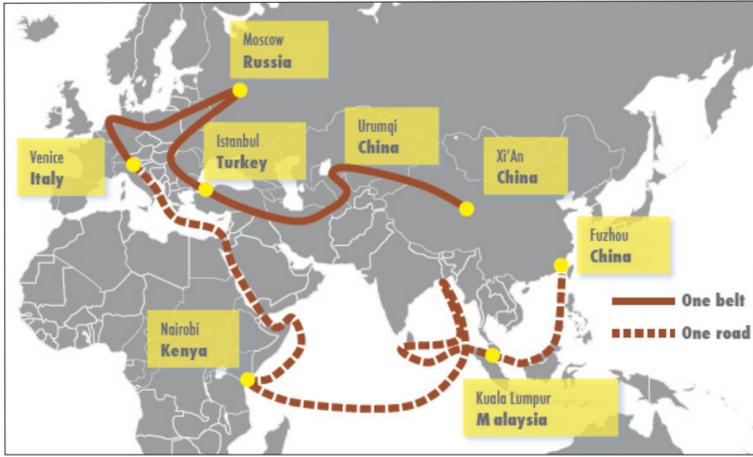


(BRF) Feature: New Silk Road Helps Revive Germany's Rust Belt City

DUISBURG - Suad Durakovic, a German citizen of Bosnian origin, runs a logistics company that also trains truck drivers in the western German city of Duisburg. "We are short of truck drivers! The whole country needs more drivers," Durakovic told Xinhua while overseeing a training course. The booming logistics industry in the city, driven up by the Silk and Road construction, brings Durakovic real business. "Duisburg is a logistics center. The new Silk Road is definitely a reason for the growth of logistics," he said. Located in the Ruhr industrial area, Duisburg is the world's largest inland port and a hub for transportation in west Europe. As the city has become a



key terminal of the freight trains from and to China, changes are taking place. CLOSER CONNECTIONS

In Duisburg Intermodal Terminal (DIT), freight trains carry beer, wine, machinery, milk powder and auto parts to China and

textiles, machinery and toys to other countries in Europe. The freight volume involving China accounts for nearly one third of the total in DIT, which has had to hire more drivers and workers to handle the containers and build more warehouses. Near the Duisburg Port, the German national railway company Deutsche Bahn (DB) is building another freight terminal to be put in operation this year. Nicole Brandenburg, a staff there, told Xinhua that the shipment volume in Duisburg will further increase as she expected more trains from or to China. Duisburg Port is expanding. A deserted paper mill has been converted into new port facilities... (More on P4)...(14)

Japan Asks US Troops to Behave, Not 'Cause Anxiety' after Marine Kills Local Girlfriend & Self

TOKYO - Japanese officials are imploring their American counterparts to control their soldiers' behavior at the Okinawa base after a US marine reportedly murdered his Japanese girlfriend - the latest in a rash of US-on-Japanese crime. Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya intends to ask US military leaders to enforce discipline in their ranks, he told NHK news agency, following an apparent murder-suicide in Chatan Town earlier this month, in which 32-year-old Marine Gabriel Oli-

vero is thought to have stabbed his Japanese girlfriend to death before killing himself with the same knife. Iwaya will request that US forces take "thorough measures to prevent a recurrence and not cause anxiety among local residents," he told NHK. His words echo the restrained plea on Saturday of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Takeo Akiba, who begged US ambassador William Hagerty to protest the violence and enforce discipline among his... (More on P4)...(17)

Myanmar Leader Pardons 9,500 Prisoners but Not 2 Reporters

YANGON, Myanmar - More than 9,500 prisoners are being released in Myanmar under a presidential amnesty, but they don't include two Pulitzer Prize-winning Reuters reporters. The Facebook page of the Office of President Win Myint says he has signed a pardon for 9,551 prisoners, including 16 foreigners, to be released nationwide on the occasion of the country's traditional New Year. Official lists of those to be freed are usually not made public, but activists



monitor releases, especially at Yangon's Insein Prison, where most important detainees are held. Sympathizers waited

outside the prison for the possible release of two Reuters reporters jailed for breaking the Official Secrets Act, but they were not freed. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners says it knew of only two political detainees, imprisoned since 2000, being released. (Fox News)

Neighbor News

Tehran to Pompeo: It's US, Not Iran, That Should Change in Nature

TEHRAN - Hitting back at US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Tehran says Washington's "unlawful" measures have led to growing calls on the world stage for a change in the US regime's nature. Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Moussavi was reacting on Wednesday to Pompeo's comments at a press conference at Texas A&M University earlier this week, where he said Washington was hoping to achieve "a change in the nature and the behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their leadership." He said officials in the current US administration have been revealing the country's true intentions, "but the one who needs to change in nature is the US itself, not Iran." "The global community's growing opposition to [the US] behavior and the actions it takes in violation of international law has triggered a global demand for the US regime nature to undergo change," he added. Referring to Washington's harsh economic sanctions against Iran, the official said the US had taken free international trade hostage by resorting to economic terrorism and bullying, and by forcing countries to act on the basis of its illegitimate demands and policies. (Press TV)

Pakistan's National Defence University Delegation Visits Turkey

ISLAMABAD - A 20-member delegation of National Defence University (NDU) of Pakistan, headed by Brig. Waheed Gul Satti, is visiting Turkey as part of its Foreign Study Tour from 14-21 April. The delegation includes senior officers from Pakistan's Armed Forces, Civil Service and officers from friendly countries who are attending the National Security and War Course, according to a message received here. Pakistan Ambassador to Turkey Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi briefed the group about the fraternal Pakistan-Turkey relationship during the delegation's visit of the Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara. "Sky is the limit for further elevating our ties, particularly in the field of defense," said Ambassador Qazi. He noted that efforts were under way to further strengthen ties in the economic field. The Ambassador updated that both countries would soon sign Pakistan-Turkey Strategic Economic Framework Plan of Action, which will provide a solid foundation and framework for boosting bilateral economic ties. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan, US Mull Prospects for Security Co-Op

ASHGABAT - The State Customs Service of Turkmenistan hosted a meeting with the delegation of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency under the US Department of Defense, Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen State Customs Service. The parties discussed the possibilities of cooperation in the field of security and the exchange of ideas regarding the management of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergency cases, disaster response as a result of man-made and natural disasters, as well as problems associated with weapons of mass destruction. Turkmenistan, having the status of positive neutrality, has a long border with Afghanistan and has repeatedly offered to hold talks in Ashgabat under the auspices of the UN to restore peace in the neighboring state. Ashgabat provides humanitarian aid to the neighboring state and builds social infrastructure facilities, supplies of electricity and fuel are carried out on preferential terms. Turkmenistan started carrying out a major project, the implementation of which will make it possible to increase the export of electricity to Afghanistan five times. A large-scale project to lay gas pipeline to India and Pakistan for the supply of Turkmen gas is also related to the territory of Afghanistan, where unstable situation has remained for a long time. (Trend)

GM Uzbekistan to Release Two New Chevrolet Models

TASHKENT - GM Uzbekistan will launch the production of the Chevrolet Equinox crossover and the Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV this year, Trend reports with reference to Uzavtosanoat. "In 2019, the Chevrolet Captiva crossover will be replaced with Chevrolet Equinox crossover and Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV. The production of cars will be implemented on GM Uzbekistan's plants," Uzavtosanoat noted. Earlier GM Uzbekistan announced two new models - SUVs in the SUV segment, which were planned to be presented at the end of the third quarter of this year. "In the coming years, we will be mastering a new global platform. Moreover, this year, we are working on the start of a large-assembly of two cars in the SUV segment - off-road vehicles. We removed the Captiva production last year and presented 2 new cars instead," Deputy Chairman of Uzavtosanoat Aziz Shukurov said. Chevrolet Equinox is a mid-size crossover, the prototype of which was first introduced by the Americans in 2003 at the Detroit Auto Show. In 2008, a new version of the Chevrolet Equinox called Sport was introduced. The technical equipment of the crossover was thoroughly revised. (Trend)

Movement at North Korea's Main Nuclear Site Seen in Satellite Photos



PYONGYANG - Satellite images taken late last week appear to show activity at North Korea's main nuclear site, a possible negative sign for diplomatic negotiations between the U.S. and Kim Jong Un's regime. Images taken of the Yongbyon nuclear site on Friday revealed five

"specialized" rail cars near the Uranium Enrichment Plant and Isotope/Tritium Production Facility which suggested the transportation of radioactive material, Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, a U.S. think tank, said in a report on Tuesday. "In the past, these specialized railcars appear to have been associated with the movement of radioactive material or reprocessing campaigns," the report said. "The current activity, along with their configurations, does

not rule out their possible involvement in such activity, either before or after a reprocessing campaign." Other images seemed to show a large construction crane and several vehicles throughout the nuclear site. The report went on to note that there was no steam coming from any of the buildings - which would be a sign that production had begun - and that aside from the railcars' presence, there was "no activity of significance". ... (More on P4)...(15)

'Unlawful & Unrecognized': Twitter Heaps Criticism as US Maps Show Golan Heights as Part of Israel

WASHINGTON - The Trump administration has released a controversial new US government map of Israel that shows the Golan Heights in Syria as being part of Israel, much to the outrage of many online. Special envoy to the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt, shared the updated map on Twitter on Tuesday. Israel occupied the Syrian region in the 1967 Six Day War and later annexed it in 1981 in a move that was not recognized by the international community or the UN Security Council. President Donald Trump announced he was recognizing the Golan Heights as being part of Israel late last month, in the run up to Israel's election in April. The controversial move was met with criticism from the international community, which does not recognize Israel's claim to the region, while Israel President Benjamin Netanyahu and others hailed the decision. ... (More on P4)...(18)

'Turkey's Erdogan Meets Iran Minister Over Syria

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday met with Iran's foreign minister, who arrived in Ankara to brief him on his meeting with Syria's President Bashar al-Assad. Turkey supports Syrian opposition rebels and Iran backs Assad in Syria's long war, but the two sides have been expanding contacts amid international efforts to end the fighting. Kazakhstan will host a fresh round of Syria talks on April 25-26 in its capital, recently renamed from Astana to Nur-Sultan. "I had a long interview with Bashar al-Assad. I will be giving details of these discussions to Mr. Erdogan," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters in translated comments. ... (More on P4)...(19)

Russian Envoy to Lebanon Slams U.S. Sanctions

BEIRUT - Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Alexander Zasyypkin slammed on Wednesday the U.S. sanctions on some countries, local media reported. "What bothers us in Lebanon are the sanctions imposed by the United States which we consider as harmful whether for Russia, Iran, Turkey, Hezbollah or Lebanon," Zasyypkin was quoted as saying by Elnashra, an online independent newspaper. Zasyypkin said that Russia does not accept this behavior while it welcomes any cooperation with all authorities in Lebanon. The ambassador added that Russia's policy towards peace negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis is consistent, contrary to the American policy. ... (More on P4)...(20)

Qatari Academic Seen in Shocking Video Explaining How Muslim Men Should Beat Their Wives

DOHA - A leading academic and cleric from World Cup host country Qatar has filmed a shocking guide on how Muslim men should beat their wives. The vile video features Abd Al-Aziz Al-Khazraj demonstrating how to "punish" a woman in accordance with Islamic law. In a further sick move, the sociologist used a school-age boy called Nayef to show how to



deliver beatings "out of love" - so a woman can feel a "man's strength." And he disgustingly said that some women enjoyed being married to "violent and powerful husbands." (Fox News)

India Has Vast Arsenal of Russian-Made Weapons & Seeks to Expand It

NEW DELHI - Even as Washington is wooing New Delhi, India is seeking to buy Russian-made military hardware. The most recent deal would see the purchase of more than 450 tanks from Moscow for \$1.93 billion, and it's not even the biggest one. The purchase of 464 T-90MS main battle tanks, approved last week, will further expand the large stock of Russian-designed and manufactured weapons in India's arsenal. The country is one of the primary customers for Moscow's arms. Another, even more significant contract - worth \$5.43 billion - was signed last October, when India ordered five S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems. De-

livery is expected by 2020. The cutting-edge air defense system is capable of intercepting and destroying targets at a distance of up to 400 kilometers and can engage up to six targets simultaneously. India has signaled it would go ahead with the purchase regardless of the US laws seeking to sanction any country that buys Russian military hardware. T-90 main battle tanks India already has over 1,000 T-90 tanks of various types. Since the early 2000s, the country has operated T-90S Bhishma tanks, designed specifically to meet India's needs. Some of the machines have been manufactured in Russia, while ... (More on P4)...(16)

US 'Concerned' over Misused Funds Allegations at UNAIDS

LONDON - The U.S. government has expressed concern about allegations of misused funds at the U.N.'s AIDS agency after a report by The Associated Press this week revealed ongoing financial and sexual misconduct problems at the agency. In a statement late Tuesday, the U.S. State Department said the government remains "committed to ensuring that UNAIDS has a clear and robust approach to eliminating all forms of harassment" within the organization. Earlier this week, the AP reported the U.N. AIDS agency remains embroiled in unfinished misconduct investigations involving a whistleblower, Martina Brostrom, who went public last year with claims she was sexually assaulted by a top deputy. "We are concerned any time that there are potential allegations of fraud or misuse of funds," the U.S. spokesperson said. The U.S. is UNAIDS' biggest donor. Confidential documents obtained by the AP show UNAIDS is grappling with previously unreported allegations that Brostrom and her former supervisor may have taken part in "fraudulent practices and misuse of travel funds." The ongoing turmoil is a damaging distraction for an agency at the center of multibillion-dollar, taxpayer-funded U.N. efforts to end the global AIDS epidemic by 2030. The virus affects more than 37 million people worldwide and kills more than 900,000 people every year. ... (More on P4)...(21)