

# Syrian Army Moves to Confront Turkish Forces as US Withdraws

AKCAKALE, Turkey — Syrian government troops moved into a series of towns and villages in northern Syria Monday, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces in the area, as U.S. troops prepared to pull out. The Syrian army's deployment near the Turkish border came hours after Syrian Kurdish forces previously allied with the U.S. said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help fend off Turkey's invasion, now in its sixth day.

The announcement of a deal between Syria's Kurds and its government is a major shift in alliances that came



after President Donald Trump ordered all U.S. troops withdrawn from the northern border area amid the rapidly spreading chaos. The shift sets up a potential clash between Tur-

key and Syria and raises the specter of a resurgent Islamic State group as the U.S. relinquishes any remaining influence in northern Syria to Assad and his chief backer, Russia.

The fighting also seems likely to endanger, if not altogether crush, the brief experiment in self-rule set up by Syria's Kurds since the war began.

"We are going back to our normal positions that are at the border," said a Syrian officer said, as embattled Kurdish authorities invited the government to retake towns and villages in the north. Syrian troops arrived on Monday in the northern province of Raqqa aboard buses and pickup trucks with mounted heavy machineguns.

Turkey has pressed on ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## China's Xi Warns Efforts to Divide China Will End with 'Crushed Bodies and Shattered Bones'

Beijing - China's president Xi Jinping has warned efforts to divide or destabilise China will end with "shattered bones," as international pressure mounts over the government's handling of protests in Hong Kong and a widespread crackdown on Muslim minority groups.

"Anyone attempting to split China in any part of the country will end in crushed bodies and shattered bones,"

Mr Xi said, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

"And any external forces backing such attempts dividing China will be deemed by the Chinese people as pipe-dreaming!" he was quoted as saying to Nepal's prime minister KP Sharma Oli during China's first state visit to the South Asian country in two decades.

Mr Xi's comments come ahead of a ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Japan Looks for Missing as Typhoon Kills as Many as 48

HOYASU, Japan — Rescue crews dug through mudslides and searched near swollen rivers Monday as they looked for those missing from a typhoon that left as many as 48 people dead and caused serious damage in central and northern Japan.

Typhoon Hagibis unleashed torrents of rain and strong winds Saturday, leaving thousands of homes on Japan's main island flooded, damaged or without power.

The riverside town of Hoyasu in hard-hit Nagano prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, was covered with mud, its apple orchards completely flooded and homes still without electricity.

Japan's Kyodo News agency reported that 48 people died from the typhoon, 17 were missing and some 100 were injured.

The government's Fire and Disaster Management Agency, which is generally



more conservative in assessing its numbers, said 24 people were dead and nine were missing. Experts said it would take time to accurately assess the extent of damage, and the ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Queen Elizabeth II Gives Speech in Parliament

LONDON — The Latest on Brexit 11:40 a.m.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has arrived at Parliament for the ceremonial state opening ceremony and given her speech.

The queen was driven the mile or so from Buckingham Palace in the horse-drawn Diamond Jubilee State Coach for the ceremony, in which the monarch outlines the



government's program for the coming year. She spoke before the House of Lords to an

audience of peers in ermine-trimmed scarlet robes and lawmakers in modern dress.

The queen has performed this duty more than 60 times during her -67year reign. The speech, written for the monarch by government officials, gives a brisk rundown of more than 20 laws Prime Minister Boris Johnson's administration hopes to pass in the coming months.

But uncertainty around Britain's departure from the European ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Turkish Airstrikes in Syria Reportedly Target Journalist Convoy, Civilians; At Least 9 Dead

ANKARA - airstrikes from Turkey reportedly targeted civilians and a group of foreign reporters in the Syrian border town of Ras al-Ayn, according to monitoring groups and Syrian Kurdish officials. The Syrian Observatory of Human Rights said the airstrike killed at least nine people - including five civilians on Sunday, while other reports claimed that the

convoy included foreign journalists, according to Haaretz. A spokesman for the Kurdish forces put the death toll at 11 killed and more than 74 injured, but it was not immediately clear how many were civilians. France 24 reported that at least one journalist was also among the dead, while two French reporters were also injured in the attack. *(Fox News)*

## As Options Narrow On Syria, Trump Prepares to Drop Sanctions Hammer On Turkey

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump's administration is set to impose economic sanctions on Ankara, potentially as early as this week, for its incursion into northern Syria, one of the few levers the United States still has over NATO-ally Turkey. Using the U.S. military to stop the Turkish offensive on U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters was never an option, defense officials have said, and Trump asked the Pentagon on Sunday to begin a "deliberate" withdrawal of all U.S. troops from northern Syria. After Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Friday that Trump had authorized "very powerful" new sanctions targeting Turkey, the administration appeared ready to start making good on Trump's threat to obliterate Turkey's economy. *(Reuters)*

## EU Negotiators Continue to Discuss Brexit as Deadline Looms

LONDON - Work continues toward reaching a Brexit deal. Negotiators are meeting again Monday in an attempt to reach an agreement that would allow Britain to leave the European Union with a deal at the end of the month.

Ireland says a Brexit deal may be possible in the coming days, after technical teams from Britain and the EU worked through the weekend.



Discussions centered on the difficult issue of the future border arrangements between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K. Arriving for a meeting in Luxembourg, Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said «the less ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Catalan Separatist Leaders Handed Jail Term for Independence Bid

MADRID - Spain's Supreme Court sentenced nine, including former Catalan vice president Oriol Junqueras, over independence bid. Spain's Supreme Court on Monday sentenced nine of the 12 accused Catalan separatist leaders to between nine and 13 years in prison for sedition over their roles in the region's 2017 failed bid for independence.

The sentences were lower than demanded by the prosecution which had sought up to 25 years behind bars for former Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras.

«The Supreme Court has condemned Oriol Junqueras to 13 years of prison... on grounds of sedition and the misuse of public funds,» the ruling said. The three other defendants in

the landmark ruling were found guilty only of disobedience and not sentenced to prison. All defendants were acquitted of the most severe charge, rebellion.

The separatists were charged for their role in organising a referendum on the secession of the northeastern region of Catalonia from the Spanish state in October 2017.

«Atrocity» The former head of Catalonia's regional government Carles Puigdemont reacted sharply to the verdict, terming it an «atrocity».

«It is time to react ... for the future of our sons and daughters. For democracy. For Europe. For Catalonia,» he wrote on Twitter. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Ukraine Sees Hope for 'Last Chance' Peace Summit in Mid-November

LUXEMBOURG - The leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany could hold a summit in Paris in mid-November if Kiev and pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine can maintain a ceasefire, Ukraine's foreign minister said on Monday, warning of a "last chance" for Moscow.

The summit, originally envisaged for September, would aim to resolve the five-year-long conflict pitting Kiev's forces against Russian-backed separatists in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine.

More than 14,000 people have been killed since the conflict erupted in April 2014, shortly after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. Intermittent clashes continue despite a notional ceasefire and diplomatic peace efforts. Last week Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, accused Russia of delaying the summit because Moscow says Kiev needs to pull back its troops first.

Speaking before addressing EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko told Reuters the summit would have to follow a seven-day ceasefire and the withdrawal of light weapons from the east.

"I'm still hopeful, otherwise we wouldn't even be trying," Prystaiko said. "We have some dates ... we are aiming for the middle of next month, somewhere around mid-November." *(Reuters)*

## Pioneers in Fight Against Poverty Win 2019 Nobel Economics Prize

STOCKHOLM - Economists Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize for their work in fighting global poverty, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

French-American Duflo becomes only the second female economics winner in the prize's -50year history, as well as the youngest at 46. She shared the award equally with Indian-born American Banerjee and Kremer, also of the United States. *(Reuters)*

## Neighbor News

### China Is Philippines' Top Trading Partner in First Semester 2019: Statistics Authority

MANILA - China is the Philippines' top trading partner in the first semester of 2019 with a total trade worth 16.43 billion U.S. dollars or 18.8 percent of the total trade, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Monday.

According to the PSA, export receipts from China stood at 4.62 billion U.S. dollars, while payment for imports was valued at 11.80 billion U.S. dollars, resulting in a 7.18 billion U.S. dollars trade deficit.

Export-wise, the PSA said the biggest sales came from electronic products at 2.52 billion U.S. dollars or 54.6 percent of the Philippines' exports to China.

The PSA said imported goods purchased from China consisted of electronic products

worth 2.83 billion U.S. dollars or 23.9 percent of the Philippines' total imports. The PSA said China and the Philippines' nine other top trading partners contributed a total trade worth 67.95 billion U.S. dollars or 77.8 percent to the total external trade in the first semester of 2019. The PSA said Japan was the country's second largest trading partner in the first semester of 2019, accounting for a total trade worth 10.16 billion U.S. dollars or 11.6 percent of the Philippines' total trade.

PSA data showed that exports to Japan totaled at 5.15 billion U.S. dollars while imports were valued at 5.01 billion U.S. dollars, posting a trade surplus of 134.22 million U.S. dollars. *(Xinhua)*

### Pakistan Delegation Arrives in Paris to Attend FATF Meeting

PARIS - A Pakistan delegation, which will present the compliance report before the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), arrived in Paris on Sunday (early Monday morning in Pakistan) to attend a round of the financial watchdog's meetings, set to be held on Oct 14 and 15.

Minister for Economic Affairs Division Hammad Azhar, who is heading the delegation, will present the compliance report that details the

measures taken by the government to curb terror financing and money laundering, in accordance with FATF's guidelines.

The body will review the "progress" made by Pakistan until April this year, during the FATF Week, which began on Oct 13 and will conclude on Oct 16. Along with

Pakistan, the body will also review the progress made by Iran and other countries "that present a risk to the financial system". *(Pakistan Today)*

### Turkmenistan, Pakistan to Negotiate TAPI Gas Pipeline Project

ASHGABAT - High officials of Pakistan and Turkmenistan are set to meet for this week (Oct. 14-20) to hold negotiations for removing all impediments and setting a timeline to begin construction work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline project, Trend reports referring to the Pakistani newspaper "The Express Tribune".

The two countries have already signed terms of the Host Government Agreement (HGA) and now they will engage in discussions on the HGA

next week. Pakistan signed the HGA with Turkmenistan in March 2019 and will lay gas pipeline on its section from Chaman to Multan cities via Quetta and Dera Ismail Khan cities.

A full version of the HGA is being developed and the agreed draft will be put on the table before the cabinet of ministers for formal approval. HGA will authorize TAPI Pipeline Company Limited to implement and operate Pakistan's segment of the pipeline project over the next 25 years. *(Trend)*

### PM Imran to Reach Saudi Arabia Tomorrow to Douse Fire Between Tehran, Riyadh

TEHRAN - Prime Minister Imran Khan will reach Saudi Arabia on Oct 15 (tomorrow). According to the Foreign Office, the prime minister, who is currently on a mission to mitigate tensions between regional rivals Iran and the Kingdom, will hold meetings with the top Saudi leadership to "facilitate talks" between the two states. He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and State Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Zulfi Bukhari.

In Iran, the premier, while referring to the two crude-oil rich economies which came close to blows following the Sept 14 attack on Saudi oil facilities, warned that "any conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia would cause poverty in

the world". "Pakistan suffered 70,000 casualties in the last 15 years in the war against terror," he had said, noting that Afghanistan is still suffering.

"We don't want another conflict in this part [Middle East] of the world," he asserted. During the visit, Prime Minister Imran held meetings with the top Iranian leadership, including the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. Addressing a joint press conference with Iran President Hassan Rouhani after a meeting on Sunday, the prime minister had reiterated that his visit was aimed at reducing tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia. *(Pakistan Today)*