VOA NEWS

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This is VOA news. I'm Jim Bertel.

The Syrian cease-fire is set to expire in less than an hour.

Russian and Turkish leaders say [there have been] they have made a deal to share control of Syria's northeast that requires Kurdish fighters to clear the entire length of the Syria-Turkey border.

This is U.S. and Kurdish officials say Kurdish fighters have completed their pullout from the zone along the Syrian border.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper says Washington is planning to bring U.S. troops withdrawing from Syria back to the United States and not keep them in Iraq indefinitely.

"The aim isn't to stay in Iraq interminably, the aim is to pull our soldiers out and eventually get them back home."

Esper says the details have not yet been worked out and how long the U.S. troops will stay in Iraq. He will have discussions with his Iraqi counterpart on Wednesday.

Congressional impeachment investigators are hearing today from the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine.

AP's Jackie Quinn reports.

Former army officer William Taylor's been thrust into the center of the impeachment inquiry. He is the one who is texting with two of President Trump's point men on Ukraine, expressing concerns about hinging U.S. aid, an investigations into the Biden family and other Democratic Party officials.

At one point, according to congressional investigators, Taylor wrote it was "crazy to withhold security assistance for help with a political campaign."

Taylor was tapped to run the U.S. embassy in Ukraine after Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch was suddenly removed.

Jackie Quinn, Washington.

Earlier today, President Donald Trump triggered outrage by comparing the Democrat-led impeachment inquiry to a lynching. The Congressional Black Caucus condemned the comment.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has failed to form a new government. His centrist rival Benny Gantz will now try to put together a majority coalition of lawmakers and become the country's new leader.

From Washington, this is VOA news.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appears set to hold onto the government in Canada.

AP's Mike Gracia reports.

Voters in Canada appeared to give Prime Minister Justin Trudeau a second term in parliamentary elections Monday.

Trudeau's Liberal Party was projected to win the most seats in the 338-seat parliament, staving off a serious challenge from rival Conservatives.

The choice Canadians faced was between Trudeau and Conservatives leader Andrew Scheer.

Trudeau's prospects have been clouded by questions of judgment. Trudeau repeatedly apologized after old photos of him in black face and brown face had surfaced last month. Months before his former attorney general asserted Trudeau had pressured her to halt the prosecution of a Quebec company.

I'm Mike Gracia.

At this hour, Britain's parliament is expected to vote on the prime minister's accelerated three-day timetable for the Brexit bill. Boris Johnson is warning of a new election if his EU withdrawal bill is voted down.

AP's Charles De Ledesma reports.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Boris Johnson has told lawmakers if they reject his Brexit timetable, "the bill will have to be pulled and we will have to go forward to a general election."

Lawmakers from across the political spectrum have been plotting to put the brakes on Johnson's drive to push his EU divorce bill through the House of Commons in just three days, potentially scuttling the government's hopes of delivering Brexit by October 31.

Charles De Ledesma, London.

Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, formally ascended to the throne Tuesday in an elaborate ceremony in Tokyo.

In a centuries-old ceremony, Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, formally ascended to the throne Tuesday. While he officially began his reign in May, only now through a series of rituals called the Sokui-no-Rei is he enthroned.

More than a hundred foreign dignitaries were in attendance, including Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam and Britain's Prince Charles.

That's Reuters Ryan Brooks reporting.

Five people were injured Tuesday in Norway's capital Oslo struck by an ambulance stolen by an aimed man.

The final trailer for Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker is out. AP's Matt Small reports.

Offering brief looks of beloved characters, the new trail ever before the next Star Wars film aims to evoke a blend of fan memories mixed with anticipation is the last chapter in a now nine-part Skywalker saga that began back in 1977 comes to an end this December.

"The Force will be with you, always."

While tickets for Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker are also now on sale, Disney promises new Star Wars stories in the future with multiple films and development and the Mandalorian space western series set to debut in November on its streaming service.

I'm Matt Small.

And from Washington, I'm Jim Bertel, VOA news.