Israel Threatens ‘Crushing’ Response to Any Hezbollah Strike

For 3rd Day, Russia Delivers 500-Ton System Parts to Turkey

STANBUL — For the third straight day, Russia delivered system parts to Turkey, a key player in the region, in preparation for the possible deployment of parts for the S-400 air defense system to Turkey. Turkish military officials said on Saturday the landing of a 46th and sixth Russian cargo planes at Murted Air Base, near the capital, Ankara. It said two more planes were expected within hours.

The delivery for the Ramstein-made system, which is driving a rift between Turkey and the United States, began Friday. The United States has repeatedly warned Turkey not to move forward with its S-400 purchase.

The system parts that are expected to be delivered include the radar system and parts of the S-400’s missile system.

EU Supports Iraq-Proposed Conference on US-Iran Tensions

Baghdad — The European Union on Friday launched an Iraqi proposal to hold a regional conference amid rising tensions between the United States and Iran, Iraq’s foreign minister said Saturday.

Iraq is an ally of both nations, which are on a collision course as the Iran nuclear deal threatens to unravel. Iraq has offered to mediate between Tehran and Washington, while Iran has praised the Iraqi government for its efforts to defuse the situation.

The EU is planning to support the Iraqi proposal “in all possible ways,” said the EU’s foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, in a statement.

Heavy Rain Leaves Scores Dead in Nepal, Pakistan

KATHMANDU, NEPAL — Flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall have killed at least 90 people in Nepal in the past few days, with more deaths expected as the monsoon rains begin to spread across the border in Bangladesh, officials said Saturday.

More than 30 other people were missing in Nepal, swept away by swollen rivers or buried by mudslides. More than 150 nations have offered to send aid to the region, which connects Pakistan and India.

Other roads were being cleared by thousands of soldiers and police. Continuing heavy rain has triggered mudslides, flooding and flash floods, killing at least 16 people in the neighboring country.

The country has faced disasters annually, due to its mountainous terrain, and monsoon rains began in June, leading to more flooding and landslides.

Pakistan Imported Medicines Worth Rs 136 Cr from India in 2019

Pakistani health authorities on Saturday released a report which revealed that the country imported medicines worth Rs 136 crores from India in 2019.

According to the report, there were 1,10,824 consignments of medicines which were imported from India during the year.

Uzbekistan to Sell Energy Stake

TASHKENT — Energy-focused Uzbekistan plans to sell off a stake in its national oil company as part of a wider investment program, the energy ministry said Saturday.

The government said it will sell its 25 percent stake in Uzbekneftegaz, a major Energy-focused company.

The restructuring will bring in much-needed capital to ensure the long-term viability of the company.

The country is self-sufficient in natural gas production and has a small production of oil.

Pakistan to Pay Foreign Firm $8.1b over Mine Closure: World Bank

Pakistani miners will have to pay almost $3.1 million in damages to a foreign mining company for causing “irreparable” damage to the environment under the World Bank.

The mining company Tethyan Copper company – which has brought legal action against Pakistan – will get $162 million in damages for the mining project.

Pakistan U.S. President Trump to Host Australian PM for Official Dinner

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump welcomed Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to the White House on Thursday, where the two leaders signed a new military agreement to boost defense cooperation between the United States and Australia.

The agreement came as part of the so-called “2+2” talks, which see the two leaders meet with their foreign and defense ministers to discuss defense and security issues.

The agreement is seen as a significant step forward in the relationship between the two countries, which have been allies for decades.

The agreement was signed during a ceremony at the White House, where the two leaders showcased a new defense cooperation agreement.

Despite previous tensions, the two leaders agreed to work closely together on defense and security issues.

The agreement comes after the United States and Australia signed a new five-year military agreement in 2017.

The new agreement is expected to strengthen defense cooperation between the two countries, which have been allies for decades.

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