

From Stealth Jets to Killer Subs: Russia Pitches Massive Arms Deals to India

NEW DELHI - Russia is offering an array of cutting-edge arms to be produced locally by India, including an advanced killer sub and a fifth-generation fighter jet. The Indian military is also about to take delivery of other weapons.

Moscow is now competing for a tender to deliver six diesel-electric submarines to the Indian Navy, said Vladimir Drozhzhov, the head of a government agency in charge of arms trade. Russia's bid includes the Lada-class attack submarine (also known as Amur-1650), an advanced underwater vessel designed for engaging ships, defending naval ports and conducting reconnaissance.



If selected, the submarine - which is said to be one of the quietest in her class - won't be just assembled under a Russian license and from Russian parts, the official revealed. The bid suggests

that the submersible will be jointly designed by Indian and Russian engineers but built by the Indians themselves.

This is how India could develop its own know-

how and acquire sensitive technology that other countries are reluctant to share, Drozhzhov noted. Also, the Indian-Russian sub could easily be fitted with another joint venture - a supersonic sea-skimming missile called BrahMos.

Submarines are not the only hardware that Russia has in store. India may become the first foreign operator of the Sukhoi-built Su-57 fighter jet, which is now undergoing final trials at Russian airbases, the official said.

The cutting-edge aircraft once served as a backbone of the Russian-Indian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) project until New Delhi chose to quit, citing design flaws. (RT)

Neighbor News

Pakistan Ready to Facilitate Japanese Investors: President

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said being a key economic partner, Pakistan was ready to facilitate Japanese investors to explore the country's diverse areas.

Talking to ambassador-designate to Japan Imtiaz Ahmed here at the Aiwane-Sadr, the President said Japan

was a close friend of Pakistan and the two countries could maintain a close collaboration to strengthen economy. The President noted that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan were on an upward trajectory, however stressed extra efforts to realize the true potential. (Monitoring Desk)

UK's Illegal Seizure of Iranian Oil Tanker Won't Go Unanswered: Top General

TEHRAN - Iran's top military commander warns that Britain's illegal seizure of an Iranian oil tanker in the Strait of Gibraltar will not go "unanswered."

"The capture of the Iranian oil tanker will not go unanswered and Tehran will give a response to [the UK's] contemptible move at an appropriate time and place when necessary," Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said on Tuesday.

Gibraltar police and customs agencies, aided by a detachment of British Royal Marines, boarded and impounded Iranian supertanker

Grace 1 in the Strait of Gibraltar last week, upon a request from the United States.

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Britain's ambassador to the country to express its strong protest at the move.

At the Foreign Ministry, Rob Macaire was told that the British Royal Marines' move was tantamount to "maritime piracy," and that the UK must immediately release the oil tanker.

It was also emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran will employ all its political and legal capacities to secure the release of the vessel and uphold its rights. (Press TV)

OSCE Mission to Monitor Parliamentary Elections in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE ODIHR) will give an expert assessment of the situation in Uzbekistan, and will also oversee the preparations for elections to the country's parliament, Trend reports with reference to Uzbek Foreign Ministry.

The Ministry reported that First Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Ilkhom Nematov received ODIHR Election Adviser Alexander Shlyk.

The OSCE / ODIHR delegation plans to assess the pre-election situation and the preparatory process for the

upcoming parliamentary elections in December 2019 and to develop proposals for the deployment of an election observation mission.

OSCE / ODIHR will hold over 20 meetings. Negotiations will be conducted with the Central Election Commission, the Parliament, the Supreme Court, ministries and state agencies, and political parties.

The upcoming elections in Uzbekistan are scheduled to take place at the end of 2019, in which five political parties will compete for 150 seats in the country's legislative chamber. Previous parliamentary elections were held in December 2015. (Trend)

Turkmenistan, Italy Mull Business Partnership Prospects

ASHGABAT - Turkmen Foreign Ministry hosted a meeting with Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Ettore Rosato, Trend reports with reference to the ministry. The sides discussed prospects for the development of Turkmen-Italian cooperation in the political, trade and economic fields. The parties also considered the issue of enhancing interaction between the business circles of the two countries.

In addition, representatives of the two countries agreed to deepen the partnership in many promising areas of cooperation as part of the EU-Central Asia dialogue, the report said.

According to the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, the country's exports to Italy increased over 10 times in January 2019 compared to January 2018. In recent years, foreign

trade turnover with Italy amounted to about \$1.5 billion annually, with a significant predominance of Turkmen exports. The two countries call the key vectors of increasing inter-state cooperation in the fuel and energy sector, trade, transport and communications, and agriculture. The presence of Italian business in the oil and gas sector is noticeable.

In November 2014, Eni company extended its activity in Turkmenistan within Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for 10 years. This refers to oil and gas bearing contract area of more than 1,000 square kilometers in Balkan region of the country.

The company also expressed its interest in exploration of offshore blocks 19 and 20 in Turkmen sector of Caspian Sea with reserves of more than 500 million tons of oil and 630 billion cubic meters of natural gas. (Trend)

Experts Say Urgent Reform Needed at WTO

BEIJING - The World Trade Organization (WTO), an anchor of the global trading system, is mired in crisis and urgently needs to be reformed, experts said at the World Peace Forum held here on Monday and Tuesday.

During panel discussions, experts stressed that the reform of WTO's appellate body is of existential importance to the organization.

As the United States continues to block the appointment of its judges, the WTO appel-

late body could grind to a halt, disabling the organization's vital dispute settlement mechanism, experts warned.

The appellate body, which normally has six judges, needs at least three to rule on appeals. The threat of a dysfunctional WTO looms large with the upcoming retirement of one of the remaining three judges in December.

The U.S. has been blocking the appointments of members to the WTO appellate body to delegitimize a rule-based ... (More on P4)... (16)

Trump Calls Theresa May 'Foolish' on Brexit, Blasts 'Wacky' And 'Pompous' UK Ambassador

WASHINGTON - President Trump on Tuesday said Prime Minister Theresa May was "foolish" in her handling of Brexit, as he doubled down on the feud with Britain's ambassador to the U.S. Kim Darroch - whom he called "wacky," "stupid" and a "pompous fool."

"The wacky Ambassador that the U.K. foisted upon the United States is not someone we are thrilled with, a very stupid guy. He should speak to his country, and Prime Minister May, about their failed Brexit negotiation,

and not be upset with my criticism of how badly it was handled," he tweeted.

He then turned his ire toward May, who is leaving office later this month after resigning over her handling of Britain's departure from the E.U. Britain was scheduled to leave the bloc in March, but that timeline has been pushed back until October amid repeated failures to get her withdrawal agreement, negotiated with European leaders, through Parliament. "I told @theresa_may



how to do that deal, but she went her own foolish way - was unable to get it done. A disaster!" Trump said, apparently referring to past advice that she sue the E.U. "I don't know the Ambassador but have been told he is a pompous fool." (Fox News)

U.S., China to Relaunch Talks with Little Changed Since Deal Fell Apart



WASHINGTON/NEW YORK - The United States and China are set to relaunch trade talks this week after a two-

month hiatus, but a year after their trade war began there is little sign their differences have narrowed.

After meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Japan just in late June, U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to suspend a new round of tariffs on \$300 billion worth of imported Chinese consumer goods while the two sides resumed negotiations.

Trump said then that China would restart large purchases of U.S. agricultural commodities, and the United States would ease some export restrictions on Chinese telecom equipment giant Huawei

Technologies. But sources familiar with the talks and China trade watchers in Washington say the summit did little to clear the path for top negotiators to resolve an impasse that caused trade deal talks to break down in early May. A U.S. official said last week the discussions were expected to resume with a phone call between U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. (Reuters)

IFC, Ukrainian EEF Agree on 235-Mln-USD Program to Boost Households' Energy Efficiency

KIEV - Ukraine's Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have signed an agreement to help allocate 235 million U.S. dollars to make Ukrainian families more energy-efficient, Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported on Tuesday. The agreement will help channel the money to some 6,000 homeowners' associations over a four-year period, the report quoted the Ukrainian Ministry of Regional Development,

Building and Housing and Communal Services as saying.

"Today's signing is another significant step in our efforts to promote energy efficiency. Over 80 percent of Ukraine's multi-family houses require energy-efficient modernization, and the Energy Efficiency Fund will work to help with these renovations. The IFC's support to the fund will help ensure the program is managed to the highest standards," said ... (More on P4)... (17)

Hong Kong Leader Admits Extradition Bill Is 'Dead' After Weeks of Violent Protests

HONG KONG - Hong Kong's chief executive has declared that the controversial extradition bill is "dead," admitting that the government's work to amend the legislation which sparked weeks of protests in the city was a "complete failure."

"The cause of all these grievances and confrontations is an exercise to amend the fugitive offenders' ordinance," Chief Executive Carrie Lam admitted at a press conference on Tuesday, noting that she almost immediately put a stop to the amendment in question.

However, the numerous protests that had since engulfed Hong Kong showed that the people ... (More on P4)... (18)

UAE Draws Down Troops in Yemen in 'Strategic Redeployment'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - The United Arab Emirates has drawn down its troop levels in Yemen but remains a key member of the Saudi-led coalition at war with Iran-aligned rebels there, a senior Emirati official said Monday.

The official confirmed that UAE troop levels are down, describing it as a "strategic redeployment." The official declined to disclose how many soldiers have left Yemen and how many remain.

"Definitely, we do have troop levels that are down for reasons that are strategic in Hodeida and reasons that are tactical," the official said, referring to the Yemeni port city where a U.N.-brokered cease-fire is supposed to be in place. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss troop deployments for security reasons. (AP)

UK Brexit Minister Urges EU to Reopen Withdrawal Deal Talks

LONDON - Britain's Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay warned Monday the EU must reopen the withdrawal agreement reached with outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May but rejected by MPs, so as to avoid a "disruptive" no-deal divorce in October. "We do need to look at it again," he said of the deal agreed by May and European Union leaders last year which British lawmakers have since voted down three times. "It is in both sides interest to avoid no deal and to look at how we get a deal through parliament," the minister added at a briefing for foreign media in Lon-



don. He was speaking on the eve of fresh talks with the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier in Brussels which has repeatedly insisted it will not reopen the accord reached with May. The pair last met in March, with the issue of citizens' rights

in a no-deal scenario reportedly set to be discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

Barclay insisted Britain "needs to leave" the bloc on the latest deadline of October 31, after May twice delayed departure amid MPs' implacable opposition to her divorce deal. (AFP)

UN Hails Africa Free Trade Area as 'Bridge to Peace'

NIAMEY - The United Nations on Monday hailed a landmark Africa-wide free trade area accord launched at the weekend as a bridge towards peace on the continent. The long sought-after zone, which African leaders hope will become the world's largest free trade zone by cutting trade tariffs and barriers between 1.2 billion people, was officially launched with much fanfare at an African Union (AU) summit on Sunday.

UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed said the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was "integral" to "start building bridges for peace."

"We have to find an alternative for the huge cohort of young people that we have the most of, who are the poor, the low-skilled. We owe them that," she told AFP at the summit in Niger's capital Niamey. (AFP)

'Want Trouble? You First!' Philippines' Duterte Dares US to Bring Its Fleet & Declare War on China

WASHINGTON - If Washington wants the Philippines to fight China, the US military should come and fire the first shot, President Rodrigo Duterte argued, accusing the US of using its allies as "bait" for Beijing.

"There is always America pushing us, egging us ... making me the bait. What do you think Filipinos are, earthworms?" Duterte said in a speech in Leyte province on Friday, which only got media attention on Sunday.

"Now I say, you bring your planes, your boats to South China Sea. Fire the first shot and we are just here behind you. Go ahead, let's fight," he added. "Do you want trouble? OK, let's do it." The remarks came as the government in Manila finds itself sandwiched between US demands for a tougher posture towards China and Beijing's maritime expansion in the South China Sea, specifically the islands that the Philippines have claimed as their own.

The US knew about China building up the islands, the president told the audience in Alangalang, at the opening of a rice processing factory, noting that the US Navy has the Seventh Fleet stationed in Japan.

"Why didn't they send it to the Spratly and say 'Hey guys, you are not supposed to build artificial islands in the high seas, that is exactly prohibited by international law and the fact is you are constructing it within the exclusive economic zone of our friend, the Philippines?'" Duterte asked. "They left them to build it, now it's all there. (RT)