

# China, US Make 'Substantial' Trade Deal Progress

Beijing and Washington have made "substantial progress" towards a partial trade deal, China's top trade negotiator said Saturday, in his first comments since talks with US president Donald Trump last week.

Trump announced a partial deal after meetings in Washington with the Chinese trade delegation led by Liu He, which ended on October 11.

It included promises to increase purchases of US farm products and protections for intellectual property -- but lacked specific



details. "China and the US have made substantial progress in many aspects, and laid an important

foundation for a phase one agreement," the Vice Premier said at a virtual reality conference in Nanchang, Jiangxi province, on Saturday.

In his first public comments about the Washington talks, Liu said an important foundation for the signing of a phased deal had been worked out.

China is "willing to work together with the US to address each other's core concerns on the basis of equality and mutual respect," Liu said, according to a report on Taoran notes, a social media account run by the official Economic Daily.

The deal announced by ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Australian Police Arrest Iraqi Man Over 350 Asylum-Seeker Deaths

CANBERRA - Police in Australia have charged an Iraqi man with organizing a «people-smuggling venture» that led to more than 350 asylum-seekers drowning at sea. The ill-fated boat sank in international waters in 2001.

The 43-year-old suspect appeared in court in the Australian city of Brisbane on Saturday following his extradition from New Zealand.

Police allege he belonged to a syndicate that attempted to

smuggle asylum-seekers into Australia on an Indonesian fishing boat in 2001. The vessel, known as Siev X, sank in international waters en route to Australia's Christmas Island, resulting in the deaths of more than 350 people -- most of them women and children.

Police said the man, then 24, accepted payments from the passengers to help them with transport and accommodation in Indonesia ahead of their sea journey to Australia. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## 'I Always Do What I Promise': Modi Warns Pakistan He's Serious About Using 100% of Indian River Waters

NEW DELHI - Indian PM Narendra Modi has warned Pakistan he means what he said about not wasting a single drop of 'Indian water', after Islamabad stated that any attempt to divert rivers would be viewed as an 'act of aggression.'

"Once I decide to do something, I always accomplish that," the PM told an election rally on Friday, slamming the opposition party for allowing a portion

of India's river water to leave the country. The water over which Haryana's farmers have the right will not flow to Pakistan now.

However, Pakistani Foreign Minister Muhammad Faisal had accused India of not just planning to utilize its water share to the max, but plotting to actually divert the rivers, and framed the PM's words as "another glaring example of the fact that the present



government of India is bent upon making India an irresponsible and aggressive state that has no regard for human rights or international obligations." He stated that Pakistan has "exclusive rights" over ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## UK Brexit Showdown: All The Latest Updates

LONDON - The United Kingdom's parliament is preparing to vote on the Brexit deal agreed between British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the European Union.

The 650-seat House of Commons' so-called «Super Saturday» session is expected to deliver a knife-edge decision on the revised withdrawal agreement.

But Johnson's opponents have laid a parliamentary booby trap that could yet



frustrate his plans and force him to send members of parliament home without voting on his deal, forcing a further Brexit delay.

Amid the high political drama, the clock continues to tick towards the UK's scheduled departure from the EU on October 31, now less

than two weeks away. Here are the latest updates: Saturday, October 19 UK gov't focused on defeating amendment, PM's spokesman said. The British government is focused on making sure legislators do not back a proposal to withhold support for Johnson's Brexit deal until formal ratification legislation has passed, the Reuters news agency quoted his spokesman as saying. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Nearly 200 Injured in Police Clashes with Catalan Separatists

BARCELONA - Nearly 200 people were hurt in another night of violent clashes in Catalonia, authorities said Saturday, after radical separatists hurled rocks and fireworks at police who responded with teargas and rubber bullets.

In Barcelona, a chaotic battle ground Friday, 152 people were injured, with dozens more hurt in the rest of

Catalonia, taking the total to 182. The deterioration came on the fifth consecutive day of protests in the Catalan capital and elsewhere over a Spanish court's jailing of nine separatist leaders on sedition charges over a failed independence bid two years ago.

Emergency services had already reported 500 injured since ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## 'Leave This Soil': Seoul Police Ramp Up Security After Protesters Break into US Ambassador's Residence

SEOUL - South Korean police have increased security at the US ambassador's residence in Seoul after a group of students demonstrating against American troops in the country were able to infiltrate the diplomatic compound.

The Seoul Metropolitan Police agency said Saturday that the number of officers guarding the estate was more than tripled to 110. The beefed-up security comes a day ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## 'We Do Not Want War': Mexican Authorities Defend Letting El Chapo's Son Go After Drug Cartel Unleashed Hell on Culiacan

MEXICO CITY - The Mexican government struggled to defend its decision to release the son of Sinaloa cartel leader El Chapo after heavily-armed narcos broke dozens of reinforcements out of prison and turned Culiacan into a bloody war zone.

Previous governments' strategy "turned this country into a cemetery, and we don't want that anymore," President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told reporters on Friday, defending his decision to release Ovidio Guzman, one of the sons of notorious incarcerated drug lord El Chapo.

Capturing a criminal can't be worth more than people's lives... We don't want dead people, we don't want war. At least eight people were killed and 21 wounded as hundreds of heavily-armed cartel ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## 15 Dead After Russian Dam Collapse Floods Dormitories

MOSCOW - Russian emergency officials say at least 15 people are dead after a dam at a Siberian gold mine collapsed and water flooded two workers' dormitories.

The Emergencies Ministry also said 13 people were unaccounted-for, Russian news agencies reported.

The collapse during heavy rain occurred early Saturday near the village of Shchetinkino, in the Krasnoyarsk region about 3,400 kilometers (2,100 miles)



east of Moscow. investigation on The country's possible charges of Investigative violation of workplace safety regulations. (AP Committee said it has opened a criminal News)

## Millions March in Iraq in Annual Arbaeen Shiite Pilgrimage

KARBALA, Iraq - Millions of pilgrims made their way on foot to the Iraqi city of Karbala on Saturday for the Shiite pilgrimage of Arbaeen, regarded as the largest annual public gathering in the world.

The commemoration marks the 40th day following the death of a Shiite saint in the 7th century and included more than 2 million Iranians and other Shiites from abroad. Militias patrolled roads leading into the city and escorted Iranian pilgrims from the border, hiking up security for processions that have previously been targeted by Sunni militant groups with bloody bombings.

This year's Arbaeen ceremonies take place amid widespread anger in Iraq's Shiite south over the government's

heavy crackdown on protests that erupted earlier this month against unemployment, corruption and government mismanagement. The demonstrations raged across Iraq for seven days and most prominent among the protesters were young Shiites, unleashing their frustration with the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

The security crackdown, which killed more than 100 and wounded thousands, put down the protests last week, but a new round of demonstrations has been called for Oct. 25.

The political turmoil surfaced in the Arbaeen ceremonies. Followers of populist cleric Muqtada al-Sadr marched ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Calm Reigns in Northeast Syria as Fragile U.S.-Turkey Ceasefire Holds

ANKARA - A fragile ceasefire was holding along Turkey's border with Syria on Saturday, two days after President Tayyip Erdogan agreed the truce to allow Kurdish forces time to pull back from Ankara's cross-border assault.

Erdogan agreed the truce during talks in Ankara on Thursday with U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence on stemming a humanitarian crisis, which has put 200,000 civilians to flight in northeast Syria, and easing a security scare over thousands of Islamic State captives guarded by the Kurdish YPG militia targeted in Turkey's assault.

Turkey's defense ministry said on Saturday there had been 14 "provocative attacks" from Syria in the past 36 hours but said it was continuing to coordinate closely with the United States to allow the agreement to be implemented.

Reuters journalists at the border said bombardment heard near the Syrian border town of Ras al Ain on Friday morning had subsided. They saw just a few Turkish military vehicles crossing the frontier on Saturday morning.

The truce sets out a five-day pause to let the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militia pull out of a "safe zone" Turkey has vowed to create in territory extending more than 30 km (about 20 miles) deep into Syria.

Ankara regards the YPG, the SDF's main Kurdish component, a terrorist group because of its links to Kurdish insurgents operating in southeast Turkey.

Turkey's defense ministry said Defence ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Neighbor News

### Uzbekistan Commits to Tender for 900MW of Solar Power

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan is advancing quickly to diversify its energy matrix and meet its target to develop up to 5 gigawatts of solar power by 2030. Today Uzbekistan signed a mandate with IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, to develop up to 900 megawatts of solar power through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

The signing follows the announcement of the winning bidder in the country's first solar PPP for 100 megawatts earlier this month, which achieved a highly competitive tariff of just 2.7 US cents per kilowatt hour.

In the coming months, Uzbekistan will launch a PPP tender for two solar projects of up to 200 megawatts each, followed by another round for the remaining 500 megawatts.

"The first solar PPP has set a benchmark for solar prices in our country. We are confident that with the help of IFC we can replicate this success in the next rounds and again attract high-quality private players to develop and finance these projects," said Shukhrat Vafaev, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, World Bank Group Alternate Governor.

As transaction adviser, IFC helped the Ministry of Investment and ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### International Book Fair to Be Held in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - An international book fair is planned to be held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on November 6-5, Trend reports citing the organizers, Turkmen State Publishing Service and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan.

Some 72 companies from 20 countries, as well as representatives of publishing and printing services and specialized universities are expected to take part in the large-scale event.

It is planned to organize creative meetings of domestic and foreign novelists and poets with readers, round-table discussions and other events on the margins of the exhibition and fair.

(Trend)

### State Duma Chairman Discusses Economy and Security Cooperation with Tajikistan Leader

DUSHANBE - Russia's State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin on Saturday discussed economic cooperation with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe, as well as security issues.

According to Volodin, Rahmon's visit to the State Duma in April of this year «gave impetus» to the development of bilateral relations. «We began to communicate more within the parliamentary dimension,» he said.

Speaking about economic interaction, Volodin drew attention to the growth of trade between the countries. «Economic relations are developing effectively.

Over the past year, trade has grown by almost 25%,» he said. The meeting also touched upon issues of joint counteraction to challenges and threats in the region.

The State Duma Chairman also noted the role of the leader of Tajikistan in strengthening humanitarian cooperation, recalling that the status of the Russian language as a language of interethnic communication is set in the constitution of Tajikistan.

In turn, Emomali Rahmon emphasized the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation for the development of bilateral relations. (News Now)

### Maleeha Lodhi Briefs UN Secretary General on Plight of Kashmiris in Farewell Call

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's outgoing Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr Maleeha Lodhi, called on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York and apprised him on the plight of people in India-occupied J & Kashmir suffering under a cruel lockdown, & also thanked him for his statement of 8 August and subsequently on the situation in IOJ&K," she said in a tweet.

"Officers and staff of the Pakistan Mission to the UN observed 5 minutes of silence today to express our solidarity with the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir who continue to suffer under a continuing lockdown and curfew," she added. (PakistanToday)