

## Russia Deploys Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile Launchers Near Ukraine Border, Satellite Photos Show

MOSCOW - Satellite images shot Thursday and obtained exclusively by Fox News have revealed a new Russian deployment of Iskander missile batteries and launchers near the border with Ukraine. The intelligence report by Imagesat International showed the new deployment in Krasnodar, 270 miles from the border with Ukraine.

The images show an Iskander compound, with a few bunkers and another compound of hangars. Near the launcher, there is a transloader vehicle which enables quick reloading of the missiles into the launcher.

One of the bunker's door is open, and another reloading vehicle is seen exiting from it.

The Iskander ballistic missile has a range up to 310 miles, and can carry both unconventional as well



as nuclear warheads, putting most of America's NATO allies at risk. The second deployment is

near the border with Mongolia, in Ulan-Ude in Southern Russia, where there are four launchers and another reloading vehicle. (Fox News)

### Turkey-Proposed Security Zone in Northern Syria "Military Occupation": Kurdish Commander

DAMASCUS - A Kurdish commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said the Turkey-proposed security zone in northern Syria would be "a military occupation," Alarabiya TV reported Friday. The Kurdish-led SDF has never wanted to be an antagonist to Turkey, said Redro Khalil during an interview with the Alarabiya TV, adding that the border between Syria and Turkey was calm from the Kurdish side throughout the years of war in Syria. "We have expressed our intention to reach under-

standings with Turkey to allay their fears," he noted. The Kurdish commander, meanwhile, urged Ankara to stop the threats to invade Kurdish areas in northern Syria. "We completely reject" the security zone wanted by Ankara," Khalil said. The situation in northern and northeastern Syria, particularly in the Kurdish-controlled areas, returned under the spotlight recently, after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the decision to withdraw all troops from Syria. (Xinhua)

TORONTO — China's ambassador to Canada warned the Canadian government Thursday to stop recruiting international support in its feud with China and threatened retaliation if Canada bans Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei for security reasons.

Ambassador Lu Shaye said last month's arrest of a top Huawei Technologies executive was an act of "backstabbing" by a friend and he warned of repercussions if Canada bars the firm

from its new 5G network.

He said it would be a bad idea for Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland to use next week's World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, to press for support against China. Freeland has said the detention of two Canadians as part of that fight will be at the top of her agenda in Davos and didn't back down from that after hearing about the ambassador's remark. "We hope Canada

thinks twice before making any actions," Lu said through an interpreter to a group of Canadian journalists. "China will not be iso-



lated in the international community and will not waver in our position simply because of the objection of another country." (AP)

### Chinese Ambassador Warns Canada to Stop Rallying Allies

## Neighbor News

### Sound and Significant Policies Should Ensure Food Safety in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union (EU) have joined efforts to help developing national food safety strategy in Tajikistan, Trend reports referring to news.tj.

Developing an effective food safety strategy is a key element to ensure safe food supplies for local, regional and international trade. The establishment of relevant and enforceable food safety policies and regulations is a pivotal component of effective food safety

systems. A two-day workshop started yesterday on the National Food Safety Strategy of Tajikistan with the support of EU and FAO in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, according to the FAO Representative Office in Tajikistan. This document should contribute to the achievement of long-term goals of the country on providing safe and quality food that ensures consumers' confidence and protects public health. (Trend)

### Turkmenistan Implementing Big Project in Field of Telecommunications

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen Ministry of Communications has launched a large-scale project entitled 'Development of Telecommunication Networks of Turkmenistan', Trend reports referring to the ministry.

A loan worth \$273 million allocated by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will be used to finance the project. Presently, an average data transfer speed reaches up to 20 gigabits per second in Ashgabat, but a transport

corridor for information transmission at a speed of 100 gigabits per second is planned to be created in the near future. The data transmission speed will be about 40 gigabits per second in regions and up to 10 gigabits per second in districts.

This project, aimed at improving the quality of internet services, will also greatly improve the exchange of inter-ministerial information and implement new types of e-services. (Trend)

### NATO, Church & Brotherhood of Arms: Vladimir Putin Visits Belgrade



MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin got a hero's welcome in Belgrade. The one-day visit to the last holdout against

NATO's ambitions in the Balkans may have been somewhat short on substance, but was certainly loaded with symbolism.

Even before he landed, the Russian leader was given an honor guard by Serbian air force MiGs, a 2017 gift from Moscow to replace those destroyed by NATO during the 1999 air campaign that ended with the occupation of Serbia's province of Kosovo. Russia has refused to recognize Kosovo's US-backed declaration of independence, while the US and EU have insisted on it.

Upon landing, Putin began his first official trip of 2019 by paying respects to the Soviet soldiers who died liberating Belgrade

from Nazi occupation in 1944. While most Serbians haven't forgotten their historical brotherhood in arms with Russia, it did not hurt to remind the West just who did the bulk of the fighting against Nazi Germany back in World War II. After official talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, Putin visited the Church of St. Sava, the grand Orthodox basilica set on the spot where the Ottoman Turks torched the remains of the first Serbian archbishop back in 1594, in an effort to maintain power. (RT)

### Russia to Replace Legendary Makarov with New Pistol

MOSCOW - Russia will replace the legendary Soviet-era Makarov pistols used by its police and army with a new model that can work in extreme temperatures and rip through body armour, its maker said Friday. The new pistol called Udav, or boa constrictor, has been successfully tested and will go into mass production in spring, according to Rostec, Russia's state corporation that acts as an umbrella for its military-industrial complex. The Udav will be "one

### China Offers Iran \$3bn Oilfield Deal Despite US Sanctions

TEHRAN - State-run Chinese energy giant Sinopec has offered Iran a \$3-billion deal on further development of an Iranian oilfield the two countries are already working on, the Wall Street Journal has reported. The offer made by the China Petroleum & Chemical Corp (Sinopec) is part of an existing contract to operate the Yadavaran oilfield in southwest Iran on the Iraqi border, the report said.

The Chinese believe the offer wouldn't violate a US ban on signing new development deals with Iran because the Yadavaran contract goes back to 2007, according to people familiar with the matter. Sinopec has told its Ira-

nian counterpart, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), it wants its share of the field's production to be granted under the US waiver allocated to China, one person said. The new deal was offered by Sinopec in late December 2018 when the US allowed China to keep purchasing as much as 360,000 barrels of Iranian oil a day, the Journal said.

If implemented, the deal offered by China would double production at Yadavaran to more than 200,000 barrels a day (bpd) within six months. China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) and Sinopec have invested billions of dollars in Yadavaran and North Azadegan oilfields. (Trend)

### Brazil's Farm Minister Worried about Israel Embassy Move

BRASILIA - Brazilian Agriculture Minister Tereza Cristina Dias said on Friday the farm sector is worried that President Jair Bolsonaro's plan to move Brazil's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem could hurt halal meat exports to Muslim countries. "Of course the agricultural sector that I represent is worried," Dias told Reuters, when asked about possible repercussions for trade with Arab countries if the embassy were to be moved. "Brazil cannot lose markets, we need to open new markets," she said. (Reuters)

### India's Travel & Tourism Expo Attracts Participants from Home and Abroad

NEW DELHI - Around 1,000 participants from as many as 50 countries and regions as well as across India participated in the three-day expo "South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange" (SATTE) held in Greater Noida, a city in northern state of Uttar Pradesh adjoining the Indian capital, that ended on Friday. This was the 26th edition of the annual event and was said to be the biggest event of its kind in South Asia.

A number of Chinese firms from the travel and tourism sector also participated in the expo, such as "Go IndoChina Tours", "Hola China (Shanghai) International Travel Services Company Limited". "SATTE 2019" enabled professionals from the industry to congregate and conduct business, to make solution-driven innovations to counteract economic uncertainties, and promote inbound, outbound and domestic tourism in India. (Xinhua)

### French Step up Security to Stop Migrant Boats in the Channel

CALAIS, France — Border control officers patrolling the land, sea and air of northern France are combing beaches, dunes and the frigid, murky coastal waters in a bid to end a high-risk but growing tactic by a group of mostly Iranian migrants desperate to get to Britain: sneaking across the English Channel in rubber boats.

The stepped-up security is beginning to pay off. A patrol discovered a motorized rubber boat and four people this week in the dunes south of Calais, a top French border control official told The Associated Press. The goal is to save lives in one of the world's bus-



iest, and most treacherous, waterways, known for its strong currents, and to catch smugglers who appear to have found a new money-making niche, adding to their specialty of hiding migrants in freight trucks that cross the Channel on ferries or trains.

French authorities counted 71 small boat crossings or attempts in 2018 — 57 for the months of November and December alone, according to the Interior Ministry. Forty of the crossings were successful, with the majority of the 504 migrants who tried managing to make it to British waters or the coast. In 2017, there were only 12 such crossings. (AP)

### Secret Talks Between US, Nkorea Take Place in Sweden

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Envoys from the United States and North Korea took part in an unannounced high-level meeting in Stockholm on Friday, an official said.

Swedish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Diana Kudhaib said the talks included North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui but declined to give further details. Sweden's TT news agency said U.S. special envoy for North Korea Stephen

Biegun and Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom also were attending.

"These are just talks in a minor format where international experts take part," Kudhaib said. Sweden has had diplomatic relations with Pyongyang since 1973 and is one of only a few Western countries with an embassy there. It provides consular services for the United States. (AP)

### Algeria Calls April Election with Incumbent's Plans Unclear

ALGIERS - Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika issued a decree on Friday calling a much anticipated presidential election for April 18 but without saying whether he will seek a new term.

The ailing 81-year-old, who uses a wheelchair and is rarely seen in public, completes a fourth term of office on April 28.

Despite his advanced age and poor health, there have been calls from his supporters for him to stand for a fifth term but he has yet to make his intentions clear.

By law, would-be candidates now have until March 4 to register with the constitutional court.

Uncertainty over whether Bouteflika will stand for re-election has frozen Algerian politics for months.

No candidate of note has thrown his or her hat into the ring while the president's intentions remain in doubt.

For the last presidential election in 2014, Bouteflika left it until just days before the deadline to register.

Algerian politics is notoriously opaque with the winner of every multiparty presidential election pre-selected by a shadowy elite, beginning in 1995 with victory by retired General Liamine Zerroual.

For this year's election, the membership of the kingmaking elite has changed.

During his fourth term, Bouteflika finally made good on a longstanding pledge to reduce the power of the traditional powerbrokers by disbanding the DRS intelligence agency in 2016. (AFP)

### Mogherini, EU Ministers to Snub US Summit against Iran

TEHRAN - EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini will not take part in an anti-Iran conference to be held by the US in the Polish capital of Warsaw in mid-February, Iranian and US media reports say.

An EU official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told Iran's official news agency IRNA that Mogherini will not be able to attend the conference due to her tight schedule.

Mogherini will be "traveling in those days, hence her attendance is not foreseen," the official told IRNA's correspondent in London.

A senior EU official also confirmed IRNA's report on Thursday, saying Mogherini will not attend the gathering because of a prior engagement, the Wall Street Journal reported. The meeting is to be

held in Poland on February 13-14 as part of US efforts to increase global pressure on the Islamic Republic.

However, ministers from several European Union countries will likely skip the summit, the Wall Street Journal quoted officials as saying.

There is "a lot of uncertainty about participation of many other EU member states at ministerial level," one official told the newspaper.

European diplomats have said in recent days that France is unlikely to send its foreign minister. The UK and Germany haven't decided who will represent them.

Luxembourg's foreign minister said he would miss the event because of a prior arrangement. One European diplomat said the bloc will not be "joining an anti-Iran coalition." (Press TV)