

US, Russia Cutting Nuke Arsenals, But Modernising: Study

STOCKHOLM - The world's biggest nuclear powers, the US and Russia, are slowly reducing their nuclear arsenals but are modernising their capacities, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said on Monday.

Nine states - the US, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea - had 15,395 nuclear warheads at the start of 2016, including 4,120 which were operationally deployed, the institute's annual report said.

At the beginning of 2015,



the number was 15,850. "Global nuclear weapon

inventories have been declining since they peaked

at nearly 70,000 nuclear warheads in the mid-

1980s. The decline has been due primarily to

cuts made in the Russian and US nuclear forces," researchers Shannon Kile and Hans Kristensen wrote in the report.

The reductions are the result of three arms limitation treaties signed since 1991, as well as unilateral force reductions by the world's two nuclear superpowers.

"However, the pace of their reductions appears to be slowing compared with a decade ago, and neither Russia nor the US... has made significant reductions in its deployed strategic nuclear forces ... (More on P4)... (25)

Number of Arrestees in Bangladesh's Anti-Militant Drive Reaches 11,307

DHAKA - 11,307 people were arrested within four days of Bangladesh's on-going week-long anti-militant drive, a police spokesman said on Tuesday.

"3,115 more people were arrested on the fourth day of the anti-militant drive, bringing the total number of arrestees to 11,307," A. K. M. Kamrul Ahsan, a Bangladeshi police spokesman, told Xinhua on Tuesday.

He said that "At least 26 among the total arrested

in the last 24 hours till 6:00 a.m. (local time) Tuesday were suspected militants."

Police earlier detained 8,192 people including 119 suspected militants in the first 72 hours of the clampdown against militants.

Among the 145 suspected militants arrested so far, most are members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Also on Tuesday top JMB ... (More on P4)... (26)

Anti-Terror Fight Requires Common Global Strategy: Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the fight against extremism and terrorism requires a common global strategy.

"All must understand that this (terrorism) is an international problem and needs an international solution," Zarif said in an address to the 2016 Oslo Forum on Tuesday.

He added that using terrorism as a tool or an end would be detrimental to all countries.

The top Iranian diplomat

emphasized that terrorism and extremism cannot be eliminated only through military, political, or economic means; rather a cultural and ideological approach is also needed.

Zarif added that such an approach must determine the reasons behind the attraction of some people toward extremism.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, the Iranian foreign minister arrived in Norway on Monday to hold talks with the European country's officials



and participate in the Oslo Norway's Foreign Minister Boerge Brende, president of parliament Ole

Monday, Zarif held separate meetings with ... (More on P4)... (27)

Bahrain Shuts Down Main Opposition Group Headquarters

MANAMA - A Bahrain court on Tuesday announced a verdict to dissolve Al Wafaq National Islamic Society, the main opposition society, and freeze all its activities.

The Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry said in a statement that an urgent verdict was issued by the High Administrative Appeals Court to suspend the society and take control of all its funds.

"According to the urgent verdict, the headquarters of Al Wafaq National Islamic Society will be shut down and all its funds will be seized by the min-

istry," said a statement. It is still not clear whether the society will appeal the court verdict.

The court earlier found Al Wafaq guilty of breaking laws, governing political societies, and failing to meet a one-month deadline to hold a fresh internal election.

In July 2014, the ministry filed a suit against the society, saying that it must rectify its "illegal status following the annulment of four general assemblies for lack of a quorum and the non-commitment to the public and transparency requirements for holding them." (Xinhua)

Erdogan Sends Message to Putin for Better Bilateral Ties

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has sent a message to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin celebrating the National Day of Russia, NTV reported Tuesday.

In the written message, Erdogan expressed his will for better relations between the two countries, NTV reported.

Turkish presidential sources also confirmed the letter which was sent on June 12. "On behalf of the Turkish people, I celebrate the National Day of the Russian people. I also hope that relations between Russia and Turkey reach the level they deserve in the near



future," Erdogan said the message, according to local media.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim sent a similar message to his Russian counterpart Medvedev. "I hope that the cooperation and relations between

our countries reach the level necessary for the common goals of our people soon. I wish health and prosperity to all Russians," Yildirim said. The message came amid efforts by Turkey to mend ties with its northern neighbor which

have been deeply scarred after Turkish warplanes downed a Russian jet in November, 2015. A Russian Su-24 bomber was downed on November 24 last year by a Turkish F-16 fighter near the border of ... (More on P4)... (28)

3 Security Personnel Injured in Naxalite Attack in C. India

NEW DELHI - At least three Indian security forces personnel were injured in a fierce gunbattle with left-wing Naxalite rebels in the central state of Chhattisgarh Tuesday morning, a top police official said.

"The incident happened in the dense forests of the state's Narayanpur district when the security forces personnel belonging to the District Reserve Group and local police were carrying out an anti-Naxalite operation in the area," head of anti-Naxalite operations D.M. Awasthi told the media. A group of armed left-wing rebels

opened fire on the security forces from the forests, in which three personnel of the District Reserve Group sustained bullet wounds, he said, adding that the condition of one of them is serious. The Naxalites soon fled into the forests after the police team retaliated with heavy firing, the official said. "A massive combing operation has been launched in the area in search of Naxalites who are believed to be hiding in the forests," he added. (Xinhua)

5 IS Militants Killed in Shelling in Northern Syria

ANKARA - Five Islamic State (IS) militants were killed on Monday in shelling in northern Syria by the Turkish army and air operations from the U.S.-led coalition, security sources told Dogan News Agency on Tuesday.

The move came after the Turkish target acquisition systems detected 13 IS targets preparing an attack on Turkey from Syrian side, security sources said.

Initial reports showed that five IS militants were killed, with two armed vehicles, eight buildings,



three mortar shells and one defense position belonging to IS destroyed. Since mid-January, the IS militants have launched attacks against towns and cities in southern Turkey with rocket fire, killing and injuring many

civilians. Meanwhile, seven IS suspects were detained on Tuesday after local police raided an IS cell in Yunus Emre Valley in southeastern Turkish city of Kahraman Maras, Dogan reported. (Xinhua)

Killer of French Police Officer Identified as Man Linked with IS

PARIS - The suspect who killed a senior French police officer and his girlfriend has been identified as a 25-year-old man who has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group, local media reported on Tuesday.

The man, Larossi Abballa, was arrested in 2011 and sentenced to three years in jail in 2013 for helping extremist militants to go to Pakistan, French radio RMC-Info re-

ported, citing a police source.

He was also known to justice for acts of delinquency, media reports said.

A senior police officer and his girlfriend, a public servant of the Interior Ministry, were killed by the suspect in the west Paris suburb of Magnanville on Monday night.

An IS-linked news agency report said that the attack was carried out by an "Islamic State fighter." (Xinhua)

Russian Aircraft Deliver 18 Tons of UN Aid to Syrian City



MOSCOW - Russian aircraft have dropped 18 tons of United Nations (UN) humanitarian aid on Syria's eastern city Deir ez-Zor, which has been besieged by IS militants, said the Russian Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides on Tuesday.

The aid, which was delivered via parachutes, contains food, flour and grains. Humanitarian

convoys for Syrian people are being formed," the center said, adding that the settlement of Khmira in Syria's Hama province has received four tons of humanitarian aid. A cease-fire brokered by Russia and the United States, which took effect at midnight on Feb. 27, has brought relative calm to swathes of the war-ravaged country. (Xinhua)

Killing of Police Officer "Terrorist Act": Hollande

PARIS - The killing of a senior French police officer and his wife by a man who claimed allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) was "incontestably a terrorist act," President Francois Hollande said on Tuesday.

Late on Monday, a 25-year-old man stabbed to death a senior police officer outside his home in

Magnanville, west Paris suburbs, before hiding inside the house and taking officer's partner and three-year-old son hostages.

After failed negotiations to surrender, police elite shot dead the assailant who also killed the woman. The boy was unharmed, the interior ministry said. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

US has to do more on Nuclear Deal: Iran

TEHRAN - Iran says the US must do more to encourage banks into doing business with the Islamic Republic following the lifting of sanctions.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told a news conference in Norway on Tuesday that Iran had yet to feel gains from a July nuclear agreement with the West and other parties. "I believe the United States on paper has removed all the sanctions," Zarif said in a joint news conference with EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in Oslo.

Top Iranian officials

have complained that the US is not fulfilling its part of the nuclear agreement. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said the US has resorted to "deception" to obstruct international trade with Iran.

Officials in the US State Department and Treasury have frequently said that Iran would not be given any access to the American financial system. Hence, banks are reluctant to do business with Iran over the fear of being penalized by Washington.

"On the banks, I be ... (More on P4)... (29)

China Urges U.S. to Honor Promise on one-China Policy

BEIJING - The Chinese foreign ministry on Tuesday urged the United States to honor its promise on the one-China policy as Taiwan's new leader Tsai Ing-wen allegedly plans to make transit stops in Miami and Los Angeles on an overseas trip.

"The U.S. government has made solemn promises that it upholds the one-China policy," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in response to a question at a daily news briefing. "We demand the U.S. government earnestly keep its promises and

handle the issue in accordance with the one-China policy," Lu said, urging the United States to avoid providing "soil" for secessionist activities aimed to split China.

When asked on Dalai Lama's possible meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, Lu stressed that the United States admits Tibet is inalienable part of China and will adhere to the one-China policy. Lu added that the U.S. government has promised it will never recognize the so-called ... (More on P4)... (30)

CII Declares Honour Killings 'Un-Islamic and against Law of Land'

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) declared killing in the name of honour as un-Islamic and against the law of the land, in a statement released on Tuesday.

"There are laws in the country to deal with the obscenity and other moral crimes so one cannot kill other in the name of honour," said the CII statement. The Council, however, maintained that being provoked after witnessing a moral sin by a close relative is an element of human nature.

The CII added there is no room for anyone to

kill an individual after being provoked by a moral sin, as punishments for the same exist in the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and the Sharia.

"Every accused should be brought before the court," the council's statement said adding it is up to the court to declare an individual as guilty or innocent.

The CII also declared that "extra judicial killing is simply an offense," and it is the prerogative of the court to excuse an accused's behaviour in honour killing cases.

"The executive needs ... (More on P4)... (31)

Some 100 Military Units Delivered to Russian Military Base in Tajikistan

YEKATERINBURG - About 100 new armored personnel carriers and tanks have been delivered under the state defense order to the units of Russia's 201st military base stationed in Tajikistan, Yaroslav Roshchupkin, an aide to the commander of the Central Military District of Russia, reported on Tuesday.

"Within the planned rearmament, about 100 units of new equipment, mostly the BTR-82A armored personnel carriers, as well as more than 10 T-72B1 tanks, have been delivered to the 201st military base. The exact number is not disclosed. The new armored vehicles have increased firepower, improved crew protective system and new communication systems," Roshchupkin

said. The military equipment was delivered to Tajikistan by special trains that traveled more than 6,000 km. "Helicopter and unmanned aviation units, logistics, engineering and medical support units, as well as military police personnel were receiving the armored vehicles," the official added. Crews of the combat vehicles had undergone retraining in Russia in advance, and additional training was organized at the Sambuli range in Tajikistan. "The same number of units of the combat equipment earlier versions was taken from Tajikistan to Russia by return trains," he said. The 201st military base is Russia's largest foreign military facility. It is stationed in the Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tyube garrisons. (TASS)