Jordan PM to Visit Russia, Britain Amid North Korean Tension

**RUSSIA** - Russia’s Federation Council (upper chamber of parliament) on Thursday passed a bill on amending the Russian constitution to allow presidential term limits to be abolished. President Vladimir Putin, who is due to leave office next year, supports this proposal to enable him to run for a fourth term in 2024.

**BREXIT** - Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson wants to quit the European Union without a trade deal if there’s no breakthrough in talks this week. He will this week travel to Brussels to meet with EU leaders, having already held phone calls with both the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the EU’s chief negotiator Michel Barnier, in a bid to resolve the key sticking points in the talks.

Germany Backs Belt and Road Initiative, Wishes China’s Forum Success: Merkel

**BEIJING** - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday that Germany supports the Belt and Road Initiative and will work with China to achieve positive results.

**EUROPE** - The European Commission has published a list of 114 individuals and 35 entities associated with the Wagner Group that it has added to its sanctions regime. The armed group, which has been accused of atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine, is known for its role in supporting the Russian military in Syria.

Russians Detain Israeli Man Over Iran Protest

**SOUTH KOREA** - Russia’s FSB has arrested an Israeli national after he allegedly attempted to enter the Russian embassy in Seoul to protest against the country’s military action in Syria. The detainee, a 31-year-old man, is said to have been using his Chinese passport, which he presented to embassy security staff.

S. Korean Presidential Frongmen Widens Gap with Runner-Up in Opinion Polls

**SEUL** - The South Korean presidential election race widened Monday with a gap of 30 percentage points between the leading candidates, with two weeks to go before the second round of presidential elections.

Philippines Deploys 40,000 Soldiers, Police for ASEAN Summit

**MANILA** - The Philippines has deployed an estimated 40,000 soldiers and police officers into the city of suburban Pasay to reinforce security for the upcoming ASEAN summit. The event is being held in the Philippines for the first time in 26 years.

Australia PM to Visit U.S. President in New York

**CANNIBER** - Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison will visit the United States this month to meet with President Donald Trump. The trip is expected to focus on bilateral trade relations and other topics.

Xi Stresses Financial Security

**BEIJING** - Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for “strengthening national financial security and economic management” in his address to a conference on financial work. Xi said the government should focus on maintaining financial stability and preventing financial risks.

Pakistan Seeking to Reset Relationship with US: Dar

**ISLAMBAD** - Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan said Thursday in an interview with the Wall Street Journal that his country is seeking to “reset” its relationship with the United States. Khan said the US is trying to stage a “false caliphate” and that Pakistan is trying to maintain its sovereignty.

Iran, Iraq Called Russia for Under Front Against Terror

**TEHRAN** - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani called Wednesday for a joint front against terrorism with Russia and Iraq, saying that the three countries should cooperate to fight extremist groups and maintain regional stability.

Uzbek President Sidekman of Ruling Triumvirate: Sources

**ALMATY** - A top official in Kazakhstan has been arrested on corruption charges, raising fears of a power struggle ahead of the presidential election in March. The official, a close aide to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, was detained on Monday, making him the second high-ranking official to be arrested in recent weeks.

U.S. Deeply Concerned about Turkey’s Airstrikes in Syria, Iraq

**WASHINGTON** - The United States said Tuesday that it is “deeply concerned” that Turkey has launched airstrikes in Syria and Iraq, against groups supported by the US-led coalition. The White House said the US has a national security interest in maintaining a stable and secure situation in the region.

Kuwaiti fighters who were close to the PKK, supposedly armed and motivated. Meanwhile, the Turkish military said it has carried out airstrikes against several suspected positions in the Islamic State (IS) cells in the Syria border area.

The result was based on a survey of 1,200 voters conducted by consulting company Hankook Research from Monday to Tuesday. Another survey of 404 percent in approve, higher than the previous 35 percent as presented by the Associated Press.

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