

Long odds for peace as Trump roils Mideast with embassy move

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s prospects for brokering the Mideast peace “deal of the century” plunged ever deeper Monday as the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem opened amid bloodshed in Gaza. The day fueled global concern that U.S. policies are tipping the broader Middle East into deeper, intractable conflict.

At the same time, Trump is winning international support for his efforts to strike a deal with nuclear-armed North Korea. But his contentious decisions in the Middle East are roiling a region where U.S. administrations have traditionally sought perhaps their biggest diplomatic prize: an elusive peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

The embassy move, which Trump hailed a “great day” for Israel even as dozens of Palestinians were killed in Gaza, damaged Washington’s stature as a mediator between those parties. And it’s but the latest in a series of U.S. decisions that may have set off a domino effect of unpredictable consequences.

“Traditionally we’ve tried to play a role of fireman in the Middle East. Now we’re playing the role of arsonist,” said Ilan Goldenberg, a former State Department and Pentagon official who runs the Mideast program at the Center for a New American Security.

Trump’s withdrawal last week from the Iran nuclear deal, against the protestations of European allies, appears to have emboldened both Israel and Iran to move more forcefully toward full-on confron-



Israeli Arab Knesset members and left wing activists participate in a protest against the opening of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, during the embassy’s official inauguration ceremony on Monday.

AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean

tation. In Syria, Trump’s eagerness to pull out U.S. troops as soon as the Islamic State group is defeated has forced a reckoning by Iran’s enemies about the possibility that Tehran will fill the void.

Dan Shapiro, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, said Washington is not responsible for the fact that Iran acts as “the major source of tension and instability in the region.” But he said the question is whether Trump’s administration, having pulled out of the nuclear deal, has a strategy to deal with Iran in its absence.

Shapiro, who is now at the Institute for National Security Studies in Israel, said that while some U.S. allies like Israel and Saudi Arabia have celebrated the pullout, the reaction “will soon be followed by some degree of concern about whether the administration is sufficiently focused, pre-

pared, staffed and able to devote the necessary attention when it’s also managing another major foreign policy challenge in North Korea at the same time.”

U.S. officials insist the administration remains committed to restarting the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In a speech at the embassy opening, Trump’s son-in-law, senior adviser Jared Kushner, said the U.S. “is prepared to support a peace agreement in every way we can.”

Left unsaid was the fact that Kushner’s team has had to shelve Trump’s long-awaited peace plan indefinitely amid the Palestinian uproar over the embassy move, several U.S. officials have said. Since Trump in December recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and announced the embassy would move, the Palestinians have effectively cut off all ties with the White House, a diplomatic chill

that augurs poorly for the possibility that Trump can now introduce a plan the Palestinians would accept or deem fair.

“We’re going through a rough patch,” U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said Monday on Fox News. “It’ll last as long as it lasts. I can’t predict, but we will be back in a position I’m confident where we’ll be discussing peace.”

White House spokesman Raj Shah said the peace plan will be released “at the appropriate time.”

That time, by all accounts, is not now. Responding to the embassy opening, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat dismissed Washington as “no longer a partner and a broker.”

“We will not sit with them,” Erekat said. “They have become part of the problem not part of the solution, a big part of the problem.”

BRIEFLY

Melania Trump has ‘successful’ procedure

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Melania Trump underwent a “successful” procedure Monday to treat a benign kidney condition and was expected to remain hospitalized for the rest of the week, her staff said. President Donald Trump took a helicopter to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to visit her and tweeted that his wife was in “good spirits.”

Mrs. Trump, 48, had the embolization procedure Monday morning. The president spoke with Mrs. Trump before the procedure and with her doctor afterward, the first lady’s office said.

The president tweeted shortly before arriving at Walter Reed outside Washington, saying it was a “successful procedure,” describing his wife as being “in good spirits” and offering his thanks “to all of the well-wishers!”

sports books to open. Some, including New Jersey, which brought the case to the Supreme Court, have a head start.

Sports leagues had expressed concerns about any expansion of sports gambling. Their huge businesses could be badly harmed if people thought the outcome of games could be altered by someone who had wagered money on a certain result.

Americans wager about \$150 billion on sports each year illegally, according to the American Gaming Association. The law the justices struck down forbade state-authorized sports gambling with some exceptions and made Nevada the only state where a person could wager on the results of a single game.

Stock prices for casino operators and equipment makers surged after the ruling was announced.

UN health agency aims to wipe out trans fats

NEW YORK (AP) — The World Health Organization has released a plan to help countries wipe out artery-clogging trans fats from the global food supply in the next five years. The United Nations agency has in the past pushed to exterminate infectious diseases, but now it’s aiming to erase a hazard linked to chronic illness.

In a statement Monday, the U.N. health agency said eliminating trans fats is critical to preventing deaths worldwide. WHO estimates that eating trans fats — commonly found in baked and processed foods — leads to the deaths of more than 500,000 people from heart disease every year.

Officials think it can be done in five years because work is well underway in many countries.

Court says states can OK sports betting

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court cleared the way Monday for states coast to coast to legalize betting on sports, breaking a longtime ban and creating a potential financial boon for states and the gambling industry. The first bets could be placed within weeks.

Despite opposition from the major sports leagues and the Trump administration, the high court struck down a federal law that had barred betting on football, basketball, baseball and other sports in most states. States that want to take advantage of the ruling now will generally have to pass legislation to allow

HAPPENING NOW!

WAS \$159.95 SNW-SRP

\$149.95*

FS 40 C-E GAS TRIMMER

PICK YOUR POWER

WAS \$129.95 SNW-SRP

\$119.95*

FSA 45 BATTERY TRIMMER

FS 38 TRIMMER

\$129.95

★★★★★

“I couldn’t be more happy with the product. It fires right up, runs strong and is effortless to operate.”

– user Smitty44

BUILT IN USA

SAVE \$20!*

MS 170 CHAIN SAW

NOW JUST \$159.95 WAS \$179.95 SNW-SRP

★★★★★ 16" bar¹

“The price and reliability are outstanding.”

– user prutsmambros93

BUILT IN USA

SAVE \$30!*

MS 271 FARM BOSS®

NOW JUST \$399.95 WAS \$429.95 SNW-SRP

★★★★★ 20" bar¹

“The MS 271 has the best power to weight ratio that I have owned.” – user Tommy80

SAVE \$20!*

FS 91 R TRIMMER

NOW JUST \$329.95 WAS \$349.95 SNW-SRP

★★★★★

“Great power, very quiet. Very easy to start. Weight was not a factor. Very well-balanced.”

– user Jwa24

Check out these reviews and others on the product pages at [STIHLdealers.com](#).

*Offers valid through 7/1/18 at participating dealers while supplies last. All prices are SNW-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. ¹The actual listed guide bar length may vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. © 2018 STIHL SNW18-422-140810-3

Hermiston
Smitty's **ACE** Hardware
1845 North 1st
541-567-6816
SmittysEquipment.us

Pendleton
D & B Supply
850 Southgate Road
541-276-0102
dbsupplypendleton.com

BUILT IN USA Indicates products that are built in the United States from domestic and foreign parts and components.

STIHLdealers.com