

Russia Upgrades Security Strategy to Tackle Western Threats: Official

MOSCOW - Russia has upgraded its national security strategy by taking into account the worsening international situation as a result of the policy pursued by the United States and its allies, a senior Russian security official said on Monday.

"The U.S. and its allies have continued their policy of opposition to a multi-polar world order, and to centers of power alternative to the West," Yevgeny Lukyanov, deputy head of the Russian Security Council, said in a statement published on the council's website.

On Dec. 31, 2015, Russian President Vladimir Putin



signed a document entitled "About the Strategy of National Security of

the Russian Federation," revising a bunch of Russia's strategies to fight

threats to its national security. Lukyanov said the key points of the strategy,

upgraded for the first time since 2009, remained unchanged, with the

country reiterating its commitment to an open, rational and pragmatic foreign policy that prioritizes the principles of international law and mutual respect. "Russia will continue to give priority to disarmament issues and to the maintenance of the regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said. "However, it should be understood that the national interests of our country dictate the need to maintain its own nuclear deterrent capabilities that guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity ... (More on P4)...(18)

At Least 25 Killed in Saudi-Led Airstrikes on Police HQ in Sanaa

SANAA - At least 25 were killed and many others wounded when a Saudi-led air strike targeted a police headquarters overnight in Yemen's capital Sanaa, officials and residents said on Monday.

A hospital official said 25 policemen were confirmed dead, while the others, including civilians, were receiving treatment. He expected the death toll to rise when bodies could be lifted out from under

the debris. "About 30 people, including policemen and residents who live in houses near the police facility, have been transferred to hospitals," a security official at the scene told Xinhua. "More dozens of policemen were still under the rubble and rescue teams have been trying to save possible survivors," he said. Journalists were not allowed to approach the targeted police facility in downtown Sanaa. But... (More on P4)...(19)

Poland's Duda Warns Brexit Could Lead to EU 'Collapse'

BRUSSELS - Polish President Andrzej Duda on Monday urged the European Union to find a compromise to keep Britain in the EU or risk a major crisis and even the bloc's collapse.

"It is not in Poland's interest that the UK leaves the EU," Duda told a press conference flanked by European Council President Donald Tusk after talks in Brussels.

"We need to reach a compromise as the EU in order to ensure the UK's place in the EU," Duda



said. "We think it would lead to a big crisis and even collapse if the UK left the EU," he added. "We must seek a com-

promise but a cautious compromise, not to undermine basic freedoms in the EU which are very important to Poles," he

said. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Friday he was confident the EU ... (More on P4)...(20)

Muslim Women Learning English will Help Integration in Britain: Cameron

LONDON - Some 190,000 Muslim women living in Britain -- 22 percent of the local Muslim population -- are unable to speak English, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Monday. He announced the launch of a 30 million U.S. dollar English language tuition fund to help combat social isolation for Muslim women.

Cameron said Muslim women aiming to live

permanently in Britain must become fluent in English to qualify for a British passport, adding the "passive tolerance" of separate communities must end to help Britain build a strong society. Cameron said issues like gender segregation and discrimination and the isolation of some women in society could help lead to a slide towards radicalization and extremism. He added: "With



English language and women's empowerment as our next frontier, I believe we can bring Brit-

ain together and build the stronger society that is within reach." A ... (More on P4)...(21)

Refugee Influx Pushes Uganda's Humanitarian Relief Aid to Record High in 2015

KAMPALA - Humanitarian agencies working in Uganda have said relief aid to the country hit a record high in 2015 mainly on account of influx of refugees.

UN's food aid agency in its annual report said it assisted close to a million people last year, nearly 200,000 more than in 2014. The marked increase was mostly due to a surge in the number of refugees now living in Uganda, combined with expanded efforts to tackle post-harvest losses

and malnutrition.

"The number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda has increased nearly eight-fold since fighting broke out in their country in December 2013," said Michael Dunford, acting Country Director UN World Food Program (WFP).

According to the agency more people continue to arrive in Uganda daily from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries. Dunford said there are now ... (More on P4)...(22)

More Than \$6.5 Bln Stolen in Nigeria in Seven Years: Minister

ABUJA - Nigerian state governors, ministers, business leaders, public officials and bankers allegedly stole \$6.7 billion in public funds in seven years, information minister Lai Mohammed said on Monday. Mohammed told reporters in the capital, Abuja, that some 1.34 trillion naira (\$6.72 billion, 6.15 billion euros) was allegedly stolen between 2006 and 2013. "The situation is dire and the time to act is now," he added. Giving a breakdown of the alleged theft, Mohammed claimed: - 15 former state governors stole 146.84 billion naira - 11 businessmen took 653 billion naira - Eight people in the banking industry stole 524 billion naira - 12 former state and federal public servants made off with more than 14 billion naira - four former ministers took seven billion naira The period covered starts toward the end of the second term in office for Nigeria's first civilian president after military rule, Olusegun Obasanjo. He was replaced in 2007 by Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. (AFP)

DPRK Sends 1 Mln Anti-S. Korean Leaflets: Defense Ministry

SEOUL - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has sent around 1 million copies of propaganda leaflets across the border into South Korea amid mounting tensions after Pyongyang's claim of its first hydrogen bomb test. South Korea's defense ministry spokesman Kim Min-Seok told a press briefing that DPRK forces scattered anti-South Korean leaflets on a nearly-daily basis since last Wednesday, saying about 1 million copies are estimated to have been dispersed. The leaflets, criticizing the South Korean government and



President Park Geun-hye, were floated by balloons from the DPRK into some areas of the capital Seoul and the northern regions close to the inter-Korean border. The DPRK's leafletting came as tensions mounted on the Korean peninsula after Pyong-

yang's claim on Jan. 6 of its first H-bomb test. As part of retaliatory measures, South Korea resumed blaring anti-DPRK propaganda messages from loudspeakers along the border. The DPRK also restarted its own propaganda broadcasts. (Xinhua)

Erdogan Sues Turkey's Main Opposition Leader over Dictator Remark



ANKARA - Lawyers for Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan filed a lawsuit against the main opposition leader on Monday for implying that Erdogan was a dictator, presidential sources and the opposition party said. Erdogan, Turkey's most popular politician, is known for his intolerance of criticism and his readiness to take legal action over perceived slurs. Last week he urged prosecutors to investigate scores of academics for signing a declaration criticizing military action in the mainly Kurdish southeast of Turkey. "Academics who express their opinions have been detained one by one on instructions given by a so-called dictator," Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu said on Saturday, referring to the petition's signatories, who oppose the military crackdown on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and have urged an end to curfews. "You may not agree with the content of the declaration. We also have issues with it, we also have our disagreements. But why limit freedom of speech?" Kilicdaroglu said in comments to his party's congress in Ankara. (Reuters)

US Senior Diplomat Pledges Continued Support for Myanmar New Government

NAY PYITAW - U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday that the U.S. government would build a more deepened and firm relations with Myanmar in the future, pledging to continuously support Myanmar new government due to take office at the end of March.

Meeting with the press, Blinken also expressed the wishes of the United States to forge good relations with Myanmar and all its neighboring countries including China. During his meeting with Myanmar President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw, Blinken requested for the ... (More on P4)...(23)

Greek President Accuses Turkish Port Officials of Helping People Smugglers

BERLIN - Greek President Prokypis Pavlopoulos said Turkey was not doing enough to reduce the number of migrants arriving in Europe and accused Turkish port officials of helping people smugglers, drawing a denial from Ankara on Monday. Turkey reached a deal with EU officials late last year to keep more refugees inside its borders and stop them traveling onto Europe. Thousands fleeing

civil war in Syria have made the perilous journey from Turkey, across the Aegean Sea to Ankara's long-term regional rival Greece, many of them dying on the way. "I greatly fear that Turkish people smugglers are getting support from the authorities," Pavlopoulos said in an interview with the Sued-deutsche Zeitung published on Monday. "In particular, the port ... (More on P4)...(24)

Neighbor News

Blast Kills 5 Security Personnel in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - At least five security personnel were killed and two others injured when a blast hit a paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) vehicle in Pakistan's southwest city of Quetta on Monday afternoon, reported local Urdu TV channel AAJ.

According to local media reports, the blast took place at about 12:45 p.m. local time when an FC vehicle on routine patrol was hit by a roadside-planted bomb in the Margate area of

Quetta, capital city of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province. Rescue team rushed to the site shortly after the blast occurred.

All the bodies and two injured FC men were shifted to a military hospital in the city. The condition of the injured is not known.

One local media report said the blast killed six security personnel and wounded one.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. (Xinhua)

Iranians Expect Xi's Visit to Further Promote China-Iran Friendship

TEHRAN - Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to Iran is highly expected by Iranians who believe his visit will promote China's "Belt and Road" initiative, further develop Iran-China friendship and benefit the two peoples.

Harred Deren is a student of international relations at a local university. He told Xinhua that President Xi's visit will help further promote cooperation between Iran and China in politics, economy, science and technology as well as culture.

"This will further enhance the relationship between Iran and the region, and will also further promote peace and development of the entire Middle East," he said.

Deren, who has studied Chinese and calligraphy in China's northwestern city Xi'an, said Iran

and China, both having a long history, have underestimated influence in Asia. "Through the study in China, I not only felt the charm of Chinese ancient civilization, also saw strong development of a modern China. It was seen from ancient times to now, business contacts and cultural exchanges between the two sides have never stopped. I believe this visit of President Xi will promote the friendship between the two peoples and bring benefits to the two peoples."

Gulina, a 46-year-old Iranian woman working in a gift shop, has been to several Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. China gave her a deep impression as a "big country with a large population and modern urbanism," she said. (Xinhua)

More than Half of Iran Parliament Candidates Rejected: Media

TEHRAN - Around 60 percent of would-be candidates for Iran's parliamentary vote in February including many reformists have been rejected by the authorities, official media reported Monday. "Out of more than 12,000 registered candidates, 4,700 -- or about 40 percent -- were approved," Siamak Rah-Peyk, a spokesman for the Central Elections Supervising Committee was quoted as saying by state television.

The committee is dependent on the Guardian Council, a panel of conservative clerics and jurists, to vet registered candidates and overseeing the elections. Reformist parties have protested against the rejections.

"Out of over 3,000 reformist candidates across the country, only 30 have been approved -- only one percent," Hossein-Marashi, an official from the reformist camp, was quoted as saying in the Shaugh daily. (AFP)

Remittances from Russia to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan Decrease

BISHKEK - In Tajikistan, four in ten working-age adults have sought jobs abroad; in 2014 they sent home remittances equivalent to 42% of GDP, proportionally more than any other country in the world received. Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan also received remittances worth at

least 10% of GDP -- more than the Philippines, a country famous for its migrant workers, reports The Economist. Most migrants go north, to Russia, finding work on building sites or in other low-income jobs. But Russia's economy contracted last year, and remittances have ... (More on P4)...(25)

China Calls for Comprehensive Approach to Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue

BEIJING - China has always advocated a comprehensive approach to seeking both temporary and permanent solutions to the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday. Spokesman Hong Lei made the remarks when

asked to comment on a statement issued by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Saturday. In the statement, the DPRK said its hydrogen bomb test was a "self-defense measure" and the United States ... (More on P4)...(26)