

## Pentagon Threatens Turkey with 'Grave Consequences' for Buying Russian S-400

WASHINGTON - The US has threatened Turkey with "grave consequences" unless it cancels the purchase of S-400 systems from Russia, with a Pentagon spokesman advising Ankara to seek "better solutions" and warning of "broader implications."

"Turkey's acquisition of the Russian S-400 air defense system will have grave consequences for the US defense relationship with Turkey," Pentagon spokesperson Eric Pahon told Ahval news on Monday.

The US ally's plan to buy the S-400 has been a major concern for the entire NATO alliance, with Washington claiming that its deployment alongside US-made weaponry, such as the F-35 stealth jets, undermines



the alliance's 'interoperability' and could reveal 'secrets' to Russians. Amid persistent pressure and threats of sanctions, the Trump administration last month temporarily halted the transfer of 100 F-35 jets to Turkey. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### EU's Tusk Warns of Hostile, Foreign-Funded Parties Ahead of EU Vote

BRUSSELS - European Council President Donald Tusk called on voters across the continent to reject anti-European parties he said had been set up by hostile foreign forces and could try to use upcoming EU parliamentary elections to seize influence in Brussels.

Tusk, a center-right former Polish prime minister who chairs summits of EU leaders, gave one of the starkest warnings yet from the bloc about the prospect that openly anti-EU parties could gain ground in May's Eu-

ropean Parliament election.

"There are external anti-European forces which are seeking - openly or secretly - to influence the democratic choices of the Europeans," Tusk told a news conference, naming the "Leave" result in Britain's 2016 Brexit referendum as one such example.

"And it may again be the case with the European Parliament election in May," he said. "Do not allow political parties that are founded by external ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### 'Never Has Europe Been in Such Danger': Macron Calls for New 'Renaissance' as Brexit Looms

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron has penned a letter urging European civilization to 'reinvent' itself in the midst of unprecedented threats and crisis. His ideas include creating an agency to combat 'manipulation' in elections.

"Never since the Second World War has Europe been so essential. Yet never has Europe been in such danger," Macron wrote in a letter published in more than two dozen European papers on Monday.



His grim assessment came weeks before the UK hits the official Brexit deadline, set for March 29, and two months before

the next European Parliament elections, scheduled for May. The French leader said that Brexit was the symbol of the crisis "of a Europe that has failed to respond to its peoples' need for protection ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

### Germany Wants to Expand INF Treaty to China, after US Already Buried It



BERLIN - Germany says Russia should get China to join the INF treaty, citing a danger to Russia from Chinese mis-

siles in a last-gasp effort to save the agreement which has already been ditched by the US arms buildup drive.

"Russia must have an interest in involving China in some sort of a disarmament treaty," German Defense Minis-

ter Ursula von der Leyen told Focus Magazine on Sunday. Apparently referring to the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the minister explained that the Chinese mid-range missiles could technically reach the Russian territory, and said that "just as the Russian missiles are a threat to Europe, so are the Chinese ones for Russia."

Russian lawmakers were receptive to the notion - in principle. Aleksandr Sherin, deputy ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### Belarus Leader Says He Wants Closer Ties to NATO

MINSK, Belarus - The president of Belarus, who was once dubbed Europe's last dictator, said on Tuesday that his country is eager for better ties with NATO in the light of talks about the price Russia charges to sell his country oil. Alexander Lukashenko, who spent a week with President Vladimir Putin in Russia earlier this year, said at a government session on Tuesday that his country should seek "relations with NATO based on mutual respect that would help strengthen our country's

security." Lukashenko's comments came amid ongoing talks with Russia over about \$400 million that Belarus risks losing ever year after Russia announced a hike in oil prices for Belarus. Russia has for years been selling oil to Belarus at subsidized prices, which allowed Belarus to make hefty profits from its oil refineries, some of Europe's largest, which then export oil products. Lukashenko has also complained that his country's attempts at ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

### Outcry over Saudi Funding Plan for Milan's La Scala

MILAN - A proposal to use 15 million euros in Saudi Arabian government funds for Milan's La Scala opera house came under fire on Tuesday because of anger over the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The October killing of the Washington Post contributor in Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul sparked international outrage. Riyadh denies any involvement and says the killing was carried out by rogue agents. In an interview on Tuesday in La Repubblica newspaper, La Scala director Alexander Pereira confirmed the historic theatre has negotiated a financing deal with the Saudi culture ministry. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

### Pompeo Sees More North Korea Talks, Seoul Faces Limits in Mediator Role

WASHINGTON/SEOUL - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday he was hopeful the United States would send a delegation to North Korea in the coming weeks, after a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ended with no deal.

The leaders' second summit, held last week in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi, failed to produce any agreement or immediate plan for follow-up negotiations. "I am hopeful, although I have no commitment yet, that we will be back at it, that I'll have a team in Pyongyang in the next couple weeks," Pompeo told the Iowa Farm Bureau.

"I'm continuing to work to find those places where there's a shared interest," he said. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

### Justin Trudeau's Government Hit with Another Cabinet Minister Resignation as Corruption Row Intensifies

OTTAWA - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet has been hit by another resignation of a cabinet member as his team is embroiled in allegations of pressuring the country's top law official not to pursue a criminal investigation against a powerful engineering company accused of bribery.

Treasury Board president Jane Philpott said Monday that it is "untenable" for her to remain in the cabinet amid the scandal and said she can no longer defend the government, becoming the second minister



to resign in the wake of the controversy. "It grieves me to leave a portfolio where I was at work to deliver on an important mandate. But I must abide by my core values, my ethical responsibilities and constitutional obligations. There can be a cost to acting on one's

principles, but there is a bigger cost to abandoning them," she said in a statement. The resignation came after former Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould, who resigned last month, testified last week that Trudeau and senior ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### Food of the Future? Sweden to Test 3D Printed Meals on the Elderly

STOCKHOLM - Pureed pastry may not sound appetizing, but Sweden is preparing to road test such a 'dish' as part of a new 3D-printed food project which aims to make higher-quality mashed meals and improve elderly people's nutrition.

The number of adults who have trouble chewing or swallowing increases with age, resulting in a serious risk of malnourishment among the elderly, according to Evelina Höglund at the re-

search institute 'Rise', which is behind the project.

"It's a really big problem that people who get consistency-adapted food eat too little," Höglund told Aftonbladet. The new technique to create better pureed food will be trialed in autumn at two care homes in southern Sweden, as well as at a company that provides food for hospitals.

"The idea is to create, for example, a piece of broccoli, ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Burundi Forces United Nations to Shut Human Rights Office: U.N.

GENEVA - Burundi has forced the United Nations to shut its local human rights office after 23 years, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said on Tuesday.

Bachelet said the central African state's government had declared it had made sufficient progress in human rights, so that the existence of the U.N. office was no longer justified.

"It is with deep regret that we have had to close our office in Burundi after a 23-year presence in the country," she said in a statement.

Many advancements in human rights in Burundi had been jeopardized since 2015, when President Pierre Nkurunziza announced he would seek a third term, Bachelet added.

Violence surged after the announcement, which many saw as a breach of the constitution. He won re-election but the decision to stand sparked protests and a security crackdown that left hundreds dead and prompted around half million to flee abroad. In October 2016, Burundi suspended all cooperation with the U.N. office in Burundi, following publication of a report by a U.N. independent investigation that said the government and its supporters were responsible for crimes against humanity.

Burundi said the report was "lies" and when the U.N. Human Rights Council considered renewing the investigation in 2017, Burundi offered to accept U.N. human rights experts instead. ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Neighbor News

### Film 'Alita' Leads Chinese Box Office

BEIJING - "Alita: Battle Angel" dominated the Chinese mainland box office in the week ending March 3, according to China Film News.

The American sci-fi blockbuster, directed by Robert Rodriguez, has grossed more than 730 million yuan (about 109 million U.S. dollars) since hitting Chinese screens on Feb. 22.

The second place went to "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World," an animated fantasy which earned over 199 million in just three days.

The third place was

taken by China's sci-fi blockbuster "The Wandering Earth," reaching an astounding total box office of 4.51 billion yuan since premiering on Feb. 5.

The Oscar-winning "Green Book" took the fourth place with a total income of 103 million since Friday.

Rounding out of the weekly top five was Han Han's comedy film "Pegasus." The film raked in another 43.5 million yuan last week, bringing its total box office sales to nearly 1.7 billion yuan. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan's Navy Says It Spotted, Warned Indian Submarine

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's navy says it spotted and warned an Indian submarine approaching its territorial waters in the Arabian Sea not to attempt an incursion.

The navy said in a statement Tuesday that the Indian submarine wasn't targeted, "keeping in view Pakistan's policy of peace" under which Islamabad wants to de-escalate tensions with New Delhi.

A navy official says the warning was "communicated" to the subma-

rine during Monday's encounter. The submarine then moved away. He didn't elaborate and spoke on condition of anonymity to talk to reporters.

Tension escalated after India last week launched an airstrike inside Pakistan, claiming it targeted militants behind a Feb. 14 bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 40 Indian troops. Pakistan retaliated by downing two Indian fighter jets and capturing a pilot who was later handed back. (AP)

### Iranian FM Zarif Resigned as He Was Not Informed about Assad Visit to Tehran - Report

TEHRAN - The reason for the resignation of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was that he was not informed about Syrian President Bashar Assad's trip to Tehran last week, the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) reports.

The Iranian news agency cited Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi as the source in its report, which seemingly confirms a narrative about Zarif's resignation last week that was offered by sources to some regional media outlets right after it happened. The Iranian

foreign minister announced his resignation on his Instagram page last week, but it was rejected by President Hassan Rouhani the following day. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not have information at any level [about the trip] and this lack of information was maintained until the end of the trip," Qassemi said, according to ISNA. The spokesman added that the unorthodox and very public resignation was meant to "return the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic system of the country to its main place." (RT)

### EU Office to Open in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen Foreign Ministry hosted a meeting with Christian Berger, the head of the EU delegation to Turkmenistan (with residence in Ankara), Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

The parties discussed issues related to the opening of the EU office in Turkmenistan in the near future, the report said. At the meeting, the sides highlighted the

positive development of cooperation in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian fields.

EU technical assistance projects are being implemented in Turkmenistan, in particular, the effectiveness of Erasmus Mundus (programme funded by the European Commission, aims are to encourage mobility (long-term and short-term) of students and staff), a student exchange program, was mentioned. (Trend)

### A New Administrative Center to Appear in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed a decree on the creation of a new modern administrative center for the country's Ahal Region, Trend reports referring to the published decree.

The construction of what essentially is an entire city is a significant event in the life of this region, as the president was quoted in the report of the local Altyn Asyr TV channel.

The concept of this large-scale project implies, along with construction, the formation

of more favorable economic, social and other prerequisites for the further development of the new administrative center.

As per the presidential decree, the city is to be built in the territory of Ahal Region's Gokdepe District in 2 stages, up to (and including) the year 2022, in accordance with the master plan developed by the Ministry of Construction and Architecture of the country.

Originally, the capital city of Ashgabat was the administrative center of the Ahal Region. (Trend)