

Trump Says U.S. to Exit Nuclear Treaty, Russia Warns of Retaliation

ELKO, Nev./MOSCOW - President Donald Trump said Washington will exit the Cold-War era treaty that eliminated a class of nuclear weapons due to Russian violations, triggering a warning of retaliatory measures from Moscow.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, negotiated by then-President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987, required elimination of short-range and intermediate-range nuclear and conventional missiles by both countries.

"Russia has not, unfortunately, honored the agreement so we're going to terminate the agreement and we're going to pull out," Trump told reporters on Saturday after a rally in Nevada.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Sunday



that a unilateral U.S. withdrawal would be "very dangerous" and lead to a "military-technical" retaliation. U.S. authorities believe Moscow is developing

and has deployed a ground-launched system in breach of the INF treaty that could allow it to launch a nuclear strike on Europe at short notice. Russia has consistently denied any such viola-

tion.

Trump said the United States will develop the weapons unless Russia and China agree to a halt on development.

China is not a party to the treaty and has invested heavily in conventional missiles, while the INF has banned U.S. possession of ground-launched ballistic missiles or cruise missiles of ranges between 500 and 5,500 km (311 and 3,418 miles).

Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, will visit Moscow next week.

Ryabkov, in comments reported by state-controlled RIA news agency, said if the United States withdrew, Russia would have no choice but to retaliate, including taking unspecified measures of a "military-technical nature". (Reuters)

Royal Navy's 932-Foot HMS Queen Elizabeth Visits New York

NEW YORK - The largest ship ever built for Great Britain's Royal Navy is visiting New York for a week.

The aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth sailed into New York Harbor on Friday carrying about 1,500 sailors.

Commanding officer Capt. Jerry Kyd called the visit "very symbolic of the intimate relationship the Royal Navy has with the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps."

The ship is anchored in view of the Statue of Lib-



erty and can be seen by Staten Island Ferry commuters.

The 932-foot (284-meter) warship carries up to 60 aircraft.

British Defense Minister Gavin Williamson welcomed the Queen Elizabeth to New York. (AP)

MUFG Says Bank's CEO Will Not Attend Saudi Conference

TOKYO - The CEO of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group's banking arm will not attend the Future Investment Initiative conference in Saudi Arabia, the group said on Sunday, joining a growing list of business executives to withdraw over concern about the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

A spokesman for the Japanese company said that MUFG Bank Deputy President Eiichi Yoshikawa will attend the Saudi event in place of CEO Kanetsugu Mike.

MUFG said the decision was made after "evaluating factors in a comprehensive manner".

Khashoggi, a U.S. resident and Washington Post columnist critical of Riyadh's policies, disappeared on Oct. 2 after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Saudi Arabia on Saturday said he had died in a fight there. Two Saudi officials have since attributed the death to a chokehold.

More than two dozen top officials and executives from the United States and Europe, including



HSBC, have canceled plans to attend the Future Investment Initiative. (Reuters)

China's Top Macau Representative Dead After Falling from His Building



BEIJING - China's top representative to Macau died late on Saturday after falling from the building where he lived, the Chinese government said on Sunday.

Zheng Xiaosong, the head of China's liaison office to Macau, had been suffering from depression, the Hong Kong and Macau Office of the Chinese government's State Council

said in a statement, adding representatives of the Beijing government visited Macau to offer condolences. The statement did not elaborate further on the circumstances of his death.

Zheng, 59, was appointed to the Macau post in September 2017 and is a member of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee, the largest of China's elite ruling bodies. He was previously the vice governor of the southeastern coastal province of Fujian. The liaison office in Ma-

cau serves as a bridge between the local government and Beijing and has become increasingly influential in local affairs. Like neighboring Hong Kong, Macau operates under China's "one country, two systems" policy and is ruled by a chief executive, who is chosen via an election but must get approval from Beijing to formally take office.

Macau Chief Executive Fernando Chui said in a statement that he was "shocked" about Zheng's death and expressed condolences. (Reuters)

EU Cannot Accept Temporary Measure on Irish Border: French Minister

LONDON - The European Union will not accept a temporary measure to solve the issue of the Irish border in Brexit negotiations, France's Europe minister Nathalie Loiseau said on Sunday.

Britain has said it could accept a longer post-Brexit transition period if the EU drops its proposals for the Irish backstop - an insurance policy to ensure there will be no return to a hard border on the island of Ireland. Britain has



said any such extension must be time-limited. "We have to have a definitive answer or at least no temporary measures which disappear and we don't know what to do after that," Loiseau told BBC TV. (Reuters)

UK Brexit Minister Raab Says Open-Minded on Extending Post-Brexit Transition

LONDON - Britain is open-minded about extending the post-Brexit transition period if it means the European Union drops its proposals for the so-called Irish backstop, Brexit minister Dominic Raab said on Sunday.

"If we need a bridge from the end of the implementation period to the future relationship ... I am open minded about using a short extension of the implementation period," Raab told BBC TV.

"It is an obvious possible route as long as it is short, perhaps a few months, and secondly that we know how we get out of it and obviously it has to solve the backstop issue so that that falls away then as a possibility." (Reuters)

Australia Stares at Hung Parliament as By-Election Count Goes to the Wire

SYDNEY - As the count from a crucial Australian by-election dragged into Sunday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison faced the possibility that his Liberal party may have been too quick to concede a contest that would reduce his administration to a minority government.

Morrison became Australia's sixth prime minister in 10 years in August after his predecessor Malcolm Turnbull fell victim to infighting among the Liberals, and the suspense over the count in Sydney's affluent Wentworth constituency was in keeping with the unpredictable politics of recent times. (Reuters)

Israel Puts West Bank Bedouin Village Eviction on Hold for Several Weeks

JERUSALEM - Israel said on Sunday it would put on hold for "a number of weeks" its threatened razing of a Bedouin village in the occupied West Bank amid international calls to drop the plan, saying it would try to negotiate an evacuation.

The decision was announced after a meeting of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet.

Israel, which has long sought to clear the Arab nomads from tracts of land between the Jewish settlements of Maale Adumim and Kfar Adumim, has said the



hamlet of Khan al-Ahmar was built without the required permits. Palestinians, who lost an Israeli Supreme Court appeal against the evacuation, say such documents are impossible to obtain. The European Union

and the United Nations have urged Israel to abandon the plan to demolish Khan al-Ahmar and relocate its 180 residents to an area about 12 km (seven miles) away next to a landfill in the West Bank. (Reuters)

Bolsonaro vs. Haddad: Brazilian Voters Face Deep Contrasts

RIO DE JANEIRO - One is a far-right populist who wants to clean up Brazil, the other a leftist political heir to popular - but imprisoned - ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Come October 28, Brazil's 147 million voters will have to decide which one will be their next president.

Sometimes called a tropical Trump for his pro-gun stance, rhetorical swagger and a canny use of social media akin to the US president's approach, far-right

Jair Bolsonaro has built an image as a political outsider ready to rough up the establishment.

That's quite a feat, for unlike Donald Trump, Bolsonaro is a longtime politician. This seven-term congressman has few legislative initiatives to his record but has made enemies with his intolerant comments putting down women, gays and blacks, while talking fondly of the 1964-1985 military dictatorship he served as an army captain. (AFP)

Neighbor News

Iran Names New Economy Minister in Reshuffle as U.S. Sanctions Bite

DUBAI - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani appointed academic Farhad Dejjpasand as the new economy and finance minister in a cabinet reshuffle on Sunday, state television reported, as the country faces mounting U.S. sanctions.

The proposed cabinet changes come as the government faces intense pressure over the economic instability mostly caused by U.S. sanctions. The economy has markedly deteriorated in the past year, suffering rising infla-

tion and unemployment, a slump in the rial currency and state corruption.

Rouhani also named a new urban development and roads minister, an industry, mines, and trade minister, and a new labor minister. The new appointments need approval from parliament before they can take effect. Mohammad Shariatmadari, the outgoing industries minister, has been nominated to head the Labour, Cooperatives and Social Affairs Ministry. (Reuters)

Russia's Bank to Allocate \$100M to Tashkent Administration for Roads

TASHKENT - Russian Vnesheconombank, its subsidiary VEB-Leasing and the Tashkent City Administration have signed a cooperation agreement, Podrobno.uz reported.

The document was signed as part of the state visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Uzbekistan.

"The parties intend to develop long-term, effective and mutually beneficial cooperation in financing road traffic management programs, modernizing urban transport and road facilities in Tashkent using Russian machines, equipment and digital technologies totaling up to \$100 million," the

Russian bank said in a statement. The parties believe that the signing of the agreement is part of a large-scale agenda for the development of comprehensive and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan.

The State Corporation "Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank)" (VEB) was established in 2007 on the basis of Vnesheconombank of the USSR. The objectives of the bank are to increase the competitiveness of Russian economy, and to diversify it, as well as stimulate investment activity. (Trend)

The Sights and Sounds of Discontent in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan has arguably been a study in authoritarian rule since it became an independent country in late 1991. Its leader is kept in power with the help of an efficient and ruthless security force that roots out the smallest hint of dissent and quickly silences even whispers of criticism.

But it has been hard times in Turkmenistan in recent years. The economy has been in severe decline and the country's people have watched their standard of living plummet. Basic goods such as flour, sugar, and cooking oil are currently in short supply, as is medicine. Even cash is sometimes difficult to obtain. Costs

of goods and services for citizens are increasing. New restrictions are making it more difficult for Turkmen citizens to travel outside the country, as some were going to pursue work abroad. And the government has gradually cut back on citizens' benefits.

Tempers are now flaring, and grumbling has started. Incidents have occurred this year that have never been seen in Turkmenistan, and now words are being spoken publicly that have never been heard in the country. RFE/RL's Turkmen Service, known locally as Azatlyk, has been posting videos sent from citizens of Turkmenistan of bread lines. (Agencies)

PM, SC Dams Fund Receives Rs 6.4 Bln

ISLAMABAD - The Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan Dams Fund received total Rs 6.4 billion so far.

The countrywide contribution to the fund stood at Rs 5.93 billion while Rs 487.14 million was transferred from abroad, according to an update issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The fund witnessed a boost after the recent speech of Prime Minister Imran Khan who urged the nation to donate generously for the construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

Among foreign countries, the Pakistani diaspora in USA contributed Rs 193.448 million followed by UK which contributed Rs 51.45 million and United Arab Emirates (UAE) donated Rs 45.8 million for the dams' fund. Meanwhile,

the SBP issued a list of top 10 donors both on institutional and individual level. Among institutions, up to October 18, the highest donation of Rs 1.01 billion was paid by employees of government of Punjab, followed by Pak Army which donated Rs 582.1 million for the dams' fund. Similarly HQ CWO SPD contributed Rs 201.1 million, Bahria Town contributed Rs 110.13 million, PAF Rs 100.3 million, HBL Islamic Charity Rs 100 million, and Qarshi Industry Rs 50 million. Among individuals, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan donated Rs 20 million, Abdul Hanan Khan Rs 19.88 million, Zeeshan Ahmed Rs 15 million, Saqib Razaq, Mian Muhammad Azhar, Hassan Anjum and Faisal Abbas contributed Rs 10 million each. (Monitoring Desk)