

China Aims to Join U.S.-Spurned Arms Treaty as Soon as Possible

BEIJING - China wants to join as soon as possible an international arms treaty that the United States has spurned, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, adding it was China's responsibility to take part as a member of the international community.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he intends to revoke the U.S. signature to the treaty, which regulates the \$70 billion global cross-border trade in conventional arms and seeks to keep weapons out of the hands of human rights abusers.

So far, 104 countries have joined the pact, which the General Assembly approved in 2013. Then-U.S.



President Barack Obama had signed it but it was opposed by the National Rifle Association and other conservative groups and never ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Speaking at the United Nations on Friday, the Chinese government's top diplomat State Councillor Wang Yi said China has initiated domestic legal procedures to join the Arms Trade Treaty.

China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement following Wang's announcement that the country was striving to join the treaty "as soon as possible".

This is an important action for China to actively participate in the governance of the global arms trade governance and reflects China's determination to support multilateralism, it said.

China has always attached great importance to the issue of illegal arms sales and their misuse, and supports the purposes and objectives of the treaty, the ministry added.

"As a responsible member of the international family, China is willing to continue to ... (More on P4)...(6)

Neighbor News

Mehbooba Mufti Appreciates PM Imran's Speech at UNGA

ISLAMABAD - Former India occupied Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has admired Prime Minister Imran Khan for his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. In a tweet, she said, "who would have thought that on a fine day, a Pakistani would warn the world about dangers of a fascist organisation like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)." "Let us stand with

Kashmir as the inhuman siege imposed to cage and repress Kashmiris must end."

"If 9 people sit down at a table with 1 Nazi without protest, there are 10 Nazis at the table," she also tweeted.

A former member of UK Parliament, George Galloway also lauded PM Khan, and said in a tweet, "Imran Khan played first-class Captain's innings at UN General Assembly on Kashmir Bleeds." "Well played Sir," he added. (Agencies)

Fuel Energy Complex of Uzbek Karakalpakstan Actively Developing Surgil Deposit

TASHKENT - Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan and the international oilfield services company Eriell Group organized a press tour for foreign and national media to familiarize them with the petrochemical and electricity industries in Uzbekistan, Trend reports citing the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan. The international media outlets were represented by Chatham House, Argus Media, Nuclear Intelligence, Energy Intelligence, Upstream, World Nuclear News, IntelliNews and Trend news Agency, read the message.

The media representatives visited the Surgil gas field and the Ustursky gas-chemical complex of Uz-Kor-Gaz LLC Chemical for the first time. The journalists were able to see the gas field, the process of its production, collection, distribution and processing. They also got acquainted with the gas-chemical complex located in the northwestern part of Uzbekistan, in the southern part of the Ustyurt plateau (Karakalpakstan). The Surgil gas field

was first put into operation in 1998, exploration and drilling of wells were carried out by enterprises of Uzbekneftegaz JSC. In 2006, a memorandum on the comprehensive development of the Surgil field was signed between JSC Uzbekneftegaz and the Korea Gas Corporation.

In 2013, the active phase of the construction of the Uzbek-Korean joint venture Uz-Kor Gas Chemical began, the complex was built in three years, three months ahead of schedule.

During the drilling period from 2013 to 2015, 35 wells were mastered. In the period from 2016 to the present, another 50 wells have been mastered, read the message.

The length of one well is 2950 meters. Work to this day is carried out day and night without stopping. Since September 2015, all products coming from gas wells have been supplied to the Ustyurt Gas Chemical Complex, which was built by Uzbekneftegaz JSC and Uz-Kor Gas Chemical JV LLC. (Trend)

Turkmenistan Appoints New Consul General to UAE

ASHGABAT - Yhlasgeldi Amanov been appointed the Consul General of Turkmenistan in the United Arab Emirates (Dubai), Trend reports referring to the relevant decree signed by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and the UAE were established in 1995. The UAE companies are prominently represented in Turkmenistan's energy market. Dragon

Oil has been operating in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea since 1999 as part of the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA). This company is one of the biggest foreign investors in Turkmenistan. Petrofac company took part in the implementation of a big service project for the development of the Galkynysh gas field in the Mary province of Turkmenistan, the second biggest field in the world. (Trend)

Iran, Armenia Discuss Parliamentary Ties in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and Armenian Ambassador to Iran Thomas Artashes Toomanian held a meeting today in Tehran to discuss bilateral ties, especially parliamentary relations, between the two countries. Larijani, in the meeting, underlined the importance of ties between the two neighbors. Iran and Armenia enjoy good and developing ties he said, hoping that bilateral cooperation in fields such as agriculture and medicine would be expanded.

He said that the Iranian Parliament is ready to enhance ties with the Parliament of Armenia. Larijani also appreciated the Armenian government's supportive stance towards Iran in the international community and said that this support comes from friendly relations between the two states. For his part, the Armenian envoy said that his country seeks to expand parliamentary ties with Iran. He also said that President of Armenia's National Assembly will soon visit Iran. (MNA)

Poland's Ruling PiS Vows to Boost Public Healthcare Ahead of Vote

WARSAW - Poland's ruling nationalists promised on Saturday to raise funding of the health service, another hefty spending pledge in an election campaign where they have sought to position themselves as champions of the welfare state. Along with its defense of what it sees as traditional Polish values, the governing Law and Justice (PiS) party has made increased social spending a key plank of its bid to win reelection on Oct. 13.

"There must be a health service that is universally available and at the same time, which I want to stress forcefully, public," PiS leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski told a party convention. "The private sector will play a supplementary role ... above all we must ensure every citizen of our country, every compatriot, has medical services and support for free." PiS plans to raise public healthcare expenditure to 160 billion zlotys (\$40 billion) ... (More on P4)...(11)

Western Dominance Is on the Wane, 'We're Liberals So Everything's Allowed' Just Isn't Working Anymore

NEW YORK - The West ignores reality by trying to prevent the formation of a multi-polar world by imposing its narrow "liberal" rules on others, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has told the UN General Assembly. Lavrov's speech on Friday at the UN headquarters in New York focused on global challenges but, unlike some of the speakers, he didn't mince words, proceeding into a full-on rebuke of the Western ideal of world order.

It's hard for the West to accept that its centuries-long domination is diminishing. New centers of economic growth and political influence are emerging internationally, he said, but the US and its allies are trying to impede the rise of the multi-polar world.

In order to achieve this, they "impose the standards of conduct based on narrow Western interpretation of liberalism on others. In short, 'We're liberals hence anything is permitted to



us" was how he characterized this attitude. The West has been increasingly forgetting about international law and more often dwell on rules-based order. As opposed to this counterproductive approach, ... (More on P4)...(7)

House Democrats Subpoena Pompeo for Ukraine Documents



WASHINGTON - Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives who are pursuing an impeachment inquiry against President Don-

ald Trump forged ahead with their probe on Friday, issuing a subpoena to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for documents concerning con-

tact with the Ukrainian government. Following a whistleblower complaint that Trump, a Republican, solicited a political favor from Ukraine's president that could help him get re-elected, the lawmakers are investigating concerns that Trump's actions have jeopardized national security and the integrity of U.S. elections. The House Foreign Affairs, Intelligence and Oversight Committees also scheduled depositions for five

State Department officials over the next two weeks, including Kurt Volker, Trump's envoy to Ukraine. Volker resigned his post on Friday, according to sources familiar with the matter. The reason for Volker's resignation was not immediately known. The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the subpoena or Volker's resignation. The committees ... (More on P4)...(8)

Moment of Truth Coming for Brexit with Time Running Out, EU and Britain Say

BRUSSELS/LONDON - Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney warned on Friday that time was running out for Britain and the European Union to hammer out a divorce deal with the British Brexit minister also saying the moment of truth was approaching. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has vowed Britain will leave the EU on Oct. 31 whether or not a deal has been agreed with the bloc, and while both sides say they are keen to reach an agreement,

there is little sign of the deadlock being broken. Johnson's opponents say leaving the EU without a deal to keep most of its trading arrangements in place would plunge Britain into economic chaos. The government says it has made preparations to avoid serious disruption. The EU agreed a withdrawal package with former Prime Minister Theresa May but this was rejected three times by the British ... (More on P4)...(12)

'System Is Not Broken' after 737 MAX Crashes: Review Panel Chair

NEW YORK - The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration process for certifying new airplanes is not broken but needs to be improved, the chair of an international panel of air-safety regulators, tasked to review Boeing Co's (BA.N) 737 Max, said on Friday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event at a New York City college, Christopher Hart, chair of the multi-agency panel, said there was no need to question the agency's overall way of certifying airplanes. ... (More on P4)...(13)

Indian Defense Minister Launches Navy Stealth Frigate

NEW DELHI - Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday launched INS Nilgiri, the first of the navy's seven new stealth frigates in India's western state of Maharashtra, according to an official statement. Speaking at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai, Singh said that 70 percent of India's trade by value and 95 percent by volume is taking place through the sea route and even a slight disruption of seaborne trade due to piracy, terrorism or conflict, could have serious repercussions on the economic growth and well-being of the nation.

According to the statement by the Ministry of Defence, Singh noted that construction of one frigate provides direct employment to 4,800 personnel and indirect employment to around 27,000 personnel for a period of eight years. Almost 87 percent of the total warship cost is invested in the Indian economy which significantly contributes to nation-building. (Xinhua)

Venezuela Has Become 'The Best Evil Experiment' against Multilateralism by US

CARACAS - The US has slapped over 350 unilateral sanctions on Venezuela, including weaponizing the dollar and turning the country into a testing ground for its ongoing assault on the word order, Venezuela's VP Delcy Rodriguez told the UN.

Taking the floor at the UN General Assembly on Friday, Rodriguez tore into Washington's policy of regime change against the government in Caracas, which she said is now being conducted by the means of "economic terrorism." Rather than resorting to blunt military force, the US "uses the dominance of the dollar as the inter-



national reserve currency" to gut the Venezuelan economy "in order to bring our people to their knees," she said. "The Treasury Department is the economic Pentagon mentoring international relations and punishing millions of innocent people to enforce doctrines of regime change and to steal the resources of

nations." A total of more than 350 "unilateral coercive measures" that include "illicit appropriation" of Venezuela's assets outside the country have been adopted against Venezuela from 2015 to the present day, Rodriguez noted. After recognizing opposition leader Juan ... (More on P4)...(9)

Hurricane Dorian Death Toll Rises to 56; 600 Missing

BAHAMAS - The death toll in the Bahamas from Hurricane Dorian has risen to 56 with some 600 people still missing, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said.

The leader provided an update on the recovery of victims from the storm Friday during his speech before the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Original figures indicated up to 2,000

people were missing -- covered in rubble from the storm or swept to sea -- and 50 people dead after Hurricane Dorian.

"We know that there are considerably more lives lost because there are still 600 missing," Minnis said. "Because the rising then receding ocean water swept away young and old with their homes." The ... (More on P4)...(10)