

US Must 'Think Twice' About Nuclear Treaty Pull Out: China

BEIJING - China on Monday called on the United States to "think twice" about its decision to ditch a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty with Russia. US President Donald Trump announced over the weekend his plan to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which banned ground-launch nuclear missiles with ranges from 500 to 5,500 kilometres (300 to 3,500 miles). But Trump said the Russians had been violating it "for many years" and that China, not a signatory, remained free to develop such weapons. Two top Republican lawmakers backed Trump's worries about China on Sunday, saying there are concerns the treaty is holding the US back while allowing



China to move forward with its own developments. "It needs to be emphasised that it is completely wrong to bring up China when talking about withdrawal from the treaty,"

said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying Monday. The treaty has played an important role in advancing the disarmament process and maintaining a strategic balance and global stability, Hua said. "Unilateral withdrawal will have a multitude of negative effects," she told a regular news briefing. Hua said China hoped the relevant parties can "think twice about the issue of withdrawing," in a reference to the US. On Sunday Republican Senator Lindsey Graham backed Trump's plan to withdraw from the nuclear accord, saying the US needed to be free to respond to a Chinese nuclear build-up. (AFP)

DRC Ruling Coalition Spokesman Says House Attacked ahead of Vote

KINSHASA - The Democratic Republic of Congo's ruling coalition spokesman said Monday his house was sprayed with bullets overnight in the capital Kinshasa, just two months ahead of a key vote. "At around one in the morning, my residence came under heavy fire from unidentified men travelling in a Toyota IST," said Andre-Alain Atundu, a spokesman for the ruling coalition of President Joseph Kabila. "Nobody was hurt but

there was heavy damage. The roof was damaged and my two cars were riddled with bullets," he told AFP. An AFP journalist also saw the traces of gunfire. Atundu, who was the country's former security chief, is also currently a top official at the national electricity company. Tensions are mounting ahead of the vote. Kabila, who has held office since 2001, has said he will not run again in the long-delayed December 23 ballot. (AFP)

Koreas Finish Removing Land Mines from Border Village

SEOUL, South Korea - The two Koreas have completed removing land mines planted at their shared border village as part of efforts to disarm the area located inside the world's most heavily fortified border, South Korean officials said Monday. The announcement came following a meeting among military officers from the Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command at the border's Panmunjom village earlier Monday. It's the second such trilateral meeting to ex-

amine efforts to demilitarize Panmunjom, the most well-known place inside the 248-kilometer (155-mile)-long Demilitarized Zone that bisect the two Koreas. Disarming the village was among a set of tension-reduction agreements signed by the Koreas' defense chiefs on the sidelines of their leaders' summit in Pyongyang last month. As the next disarmament steps at Panmunjom, the two Koreas and the U.N. Command agreed on withdrawing weapons



and guard posts there by Thursday. The three sides will then spend two days jointly verifying those measures, Seoul's Defense Ministry said in a statement. (AP)

World Stocks Push Past Growth Worries in China, Italy



SINGAPORE - World markets rose on Monday, brushing off potential concerns about slower growth in China and a downgrade in Italy's credit rating over its

plans to ramp up public spending. KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX added 0.6 percent to 11,624 and France's CAC-40 was 0.4 percent higher at

5,102. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.7 percent to 7,096, while Italy's FTSE MIB was up 0.8 percent at 19,238. On Wall Street, the future contracts for the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Standard & Poor's 500 were both up 0.3 percent. ASIA'S DAY: The Shanghai Composite index jumped 4.1 percent to 2,654.88 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong surged 2.3 percent to 26,153.15. Japan's Nikkei 225 index reversed early losses, gaining 0.4

percent to 22,614.82 and the Kospi in South Korea added 0.3 percent to 2,161.71. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 countered the trend, shedding 0.6 percent to 5,904.90. Shares rose in Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia but fell in Thailand. CHINESE RALLY: Investors appeared to take heart from reassurances from Chinese officials over slowing economic growth. Gains might also have been driven by the expectation that weak GDP data could spur further stimulus. (AP)

No Place for Personal Vitriol in Politics, May's Spokesman Says

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said on Monday that there was no place for personal vitriol in politics, after weekend media reports where an anonymous critic said "assassination is in the air". Sunday newspapers reported unnamed lawmakers saying May should "bring her own noose" when she meets parliamentary colleagues on Wednesday, and that the mo-

ment where a knife would be "stuck in her front and twisted," was coming. "I don't intend to dignify those specific anonymous comments with a response," the spokesman said. "What I would say is that the Prime Minister has always been very clear that we must set a tone in public discourse which is neither dehumanising nor derogatory, personal vitriol has no place in our politics." (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Russian Troops Arrive in Pakistan for Joint Exercises: Military

ISLAMABAD - Russian troops arrived in Pakistan on Monday for joint military exercises. It is the third exercise as part of Pak-Russia bilateral training cooperation since 2016, according to an army statement. The Pakistan army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations said that the joint training exercise was codenamed "Druzha-III" and will be held in the mountains of Pakistan till Nov. 4. The servicemen from the two countries' armed forces will perform tasks at an altitude of 1,400 meters above sea level, according to recent Russian reports. Pakistan and Russia have been holding the "Friendship" drills since

2016. In 2017, over 200 servicemen took part in the drills, which were held in the North Caucasus at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level. Defense experts in Pakistan believe that the exercises are meant to characterize and harmonize drills regarding anti-terror activities, operate methodology and skills which Pakistan army has mastered in the war on terror. Pakistan's army retired brigadier Said Nazir Mohmand told Xinhua on Monday that the exercises will enable troops of both countries to benefit from experiences of each other, develop anti-terrorism skills and understanding. (Xinhua)

UN Agency Registers 'Persian Gulf' in Official Certificate

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which is a United Nations agency, has officially registered the "Persian Gulf Pearl" as a property of the Islamic Republic, implying that the geographical name 'the Persian Gulf' itself has been recognized by the agency. Seyyed Mehdi Mir-Salehi, a director at Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade, said during a press briefing on Monday that the pearl had been registered by the WIPO under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their Interna-

tional Registration, to which Iran has been a signatory since 2006. The official noted that the acknowledgement of that name in the Registration Certificate for the Persian Gulf Pearl indicated the recognition of the name of the body of water as such. "Hereafter, and based on international law, no country, government, or organization can use another name to refer to the Persian Gulf," he said, according to IRNA. The littoral Arab countries of the Persian Gulf have long sought to hijack the body of water by unilaterally calling it "the Arabian Gulf." (Press TV)

Turkmenistan Preparing Draft State Budget for 2019

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan is preparing a draft state budget for 2019, the Turkmen government said in a message. This issue was discussed at an expanded meeting of the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers. Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Gochmyrat Myradov presented a report on the preparation of the draft state budget, the main directions of the socio-economic development of Turkmenistan and the investment program for 2019. These documents envisage special funds to finance measures for the introduction of advanced technologies in all sectors and the transition to the digital

economy. The budget for 2019 provides for a 10 percent increase in salaries and state benefits, pensions and student scholarships. Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the meeting noted the need to reduce budget expenditures for the maintenance of governing bodies, and to use the savings for construction of social facilities. In addition, the Turkmen president instructed to increase the volume of credit funds for the development of sectors of the national economy, as well as to provide funding for measures to stimulate and develop small businesses.

WB to Help Improve Emergency Medical Services in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Thanks to the Emergency Medical Services Project, better trained and managed medical personnel in hospitals across Uzbekistan will be appropriately equipped to help millions of people impacted by accidents and medical emergencies, the World Bank said in its press release. The project was approved in April 2018 by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors and will be financed by a \$100 million credit. The project launch workshop took place on Oct. 22 at a seminar in the Samarkand regional branch of the Republican Scientific Center for Emergency Medical Aid involv-

ing representatives of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan and the World Bank. The principal beneficiaries of the Emergency Medical Services Project will be people with trauma, medical and obstetrical emergencies. Hospitals across the country will receive support to enhance their capacity to effectively respond to these emergencies. The project will develop integrated dispatch centers in all 12 regions of Uzbekistan, and in the capital, which will be responsible for receiving calls, dispatching all ambulances within their borders and monitoring their performance. (Trend)

Japanese Nobel Chemistry Laureate Shimomura Dies At 90

TOKYO - Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died. He was 90. His alma mater Nagasaki University said Monday that Shimomura died Friday of natural causes. Shimomura and two American scientists shared the 2008 Nobel prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies. Shimomura was born in northern Kyoto in 1928 and studied in Nagasaki, where he survived the Aug. 9, 1945, U.S. atomic bombing at age 16. His high school education was cut short during World War II as he was mobilized to work at a munitions factory. (AP)

Israel's Mossad Chief Says High-Tech Not Always a Spy's Friend

JERUSALEM - Spying is getting harder because the same technologies that catch terrorists can sometimes uncover foreign intelligence operations, the director of Israel's Mossad said on Monday. Joseph (Yossi) Cohen delivered rare public remarks at a budget conference held by Israel's Finance Ministry. That suggested he may have emerged from the shadows to safeguard the funds and personnel allotment that, according to Israeli daily Haaretz, have made Mossad "the second largest spy organization in the West" after the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Cohen described Mossad as the tip of Israel's spear against threats like Iranian nuclear and missile projects and Iranian backing for Palestinian Islamist Hamas militants. (Reuters)

In Khashoggi Case: Saudi Calls, 'Body Double' after Killing

ANKARA, Turkey - A man appearing to wear Jamal Khashoggi's clothes left the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul following his killing there, according to a surveillance video, while a member of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's entourage made four calls to the royal's office around the same time, reports said Monday. The reports by CNN and a pro-government Turkish newspaper came just a day before Prince Mohammed's high-profile investment summit is to begin in Riyadh and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has promised that details of Khashoggi's killing "will be revealed in all its nakedness." That yet again adds to



Saudi FM: Saudi Arabia has not heard audio of Khashoggi killing

the pressure Saudi Arabia faces over the slaying of the Washington Post columnist. The kingdom's claim on Saturday that Khashoggi died in a "first fight" met international skepticism and allegations of a cover-up to absolve the 33-year-old crown prince of direct responsibility. Turkish media reports

and officials maintain that a 15-member Saudi team flew to Istanbul on Oct. 2, knowing Khashoggi would arrive for a document he needed to get married. Once he was inside the diplomatic mission, the Saudis accosted Khashoggi, cut off his fingers, killed and dismembered the 59-year-old writer. (AP)

Malta Academic in Trump Probe Has History of Vanishing Acts

SWIEQI, Malta - It was her last day of class and Leida Ruvina was getting suspicious. The Albanian student had just finished the first module in what was purported to be a doctoral program co-administered by Slovenia's Euro-Mediterranean University, but the place didn't look like much of a university.

It didn't have a campus; the room she was sitting in had been rented from a local tourism school in the Slovenian spa town of Portoroz. She didn't have a matriculation number, the code used by educational institutions to track students' progress. And the French translation of "Euro-Mediterranean" in the university's seal was misspelled. (AP)