khan, today concluded her first official visit to Turkmenistan.

The partnership between the Government of Turkmenistan and UNICEF has yielded some important results in health, nutrition, education and other areas affecting the lives of children and their families, said Ms. Khan. "I am encouraged by the investments in children's wellbeing made by government and look forward to the best initiatives and successful programmes reaching national scale," she said. "Delivering results for every child in the country remains the bedrock of our partnership with the Government," she added. During her four-day vis-

it, Ms. Khan discussed priorities for children in Turkmenistan as part of UNICEF's partnership and cooperation with the Government.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov; Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, responsible for education and health, Purli Agamyradov; and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, responsible for economy and social welfare, Gochmyrat Myradov were among the senior officials she met. Ms. Khan also met the Speaker of the Parliament, Gulshat Mammedova and the Ombudsman, Yazdursun Gurbannazarova. The UNICEF Regional Director thanked them for the fruitful collaboration and ongoing prioritization of child rights issues in the country's policy and programming. (Trend)

Pakistan Will Receive \$1 Billion from Saudi Arabia in A Couple of Days: Asad Umer

KARACHI - Finance Minister Asad Umar on Saturday has said that Pakistan will receive an amount of one billion dollars from Saudi Arabia within a couple of days. He stated this while talking to media men after attending a meeting with industrialists at Overseas Chamber of Commerce in Karachi on Saturday. He said tax courts are being established for speedy trial of tax cases as the case regarding 1300 billion rupees tax are currently under trial in courts.

The finance minister underscored that Fi-

nancial Action Task Force (FATF) is serious issue and there is hope of progress in January next year in the issue. He stressed on the need for improving tax collecting machinery. The Minister said Hundi and other illegal methods of bringing money have caused immense damage to the economy of the country. He said there are assets of four thousand Pakistanis in Dubai, while ninety-seven thousand Pakistanis also possess properties in other countries of the world as well. (Daily Times)