

Russia's Putin to Discuss Military Cooperation on India Visit: Kremlin

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin will discuss military cooperation with India when he visits the country this week, the Kremlin said on Monday, without specifying whether the possible sale of S-400 surface-to-air missiles was on the agenda. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, when asked whether Putin would discuss a possible S-400 deal, confirmed that military cooperation was on the agenda but said he could provide no further detail. Russia said in April it expected to sign a deal with India this year on the sale of the S-400. (Reuters)



Germany Arrests 7 Suspected Far-Right Extremists in Chemnitz

BERLIN - German police have arrested seven men on suspicion of forming a "far-right terrorist organization" in the eastern city of Chemnitz and planning to carry out attacks against foreigners and political enemies, officials said Monday. Six of the men, all German citizens ranging in age from 20 to 30, were arrested Monday by tactical police units in Saxony, the state in which Chemnitz is located, and Bavaria, federal prosecutors said in a statement. The men are alleged to have formed a group call-

ing itself "Revolution Chemnitz," together with a seventh suspect who was arrested in a separate case last month. The seventh man, identified only as 31-year-old German citizen Christian K. for privacy reasons, is alleged to have been the group's leader. He was arrested last month. Prosecutors said the men wanted to "carry out violent and armed attacks against foreigners and political enemies" as part of a plan to overthrow Germany's democratic order. (AP)

WASHINGTON - A new US trade pact with Canada and Mexico is "a great deal" for all three countries, President Donald Trump said on Monday, hailing the replacement of the old NAFTA deal which he had long railed against and threatened to cancel. "Late last night, our deadline, we reached a wonderful new Trade Deal with Canada, to be added into the deal already reached with Mexico," Trump said on Twitter. "It is a great deal for all three countries." The new pact known as the

Trump Hails New US-Canada-Mexico Trade Pact



United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) "solves the many deficiencies and mistakes" in the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement

it replaces, Trump said after accomplishing one of his signature policy initiatives. USMCA "greatly opens markets to our Farmers and Manufactur-

Neighbor News

Iran Guard Launches Missiles into Syria over Parade Attack

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched six ballistic missiles early Monday toward eastern Syria, targeting militants it blamed for an attack on a military parade in Iran last month while also threatening regional adversaries as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers unravels. The launch saw the Guard fire missiles with enough range to strike regional U.S. military bases and targets inside both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emir-

ates. Iran's supreme leader has called out those two nations by name, accusing them of being behind the Sept. 22 attack on the parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz, something denied by both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. The strike on Monday marked the second such attack by Iran in a month's time and highlighted the greater tension felt across the Mideast as U.S. sanctions targeting Tehran's oil industry will take effect in early November. (AP)

President Arif Alvi, Shafqat Mehmood Seek Acquittal in Parliament, PTV Attack Case

ISLAMABAD - The President of Pakistan Arif Alvi and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mehmood on Monday filed an acquittal application through legal counsel Mohammad Ali Bukhari under section 265-K of CrPC in the Parliament and PTV attack cases during the 2014 sit in by PTI against the alleged rigging in 2013 elections. The ATC court resumed the hearing of the case where twelve accused including Shah Mehmood Qureshi filed petition of exemption from appearing before the court. Prime Minister Imran Khan legal coun-

sel Babar Awan also appeared before the judge of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) and argued the case for an acquittal petition filed earlier on behalf of PM in the case. The prime minister and other party leaders including Dr Arif Alvi, Asad Umer, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and others are accused of attacking the Parliament House and PTV office during the 2014 sit in. The court issued notices to the prosecution for further discussion on acquittal pleas by Dr Arif Alvi, Imran Khan and Shafqat Mehmood and adjourned the hearing till October 22. (Monitoring Desk)

Denny Tamaki, Critic of US Bases on Okinawa, Wins Election



TOKYO - Denny Tamaki, who campaigned criticizing the American military presence on Okinawa, won the election for governor Sun-

day, becoming the first Amerasian to lead the southwestern Japanese islands. The race was to choose a successor to Takeshi On-

aga, who died in August of pancreatic cancer. He wanted the bases off Okinawa. Tamaki, a legislator who had pledged to continue with Onaga's "spirit," thanked his supporters as his campaign office broke into a cheer and later began dancing Okinawa-style, after his victory. "The strong feelings of Takeshi Onaga, risking his life to stop the construction of any more bases, helped bring this victory," Tamaki told reporters.

He defeated Atsushi Sakima, a mayor who had argued that Okinawa should work with the national government to sort out the problem, by a comfortable 80,000 vote difference, with voter turnout relatively high at 63 percent. Tamaki garnered more than 396,000 votes to Sakima's 316,000, according to the final tally. Tamaki's victory throws into further question Japan's plans for a new air base still under construction in coastal Okinawa. (AP)

US, Japanese Pair Win Nobel Medicine Prize for Cancer Therapy

STOCKHOLM - Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, won the 2018 Nobel Medicine Prize for research that has revolutionized the treatment of cancer, the jury said on Monday. The pair were honoured "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation," the Nobel Assembly said. Immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy targets proteins made by some immune system cells,

as well as some cancer cells. The proteins can stop the body's natural defences from killing cancer cells. The therapy is designed to remove this protein "brake" and allow the immune system to more quickly get to work fighting the cancer. Allison, a professor at the University of Texas, and Honjo, a professor at Kyoto University, in 2014 won the Tang Prize, touted as Asia's version of the Nobels, for their research. (AFP)

We Must Prove EU Wrong about the UK's Brexit Plans

BIRMINGHAM, England - British finance minister Philip Hammond said on Monday the government would prove the European Union was wrong to dismiss Britain's plans for Brexit as unworkable. "Mr Tusk says it won't work," Hammond said, referring to Donald Tusk, the head of the European Council, which groups the bloc's national leaders. "But that's what people said about the light bulb in 1878. Our job is to prove him wrong," Hammond said in a speech to his Conservative Party's annual conference. (Reuters)

In Tight Election, Quebec Weighs a Shift to the Right

MONTREAL - Voters in the Canadian province of Quebec will cast ballots on Monday in a close election primed to be a showdown between the long-dominant Liberals and a center-right party as immigration plays out as a key issue. The question of how many outsiders should be let into the majority French-speaking province - the second most populous in Canada - has eclipsed arguments over separatism that dominated Quebec in recent decades.

Recent polls show Quebec's ruling Liberals, a centrist party, are running neck-and-neck against the center-right Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) of former business executive Francois Legault, which has never held power. A CAQ win would follow a shift to the right in Ontario, where Premier Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative government swept to power in June, ending 15 years of Liberal rule in Canada's most populous province, which includes Toronto. (Reuters)

S. Korea Believes North Begins Demining at DMZ

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korea's Defense Ministry says it believes North Korea has begun removing land mines from two sites at the rivals' heavily fortified border. South Korea earlier Monday sent troops to remove its mines from the sites at the Demilitarized Zone under recent agreements with North Korea aimed at reducing their decades-long military animosity. The South's Defense Ministry says it detected North Korean soldiers engaging in what it believes are demining-related work at the two sites. It refused to provide further



details. The sites are at a jointly controlled area in the border village of Panmunjom and another DMZ area where the Koreans plan their first joint searches for soldiers killed during

the 1950-53 Korean War. South Korean President Moon Jae-in says recent military agreements will "end all hostile acts at the land, sea and sky between South and North Korea." (AP)

As Chinese Influence Grows, Japanese Warship Visits Sri Lanka

COLOMBO - Japan's largest warship, the Kaga helicopter carrier, sailed into Sri Lanka's Colombo harbor this weekend, marking Tokyo's highest profile salvo in a diplomatic battle with China for influence along the region's vital commercial sea lanes. Japan has long provided low-interest loans and aid to Sri Lanka, helping it transform Colombo into a major trans-shipment port tapping the artery of global trade just south of the island that links Europe and the Middle East with Asia.

Beijing has, however, emerged as a powerful rival across South Asia and beyond as it implements its Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. Both China and Japan are also flexing their military muscles further from home. China's navy is increasingly venturing beyond the Western Pacific and into the Indian Ocean as it targets a world-class blue water fleet by 2050, while Japan's military diplomacy is flourishing under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "Japan's government is promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific and this deployment in the Asia Pacific is a component of that strategy," Rear Admiral Tatsuya Fukuda, the commander of the Kaga and its destroyer escort, said in his cabin as the carrier steamed for Colombo through the Indian Ocean. "Maritime security and stability is of critical importance" to an island nation like Japan, he added. (Reuters)

Macron Flips Back over 'Middle Finger' Photo

PARIS - President Emmanuel Macron has shrugged off a controversy over a photo of him posing with a bare-chested youth who is giving the middle finger during a trip to French territories in the Caribbean.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen said she was "unable to find the words to express our indignation" at the sight of Macron posing with two black youths on Saint Martin island in a snap that has gone vi-

ral. "The reasons I fought to be elected instead of Marine Le Pen and that I am here today is because I love all of the republic's children, whatever their past troubles," Macron shot back Sunday.

Macron, who beat Le Pen in last year's presidential election, on Saturday took a spontaneous trip to the home of one of the youths in the picture, seen wearing a white vest, who had recently left prison after serving time for robbery. (AFP)

Iran, Europe 'Finalizing Mechanism for Cooperation, US Sabotage Sure to Fail'

TEHRAN - Iran has been doing copious work with Europe to devise a mechanism to guarantee continued bilateral trade despite attempts by the United States to obstruct such cooperation, says an Iranian official, declaring that US sabotage is "certain" to fail as a result of ongoing Iranian-European diplomatic engagement.

"After much negotiation over a clear mechanism with Europe, we have neared certain understandings; and for sure, US sabotage in that regard will fail," said Bahram Qassemi, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, during a press briefing on Monday. Qassemi referred to the US unilateral pullout from a multilateral deal with Iran, Europe, Russia, and China on May 8, and said Tehran has

since been negotiating with the remaining parties to work out a mechanism to beat the US financial reach in European countries that would hinder their continued cooperation with Iran.

Iran struck the deal with originally six world powers and the European Union (EU) back in 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear program in return for mainly lifting restrictions on its oil sales. When US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled America out in May, he reintroduced the previous sanctions and imposed new ones on the Islamic Republic. He also introduced punitive measures - known as secondary sanctions - against third countries doing business with Iran. (Press TV)

ADB Approves \$10M Grant for Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$10 million grant to support Tajikistan in disaster preparedness and response, Tatiana Evstifeeva, Associate External Relations Officer of the ADB Tajikistan Resident Mission, said, Sputnik Tajikistan reported. Almost three quarters of Tajikistan's nine million people live in areas prone to earthquakes, floods, avalanches, mudflows and landslides, and have no protection systems in times of crisis. Evstifeeva noted that the project will be completed in 2024.

An integrated information system for disaster management and an early warning system will be created, an institutional strengthening plan and a business plan for the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, the project's executing agency, will be developed and implemented in the framework of the project. Disaster risk management training will also be provided to government staff and communities in districts and cities. ADB is celebrating 20 years of partnership with Tajikistan in 2018. (Trend)