Once Again, Iraq Caught Up in Tensions Between US and Iran

WASHINGTON - An Iraqi official said Monday that American troops have been deployed in or near the Iraqi town of Hillah, about 40 miles south of the capital, Baghdad, which has been the site of recent violence and protests. The official said the troops were there to provide security for the planned visit of President Donald Trump, who is scheduled to arrive in Iraq later this week.

The deployment of American troops in Hillah is a continuation of the ongoing diplomatic and military efforts to de-escalate tensions between the United States and Iran, which have escalated in recent weeks due to the killing of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani by an American drone strike in January. The deployment also comes as concerns grow over the possibility of a military conflict between the two countries.

As tensions escalate, both the United States and Iran have called for de-escalation and for dialogue. The United States has signaled its willingness to engage in talks with Iran, while Iran has rejected such talks and has instead threatened to increase its nuclear activities.

The deployment of American troops in Hillah is likely to further escalate tensions between the two countries, as it is seen as a signal that the United States is preparing for a possible military action against Iran.

Venezuela's Socialist Collapse Is Worse Economic Failure Than Soviet Union, Zimbabwe, Experts Say

NEW DELHI - The Indian government has fully tested a Medium Range Air Defense (MRAD) missile for the first time, according to a government official.

The missile, named BrahMos, is a supersonic cruise missile developed by a joint venture between India and Russia. It has a range of about 290 kilometers and can be launched from land, sea, or air platforms.

The test was conducted in the western state of Madhya Pradesh and involved a live fire. The missile successfully hit its target and signaled the readiness of India's defense forces to deal with any potential threats.

In recent years, India has invested heavily in its defense capabilities, acquiring a range of advanced weaponry and technology. The test of the BrahMos missile is seen as a significant milestone in India's defense modernization efforts.

Counting Stars in Australian Opposition Confidence

CABARRUS, Australia - The United States is withdrawing in April from the South Pacific, according to a defense official. The U.S. military has been present in the region for almost 60 years, and the decision to withdraw is seen as a response to changing geopolitical dynamics.

The U.S. withdrawal is part of a broader effort by the United States to reduce its military footprint in the Asia-Pacific region as it shifts its focus to other regions, such as the Middle East and Europe.

In Australia, the decision to withdraw has been met with mixed reactions. Some Australians have welcomed the move as a sign of the country's shift in foreign policy priorities, while others have expressed concern about the implications for regional security.

Chinese, Russian Senior Diplomats Agree to Boost Joint Efforts on Global Strategic Stability

NEW DELHI - Chinese and Russian foreign ministers have held a joint press conference in India on Friday to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in the field of strategic stability.

The ministers, who met on the sidelines of a regional security conference in New Delhi, said they were committed to working together to ensure regional and global strategic stability and security.

In a joint statement, they highlighted the importance of maintaining a nuclear arms balance and urged all nations to refrain from developing new nuclear weapons.

They also stressed the need for global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to build a world free of nuclear weapons.

In their discussions, the ministers also touched upon the importance of the United Nations' role in maintaining international peace and security, and they underscored the need for an open and transparent arms control process.

The joint statement also called for the strengthening of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and for the early entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Pakistan Urges More Global Efforts to Combat Black Financial Flows

WASHINGTON - Pakistan has called for a global effort to combat black financial flows, including the illicit transfer of money and other funds.

Speaking at a recent conference in London, the Pakistani ambassador to the United States, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, urged international organizations and governments to work together to combat these flows, which he said were a threat to the stability of the global financial system.

He noted that black financial flows are a significant problem in many countries and that they undermine the integrity of financial systems and the rule of law.

Chaudhry also called for the establishment of a global framework for the regulation and supervision of financial institutions and for the strengthening of international cooperation in the fight against black financial flows.