

## Russia Building up Forces Near Crimea amid Tensions with Ukraine, Satellite Photos Show

EXCLUSIVE - Two weeks after Russia fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels in the contested Kerch Strait, satellite images obtained exclusively by Fox News on Sunday show that additional forces may be headed to the region. In the images taken on Saturday, three Russian Ilyushin -76 cargo planes were spotted in the Dzhankoi airbase in Crimea. The images, captured by Image-sat International, appear to show that Russia is continuing to step up and consolidate its military forces in the Crimea, which it annexed from Ukraine in 2014. According to social media reports in Russia, four IL-76 planes departed on December 6 from Anapa airport in Novorossiysk and landed in Dzhankoi. (Fox News)



## Neighbor News

### Iran, Pakistan Hold 22nd Joint Border Security Meeting

TEHRAN - Security officials from Iran and Pakistan along with their accompanying delegations met in Iran's southeastern city of Zahedan on Monday to hold the 22nd joint meeting on border cooperation between the two countries. The 22nd Iran-Pakistan joint border meeting began in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan provincial capital of Zahedan on Monday Iranian and Pakistani delegations in attendance. The Iranian delegation is headed by the Deputy Governor General for Security and Disciplinary Affairs of Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province Mohammad Hadi Marashi, and the Pakistani side is headed by Chief Secretary of Pakistan's Balochistan Province Ahmad Nazir. "Iran and Pakistan hold a long history of friendly ties and their people have friendly and kinship relations, too," said Marashi. "The two Muslim neighboring countries have cultural, historical, and religious similarities and have many economic interests in common. Expanding ties can lead to economic and security flourishing in the southeastern parts of Iran and Pakistan's Balochistan Province," he added. (FNA) Pointing to the religious and kinship relations of the people of the area, Marashi added, "Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan and Pakistan's Balochistan provinces cannot be separated and securing the region eases the expansion of relations." Elsewhere in his remarks, Marashi expressed hope that the decisions made in this meeting will have positive effect in the two countries' relations. (FNA)

### Saudi Arabia Increases Pakistan's Quota by 5,000 for Hajj 2019

ISLAMABAD - Ministers of both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan inked a new Hajj agreement in Saudi Arabia on Sunday increasing the pilgrimage quota for Pakistanis by 5000 over a requested 30,000 owing to the south Asian nation's growing population. Pakistan's Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benteen, signed the Hajj policy 2019 in the holy city of Makkah, Imran Siddiqui spokesman for the Ministry of Religious Affairs told Arab News. (Agencies)

### S. Korea Charges 4 with Illegally Importing N. Korean Coal

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korean prosecutors said Monday that they have charged four people with illegally importing North Korean coal via Russia in violation of U.N. sanctions. The indictments, handed down on Friday, came four months after customs authorities accused three of the four of using forged documents to illicitly import 35,000 tons of North Korean coal and other minerals worth \$5.8 million. South Korean media said prosecutors found an additional person implicated in the case during an investigation. Prosecutors said in a statement that the four people and their five entities were charged with violating a law requiring government approval to bring North Korean products into the South. U.N. sanctions that were toughened in 2017 ban member states from importing North Korean coal and other minerals that had been key sources of foreign currency for the impoverished yet nuclear-armed country. (AP)

### 'The Thing Is Done': Khashoggi Killing Tape Indicates Hit Squad Was Briefing Riyadh, Report Says

ISTANBUL - The full transcript of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi's murder in a Saudi consulate in Turkey reportedly shows that one of the assassins was briefing someone on the phone as the journalist's dismembering progressed. According to a CNN report citing a source who has reviewed the full transcript of the audio recording translated from Arabic, a man, identified as Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, a former Saudi diplomat and intelligence official, made at least three phone calls to someone who was apparently a superior. "Tell yours, the thing is done, it's done," Mutreb allegedly said as Khashoggi drew his last breath at the hands of a 15-man hit team. It's unclear from the transcript who was on the other end of the line. According to the CNN source, it is believed that Mutreb was updating Saud al-Qahtani, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's former communications chief. Al-Qahtani was fired from his post as the kingdom's royal court adviser as Riyadh was facing the fallout from Khashoggi's killing, which has strained relations with its allies in the West. The transcript cited by CNN also contains the last words ever uttered by the slain journalist and a chilling description of his dismembering. (Russia Today)



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## Nearly 85 Percent of UN Nations Back Migration Deal; Not US



MARRAKECH, Morocco - Defying fierce opposition from the United States and a few other nations, nearly 85 percent of the countries at the U.N. agreed Monday on a sweeping yet non-binding accord to ensure safe, orderly and humane migration. The debate over the Global Compact for Migration, the first of its kind, has proven to be a pivotal test of the U.N.-led effort to crack down on the often dangerous and illegal movements across borders that have turned people smuggling into a booming worldwide industry. "Unregulated migration bears a terrible human cost: a cost in lives lost on perilous journeys across deserts, oceans and rivers; and a cost in lives ruined at the hands of smugglers, unscrupulous employers and other predators," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a migration conference in Marrakech, Morocco. "More than 60,000 migrants have died on the move since the year 2000," he said. "This is a source of collective shame." Migration affects hundreds of millions of people across the globe - farmers coming off the land or forced by climate change to head to cities, families fleeing war or persecution at home, impoverished workers from the developing world looking for jobs in rich countries. (Fox News)

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### UK PM May Has Decided to Pull Vote on Brexit Deal: BBC



LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May has called off a crucial vote in parliament on whether to approve her Brexit divorce deal which was due on Tuesday, according to the BBC's political editor. "Two cabinet sources tell me we vote being pulled - not, repeat not, yet officially confirmed," Laura Kuenssberg said on Twitter. (Reuters)

### EU Prolongs Sanctions against Congo Ruling Party Candidate

BRUSSELS - The European Union has prolonged sanctions against Congolese President Joseph Kabila's chosen successor just two weeks before a historic election in the resource-rich Central African country. EU headquarters said Monday that travel bans and asset freezes will be renewed for a year against Congo's ruling party candidate Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary and 13 other people. Shadary was sanctioned by the EU last year for obstructing Congo's electoral process and a crackdown against protesters angry over the long-delayed vote. (AP)

### Stocks, Oil Prices Retreat; Pound Down on Eve of Brexit Vote

LONDON - Stock markets and oil prices retreated Monday, while the pound faltered on the eve of the UK parliament's crucial vote on Brexit. Traders were digesting a menu of high risks to the global economy, notably the China-US trade row, signs of weakness in the Chinese and US economies, Brexit and volatile oil prices. "It's shaping up to be another tough week in financial markets," noted Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda trading group. "Friday's (US) jobs report did little to stop the bleeding, with jobs growth in November coming in well short of expectations," he added. In London, official data Monday showed that Britain's Brexit-facing economy experienced sluggish growth in October on a stalling car sector. (AFP)

### China Offers Proposals for Bright Global Future, Says Mexican Expert

MEXICO CITY - China provided concrete proposals at the recently concluded Group of 20 (G20) summit that offer a path for a promising future for the global community, a leading Mexican expert has said. Xinhua interviewed Enrique Dussel Peters, head of the China-Mexico Studies Center at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, about the 13th G20 summit, held in Buenos Aires on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Dussel said China played a positive role that was in keeping with the "wide-ranging" nature of the summit, which aims to promote joint solutions to the common problems that countries face today. China is offering new models of growth by promoting a more open global economy and stepping up cooperation, as well as "a new financial architecture," said the expert. There is no country more qualified than China to champion these measures, said Dussel, noting that in the past 40 years, China has undertaken a "very successful" reform and opening-up process that has been acknowledged across the globe. China has, for example, embraced innovation "by incorporating science and technology, and linking academia to the productive apparatus, in a bid to boost competitiveness," he said. (Xinhua)



### India Test-Fires Nuclear Capable Agni-V Ballistic Missile

NEW DELHI - India on Monday successfully test-fired its surface-to-surface nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile Agni-V off Abdul Kalam Island in its eastern state of Odisha, local media reports said. The home-grown ballistic missile was test-fired at 1:30 p.m. (local time). Local media reports quoting defense officials said the test was conducted from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at the island. This was the seventh trial of Agni-V. It was first test-fired on April 19, 2012, the second on Sept. 15, 2013, the third on Jan. 31, 2015, the fourth on Dec. 26, 2016, the fifth on Jan. 18, 2018, and the sixth on June 3, 2018, according to a local media report. According to defense officials, Agni-V with new technologies in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine, can strike with a range between 5,000 km and 8,000 km. (Xinhua)

### Twitter CEO Criticized for No Mention of Rohingya Plight in Myanmar Tweets

SINGAPORE - Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey has come under fire for tweets about his meditation retreat in Myanmar and encouraging people to visit the country without mentioning what the United Nations has described as "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya Muslim minority. More than 730,000 Rohingya fled a sweeping army crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017, according to U.N. agencies. The crackdown was launched in response to insurgent Rohingya attacks on security forces. Rohingya refugees say soldiers and Buddhist civilians killed families, burned many villages and carried out gang rapes. U.N.-mandated investigators have accused Myanmar's army of "genocidal intent". Myanmar has denied the allegations, saying its forces engaged in a counter-insurgency operation against "terrorists". "Myanmar is an absolutely beautiful country. The people are full of joy and the food is amazing. I visited the cities of Yangon, Mandalay, and Bagan. We visited and meditated at many monasteries around the country," Dorsey tweeted on Sunday. His tweets included pictures of the barren room where he stayed at a monastery during the retreat, as well as an analysis of his heart rate while meditating. There was no reference to the plight of the Rohingya in any of the tweets. (Reuters)

### Tajik Geologists Reportedly Discover Two New Minerals and Name Them "Falgarit" and "Badakhshani"

DUSHANBE - Tajik researchers have reportedly discovered two new minerals this year - 'falgarit' and 'badakhshani', Trend reports referring to news.tj. An official source at the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan says falgarit has been discovered in the Kuhu Malika areas, on the right bank of the Yaghnob River in Ayni district of the northern Sughd province. Badakhshani has been discovered in Murgab district of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO), some 45 kilometers to the east of the district administrative center, the source said. According to him, the discovered minerals were registered with the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) on September 18 this year. Founded in 1958, the IMA is the world's largest organization promoting mineralogy, one of the oldest branches of science. 38 national mineralogical societies or groups are members of IMA. The Association supports the activities of Commissions and Working Groups involved on certain aspects of mineralogical practice and facilitates interaction among mineralogists by sponsoring and organizing meetings. The Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) was established in 1959 for the purpose of controlling the introduction of new minerals and mineral names, and of rationalizing mineral nomenclature. Since that time, the work of the CNMMN has gained overwhelming support from the international mineralogical community. (Trend)

### Turkmenistan Greatly Reduces Use of Ozone Depleting Substances

ASHGABAT - Aspects of Turkmenistan's commitments arising from the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer aimed at withdrawing hydrochlorofluorocarbons from use with complete cessation by 2040, were highlighted at the event. Most ODS are gases that actively contribute to global warming. Experts note that decreasing ODS emissions has led to significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and, as a result, curbing climate change processes. (Trend)