

Energy Minister Yildiz ‘hopes’ Soma death toll will remain at ‘299 or 300’

Hürriyet Daily News, 16.05.2014



There are 18 miners still unaccounted for who are believed to be in the Soma mine, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz has said, adding that the number may vary a little due to the fact that the worst mining accident of the country’s history took place during shift change.

“I say this number based on families’ testimonies and the documents provided by the company. We saw that there were workers who entered back into the mine during the shift change. There are two or three workers that we are not certain about. But at least we have announced the upmost number. We hope that the number will be under that.”

“I believe that this will be concluded with a death toll of 299-300-302 of our worker brothers,” Yildiz told journalists May 16. Yildiz has also slammed reports that said there were hundreds still trapped in the mine. “Some have been very hungrily saying that they were hundreds of people still trapped. I watch them with shame,” Yildiz said. He said a fire that started after an explosion at a power distribution unit May 13 is still continuing despite having been mostly extinguished. “There are works to fortify it at the same time. They are fortifying the roofs to bring back workers who have been trapped further away,” Yildiz said.

Turkish PM Erdogan heckles lawyer’s speech, storms out

New York Times, 10.05.2014



Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan heckled the head of the country’s bar association on Saturday, accusing him of rudeness for speaking critically of the government at a judicial ceremony before storming out of the hall.

Tensions between Erdogan and his political foes remain high after contested local elections in March that Erdogan’s ruling AK Party won and amid expectations he will seek the presidency. Erdogan has had a difficult year that included the biggest anti-government protests in decades against his perceived authoritarianism and a corruption scandal that implicated family members and cabinet ministers.



His response, a sweeping shakeup of the police and judiciary, prompted accusations of political meddling. He says he is rooting out shadowy forces trying to undermine his rule. Erdogan interrupted a speech in Ankara by Metin Feyzioglu, chairman of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, saying his remarks were political and full of untruths. Feyzioglu had called for a more independent judiciary and questioned the government's handling of the aftermath of a 2011 earthquake that killed more than 600 people in the southeastern province of Van. "You are speaking falsehoods... How could there be such rudeness?" Erdogan shouted and stood up to gesticulate in anger at Feyzioglu, who was on stage at a podium and refused to stop speaking. The scene was broadcast by CNN Turk television.

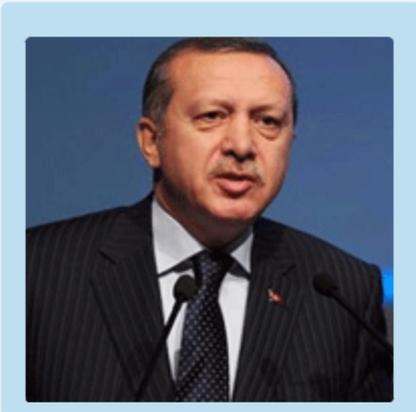
Erdogan also expressed frustration that Feyzioglu, who has also been an outspoken critic of the criminal prosecution of the government's foes, had broken with protocol by speaking for an hour at the ceremony marking the anniversary of the founding of the Council of State, Turkey's top administrative court. It was an unusual outburst for Erdogan, Turkey's most popular leader in half a century, whose tough image is part of his appeal for many Turks. Last month, the head of the Constitutional Court denounced elected officials' "excessive" political criticism of his tribunal in a speech attended by Erdogan, who remained stonily silent but said later he was "saddened" by Chief Justice Hasim Kilic's words. At the 2009 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Erdogan left the stage after clashing with Israeli President Shimon Peres in what would augur a split between the two allied nations that persists today.

The Council of State released a statement saying Feyzioglu spoke four times longer than his allotted time, and: "By giving so much space to matters that have nothing to do with administrative justice nor the legal profession, guests, who had no opportunity to respond, were made uncomfortable." Three-time premier Erdogan has yet to announce a run for the presidency, but his interest in the top job is widely accepted.

At a meeting of the AK Party later on Saturday, Erdogan said the party would present a candidate by the middle of June or before, later than he had initially said. Burhan Kuzu, the head of parliament's constitutional committee, was quoted by HaberTurk newspaper's website as saying the law does not require Erdogan to resign from his current position to run for president. Though largely ceremonial, the presidency is still the nation's most prestigious post and was held by modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. "If you love politics so much, then take off your (judicial) robe, enter the political arena and prove yourself," Erdogan said of Feyzioglu at an AK Party meeting in comments aired live by CNN Turk.

Turkish PM signals to intensify state purge ahead of expected presidential bid

Reuters, 12.05.2014



Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, expected to run for president in August, has signaled that he will intensify a purge of state institutions to curb the influence of an Islamic cleric he accuses of trying to topple him. Erdogan used a speech on Sunday after a meeting of his ruling AK Party to make clear his battle with U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen is far from over.

Thousands of police officers and hundreds of judges and prosecutors have been reassigned and senior officials in state institutions dismissed in what is widely seen as a move to stifle the influence of Gulen's Hizmet movement.

Erdogan accuses Gulen, who has many supporters in the police, judiciary and state bureaucracy, of orchestrating a corruption scandal to try to unseat him and of establishing a "parallel structure" within the state. He has called on the United States to extradite Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999. Gulen denies plotting against the government. Erdogan has said the final decision on his presidential candidacy may not come until mid-June, but he is due to hold a rally in Cologne, Germany, this month after regulatory changes made it easier for Turks abroad to vote. Yasin Aktay, the AK Party's vice chairman in charge of foreign affairs, told reporters in Istanbul on Monday that an Erdogan presidency would be stronger than that of Abdullah Gul, who has played a more ceremonial role.

"The presidency of Tayyip Erdogan will never keep within the limits of a ceremonial (role). The authorities listed in the constitution now are very big," he said. He said none of Gulen's followers would be removed from their posts simply for being members of the movement, but said if they were working within the bureaucracy and taking orders from elsewhere, they would be expelled. "Now it's war. There's no way back," Aktay said. Erdogan said at Sunday's meeting in the western province of Afyonkarahisar: "If transferring people who have betrayed this country from one post to another is a witch hunt, yes we will conduct a witch hunt. "With the sensitivity of a surgeon, we will sterilize this dirty water mixed up in the milk, boiling it, identifying it down to the molecules," he said. His opening and closing remarks were broadcast on television.

The Hizmet movement, with its global network of schools and influence within Turkey's civil service, was long an ally of Erdogan's conservative, Islamist-rooted government. But relations descended into open hostility after December's corruption investigation emerged and led to the resignation of three cabinet ministers, posing what appeared to be the greatest threat to Erdogan's 11 years in office. That followed the biggest anti-government protests in decades against Erdogan's perceived authoritarianism last summer. Since then, Erdogan's AK Party dominated local elections in March despite a slew of leaked recordings purporting to reveal government corruption, while prosecutors this month threw out graft allegations against 60 suspects.

European court orders Turkey to compensate Greek Cyprus for 1974

The Independent, 12.05.2014



In its largest ever judgement, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) said the passing of almost 40 years did not erase Turkey's responsibility for the ensuing conflict and continuing division of the island of Cyprus. The court ruled that the Turkish government must pay €30 million in damages to relatives of those missing in military operations and €60 million for "the enclaved Greek-Cypriot residents" of the Karpas peninsula."

The Karpas peninsula in the northernmost tip of the breakaway Turkish part of the island is still home to hundreds of Greek Cypriots.

Only Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus that was proclaimed there. Turkish forces were accused of ethnic cleansing after thousands of Greek residents were forced from their homes and replaced with Turks from the mainland. Atrocities and massacres were alleged by both sides and more than 100,000 people became refugees during the invasion. The invasion was sparked by a Greek military coup in July 1974, when supporters of union with the country took control. The Greek military Junta collapsed and there was a second invasion by Turkey taking more than a third of Cyprus in August. In Turkey, the events are often referred to as the "Cyprus Peace Operation".

Monday's judgment comes as the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities are making a new effort to reunite the island. Speaking ahead of the ruling, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu warned that a judgment against Turkey would come at a delicate time and said that he viewed it as "neither binding nor of any value". "Not only is it legally problematic, its timing is wrong," Davutoglu added. The court said it would be up to the government of Greek Cyprus to determine how to award the damages but Turkey has not always complied with the court's rulings. In a 1998 ruling, the Strasbourg court ordered Turkey to pay Titina Loizidou compensation for depriving her of property in the seaside city of Kyrenia.

It was the first case in which a Greek Cypriot successfully sued Turkey over the invasion and earned the right to compensation. Turkey paid the money in 2003 but has yet to comply with an earlier European Court decision ordering Ankara to allow the woman to reclaim her property. Analysts noted that the case was notable not only because of its size, but also because it took Turkey to task for the invasion and awarded the money to Greek Cyprus on behalf of individuals, a sensitive point that could affect current reunification talks. "The big question is how the decision will affect the negotiations that are the most promising ever. It could put the talks into difficulty," said Cengiz Aktar, an analyst on Turkey-EU affairs at the Istanbul Policy Centre.

Turkey to ignore court order to pay compensation to Greek Cyprus

Today's Zaman, 13.05.2014



Turkey has no plans to pay 90 million euros (\$124 million) to Greek Cyprus as ordered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Tuesday. The money was ordered in compensation for Turkey's invasion of the island 40 years ago.

The Mediterranean island has been split since 1974 - when Turkey sent in troops after a brief Greek Cypriot coup staged by supporters of unification with Greece. It comprises a southern Greek Cypriot state recognized worldwide and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot entity in the north recognized only by Ankara.

Davutoglu said Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union of which Greek Cyprus is a member, sees no obligation to pay the compensation to a country that it does not formally recognize. "In terms of the grounds of this ruling, its method and the fact that it is considering a country that Turkey does not recognize as a counterparty, we see no necessity to make this payment," Davutoglu told reporters. "Yesterday's ECHR ruling consists of some legal contradictions and therefore we don't see it as at all binding, in terms of payment," he said.

Greek Cyprus brought the case to the Strasbourg-based ECHR 20 years ago, demanding financial compensation over missing Greek Cypriots, the property of displaced people and violations of other human rights. The ECHR is responsible for adjudication of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory via its membership of the non-EU Council of Europe. The court ruled largely in Nicosia's favor in 2001, but took more than a decade to decide on the sum to be paid, a delay Ankara, whose aspirations to join the European Union have long been frustrated by the issue, says is aimed at undermining a fresh peace drive on the island. "We think that this ruling has been the biggest blow to this process. If a comprehensive solution is desired, then everyone should be aware of their responsibilities.

When looked at the history of this problem, the timing of this case is meaningful," Davutoglu said. The Cyprus question has defied a small army of mediators over the years, amid disputes between estranged Greeks and Turks over power-sharing arrangements and the claims of thousands of people from both sides uprooted by the conflict. A new round of peace talks resumed in February. U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden is expected on the island on May 21-23 to try to spur on the process, Cypriot official sources said. "We think Biden's visit to the island will be important and we view the U.S. interest positively. Turkey is ready to discuss this in an open-hearted way," Davutoglu said.

Turkey does not recognize referendums in Eastern Ukraine

Today's Zaman, 14.05.2014



A Foreign Ministry statement said that: "The illegal referendum held on May 11, 2014, in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine and its possible results have no validity and are not recognized by Turkey," the written statement read.

Turkey called on the related parties to gather within the framework of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political unity in Ukraine to find a solution. "Turkey considers the so-called referendum held in the eastern regions of Ukraine as a development that may further deepen the crisis in Ukraine instead of contributing to the solution," the statement said.

President Abdullah Gül said in earlier remarks that the developments in Ukraine threaten the stability and security of the region, underlining that a political solution to the crisis in the country must be found as soon as possible. Turkey is following the situation of the Crimean Tatars closely. After a controversial referendum in March, Crimean residents unanimously voted to break off from Ukraine and join Russia. However, the indigenous Tatar people, who are Turkic Muslims and make up about 12 percent of Crimea's population, oppose the decision.

Barzani: Kurds could opt out of next Iraqi government

Trend.Az, 13.05.2014



The president of Iraqi Kurdistan, Masoud Barzani, said Iraq had been led in an authoritarian direction by the incumbent Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and threatened to end the oil-rich autonomous region's participation in the federal government.

Iraq held elections on April 30. The results have yet to be announced but Kurdish support is crucial to Maliki's ambitions for a third term. The incumbent premier's rivals, both Shi'ite and Sunni, are hoping Barzani and the Kurds will help them thwart Nouri al-Maliki's bid to stay in office for four additional years.



Barzani said Kurdish parties would meet as soon as the results of the election were officially announced, expected in the next few days, to decide how to proceed in negotiations over the government formation. The talks could drag on for months and Barzani declined to give any more details of the Kurds' position but said the political situation in Iraq was unsustainable and one option would be to fully withdraw Kurdish participation in the government unless there was the prospect of change. "All options are on the table," Barzani told Reuters in an interview on Monday. "It is time for final decisions. We are not going to wait another decade and go through the same experience again. If we boycott the process, we will boycott everything (parliament and the government)."

Such a move would be the first of its kind for the Kurds, who have been a partner in the national government since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, and would put added strain on the country's already fraying federal unity. There are about 5 million Kurds in majority Arab Iraq, which has a population of more than 30 million. Most Kurds live in the north of the country, where they run their own affairs, but remain reliant on Baghdad for a share of the national budget. The Kurds eventually lined up behind Maliki after the last election in 2010, helping him win a second term, persuaded by promises to share power and settle the status of territories disputed by Arabs and Kurds. However, the Kurds say those promises were broken and the deal unraveled almost as soon as the government took office. Relations between the two sides rapidly deteriorated thereafter and are now characterized by deep mistrust.

Barzani then threw his weight behind an unsuccessful attempt to unseat Maliki with a vote of no confidence in 2012, and must now work out how to ensure Baghdad keeps any promises it makes if the Kurds agree to share power again. Barzani declined to go into the details of how the Kurds planned to guarantee their demands are met, but he said he would be seeking more than paper guarantees. Barzani conceded Maliki was not solely to blame for Iraq's troubles, but said as prime minister and commander in chief of the armed forces he ultimately bore the responsibility. "There was no partnership, and it was totalitarianism," said Barzani of governance in Iraq under Maliki over the past four years. "He is the number one responsible for it. He was capable of not allowing the whole process to go in that direction." "The authorities in Baghdad want to control everything... It is not acceptable to us. We want to be partners; we don't want to be subjects."

Barzani emphasized repeatedly his dispute with Maliki, who once fought against deposed dictator Saddam Hussein alongside the Kurds, was "not personal", said he had changed since becoming Prime Minister. "The Maliki that we knew before being in power was different than the Maliki who has been in power," he said. Despite the hostilities, some Kurdish officials admit in private a deal could be reached with Maliki, if only to buy time while their region, no longer believing in an alliance with Baghdad, pulls away.

The Kurds are already moving towards economic independence, and late last year finished building an oil pipeline to Turkey that could in theory make them self-sufficient, further riling Baghdad, which slashed funding to the region in revenge. "Those who cut the budget of KRG are going to pay the price of that decision," Barzani said. "If by cutting the budget and blackmailing us they think the Kurds will not continue asking for their legitimate demands, they are wrong." The Kurds say they are constitutionally entitled to export oil on their own terms, and more than 2 million barrels have already flowed through the new pipeline into storage tanks at a Turkish port. Baghdad has threatened dire consequences if exports go ahead without federal consent, but Barzani said there was no going back.

“The political decision has been made that we’re going to sell oil independently,” he said. “We will continue producing the oil, pumping it out and selling it. If they continue escalating, we will also escalate from our side.” Barzani made clear that the Kurds could hold a referendum on independence if Baghdad pushed them too far, repeating a threat he has made in the past. “If they don’t like us to be with them, they should tell us and we will take another path as well,” he said. “We are going to have a referendum and ask our people. Whatever the people decide”. Maliki may seek to exploit divisions among the Kurds themselves to weaken their bargaining position in Baghdad, by courting the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which is seeking to reassert itself after political setbacks.

Some Kurdish officials worry that the PUK, which has shared power with Barzani’s own Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) since the region gained autonomy could threaten to break ranks and join with Maliki in order to regain leverage at home. But Maliki is also facing a challenge in the Sunni heartland province of Anbar, where his army has been waging war since the start of the year, when tribal fighters and Islamist insurgents overran several towns. Maliki’s critics, including Barzani, accuse him of going on the offensive against Iraq’s Sunni minority to whip up support among his own Shi’ite base as security deteriorated across the country, damaging his credentials. “To ignite a war in order to achieve political gains is a catastrophe,” Barzani said. “I do believe it (the situation in Anbar) ended up like that. Maybe in the beginning it was a different story.” Asked whether he was concerned the offensive in Anbar could set a precedent for dealing with similar problems in other parts of the country, Barzani said: “In any country, if they pursue that strategy, that means the end of that country.” “That will be the end of Iraq, and that is the most dangerous issue.”

Al Qaeda splinter group moves to take eastern Syrian city

Reuters UK, 11.05.2014



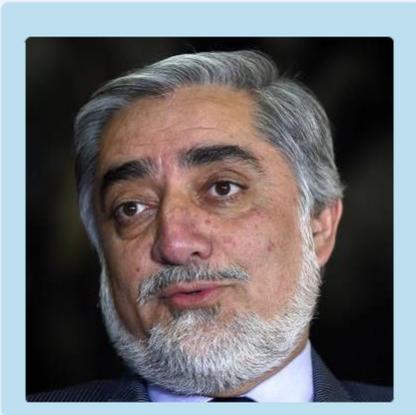
An al Qaeda splinter group has wrested control of key parts of the eastern Syrian province of Deir al-Zor from other rebel groups, activists said on Sunday, worsening infighting that has handicapped the insurgency against al-Assad.

More than 100,000 civilians have fled the province following weeks of intense clashes between insurgents, the anti- Assad Syrian Observatory for Human Rights group said. Civilians in Deir al-Zor lived through two years of fighting between opposition and the government. Now they are dealing with a new wave of war that has devastated parts of the country that the opposition considers “liberated” from Assad’s forces.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) - which started as an offshoot of al Qaeda in Iraq but has since been disowned - took neighborhoods of Deir al-Zor city from the Nusra Front, Syria’s official al Qaeda affiliate, this weekend, according to the Observatory.

Front-Runner in Afghan election secures a key ally

New York Times, 11.05.2014



Abdullah Abdullah, the front-runner in Afghanistan's presidential election campaign, announced that he had won the endorsement of Rassoul, the third-place candidate, as part of his effort to gather enough support to win in the next round of voting. The two men's tickets took about 56 % of the vote in the first round, but there is no guarantee that voters would vote the same way in a second round.

Adding to the prospect that Mr. Rassoul may not bring all his first-round votes with him is that his team appears to have split, with one of his two vice-presidential running mates declining to support Mr. Abdullah's campaign.

Mr. Abdullah's camp and some analysts worry that a runoff could be rife with fraud and that there is a considerable risk that it could be disrupted by the Taliban. The insurgents' campaign of violence failed to have much impact in the first round, but the Taliban could redouble their efforts to intimidate voters in a runoff. Mr. Abdullah won nearly 45 % of the vote in the first round, followed by Ashraf Ghani with nearly 31.5 % and Mr. Rassoul with 11 %, according to the most recent count by the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan. The final results for the first round are expected later this week, according to the election commission.

Mr. Ghani has repeatedly said that there needed to be a runoff as mandated by the Constitution. Some commentators believe that a second round of voting would split along more ethnic lines, which could benefit Mr. Ghani, a Pashtun, since Pashtuns represent a plurality of the population. Mr. Abdullah is most closely associated with the Tajik ethnic group and the former Northern Alliance of commanders that helped overthrow the Taliban in 2001. Mr. Ghani, too, is scrambling for endorsements, suggesting a new and tougher chapter in the election saga. Among those Mr. Ghani is wooing is one of Mr. Rassoul's vice-presidential candidates, Ahmad Zia Massoud, said a spokesman for the Ghani campaign, Abdul Ali Mohammedi. Mr. Massoud is a Tajik politician and the brother of the legendary Northern Alliance commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, and his presence in Mr. Ghani's campaign could nibble away at Mr. Abdullah's support.

How the next round of voting goes will depend on many factors, including the possibility that fewer people may vote in a second round, especially if there is increased violence, which could affect the vote in insecure rural areas that are predominantly Pashtun. As well, the populous and mostly Pashtun province of Kandahar could go either way, with influential figures there not yet having publicly declared support for a candidate. In an announcement to a packed news conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, Mr. Rassoul described Mr. Abdullah as "a good colleague" whom he had known for a long time and worked well with, adding that "our commitment to the people of Afghanistan is to avoid the ethnic rift."

Although President Hamid Karzai was careful not to endorse anyone and kept a low public profile during the campaign, Mr. Rassoul was believed to be his favored candidate. Wearing a traditional shalwar kameez, Mr. Abdullah spoke fervently to the crowd, praising the first round of voting and urging them to back him. “We campaigned in a warm environment, and today we hug each other in a warm environment,” he said. “This is our joint commitment, and we are moving forward together to the point of victory or to the point of final results — either in the first round, Inshallah,” — God willing — “or the second round.”

The outcome of the first round surprised many Afghans because Mr. Abdullah received votes from across the country, even in heavily Pashtun areas. Over all, the election garnered more interest from voters than the last presidential contest in 2009, with 50 percent more votes cast, and it was viewed as generally less fraud-ridden. The argument by Mr. Abdullah’s backers is that with Mr. Rassoul’s support they have 55 percent of the votes cast nationwide, well above the 50 percent threshold required by the Constitution — so there is no need for a runoff. Mr. Abdullah’s team also won the endorsement of another candidate, Gul Agha Shirzai, a former provincial governor who won just 1.6 percent of the vote. However, the Afghan Constitution specifically requires a runoff between the two top vote-getters, not between coalitions the candidates formed afterward.

As news broke of Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Rassoul’s alliance, a suicide bomber attacked an Afghan security forces convoy near a clinic on the road to the main southern military base in Kandahar, killing five civilians, including a child, and injuring 39 people, according to Zia Durani, the provincial police chief. A NATO convoy was nearby delivering aid packets but was not affected by the blast.

Iran’s says West’s calls to limit missiles ‘stupid’

Chicago Tribune, 11.05.2014



Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that Western expectations for the Islamic Republic to limit its missile program were “stupid and idiotic”. The Supreme Leader also called on the country’s Revolutionary Guards to mass-produce missiles.

The United States and its allies have said they are worried about Iran’s missile program as they fear the weapons could carry nuclear warheads. Iran has long denied having any plans to develop atomic weapons. “They expect us to limit our missile program while they constantly threaten Iran with military action.”

“So this is a stupid, idiotic expectation,” Khamenei was quoted as telling the IRNA news agency while on a visit to an aeronautics fair by the Revolutionary Guards. “The revolutionary guards should definitely carry out their program and not be satisfied with the present level. They should mass produce. This is a main duty of all military officials,” Khamenei said.

Iranian president calls for more open, better-informed nuclear debate

Reuters, 11.05.2014



President Rouhani said he wanted Iran to do a better job of explaining its nuclear program to prevent people misleading world opinion, two days before Tehran resumes talks with world powers on its disputed atomic activity.

Countries will reconvene in Vienna over how to end a long standoff over suspicions that Tehran has sought the means to develop nuclear weapons. Western powers have long demanded greater openness from Iran to address those concerns and head off the risk of a downward spiral towards a new Middle East war, with Israel threatening to attack its arch-foe if diplomacy does not rein it in.

“What we can offer the world is greater transparency,” Rouhani, a relative moderate who replaced a conservative hardliner who antagonized the West - said in a speech at a ceremony celebrating Iran’s scientific achievements. In his remarks, Rouhani reiterated that Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons and would never halt its atomic program, which was for peaceful purposes. He also repeated a denial of Western charges that Iran has carried out any secret nuclear bomb work.

But along with achieving scientific progress, Rouhani added, Iran ought to develop its abilities in the legal, political and information realms to prevent “the enemy” making problems for its nuclear developments. “If one engages in a technological endeavor but is not doing good legal and political work, then the enemy might come up with a fictional excuse to cause trouble for you,” he said. The Islamic Republic’s leaders normally use the term “the enemy” to refer to the United States and Israel. “If you don’t have good public relations and are not able to communicate well, then you might find other evil-minded people misleading world public opinion,” Rouhani said. “So our effort today is to even out our efforts on multiple levels... We don’t want to retreat one step from our pursuit of technology, but we want to take a step forward on the political front.”

His comments appeared to be a criticism of hostile statements from within the hardline conservative establishment, including his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who called U.N. resolutions against Iran on the nuclear dispute a “worthless piece of paper”. Ahmadinejad’s strident rhetoric during his eight years in office on issues like the Holocaust and Israel served to shore up international resolve to curb Iran’s nuclear program. Iran in January halted its most sensitive nuclear operations under a preliminary deal with world powers, winning some relief from painful economic sanctions that have damaged its oil-dependent economy by forcing a sharp reduction in crude exports. Rouhani said Iran if it so chose could resume enrichment of uranium gas to a fissile purity of 20 percent - its most sensitive nuclear activity because it is a relatively short technical step away from the level required for nuclear weapons. “We wanted to tell the world that our activities are moving in the right direction: If we say we can enrich to 3.5 percent, we can do it. If necessary we will do (it to) 20 percent,” he said.

U.N. nuclear watchdog, Iran to meet before May 15 deadline for progress

Reuters, 11.05.2014



The United Nations nuclear watchdog plans talks with Iran on Monday ahead of a May 15 deadline for the country to implement a series of measures that could allay concern about its nuclear program that the West fears may have military goals.

News of the meeting came after diplomatic sources told Reuters on Friday that the International Atomic Energy Agency was seeking further clarification from Iran about one of those steps, concerning information about detonators that can help set off a nuclear device and Tehran is believed to have developed.

Iran says it has already implemented the seven steps agreed by the two sides - including access to two uranium sites - but the sources suggested the IAEA still wanted more information about the so-called Explosive Bridge Wire (EBW) detonators. How Iran responds to questions about its development and need of this type of equipment is seen as an important test of its willingness to cooperate fully with an IAEA investigation into suspected atomic bomb research by the country. Iran says allegations of such work are baseless, but has offered to help clear up the suspicions with the U.N. agency.

The diplomatic sources said Iran in late April provided an explanation about the detonators, which it says are for non-nuclear uses, and that the IAEA had asked follow-up questions. They said the IAEA also wants to agree with Iran new measures to be taken after May 15, hoping these will tackle other sensitive issues linked to what the agency calls the possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program. IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said in an email on Sunday that the meeting would take place in Vienna but gave no detail. "IAEA and Iranian officials will meet... for further discussions within the Framework for Cooperation," she said, referring to a transparency pact reached in November on a step-by-step process to shed more light on Iran's atomic activity.

A senior Iranian nuclear official gave an upbeat assessment of the country's cooperation with the IAEA so far. "Our initial impression is that the inspectors were satisfied with what they saw and the information they received," Behruz Kamalvandi told Fars News Agency, after IAEA officials last week toured the Saghand uranium mine and a linked site. Iran and the IAEA will meet a day before the Islamic Republic and six world powers on Tuesday start, also in the Austrian capital, a new round of negotiations on a broad diplomatic settlement of the decade-old nuclear dispute. The two sets of negotiations are separate but closely linked as both focus on fears that Iran may be covertly seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear program is a peaceful energy project only. Western diplomats say Iran must start engaging with the IAEA's investigation and that this is central to the success of the powers' talks with Tehran aimed at a comprehensive deal by late July.

Iran wants an end to sanctions that are severely hurting its oil-dependent economy. After years of a worsening standoff with the West, the election last year of pragmatist Hassan Rouhani as Iran's president opened the way for a thaw. The mere fact that Iran agreed to help clarify the detonator issue was seen as a breakthrough as the IAEA has tried for years, mostly in vain, to investigate allegations that Iran may have worked on designing a nuclear warhead. It was, however, one of the least difficult issues that were detailed in a IAEA report in late 2011 that provided a trove of intelligence information pointing to past activities in Iran relevant to nuclear weapon development. Diplomats and experts say Iran must still do much more to address those issues.

Egypt's Sisi says Syria crisis should end via peaceful means

The Diplomat, 11.05.2014



Egypt's presidential frontrunner Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Monday the Syrian civil war must be resolved through peaceful means, indicating Egypt would not support an armed intervention there, something previously suggested by some Arab states.

Most of Syria's political and armed opposition and some Arab states had previously asked for an international military operation in Syria to end the war. Asked about his views on the conflict, Sisi said: "We have to find a peaceful exit as a solution." Sisi's comments, indicates Egypt's future stance on Syria if the former army chief wins, a presidential vote.

Egypt's former president, the Islamist Mohamed Mursi, who was ousted by Sisi last July after unrest against him, had publicly endorsed the uprising and cut diplomatic ties with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The current army-backed authorities have accused Mursi of sending Islamists to fight against Assad in Syria. "The number of terrorist elements there created an attractive spot for terrorism," Sisi said.

Saudi foreign minister says has invited Iran's Zarif to visit

Al Jazeera, 13.05.2014



Saudi Arabia has invited Iran's foreign minister to visit, Riyadh said on Tuesday, hinting at the possibility of a thaw between two bitter rivals, whose struggle for influence is evident in conflicts throughout the region. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has adopted a conciliatory tone towards Tehran's neighbors since taking office last year, but while Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has visited other Gulf Arab states, he has not yet been to Saudi Arabia.

Rapprochement between the two countries would have ramifications across the Middle East, potentially cooling political and military struggles in Syria, Iraq and Bahrain.

However, with Riyadh and Tehran giving full-throated backing to opposing sides in Syria's civil war, and accusing each other of fuelling the bloodshed, the prospects for any meaningful detente now appear slim, analysts say. Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told a news conference that Zarif had been given an invitation to the kingdom but that despite Iran's past declarations of a wish to improve ties, the visit had not transpired. He did not say when Riyadh issued the invitation or if Iran had formally responded. "Any time that (Zarif) sees fit to come, we are willing to receive him. Iran is a neighbor, we have relations with them and we will negotiate with them he said.

Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shi'ite Iran have long supported competing factions in Arab countries, often along sectarian lines. But Iranian backing for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and the aid Riyadh has given to rebels trying to oust him, has raised their mutual hostility to unprecedented levels. Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of fomenting unrest among the Shi'ite majority in its neighbor Bahrain, and the sect's minority in its own Eastern Province, and also charges Tehran with plotting to assassinate its envoy in Washington in 2011. Iran denies those accusations, as well as Saudi suspicions, shared with Western powers, that it has been using its declared civilian nuclear energy program as a front to covertly develop an atomic bomb capability.

But since taking office in August, the moderate Rouhani has overseen a conciliatory shift in Iran's hitherto confrontational foreign relations. The most tangible result so far was Iran's November 24 interim nuclear deal with global powers. Although Iran's president has a big voice in determining Tehran's foreign policy, the ultimate say is in the hands of clerical Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "It's only a matter of time before Zarif takes up the invitation and goes to Riyadh. It's a question of coordination at home with the leader. But it's inevitable that he go and important that he does," said Anoush Ehteshami, director of the al-Sabah program for international relations at Durham University in Britain. "The Saudis are calling his bluff and saying 'come'." Saudi officials have remained suspicious, however, and have accused Iran of being "an occupying power" in Syria, where they describe Assad as carrying out genocide against the country's civilian population via air strikes in urban areas.

“Our hope is that Iran becomes part of the effort to make the region as safe and as prosperous as possible and not become part of the problem,” the Saudi foreign minister said. Suspicion between the two is deeply rooted, with Saudi Arabia’s ruling princes worried that Iran’s clerical elite remains determined to export the message of its 1979 Islamic Revolution to Shi’ites across the Middle East. Iranian leaders regard Riyadh as a stooge for their American foes, and remain angry at the Saudi role in backing Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran. “It’s not a rapprochement. All the issues are still there, (Iran’s) interference that we have seen, all of it will come again on to the table. But it’s better to meet your counterpart and to see the margin for compromise,” said Abdulaziz al-Sager, head of the Gulf Research Centre, based in Jeddah and Geneva.

Israeli PM says Iran’s nuclear program a “clear and present danger”

Hürriyet Daily News, 12.03.2014



Iran’s nuclear program is a clear and present danger and the country cannot be allowed to get the capability to make nuclear arms, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday. Iran’s supreme leader, Khamenei, on Monday described as “stupid and idiotic” Western expectations for his country to curb its missile development, taking a defiant tone ahead of another round of nuclear talks.

In Japan for meetings with Prime Minister Abe and other officials, Netanyahu compared the danger posed by Iran to that of North Korea, which this weekend renewed a threat to conduct a nuclear test amid rising worries.

Netanyahu, at a press event with Abe, told reporters that Israel and Japan faced the challenge of “rogue states arming themselves with nuclear weapons”. “You have called North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles a ‘clear and present danger’ and I wholeheartedly share your assessment,” Netanyahu added. “Those same words, clear and present danger, certainly apply to the Iranian nuclear program as well.”

Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia will meet in Vienna on Tuesday to try to iron out differences over how to end a long standoff over suspicions that Tehran has sought the means to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies accusations that it is seeking nuclear weapons capability and insists that its missile program, one of the biggest in the Middle East, is part of its conventional armed forces. North Korea has a stockpile of missiles and concern is growing about whether it is on the path to developing a nuclear arsenal. “We cannot let the ayatollahs win,” Netanyahu said. “We cannot enable the world’s foremost terrorist states to get the capability to make nuclear weapons.” Netanyahu arrived in Japan on Sunday and will remain until Thursday, meeting business leaders and officials such as Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera.

West threatens further sanctions on Russia if Ukraine elections fail

Al Jazeera, 10.05.2014



Germany and France are ready to agree to more extensive sanctions against Russia if a planned presidential election in Ukraine on May 25 is foiled, Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Francois Hollande said Saturday.

In the election, voters will choose a successor to President Viktor Yanukovich, the pro-Russian president of Ukraine who was toppled by unrelenting protests earlier this year. Following his downfall, Russia seized and annexed Ukraine's Russian-majority Crimea region in March, citing threats from what it called far-right extremists in the new Kiev government.

In a joint statement, Hollande and Merkel agreed to support tougher potential sanctions against Russia — affecting areas such as energy, defense, financial services and engineering — than European Union leaders had outlined at a meeting in Brussels on March 6. “We would be ready to take further sanctions against Russia if the May 25 elections in Ukraine fail,” Merkel said at a joint news conference with Hollande in the Baltic port of Stralsund, although sanctions would not be “an end in themselves.”

Germany, which relies on Russia for 40 percent of its natural gas supplies, has been seen as hesitant to ratchet up and broaden sanctions, which are opposed by most Germans, whose economy is now one of the strongest in Europe. Stern magazine reported German growth could be cut by 0.9 percentage points this year if tougher sanctions are imposed. After Russia's first encroachment into Crimea, Western countries, including the United States, responded by imposing limited sanctions against Moscow targeting some Russian political and business leaders and interests seen as involved in the Ukraine crisis or closely tied to Putin. But pro-Russian separatists have since stirred turmoil in eastern Ukraine, declaring autonomous republics in what the West sees as an attempt by Moscow to cement Russian domination there, much as occurred in Crimea, and thwart a nationwide election.

Merkel and Hollande called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to personally intervene to ensure that the election takes place across the whole of Ukraine. Merkel said Putin had taken encouraging steps by appealing to pro-Russian militants to suspend a planned autonomy referendum on Sunday. “But the Russian president has to send more signals of de-escalation,” Merkel said. Acting Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov told eastern regions gripped by the uprising that they would be courting catastrophe if they voted “yes” in a separatist referendum to take place Sunday. The vote, organized on an ad hoc basis with no clear control of authenticity of ballot papers or voter lists, could determine if the Western-backed Kyiv government and pro-Russian eastern regions find a compromise, or whether Ukraine slides into civil war. Violence has grown along with the bitter rhetoric in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Referendum polling stations in Donetsk and Luhansk are staffed by masked volunteer gunmen, who wield pistols and rifles. A tense atmosphere prevails in the port city of Mariupol, where between seven and 20 people were killed Friday when Ukrainian forces entered and fought with local gunmen for control of police headquarters. Turchynov said on his website on Saturday that a “dreadful terror” had descended on many in the country. “It is a complex problem when a population deceived by [Russian] propaganda support terrorists.” A breakaway by Donetsk and Luhansk — the coal and steel belt which accounts for 16 percent of Ukraine’s economic output — would deal a second crushing blow to Kyiv. In Slavyansk, the most strongly defended redoubt of separatists, streets were blocked by barricades of tires, furniture and scrap metal. “Everyone here is voting, and voting for the republic,” said Larissa Ivanovna, who runs the cloakroom at Slavyansk’s central market. “We can’t live in a country together with murderers like Turchynov.” Slavyansk’s pro-Russian mayor Vyacheslav Ponomaryov told a news conference he expected a 100 percent turnout in the election. He described Turchynov and his government as a “junta.”

EU moves cautiously to raise pressure on Russia over Ukraine

World Bulletin, 11.05.2014



The European Union is set to step up pressure on Russia on Monday by taking a first cautious step towards extending sanctions to companies, as well as people, linked to Moscow’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region. Discussions among EU foreign ministers in Brussels will again be dominated by the Ukraine crisis after pro-Moscow rebels held a referendum on self-rule in parts of eastern Ukraine on Sunday and fighting flared up again.

The EU declared the referendum illegal and said it would not recognize its outcome, but separatists in eastern Ukraine may use the vote to formalize a split with Kiev.

Nearly 90 percent of voters in Donetsk, the larger of two eastern Ukrainian regions where a referendum was held, voted for self-rule, the head of the separatist election commission there said. Western governments are wary of the similarities to a referendum held in Ukraine’s Crimea in March, a prelude to the region being annexed by Moscow. Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said on Twitter on Sunday that: “Figures from fake referendums in eastern Ukraine (are) likely to be fake” and said there was no way of knowing even the voter turnout. The EU was watching closely to see whether the referendum went ahead after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s call last week for it to be postponed, a call ignored by the separatists. One EU diplomat said last week that whether the referendum was held would be a crucial indicator of whether Ukraine “slides back into further instability or if there is some kind of progress.” EU ministers are set to endorse a broadening of the legal criteria for imposing sanctions on Russia, with the goal of making it easier to freeze the assets of companies involved in the Ukraine crisis.

For now, the scope of new sanctions will be limited to firms or other organizations linked to Russia's annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the EU will not target high-profile energy firms such as Gazprom. Using the new expanded criteria, EU officials have prepared a list of 14 people and two Crimean companies active in the energy sector that ministers are likely to add to the EU sanctions list on Monday, EU diplomats say. The identities of the people and firms are being kept confidential for now. The EU has previously imposed asset freezes and visa bans on 48 Russians and Ukrainians over Moscow's annexation of Crimea but it would be the first time the bloc has targeted companies. The EU will remain far behind the United States in the severity of the sanctions that it has imposed on Russia. In late April, the United States imposed visa bans and asset freezes on seven Russians close to Putin and put sanctions on 17 companies. Those targeted included Igor Sechin, who heads state-controlled Rosneft, Russia's biggest oil producer.

EU says will not recognize result of east Ukraine self-rule vote

Reuters, 11.05.2014



The European Union said it would not recognize the result of a referendum on self-rule held by pro-Moscow rebels in east Ukraine on Sunday, calling it illegal. "The so-called referenda in... parts of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions were illegal and we do not recognize the outcome. Those who organized the referenda have no democratic legitimacy," Maja Kocijancic, a spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, said in e-mailed comments to Reuters.

She said holding the referendum ran counter to the objectives of an agreement reached by Ukraine, Russia, the EU and the US last month that aimed to defuse the crisis.

Ukraine's Crimea region was annexed by Russia in March after a similar vote. Kocijancic said the European Union encouraged the Ukraine government to push ahead with efforts to reach out to all regions through a proposed national dialogue, including steps towards an inclusive dialogue on constitutional reform. Ukraine's government said last week it was ready to talk to political parties and regional officials in eastern regions on ways to resolve the country's crisis, but would not talk to "terrorists". The European Union urged all parties to support holding free and fair presidential elections on May 25, Kocijancic said. The upheaval in Ukraine broke out after former pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich turned his back last year on a trade and political cooperation with the European Union in favor of a \$15 billion bailout from Russia. That sparked prolonged street protests that ended with him fleeing Ukraine.

France's Hollande says east Ukraine referendum does not count

Reuters, 11.05.2014



French President Francois Hollande dismissed a referendum on self-rule in east Ukraine on Sunday, saying the only vote that mattered was a presidential election on May 25. Separatist rebels went ahead with the vote in defiance of Ukraine's pro-Western government and one announced plans to form their own state bodies and military once results are announced on Monday.

Another said the vote would not split the former Soviet republic straight away, but would give the east greater autonomy and could lead to independence or unity with Russia.

Hollande said the vote was so makeshift it could not even be called a referendum. "I don't want to use the word referendum because there is no point," he said on arrival in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, which, like Ukraine, was once part of the Moscow-led Soviet Union. "The only election that counts is the one on May 25," he said in a reference to a planned nationwide ballot to choose a successor to Viktor Yanukovich, the pro-Russian president of Ukraine toppled by unrelenting protests. Hollande also renewed a threat to launch a new wave of sanctions if the presidential election could not go ahead as planned.

Ukraine separatist says will form own state bodies, military after vote

Reuters, 11.05.2014

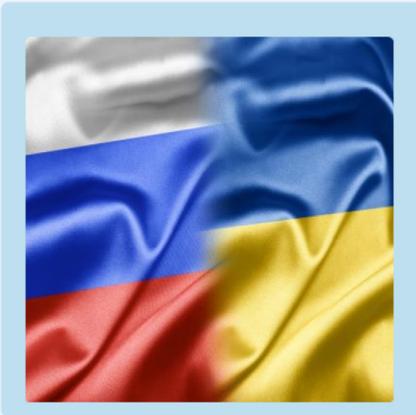


A separatist leader from Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region said it would form its own state bodies and consider government soldiers there as "occupiers" once results were announced from Sunday's self-rule referendum, Interfax news agency said.

"All military troops on our territory after the official announcement of referendum results will be considered illegal and declared occupiers," Denis Pushilin, a leader of the self-styled Donetsk republic said, according to the agency. "It is necessary to form state bodies and military authorities as soon as possible," Interfax said he added.

RIA: Results show 96.2 percent support for self-rule in east Ukraine region

Kyiv Post, 12.05.2014



Final results in a referendum organized by pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine's Luhansk region showed 96.2 percent support for the region's self-rule, the Russian state RIA news agency reported on Monday.

The Russian state RIA News agency, citing one of the organizers of the referendum, stated that Luhansk will appeal to the United Nations to recognize the region's independence. The vote, which took place on Sunday in two east Ukraine provinces, has been condemned by the Western countries, but Moscow said that on Monday that it respects its outcome.

Kremlin: Putin, OSCE urge dialogue between Kiev and east Ukraine

Reuters, 12.05.2014



The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin and the head of Europe's main security and rights watchdog agreed on Monday that the agency should do more to foster dialogue between Ukraine's interim government and separatists in the east.

During a phone call, Putin and OSCE chief Didier Burkhalter noted "the importance of stepping up efforts along the OSCE line aimed at resolving the crisis situation, including by setting up a direct dialogue between the authorities in Kiev and representatives of southeastern regions of Ukraine", the Kremlin said.

IMF chief draws cautious response from Arab countries in call to end subsidies

Gulf times, 12.05.2014



IMF chief Lagarde urged Arab countries going through democratic change to phase out costly subsidy systems on Monday, but drew a cautious response from regional finance ministers wary of the social impact of such steps.

The International Monetary Fund chief said Arab countries pursuing democracy should keep up structural reforms and phase out subsidies systems that the Fund estimates cost \$237 billion annually across the region. She also said average economic growth rates of around 3 percent in the Arab world were not enough to meet the needs of a growing workforce in a region where rural poverty rates are high.

“The growth that we are seeing on average in the region at about 3 percent would have to significantly increase in order to respond to the demands of the young population that is waiting to join the job market,” Lagarde told participants at an IMF-sponsored conference in Amman. “So my message is please pursue the discipline and continue this momentum of structural reform in order to capitalize on the stabilization you have obtained in order to .. generate the growth that is needed to create the jobs needed,” Lagarde said. Finance ministers from around the region agreed that reform of subsidies that take up a big chunk of their budgets’ current spending was crucial. But they also said the social costs were a major factor preventing faster reform of their subsidy systems. Austerity policies implemented by governments pursuing IMF-guided liberal reforms have been blamed for increasing social divisions and fuelling street protests in countries across the region.

A clean bill of health from the IMF has long been crucial for aid-dependent, energy-importing Arab governments such as Tunisia, Jordan and Yemen that rely on Western donor support to help cover their budget deficits. Jordan’s Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour said his country, which faced street unrest after 2011 and had to tackle burgeoning state spending by ending costly fuel prices, leading to civil unrest, had been forced to call on the IMF as a “doctor who gave the right prescription.” Other officials and bankers said the IMF was only now drawing the lessons of the last few years, and rather than just cajoling aid-dependent Arab countries to meet tight fiscal targets without regard to the social costs, it was becoming more sensitive to their domestic challenges.

Lagarde said that in Jordan’s case, the IMF had relaxed its fiscal targets in a \$2 billion standby agreement struck in 2012 to help the kingdom shore up its economy and mitigate the impact of a massive refugee spillover from conflict-torn Syria. The conference, called “Building The Future”, was the first of its kind since the Arab revolts, bringing together not just ministers but also civic groups and critics of IMF policies, which they blame for some of the past unrest in their countries. Lagarde said there were signs that the economies of countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Egypt were stabilizing after more than three years of unrest and political upheaval, but that more work needed to be done.

Legarde: Russian economy will hurt more if Ukraine crisis goes on

Reuters, 13.05.2014



International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde warned Russia on Tuesday that its economy, already facing lower economic growth because of the crisis in Ukraine, would face still further decline if tension with the West is allowed to continue.

“Clearly the situation is already having consequences,” she said after meeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the heads of other multilateral bodies, including the World Bank. “We have revised growth projections for Russia. That is provided that the situation is resolved. If it was not ... that would clearly deteriorate the situation,” Lagarde told.

The IMF has already cut its 2014 growth forecast for the oil- and gas-based Russian economy to just 0.2 percent from an earlier 1.3 percent, which was the rate of growth last year. The Fund says sanctions over Ukraine, imposed by the United States, the European Union and Japan, are scaring off investors. The IMF is providing a \$17 billion bailout for Ukraine but has warned that it would need re-designing if the country loses territory in the east to pro-Russian separatists, after already seeing its Crimean territory annexed by Moscow. “Without political stability, stabilizing the economy will be difficult,” said Lagarde. She added that low inflation and the geopolitical risks “in the heart of Europe” pose a threat to global growth, which the IMF currently sees at 4.7 percent this year.



Announcements & Reports

▶ *Africa at a Crossroads*

Source : Center for Strategic and International Studies

Weblink : <http://csis.org/files/publication/Pac1422.pdf>

▶ *Post Election Transition in Afghanistan*

Source : Center for Strategic and International Studies

Weblink : <http://csis.org/publication/post-election-transition-afghanistan-us-leadership-vacuum-urgently-needs-hard-decisions->

▶ *Welcome to the Revolution: Why Shale is Next*

Source : Council on Foreign Relations

Weblink : <http://www.cfr.org/energy-and-environment/welcome-revolution/p32907>

▶ *Geopolitical Implications of the Ukrainian Crisis*

Source : Foreign Policy Research Institute

Weblink : <http://www.fpri.org/articles/2014/04/geopolitical-implications-ukraine-crisis>

▶ *Putin's New Warfare*

Source : Foreign Policy Research Institute

Weblink : <http://www.fpri.org/articles/2014/05/putins-new-warfare>

▶ *Trouble in Fishing Waters: ASEAN, China and the South China Sea*

Source : Foreign Policy Research Institute

Weblink : <http://www.fpri.org/articles/2014/05/trouble-fishing-waters-asean-china-and-south-china-sea>

▶ *Interregnum: Russia Between Past and Future*

Source : Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Weblink : <http://carnegie.ru/2014/05/13/interregnum-russia-between-past-and-future/haoi>

▶ *Getting India Back on Track*

Source : Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Weblink : <http://carnegieendowment.org/2014/06/09/getting-india-back-on-track-action-agenda-for-post-election-reforms/h6ut>



Upcoming Events

▶ *3rd World Turkic Forum*

Date : 28 - 30 May 2014
Place : Edirne - Turkey
Website : http://www.tasam.org/en/Etkinlik/579/3rd_world_turkic_forum

▶ *The 5th International Conference on Business and Economics 2014*

Date : 1 – 3 June 2014
Place : Madrid – Spain
Website : <http://www.icbe.co>

▶ *Vienna 2nd Economics & Finance Conference - The ISES*

Date : 3 – 6 June 2014
Place : Vienna - Austria
Website : <http://www.iises.net/economics-finance-conferences/vienna-economics-finance-conference-june-3-6-2014/>

▶ *ACSEE2014 - The Fourth Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy and the Environment*

Date : 12 - 15 June 2014
Place : Osaka - Japan
Website : <http://acsee.iafor.org>

▶ *23rd World Business Congress*

Date : 24 - 28 June 2014
Place : Edirne - Turkey
Website : <http://www.conferencealerts.com/show-event?id=129194>

▶ *International Conference on Trade, Business, Economics and Law*

Date : 16 - 19 June 2014
Place : Edinburg - United Kingdom
Website : <http://www.flelearning.co.uk/ictbel-2014/call-for-papers>

▶ *World Water Conference*

Date : 11 November 2014
Place : Edirne - Turkey
Website : <http://www.economistsinsights.com/sustainability-resources/event/world-water-forum?region%5B4%5D=4®ion%5B7%5D=7>