

## China to Build 'World-Class' Military in New Strategy as US 'Stirs Up Rivalry' between Major Powers

BEIJING - The US erodes global security and seeks "absolute superiority," but Beijing won't follow the "beaten track" of big powers in seeking hegemony, focusing instead on having a "world-class" army, says a new Chinese military document.

China has markedly sharpened its tone towards the US in a white paper on national defense rolled out on Wednesday. The paper, published by the Defense Ministry, blames Washington for adopting "unilateral policies" as well as provoking competition among major world powers.

Beijing believes the US is after "technological and institutional innovation in



pursuit of absolute military superiority," it also undermines "global strategic stability" by heavily investing in nuclear, space, cyber, and missile defense assets.

In China's vicinity, the situation looks even more

worrisome, local strategists note, pointing out that Washington carries on with strengthening its Asia-Pacific military alliances and reinforcing "military deployment and intervention."

The paper naturally mentions Taiwan where

"separatist forces" pose "the gravest immediate threat to peace and stability" in the area. Beijing will make "no promise to renounce the use of force" in dealing with the island, and will "resolutely defeat anyone attempting to separate Taiwan from China," it warns.

No matter how threatening US geopolitical ambitions become, China will never "follow the beaten track of big powers in seeking hegemony" or seek any sphere of influence. Being a member of the nuclear club since the 1960s, it is committed "to a nuclear policy of no first use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances."

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### IMF Downgrades World Growth, Warns of 'Precarious' 2020

WASHINGTON - Global trade tensions, continued uncertainty and rising prospects for a no-deal Brexit are sapping the strength of the world economy, which faces a "precarious" 2020, the International Monetary Fund warned on Tuesday.

Trade conflicts are undercutting investment and weakening manufacturing, and the IMF urged countries to avoid using tariffs to resolve their differences.

In the quarterly update of its World Eco-

nomics Outlook, the IMF trimmed the global forecast issued in April by 0.1 percentage point this year and next, with growth expected to hit 3.2 percent in 2019 and 3.5 percent in 2020.

But the report sounded the alarm, saying things could easily go wrong. "Global growth is sluggish and precarious, but it does not have to be this way, because some of this is self-inflicted," IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath told reporters. ...*(More on P4)*...*(17)*

### Turkey Not Satisfied by US Proposal for A Syria Safe Zone

ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey said Wednesday that a new proposal by the United States concerning the creation of a possible "safe zone" in northern Syria was not "satisfactory" and suggested it would launch a new offensive in Syria to secure its border if an agreement is not reached soon.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu spoke as a delegation led by U.S. envoy James Jeffrey held talks with Turkish officials in Ankara to discuss Syria, including

the possibility of setting up a safe zone along the border with Turkey.

Turkey views the Kurdish fighters who have battled alongside the United States against the Islamic State group as terrorists and wants the safe zone established west of the Euphrates River to keep them away from a border region. It also argues that a safe zone will provide a secure area for Syrian refugees to return.

Turkey has launched two cross-border offensives since 2016 against



Islamic State militants and Kurdish fighters. It has recently been sending troop reinforcements to its border region, signaling a possible new offensive. Speaking to reporters at a joint news conference ...*(More on P4)*...*(14)*

### Russia Opposition Leader Detained as Moscow Vote Standoff Grows



MOSCOW - Russian police detained opposition leader Alexey Navalny as a standoff intensified over the authorities' decision to bar prominent

anti-government candidates from September elections in Moscow. Navalny has called for another major rally Saturday in front of the

monitors. Last weekend's demonstration was authorized but the next one planned isn't. Navalny, 43, said officers took him away as he

left his Moscow apartment building in jogging shorts early Wednesday, in a video from a police station posted on his Instagram account.

His spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, later tweeted that he was being charged with violating the law against appealing for people to attend unsanctioned demonstrations and could face up to 30 days in prison if convicted. Police declined to comment. The confrontation over the municipal polls in ...*(More on P4)*...*(15)*

### China, India Expected to Become Global Tech Centers by 2035

BEIJING - More than half of global business professionals participating in a Bloomberg survey agreed with the prediction that China and India would become the world's centers of technological innovation by 2035.

Nearly 60 percent of the respondents in developing countries and 49 percent in developed countries felt that China and India would turn into global technology hubs in the decades to come, according to the Bloomberg New Econ-

omy Forum survey of 2,000 business professionals in 20 markets.

Many transitions are taking place in the global economic landscape including the economic gravity shift from the west to the east and from the north to the south as well as an incredible technological transformation, Justin B. Smith, CEO of Bloomberg Media, told a press roundtable on Wednesday.

The survey showed that overall, emerging ...*(More on P4)*...*(18)*

### Russia Probe Report Does Not Exonerate Trump of Obstructing Justice: Mueller

WASHINGTON - Former special counsel Robert Mueller told a congressional panel on Wednesday that his report on the Russia probe did not exonerate U.S. President Donald Trump of obstructing justice. (Xinhua)

### Xi Presides Over 9th Meeting of Central Committee for Deepening Overall Reform

BEIJING - Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), presided over the ninth meeting of the central committee for deepening overall reform Wednesday.

Xi, also Chinese president, chairman of the Central Military Commission, and head of the central committee for deepening overall reform, said that deepening overall reform is an important manifestation of the CPC's commitment to remaining true to its original aspiration and shouldering its founding mission. As the reform goes deeper, it is more necessary to shoulder responsibilities, take swift but steady steps and forge ahead without taking a break, Xi said. Reforms should be integrated with the ongoing CPC education campaign themed "staying true to our founding mission," Xi said.

Li Keqiang, Wang Huning and Han Zheng, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and deputy heads of the reform committee, also attended. (Xinhua)

### Australian Parliament to Ban Extremists from Coming Home

CANBERRA, Australia - Australia is set to pass laws that would allow the government to prevent suspected extremists from returning home for up to two years while Australian supporters of the Islamic State group are demanding to be repatriated from crowded Syrian refugee camps.

The bills based on British law were debated in the Senate on Wednesday after they were passed Tuesday night in the House of Representatives where the conservative government holds a majority.

The center-left Labor Party opposition wants the legislation made more consistent with the British model with



amendments that would allow a judge rather than Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton to decide which Australians are banished. But the opposition supported the legislation in the House, indicating that their misgivings were not sufficient to attempt to block its passage. The legislation could be passed into law as early

as Thursday. Dutton argues he needs the flexibility to act quickly to prevent extremists returning. He also argues that some of Labor's proposed amendments set the threshold for preventing Australians from returning too high. The so-called Temporary Exclusion Order ...*(More on P4)*...*(16)*

### US-Based Medical Lab to Invest US\$ 40 Mln in Pakistan's Healthcare

WASHINGTON - Chief Executive Officer of North Shore Medical Labs USA Dr Abid Sheikh in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan during his visit to Washington, has committed an investment of US\$ 40 million in healthcare Sector of Pakistan. Dr. Sheikh briefed the Prime Minister on the already outsourcing of pathology lab services of DHQ hospitals in

Punjab. The North Shore had invested US\$ 10 million on the project, which was underwritten by the US government. The North Shore Medical Labs with its head office in New York is a full-service clinical reference laboratory, dedicated to serve the individual needs of the healthcare provider. (Monitoring Desk)

## Neighbor News

### Pakistan Protests with India Over 'Ceasefire Violation'

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Wednesday summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner Gaurav Ahluwalia to lodge a protest against what it called a recent "unprovoked ceasefire violations" by Indian forces in Kashmir.

In a statement, Pakistan's Foreign Office's spokesman said a 12-year-old boy and a woman were killed, while four others were injured on July 22 and 23 along the Line of Control (LoC) -- a de facto border that divides disputed Kashmir valley between Pakistan and India.

"The Indian forces along the Line of Control and the Working boundary are continuously targeting civilian

populated areas with heavy weapons," the statement said, adding: "The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation."

On July 22, Indian Defense Ministry's spokesman said in a statement Pakistan army resorted to "unprovoked ceasefire violation" on the line of control (LoC) in which one Indian Army soldier was killed.

"Own troops responded strongly and inflicted heavy damage to Pakistan Army posts and casualties to Pakistan soldiers, details of damage is yet to be ascertained," said the statement. (Monitoring Desk)

### Protecting Strait of Hormuz Is Iran's Business and No One Else's - President Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iran's president has reminded the global community that it should be thankful for Tehran's work on preserving security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, while stressing a UK tanker there was seized on legal grounds.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) recently seized a British-flagged vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, claiming it had violated maritime law. The incident followed Britain's seizure of an Iranian oil tanker off the coast of Gibraltar several weeks ago. The UK said it had been transporting oil to Syr-

ia in violation of EU sanctions.

"The Strait of Hormuz has a very important location, it's not to be taken as a joke and it's [no place] for [any] country to ignore international regulations," Hassan Rouhani said at a cabinet session on Wednesday.

Rouhani also praised the "very accurate, professional" job done by the IRGC in seizing the British ship because "it had refused all the orders and warnings." I believe that the whole world must be grateful to the Revolutionary Guard for ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf. (RT)

### Heads of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan Mull Topical Political Issues

TASHKENT - President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov exchanged views on the phone on current issues of the bilateral agenda, international and regional policy, Trend reports with reference to the press service of the president of Uzbekistan.

The heads of state noted the consistent strengthening of strategic partnership and multi-faceted cooperation between the two fraternal countries, the report said.

The president of Uzbekistan wished Turkmenistan success in hosting the first Caspian Economic Forum, which will be held in the Awaza national tourist zone in early August this year.

Bilateral relations of the two neighboring countries have noticeably intensified in recent years. According to the Uzbek side, the total volume of trade increased from \$177 million in 2017 to \$302 million in 2018.

In April 2018, the two countries signed contracts and memorandums providing for joint projects worth over \$250 million.

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which have impressive hydrocarbon reserves, are in favor of diversifying energy flows. A good example is the implementation of the project for building the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline, which was commissioned in 2009. (Trend)

### China to Supply Locomotives to Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Chinese Consortium CNTIC-CRRC DLOCO will supply Uzbekistan with new locomotives, Trend reports with reference to Uzbekistan Railways.

"The next step in expansion of bilateral relations with CNTIC-CRRC DLOCO Consortium was the signing of the Contract for supply of 24 units of electric locomotives at the expense of the loan proceeds of the Asian Development Bank," the report said.

"The consortium is to supply 16 freight and eight passenger locomotives during 2019-

2020. The modern technologies applied in the new electric locomotives, as well as savings in power consumption allows to achieve reduction in operating costs. Electric locomotive, which meets the world's standards in terms of environmental safeguards, is equipped with environmentally friendly induction traction engines," the statement said.

In May 2019, Asian Development Bank has allocated loan worth \$170 million to Uzbekistan for purchase of 24 electric locomotives. (Trend)