WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Israeli prime minister: Airstrikes dealt 'severe blows' to Iran, Syria

JERUSALEM — Israel's prime minister said Sunday his country delivered "severe blows" to Iranian and Syrian forces and vowed to take further action against its adversaries following the most serious Israeli engagement in Syria since the war there erupted almost seven years ago.

Benjamin Netanyahu's tough words to his Cabinet came a day after Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes in Syria. Israel ordered the airstrikes after it intercepted an Iranian drone that had infiltrated its airspace, and an Israeli F-16 was downed upon its return from Syria.

Israel has tried to stay on the sidelines since civil war broke out in neighboring Syria in 2011, though it has periodically carried out airstrikes against suspected weapons shipments believed to be headed for Lebanese Hezbollah, the Iranian and Syrian-allied militant group. But as the Syrian war winds down, Israeli officials have voiced increasing alarm that Iran and its Shiite allies are establishing a permanent presence in Syria that could turn its aim toward Israel.

Israeli leaders said the airstrikes sent a clear message to Iran.

Saturday's airstrikes marked the toughest Israeli aerial assault in Syria in decades.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria through a network of activists on the ground, said Sunday that at least six Syrian troops and allied militiamen were killed in the airstrikes. The six included Syrian and non-Syrian allied troops.

"They, and we, know what we hit and it will take them some time for them to digest, understand and ask how Israel knew how to hit those sites," Israel's Intelligence Minister Israel Katz told the Army Radio station. "These were concealed sites and we have intelligence agencies and the ability to know everything that is going on there and yesterday we proved that."

The White House issued a statement in which it said it supports Israel's "right to defend itself from the Iranian-backed Syrian and militia forces in southern Syria."

AP Photo/John Locher

A man works on the southern Nevada portion of U.S. Interstate 11 near Boulder City.

Trump's plan to rebuild US roads relies on local dollars

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump today launched what he calls a "big week" for his infrastructure plan, which envisions $1.5 trillion in spending over a decade to rebuild roads and highways. The plan would fulfill a key campaign goal but rely heavily on state and local government budgets to become a reality.

The president was meeting with eight governors and several state and local officials at the White House later in the day to drum up support.

The administration's 55-page plan is centered on using $200 billion in federal money to leverage local and state tax dollars to fix America's infrastructure, such as roads, highways, ports and airports.

Administration officials previewing the plan said it would feature two key components: an injection of funding for new investments and help speed up repairs of crumbling roads and airports, as well as a streamlined permitting process that would truncate the wait time to get projects underway. Officials said the $200 billion in federal support would come from cuts to existing programs.

Half the money would go to grants for transportation, water, flood control, cleanup at some of the country's most polluted sites and other projects.

States, local governments and other project sponsors could use the grants — which administration officials view as incentives — for no more than 20 percent of the cost. Transit agencies generally count on the federal government for half the cost of major construction projects, and federal dollars can make up as much as 80 percent of some highway projects.

Trump's $4.4 trillion budget moves deficit sharply higher

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump unveiled a $4.4 trillion budget for next year that heralds an era of $1 trillion-plus federal deficits and — unlike the plan he released last year — never comes close to promising a balanced ledger even after 10 years.

The growing deficits reflect, in great part, the impact of last year's tax overhaul, which is projected to cause federal tax revenue to drop. And today's budget submission does not yet reflect last week's two-year bipartisan $300 billion pact that wholly rejects Trump's plans to slash domestic agencies.

Tax revenue would plummet by $3.7 trillion over the 2018-27 decade relative to last year's "baseline" estimates, the budget projects. Trump is requesting a record $686 billion for the Pentagon, a 13 percent increase from the 2017 budget enacted last May.

The spending spree, along with last year's tax cuts, has the deficit moving sharply higher with Republicans in control of Washington. Trump's plan sees a 2019 deficit of $984 billion, though $1.2 trillion is more plausible after last week's budget pact and $90 billion worth of disaster aid is tacked on. That's more than double the 2019 deficit the administration promised last year.

All told, the new budget sees accumulating deficits of $7.2 trillion over the coming decade; Trump's plan last year projected a 10-year shortfall of $3.2 trillion.

The 2019 budget was originally designed to double down on last year's proposals to slash foreign aid, the Environmental Protection Agency, home heating assistance and other nondefense programs funded by Congress each year.

Congress takes on immigration issue amid election pressures

WASHINGTON — The Senate begins a rare, open-ended debate on immigration and the fate of the "Dreamer" immigrants today, and Republican senators say they'll introduce President Donald Trump's plan.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., scheduled an initial procedural vote for this evening to commence debate. It is expected to succeed easily, and then the Senate will sort through proposals, perhaps for weeks.

Democrats and some Republicans say they want to help the "Dreamers," young immigrants who have lived in the U.S. illegally since they were children and have only temporarily been protected from deportation by an Obama-era program. Trump has said he wants to aid them and has even proposed a path to citizenship for 1.8 million, but in exchange wants $25 billion for his proposed U.S.-Mexico border wall plus significant curbs to legal immigration.

McConnell agreed to the open-ended debate, a Senate rarity in recent years, after Democrats agreed to vote to end a three-day government shutdown they'd forced over the issue. They'd initially demanded a deal toward helping Dreamers, not a simple promise of votes.

To prevail, any plan will need 60 votes, meaning substantial support from both parties is mandatory. Republicans control the chamber 51-49 but GOP Sen.

Democrats adamantly oppose Trump's plan, particularly its barring of legal immigrants from sponsoring their parents or siblings to live in the U.S. It has no chance of getting the 60 votes needed to survive. Another proposal likely to surface, backed by some Republicans and many Democrats, would give Dreamers a chance at citizenship but provide no border security money or legal immigration restrictions. It too would be certain to fail.

British tourists killed in Grand Canyon helicopter crash

PHOENIX — Three British tourists who died in a helicopter crash at the Grand Canyon were in the American Southwest to celebrate one of their birthdays, a trip they had been looking forward to for a long time, family and friends said.

They were identified early today as veterinary receptionist Becky Dobson, 27; her boyfriend, Stuart Hill, 30; and his brother, Jason Hill, 32. They were staying in Las Vegas for a long weekend.

From there, they took a helicopter to the west rim of the Grand Canyon, where it crashed under unknown circumstances Saturday evening on the Hualapai reservation outside the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park. The three died and four others, including the pilot, were injured.

The group was traveling aboard a Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters chopper near Quartermaster Canyon. Crews tackled difficult terrain in a remote area to try to recover the victims' bodies.

A witness said he saw flames and black smoke spewing from the crash site, heard explosions and saw victims who were bleeding and badly burned.

Windy conditions, darkness and the rugged terrain made it difficult to reach the helicopter's wreckage. Rescue crews had to fly in, walk to the crash site and use night vision goggles to find their way around.

Workers find both data recorders at Russian plane crash site

MOSCOW — Tramping through snowy fields outside Moscow, emergency workers found both flight data recorders from a crashed Russian airliner today as they searched for debris and the remains of the 71 passengers and crew who died.

The An-148 twin-engine regional jet bound for Orsk in the southern Urals went down minutes after taking off from Moscow's Domodedovo airport Sunday afternoon. All 65 passengers and 6 crew on board were killed.

Russian investigators quickly ruled out a terror attack but will not speculate on possible reasons for the crash.

Still the crash has re-ignited questions about the An-148, since the model's safety record is spotty, with one previous crash and a series of major incidents in which pilots struggled to land safely. Saratov Airlines, which operated the plane, has grounded several other An-148s in its fleet pending the crash probe.

The Investigative Committee, Russia's premier state investigative agency, said the plane was intact and there had been no fire on board before it hit the ground. The plane's fuel tanks exploded on impact, scattering debris across 74 acres in deep snow. Drones were used to direct the search.

Blackout hits northern Puerto Rico following fire, explosion

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — An explosion and fire at an electric substation threw much of northern Puerto Rico into darkness late Sunday in a setback for the U.S. territory's efforts to fully restore power more than five months after Hurricane Maria started the longest blackout in U.S. history.

The island's Electric Power Authority said several municipalities were without power, including parts of the capital, San Juan, but they were optimistic it could be restored within a day as they worked to repair a substation that controls voltage.

The blast illustrated the challenges of restoring a power grid that was already crumbling before it was devastated by the Category 4 hurricane.

In many cases, power workers are repairing equipment that should have long been replaced but remained online due to the power authority's yearslong financial crisis. PREPA is worth roughly $4 billion, carries $9 billion in debt and has long been criticized for political patronage and inefficiency. It also struggled with frequent blackouts, including an island-wide outage in September 2016.

It was not immediately known what caused Sunday's fire, which was quickly extinguished. Officials said the explosion knocked two other substations offline and caused a total loss of 400 megawatts worth of generation.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings
MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING — A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach — **FEBRUARY 12**

A		L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	2	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Not Fake"		KATU News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
-	KOMO	4	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Not Fake"		KOMO 4 News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
-	KING	5	(5:00) PyeongChang 2018 Nordic Combined (M) Downhill, Snowboarding, Speed Skating (W) 1500m Final (L)						(:05) Olympics Nordic Combined (M) Slalom Final, Snowboarding (M) Halfpipe (L)				(:05) KING 5 News	(:35) 2018Olympics
6	KOIN	-	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition (N)		Superior Donuts	9JKL	Scorpion "Sharknerdo"		KOIN 6 News (N)	(:35) Colbert
-	KIRO	7	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition (N)		Superior Donuts	9JKL	Scorpion "Sharknerdo"		KIRO News (N)	(:35) Colbert
8	KGW	-	(5:00) PyeongChang 2018 Nordic Combined (M) Downhill, Snowboarding, Speed Skating (W) 1500m Final (L)						(:05) Olympics Nordic Combined (M) Slalom Final, Snowboarding (M) Halfpipe (L)				(:05) KGW News	(:35) 2018Olympics
9	KRCW	3	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	LegendTomor. "Daddy Darhkest" (N)		Whose Line Is It?	Whose Line Is It?	News at 10 (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
10	KOPB	10	This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antique "New Orleans (Hour Three)" (N)		Ore. Experience	Ore. Experience	Antiques Rd. "Jacksonville (Hour Two)"		POV "Do Not Resist" (N)	
12	KPTV	12	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lucifer "Off the Record"		The Resident "Identity Crisis"		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
13	KPDX	-	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)		Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game	The Game
-	KCPQ	13	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lucifer "Off the Record"		The Resident "Identity Crisis"		Q13 News at 10 (N)		Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons
20	TBS	20	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Amer. Dad (SP) (N)	American Dad!	Conan	
-	KZJO	22	Friends	Friends	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN	29	NCAA Basketball Baylor at Texas (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
30	ESPN2	30	NCAA Basketball TCU at West Virginia (L)				College Basketball	NFL Live A weekday NFL news and information show.			30 for 30 "Celtics/ Lakers: Best of Enemies" Pt. 1 of 3			
31	NICK	31	SpongeBob (N)	Henry Danger	Hunter Street (N)	SpongeBob	★★ Puss in Boots ('11, Ani) Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis, Antonio Banderas.				Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	32	(5:05) Cars 2		★★★★ Big Hero 6 ('14) Voices of Scott Adsit, Ryan Potter.			(:45) Stuck Middle	(:10) Bizaardvark	(:35) Bizaardvark	Bunk'd	Jessie	Andi Mack	Stuck in Middle
34	FAM	34	★★ The Wedding Planner (2001, Romance) Matthew McConaughey, Bridgette Wilson, Jennifer Lopez.				★★★ Dirty Dancing (1987, Dance) Jennifer Grey, Jerry Orbach, Patrick Swayze.						The 700 Club	
35	FMC	35	(5:00) ★★★ The Amazing Spider-Man ('12) Andrew Garfield.				(:45) ★★★ The Amazing Spider-Man (2012, Action) Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans, Andrew Garfield.					★★★ Gravity (2013, Thriller) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.		
36	LIFE	36	First 48 "Stolen Lives/ Family Bonds"		The First 48		The First 48: Lost "Lester Street"		The First 48: Lost "Birthday Girl"		The First 48: Lost "Girl Fight"		The First 48: Lost "The Good Son"	
38	ROOT	38	(4:00) ARCA Racing	Mark Few (N)	Mariners Mondays "Players Weekend" (N)						UFC UFC 202 Nate Diaz takes on Conor McGregor. Nate Diaz vs. Conor McGregor 2			
39	FS1	39	(5:00) The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show "Day 1" (L)				WKC Post Show	Speak for Yourself		TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.			
43	SPIKE	43	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Cops	Cops	Cops (N)	Cops	Cops	Cops
44	COM	44	The Office	The Office	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	The Opposition
45	HIST	45	Amer. Pickers "Red, White and Blues"		Pickers "Who's the Rarest of Them All?"		American Pickers "Hot Rod Hero"		Pickers "Hyder's Hideaway" (N)		(:05) Pawn Stars (N)	(:35) Pawn Stars	(:05) Pawn Stars	(:35) Pawn Stars
46	A&E	46	Intervention "Bryceton"		Undercover "Would You Go Back?"		Undercover High "Race to the Finish"		Undercover High "At Risk"		Undercover High "Shots Fired"		(:05) Undercover High "Bullied"	
47	TLC	47	Hoarding "One is Good. Two is Better"		Hoarding "Running Out of Time"		Hoarding "You're Gonna Die in Here"		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Hoarding "Running Out of Time"	
48	DISC	48	Street Outlaws "Dominating the Track"		Street Outlaws "Bottoms Up"		Street Outlaws: Full "Daily Battles" (N)		Street Outlaws (N)		OutlawsMemphis "Accidents Happen"		Street Outlaws	
49	NGEO	49	(5:00) The Lost JFK Tapes		JFK: The Final Hours		Command "Part 5: Generations"		Command "Part 6: Crossroads" (N)		Inside Combat "In the Crossfire"		Command "Part 6: Crossroads"	
50	TNT	50	Alienist "These Bloody Thoughts" (N)		The Alienist "These Bloody Thoughts"		Law & Order "New York Minute"		Law & Order "Criminal Law"		NCIS: New O. "My Brother's Keeper"		NCIS: New Orleans "More Now"	
51	AMC	51	★★ Bruce Almighty ('03, Com/Dra) Morgan Freeman, Jennifer Aniston, Jim Carrey.				★★ Date Night (2010, Comedy) Steve Carell, Mark Wahlberg, Tina Fey.				★★ Date Night (2010, Comedy) Steve Carell, Mark Wahlberg, Tina Fey.			
52	USA	52	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw						(:05) Modern Fam	(:35) Modern Fam
53	FOOD	53	Cupcake Wars "Cheerleader Cupcakes"		Cupcake Wars "Celebrity: Matilda"		Kids Baking "Unicornucopia"		Kids Baking "Lunchbox Imposters" (N)		Ridic Cakes (N)	Ridiculous Cakes	Cake Wars "Valentine's Day"	
54	HGTV	54	Love It or List It		Love It or List It "Site Unseen"		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	Home Town (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters
56	FX	56	(5:30) ★★ Taken 3 (2014, Action) Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace, Liam Neeson.				★★ Furious 7 (2015, Action) Paul Walker, Jason Statham, Vin Diesel.						Furious 7 (2015, Action) Vin Diesel.	
57	CNN	57	Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	58	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
61	CNBC	61	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam "Shipwrecked"		Amer. Greed "The Wizard of Sarasota"		Paid Program	
63	BRAV	63	Vanderpump R. "Push Comes to Shove"		Vanderpump Rules "Best Mates"		Vanderpump Rules "Call me Jason"		Vanderpump "Screams and Queens" (N)		Summer House (N)		WatchWhat (N)	Vanderpump Rules
64	TCM	64	(5:00) Cabaret ('72, Mus) Liza Minnelli.		(:15) ★★★ Giant (1956, Romance) Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, Rock Hudson.							(:45) Treasure of the Sierra Madre		
65	SYFY	65	★★ The Mechanic (2011, Action) Ben Foster, A. Edward Sutherland, Jason Statham.				Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
162	RFD	162	American Rancher	Red Steagall (N)	Horse Master	Horse of the West	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America 'Live'		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	