

Secondary Circuit of Iran's Arak Nuclear Reactor to Be Operational Within Two Weeks: Official

GENEVA - The secondary circuit of the Arak heavy water nuclear reactor will be operational within two weeks, Ali Asghar Zarean, a special assistant to the chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, was quoted as saying on Sunday by the semi-official Tasnim news



heavy water annually, which is exported to other countries. Heavy water can be employed in reactors to produce plutonium, a fuel used in nuclear warheads. Despite having nuclear technology, Iran has never pursued building or using nuclear weapons, which its religion forbids, the country's highest political authority, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said earlier this month. Iran has responded to U.S. "maximum pressure" by scaling back commitments to the nuclear deal since May. Britain, France and Germany, all signatories to the pact, have urged Iran to refrain from any concrete act breaching the agreement. The reduction of commitments can be reversed, Iranian officials have said, if the remaining parties to the deal uphold their promises. (Reuters)

BEIRUT - Protesters in Lebanon flooded the streets on Sunday, keeping pressure on Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri as a self-imposed deadline to deliver a package of badly needed reforms for the country's crumbling economy drew near.

Anti-government protesters that have swept the country since Thursday have pulled together all segments of Lebanese society in an unusually unified call for the downfall of a political elite that protesters blame for plunging the economy into crisis.

On Sunday demonstrators clogged streets across the country for a

Lebanon Protesters Keep Pressure On Government as Reform Deadline Nears



fourth day with marches resembling outdoor festivals. Loudspeakers blared nationalistic music as energized protesters chanted calls for the government's fall.

"I didn't expect people from the country's north, south and Beirut to join hands and like each other. The protests have brought

together everyone and this has never happened before," said Sahar Younis, a 32-year-old worker with a non-governmental organization.

Hariri, who is leading a coalition government mired by sectarian and political rivalries, gave his feuding partners a 72-hour deadline on Friday to agree to reforms that could ward off

economic crisis, hinting he may otherwise resign.

He accused his rivals of obstructing budget measures that could unlock \$11 billion in Western donor pledges and help avert economic collapse.

Government sources said Hariri was waiting for his coalition to get on board with the economic proposals, which include taxes on banks and implementing a plan within one month to overhaul the country's costly and crumbling state electricity utility. (Reuters)

Canada's Trudeau, Main Rival Trade Attacks as Campaign Grinds To Conclusion

HAMILTON - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, facing the loss of his Parliamentary majority in an election next week, traded attacks with his main rival on Saturday as a bad-tempered campaign entered its last few days.

Trudeau came to power in 2015 promising "sunny ways" and a new way of doing politics but saw his popularity drop earlier this year amid an ethics scandal. Images of him in blackface emerged last month, further hurting his Liberal Party ahead of the Oct. 21 election. The 47-year-old prime minister,

his voice increasingly hoarse, said Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer would slash spending and rip up Liberal plans to fight climate change.

Polls show the Liberals and the Conservatives in a dead heat, with neither able to capture a majority of the 338 seats in the House of Commons. That would leave the party winning the most seats seeking support of smaller parties to govern.

"I know Canadians want a strong progressive government that would stop Conservative cuts,"

Trudeau told a rally in a fire station in the Ontario city of Hamilton, west of Toronto.

In the absence of an overriding narrative, dirty tactics and awkward moments have characterized the campaign.

Another example of that was on display on Saturday when People's Party of Canada (PPC) leader Maxime Bernier said his party was considering legal action against the Conservatives after the Globe and Mail newspaper reported that the latter had hired a consultant to "seek and destroy" the PPC party

and try to get Bernier barred from televised leaders' debates.

Bernier, a former Conservative cabinet minister, lost the Conservative leadership race to Scheer in 2017 and started his own right-leaning party. Lagging far behind in polls, the PPC could still split some of the Conservative vote.

"This is the kind of dirty politics that confuse Canadians' faith in politics," Bernier said at a press conference in Sainte-Marie, Quebec. "He (Scheer) is ready to steal the election with lies and manipulations. (Reuters)

(1) EU Urges ...

negotiations, it could also opportunities.

The envoy proposed to try to add cease-fire in the agreement. "It is the right moment and the right opportunity to maybe go one step beyond simple reduction of violence."

Kobia said that the US-Taliban discussions should open way for the real peace process between Afghans to start. The envoy also reaffirmed EU's commitment to support Afghanistan after peace agreement.

"Do not think that if there is a peace agreement, international partners will pack and leave," Kobia said. "We remain committed to support the reconstruction of Afghanistan, the future development, the trade, the connectivity with regional countries."

He, however, said that any future political governance in Afghanistan should be fit for Western countries for its support to continue.

"If it would be an Islamic emirate where fundamental rights would not be protected, it would make it very difficult for Europeans to help the reconstruction, to provide development aid, to give access to the first world market which is the EU," Kobia said. (ITV News)

(2) Wardak Governor ...

said in a statement. Immediately, there was no claim of responsibility. (ATN)

(3) Afghan Election ...

was also carrying an employee ID card apparently belonging to a media outlets. (ITV News)

(4) 'No Possible ...

nine-month period of January to September 2019, the combined use of suicide and non-suicide IEDs was the leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, making up 42 per cent of the overall total. In July, August and September 2019, civilian casualties from suicide and non-suicide IEDs increased by 72 per cent in comparison to the same time period in 2018.

The United Nations continues to stand with all Afghans in solidarity and remains committed to an Afghan-led peace process that will end the ongoing war and enable the government to allocate more resources to protect all its citizens from such atrocities.

"At a time when the Afghan people are looking toward much-needed peace, we must not allow such attacks to deter our

collective resolve to make progress on ending the conflict," said Yamamoto.

Although mosques have a protected status under international humanitarian law, in Afghanistan they not only have been the location of atrocities but also have been the specific target of attacks. In 2018, attacks targeting places of worship, religious leaders and worshippers caused 453 civilian casualties (156 killed and 297 injured), similar to the extreme high civilian-casualty levels of such attacks in 2017, resulting in 499 civilian casualties (202 killed and 297 injured).

UNAMA expresses its condolences to the loved ones of those killed in the attack and wishes a full and speedy recovery to those injured. (PR)

(5) Nabil Accuses ...

has brought dozens of allegations against the State Building Team (lead by Ghani), all of which have been proven baseless," said Najib Danish, spokesman for Ghani's election campaign.

The Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE) created by Ashraf Ghani in 2013, before he became the president. (TOLO News)

(6) Security Worsens ...

Kakar, a member of the Provincial Council, said the Taliban had created posts on all general highways.

He urged security forces to conduct clearing operations against militants as people were fed up with the situation.

Samiullah, a resident of Kunduz City, said: "Yesterday I was travelling from Baghlan to Kunduz when Taliban gunmen emerged on the road and took away some suspected individuals with them."

"The security situation has deteriorated on the highway. Militants often come out and threaten people, we want the government to ensure security on this route," he said.

A driver, who wished to go unnamed, said: "Unknown armed men with their faces covered often emerge on the road and check vehicles."

A number of other residents held similar views and urged the government to address the issue at the earliest possible.

Hadi Jamal, 217th Pamir Military Corps deputy spokesman, told Pajhwok that security forces had conducted operations for ensuring security on the Kunduz-Baghlan highway.

He said a number of villages had been cleared of militants in Gialgai and Dand Shabuddin areas along the road.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Muja-

hid, without specifically mentioning the Kunduz-Baghlan highway, said they had no issue with passengers travelling on general highways. (Pajhwok)

(7) Iran Seeks ...

of the Zaranj electricity transmission line, and synchronization of the two countries' networks.

"The contract for Iran's electricity exports to Afghanistan was also extended for another year," Ardakanian said.

Earlier in September, Ardakanian announced that Iran and Afghanistan had agreed to accelerate their cooperation in the electricity sector by setting up a joint taskforce.

Iran and Afghanistan are also considering initiating renewable energy projects in border areas.

"With good wind energy capacity in the two countries' border regions, the two sides can use that capacity to generate nearly 16,000 megawatts of electricity," Iran's Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri said in a meeting with Afghan Minister of Energy and Water Mohammad Gul Kholmi during his visit to Kabul on August 17. (TOLO News)

(8) Badakhshan ...

condition specially children." He added the ministry had been informed about future threats the displaced people faced.

Deputy Governor Akhtar Mohammad Khairzada acknowledged the assistance provided to displaced persons was not enough. (Pajhwok)

(9) Drug Addicted ...

A resident of the area, speaking on the condition of anonymity, linked the incident to domestic violence. (Pajhwok)

(10) Indian Soldiers ...

Azad Kashmir region, said in a tweet, adding that the civilian casualties and injuries were in the Muzaffarabad and Neelum districts.

"This is the height of savagery. The world must not stay silent over it," he said in his tweet with the hashtag #KashmirNeedsAttention.

Tensions between the two countries have flared and there has been intermittent cross-border firing since Aug. 5 when New Delhi flooded Indian Kashmir with troops to quell unrest after it revoked the region's special autonomous status. (Reuters)

(11) China's Next ...

km (310 miles), Xinhua said. It is expected to conduct a flight test next year. At about 116 tonnes and with a length

of 31 metres, the Smart Dragon-3, set for a test flight in 2021, will be capable of sending 1.5 tonne payloads into orbit, Xinhua added.

In July, Beijing-based iSpace became the first private Chinese firm to deliver a satellite into orbit on its rocket. Since late last year, two other startups have attempted to launch satellites but failed. (Xinhua)

(12) Egypt Reveals ...

gender of the mummies can be distinguished by the shape of their hands. Waziri said women were buried with their hands open while men's hands were closed. The Asasif Necropolis is located in the ancient town of West Thebes. Most tombs at the necropolis date back to the Late Period, which ended in 332 B.C., but the newly discovered coffins are believed to be much older. The elaborate decorations on the coffins were likely to compensate for the fact they weren't buried in proper tombs, Waziri said. The similarity in design suggests they were all made at the same workshop. The coffins were well preserved because they were so well hidden from tomb raiders, Waziri said. Coffins found in tombs are often damaged due to termites, but because these were buried in the sand, they were completely intact. The 20 coffins pulled from the site will be displayed in the Grand Egyptian Museum set to open in Giza next year. (Euro News)

(13) Turkey Says ...

of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), as a terrorist group because of its links to Kurdish insurgents in southeast Turkey. The YPG has been a close U.S. ally in the fight against Islamic State.

In a statement, the defence ministry said an attack by the YPG with anti-tank and light weapons had struck Turkish soldiers carrying out a reconnaissance and surveillance mission in Tel Abyad on Sunday.

"The immediate response based on self-defense was given," the ministry said. "Despite the Safe Zone Agreement with the United States... 20 harassments/violations were committed by PKK/YPG terrorists," it said.

On Friday, the Kurdish militia accused Turkey of violating the five-day pause by shelling civilian areas in the northeast and the border town of Ras al Ain. A senior Turkish official later dismissed the accusations on Saturday, saying these were an attempt to sabotage the agreement between Ankara and

Washington, and that Turkey fully supported the deal.

Erdogan warned on Saturday that the offensive would continue and Turkey would "crush the heads of terrorists" if the deal was not fully implemented, while Turkey has insisted that it is the duty of Washington to ensure the withdrawal of the YPG.

Turkey's defence ministry said late on Saturday that it was closely monitoring the withdrawal of the YPG and that it was in close contact with U.S. officials over the issue and to provide logistical information.

Turkey aims to establish a "safe zone" some 32 km (20 miles) into Syria. Erdogan said on Friday it would run for some 440 km along the border, though the U.S. special envoy for Syria said the accord covered a smaller area where Turkish forces and their Syrian rebel allies were fighting.

Erdogan also said on Friday that Turkey would set up a dozen observation posts across northeast Syria, and that he would hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on what steps to take in the planned "safe zone" next week. (Reuters)

(14) Swiss Choose New ...

parliament — represented in the governing Federal Council. It doesn't include the two green parties. (AP)

(15) Trump Confirms

A native of Louisiana, Brouillette served in the US Army before moving to Capitol Hill to work for Congressman Billy Tauzin, helping write what would become the Energy Policy Act of 2005. (RT)

(16) Qantas Completes ...

and then lights off, but he said that for this flight, "we started with lunch and kept the lights on for the first six hours, to match the time of day at our destination. It means you start reducing the jetlag straight away."

Professor Marie Carroll from the University of Sydney said she and fellow passengers did a lot of stretching and group exercises at prescribed intervals. "We did the Macarena in the economy cabin," she said. (AP)

(17) A Huge Fire ...

not show any obvious damage. The structure of the tanker was not shown in the pictures. (Shafaq News)

(18) Uzbekistan's ...

wishes and prosperity to the leadership and people of Uzbekistan. (Uzbekistan National News Agency)