

Russia Starts Nationwide Show of Force

MOSCOW - More than 45,000 Russian troops as well as war planes and submarines started military exercises across much of the country on Monday in one of the Kremlin's biggest shows of force since its ties with the West plunged to Cold War-lows.

President Vladimir Putin called the Navy's Northern Fleet to full combat readiness in exercises in Russia's Arctic North apparently aimed at dwarfing military drills in neighboring Norway, a NATO member. "New challenges and threats to military security require the armed forces to further boost their military capabilities. Special attention must be paid to newly created strategic formations in the north," Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said, quoted by RIA news agency.

Shoigu quoted the order came from Putin, who has promised to spend more than 21 trillion rubles (\$340 billion) by the end of the decade to overhaul Russia's fighting forces. Putin made his first public appearance since March 5 on Monday, an absence from view that had fueled feverish speculation over his health as well as his grip on power. He was meeting Kyrgyz



President Almazbek Atambayev at the Constantine Palace outside Russia's second city of St. Petersburg. Norway is currently holding its "Joint Viking" drills involving 5,000 troops in Finnmark county, which borders Russia in the resource-rich Arctic circle where both countries are vying for influence. Russia's drills would include nearly 40,000 servicemen, 41 warships and 15 submarines, RIA reported.

Tensions between Russia and Europe worsened last year, leading eight northern European nations to promise to boost cooperation to counter an increase in Moscow's military activity.

NATO made new allegations last week that Russia was arming separatists in east Ukraine, where more ... (More on P4)...(19)

EU Seeks Ways to Back Libya Peace Talks

BRUSSELS - The European Union on Monday sought ways to support peace talks in Libya as they enter a decisive phase but backed away from launching any security mission until stability returns to the conflict-torn country.

"We've got to establish a cease-fire and get some unity ... before we can talk about how we might support a peace" settlement, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told reporters ahead of an EU foreign ministers meeting. Central authority has broken down in Libya amid fights between militias, some linked to the extremist Islamic State group, and rival parliaments claim political legitimacy.

U.N.-backed peace talks are due to resume in Morocco on Thursday, and the EU wants to see

how those negotiations play out. "We should focus on political integration right now" before thinking about security options, said Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders. "It's too early to talk about it."

The EU is concerned that the conflict in Libya could spread to the wider region. Member states are also increasingly concerned that extremist fighters could reach Europe with the thousands of migrants that use Libya as a jumping off point to cross the Mediterranean.

But the EU would not act without an official request from the U.N. or an invitation from Libya itself.

"It doesn't seem that the situation would be appropriate for a U.N. peacekeeping intervention. So we will have to ... (More on P4)...(20)

Neighbor News

Iran, U.S. Meet for Four Hours Before Talks Move to Brussels

LAUSANNE - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif held four hours of nuclear talks on Monday in the Swiss city of Lausanne before the Iranian delegation headed to Brussels for meetings with European ministers.

"We're obviously in crunch time right now, and the next couple of days leading up to this weekend will be key," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told CNN from Washington. "We fully expect we will take to the end of the month to determine if we can get to an agreement that both sides can live by." Six world powers - the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China - are trying to reach a framework agreement with Iran by the end of the month that would curb

Tehran's most sensitive nuclear activities for at least 10 years in exchange for the gradual easing of some sanctions.

The parties have set a June 30 deadline to finalize an accord. The meeting between Kerry and Zarif included U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, who also met on Sunday to negotiate technical details of Iran's nuclear program. "I'm very optimistic," Salehi told reporters afterwards, leaving Zarif and Kerry in the room for a one-on-one meeting. Kerry has urged Iran to make concessions that would allow six world powers to reach a political framework agreement for a nuclear deal with Tehran that would lift sanctions in exchange for tight restrictions on Tehran's nuclear program. (Reuters)

Assad Says Wants Actions, Not Words from Kerry

BEIRUT - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad dismissed on Monday remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that Assad should be included in negotiations to reach a political transition, saying "declarations from outside do not concern us".

In a Sunday CBS interview, Kerry did not repeat the standard U.S. line that Assad had lost all legitimacy over the shattering civil war in

Syria and so had to go. "We have to negotiate in the end," Kerry said when asked whether the United States would be willing to negotiate with the Syrian leader.

Assad said in comments broadcast on Syrian state television:

"We are still hearing the declarations and we should wait for actions and then decide."

Kerry said the United States and other countries, which he did not

name, were exploring ways to revive the diplomatic process to end the conflict in Syria, which has left more than 200,000 people dead and displaced about half the population.

"What we're pushing for is to get him (Assad) to come and do that, and it may require that there be increased pressure on him of various kinds in order to do that," Kerry said. Assad said that any i

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Tusk Presses EU Leaders to Pledge to Keep Sanctions on Russia

ROME/BRUSSELS - European Council President Donald Tusk is pressing EU leaders to pledge this week to keep sanctions on Russia until a Ukraine ceasefire deal is fully in place, effectively extending sanctions until at least the end of the year. Europe must maintain pressure on Russia with sanctions until Ukraine has full control of its

borders, Tusk said in an interview with several newspapers published on Monday.

"I'm skeptical about the goodwill of the Russians and I'm convinced that what's needed is to maintain pressure," he was quoted as saying by Italian daily La Stampa, one of six European newspapers which took part in the interview.

"We have to keep up sanctions until there is full respect for the (Minsk) agreements. That is until Kiev is responsible for its national frontiers," he was quoted as saying.

EU economic sanctions on Russia over the Ukraine conflict are due to expire in July. Some EU governments want the ... (More on P4)...(22)

U.N. Rights Envoy Hopes Nuclear Deal Would Spark Reforms in Iran

GENEVA - Repression of Iranian women and activists has worsened under President Hassan Rouhani despite his reformist agenda, but Iran could act to improve its record if it clinches a nuclear

deal with major powers, a U.N. rights investigator said on Monday. Some 252 people have been executed in Iran already this year, on top of 753 executions throughout last year that was the

highest annual figure since 2002, according to Ahmed Shaheed, the U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Iran. Over half the executions were for drug offences. But ... (More on P4)...(24)

Gulf Arabs Respond with Alarm to Kerry Comment on Assad Talks

RIYADH - A remark by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that President Bashar al-Assad should be included in negotiations on a Syrian political transition provoked alarm and dismay on Monday among com-

mentators close to Gulf Arab governments opposed to his rule. Saudi Arabia, the top oil exporter and main ally of the United States, has long feared that the administration of President Barack Obama lacks

the resolve to tackle Assad and that it is instead focusing on a nuclear deal with the Syrian leader's main supporter Iran. Although there was no immediate official comment from Riyadh, Saudi ... (More on P4)...(23)

Nation 'Well-Armed' to Keep Growth on Track

BEIJING - Premier says slowdown will not derail plans to increase jobs and incomes Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday that China has many weapons to fight difficulties in its economy and will be able to maintain its growth momentum. He did not say specifically how China will achieve its annual GDP growth target, but said he will not allow the slowdown to continue from last year and derail the plan for increases in employment and incomes. Li was speaking at his news conference at the end of the National People's Congress annual session. The key to China's success this year will be to balance growth and reform - namely growth in regular business and reform of the economic structure, the premier said. Despite the down-

ward pressure the country faces, the government favors mainly using long-term measures, such as more reform and more innovation, to sustain growth, Li said.

China has not provided a strong short-term stimulus to the economy for the past few years and has an ample stock of "policy weapons" that can be used when necessary to prevent the slowdown from worsening, Li said. If the growth rate falls below the government's desired range to affect employment and national income levels, it will adopt more short-term measures to boost market confidence.

This year, more reform measures will be introduced to provide a level playing field for more enterprises and for what Li called "mass entrepreneurship". (Agencies)

Pakistan Largest Importer of Chinese Arms: Study

STOCKHOLM - China has eased ahead of Germany and France to become the world's number three arms exporter after the United States and Russia, a Stockholm-based think-tank said Monday. The volume of the multi-billion dollar world arms trade rose 16 per cent during the period 2010 to 2014 over the previous five years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute added in its annual report. The figures show that "the United States has taken a firm lead" with 31 per cent of global exports of conventional weapons, SIPRI said, adding that Russia is sec-

ond with 27 per cent. The next three arms exporters are far behind with about five per cent each, and China is only slightly ahead of fourth-ranked Germany and fifth-ranked France.

Three Asian countries accounted for more than two-thirds of Chinese exports, with Pakistan buying 41 per cent of the total, followed by Bangladesh and Myanmar. Beijing also had 18 client nations in Africa during the period. Russia's top client was India - the world's leading arms importer - with 70 per cent of its purchases coming from Russia. (Monitoring Desk)

Switzerland Helps Improve Water Supply in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The government of Switzerland will provide a grant worth US \$9 million to improve water supply in Tajikistan, Avesta news agency reported citing the Tajik Finance Ministry. The grant agreement was signed last Thursday by the Tajik Finance Minister Abdusalom Kurbonov and Peter Mikula, the Country Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan.

The second phase of a water supply project will provide clean drinking water to about 140,000 people in six cities of the northern Sughd province

and the city of Khorog, the capital of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO).

The project includes installation of additional connections, installation of water meters, purchase of operation and repair equipment, construction of new water reservoirs, and improvement of drainage systems.

The total cost of the project is more than \$18 million. A \$9 million grant will be provided by the Swiss government and over \$9 million will be contributed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. (Agencies)

UN Chief Urges Japan, China, South Korea to Reconcile

TOKYO - U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged the leaders of Japan, China and South Korea on Monday to work harder for reconciliation over their wartime past to ensure peace and stability in the region.

In his speech in Tokyo marking the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, Ban said the lack of reconciliation among the three key players of Asia is "a missing link" for peace and stability in northeast Asia despite the U.N.'s engagement. Ban said history must be remembered correctly but urged Japan and two of its closest neighbors, both victims of Japanese militarist expansion in the first half of the 20th century, to develop forward-looking relations.

"The United Nations has been engaging in a number of regional cooperative mechanisms but Northeast Asia still remains a missing link,"

he said. "I sincerely hope that the dialogue between countries in the region, in particular Japan, China and the Republic of Korea, will proceed in a forward-looking manner." "We must lay the ground for genuine reconciliation, harmony, peace and prosperity. In this context, I would urge the leaders in the region to be future-oriented, remembering the past," he said at the U.N. University in Tokyo.

Japan's relations with China and South Korea have worsened in the past few years because of disputes over history and territorial issues, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government seen as increasing efforts to revise the country's stance on World War II atrocities.

Ban was in Tokyo following his participation in an international disaster conference held in northern Japan. (AP)

Kuwait Meet Aims to Raise Billions in Aid for Syria

KUWAIT CITY - As many as 78 nations and 40 international organisations will attend the third donors conference aimed at raising billions of dollars for war-torn Syria, host country Kuwait said Monday.

The March 31 gathering at foreign ministers level will be opened by Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad

Al-Sabah and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, a foreign ministry official told the KUNA news agency.

Nations are expected to announce pledges for UN humanitarian operations in Syria where 12 million people both inside and outside the country need urgent aid. At ... (More on P4)...(25)

KABUL AFGHANISTAN

NOTICE TO DORMANT ACCOUNTS

As per Article 36.5 of the Banking law in Afghanistan following accounts have become dormant due to non operations for the last 10 years.

LIST OF DORMANT ACCOUNTS

S. NO	A/C NUMBER	CURRENCY	TITLE OF ACCOUNT
1	20910030000198	USD	M. AMIN S/O MUHAMMAD AKYAM
2	20910030001241	USD	AFGHANISTAN WORLD FOUNDATION
3	20910030002837	USD	H. KHAN ZAMAN & MUSTAFA KHAN
4	20910030002718	USD	GHULAM MUSTAFA & MUSTAFA KHAN
5	20910030009388	USD	DAUD AHMAD ZAI
6	20910030013400	USD	HAFIZULLAH SHERZAI
7	20910030016173	USD	EHSAN REHABILITATION ORGNIZATION
8	20910030024011	USD	HAJVERY TRADERS
9	20910030028251	USD	GHULAM MURTAZA SHAUKAT
10	20910030033345	USD	AZIMI MOBILE HOUSE
11	20910030034074	USD	AJMAL AHMAD S/O MIR RAHMAN
12	20910030039600	USD	CIVILIZATION DEVELOPMENT ORG
13	20910030050517	USD	ZAHID RAHIM KHAN & FAZAL E KHUDA
14	20910030053442	USD	SYED HASSAN RAZA
15	20910030061047	USD	MOHAMMAD AMIN
16	20910030064558	USD	KHAWAJA HOMAYOUN
17	20910035004919	AFG	YAQOOB PAIMAAN

All the above account holder are therefore notified/ informed to please contact Habib Bank Limited Kabul on the below mentioned address to make their accounts operative failing which the balance in the accounts will be transferred to Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) as per law.

Address:

HABIB BANK LIMITED Park Plaza Torbaz Khan Road Shah-r-Nou, Kabul

Afghanistan.

Telephone number: +93-20-2200147-2203449 .Ext-20

Country Operations Manager

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