

# Turkey defies U.S. as S-400 arrives

Ankara could face American sanctions & be expelled from the F-35 programme; NATO raises concern

REUTERS  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ISTANBUL/BRUSSELS

Russia began delivery of an advanced missile defence system to Turkey on Friday, a move expected to trigger U.S. sanctions against a NATO ally and drive a wedge into the heart of the Western military alliance.

The first parts of the S-400 air defence system were flown to a military air base near the capital Ankara, the Turkish Defence Ministry said, sealing Turkey's deal with Russia which Washington had struggled for months to prevent.

The U.S. says the Russian military hardware is not compatible with NATO systems and that the acquisition may lead to Ankara's expulsion from an F-35 fighter jet programme.

"The delivery of parts belonging to the system will continue in the coming days," Turkey's Defence Industry Directorate said. "Once the system is completely ready, it will begin to be used in a way determined by the relevant authorities."

At least two Russian Air Force AN-124 cargo planes flew to Turkey on Friday morning, data from plane



**New hardware:** Parts of an S-400 missile defence system being unloaded from a Russian plane at Murted airport near Ankara, Turkey, on Friday. • REUTERS

tracking website Flightradar24 showed. Turkish broadcasters showed footage of one plane parked at airbase and a second one landing at around 12.30 pm.

## Deliveries to continue

Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation confirmed on Friday it had started delivering the S-400 systems and that the deliveries would continue in accordance with an agreed schedule, the RIA news agen-

cy reported. An unnamed military-diplomatic source was cited by Russia's TASS news agency as saying a second delivery would be carried out by plane soon. A third delivery of 120 guided missiles will be carried out by ship at the end of the summer, the source was quoted as saying.

Twenty Turkish servicemen received training from Russia in May-June and 80 more Turkish servicemen will receive training to use

the S-400 system, the source was quoted as saying.

Turkey says the system is a strategic defence requirement, particularly to secure its southern borders with Syria and Iraq. It says that when it made the deal with Russia for the S-400s, the U.S. and Europe had not presented a viable alternative.

President Tayyip Erdogan said after meeting President Donald Trump at a G-20 summit last month that the U.S. did not plan to impose

sanctions on Ankara for buying the S-400s.

Mr. Trump said Turkey had not been treated fairly but did not rule out sanctions. U.S. officials said last week the administration still plans to impose sanctions on Turkey.

## Possible measures

Under legislation known as Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which targets purchases of military equipment from Russia, Mr. Trump should select five of 12 possible measures.

These range from banning visas and denying access to the U.S.-based Export-Import Bank, to the harsher options of blocking transactions with the U.S. financial system and denying export licences.

NATO said on Friday that it was "concerned" by Turkey's acquisition of the S-400 system. The alliance has repeatedly warned Turkey that the Russian system is incompatible with other NATO weapons systems.

"We are concerned about the potential consequences of Turkey's decision to acquire the S-400 system," a NATO official said.

# Russia's top missile system has many buyers

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
MOSCOW

The Russian Army began using the S-400 missile defence systems, designed to intercept and shoot down any threat from the sky, in 2007.

According to its producer, the state-owned Almaz-Antey company, it has a range of 400 km and can be deployed within just five minutes.

It consists of several vehicles: a command centre, various mobile radar stations

and up to 12 launch vehicles that each carry four missiles.

Dozens of S-400s have already been deployed throughout Russia, from the country's most western point in the Kaliningrad exclave to its far eastern corners.

Four S-400s are also stationed in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula annexed by Russia from Ukraine in 2014.

Two have been deployed to Syria, where Moscow intervened militarily on the

side of the Damascus regime, to protect Russia's airbase in Hmeimim and the Tartus naval facility.

## Who has bought it?

China was the first country to buy the weapon from Russia, ordering several S-400s for an estimated \$3 billion. Deliveries began in April 2018 and the first tests took place at the end of June 2019. Few other details of the missile deal were made public.

India bought five S-400

systems for \$5.2 billion. Their delivery is due to begin at the end of next year.

Around a dozen other countries – including Iraq, Qatar and Saudi Arabia – have shown interest in the S-400, in some cases as a means of putting pressure on the United States to lower prices on its weapons systems.

The S-400 is one of the most modern air defence systems in the world, and comes at a lower price than

its U.S. competitor, the Patriot.

The U.S. and NATO have said the S-400 is incompatible with equipment used by other members of the alliance. Moscow has been able to use the S-400 as a political weapon: by selling the system to Turkey, it sows discord between Ankara and its NATO allies, whose ties are already strained.

Russia plans to launch the S-500, the successor of the S-400, in the 2020s.

# China to impose sanctions on U.S. firms for Taiwan arms sale

\$2.2 billion deal violates international law, says Beijing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

China on Friday said it would impose sanctions on U.S. companies involved in a potential arms sale worth \$2.2 billion to self-ruled Taiwan – a move that has infuriated Beijing.

"The U.S. arms sale to Taiwan has severely violated the basic norms of international law and international relations," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang in an online statement. "In order to safeguard national interests, China will impose sanctions on U.S. enterprises participating in this sale of weapons to Taiwan," he said.

The planned weapons sale, the first transfer of big-ticket United States military gear to democratically-governed Taiwan in decades, comes as ties between Wash-



Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

ington and Beijing are already strained by a trade war.

China views Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

Earlier this week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said

Beijing had lodged formal complaints through diplomatic channels expressing "strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition" at the potential weapons sale, which includes battle tanks

and anti-aircraft missiles. China on Tuesday had also demanded that the U.S. "immediately cancel" the sale.

The U.S. later shrugged off China's complaints, responding that the equipment would contribute to "peace and stability" in Asia.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen is spending two days in the U.S. this week ahead of a trip to the Caribbean. The decision to let Ms. Tsai pass through the U.S. has drawn ire from Beijing, which voiced "firm" opposition to official exchanges between Washington and Taipei.

Mr. Geng told a press briefing on Friday that the U.S. should not provide a platform for "Taiwan independence separatist forces". "We urge the U.S... to not let Tsai Ing-wen pass through its territory," said Mr. Geng.

# Brazil President says he may appoint son as U.S. Ambassador

Cites 35-year-old's friendship with children of Donald Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRASLIA

Jair Bolsonaro is considering appointing his son Eduardo as Ambassador to Washington, the Brazilian leader has revealed, citing the 35-year-old's friendship with the children of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Mr. Eduardo, currently a member of Parliament, accompanied his father to a private meeting with Mr. Trump during a diplomatic visit to Washington in March. "In my opinion, he can be the right person and



Eduardo, son of Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro.

could present the message perfectly in Washington," Brazil's right-wing leader told reporters in Brasilia on Thursday.

But the decision is up to Mr. Eduardo, he added, who

would have to resign from Congress and secure approval by the Senate.

Mr. Eduardo, the third of the President's four sons, said he had yet to receive a formal offer but would accept the role. "If the president entrusts me with this mission, I would be ready to resign my mandate," he said.

"I speak English, I speak Spanish, I was elected with a record number of votes, I am chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee... I believe these credentials give me a certain qualification."

# U.S. will consider '301 probe' on India, says trade official

Investigation is a precursor to trade measures

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. will consider a "301 investigation", a probe employed as a precursor to tariffs and other trade measures against a country, against India if the trade issues between the two countries are not resolved quickly, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jeffrey Gerrish said on Thursday.

Mr. Gerrish also said India finalising data localisation policies could be deal-breaker across the board between the two countries.

His comments were made at a U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) event in Washington during a discussion with Susan Eserman, a former Deputy USTR in the Clinton Administration.



Jeffrey Gerrish

"We believe that we should utilise the full range of trade rules, including Section 301, where warranted. And we're certainly looking at these policies and practices that India has engaged in light of that. We are doing it in a very deliberate, thoughtful way and trying to determine what the best approach is here," Mr. Gerrish said. "And we'll see where that goes. At this point, we're clearly in the very early stages of our engagement with the new Indian government and we want to see, of course, what the willingness is to address the trade issues that we have."

Mr. Gerrish declined to give a timeline for these actions but said issues would need to be resolved quickly.

However, Mr. Gerrish added that if the market access issues related to GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) were resolved quickly, it would be a confidence building step and would help the process.

Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act (1974) was also to authorise a 2017 probe that resulted in tariffs on Chinese exports to the U.S. from July 2018. Earlier this week, the USTR announced a 301 probe against France on a digital services tax.

"We certainly recognise the pivotal role that India plays as a vibrant democracy in the region to a free and open Indo-Pacific region and the important strategic relationship that our two countries have and in everything we do, we approach it with that in mind," Mr. Gerrish said.

# Child suicide bomber kills 5 at wedding

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KABUL

A 13-year-old suicide bomber blew himself up at a wedding early on Friday in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, killing five people and injuring 11 others, police officials said.

Among those killed was Malik Toor, a commander of a pro-government militia who had organised the wedding, police official Fayz Mohammad Babarkhil said. Officials said Toor was the likely target of the attack, which took place in Pachirwa Agham district of Nangarhar province.

No one took responsibility for the bombing, but the Taliban said it was not involved in the explosion, according to a statement posted on its website. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State affiliate have a strong presence in eastern Afghanistan, and the IS group is headquartered in Nangarhar province.

## IN BRIEF



### U.S. Labor Secretary resigns over Epstein affair

WASHINGTON  
U.S. Labor Secretary Alex Acosta resigned on Friday, amid a backlash over a secret plea deal he negotiated a decade ago with Jeffrey Epstein, the financier accused of sexually abusing young girls. Mr. Acosta, 50, a former federal prosecutor, had been facing mounting calls to quit over the deal that saw Epstein serve just 13 months in a county jail. "I called the President this morning and told him that I thought the right thing was to step aside," Mr. Acosta said in a joint appearance with President Donald Trump. AFP

# New Constitution calls Kim head of state instead of 'supreme leader'

Move seen as a step towards U.S. peace treaty

REUTERS  
SEOUL

Kim Jong-un has been formally named head of state of North Korea and the Commander-in-Chief of the military in a new Constitution observers said was possibly aimed at preparing for a peace treaty with the United States.

North Korea has also long called for a peace deal with the United States to normalise relations and end the technical state of war that has existed since the 1950-1953 Korean War concluded with an armistice rather



Kim Jong-un

than a peace treaty.

The new Constitution, unveiled on the Naenara state portal site on Thursday, said that Mr. Kim as chairman of the State Affairs Commission (SAC), a top governing body created in 2016, was "the supreme representative of all the Korean people", which means head of state, and "commander-in-chief".

A previous Constitution simply called Mr. Kim "su-

preme leader" who commands the country's "overall military force".

"Kim had dreamed of becoming the President of North Korea and he effectively made it come true," said Kim Dong-yup, a professor at Kyungnam University's Far East Institute in Seoul.

Hong Min, a researcher at Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul, said the title change was also aimed at preparing for a potential peace treaty with the United States. "The amendment may well be a chance to establish Kim's status as the signer of a peace treaty when it comes, while projecting the image of the country as a normal state," he said.