

Leaders of Turkey, Russia, Iran Set to Tackle Syria Turmoil

ANKARA - The leaders of Turkey, Russia and Iran meet on Monday to try to secure a lasting truce in northwest Syria following attacks by the government that risk deepening regional turmoil and pushing a new wave of migrants toward Turkey. The summit in Ankara, bringing together countries whose Syrian allies are combatants in a ruinous eight-year-old war, will focus on the Idlib region, the last remaining territory held by rebels seeking to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani have backed Assad against the rebels. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, along with the United States,



European and Arab allies, has supported different rebel factions in the conflict.

Assad's forces, aided by Russian air power, have regained control of most lands lost in the war. In recent months, Assad's forces have attacked Idlib, where Syrian and foreign radical fighters

hold sway alongside other more moderate factions.

Under a deal with Moscow and Tehran two years ago, Turkey set up 12 military observation posts in northwest Syria aimed at reducing fighting between Assad's forces and rebels. The Turkish

military posts have recently been caught in the crossfire due to the Syrian offensive in the region.

In an interview with Reuters on Friday, Erdogan warned that any Syrian government attack on the posts would draw retaliation from Turkish forces, possibly risking a direct confrontation between Ankara and Damascus.

"The moment that the regime messes with our observation posts, if there is any attack, then things will take a very different direction," Erdogan told Reuters. "We will not hold back like we are now. We will take any necessary steps."

Erdogan and Putin agreed at ... (More on P4)...(7)

UAE Parliamentary Division Presents Suggestions on Amending Arab Parliamentary Union Statute

AMMAN - The Federal National Council, FNC, Parliamentary Division presented its suggestions on amending the Arab Parliamentary Union Statute during the ninth meeting of the sub-commission of the Arab Parliamentary Union Executive Commission that started today. The division also highlighted the efforts of various Arab parliamentary divisions, under the framework of the Arab Parliamentary Union, and presented

the UAE's experience in various topics, including youth, women, children and senior citizens, as well as its efforts to achieve sustainable development and diversify the national economy. In its suggestions, the division stressed that the Social Affairs Committee of the Arab Parliamentary Union should be in charge of dealing with social issues, except those related to youth, women, children and vulnerable people, noting that there are ... (More on P4)...(12)

Delivery of Second S-400 Battery to Turkey Completed, Defense Ministry Says

ISTANBUL - Turkey's Defense Ministry says the delivery of the second battery of the advanced Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems has been completed, and that the systems would become operational in April 2020. The ministry announced in a statement that the delivery process was finished at Murted Airfield Command, located 35 kilometers (22 miles) northwest of the capital Ankara, on Sunday but the training of Turkish personnel was still on-

going.

The second part of the shipments began on August 27.

The first part of the S-400 delivery was completed in late July. Russia delivered 30 plane-loads of S-400 hardware and equipment - as part of the initial batch - to Murted Airfield Command.

Ankara and Washington have been at loggerheads over Turkey's purchase of the S-400 systems, which the United States says are not compatible with NATO



defenses and poses a threat to Lockheed Martin F-35 stealth fighter jets. Turkish Foreign Min-

ister Mevlut Cavusglu told Turkish-language CNN Turk television news network in an ... (More on P4)...(8)

Boris Johnson: Britain Will Break Free of The EU 'Like The Hulk'



LONDON - Boris Johnson has said Britain will break out of the EU's "manacles" like The Incredible Hulk if a Brexit deal is not struck by the

end of October. The Prime Minister repeated his vow to take the UK out of the bloc on October 31, even hinting he could ignore the

anti-no-deal legislation which passed through Parliament earlier this month.

In an interview with the Mail On Sunday, Mr Johnson likened Britain to the fictional scientist Bruce Banner, who transforms into the monstrous green Hulk when he is angry in the Marvel superhero comics and movies.

"Banner might be bound in manacles, but when provoked he would explode out of them," Mr Johnson said. "Hulk always escaped,

no matter how tightly bound in he seemed to be - and that is the case for this country. We will come out on October 31 and we will get it done." The PM, who is set to meet European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker in Luxembourg this week, struck a confident tone on reaching a Brexit deal.

Mr Johnson told the paper he thinks "we will get there" and that a "huge amount of progress is being made". ... (More on P4)...(9)

Hariri Is Telling the World: Hezbollah Is Your Problem, Not Ours

BEIRUT - It is remarkable that Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri addressed the international community to declare that the problem of Hezbollah's weapons is a regional and international issue, not a Lebanese one. His announcement may indirectly coincide with Lebanese President Michel Aoun's discovery that local and international conditions have changed and no longer call for an internal dialogue to find a defence strategy to pro-

tect Lebanon.

It is also noteworthy that Hezbollah did not comment on Hariri's remarks to US cable news channel CNBC about what was understood to be his government's disavowing the Hezbollah's weapons and behaviour.

Hezbollah also remained quiet about Hariri's submitting the issue to a level of treatment that goes beyond the capabilities of the Lebanese state and places the problem ... (More on P4)...(13)

Russian Warships Escort U.S. Navy Ship in Black Sea

MOSCOW - Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships are constantly monitoring the U.S. navy ship USNS Yuma, which passed through the Bosphorus Strait on Saturday evening, the Ministry of Defense said Sunday.

The purpose of the U.S. expeditionary fast transport vessel is unknown, and it is the third time the ship entered the Black Sea this year, the ministry's Zvezda broadcasting service said.

According to it, last time, the USNS Yuma visited the Ukrainian port of Odessa to participate in the multinational maritime exercise Sea Breeze 2019 in July, which was co-hosted by Ukraine and the United States. (Xinhua)

8 More Local, Foreign Investment Projects Approved in Myanmar

YANGON - Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) recently approved eight more local and foreign investment projects, said a release from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) on Sunday.

The approved projects cover livestock and fisheries, manufacturing, hotel, real estate, oil and gas, transport and telecommunication sectors, creating 3,159 employment opportunities for local people.

According to the DICA figures, a total of 1,806 foreign enterprises were permitted with estimated investment capital of 81.6 billion U.S. dollars from FY 1988-1989 to Aug. 31 of present FY 2018-2019. During the period, Singapore, China and ... (More on P4)...(14)

'Maximum Lies': Iran Rejects US' Claim It Attacked Saudi Oil Facilities, Warns It's Ready for War

TEHRAN - Iran has rebuffed US accusations of launching a drone attacks that cut Saudi Arabia's oil output in half. A senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander, meanwhile, has warned Washington that Tehran is ready for war.

Allegations that Iran was behind the drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities are "unsubstantiated" and false, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Seyyed Abbas Mousavi stated on Sunday. He also said officials in Washington are accusing Iran in order to tarnish its image on the world stage in preparation for "future actions" against Tehran.



The Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility for sending 10 armed drones to hit two Saudi oil refineries on Saturday. The attacks caused massive fires and other damage to the sites, which halved the kingdom's oil output.

The Houthis previously admitted to launching similar drone and rocket attacks against

Riyadh, some of which were directed at oil pumping stations. The Saudis have been waging a devastating aerial bombing campaign in civil war-torn Yemen, where they intervened in 2015 on behalf of ousted President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, however, squarely blamed ... (More on P4)...(10)

Trump Says He and Netanyahu Discussed Possible US-Israeli Defense Treaty

WASHINGTON - President Trump said he spoke Saturday to Israel leader Benjamin Netanyahu about the possibility of a "mutual defense treaty" between the two nations - just days before Israeli voters go to the polls to decide the fate of their embattled leader. Trump said in a tweet that such a

defense pact - a Netanyahu priority - would "further anchor the tremendous alliance between our two countries."

"I look forward to continuing those discussions after the Israeli Elections when we meet at the United Nations later this month!" Trump said. The ... (More on P4)...(11)

Hong Kong Police Fire Tear Gas, Water Cannon at Protesters Throwing Petrol-Bomb

HONG KONG - Hong Kong police fired water cannon and volleys of tear gas to break up protesters throwing petrol bombs near the Legislative Council building and inside the Central Government Offices on Sunday, the latest in weeks of sometimes violent unrest.

Some protesters threw bricks at police outside the nearby Chinese People's Liberation Army base in the Admiralty district of the city and tore down and set fire to a red banner proclaiming the 70th anniversary on Oct. 1 of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

One water cannon caught fire after being hit by a petrol bomb. The water cannon fired blue jets of water, used elsewhere in the world to help identify protesters later.

Radical protesters are currently occupying Harcourt Road in Admiralty, vandalising Central Government Offices and repeatedly throwing petrol bombs inside, police said in a statement.

The Chinese-ruled territory has been rocked by more than three months of clashes, with demonstrators angry about what they see as creeping interference by Beijing in their city's affairs despite a promise of autonomy. On July 1, the anniversary of the city's 1997 return from Britain to China, protesters wearing hard hats, masks and black shirts laid siege to the Legislative Council building and swarmed inside. Violence ... (More on P4)...(15)

Neighbor News

Iran Secures €1.2bn of Russian Loan for Building Mega Power Plant

TEHRAN - Iran and Russia have signed final documents of a deal which allows Moscow to grant a €1.2-billion loan to Tehran for construction of a major power plant south of Iran. Iran's Minister of Energy Reza Ardakanian said on Sunday that Iran was now able to access the loan for construction activities to start at Sirik Power Plant after Iranian and Russian authorities signed final documents related to the loan deal.

"Due to prolonged operational formalities, the deal ... needed an appendix for extending its length," said Ardakanian, adding that representatives from

ministries of finance of Iran and Russia signed the appendix earlier in the day in Tehran to finalize the loan. The announcement comes less than a month after Ardakanian travelled to Moscow to discuss energy issues with Russian authorities.

He had said during the trip that the long-anticipated Russian loan for Sirik, a 1,400 megawatt power plant that is estimated to cost €1.4 billion, would be paid soon. Ardakanian said Russia had signed initial agreements with Iran to grant the country €650 to 700 millions in other loans for two major electricity projects. ... (More on P4)...(16)

PM Summons Cabinet Meeting on 17th

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan has called a meeting of the federal cabinet on Tuesday. The cabinet will take up a 13-point agenda in its meeting.

Previously, a meeting of the federal cabinet scheduled to take place on Thursday was postponed due to a joint session of both the houses of Parliament.

During the meeting on Sept 17, the premier will likely apprise the cabinet members of his plans for his upcoming visit to the United States (US) to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month. The cabinet will also

review the situation in India occupied Jammu and Kashmir, political and parliamentary matters of the country.

A briefing will be given on the government's diplomatic efforts and exchanges with world leaders.

Real Estate Development and Regularisation Ordinance 2019, conversion of visit visas of Chinese citizens into work visas, issuance and suspension of airline licences, reconstitution of the board of directors for tobacco control, as well as the appointment of private members in railway board will be discussed in the session. (Agencies)

Iran Ranks 27th Among World's Biggest Economies: WB

TEHRAN - Having a 0.53 percent share of the global economy, Iran holds the 27th place in the list of world's top economies, according to the World Bank (WB).

Based on the latest data released by WB, Iran's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) tops that of many other countries in the region and world including Norway, UAE, South Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, and Finland, IRIB reported on Sunday.

According to WB, the United States and China are the world's most powerful economies, accounting for 23.89 percent and 15.86 percent of the world's economy, respectively,

followed by Japan, Germany, Britain, France and India. The data, however, indicates that the gap between China and the U.S. is gradually decreasing.

The world's top 15 countries account for 75 percent of the total global GDP, which based on the WB report on global economy in 2018, amounted at \$85.8 trillion. Back in January, WB predicted a 1.1 percent GDP growth for Iran in 2020 and 2021.

The bank saw a -3.6 percent growth for the country's GDP in 2019 but expected it to experience 1.1 percent of GDP growth in the ... (More on P4)...(17)

Imran, Malala Among 500 Influential Muslims List

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan, Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai, former chairman of Punjab Information Technology Board Dr Umar Saif have been named among the World's 500 Most Influential Muslims.

The annual publication is compiled by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre in Jordan, highlights people who are influential as Muslims.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stands at the top of the most influential Muslims list, followed by Saudi King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, King of Jordan Abdul-

lah II ibn Al-Hussein stands at third, while Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei is at fourth. King of Morocco His Majesty Amir al-Mu'minin is at fifth.

Others in the list include Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Russian professional mixed martial artist Khabib Nurmagomedov, British runner Mo Farah, MP Sajid Javed and London Mayor Sadiq Khan. Among the top 50, ranked at 29 is PM Imran, whose crack-down on corruption and bringing "accountability" to the forefront has fast made him a global name. ... (More on P4)...(18)