

# Trump Hails Syria Cease-Fire After He Played Role in Crisis

ANKARA, Turkey — President Donald Trump framed the U.S.-brokered cease-fire deal with Turkey as “a great day for civilization,” but its effect was largely to mitigate a foreign policy crisis widely seen to be of his own making. After hours of negotiation in Ankara, the two nations on Thursday agreed to a five-day cease-fire in the Turks’ deadly attacks on Kurdish fighters in northern Syria, but some fighting continued early Friday in a northeast Syrian border town. The Kurds were



U.S. allies in the fight against the Islamic State group but came under assault after Trump ordered U.S. troops to leave the area earlier this

month. The agreement requires the Kurds to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish bor-

der in an arrangement that largely solidifies Turkey’s position and aims in the weeklong conflict. Vice President Mike Pence, who reached the deal with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, hailed the agreement as the way to end the bloodshed caused by Turkey’s invasion. But he remained silent on whether it amounted to a second abandonment of America’s former Kurdish allies, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Neighbor News

### Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan Prepare Final Documents on Border Demarcation

TASHKENT - The meeting of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan’s government delegations of the Joint Uzbek-Kazakh Demarcation Commission was held in Almaty on Oct. 18, Trend reports citing Uzbekistan’s Foreign Ministry. The parties prepared final draft documents on the demarcation of the State border for the section between Uzbekistan’s Karakalpakstan and Kazakhstan’s Mangystau regions. During the meeting, draft protocols of frontier signs consisting of 160 border posts, as well as a catalog of coordinates and heights of these frontier signs were prepared and signed. Moreover, the parties reached an agreement to carry out field demarcation work in separate sections of the Uzbek-Kazakh state border in November 2019. (Trend)

### Ashgabat to Host Int’l Oil & Gas Forum

ASHGABAT - An international “Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan 2019” conference and exhibition is scheduled to be held in Ashgabat Oct. 23-22, Trend reports referring to the organizers - the Turkmennebit state concern and the Turkmen Forum company. The conference is held annually and is a prestigious business forum that promotes the development and strengthening of partnership with Turkmenistan in the oil and gas industry, the report said. The conference will feature a review of the Turkmen oil and gas market, covering all aspects of the activity, including the latest gas-chemical projects, and leading experts of global oil and gas companies will make presentations. The event is planned to be attended by heads and representatives of Turkmen government agencies and leading oil and gas companies, biggest international organizations and financial institutions. This year’s panel sessions will cover topics such as «Trends in the gas chemical sector», «Investment projects on the Turkmen shelf of the Caspian sea», «Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India» gas pipeline (TAPI), «Innovative technologies for deep processing of oil and gas» and «New investment projects in the oil and gas sector». Representatives of foreign companies will have the opportunity to meet with the leadership of the Turkmen oil and gas complex to discuss pressing issues and establish mutually beneficial cooperation. In addition, as part of the conference, there are plans to visit new gas chemical plant recently opened near Ashgabat for the production of gasoline from natural gas. (Trend)

### Shootout on Iran-Turkey Border Leaves One Dead

TEHRAN - A shootout between the terrorists of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Turkish Armed Forces on the border of Turkey’s Van province with Iran, Trend reports citing Turkish media. As a result of the shootout, one Turkish soldier was killed and two got injured. According to the reports, the Turkish Armed Forces began operations to eliminate the terrorists after the shootout. The conflict between Turkey and the PKK, which demands the creation of an independent Kurdish state, has been lasting around 40 years, claiming more than 40,000 lives. The PKK is recognized as a terrorist organization by the UN and the EU. (Trend)

### Pakistan Denies Entry to CPJ Official

KARACHI - Authorities at Lahore airport denied entry to the Asia Coordinator of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), saying his name was on blacklist managed by the Ministry of Interior, a statement from the New York-based organisation said on Friday. An immigration officer at Lahore’s international airport told Steven Butler that his journalist visa was valid, but it was voided because his name was “on a stop list of the Interior Ministry”, the CPJ statement quoted Butler as saying. The spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior Ministry did not respond to Reuters calls seeking comment. Butler had traveled to Lahore to participate in the Asma Jahangir Conference-Roadmap for Human Rights in Pakistan, an event named after a Pakistani lawyer and rights activist who died last year. Pakistan’s press has had a turbulent relationship with successive governments and the powerful military over many years. Some in the media complained of a severe crackdown in the run-up to the 2018 general election that saw Prime Minister Imran Khan’s PTI party sweep to power. The CPJ has been critical of what it says are government moves to curb press freedom in Pakistan and has been issuing statement’s demanding an end to a crackdown on the media. Airport authorities at Allama Iqbal International Airport confiscated Steven Butler’s passport and put him on a flight to Doha, Qatar, The CPJ said. (Pakistan Today)

### Thousands Converge on Barcelona for Fifth Day of Catalan Protests

BARCELONA - Barcelona later in the day. Tensions between Madrid and Catalonia have been rising since Monday, when Spain’s Supreme Court sentenced nine politicians and activists to up to 13 years in jail. The sentences set off the worst sustained street violence Spain has seen in decades, with clashes between protesters and police, posing a major challenge both for the Spanish government and pro-independence regional authorities. (Reuters)

### China’s Economic Slowdown Deepens, Weighing on Global Growth

BEIJING — China’s economic growth sank to a new multi-decade low in the latest quarter as a trade war with Washington deepened a slump that is weighing on the global economy. Growth in the world’s second-largest economy slipped to %6 in the three months ending in September, down from the previous quarter’s %6.2, data showed Friday. It was the weakest level since China started reporting data by quarters in 1993. The slowdown and



weakening consumer demand add to headaches for Chinese leaders as they fight a -15month-old tariff war with President Donald Trump that has sapped China’s exports. Still, the slowdown will not necessarily compel decision makers in Beijing to reach an agreement with Trump since domestic factors, rather than trade, are having a bigger impact on the economy, said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. “I don’t think striking

### Johnson Returns to London to Drum Up Support for Brexit Deal

LONDON — After winning the backing of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in London Friday looking to secure enough support to get the deal through the fractious British Parliament. Johnson returned from an EU summit in Brussels overnight for a busy day attempting to persuade lawmakers to ratify the divorce deal at



a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament. He was due to brief his Cabinet on Friday

Party holds only 288 seats in the -650seat House of Commons, so he will have to rely on support from other parties and independent lawmakers to get over the line. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab started drumming up support early. “We’ve got a real opportunity now to get Brexit delivered faithful to the referendum, move ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Fighting in Kurdish-Held Syrian Town Despite Cease-Fire

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey — Fighting continued Friday morning in a northeast Syrian border town at the center of the fight between Turkey and Kurdish forces, despite a U.S.-brokered cease-fire that went into effect overnight. Shelling and gunfire could be heard in and around Ras al-Ayn as smoke billowed from locations near the border with Turkey and the Turkish town of Ceylanpinar. The fighting died down by mid-morning while smoke continued to rise. Elsewhere along the border calm seemed to prevail, with no fighting heard along the border from Ras al-Ayn to Tal Abyad, a Syrian border town about 100 kilometers to the west. (AP News)

### EU Leaders Confirm Christine Lagarde’s Appointment as Head of ECB

BRUSSELS - European Union leaders confirmed on Friday the appointment of Christine Lagarde as the new chief of the European Central Bank, replacing Mario Draghi from November 1. Lagarde’s confirmation for a non-renewable term of eight years comes after EU leaders nominated her for the position on July 2. (Reuters)

### Indian State Bans Cellphones at All Colleges and Universities

NEW DELHI - Phones have been banned in all colleges and universities in Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India, because the regional government reportedly believes that students spend too much time on their mobile devices. The state’s Directorate of Higher Education issued a circular announcing the new rule, which applies to both students and staff on all college and university campuses. The blanket ban is aimed at creating a “better teaching environment for students across all colleges and universities in the state,” the directorate said. The crackdown was put in place after the government concluded that the state’s young scholars were having trouble focusing on their studies. It’s unclear what the punishment will be if a student or faculty member is caught using a mobile device on campus. (RT)

### Former Nazi Concentration Camp Guard, 93, on Trial in Germany as Accessory to More Than 5,000 Murders

BERLIN - A -93year-old former SS private, who as a teenager stood guard in a watchtower in a Nazi Germany concentration camp, began trial Thursday in Hamburg state court where he’s accused of being an accessory to 5,230 murders in the final months of World War II. Bruno Dey was in his late teens when he worked at the Stutthof concentration camp



more than seven decades ago outside of Danzig, which is now the city of Gdansk in Poland. Prosecutors argue that while Dey was not directly involved in a killing in Stutthof, he ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### ‘El Chapo’s’ Son Briefly Arrested Amid Intense Gun Battle Between Police, Cartel Members

MEXICO CITY - One of the sons of the infamous drug lord Joaquin «El Chapo» Guzman was arrested -- but subsequently released -- by security forces after his detention sparked intense fighting in northern Mexico Thursday night. More than 30 militarized police and National Guard members were patrolling the northern city of Culiacan - the capital of Mexico’s Sinaloa state - when they were fired upon from a house, officials said. The officers repelled the attack and inside found Guzman’s son, Ovidio Guzman Lopez - who is wanted by U.S. authorities on drug trafficking charges - and three other men, Reuters reported.

Guzman was detained, but soon afterward, his heavily armed supporters surrounded the house, sparking an hours-long gun battle between police and cartel members. Videos published on social media showed a scene resembling a war zone, with gunmen, some wearing black ski masks over their faces, firing mounted machine guns as vehicles burned around them. Residents can be seen running for cover as machine-gun fire echoed through the streets. Families with young children abandoned their vehicles and lay flat on the road. Bullets cracked up ahead. “Dad, can we get up now?” a ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

### European Union’s Message to U.K.: Just Leave Already

BRUSSELS — Breaking its own deadlines, reopening negotiations on a Brexit agreement with Britain it had said was sacrosanct and then approving a new version before it could be fully digested by its member states, the European Union showed considerable strategic flexibility on Thursday. The Europeans got the better of the accord, most analysts agree, and remain eager to avoid a no-deal Brexit that would damage both parties. But what is evident now is that the European Union wants Britain to leave already, so it can move on to more pressing issues, from migration and enlargement to the contentious post-Brexit seven-year budget. Before, there was the often-expressed hope, regularly articulated by European Council President Donald Tusk, whose term expires next month, that Britain might somehow remain in the European Union despite the 2016 referendum. But now the other 27 countries just seem to want the British gone. “The Europeans have given up on Tusk’s notion of, ‘oh, let them stay,’” said Mujtaba Rahman, a former European Commission economist now at the Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy. “There is no real strategy around the hope that a Labour government will emerge and have a second referendum.” The bloc, he said, is focused on preserving its own interests: “protecting peace in Ulster, protecting the single market and facilitating a smooth exit for Britain.” (NY Times)