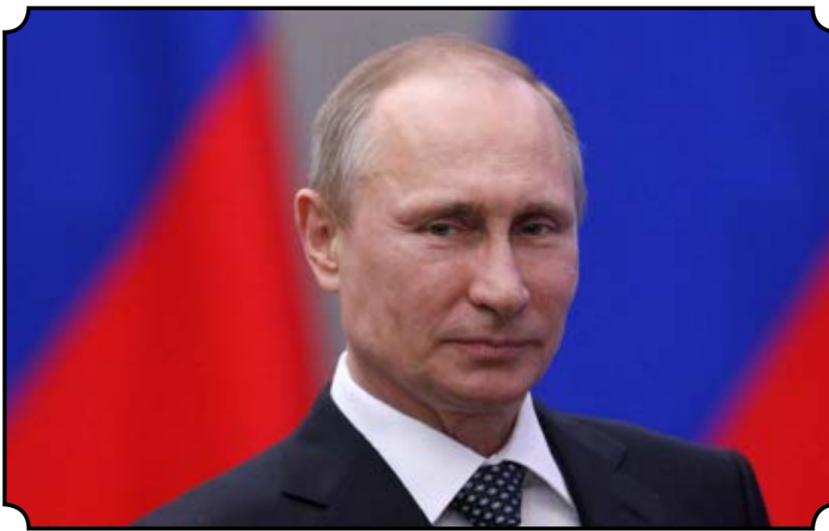


Putin Reveals Rearmament Plan

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that the country's armed forces will be equipped with at least 70 percent of modern armament by 2020, an ambitious plan to reinforce Russia's defense capability amid NATO's increasing military build-up near Russian borders. "The share of modern weaponry should increase to 70 percent by 2020, and in some cases to 100 percent," Putin said at the International Military-Technical Forum "ARMY 2015" in Kubinka air base in the Moscow region. Over 40 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) will enter service in the Russian army this year, Putin said, adding that these ICBMs can penetrate any advanced anti-missile defense shield. Besides, Putin



said, the Russian army has been receiving the newest armored combat vehicles Armat, Kurganets and Bumerang, which were shown during the May 9 military parade at the Red Square.

Russia also plans to put four missile regiments on combat duty and a strategic nuclear submarine into service this year, Putin said. Meanwhile, the Russian top leader expressed his confidence in Russia's role in the global arms market.

"Our weapons are very popular on the global arms market. The demand has been stable in recent years, and an orders portfolio has been formed for years to come," he said. (Xinhua)

NATO to Hold Exercise Trident Joust 2015 in Romania, Bulgaria

BRUSSELS - Twenty-five NATO nations and more than 1,000 personnel will participate in exercise Trident Joust 2015 June 18 to 28, NATO said Tuesday. The exercise marks the first time a joint force command headquarters will deploy to Romania, and the first time a NATO response force command and control exercise will conduct the shifting of control to a deployed location. The joint logistics support



group, based out of Naples, Italy, is deploying its headquarters to Bulgaria to exercise its capability in support of the exercise. "The exercise is designed to test the abilities of Joint Force Command Naples

to lead a collective defense operation for the Alliance," said Admiral Mark Ferguson, commander of JFC Naples.

Trident Joust 2015 is part of a larger series of exercises referred to as Allied Shield. The activities will focus on enhancing interoperability, readiness and responsiveness among Allied and partner nations. The Allied Shield series includes exercise Noble ... (More on P4)...(22)

EU on Track to Meet Renewable Energy Targets: Report

BRUSSELS - The European Union is on track to meet its 20 percent renewable energy targets, the European Commission said on Tuesday.

This was part of the findings of the Commission's 2015 report on progress made in achieving the EU's legally binding target for a 20 percent share of renewable energy, the 10 percent target for renewable energy use in transport, and the binding national targets by 2020. With a projected share of 15.3 percent of renewable energy in 2014 in the gross final energy consumption, the EU and the vast majority of member states were

advancing well, with 25 member states expected to meet their 2013-2014 national targets, said the report.

Moreover, it noted that achieving the 10 percent target was challenging but remained feasible with a projected share of 5.7 percent renewable energy in transport in 2014. The renewable energy was becoming a widely accepted, mainstream source of energy with the 2020 targets being a key driver for European-led global investment in renewables and supportive energy policies far beyond Europe's borders, said the report. (Xinhua)

Russian Gov't Approves Draft Bill to Boost Trade with China

MOSCOW - The Russian government on Tuesday approved a draft bill to boost the country's trade with China within the mechanism of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an upcoming summit of the bloc is to be held in Russia. The bill, submitted for government consideration by Russian Foreign

Ministry and Transportation Ministry, would simplify and harmonize the SCO countries' national procedures regarding cross-border road transit, according to a government statement. In particular, it will lift the existing ban on the entry of Russian vehicles to China through border check points from Kazakhstan, and

as a result, boost the trade turnover between Russian and China, said the statement. The bill will be reviewed at a government session later. Founded in 2001, the SCO has China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as its full members, with ... (More on P4)...(23)

UN Human Rights Top Official Slams Australia's Policy on Asylum Seekers

CANBERRA - Australia's "hostility and contempt" towards asylum seekers is "widespread among the country's politicians," according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein also backed the finding of Australia's Human Rights Commission that the treatment of children in Australia immigration detention in Papua New Guinea and Nauru violates the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Australian media reported on Tuesday. In an address concerning the human rights of migrants, Zeid shared his "growing alarm" at the international community's failure to protect the rights of migrants, highlighting current "lethal cases" in Europe and Southeast Asia.



"Our concerns must extend also to those attempting to enter Australia and the United States, and to the abuses of migrants that are so frequent throughout the world including many countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as shocking recent violence

in South Africa," he said. Australia's response to migrant arrivals, which sees asylum seekers arriving by boat labelled as illegal entries and placed in offshore detention, has set a poor benchmark for its neighbours, Zeid said. (Xinhua)

Establishment of Continental Standby Force on Course: AU Chairman

JOHANNESBURG - The operationalization of an African standby force is on course to help deal with emerging security challenges in the continent, African Union (AU) Chairman Robert Mugabe

said Tuesday during the closing ceremony of the 25th AU summit in Johannesburg. "We agreed on the need to fast-track the establishment of an African standby force to be deployed

in various trouble spots. Countries have set up mechanisms to achieve this goal," Mugabe said. The creation of a continental standby force with deployable capability was ... (More on P4)...(24)

EU Diplomat Welcomes Cambodia's Disputed Draft NGO Bill

PHNOM PENH - Outgoing ambassador of the European Union to Cambodia Jean-Francois Cautain on Tuesday welcomed the Cambodian government's decision to establish a law on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Associations, according to a Cambodian government official.

Cautain expressed his welcome during a farewell meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Peace Palace in

Phnom Penh capital, Kao Kim Hourn, minister attached to Prime Minister Hun Sen, told reporters after the meeting. "Ambassador Cautain said that because Cambodia is a sovereign state, the country can decide on this NGO law," he said, adding that Cautain just suggested that the law continue to support legal NGOs so that they can continue their activities. "In sum, Cautain welcomes the creation of this

law because this is the government's decision," he said. For his part, Hun Sen said the law had taken nearly 20 years to be drafted and was approved by the Council of Ministers on June 5. He said there are two necessities to make this law. Firstly, such law is required by the article 42 of the Constitution and secondly, it is necessary to control the situation of NGOs. (Xinhua)

Turkey Looking Forward to Indian PM's Visit: Envoy

NEW DELHI - Turkey is looking forward to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit for the G20 Summit later this year, its envoy has reportedly said.

"We are looking at more opportunities for more interaction at the senior-level and Turkey is looking forward to the visit of the Modi to Turkey for the G20 Summit," Ambassador of Turkey to India Burak Akcapar was quoted as saying in the eastern city of Kolkata late Monday evening. Stressing Turkey's intention to invest in India, he said: "We are looking at investments in the civil aviation sector, economic sector, tourism sector." "We are looking for investments into possible opportunities in the con ... (More on P4)...(25)

UN General Assembly Gets New President

UNITED NATIONS - Mogens Lykketoft, speaker of the Danish Parliament was elected president of the 70th annual UN General Assembly by acclamation Monday, succeeding Sam Kutesa who served as president of the 69th annual session.

There was no suspense leading up to the election because he was choice of the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), whose turn it was to nominate an assembly president. The WEOG decision to name him was made behind closed doors by group members. Representatives of the other groups and WEOG welcomed Lykketoft. He is the first Dane to hold the post and the third Scandinavian for the

position, coming behind Norway's Edvard Hambro in 1970 and in 2005, Sweden's Jan Eliasson, now Deputy Secretary General to Ban Ki-moon. Lykketoft, 69, is scheduled to open the benchmark anniversary session Sept. 15. On Sept. 22 he will preside over the annual General Debate where global leaders will address the world body. In his opening remarks to the General Assembly Monday, Lykketoft recalled how 55 years ago he visited the UN Association in Copenhagen, Denmark, to collect information about the United Nations and its role in peace making and keeping, disarmament, international cooperation, development and civil rights. (Xinhua)

Bloodshed Persists in Iraq As 44 Killed in Air Strikes, Clashes



BAGHDAD - A total of 44 people were killed Tuesday in the U.S.-led coalition air strikes and clashes between Iraqi forces and Islamic State (IS) militants in Iraq, security sources said. In Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, the coalition aircraft carried out an air strike at dawn on three vehicles carrying IS militants in Bara area near the IS-seized town of Sinjar, Luqman al-Khansouri, a leader in a Kurdish force tasked with freeing Sinjar from IS, told Xinhua. "The air strike resulted in destroying the three vehicles and the killing of 13 militants aboard," Khansouri said. In Salahudin

province, fierce clashes erupted between the Iraqi forces and IS militants on the main road leading to the IS-held town of Seiniyah, just west of the oil refinery town of Baiji, leaving at least 11 militants and six security members killed, a provincial security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. On the road to Seiniyah, the security forces have been in heavy clashes with the IS militants for two successive days as the troops and allied militias known as Hashd Shaabi, or popular mobilization, are trying push forwards to free the town, the source said. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

Bank of China Becomes First Asian Bank to Directly Participate in Gold Auction

LONDON - Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Tuesday announced here that the Bank of China has been approved by the ICE benchmark administration to participate in the gold auction which is used to determine the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) gold price, a benchmark physical gold price in the world. On the same day, the bank stated it was the first Chinese and Asian bank to directly participate at the gold price auction.

The London gold market has long been accepted as the global spot gold pricing centre. The LBMA gold price, which replaced the London gold fix established in 1919,

is widely used in settlements between producers, consumers and financial institutions, and has been an important pricing benchmark for gold derivative contracts. Since assuming administration of the gold auction, IBA has grown the number of direct participants and significantly increased auction volumes.

Finbarr Hutcheson, president of the ICE benchmark administration, said in a statement: "We are delighted to welcome Bank of China to the gold auction. The growth in daily volumes coupled with the increase in participation from around the globe, demonstrates strong market support for the established in 1919, ... (More on P4)...(26)

Iran Seeks Good Nuclear Deal with P5+1: Senior MP

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian lawmaker says the Islamic Republic is determined to hammer out a final nuclear agreement with the P5+1 countries that would safeguard the Iranian nation's rights. "Iran is determined to reach a good agreement with the P5+1, which would guarantee the Iranian nation's basic rights to use peaceful nuclear technology," said Al-aeddin Boroujerdi, the chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, on Monday.

The Iranian MP made the remarks in a meeting with Gabriela Cuevas Barrón, the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Mexican Senate, in Tehran. Negotiators from Iran and the P5+1 - the

United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany - are holding talks on drafting the text of a possible final deal over Tehran's nuclear program. They have been working on the text of a final deal after reaching a mutual understanding on the key parameters of an agreement in the Swiss city of Lausanne on April 2. The two sides are working to reach the final deal by June 30.

The Mexican lawmaker, for her part, expressed hope that the ongoing talks between Iran and the six world powers would protect Iranian nuclear rights, including the right to uranium enrichment, and lead to the removal of sanctions against the Islamic Republic. (Agencies)

Pak Military Sees Offensive against Taliban in N. Waziristan as Success

ISLAMABAD - Exactly a year after the Pakistani military launched a massive land and aerial offensive against the Taliban code-named "Zarb-e-Azb" (sharp strike) in the North Waziristan tribal region, military bigwigs here have said that the operation was a success. In a recent command conference in Rawalpindi, Pakistani Army Chief General Raheel Sharif emphasized to his top commanders on the need for the continuation of the operation which involves fighter jets and helicopter gunships, until all the remnants of the terrorist group are driven from their sanctuaries. A statement is-

sued after the command conference quoted the Army chief as having urged the commanders to "take all measures to prevent the escape of trapped terrorists" from their last few pockets of resistance in North Waziristan. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asim Bajwa said over the weekend that the security forces had killed 2,763 militants during the year-long operation that started on June 15, 2014. A total of 347 security personnel also lost lives in the clashes and due to roadside bomb attacks during the operation, General Bajwa said after releasing a one-year report of the offensive. (Xinhua)

Chinese Company to Modernize Cable Production in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - China's Gulf Cable Trading Company this year will invest \$2 million in modernization of Navoi Cable Connector, a joint company it established in the Navoi free industrial and economic zone in Uzbekistan, Novosti Uzbekistana (<http://nuz.uz>) reported. The joint venture manufactures aluminum electric wire and isolation cable material. The planned modernization will allow producing new types of cable and

wire products. In addition, Gulf Cable Trading Company will support technological modernization of cable production at the joint venture UzCable. The project, worth \$3.3 million, will be financed by the joint venture's own funds. According to Uzbekistan's national electro-technical company Uzeltehsanoat, more than 80 percent of cable products produced in the country in 2014 went for export. (ICA)