

Russia Helping China Build Missile Attack Warning System: Putin

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin has revealed for the first time that his country is assisting China to develop a state-of-the-art missile attack warning system, a technology only owned by Russia and the United States at the moment.

"This is a serious thing that will drastically increase the defense capabilities of the People's Republic of China," Putin told an international politics conference in the Russian resort town of Sochi on Thursday.

The Russian head of state did not spill any more details about the functions of the system and the technology implemented into it. Such systems usually in-



volve an array of ground-based radars and space satellites that allow for early spotting of incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), which are capable of carrying multiple nuclear

warheads. The development comes as Russia and China increase their strategic cooperation while falling out with the United States due to President

Donald Trump's aggressive measures.

During his trip to Moscow in June, Chinese President Xi Jinping called Putin his "best and bosom friend" and said he cherished their "deep friendship."

There, both leaders took jabs at Trump for his "unacceptable" habit of destroying arms control treaties, specially the Cold War-era Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Trump abandoned the INF treaty earlier this year accusing Moscow of violations. Moscow denied the charges and followed suit after Washington rejected its offer to resolve their difference through diplomacy. The US... (More on P4)... (17)

Neighbor News

Trump Failed to Deceive Iran in New York: President Rouhani

TEHRAN - Chief of Staff of Iranian President Mahmoud Vaezi stated that Europeans make efforts to keep Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Trend reports citing ISNA.

"The Europeans are trying to preserve JCPOA. We clearly told them that Iran would take next step if they [Europeans] do not make efforts to stay committed to the deal," said Vaezi.

"The Europeans have problem in terms of practically following the economic commitment to the agreement, since their banks and private companies have concerns over the relations with the US; however, it's not our problem and it is them who should find a solution," he said referring to recent meetings of President Hassan Rouhani with the EU members in New York.

He went on to say: "The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will remain, if we [Iran] can benefit from it; otherwise, it has no value for us. We have told the Europeans that to preserve the agreement, they need to adhere to their commitments and face the US."

"Complex issues need complex solutions, and we are optimistic that via negotiations the main objectives will be achieved," he noted.

"The French President Mr. Macron was seeking to form a 5+1 session to implement the Europeans' suggestion of opening a credit line, but he did not succeed. The Europeans have problem in transferring money, and they understand to what extent they depend on the US in terms of economic issues," he added. (Trend)

Hong Kong's Richest Man Is Giving Millions to Businesses Hurting from The Protests

Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-shing is giving one billion Hong Kong dollars (128\$ million) to businesses hurt by the city's pro-democracy protests.

The 91-year-old billionaire said he hopes the donation will "take the lead" in helping small and medium-sized companies through tough times, according to a statement released Friday by his charitable foundation.

"The global economy

is slowing. Plus, Hong Kong's economy is facing unprecedented challenges," the foundation said in its statement.

Ka-shing's donation is meant to supplement recently announced government measures to allocate two billion Hong Kong dollars (255\$ million) to support small companies. In total, the government is pumping billions of dollars into the economy in a bid to avert a recession as... (More on P4)... (22)

WELLINGTON - The New Zealand government is establishing an Airspace Integration Trials Program to support the safe testing and development of advanced unmanned aircraft and accelerate their integration into the aviation system, Research, Science and Innovation Minister Megan Woods said on Friday.

The government will work with leading innovative aviation industry partners to test and demonstrate the use of unmanned

aircraft for passenger transport, cargo delivery, agricultural services and hazard management, Woods said in a statement.

This builds on the potential for innovation under New Zealand's current Civil Aviation rules, and advances the government's vision for a thriving, innovative and safe aviation system, she said.

"The government is committed to supporting the growth of an innovative unmanned

New Zealand Establishes Innovative Airspace Integration Trials Program



aircraft sector in New Zealand. We're creating opportunities to test and develop these emerging technologies to help make this happen," Woods said. In another step to support the modernization of... (More on P4)... (18)

Indian Army Porter Killed in Exchange of Fire Between India, Pakistan Troops



SRINAGAR - A porter working with Indian army was killed in an exchange of fire between troops of India and Pakistan on Line of

Control (LoC) dividing Kashmir, officials said Friday.

The skirmishes took place Thursday evening and the two sides

targeted each other's positions with heavy fire and mortar shelling in Kamalkote-Uri sector of frontier Baramulla district, about 102 km west of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"One person identified as Abdul Qayoom, working as porter with Indian army was killed last evening after he was hit by small arms fire here," a police official said. "Though the porter was immediately removed to sub-district

hospital in Uri but doctors there declared him brought dead."

According to police, exchange of fire was also witnessed in Nambla sector in the area.

Reports said skirmishes between the two sides also broke out Thursday in frontier district of Rajouri Poonch and Kautha in the region. According to officials the shelling damaged some structures in the affected areas.

The exploding shells triggered fear among... (More on P4)... (19)

Court Papers Show Johnson Will Ask for Brexit Extension to Avoid No Deal

LONDON - Boris Johnson will write to Brussels to request a Brexit delay if he fails to secure a deal with the EU, court papers show.

According to Sky News, government papers submitted to the Court of Session in Edinburgh said the prime minister would comply with the so-called Benn Act, which is designed to block a no-deal departure from the EU.

Johnson has repeatedly insisted he will take the U.K. out of the bloc on October 31 without a deal

if Brussels refuses to concede to British demands. Rebel MPs passed the law in September, which says the prime minister must apply to Brussels for Brexit delay if no deal has been clinched by October 19.

The court is considering whether Johnson could be jailed if he defies the new law and takes the U.K. out of the EU without a deal.

A Downing Street spokesman refused to comment but a government figure said "we will... (More on P4)... (23)

Finland Agrees to Return Native American Remains to Tribes

HELSINKI - The ancestral remains of Native American tribes that once called the cliffs of Mesa Verde National Park home will be repatriated as part of an agreement between Finland and the United States.

The White House on Wednesday announced the agreement involving the remains of about 20 people and 28 funerary objects taken from the Mesa Verde area more than 100 years ago. The remains and artifacts were unearthed during excavations by a Swedish researcher in... (More on P4)... (24)

US Reopens Embassy in Somalia After 28 Years

WASHINGTON - The United States Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia, has reopened after being closed for 28 years, officials said Wednesday.

"The reestablishment of Embassy Mogadishu is another step forward in the resumption of regular U.S.-Somali relations, symbolizing the strengthening of U.S.-Somalia relations and advancement of stability, development and peace for Somalia and the region," the embassy said in a statement.

The embassy closed on Jan. 1991, after Somalia became engulfed in a civil war and the regime of Siad Barre was overthrown.

The United States reestablished a permanent diplomatic presence in Mogadishu back in December, operated out of Nairobi, Kenya. (Fox news)

Turkey, U.S. Hold 3rd Land Patrol in Safe Zone Area in Syria

ANKARA - The U.S. and Turkish troops held the third joint land patrol on Friday in the planned safe zone in northern Syria, Turkey's Defense Ministry said.

"Turkish Armed Forces and the U.S. personnel started the third unified land patrol in the east of Telabiyad within the scope of the safe zone facility in eastern Syria with the participation of land vehicles and UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," the ministry said on its Twitter account.

The military activity came one day after Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and his U.S. counterpart Mark Esper held a phone conversation and discussed the efforts for the establishment of the proposed safe zone.

According to the Turk-



ish Defense Ministry, Akar recalled that Turkey wants a 30-km deep safe zone to be set up in the east of the Euphrates River in Syria. If there is stalling or a delay in the process, the joint efforts will be ended, Akar said. On Aug. 7, Turkish and U.S. officials agreed to set up a safe zone and develop a "peace corridor" in northern Syria which would address Ankara's security concerns about a Kurdish faction that controls the territory. The deal envisages with-

drawal of the People's Protection Units towards the south of the safe zone. The safe zone would also facilitate the return of displaced Syrians currently living in Turkey to their home country. Turkish drones started operating in northern Syria as part of the agreement. The military officials from the two NATO allies also established a joint operation center in Akcakale on Aug. 29. Turkey and the United States held several joint... (More on P4)... (20)

Thailand, Myanmar Sign MOU to Boost Border Trade

BANGKOK - Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit on Friday told the media that he had recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Myanmar to boost border

trade at the second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge.

The second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge over Moei River connects Tak's Mae Sot district and Myawaddy... (More on P4)... (21)

Portugal Votes on Sunday. What Comes Next?

LISBON - Portugal is heading to a parliamentary election on Sunday with Prime Minister Antonio Costa's Socialists set to win, according to opinion polls, but without an outright majority, after four years of economic growth.

This means the Socialists will most likely seek a deal with one or several parties to stay in power.

Here are the possible scenarios:

OVERALL SOCIALIST MAJORITY

An outright majority for Costa appears less likely now than a few weeks ago, when surveys put his center-left party at around 40 and the opposition as much as 15 points behind. But although his lead has halved, this scenario cannot be ruled out. Freed from the far-left partners with whom the Socialists have been governing, such a government would be likely to reinforce spending controls so as to achieve budget surpluses from 2020 and adopt tax incentives for companies, foreign investment and real estate.

NEW KINGMAKER

A deal with the People-Animals-Nature (PAN) party is this election's possible new scenario. If the Socialists fall narrowly short of an overall majority in the 230-seat house, the four or more seats that some polls give the PAN could be enough to help the Socialists govern. PAN has said it is ready to support a Socialist government if it commits to some of its environmentalist proposals. Analysts say the budget costs of such a deal would probably be much lower than those of other potential pacts. (Reuters)

Iran Eyes to Produce 10M Tons of Steel

TEHRAN - There are plans to produce 10 million tons of steel in the Chabahar district of Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province, said Managing Director of Chabahar Free Trade Zone Abdolrahim Kordi, Trend reports citing IRNA.

He said that in 2025, Iran plans to produce 55 million tons of steel, and 10 million tons of this volume will account for Chabahar district.

He noted that there is a 22-percent progress in the Chabahar steel plant's construction.

Kordi added that a consortium on steel production was set up in Iran and Iran's east will soon become a point for the steel export. Shareholders of the Chabahar steel plant, which is under construction, are the Chabahar Free Trade Zone, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the Bank Mellat, the Omid Mining Industry Development Holding and the Investment Fund of Pasargad Oil Company. (Trend)

PM Imran "Undermining Parliament", Says Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of "undermining the parliament", saying that opposition had no choice but to take to the streets.

Referring to the Azadi March by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) in a media talk, he said: "If you do not make the parliament functional, democratic forces will be forced to take to the streets."

When asked about his father, PPP CO-chairman Asif Ali Zardari,

whose judicial remand was extended by an accountability court earlier in the day, Bilawal said the former president had in the past remained in jail for 11 years without a conviction but had "never compromised on his principles".

"Regardless of the arrests [of our party leaders], we will not compromise on the 1973 Constitution or the 18th Amendment," he declared.

The lawmaker said that the "tadeeli sarkar" (regime of change) had failed. (Pakistan today)