Japan, South Korea Agree to Boost Economic Relations

Tokyo - Finance Ministries of Japan and South Korea agreed here Saturday that their governments will work toward a free trade accord, a milestone in their efforts to reach a comprehensive economic partnership agreement.

Syria's Assad Pays Tribute to Soldiers

DAMASCUS - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has paid tribute to his army and a group of soldiers who escaped an almost month-long siege in Damascus. Speaking in a televised address from the presidential palace, al-Assad praised the soldiers for their bravery and sacrifice.

SOUTHERN SHENIL - Jordan - Israeli en- trenched in the border village of "serious threat" to divide the country. It could also have a great impact on the future of the country, the country's leading media outlets said Saturday. The Israeli authorities have ordered the Jewish settlements in the area to evacuate and are considering the possibility of transferring the area to the Palestinian Authority. However, the Palestinian Authority has rejected the Israeli move and announced that it will continue to use the area for security and other purposes.

Israeil Troves to Become ‘Serious Libya': UN Envoy

SOFIA - A senior Israeli envoy has told the U.N. Security Council that Israel’s military intelligence has obtained intelligence that suggests Libya is about to become a major export market for weapons.

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Central Asia Feels Impact of Adverse Shocks: Report

Bishkek - Economic growth in the Central Asia and Central Asia (CIS) is expected to decline by 2.5 percentage points this year as commodity prices and the economic slowdown in China, Russia, and the CIS, the latest report from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows. The report warns that the region faces a growing risk of economic recession.

Bomb Attack Kills 3 Pakistani Soldiers

ISLAMABAD - Three Pakistani soldiers were killed and three injured when a roadside bomb exploded in North West Frontier Province on Monday, a police official said.

Freedom of Media Conference held in Tashkent

TASHKENT - The 2nd Central Asian international conference held in Tashkent on "Strengthening the media’s role in the process of expression and information dissemination among and between the Central Asian governments and publics" was held.

US Rejects Nuclear Disarmament Document over Israel Concerns

UNITED NATIONS - The United States on Friday rejected a document on global disarmament aimed at ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction, saying Egypt and other countries "unilaterally" manipulated the process by creating a "double standard" for US and Israeli neighbors to meet at a "Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons". The move was described as a landmark treaty review conference aimed at disarming the world's nuclear-armed states. As the United States and Russia held more than 150 nuclear weapons in each country, the conference discussed ways to reduce these weapons.

ISRAELI TROVES TO BECOME ‘SERIOUS THREAT' IN LIBYA: UN ENVOY

BAGHDAD - Israeli envoy to the country, a senior official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said that Israel is preparing to become a major arms exporter to Libya. The official said that Israel has obtained intelligence that suggests Libya is about to become a major export market for weapons.

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