

Pakistan's Khan Says He Will Try to Facilitate Iran-Saudi Talks

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan will do its utmost to enable talks between arch-regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday in Tehran, adding that he will travel to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. "Pakistan does not want conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia...I am happy to facilitate talks between Tehran and Riyadh...I am very hopeful as I had constructive talks with the (Iranian) president," Khan told a joint news conference with President Hassan Rouhani, broadcast live on state TV.

Khan arrived in Tehran on



Sunday and he will later meet Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. (Reuters)

Kremlin Relishes US Pullback from Syria, Turmoil in Ukraine

MOSCOW — From Syria, where the U.S. pulled back in the face of a Turkish offensive, to Ukraine, where the newly elected president saw his image dented by a U.S. impeachment inquiry, new fault lines and tensions offer the Kremlin fresh opportunities to expand its clout and advance its interests.

In Syria, the U.S. military withdrawal leaves Russia as the ultimate power broker, allowing it to help negotiate a potential

agreement between Syrian President Bashar Assad and the Kurds who were abandoned by Washington. And in Ukraine, where Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a comedian turned president, has found himself drawn into the U.S. political battles, Russia may use the volatility to push for a deal that would secure its leverage over its western neighbor.

Turkish troops' offensive in northern Syria followed President ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Japan Sends in Troops After Massive Typhoon Hammers Tokyo, Kills 23

TOKYO - Japan sent tens of thousands of troops and rescue workers on Sunday to save stranded residents and fight floods caused by one of the worst typhoons to hit the country in recent history, which killed 23 people and briefly paralyzed Tokyo.

There were also 16 people missing, public broadcaster NHK said, as Typhoon Hagibis left vast swaths of low-lying land in central and eastern Japan inundated and cut power to almost

half a million homes.

Landing restrictions at Tokyo's Narita and Haneda airports were lifted but more than 800 flights were canceled for the day, NHK said, as were some Shinkansen bullet train services to the worst-hit areas.

Authorities lifted rain warnings for the Kanto region around Tokyo, where stores reopened and many train lines resumed operations, but they warned there was still the risk of rivers in eastern Japan



overflowing and inflicting fresh damage. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe convened an emergency meeting and sent the minister in charge of disaster management to the affected areas. ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Putin Says Russia Has 'Very Friendly' Relations with Saudi Crown Prince



MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin said Russia has "very friendly personal

relations" with Saudi Crown Prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman.

Putin was speaking in an interview with Arab broadcasters, including Saudi-

owned Al Arabiya TV, ahead of his first visit to Saudi Arabia in over a decade.

He also said Russia was studying new investments in Saudi Arabia. Russian company Sibur Holding was looking at building a petrochemical complex in Saudi with investment worth more than 1\$ billion, Putin told Al Arabiya. (Reuters)

Trump Says He's an 'Island of One' On Syria

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he is an "island of one" for removing U.S. forces from northeastern Syria. But he remained steadfast and defended a move that drew widespread bipartisan criticism that he has endangered stability in the Middle East and risked the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who helped the U.S. bring down the Islamic

State group in Syria. Turkey, however, regards those Kurdish fighters as a terrorist threat and has launched a military operation against them.

Trump said the U.S. cannot fight "endless wars."

"We have to bring our great heroes, our great soldiers, we have to bring them home. It's time. It's time," Trump said in a lengthy and wide-ranging address ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Hundreds of Algerians Stage Sit-In to Protest Hydrocarbon Draft Law

ALGIERS - Hundreds of Algerians on Sunday staged a sit-in in front of the parliament in the Algerian capital of Algiers to protest the draft amendments to the hydrocarbon law.

Chanting "down with the hydrocarbon law", "no vote with the gangs" and "the people want to bring down the Parliament," the protesters marched around the parliament, causing traffic jams. Riot forces were deployed around the parliament to keep the protesters away from the building.

The demonstrators said they were trying to deter the parliament from approving the draft law, noting that any new draft law or key decision in any field should be taken by a new elected President.

The Algerian presidential elections are scheduled for Dec. 12, with more than 130 potential candidates, after former President ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Saudi Exhibition Generates 800,000 USD in Falcon Sales

RIYADH - A falcon exhibition being held in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh has generated more than 800,000 U.S. dollars in revenues by selling falcons, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Sunday.

Such incomes are expected to double when the Saudi Falcons and Hunting Exhibition, organized by the Saudi Falcon Club, concludes on Tuesday, according to the organizers.

More than 132,000 visitors were attracted to the exhibition during the first two days of the event. (Xinhua)

Khamenei Tells Iran's Guards to Develop More Advanced, Modern Weapons

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards on Sunday to develop more advanced and modern weapons, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, amid rising regional tensions. (Reuters)



Brexit Hangs in The Balance as Talks Between EU and Britain Intensify

LONDON - Brexit talks with the European Union aimed at striking a last-minute divorce deal are getting serious, Britain said on Sunday, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson prepared to update his cabinet on the state of negotiations.

In a pivotal week that could decide the future of Brexit and the fate of the world's fifth largest economy, Johnson is trying to strike an exit deal with the EU to allow an orderly departure on Oct. 31.

But Johnson must navigate the complexities of EU politics to strike a deal at an Oct. 18-17 EU summit and then try to convince a deeply divided British parliament on Oct. 19 to ratify any deal.

If he succeeds, Britain will leave the bloc on Oct. 31 with arrangements to minimize disruption at borders and preserve the complex supply chains that underpin swathes of the economy. If he fails, Britain faces an

uncertain future - lawmakers will begin a battle to delay Brexit that could end up being decided in the courts, while Johnson will fight for a no-deal exit at the end of the month to ensure his political survival.

British and EU negotiators are working through the weekend see if they can turn proposals put forward by Johnson, which were initially rejected by the EU, into a deal that works for both sides.

"Negotiations seem to be taking a more serious turn and that's encouraging," Jacob Rees-Mogg, a Brexit-supporting Conservative lawmaker who runs the government's business in parliament, told Sky News.

"It is always difficult to put specific odds on things but it's certainly looking more positive this week than it did last week," he said. Johnson is due to brief cabinet ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Poland, China Benefit from Friendly Relations for 70 Years, Says Expert

WARSAW - Poland and China have been mutually benefiting from their friendly and steady relations since the two countries set up diplomatic ties 70 years ago, a Polish expert said.

Poland was among the first group of countries to recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) and forge diplomatic relations with the newly founded government, Zbigniew Wiktor, professor at the University of Wroclaw, said in an interview with Xinhua. «Together with the founding of the PRC, close political, economic and cultural cooperation began,» he said.

With efforts from both sides, bilateral trade in 2018 exceeded 24.5 billion U.S. dollars and observed an increase of 15.5 percent over the previous year.

«It is in the interest of Poland to further tighten the cooperation with China,» Wiktor said, adding that the two economies are «complementary» and could complete one another in an excellent manner. He noted that such a relationship is the case for other Central European countries.

He described the founding of the PRC as a «great historical event,» saying that it was «important not only for the Chinese people and nation, but also for all progressive people across the world.»

«Polish people had for a long time been supporting the heroic fight of the Chinese people,» he said, speaking highly of China's ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Neighbor News

Iran Says Ready for Talks with Saudi, With or Without Mediation

TEHRAN - Iran is prepared to hold talks with regional rival Saudi Arabia with or without the help of a mediator, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, ahead of a visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, reports Trend referring to Reuters.

Asked about reports that Khan, due to arrive in Iran on Sunday, may try to mediate between Tehran and Riyadh, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: "I am not aware of any mediation," according to state broadcaster IRIB.

"Iran has announced that, with or without a mediator, it is always ready to hold talk with its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia, to get rid of any

misunderstandings," Mousavi added.

Two senior Pakistani government officials confirmed to Reuters that Khan was going to Tehran to try to defuse tensions between the two rivals, after U.S. President Donald Trump asked for his help.

"The prime minister is also visiting Saudi Arabia next week," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't allowed to talk about confidential matters. "His mission is to try open negotiations, or some sort of confidence building for the two rival countries to start some talks," the official said.

Iran's foreign minister signaled this week ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

US Urges Pakistan to Nip Militancy in The Bud for Own Sake

ISLAMABAD - The United States has appreciated Pakistan's efforts to curb militancy but reminded Islamabad that it must do more to stop militants from operating within its borders.

The statement from Alice Wells, the acting assistant secretary of the US State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, came via Twitter early on Sunday morning. She said Washington welcomes Pakistan's recent arrest of four

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leaders and wants them and LeT chief Hafiz Saeed face prosecution for their "vicious attacks".

Wells added that Prime Minister Imran Khan has vowed to pursue action against all militant groups and that "Pakistan, for its own future, must prevent militant groups from operating on its soil."

The reminder from Washington comes on the heels of Thursday's arrest of four aides ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Turkmenistan Holds Discussions with UN Rep for Refugee Issues

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen delegation met in Geneva with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Antonio Vitorino, Trend reports referring to the Turkmen State Migration Service.

At the meeting, high level of cooperation between Turkmenistan and these structures was noted. The high commissioner expressed gratitude to Turkmenistan for the work to reduce the number of stateless persons, noting that Turkmenistan's experience

is a good example for other states, the report said.

During the meeting, issues of migration, security and the fight against human trafficking were also discussed.

In November 2014, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) approved a plan of action to eradicate statelessness for 2014-2024, which was enshrined in a resolution of the UN General Assembly. In 2011-2018, 8,880 people were accepted into the citizenship of Turkmenistan. (trend)

AIIB Names 4 Proposed Projects in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - There are four «Proposed Projects» of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Uzbekistan, bank's representative told Trend in an interview. «The first is Bukhara Road Network Improvement Project,» the representative stated.

The official added Uzbekistan intends to apply for financing in the amount of about 206.5\$ million equivalent from the AIIB to cover the cost of the Phase I of the project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services to be procured under this project.

The project will include the following components: infrastructure rehabilitation, modernization, and widening of about 78 km of International Road A380; construction supervision; preparation of design and bidding documents for approximately additional 200 km of priority roads, includes; institutional strengthening and capacity building; equipment purchase.

«The project cost is estimated to be 203\$ million, AIIB loan will be 165\$ million (81 percent). Estimated date of loan closing is Sept. 2025,» the official added.

The official noted that the second is ...*(More on P4)...(21)*