

U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Upgraded at Unprecedented Speed: Russia

MOSCOW - A Russian foreign ministry official said Friday that the United States is beefing up its nuclear arsenal at an unprecedented speed. Although there's no regulation preventing countries from updating their nuclear capacity, the U.S. actions are "worth noticing," Mikhail Ulyanov, director of the non-proliferation and arms control office, told Russian paper Kommersant. The United States is building new bombers, submarines



and intercontinental ballistic missiles, known as the nuclear triad, to improve its nuclear strike ability at a scale unseen under previous U.S. administrations, Ulyanov said. He added that the U.S. actions run against its previous commitment to downscale nuclear weapons. U.S. President Barack Obama said in April 2009 that the U.S. government would work toward making the world free of nuclear weapons. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China Reaffirms Opposition to U.S. Arms Sale to Taiwan

BEIJING - China on Friday reaffirmed its opposition of an arms sale by the United States to Taiwan after reports said the State Department had authorized the sale of two U.S. Navy frigates for 190 million U.S. dollars. According to the report by Reuters, the sale has been submitted for congressional approval. China had lodged representations to the U.S. State Department and urged the U.S. side to clarify, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei at a daily press briefing. Hong added that the State Department said there was no plan ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Iran FM Holds Talks with Thai Premier During Bangkok Visit

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has met with Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in the capital Bangkok to discuss the enhancement of bilateral ties on the fourth leg of his Asian tour. On the second day of his visit to Bangkok, the top Iranian diplomat was received by the Thai premier at Government House in the capital on Friday. The two senior officials exchanged views on the expansion of Tehran-Bangkok relations in various areas, particularly in political and economic spheres. Late on Thursday, Zarif held talks with his Thai ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

Pak Senate Passes Law to Criminalise Child Sexual Abuse

ISLAMABAD - The Senate on Friday passed a bill that criminalises the first time sexual assault against minors, child pornography and trafficking. The amendment to the penal code, which will go into force after being ratified by the president, also raises the age of criminal responsibility from seven to 10 years of age. Under the revised legislation, sexual assaults will now be punishable by up to seven years in prison. Previously, only rape was criminalised. Likewise, child pornography, which was previously not mentioned in the law, will be punishable by seven years in ...*(More on P4)...(31)*

Turkmenistan Beats Turkish Co.'s \$567 Million Arbitration Claim

BISHKEK - legal system-justice-court A World Bank arbitration panel Wednesday dismissed a \$567 million claim brought by a private Turkish company against Turkmenistan alleging major construction projects were stalled by government interference in breach of a bilateral investment treaty, saying the firm didn't show government officials impermissibly intervened, reports Law360.com. In its 175-page ruling, the three-member tribunal dismissed Ickale Insaat Limited Sirketi's claims and ordered the Turkish construction company to pay the prevailing party, Turkmenistan, more than ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

Syrian Opposition Says to Join Geneva Peace Talks

DAMASCUS - The Syrian opposition Higher Negotiation Committee (HNC) stressed Friday that it will partake in the upcoming Geneva talks on Syria slated for March 14. The approval was announced in a statement issued Friday, and carried by the Saudi-funded Al Arabiya TV, just days after the HNC gave conflicted stances regarding its participation in the second round



of the Geneva talks. The previous round of talks ended last month with no tangible results, but intensified international efforts have managed to establish a cessation of hostilities in Syria that significantly facilitated access to humanitarian supplies. The cessation of hostilities ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Obama Hits out at Cameron, Sarkozy over Libya Intervention

WASHINGTON - In a rare public rebuke of two of Washington's closest allies, President Barack Obama has hit out at British Prime Minister David Cameron and former French leader Nicolas Sarkozy over their roles in Libya after the fall of the Kadhafi regime. Cameron became "distracted" and Sarkozy wanted to promote his country during the 2011 NATO-led military inter-



vention in Libya, Obama said in an interview with The Atlantic magazine published Thursday. British daily The Independent on Friday slammed Obama's comments as "an unprecedented attack on a British leader by a serving US president," while The Times called the criticism ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Sanctions Against DPRK Should not Intensify Tensions: Russian FM

MOSCOW - The sanctions newly approved by the United Nations Security Council against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should not be used to intensify tensions on the Korean Penin-

sula, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday. "Both Russia and China defend the adoption of the sanction measures, which, on the one hand, would block further development of DPRK's nuclear programs, and, on the other, should not lead to a rise of tension in the region and not hinder the possibility of political and diplomatic settlement," Lavrov said at ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

UN Blasts Rape for Wages, Child Killings in South Sudan

WASHINGTON - In a rare public rebuke of two of Washington's closest allies, President Barack Obama has hit out at British Prime Minister David Cameron and former French leader Nicolas Sarkozy over their roles in Libya after the fall of the Kadhafi regime. Cameron became "distracted" and Sarkozy wanted to promote his country during the 2011 NATO-led military intervention in Libya, Obama said in an interview with The Atlantic magazine published Thursday. Brit-



ish daily The Independent on Friday slammed Obama's comments as "an unprecedented attack on a British leader by a serving US president," while The Times called the criticism "extraordinary." In the extensive interview, Obama discussed the conditions surrounding the British and French-led bombing campaign that led to the fall of Moamer Kadhafi's regime. Obama said when he considered what went wrong ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

N. Korean Leader Kim Orders more Nuclear Tests: KCNA

SEOUL - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched a ballistic missile launch test and ordered the country to improve its nuclear attack capability by conducting more tests, the official KCNA news agen-

cy reported on Friday. The report did not say when the test took place but it was probably referring to North Korea's launch of two short-range missiles on Thursday that flew 500 km (300 miles) and splashed into the sea. "Dear comrade Kim Jong Un said work ... must be strengthened to improve nuclear attack capability and issued combat tasks to continue nuclear explosion ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You may wake up so excited that it's nearly impossible to contain yourself. However, it becomes obvious later in the day that you might have overreacted, which in turn makes the situation even more awkward. Thankfully, smoothing any ruffled feathers is quite simple today if you put your mind to it, plus you get to enjoy the calm after the storm. Take a few deep breaths; after all.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

It might seem as if you are given one last chance to get it right, but this time you're certain it's your final opportunity. However, once again your assessment of the situation is wrong. Undoubtedly, you need to tie up as many loose ends as possible before the Moon enters your sign this afternoon; but whatever isn't completed today will still be there tomorrow.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Concentrating on your job seems like an uphill battle today because there are so many interesting diversions that vie for your attention. Your insatiable curiosity often tempts you to explore a variety of avenues whether or not there is enough time. However, your mental inquisitiveness just makes you feel annoyingly scattered now. Thankfully, you can still complete your assignments by remembering to return to the work at hand each time your brain wanders.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're tired of being responsible for everyone else's happiness now because it might feel like your own needs are lost in the process. Although you aren't one to walk out on your commitments, it's time to restore a healthy balance to your life. Begin by acknowledging those things that make your heart sing. Slowly move in the direction of your dreams, even if you must take an emotional risk.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You continue to ride the waves of change, but it's wise to be fully prepared today as you head into rough waters. A storm isn't necessarily an indication of a major problem; it might simply be a sign to slow down and review your plans before nonchalantly continuing on your way. Don't worry about resolving every dilemma now. Simply navigate your way around the obstacles until you find a safe place to land.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You recently excavated buried psychological intrigue and drama, but now you are ready to take a simpler approach to life. Your imagination is running wild, tempting you with a wide array of fantasies. Even if satisfaction is elusive at first, you can rest easy knowing that your fair share of fun is on the way. Making the right choices early today sets the stage for an adventure tonight or over the weekend.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

An intense emotional interaction with someone special may have zapped a lot of your energy in the recent past. Thankfully, it's now time to turn this powerful engagement into something more meaningful that truly nurtures your soul. It's as if an overbearing electric guitar riff is bridging into a gentle flute solo right before your eyes. And as the melody wafts, so does your pleasure.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You believe you possess a secret weapon today, but mentioning it to anyone is unwise because your power currently stems from remaining silent. Although some people might think your charisma is a by-product of your sexual energy, your magic goes deeper into more spiritual realms. Your magnetism remains alluring as long as the mystery stays in place.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It's more than likely that you recently devoted your energy to pursuing pleasure instead of getting your work done. It's time to pay the piper by catching up on your chores today, even if that means turning down a leisurely lunch or an evening out with your friends. However, attempting to do everything at once only creates more complications. The most straightforward route to success is traveled by prioritizing your tasks now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You may be discouraged this morning because it feels as if you're running on a hamster wheel without getting anywhere. Honestly, even your most dependable rituals don't seem to contribute to your progress today. Paradoxically, your smartest strategy is to loosen your expectations without giving up on your goals. Fortunately, you should be able to find your groove later in the afternoon and quickly make up for lost time.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A wall of exhaustion may hit you unexpectedly today, requiring you to stop and assess how much you have already accomplished this week. Unfortunately, you might still have a distance to go now, even if you've run out of time and energy. Accepting your fatigue is a crucial first step in overcoming it. Step out of the fray to give yourself a chance to recuperate.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It is a tortoise-and-the-hare kind of day -- and you are now playing the role of both of these characters. You're off to a quick start as the hare and you're excited about getting ahead of the pack. But instead of thinking you can steal a quick nap, you become more tactical through the afternoon as you consider how to sustain your efforts. Slowing down like the tortoise makes perfect sense; the sooner you do it.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across
1. Piquant, 6. Makes lace, 10. Rind, 14. Small boat, 15. Unit of land, 16. Apiary, 17. A formal charge of wrongdoing, 19. Notion, 20. Harvester, 21. Clunker, 22. Focusing glass, 23. Coil of yarn, 25. Our planet, 26. Barely managed, 30. Supernatural, 32. Goddess of divine retribution, 35. Enfold, 39. Like a god, 40. Cloudburst, 41. Pixies, 43. Big ape, 44. Palace, 46. Prompts, 47. Pizazz, 50. Bog hemp, 53. Great affection, 54. Tavern, 55. Straight, 60. Basic unit of money in China, 61. Pampering, 63. Sweeping story, 64. How old we are, 65. Shelter, 66. Depend, 67. Arid, 68. Secret meeting.

Down
1. Stigma, 2. Rate, 3. Ancient Peruvian, 4. Masterstroke, 5. Affirmatives, 6. Make lace, 7. Sour, 8. Beat thoroughly, 9. Transmit, 10. Relating to postage stamps, 11. Duck down, 12. What's happening, 13. Tether, 18. Biblical boat, 24. Dawn goddess, 25. Young eel, 26. Terminates, 27. Retain, 28. Arab chieftain, 29. Inadequacy, 31. Annul, 33. Indian instrument, 34. Frosts, 36. Humdinger, 37. Leer at, 38. Legumes, 42. Weird, 43. Precious stone, 45. Pantry, 47. Aviator, 48. Jeweler's glass, 49. Utilize, 51. Sick, 52. One more than seven, 54. Partiality, 56. Close, 57. Covetousness, 58. Air force heroes, 59. Lease, 62. Utilize.

Yesterday's Solution
answer, blight, brine, bruise, clouts, coast, crown, desert, drama, draw, fathom, future, gaunt, apinness, holiday, knoll, lawyer, mouth, organ, private, rare, rote, scour, sedate, shark, slack, slice, slide, sniff, stands, stew, stole, store, sweat, tarts, threw.

SCOURTBLIGHT
ORGANOSTANDSW
KNOLLWNCCTGIES
FUTUREIMOUTHL
ANSWERFTRAILA
THRIVEFBDBSTC
HAPPINESSSLTK
O CLOUTSTSLICE
MGAUNTDHBTDRS
HOLIDAYRAREOT
LAWYEROEARIWO
DESERTWVPMKNR
STOLESPRIVATE