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Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Last Run Via	Results
S2	TX Ibrahimbeyov OR TX Ibragimbekov	Limiters - Publication Date: 20000101-20131231 Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	Interface - EBSCOhost Research Databases Search Screen - Advanced Search Database - Newspaper Source Plus	- 15
S1	TX Ibrahimbeyov OR TX Ibragimbekov	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	Interface - EBSCOhost Research Databases Search Screen - Advanced Search Database - Newspaper Source Plus	- 15

Record: 1

Title: Azerbaijani MP: Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov is world-famous figure in art and must not lose objectivity

Authors: Aliyev, M.

Source: Trend News Agency, 04/06/2013

Document Type: Article

Accession Number: 2W63243147410

Database: Newspaper Source Plus

Azerbaijani MP: Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov is world-famous figure in art and must not lose objectivity

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M. Aliyev

April 06--Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is a world-famous figure in art and he must not lose his objectivity, Ana Vatan party chairman, MP Fazail Agamali told Trend today.

Agamali was commenting on Ibrahimbeyov's interview with Rosbalt news agency.

"He was not with his people during the most difficult days of Azerbaijan's history," Agamali said. "We did not see Ibrahimbeyov in the most active period of the liberation movement. We did not see him among the protesters during the bloody events of January 20."

The mentioning of parallels between Rustam Ibrahimbeyov and Akram Aylisli by Agamali did not rule out that both of them are governed from a single center.

"I do not exclude that possibility," he said. "It is clear that Rustam Ibrahimbeyov acts with a sense of revenge. He acts as a representative of Moscow and Rasul Guliyev."

By these actions Rustam Ibrahimbeyov destroyed the love of the Azerbaijani people, gained by his works and art, MP said.

Rosbalt news agency published Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's interview, in which he said he regretted the collapse of the Soviet Union and that the Armenians are the victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at [agency@trend.az](mailto:agency@trend.az)

Tags: Rustam Ibrahimbeyov, Fazail Agamali

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**Source:** Trend News Agency, Apr 06, 2013

**Item:** 2W63243147410

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**Record: 2**

**Title:** BRIEF: Azerbaijani MP: Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov either does not know history or voices his personal position

**Authors:** Mehdiyev, E.

**Source:** Trend News Agency, 04/06/2013

**Document Type:** Article

**Accession Number:** 2W63618656241

**Database:** Newspaper Source Plus

**BRIEF: Azerbaijani MP: Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov either does not know history or voices his personal position**

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E. Mehdiyev

April 06--Azerbaijani MP accused cinematographer Rustam Ibrahimbeyov of not knowing history.

"There is no difference between Rustam Ibrahimbeyov and Akram Aylisli," Azerbaijani MP Nizami Jafarov told Trend today. "Ibrahimbeyov's statements have at least two flaws. First, he does not know the history of his people."

Jafarov was commenting Ibrahimbeyov's interview with Rosbalt News Agency.

He added that a person considering himself as an intellectual, must be aware of the world history and the history of his people.

"Second, without knowing the history, he expresses his opinion, pursuing a certain goal," he said. "There is nothing worse than to sell the history of his people and their territory for the sake of self-interest."

"This is a great sin," he said.

Rosbalt news agency published Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's interview, in which he said he regretted the collapse of the Soviet Union and that the Armenians are the victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at agency@trend.az

Tags: Rustam Ibrahimbeyov

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Source: Trend News Agency, Apr 06, 2013

Item: 2W63618656241

Record: 3

Title: BRIEF: Azerbaijani MP: National Council is a circle, rather than an organization

Authors: Mehdiyev, E.

Source: Trend News Agency, 06/20/2013

Document Type: Article

Accession Number: 2W6580924852

Database: Newspaper Source Plus

BRIEF: Azerbaijani MP: National Council is a circle, rather than an organization

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E. Mehdiyev

June 20--The National Council is a circle, one can not call it as an organization, deputy executive secretary of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party Siyavush Novruzov told Trend today.

There are three or four people from each organization and party in this National Council, who are supposedly trying to protect some national values and interests, Novruzov said.

"As nobody respects these people in their parties, they want to put forward their candidates in other

organizations," he said. "Of course, this is impossible because the question on a single candidate will not be raised. The individuals in these organizations are so ambitious that nobody trusts them. They changed some names, by establishing other organizations during the year. Each of them lasted for two months and was not effective."

While commenting on the opinion that Rustam Ibrahimbeyov can be a single candidate, Novruzov said Rustam Ibrahimbeyov has been never engaged in politics.

"He is able to be a director or screenwriter," he said. "He has never been a statesman. He has not engaged in state governance. He did not lead and will not lead a political party."

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at [agency@trend.az](mailto:agency@trend.az)

Tags: National Council, Siyavush Novruzov

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**Source:** Trend News Agency, Jun 20, 2013

**Item:** 2W6580924852

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**Record: 4**

**Title:** BRIEF: Azerbaijani opposition party head: Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is not politician

**Authors:** Mehdiyev, E.

**Source:** Trend News Agency, 07/10/2013

**Document Type:** Article

**Accession Number:** 2W63710742351

**Database:** Newspaper Source Plus

**BRIEF: Azerbaijani opposition party head: Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is not politician**

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E. Mehdiyev

July 10--Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is not a politician, chairman of the Umid opposition party Iqbal Aghazade told Trend today.

He was commenting on Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's statements voiced in an interview with the Russian press.

According to him, Ibrahimbeyov cannot even formulate his thoughts because he is not a politician.

"Once I spoke about Rustam Ibrahimbeyov, stressing that no matter who he is, he is not a politician and will

therefore fail to express his thoughts in this sphere or present his political position," Aghazade added.

The Umid Party head also commented on Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's expression "to snub reporters".

"Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is far from politics and has no idea about the elections, or a manner to communicate with voters, journalists, citizens and the community," Aghazade added.

While responding to a question about the reason for nominating Rustam Ibrahimbeyov as a single candidate from the National Council, chairman of Umid Party pointed out that this is a problem with the National Council.

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at agency@trend.az

Tags: Rustam Ibrahimbeyov, Iqbal Aghazade

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Source: Trend News Agency, Jul 10, 2013

Item: 2W63710742351

Record: 5

Title: BRIEF: Opposition party leader: Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov considers himself persona non grata in Azerbaijan

Authors: Mehdiyev, E.

Source: Trend News Agency, 06/14/2013

Document Type: Article

Accession Number: 2W6725156863

Database: Newspaper Source Plus

BRIEF: Opposition party leader: Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov considers himself persona non grata in Azerbaijan

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E. Mehdiyev

June 14--Cinematographer Rustam Ibrahimbeyov will not come to Azerbaijan, chairman of the opposition Citizens and Development Party Ali Aliyev said today.

Ibrahimbeyov fears arrest because he actually declared himself persona non grata in Azerbaijan due to his actions, he told Trend today.

"Second, the project's authors are more interested in the fact that the candidate was a political figure, rather

than Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's candidacy," he said.

Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is acting on instruction, his instructors will advise him to nominate another candidate, Aliyev said.

"In this regard, I think that Ibrahimbeyov will not return to Azerbaijan anytime soon," he said. "The information on his arrival was spread deliberately."

The party chairman wants to rival Ibrahimbeyov in the presidential elections.

"I would like him to come to Azerbaijan and become our rival in the elections," he said. "I would like him not introduce himself as a hero by his non-arrival."

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at [agency@trend.az](mailto:agency@trend.az)

Tags: Rustam Ibrahimbeyov, Ali Aliyev

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**Source:** Trend News Agency, Jun 14, 2013

**Item:** 2W6725156863

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**Record: 6**

**Title:** BRIEF: Top official: Azerbaijani famous screenwriter holds wrong position

**Authors:** Aliyev, M.

**Source:** Trend News Agency, 07/21/2012

**Document Type:** Article

**Accession Number:** 2W62162750127

**Database:** Newspaper Source Plus

**BRIEF: Top official: Azerbaijani famous screenwriter holds wrong position**

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M. Aliyev

July 21--Establishing a new Union of Cinematographers is normal, Azerbaijani Presidential Administration Social and Political Department Head Ali Hasanov said today.

"If Rustam Ibrahimbeyov thinks that the entire Azerbaijani society must be grateful to him for a couple of films, this is the wrong position," Hasanov has told Trend today. He was commenting on Ibrahimbeyov's statement.

"Cinema must develop in Azerbaijan," Hasanov said. "It must be developed by the individuals who may

contribute to the common cause, rather than incapable people."

"I have found myself in the sphere I am involved in," Hasanov added. "I am satisfied with my current position both morally and financially. I am harmoniously involved in Azerbaijani political life."

"Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is miserable as he rushes between cinematography, in which he succeeded at the expense of other individuals, and business," he said. "He can neither return money obtained by fraud from businessmen in Moscow, nor implement a project of a restaurant network in Baku. Rustam Ibrahimbeyov looks miserable in this situation. If I were him, I would rest a little."

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at agency@trend.az

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Source: Trend News Agency, Jul 21, 2012

Item: 2W62162750127

Record: 7

Title: Ibrahimbeyov abandons Russian citizenship to run for Azeri president.

Authors: Interfax

Source: Russia & FSU General News, 7/ 5/2013, p1-1, 1p

Document Type: Article

Abstract: BAKU. July 5 (Interfax) - Screenwriter and single presidential candidate of the National Council of Democratic Forces Rustam Ibrahimbeyov has abandoned his Russian citizenship. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

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Full Text Word Count: 128

Accession Number: 88868897

Database: Newspaper Source Plus

Ibrahimbeyov abandons Russian citizenship to run for Azeri president

Ibrahimbeyov abandons Russian citizenship to run for Azeri president

BAKU. July 5 (Interfax) - Screenwriter and single presidential candidate of the National Council of Democratic Forces Rustam Ibrahimbeyov has abandoned his Russian citizenship.

He told Interfax on Friday he took the step for running in the Azeri presidential election in October 2013.

"I have had Azeri citizenship since I was born," Ibrahimbeyov said.

The National Council of Democratic Forces, which unites several opposition parties, nominated Ibrahimbeyov on July 2 as the single candidate of the opposition in the Azeri presidential election.

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By Interfax

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**Record: 8**

**Title:** Lee and Hernandez journey with `Nomad'

**Authors:** N.A.

**Source:** Zap2it.com, 08/26/2003

**Accession Number:** 2W73377085866

**Database:** Newspaper Source Plus

**Lee and Hernandez journey with `Nomad'**

LOS ANGELES-Jason Scott Lee and Jay Hernandez will star in the independent historical epic "The Nomad."

"Nomad" centers on a boy in a war-torn Kazakhstan who is destined to unite its three warring tribes during the 18th century.

Lee will portray a martial arts master who raises and teaches the destined leader Mansur. Hernandez will play a gifted warrior who is intent on proving himself as the best fighter and the one to lead the Kazakhs.

Ivan Passer will direct "Nomad" based on a script by Rustam Ibragimbekov, who is also a producer.

Milos Forman and Ram Bergman will executive produce with Pavel Douvidzon co-producing.

Principal photography will start in Kazakhstan in September. The project is funded by the government of Kazakhstan.

Lee, perhaps best known for starring in "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story" and the live-action version of "The

Jungle Book," recently wrapped "Dracula III: Legacy." Hernandez has starred in "Crazy/Beautiful" and "The Rookie."

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**Source:** Zap2it.com, Aug 26, 2003

**Item:** 2W73377085866

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**Record: 9**

**Title:** Opposition party: Single candidate from National Council must be in Azerbaijan

**Authors:** Mehdiyev, E.

**Source:** Trend News Agency, 06/21/2013

**Document Type:** Article

**Accession Number:** 2W61254604107

**Database:** Newspaper Source Plus

**Opposition party: Single candidate from National Council must be in Azerbaijan**

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E. Mehdiyev

June 21--Although the Azerbaijani National Council said that head of the Musavat opposition party Isa Gambar will be its single candidate, the party itself considers this unreasonable.

Isa Gambar did not say that he will be the only candidate from the National Council, advisor to the head of Musavat party Sakhavat Alisoy told Trend today.

"Proceeding from Isa Gambar's statement, he said that Rustam Ibrahimbeyov will be the only candidate from the National Council," Alisoy said. "All other versions, distributed in the press, are someone's unfounded assumptions. Isa Gambar personally agreed that Rustam Ibrahimbeyov was the single candidate from the National Council."

But it is important for Rustam Ibrahimbeyov to be in Baku to become a single candidate from the National Council, he said.

"Of course, a candidate will not be chosen in absentia," he said. "A single candidate must be in Baku. I believe that if Rustam Ibrahimbeyov took this responsible mission, he must come to Azerbaijan. This is a very serious issue. It is not a joke or a game."

However, he does not rule out the candidacy of Isa Gambar, if Rustam Ibrahimbeyov does not arrive in

Azerbaijan.

"Of course, Isa Gambar might be an appropriate candidate, but this issue must be resolved in the National Council," he stressed.

If the National Council does not choose a single candidate, then the organization will not make sense, he added.

Chairman of the Azerbaijani Liberal Party represented in the National Council Avaz Temirkhan said that his party supports Rustam Ibrahimbeyov.

Today, the most appropriate candidate for the presidency from the National Council is Rustam Ibrahimbeyov, Temirkhan told Trend.

"The Azerbaijani Liberal Party leader Lala Shevket refused from nominating a single candidate," he added. "It is not casual. I believe that Rustam Ibrahimbeyov will be the single candidate from the National Council."

Member of the Coordinating Council of the so-called Public Chamber Panah Huseyn considers Isa Gambar as an appropriate candidate. Despite Rustam Ibrahimbeyov is often called as a presidential candidate from the National Council during the ongoing discussions, he will support the candidacy of Isa Gambar, Panah Huseyn told Trend.

"Rustam Ibrahimbeyov will not arrive in Azerbaijan because he is afraid of being arrested as a result of his acts, chairman of the Citizen and Development Party Ali Aliyev said. "Rustam Ibrahimbeyov finds himself persona non grata in Azerbaijan."

"Second, the project authors are interested in a political figure to be a candidate, rather than Rustam Ibrahimbeyov," Aliyev said.

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at agency@trend.az

Tags: Sakhavat Alisoy, National Council, Rustam Ibrahimbeyov, Avaz Temirkhan

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Source: Trend News Agency, Jun 21, 2013

Item: 2W61254604107

Record: 10

Title: Putin requests written measures to reduce interest rates on bank loans - Ulyukayev.

Authors: Interfax

Source: Russia & FSU News Bulletin, 7/ 5/2013, p1-1, 1p

Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: INTEREST (Finance) -- Law & legislation
INTEREST rates -- Russia (Federation)
PUTIN, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1952-
ULYUKAYEV, Alexei
BANKING industry -- Russia (Federation)

Abstract: NOVO-OGARYOVO. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued an order to write up measures to lower interest rates on bank loans within a week, new Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukayev told reporters after a meeting on banking sector development on Thursday. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

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Full Text Word Count: 12949

Accession Number: 88870875

Database: Newspaper Source Plus

Section: Politics & Economy

Putin requests written measures to reduce interest rates on bank loans - Ulyukayev

Putin requests written measures to reduce interest rates on bank loans - Ulyukayev

NOVO-OGARYOVO. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued an order to write up measures to lower interest rates on bank loans within a week, new Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukayev told reporters after a meeting on banking sector development on Thursday.

"There is an order to put these measures on paper within a week. By next Thursday they will probably be set out and have to be discussed," he said.

Ulyukayev explained that these measures touch on the Central Bank's refinancing activities with an eye to making potential funding for banks cheaper.

"These [measures] are asset classes, the value of discounts, correction factors, simplicity of procedures, reduction of costs for banks by simplifying reporting, simplification of the archiving system, simplification of requirements for offices, etc.," Ulyukayev said.

Legislative changes are already being made.

"First and foremost, there are laws that have already started. These are important laws. Here there are issues of bankruptcy, issues of collateral law, sequencing, there are issues connected with the pledge of

movable property, databases, etc.," the economic development minister said.

He added that some bills are already at the State Duma, and some still have to be submitted.

Emergencies Ministry's forces in Far East must be augmented - Putin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - President Vladimir Putin said the Emergency Situations Ministry forces' capabilities in the Far East must be increased to allow them to react quickly to emergencies in Russia and abroad, including those in Asia and the Pacific.

"I think the ministry's forces based in Siberia and the Far East must be seriously augmented, including those that deal with emergencies in Asian and Pacific countries," Putin told Russia's Security Council on Friday.

The Emergency Situations Ministry must be provided with larger facilities in order to carry out effective operations in any part of Russia and abroad, first of all with regional aviation units and fire and rescue brigades, he said.

Putin wants military doctrine to be re-evaluated- Patrushev

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The Russian military doctrine, set in February 2010, will be adjusted, due to the emergence of new challenges and threats, said Russian Security Council chief Nikolai Patrushev.

"The president wants the military doctrine to be comprehensive," he said after a Security Council meeting on Friday.

"This is not to say the military doctrine will be changed, We will revise it with due account taken of the current situation in a fast-changing world," he said.

Putin: moving deadlines in arms program must be "well substantiated"

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - President Vladimir Putin insisted on Friday that all deadlines set by Russia's current State Armaments Program be met and that, "if there is any need to push back any of the deadlines, such decisions must be well substantiated and approved."

Putin was speaking at a meeting of the Russian Security Council concerning military development plans for the period until 2020, the expiry year of the State Armaments Program.

"We hold regular conferences on the implementation of the State Program. The main problems have on the whole been worked through. Including those related to the planning and fulfillment of the state defense contracts. Instructions have been given to ensure that the deadlines for the re-equipment of the armed forces with new armaments are strictly met. It has been decided who will be personally responsible for the deadlines for the design and manufacture of each type of weaponry and for the quality of its design and manufacture. Schedules have been revised for the sequence in which they will be developed and supplied," the president said.

"Plans for the next two years involve optimizing the military research complex of the Defense Ministry, building a system of innovative military research, and finding new stimuli for attracting young specialists to military research centers and retaining them," he said.

Putin wants Russian strategic reserves to be revised

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia's strategic reserves must be reformed and approaches to their configuration must be adjusted, said President Vladimir Putin.

"The time has come for us to detail approaches to our strategic reserves, to decide what they are intended for, how large they should be and how they should be maintained," Putin told Russia's Security Council in Moscow.

"All aspects of the armed forces' mobilization readiness, of the national economy and of territorial defense systems must be integrated," Putin said.

Russia must respond to cyber attacks effectively â€“ Putin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the importance of information technologies was growing in the military sphere and that it was necessary to improve the security of relevant infrastructure from cyber attacks.

"The so-called 'information attacks' are already being used for military and political purposes. And, according to experts' evaluations, their so-called 'destructive power' could be greater than conventional types of weapons," Putin said at a meeting of the Security Council dedicated to military reforms through 2020.

"It is necessary to be ready to respond effectively to threats in cyberspace and to improve the security of relevant infrastructure, most importantly the information systems of strategically and critically important installations," Putin said.

It is necessary to pay special attention to building up the operative, technical and personnel potential of the bodies responsible for the security of strategic installations, Putin said. "This is a common and important task for the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Federal Guard Service and the Federal Security Service," Putin said.

Putin: New defense plan for Russia must be submitted no later than 2015

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - A new defense plan for Russia must be presented for endorsement no later than 2015, President Vladimir Putin said at a Russian Security Council meeting on Friday.

Putin stressed that he also means plans for national armed forces development in 2016-2020.

"These documents must be presented for endorsement no later than 2015," he said.

The president also asked for the finalization of an updated version of the Military Planning Regulations. "It is necessary to optimize and coordinate the work of all of its participants and to improve the quality of documents being drawn up," he said.

Putin also called for further optimization of the composition, structure and stationing of Russia's armed forces, attaching particular importance to the development of the aerospace defense system.

Precision weapons influence global balance of forces â€“ Putin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia must take into account the fast-changing nature of military conflicts, the speedy development of precision weapon systems and the militarization of outer- and cyberspace, said President Vladimir Putin.

"We can see the nature of military conflicts changing quickly, along with the ways of unleashing and waging them, and the emergence of combat robotic weapons," Putin told Russia's Security Council which discussed the development of the armed forces on Friday.

"Precision weapons systems have become almost as effective as strategic weapons, a fact that influences the global balance of forces," he said.

"Outer- and cyberspace is being militarized, and special operations and 'software forces' are being widely used," he said.

Putin said Russia is to complete exceptionally large-scale defense and security tasks "reflecting the complex international situation and an array of traditional and new threats that must be adequately met."

"The armed forces must have ample capacity to prevent aggression, and to give a resolute response to any attempt to put pressure on or blackmail Russia, and to guarantee the defense of its sovereignty and its citizens' security," Putin said.

"We must move forward and specify the main priorities of the program for the development of the armed forces through 2020," he said. "We should assess how the current programs are being implemented and see which decisions were ineffective, where systemic setbacks occurred and what should be done to adjust the situation in each area," he said.

Putin: Defense programs must not be heavy burden on economy, social sector

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The development of Russia's armed forces should not deprive the national economy and public sector of financial resources, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"The defense programs should be reasonable and should not be a heavy burden on the country's economy and public sector," Putin said at a Russian Security Council meeting dealing with the development of Russia's armed forces on Friday.

Russia has done a lot in the past several years to improve the qualitative parameters of its military organization, Putin said. "We have actually reached the 50-50 formula, that is, budget funds are currently being allocated equally for the armed forces' maintenance and development," he said.

Recently, only 30% of budget funds were spent on the development of the armed forces while 70% of funds were spent on their maintenance, he said.

Nearly 100 Russian army and naval units have been provided with modern military hardware items in the past several years, he said.

Centers to be set up in regions to prepare citizens for military service - Putin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The quality of pre-conscription military training is of great importance, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

"There was once an effective system in our country that prepared young men for military service. Schoolchildren and university students would learn basic military skills at schools and at the Voluntary Society for Assisting the Army, Air Force and Navy (DOSAAF). Such a system is in great demand today," Putin told Russia's Security Council which discussed the development of the armed forces on Friday.

Putin instructed the Defense Ministry, DOSAAF and regional governments "to complete the formation of regional centers for the preparation of citizens for military service."

"The best achievements of the old system must be used, and new methods and programs must be proposed for helping the younger generation get prepared for present-day military service," Putin said.

"However, what was once practiced should not be blindly copied," he said. "Again, the best must be borrowed and applied," he said.

Russia to have 30 times more cruise missiles by 2020 - defense minister

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - Russia plans to significantly boost its precision weapons arsenal, with its number of cruise missiles rising 30 times over by 2020, the defense minister said.

"We will increase the number of cruise missiles fivefold within the next three years and 30 times over by 2020," Sergei Shoigu said after a Russian Security Council meeting on military development plans for the period until 2020.

Shoigu said he had spoken at the meeting about rearmament plans for the Air Force, the Strategic Missile Forces, the missile services of the Army, and the Navy.

"We have synchronized it all with the infrastructure, which will make it possible to put all those weapons in service," he said.

The minister said decisions were made at the meeting that "will make it possible to maintain the battle readiness of the Armed Forces at a sufficient level."

He cited plans to replace a minimum of 30% of the armed forces' weapons by 2017. Some of the services would have between 70% and 100% of their arms replaced by 2020.

Ex-CIA officer Snowden ready to marry ex-Russian spy Chapman

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Ex-CIA officer Edward Snowden is ready to marry ex-Russian spy Anna Chapman in order to find a solution to his refuge problem.

"I would have married Chapman regardless of the rest. Goddamn, just look at her," Snoden wrote on Twitter on Friday.

Chapman earlier proposed Snowden to marry. "Snowden, will you marry me?!" she wrote on Twitter.

Snowden, who U.S. authorities search on charges of divulging secret information has stayed at the transit zone of the Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow.

Chapman was in the middle of the Russia-U.S. spy row in 2010. She is now an anchor on a Russian TV channel.

Marriage with Chapman may resolve Snowden's situation - source

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - A possible marriage with former Russian spy Anna Chapman can drastically change the status of ex-CIA officer Edward Snowden, a source familiar with the situation told Interfax on Friday.

"In this case Snowden will have legal grounds to apply for Russian citizenship and enjoy legal protection from his new country of residence," he said.

The source did not rule out that the marriage scenario appeared after the leaker's situation went into an impasse.

There have been reports claiming that Snowden accepts the marriage offer from Chapman.

Human rights activist Alexeyeva says U.S. has right to pursue Snowden if he violated U.S. laws

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The United States has the right to pursue the extradition of former CIA employee Edward Snowden if he has violated the law and has divulged a state secret, Russia's oldest human rights activist and head of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Lyudmila Alexeyeva, told Interfax on Friday.

"I do not know the U.S. laws. This person had access to secret information. If he took the obligation to keep this information secret, if he divulged a state secret, then he committed a crime. As a person who committed a crime, he has to be punished," Alexeyeva said.

"If there is no violation of state secrecy in Snowden's case and he revealed information that officials are breaking the law, then his fate evokes sympathy," she said.

Snowden fled to Hong Kong in May, after which he gave a number of interviews revealing details of top-secret Internet surveillance programs run by U.S. special services. At present, Snowden is in the transit area of Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport and cannot fly anywhere, given that the United States has revoked his passport. Snowden has appealed to a number of countries for asylum, while the United States continues to seek his extradition.

SCO leaders to convene in Kyrgyzstan on Sept 13

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - A summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will take place in Bishkek on September 13, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said.

"Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will attend a meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers on July 13. The meeting will take place in Kyrgyzstan. It will focus on the agenda of the SCO Bishkek summit of September 13," he told a press briefing in Moscow on Friday.

The action plan for 2013-2017 in regard to the SCO Treaty of Neighborliness, Amity and Cooperation will be discussed during next week's trip of Lavrov to Bishkek, he said.

Moscow says Georgia responsible for outlook for Geneva discussions

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Moscow says that the format of the Geneva discussions on security in South Caucasus is important and that Georgia is responsible for the outlook for the discussions, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said.

"This is not about folding these discussions. We think that this format is quite important to retain the level of trust between the sovereign countries which were formed after the aggression of Tbilisi in 2008 and Georgia, and we think that this format should keep on working," Lukashovich said at a briefing in Moscow.

At the same time, the stance of Georgia in the framework of this format is causing Russia as well as the Abkhaz and South Ossetian partners to ask questions, Lukashovich said.

"So the responsibility for the prospects for the Geneva discussions continuing is fully on Georgia," Lukashovich said.

The latest round of the Geneva talks confirmed "the conclusion that the Georgian delegation is not ready for a joint search for a compromise outcome and balanced decisions of all interested parties," Lukashovich said.

"This concerns above all the topic of non-use of force. Unfortunately, the participants could not even exchange opinions at the June meeting on the draft statement of the Geneva talks' participants in this regard, prepared by the co-chairpersons," Lukashovich said.

"Instead of normal negotiating work," Moscow is observing "attempts by the co-chairpersons to call the Georgian side to its senses and to show a constructive approach to the discussion," Lukashovich said.

Moscow hopes six-party talks on North Korea to resume soon

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia expects the six-party talks on the North Korean issue to be resumed as soon as possible but the date has not been scheduled yet, spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry Alexander Lukashovich said.

"It is very difficult to foresee. I would not take it upon myself to talk about certain dates at this stage. But everyone assumes that the sooner such talks resume, the more chances there are to achieve stability and to decrease the level of tension on the Korean Peninsula," Lukashovich said.

Moscow calls Egyptian political forces to show restraint

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Moscow has called on political forces in Egypt to show restraint and solve problems within the framework of democratic procedures, Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Alexander Lukashovich said.

"We count on and our comment does have this political appeal to all parties to show wisdom and restrain and solve all, even most complicated, problems within the framework of democratic procedures," Lukashovich said at a briefing in Moscow on Friday.

Moscow and Cairo uphold close and diverse contacts and Moscow hopes that such a trend will continue to grow, he said.

Moscow counts on U.S. to assist in consolidating Syrian opposition - Russian Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Preparations for holding another Geneva conference on the settlement in Syria are under way, spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry Alexander Lukashovich said.

"The main task for today is to consolidate the Syrian opposition on the platform of the Geneva communique

of June 30, 2012. And we count on the assistance of our U.S. partners in this issue first of all," Lukashevich said at a briefing in Moscow.

Moscow continues "working closely on the implementation of the initiative to call the international conference on Syria as soon as possible," Lukashevich said.

Moscow urges Israel to quit settlement projects

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia has urged Israel to quit settlement projects on Palestinian lands as the Middle East peace process has reached a dangerous stalemate.

"There is a dangerous stalemate on the Palestinian track of the Middle East settlement," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich told reporters in Moscow on Friday.

"The unilateral actions of Israel, such as deconstruction of Palestinian homes, expropriation of land lots, military raids and arrests of Palestinian citizens on Palestinian territories, have a negative effect," Lukashevich said.

At the same time, Moscow condemns bombardments of the Israeli territory by militants in the Gaza Strip, he said.

"The problem of settlements has been the most acute. Plans for building 69 homes in a suburb of East Jerusalem were made public in a brief period since late June 2013, and the construction of 900 more homes there was announced later. Such projects are illegal; they also create significant obstacles to the regional peace and absolutely must be stopped," Lukashevich said.

Israeli justice minister to hold talks on Palestinian issue in Moscow

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni will hold talks in Moscow on July 9, in particular with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"The Israeli government's person responsible for the talks with Palestinians, Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, is scheduled to visit Moscow on July 9. She will meet with Sergei Lavrov. The key topic will be the situation on the Palestinian-Israeli track of a Middle Eastern settlement," spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry Alexander Lukashevich said at a briefing on Friday.

Moscow hopes Croatia's joining EU won't create difficulties for Russian tourists

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Moscow hopes to find a solution so that Croatia's joining the European Union does not create difficulties for Russian tourists, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said.

"Probably, the accepted regime of trips to Croatian resorts could get more complicated taking into account the necessity to get visas but I think that we and our Croatian colleagues will manage to find such options, which will not scare off our tourists from the very beautiful places of Croatia," Lukashevich said at a briefing in Moscow.

Russia to pursue attempts to have two Russians released from Libyan prison

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The Russian Foreign Ministry will continue working with the Libyan authorities

to secure the release of two Russian citizens, convicted by a Libyan military court for rendering assistance to the Muammar Gaddafi regime.

"Our ministry in association with other federal agencies will continue active and consistent work with the Libyan authorities to resolve the situation with the Russian citizens convicted in Libya in order to ensure they return to their homeland as quickly as possible," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said at a briefing in Moscow.

Lukashevich said Russian citizens Alexander Shadrov and Vladimir Dolgov as well as three Belarusians and 19 Ukrainians were transferred to the city of Zintan last week as the situation in Tripoli escalated.

"On July 2, employees of our embassy in Tripoli visited Shadrov and Dolgov in Zintan, which is 160 km from the Libyan capital. The conditions of their confinement at the new site are generally acceptable," Lukashevich said.

The moral and psychological state of the two Russians is satisfactory, Lukashevich said.

Regular visits to Shadrov and Dolgov by Russian consular employees have been agreed on with the prison administration, Lukashevich said.

On August 27, 2011, the Libyan rebel battalion Qaqaa detained citizens of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. The entire group was accused of restoring military equipment used by the Gaddafi regime "to kill the Libyan people."

On June 4, 2012, a Tripoli military court sentenced 19 Ukrainians, one Russian and three Belarusians to 10 years and one Russian to life for rendering assistance to the Muammar Gaddafi regime.

UN should investigate possible breach of arms embargo on Libya - Russian Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Moscow insists on a UN Security Council Sanctions Committee investigation of possible violations of the arms embargo in regard to Libya.

"The problem has grown acute lately, especially because of the decisions made by Western and regional partners. As you know, there have been reports of the Western pressâ€ The situation suggests the need for interference of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee: if the mentioned facts are true, we are witnessing a flagrant breach of the embargo imposed by the UN Security Council resolution on Libya," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich told a press briefing in Moscow.

"Our permanent representative in New York has been instructed to make the proposal to the Committee referring to media reports that expose a whole set of problems in the observation of the embargo on arms supply to and from Libya," Lukashevich said.

Moscow demands verification of alleged arms supply to Syrian opposition from Libya

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia has appealed to the UN Security Council committee on sanctions against Libya for initiating an inquiry into the alleged illegal arms supplies from Libya to the Syrian opposition, the Russian Foreign Ministry information and press department said in a commentary.

"Russia has asked the UN Security Council committee on sanctions against Libya for initiating an inquiry

into the aforesaid reports. Hopefully, the committee will rapidly respond to our request and the inquiry will be objective and impartial," says the commentary published on the ministry website on Friday.

It said Moscow had been alerted by the latest reports of authoritative media outlets, the New York Times and Reuters, about illegal arms supplies to the Syrian opposition from Libya via Qatar and Turkey. The reports said the opposition was being armed with various weapons, including submachine guns, machineguns, grenade launchers and anti-tank systems.

"If these reports are correct, we are witnessing a flagrant violation of the international embargo on Libya," the commentary said.

Moscow called on countries capable of influencing Syrian developments to do their best for stopping illegal arms shipments to Syria.

Lavrov reaffirms Russia's plans to strengthen ties with Egypt

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov hopes problems arising in Egypt will be tackled peacefully, and that Russian-Egyptian relations will grow stronger.

Lavrov held telephone talks on July 5 with Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amre on the Egyptian side's initiative.

"Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's unswerving support for the Egyptian people's legitimate aspiration for a better life in conditions of freedom and democratic renewal. He also expressed the hope that political and socioeconomic contradictions in Egyptian society will be settled without violence, with all the parties' rejecting the use of force, and through a national dialogue reflecting the interests of all social groups and faiths," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Both parties expressed the determination to strengthen and further develop Russian-Egyptian relations with an accent on the long-established bonds of friendship and equitable cooperation, the statement says.

"Amre said that the ouster of President Muhammad Mursi should be seen as the European people's decision clearly conveyed in the recent mass protests and implemented with support from the armed forces. Egypt's provisional leaders will soon propose an action plan to restart the broken political process," the ministry said.

Moscow says Russian, North Korean stances on settlement on Korean Peninsula still differ

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - There are still differences in the stances of Russia and North Korea on the settlement on the Korean Peninsula, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov said.

"There are still a number of significant aspects, on which the stances [of Russia and North Korea] differ for now. We will continue active and consistent work with all the partners for the six-party talks in order to find mutually acceptable outcomes," Morgulov told reporters on Friday.

Morgulov said regarding consultations with North Korean First Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan held in Moscow on July 4 that the consultations were intensive, meaningful and business-like.

"The sides have confirmed that they are both minded to search for a political and diplomatic solution to the

problems on the Korean Peninsula and have discussed various modes of re-launching the six-party talks on the nuclear problem. We generally give positive evaluation to the exchange of opinions held," the diplomat said.

Serviceman killed, three policemen injured in clash with gang in Chechnya

ROSTOV-ON-DON. July 5 (Interfax) - A serviceman died and three police officers were wounded in a clash with a gang in the alpine woods of Chechnya's Urus-Martan district, the police told Interfax.

"The clash with the militants occurred near the Tangi-Chu village on Thursday. A serviceman was lethally injured. Three police officers chasing the militants were injured in the explosions of homemade mines the militants had planted. The officers were hospitalized with shell fragment wounds," the police said.

The search for the militants continues.

Black Sea Fleet flagship Moskva enters Mediterranean, heading towards Atlantic

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The cruiser Moskva, the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, has passed through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, and started carrying out the orders assigned to it in the Mediterranean, Black Sea Fleet spokesman Captain First Rank Vyacheslav Trukhachev told Interfax-AVN.

"The creation of an inter-fleet task force, to begin soon in the Atlantic Ocean, will be controlled from aboard the cruiser Moskva," he said.

The task force is comprised of the large anti-submarine battleship 'Vice Admiral Kulakov', the tanker 'Sergei Osipov' of the Northern Fleet, the tanker 'Ivan Bubnov' and the tugboat MB-304 of the Black Sea Fleet.

The naval task force will be formed as the ships head towards the Strait of Gibraltar, which will be passed on July 12, Trukhachev said.

Proton crash site still cordoned off in Baikonur

BAIKONUR. July 5 (Interfax) - Baikonur Space Center crews continue environmental screening of the Proton-M rocket crash site, a Baikonur representative told Interfax on Friday.

"Emergency Situations Ministry teams stay on duty on the crash site, and the police control the perimeter. The Space Center's environmental laboratory daily takes soil and air samples from the crash site and along the winds direction," he said.

Maximum permissible concentration of heptyl and amyl was not exceeded on the crash site, the source said.

The Proton-M rocket, which blasted off from Baikonur on July 2, was supposed to put three Glonass-M navigation satellites into the orbit. The rocket fell down and blasted near the launch pad at the very first minute of its flight.

Proton rocket launches suspended- Rogozin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - Launches of Proton-M rockets from the Baikonur cosmodrome have been suspended until an emergency commission completes its work, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry

Rogozin said at a meeting on Friday.

"Proton-M launches are suspended until reasons behind the crash are established," Rogozin said.

Rogozin: space industry reform plan to be submitted to Putin by late Sept

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The commission for structuring the space industry administrative system will present a space industry reform plan to President Vladimir Putin by the end of the third quarter of 2013, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said at a meeting at the House of Government on Friday.

"The commission will submit industry reorganization plans for the president's consideration and approval before the end of the third quarter," he said.

The long streak of bad luck in the space industry requires a profound analysis of the accident causes, Rogozin argued.

He said the commission on the space industry reform would discuss the Proton-M crash causes and the Audit Chamber report on the Roscosmos performance.

"The Russian government is disappointed with the latest accident," Rogozin said.

In his words, it is planned to take the strictest measures for restoring the industry's capacity.

Loosing three GLONASS satellites to have no effect on efficiency of Russian navigation system â€” Rogozin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The GLONASS orbital group has the necessary reserve to work efficiently, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said at a meeting at the Government House on Friday.

"The developed space group of the GLONASS system has the necessary orbital reserve and the crash which happened should not lead to the decrease of its efficiency, however it is necessary to compensate for the loss of satellites in the future," Rogozin said.

The Proton-M rocket, launched at the Baikonur cosmodrome on July 2, was to put into orbit three GLONASS satellites. The rocket fell and exploded near the launch site within minutes.

Popovkin: Proton crash probe to end by end of July

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The failure review oversight commission will end its inquiry into reasons for the Proton-M rocket crash before the end of July, Roscosmos head Vladimir Popovkin told reporters on Friday.

"It is hard to set any deadlines but I think the work will be done by the end of July," he said.

Crashed Proton-M rocket takes off prematurely â€” Popovkin

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - A Proton-M rocket with three Glonass satellites took off from a launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome 0.4 seconds earlier than planned, director of the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) Vladimir Popovkin said.

"One can say for sure that the rocket left the launch pad ahead of the time before engines started to operate normally," Popovkin said.

According to telemetric data deciphered on July 2, the pressure in the burning chamber of the Proton-M's first stage was 90 atmospheres instead of 150 atmospheres.

"Initially the rocket's input sequence was initiated, but when they [engines] reached full power a usual sequence started, and something happened at this moment. What was the reason? We are looking for it," Popovkin said.

The Proton-M rocket that was launched on July 2 was to take to an orbit three Glonass satellites. The rocket crashed seconds after the launch.

Roscosmos: several theories of Proton rocket crash under consideration

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The failure review oversight commission is considering malfunctions of the launch pad, the rocket control system and the first stage engine as possible causes of the Proton-M rocket crash, Roscosmos head Vladimir Popovkin told reporters on Friday.

"There are a number of theories and we have ruled out nothing for now. It could be [a malfunction] of the launch pad hardware, the rocket control system and the first stage engine," Popovkin said.

The commission has not rejected any theories as yet, he said.

A commission group will evaluate the effects of all the possible causes, he said.

"In short, we have various theories and need to test them with experiments," Popovkin said.

Roscosmos: Proton rocket crash won't defer laboratory module delivery to ISS

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - The Proton-M rocket crash will not postpone the delivery of the Multirole Laboratory Module (MLM) to the International Space Station (ISS) with a similar launch vehicle, Roscosmos head Vladimir Popovkin told reporters on Friday.

"I believe we will find a solution before December. It is important to prepare MLM [for launch] by December," Popovkin said.

Roscosmos will hold a conference on the Energia Corporation premises next week and the agency administration will be informed about progress of the module testing and a decision when to dispatch the module to Baikonur for launch preparations, Popovkin said.

Russia fulfills arms contracts with Venezuela 90%

ST. PETERSBURG. July 5 (Interfax-AVN) - Russia has fulfilled arms contracts with Venezuela 90%, Rosoboronexport Deputy General Director Viktor Komardin said.

"We have a set of contracts. The deliveries of certain types of weapons are coming to an end. They are 90% complete," Komardin told Interfax-AVN at the St. Petersburg International Naval Show.

A full value system of after-sale maintenance of Russian weaponry in Venezuela should become Russia's

priority in its military cooperation with the Venezuelan partner, he said.

"The supplies of Army, Air Force and Air Defense weaponry are sufficient for opening after-sale service centers so that our products remain in use for 20-30 years," Komardin said.

Russian monetary base down 77 bln rubles

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The narrow monetary base in Russia stood at 7761.3 bln rubles on July 1, down from 7838.3 bln rubles on June 24, the Central Bank reported on Friday.

The narrow monetary base includes cash in circulation (including cash held at credit institutions), and balances on banks' mandatory local-currency-deposit reserve accounts with the Central Bank.

Russian stock market grows Friday morning

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The Russian stock market opened the last day of the week with growth, spurred by global markets, which were encouraged by news that the European Central Bank will leave its low interest rates unchanged for a long while.

By 10:01 a.m. Moscow time, the MICEX index had risen 0.1% to 1350.51 points, and the RTS index had also edged up 0.1%, to 1282.29 points.

The majority of benchmark stocks on the Moscow Exchange (RTS: MOEX) grew by up to 1%, led by Polyus Gold (RTS: PLZL) (+0.9%).

CB to quote ruble at 33.2247 rubles/\$1 and 42.8399 rubles/EUR1 on July 6

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The Central Bank of Russia will quote the U.S. dollar at 33.2247 rubles/\$1 on July 6, 0.19% up from the previous exchange rate.

The Central Bank will quote the euro at 42.8399 rubles/EUR1, 0.59% down from the previous exchange rate, the bank's Foreign and Public Relations Department told Interfax.

Dollar slips Friday morning

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The U.S. dollar and the euro slipped on the Moscow Exchange (RTS: MOEX) on Friday morning, while the ruble edged up against the bi-currency basket amid growth on capital markets.

The dollar opened the day's trade at 33.175 rubles/\$1, down just 1 kopeck over yesterday's close but 1-2 kopecks above the official exchange rate.

The euro averaged at 42.8 rubles/EUR1, down by about 6 kopecks over Thursday's close and 30 kopecks below the official exchange rate.

The bi-currency basket (\$0.55 and EUR0.45) declined 3 kopecks to 37.505 rubles.

Russia's population is aging - Labor Ministry

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The pension-age population is almost 9 million larger than the population of minors in Russia, according to the Labor Ministry.

The number of citizens of active working age is 8.89 million, or 27.3% larger than the population of citizens under the working age," the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry's press service said on Friday.

The active working age starts at 16 in Russia.

The population is also ageing, the ministry said. "One eighth of the population are citizens over 65 years of age. By international standards the population is considered old if the share of citizens aged over 65 accounts for 7% of the population," it said.

U.S. pressures Russia on ractopamine issue - Onishchenko

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The United States is trying to pressure Russia on lifting the ban on meat containing muscle growth stimulant ractopamine, head of Russian consumer rights watchdog Rospotrebnadzor and Russia's chief state sanitary doctor Gennady Onishchenko told Interfax on Friday.

"Americans do not relinquish the idea of having it their way through continuing political and administrative pressure, which has nothing to do with the essence of the problem," Onishchenko said.

"The U.S. does not lead the talk on this issue in the legal field for now," Onishchenko said.

Russia banned supplies of almost all red meat from the U.S. in February. The Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, Rosselkhoznadzor, and Rospotrebnadzor said that this measure was taken because the U.S. was using ractopamine in meat production, which was unsafe.

Rospotrebnadzor has published scientific rationale - a report on the damage of meat containing ractopamine.

"If to act by rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the U.S. should respond to the scientific rationale regarding the inadequacy of the standards approved by Americans. According to the WTO regulations, the international court procedure is to come into effect," Onishchenko said.

Court arrests Yaroslavl Mayor Urlashov on bribery charges

YAROSLAVL. July 5 (Interfax) - The Yaroslavl Leninsky District Court arrested Yaroslavl Mayor Yevgeny Urlashov on charges of bribery on Friday.

Judge Lyudmila Kolygina said he would stay under arrest until September 2.

"The court order will be appealed," Mikhail Pisarets, one of Urlashov's lawyers, told Interfax.

Urlashov said he was not surprised. "This case is politically motivated," he said.

Vice-Mayor Dmitry Donskov will stay under arrest until September 3 on court orders, lawyer Valery Chistov told Interfax.

"We deem this decision unfair and will file an appeal within three days," Chistov said.

Earlier the court arrested Andrei Zakharov, a suspect in the Yaroslavl City Hall corruption case.

His lawyer Alexander Zakharyin told Interfax he would stay in custody until September 3.

The court also ordered the arrest of the Yaroslavl mayor's advisor, Alexei Lopatin, until September 3.

Lopatin's defense attorneys have announced they will file an appeal.

The fifth suspect in the Urlashov case, director of the Agency for Municipal Orders Maxim Poikalainen, has also been arrested until September 3.

The court disregarded the fact that Poikalainen has two young children and no criminal record.

Urlashov was detained on July 3, one day after the announcement that he would top the list of the Civil Platform in the elections to local legislature.

The official website of Yaroslavl city authorities reports that on Tuesday the mayor met representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) who discussed the political situation in the city and region with him behind closed doors.

Urlashov, his deputy Dmitry Donskov, his advisor Alexei Lopatin and senior mayoral official Maxim Poikalainen were put behind bars on suspicion of attempted conspiracy-based bribe extortion.

Investigators claim that, between December 2012 and July 2, 2013, Urlashov and the three others demanded that the chief executive of a company share with them a sum paid to his firm under a contract.

They threatened that the company would not be paid what it was due under another contract if he did not hand over the 14 million rubles they allegedly demanded, it is claimed.

Markin had told Interfax earlier that some of the suspects provided testimony implicating the mayor, and that one of the suspects accepted a plea bargain proposal. He also said that the investigators would seek Urlashov's arrest.

Lawyer Sergei Golubenkov said Urlashov had started to provide testimony. Another lawyer, Mikhail Pisarets, earlier said that Urlashov had not pled guilty and refused a plea bargain proposal.

The Interior Ministry press center reported earlier that \$500,000 was found at the Yaroslavl mayor's residence. The mayor's daughter had tried to hide the money. The police said the daughter learned about the detention of her father early in the morning on July 3 and asked neighbors to keep the money at their apartment. The police became aware of her intentions and seized the money." The neighbor later admitted that 20 million rubles had already been stashed in his apartment," the Interior Ministry reported.

The search of the residence of Urlashov's press secretary, Svetlana Yefimova, yielded \$200,000. The origin of this money is now being established, the Interior Ministry said.

One more bribery charge brought against Yaroslavl mayor - Investigative Committee

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - A new criminal case has been opened against Yaroslav Mayor Yevgeny Urlashov on the count of accepting a large bribe, Investigative Committee spokesman Vladimir Markin told Interfax.

"In May 2013, Urlashov demanded a bribe from a businessman in exchange for his pledge to withdraw a suit filed against his firm in an arbitration court," Markin said.

A video, catching Urlashov in the act of accepting 500,000 rubles from this businessman in a restaurant, has been presented as part of the case.

Russia to seek Browder's extradition if he is convicted - source

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia will send an extradition request for Hermitage Capital head William Browder to the United Kingdom if he is found guilty, a police source told Interfax on Friday.

"As soon as a court order regarding Browder enters into force, the extradition request will be sent to London, the place of his residence," he said.

"Western judiciary is rather skeptical about extradition requests filed by investigators but has big trust in requests based on court rulings," he emphasized.

"The international legal status of the U.S. businessman will change significantly with the sentence passed in absentia," the source said.

An international arrest warrant will be issued and Browder's travelling will be limited, he said.

Intl arrest warrant may be issued for Magomed Bilalov - newspaper

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The status of Magomed Bilalov, brother of former North Caucasus Resorts head and Russian Olympic Committee Vice-President Akhmed Bilalov, in the 45.5 million ruble loan fraud case may change from a suspect to a defendant shortly, Izvestia said on Friday.

"The M. Bilalov position in this criminal case has become clear and the police have sufficient grounds to bring the accusations and appeal to court for ordering his arrest in absentia and, as a result, issuing an international arrest warrant," a high-ranking source told the newspaper.

"This will be done soon," he added.

The Interior Ministry said that Magomed Bilalov left Russia immediately after the opening of an abuse of office case against his brother Akhmed, Izvestia said.

"It is hard to say where he may be staying. He has plenty of real estate abroad, homes in the UK, France and Switzerland," politician Oleg Mitvol told the newspaper.

The police are seizing documents and conducting searches to prepare for the indictment of Magomed Bilalov, he said.

Mitvol said the police might charge Bilalov with the misuse of funds allotted not only for Sochi projects (the Mountain Carousel resort and ski jump hills) but also for the Bolshoi Theater reconstruction.

"Bilalov bore relation to the process, in which large sums of budget money got missing," he said.

The police paid attention to M. Bilalov in April after a probe into 45.5 million ruble loan frauds started by request of the Sberbank Krasnodar office, Izvestia said.

Instead of spending the money on construction works, Krasnaya Polyana General Director Stanislav Khatskevich and Financial Director Yelena Raiterer deposited the money in M. Bilalov's National Bank of

Business Development at an annual interest rate of 4-7% and took it back from companies affiliated to M. Bilalov as loans at an annual rate of 12.5%.

Krasnaya Polyana executives misappropriated 45.5 million rubles from May 2011 through September 2012 from the rates' difference, the investigators said.

Prosecutor asks court to find Navalny guilty of stealing from Kirovles

KIROV. July 5 (Interfax) - A prosecutor has asked the Kirov Leninsky District Court to find opposition activist Alexei Navalny guilty of stealing from Kirovles.

An Interfax correspondent said the prosecutor made the statement during arguments in the courtroom on Friday.

In the opinion of the prosecutor, the culpability of Navalny has been proven with materials studied by the court and testimonies of witnesses.

The prosecutor said the defendants were aware of the social danger presented by their actions. He dubbed Navalny as the crime mastermind and called Pyotr Ofitserov his accomplice. "Navalny understood that the timber was supplied at understated prices," the prosecutor said.

He also said Navalny initiated the embezzlement conspiracy of the defendants.

The prosecutor called socially dangerous the crime of which Navalny and Ofitserov had been accused. "There is nothing new about ways and purposes of the crime; the only new thing is the defendant's personality," the prosecutor noted.

In his words, public activity of Navalny caused numerous comments, many of them unfair. "There is nothing worse for justice than a public opinion formed before a ruling," the prosecutor concluded.

The hearing of the case started on April 17. The investigators claim that Navalny, being an advisor to the Kirov region governor, arranged embezzlement of the state-run timber company Kirovles in collusion with Vyatka Forest Company Director Pyotr Ofitserov and Kirovles General Director Vyacheslav Opalev.

The investigation insists that Navalny and Ofitserov embezzled over 10,000 cubic meters of timber belonging to Kirovles from May to September 2009, causing damage exceeding 16 million rubles to the Kirov regional budget.

Navalny has been charged with major misappropriation of somebody else's property and Ofitserov with complicity.

Prosecutor demands Navalny's imprisonment

KIROV. July 5 (Interfax) - The Kirov Leninsky District Court prosecutor insists on six years in prison for opposition activist Alexei Navalny charged with stealing from Kirovles.

The prosecutor told the court on Friday the defendant's culpability had been proven with materials studied in the courtroom and testimonies of witnesses and Navalny could be reformed only in a penitentiary bearing in mind the nature and social danger of his crime.

Prosecutor Sergei Bogdanov also demanded five years in prison for suspected accomplice of Navalny, Pyotr Ofitserov.

The prosecutor said both should serve their time at a general penitentiary.

He also asked the court not to limit freedom of the defendants after they had served their prison time. The prosecutor said Navalny must pay a fine of 2 million rubles, and Ofitserov must be fined at one million rubles.

"The impounded property must also go in profit of state," he said.

Bogdanov asked the court to change the defendants' measure of restraint from travel restrictions to custody after they were sentenced.

Lawyers ask to acquit Navalny

KIROV. July 5 (Interfax) - The defense of Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny is asking the Kirov Leninsky District Court to acquit him on the case on embezzlement from Kirovles.

According to the Interfax correspondent, Navalny's lawyers explained their stance during arguments in court on Friday.

The trial on the case regarding Navalny is illegal, Navalny's lawyer Olga Mikhailova said.

"Hearing of the criminal case in the Leninsky Court of the city of Kirov has shown that the charge brought against Navalny is completely contradicting existing statutory regulations," Mikhailova said.

According to Mikhailova, the prosecution does not have proof of her client's guilt.

"The fact that court dismissed all requests filed by the defense shows that this trial does not meet the purpose of justice and is pursuing just one goal - following political motives, to publicly discredit and to hold criminally liable a famous political activist. No certain proof, how Navalny conspired criminally with Vyacheslav Opalev and Pyotr Ofitserov, has been presented," Mikhailova said.

The prosecution has not presented any certain proof of where, when, to whom and in what circumstances Navalny had given directions to commit criminal acts and what his role as the crime organizer actually was, Mikhailova said.

The proof scrutinized during the trial confirms that the crime has not happened, Mikhailova said.

"So, no a single piece of evidence, corroborating the stance of the prosecution that Navalny organized the embezzlement, has been provided during the trial," Mikhailova said.

Moscow Helsinki Group head thinks Navalny will not be acquitted

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russia's oldest human rights activist and head of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Lyudmila Alexeyeva said she did not believe in the charges brought against opposition activist Alexei Navalny, who is on trial regarding embezzlement at the Kirovles company.

"This trial is political. If we had a law-based state, then this trial would not take place at all," Alexeyeva told

Interfax on Friday.

"I have no doubt: if the trial begins, then in our circumstances, with our courts, Navalny will not be acquitted. A guilty sentence has been prepared for him. I will hope that the sentence will be suspended and short," Alexeyeva said.

The prosecutor's office asked the Kirov Leninsky District Court to find Navalny guilty of organizing embezzlement from Kirovles and to sentence him to six years. The prosecutor said during arguments that the defendant's guilt had been proven by materials and witnesses' testimony scrutinized during the trial.

Navalny pleads not guilty in Kirovles fraud case

KIROV. July 5 (Interfax) - Opposition activist Alexei Navalny asked the court during Friday's hearings of the Kirovles fraud case to declare him not guilty.

"I would ask the court to unconditionally acquit me and Pyotr Ofitserov, [the second defendant and the head of the Vyatka Timber Company]," he said.

"No evidence is available whatsoever to rumors and claims that I had criminal motives," Navalny said.

Navalny described as perjury the evidence provided by witness for prosecution, head of the Kirovles timber company Vyacheslav Opalev.

He also said that he had not received any reward from Ofitserov and pleaded not guilty.

"Ofitserov is an accidental person. Dozens of people like him could be brought here. During my tenure as the Kirov Region government's advisor I dealt with many businessmen," he said.

The first hearing of the Kirovles fraud case started on April 17.

Investigators claimed that during his tenure as the Kirov Region governor's advisor, Navalny colluded with the Vyatka Timber Company's director Ofitserov and Kirovles General Director Opalev.

They also claimed that more than 10,000 cubic meters of timber owned by Kirovles were misappropriated between May and September 2009, and that the regional budget lost over 16 million rubles.

Court to pass sentence on Navalny's case on July 18

KIROV. July 5 (Interfax) - The Kirov Leninsky District Court will officially sentence opposition activist Alexei Navalny on charges of embezzlement from the Kirovles company on July 18.

The date was announced on Friday after the defense and prosecution completed their arguments, the Interfax correspondent reported.

The prosecutor asked to find Navalny guilty and to sentence him to six years in a general regime penal colony. Defendants say the trial is politicized and illegal, and ask that they be acquitted.

The Kirovles trial began on April 17.

According to investigators, one of the opposition leaders, Navalny, while working as an advisor to the Kirov

region governor, colluded with Vyatka Timber Company Director Pyotr Ofitserov and Kirovles General Director Vyacheslav Opalev and organized the embezzlement of Kirovles timber company's property.

In December, Opalev was given a suspended sentence of four years with three years of probation. State prosecutor Yevgeny Cheremisinov told Interfax that Opalev had concluded a pre-trial cooperation agreement and that his case received special consideration.

The governor of the Kirov region, Nikita Belykh, was questioned during the trial.

Investigators believe that over 10,000 cubic meters of wood products belonging to Kirovles were stolen in May-September 2009. As a result, the regional budget sustained losses of more than 16 million rubles.

Navalny is charged under the Russian Criminal Code Article 160 Part 3, the organization of large-scale misappropriation.

Navalny says criminal action won't stop him engaging in political activities

KIROV, Russia. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny has told the court trying him on embezzlement charges that the criminal action against him will not stop him from pursuing his political and human rights activities.

"If there is anyone who believes that my colleagues and I will stop the activities that we are involved in, they are badly mistaken," Navalny said in his final statement at the conclusion of his trial in Kirov.

The prosecution called on the court to convict Navalny of complicity in large-scale theft and to sentence him to a six-year term in a standard penal colony.

The defense insists on his acquittal.

Navalny is accused of fraud involving the Kirovles timber company.

"If there is anyone who believes, after hearing about this threat of six years, that I will run away, leave the country or go into hiding, they are all seriously mistaken. I won't run away from myself. I have no other choice, and I don't want to do anything else - I want to help the people who live in my country, to work for all those who are my fellow citizens. I believe that no one has the right to neutrality now," Navalny said.

Another defendant in the Kirovles case, Pyotr Ofitserov, protested his innocence. "I don't ask for clemency because I am innocent. We men must be responsible for what we do, we must be responsible throughout our lives. It has been suggested that I slander the others, and I refused," he said in his final statement.

Judge Sergei Blinov said the court would start reading out the sentences at 9 a.m. on July 18.

The trial began on April 17.

The prosecution claims that more than 10,000 cubic meters of timber was stolen from Kirovles between May and September 2009, inflicting damages of more than 16 million rubles on the Kirov region's administration.

Navalny, who at that time served as an advisor to regional governor Nikita Belykh, is accused of organizing the alleged theft. Ofitserov, who headed Vyatka Timber Company, and Kirovles chief executive Vyacheslav

Opalev were accused of complicity in the alleged embezzlement.

Navalny is charged with "organization of the embezzlement of an exceptionally large amount of property."

In December 2012 Opalev was given a suspended four-year sentence with a probation period of three years. Prosecutor Yevgeny Cheremisinov told Interfax that Opalev had signed a plea bargain.

Governor Belykh was among those questioned during the trial.

Cases against Khodorkovsky, Navalny have common traits - former Yukos head's lawyer

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Lawyers of former Yukos head Mikhail Khodorkovsky said they compared the second criminal case against their client to the trial involving opposition activist Alexei Navalny.

"I have listened to Alexei's speech. I see in this case all the same traits that I saw in Moscow's Khamovniki Court three years ago," Khodorkovsky's lawyer Vadim Klyuvgant told Interfax on Friday.

The Kirov Leninsky Court will pass the sentence on the embezzlement case against Navalny on July 18. The prosecutor asked the court to sentence Navalny to six years. Navalny said that the only lawful ruling would be acquitting him and that he was being prosecuted due to political motives only.

Two court rulings sentenced Khodorkovsky to 13 years in prison. As of yet, his sentence was shortened to 11 years. Khodorkovsky and his defense have said repeatedly that his prosecution was related to politics. However, the courts said in their rulings that there were no grounds for such an opinion.

State Duma ends second reading of Academy reform bill

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The State Duma had the second reading of the Academy reform bill on Friday.

Deputies voted for 69 amendments and rejected all the 105 adjustments recommended for rejection.

State Duma Science and High Technologies Committee Chairman Valery Chereshnev said at the meeting that every proposed correction was supported but he "could not understand why the bill had to be passed so rapidly."

He also wondered why "the position of corresponding members had to be abolished" but expressed hope that would be clear by the third reading of the bill.

No proposals were made to have the third reading of the bill on Friday.

Amendments, which preserved the old legal form of the Russian Academy of Sciences - the federal state budget-financed organization, were approved on Thursday. This means there will be no formal liquidation of the Academy. At the same time, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences will be merged into a single entity.

The Russian Academy of Education, the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Science and the Russian Academy of Fine Arts will be subordinated to relevant federal executive authorities.

The position of Academy corresponding members will be abolished. Yet all corresponding members will have a chance to be elected academicians within three years.

The Academy administration will be abolished. The Agency for Scientific Institutes will manage Academy institutes and assets.

Acting President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Vladimir Fortov will stay in office for three years after the Academy reform bill enters into force, and a new election will be held after that. Presidents of the existent Academies of Agricultural Sciences and Medical Sciences will hold positions of vice-presidents of the Academy for three years since the day of the first general meeting of the Academy.

Every unit and regional branch of the Academy will be preserved.

Organizations affiliated to the Academy will be checked for efficiency of property management. Some of them may be liquidated.

Academy reform bill passes second reading in State Duma

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The Academy reform bill has passed the second reading in the State Duma.

The bill gained support of 344 deputies and one abstained; no one voted against.

The Communist Party faction did not appear at the plenary meeting.

Medvedev welcomes adoption of bill on Academy reform

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev welcomes the unanimous adoption of the bill on the Academy of Sciences reform in its second reading on Friday.

"The State Duma supported the bill unanimously following its second reading. It is a long-expected event," Medvedev told the Council for Enhancing Competitiveness of Russian Universities.

Education and Science Minister Dmitry Livanov said he was satisfied with the fine-tuned edition of the bill.

"We are satisfied by the edition passed in the second reading. It retains the basic provisions of the original bill, submitted by the government," Livanov told the press after the Council meeting.

The adopted edition retains the idea of separating the Academy of Sciences' expert functions from those of property management and financing, Livanov said.

Fortov accepts Putin's offer to head Academy, manage its assets

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian Academy of Sciences President Vladimir Fortov has accepted the proposal of Russian President Vladimir Putin to combine positions of the Academy President and the head of the new federal agency for managing Academy assets.

"Yes, I have accepted [the offer]," Fortov told reporters.

Putin offered Fortov to combine the two positions on Wednesday.

Ukraine, EU seek legal foundation for gas supply from EU countries - Stavitsky

BRUSSELS. July 5 (Interfax) - Kyiv and Brussels are engaged in a juridical analysis of gas delivery from EU

countries to Ukraine to settle the matter on a legal basis so as to stave off any possible disputes down the road.

This was a subject of discussion during a meeting involving Ukrainian Energy and Coal Industry Minister Eduard Stavitsky and European Energy Commissioner Gunther Oettinger, Stavitsky said during a talk with the press.

Two options worked out by Ukrainian specialists for addressing the problems involved in Ukraine acquiring natural gas from the territory of EU countries, matters that need to be evaluated by the European Commission so that ways the question can be settled can be laid out, were discussed.

"Some monopolies are leveling accusations that this [gas deliveries from the EU to Ukraine] is a certain kind of machination. I will say it again, there is no machination," Stavitsky said.

The minister said that an issue now is the Slovakia-Ukraine corridor. "You know that this corridor will be one of the most powerful, as its potential will be, at minimum, ten billion cubic meters of gas per year. We're not talking about us buying that amount, we're talking about our country getting additional capacity for diversifying deliveries of natural gas to Ukraine at a fair price. That's it. We don't want to offend anyone, we just want to reach the kinds of agreements that correspond to international standards," the minister said.

Stavitsky pointed out that the search for a juridical resolution does not pertain to any one company in particular, as gas reaches market in Europe from Norway, Algeria, Mozambique, and Nigeria. "That is, when we acquire it on the spot market it is not considered as gas from some country or other, it is figured by volume," he said.

Juridical analysis is needed so that there are no "negative consequences for our partners or us ourselves, so that no disputable matters in relation to any fines, or courts, come up," Stavitsky said.

The trial period involved in gas delivery from Slovakia, which began on May 15, will continue, he said, "Until we decide what route we will take after the analysis is done."

Commenting on the hardening of Russia's position on Ukraine, Stavitsky said he was confident that "this means that we are on the right track." "If someone reacts, it means that we are doing it right. Technologically, Slovakia is ready for transit. Now the legal route we can take needs to be determined," he said.

The analysis should be completed before this September, he said.

Ukrainian minister hails cooperation memorandum with Eurasian Economic Commission

KYIV. July 4 (Interfax) - The memorandum deepening cooperation between Ukraine and the Eurasian Economic Commission is a victory of Ukraine, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara said.

"I think Ukraine has won a victory in its relations with the Customs Union: we have signed a memorandum in regard to the observer status," Kozhara told Channel 5 on Thursday night.

The memorandum gives Kyiv access to information about Customs Unions operations. Ukraine may consolidate its position without having the vote, the minister said.

Negotiations with the Customs Union were absolutely transparent and European partners were aware of the Kyiv intentions to cooperate with that organization, he added.

Ukrainian authorities comply with the law and pursue a strategic objective of European integration while developing broad cooperation with the Customs Union, Kozhara concluded.

Ukrainian PM Azarov expects President Yanukovich to run for reelection in 2015

KYIV. July 5 (Interfax) - Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov expects incumbent President Viktor Yanukovich to run for reelection in 2015.

"I do not see any reasons for incumbent President Viktor Yanukovich not to offer his candidacy for a second term in 2015," Azarov said in an interview with the French magazine *Le nouvel Economiste*.

Azarov considers Vitali Klitschko, the leader of the Udar parliamentary faction, an unfortunate presidential candidate.

"Vitali Klitschko is a talented boxer, and he has brought glory to himself and to our country. We all are proud of him as an athlete. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a single day of experience working in the executive branch," he said.

Ukrainian authorities want to solve Tymoshenko's issue, but she refuses to cooperate - minister

KYIV. July 5 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The Ukrainian authorities want to solve the "issue" of the former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, but she refuses to cooperate with them, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara said.

"Ms. Tymoshenko refuses to cooperate with the Ukrainian authorities. The matter can be resolved subject to Tymoshenko's good will and based on Ukraine's laws," Kozhara said in an interview with Channel 5.

He added that from the very start of the trial the former prime minister chose political rather than legal remedies, and now she regularly refuses medical examinations and blood tests. "From a legal point of view, Ms Tymoshenko is actually not sick, because there is no evidence," Kozhara said.

The foreign minister confirmed that this matter does hinder Ukraine's relations with the EU and the Ukrainian authorities are trying to find a solution to this problem. "We want to solve it, but based on Ukrainian laws," Kozhara said.

Kyiv's Pechersky District Court found Tymoshenko guilty of abuse of office in signing a gas supply contract and sentenced her to seven years in prison on October 11, 2011.

Tymoshenko has been serving her sentence at a penitentiary in Kharkiv since December 2011.

Since May 9, 2012, she has been staying at a Kharkiv hospital and receiving medical treatment there. Doctors from the Berlin-based Charite clinic are determining the tactics of her treatment and medicines to be used.

Ibrahimbeyov abandons Russian citizenship to run for Azeri president

BAKU. July 5 (Interfax) - Screenwriter and single presidential candidate of the National Council of

Democratic Forces Rustam Ibrahimbeyov has abandoned his Russian citizenship.

He told Interfax on Friday he took the step for running in the Azeri presidential election in October 2013.

"I have had Azeri citizenship since I was born," Ibrahimbeyov said.

The National Council of Democratic Forces, which unites several opposition parties, nominated Ibrahimbeyov on July 2 as the single candidate of the opposition in the Azeri presidential election.

Kyrgyzstan upgrading its military structure

BISHKEK. July 5 (Interfax) - The Kyrgyz Defense Council chaired by President, Supreme Commander Almazbek Atambayev approved the country's military doctrine on Friday.

"The military doctrine targets the creation of an efficient military structure of the country, in particular, the professional armed forces equipped with modern armaments and hardware, capable of giving an adequate response to military threats in the peace and war time and guaranteeing the protection of sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitutional system of Kyrgyzstan and implementation of its international commitments," the Kyrgyz presidential press service told Interfax.

"The Defense Council also elaborated main areas of reform of the armed forces' command and approved a list of strategic sites in Kyrgyzstan," the press service said.

"The bitter experience of the independence years showed that deficient interaction between law enforcement agencies was a weak point of state management in crises," the president told the meeting participants.

"Time has proven the need for a unified command center, which will guide operations of the armed forces and other state entities in the case of crises. The center must operate on the permanent basis and be prepared for any military and civilian emergency," Atambayev stressed.

He recalled the signing of a military cooperation protocol between the Kyrgyz and Russian governments last fall. The protocol sets the task of "forming a highly mobile army of the Kyrgyz Republic possessing modern armaments and professional personnel and capable of using innovative forms and methods in military operations, including the deterrence of international terrorism," the president said.

"The Russian Defense Ministry starts the delivery of modern armaments to the Kyrgyz Armed Forces already in the fourth quarter of this year in line with the agreements," the presidential press service added.

Opposition has no significant influence on situation in southern Kyrgyzstan - official

JALAL-ABAD. July 5 (Interfax) - The administration of the Jalal-Abad region in southern Kyrgyzstan said that it did not fear occasional protests by opposition supporters and that the situation in the region was stable.

"The public and political situation in the Jalal-Abad region is stable, everyone is working and the region's performance is quite high," the governor of the Jalal-Abad region, Jusubaly Toromatov, told Interfax on Friday.

The June protests held by supporters of leaders of the opposition party Ata-Zhurt (Fatherland), who are the

parliament deputies Kamchibek Tashiyev, Talant Mamytov and Sadyr Zhaparov, "did not have significant influence on the situation in the region and did not swell the pro-opposition population," Toromamatov said.

"No one is paying attention to these rallies, they concerned only an insignificant part [of the population], mainly relatives of the deputy Tashiyev, not more than 100 people, and the rest of the population is working and continues to live their lives," the governor said.

In June, supporters of the opposition deputies blocked the strategic highway connecting Kyrgyzstan's south and north for several days and seized the administration building of the Jalal-Abad region.

Kyrgyz Supreme Court to take up coup attempt case of deputies

BISHKEK. July 5 (Interfax) - The Kyrgyz Supreme Court will hear on July 16 the case of three opposition deputies accused of an attempt to seize power, one of the deputies, Talant Mamytov, and his lawyer Iskender Jurabaev told a press conference on Friday.

"Courts of the first and second instances failed to present evidence proving that my client and the other deputies conspired to seize power," Jurabaev said.

Mamytov pointed to "serious violations in the investigation of the case of the deputies' attempt to seize power."

The Bishkek City Court, a court of second instance, acquitted Mamytov and his two colleagues from the Ata Zhurt faction, Kamchibek Tashiyev and Sadyr Zhaparov, on June 17.

The deputies were charged with an attempt to topple the authorities and public appeals for overthrowing the existent constitutional system.

Former Kyrgyz ombudsman to fight for his lost position in court

BISHKEK. July 5 (Interfax) - Former Human Rights Ombudsman Tursunbek Akun dismissed by the Kyrgyz parliament intends to regain his lost position with the assistance of a court, Akun's lawyer Erkin Saadanbekov said on Friday.

"I am the only bona fide ombudsman, and the parliament's decision on my dismissal is not legal," says the Akun statement posted by his lawyer.

"The parliament's decision is unlawful. It contradicts the principles of humanism and humanity and does not do credit to 57 deputies [who voted for his dismissal]," the ex-ombudsman said.

The parliament dismissed Akun on June 27.

Black box of crash-landed Mi-8 chopper found in Yakutia - police

IRKUTSK. July 5 (Interfax) - The police have found the black box of the Mil Mi-8 helicopter that made a crash landing in Yakutia, the East Siberian transport investigative department reported on Friday.

"An investigative team examining the scene of the Mi-8 helicopter crash, which occurred in the Ust-Yansky district of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on July 2, 2013, found the flight data recorder and handed it over to specialists of the Interstate Aviation Committee for analysis," the report said.

Hooligans try to blind jetliner crew with laser beam in Yekaterinburg

YEKATERINBURG. July 5 (Interfax) - The Yekaterinburg police are looking for hooligans who tried to blind with laser beam the crew of an Airbus A320 jetliner flying from Moscow to the Yekaterinburg Koltsovo Airport.

The Urals Federal District transport police department said the incident was reported by the Koltsovo Airport flight supervisor at around 3 a.m. on Friday.

"A green beam was aimed at the cockpit from the Yekaterinburg Khimmash neighborhood when the jetliner was approaching the airport, approximately twelve kilometers away from the runway," the report said.

There were 145 passengers and six crewmembers aboard. The jetliner was not carrying any hazardous cargo.

"It landed in the airport safely," the report said.

Illegal bomb lab found in Moscow apartment

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - The Interior Ministry and the Federal Security Service have seized a man making explosives in a rented apartment, the Interior Ministry press center told Interfax.

"Interior Ministry anti-extremism units, the city police and the Federal Security Service detained a 38-year-old man in a rented apartment at 30, Yablochkova Street on Wednesday night. Bomb parts were found on the premises," the press center said.

A mini-laboratory manufacturing explosive ingredients and mixtures, handmade safety fuses, chemistry and demolition textbooks and a list of police radio call signs were found in the apartment, it said.

"The detainee was federally wanted on fraud charges. He was also suspected of public appeals for extremism (Article 280 of the Russian Criminal Code)," the press service said.

Flame of Summer Universiade arrives in Kazan

KAZAN. July 5 (Interfax) - The Flame of the 27th Summer Universiade has arrived in Kazan, its point of destination.

The Flame was lit in a ceremony in Brest, France, on July 15, 2012, and its journey has lasted almost a year. It has covered a distance of 104,000 kilometers, passing through 51 cities, and it was carried by 2013 athletes.

From Europe the Flame sailed 45,000 miles aboard a ship through Latin America and arrived in Vladivostok on January 25 where the Russian part of its race began and continued by rail. The Flame was delivered to Tatarstan on June 20 and it traveled from Zelenodolsk to Kazan on Friday, where it was welcomed at the International Information Center.

It will be taken to the Museum of the Universiade after the welcoming ceremony.

The main symbol of the student games will be taken to the Arena Kazan stadium on Saturday, where the opening ceremony will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Opposition plans action in Navalny's support in Moscow

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - Russian opposition groups plan to hold a demonstration in Moscow in support of prominent anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny in Moscow.

The Leninsky District Court in Kirov announced on Friday that it would hand down a sentence on Navalny in the criminal case concerning alleged embezzlement at the state timber company Kirovles on July 18. Prosecutors asked the court to find Navalny guilty of organizing large-scale embezzlement by a group of people and to sentence him to six years in prison. Navalny's defense team insists on his acquittal.

"Most likely, a decision will be made on holding a major action in Navalny's support on July 20," Opposition Coordination Council member Pyotr Tsarkov told Interfax on Friday.

"The Protest Action Committee will make a final decision," he said.

Asked about the format of the protest demonstration, Tsarkov replied, "This will be subject to discussion."

The opposition plans to file a notification on its plans to hold a demonstration with the city administration next week.

Over 70 drown in Moscow since May 1

MOSCOW. July 5 (Interfax) - A 50-year-old man drowned in the Moskva River in the city's south on Thursday.

"The accident happened off 7, Rechnikov Street," a city doctor told Interfax on Friday.

In all, 73 people, including five children, have drowned in Moscow water reservoirs since May 1, 2013.

There had been 21 casualties before June 1, the opening date of the swimming season.

Doctors explained the casualties with swimming in undesignated areas and in the state of alcohol intoxication.

Moscow has 93 recreation areas and eleven of them are designated for swimming.

15 wildfires raging in Russian Far East

KHABAROVSK. July 5 (Interfax) - Almost 20 wildfires broke out in the Russian Far East on Thursday, mostly in Yakutia, the Far Eastern Federal District forestry department reported on Friday.

"There were 16 wildfires in Yakutia, two in the Khabarovsk territory and one in Kamchatka," the report said.

Four wildfires have been put out in Yakutia by now.

Fifteen forest fires are still burning in the Russian Far East. The fire spread over approximately 170 hectares in Kamchatka. About 90 hectares of forest were burned in Yakutia and three hectares in the Khabarovsk territory.

More than 730 firemen, 42 fire trucks, seven planes and six helicopters were assigned on firefighting

missions.

The Far Eastern Federal District has had over 870 forest fires on more than 367,600 hectares since the beginning of this wildfire season.

Attention subscribers: Press conference of Transparency International representatives at Interfax

***Transparency International representatives will give a press conference at Interfax (2,Pervaya Tverskaya-Yamskaya street) at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9.

Subject: Results of the Global Corruption Barometer 2013 survey.

Speakers: Transparency International Russia director Yelena Panfilova, Transparency International Russia deputy director for research Anton Pominov.

Accreditation at +7(499) 250-8832 ends one hour before the press conference.

Entry by press IDs.

Court orders arrest of fifth suspect in Yaroslavl bribery case

YAROSLAVL. July 5 (Interfax) - A court in Yaroslavl ruled on Friday to arrest director of the city's Agency for Municipal Orders Maxim Poikalainen on the charge of accepting a large bribe.

The court disregarded the fact that Poikalainen has two young children and no previous convictions.

Urlashov, his deputy Dmitry Donskov, his advisor Alexei Lopatin and senior mayoral official Maxim Poikalainen were put behind bars on suspicion of attempted conspiracy-based bribe extortion.

Investigators claim that, between December 2012 and July 2, 2013, Urlashov and the other three were demanding that the chief executive of a company share a sum that had been paid to his firm under a contract.

They threatened that the company would not be paid what was due to it under another contract if he didn't hand over the 14 million rubles they allegedly demanded of him, it is claimed.

Urlashov was detained on July 3, a day after the announcement that he would top the list of the Civil Platform in the elections to the local Duma.

The official website of Yaroslavl city authorities reports that on Tuesday the mayor met representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) who discussed the political situation in the city and the region with him behind closed doors.

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By Interfax

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**Title:** Riveting moment in the sun as Stalin casts his shadow.

**Authors:** NICHOLAS DE JONGH

**Source:** Evening Standard, 3/4/2009, p19, 1p

**Document Type:** Article

**Abstract:** FIRST NIGHT BURNT BY THE SUN Lyttelton, National .. . . .  
[ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

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### **Riveting moment in the sun as Stalin casts his shadow**

FIRST NIGHT BURNT BY THE SUN Lyttelton, National .. . . .

IMAGINE the spectre of Joseph Stalin glowering over some dacha in the countryside, where the long, hot summers of the leisured classes, beloved of Chekhov and Turgenev, are still in vogue as late as 1936. But the Cherry Orchard is over. The three sisters have realised they will never live in Moscow and Uncle Vanya is dead.

The extraordinary fascination of *Burnt By The Sun*, skilfully adapted for the stage by Peter Flannery from Nikita Mikhalkov's 1994, Oscar-winning film of the same name, lies in the way it exploits a Chekhovian milieu and fills it with people who behave as if lost in the life of a 19th century estate.

Howard Davies's production, with the distracting sumptuousness of Vicki Mortimer's show-off, revolving stage-design for the dacha, makes it feel for the first few moments as if we remain in Chekhov country. Then two lowflying aircraft sweep ominously over the languid scene and we adjust our time-clocks to the Stalin era .

Mikhalkov and fellow script-writer Rustam Ibragimbekov, with Flannery following on, are fuelled by bitter

ironies. They set *Burnt By The Sun* at the illusory high point of Stalin's regime in 1936, when his new constitution was proclaimed as the quintessence of democracy in Britain and America. But the dictator's Great Terror loomed just around the corner, though no one would know until 1992 how many hundreds of innocent thousands were murdered. Flannery shows how *Burnt By The Sun*'s two principal characters, who stand on opposing political sides, have been caught up, corrupted and destroyed by Stalinism before it has reached its zenith of evil.

As in an Ibsen play, the present catastrophe springs directly from revelations of secrets and betrayals in the past — the political and personal entwined, sexual desire the unacknowledged goad.

Ciaran Hinds's fiftyish, sturdily assertive General Kotov, decorated hero of the Russian revolution with a Stalinist moustache, offers hospitality in summer to the family of his much younger wife, Maroussia. One morning the past comes rushing into the present. It arrives in the form of Rory Kinnear's Mitia, Maroussia's very long-lost lover, whose disguise of long hair, dark glasses and beard is swiftly discarded but leaves concealed the true, terrifying reason for his return.

Davies's production develops far less of an atmosphere than Mikhalkov's wonderful film, whose lyricism was slowly undermined by notes of menace, violence and fear. Davies's style is too theatrically spectacular — complete with a Young Pioneer Band and a staging reliant on the slightly synthetic vivacity of Kotov's numerous house guests.

Kinnear's vehement Mitia does not quite bear enough of an anguished or despairing soul to Michelle Dockery's movingly woebegone Maroussia, who learns why he vanished from her life. But how could Flannery's version compare — when the climactic unfurling of the air ship with Stalin's physiognomy looms like an oppressive giant in the sky. And Davies's deathly finale, though no match for the original, brings down the hammer-blows of fate with shocking nonchalance.

*Burnt By The Sun* brings Russian history into riveting close-up..

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By NICHOLAS DE JONGH

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Riveting moment in the sun as Stalin casts his shadow

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NICHOLAS DE JONGH

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Burnt By The Sun brings Russian history into riveting close-up.

MORE REVIEWS: PAGES 38- 41 ...

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**Record: 13**

**Title:** Rosneft holds cooperation talks in Azerbaijan.

**Authors:** Interfax

**Source:** Russia & CIS Presidential Bulletin, 7/ 5/2013, p1-1, 1p

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**Abstract:** Rosneft President Igor Sechin met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during a working visit to Azerbaijan, where the parties discussed a wide range of topics related to oil and gas cooperation. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

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**Rosneft holds cooperation talks in Azerbaijan**

## AZERBAIJAN

### Rosneft holds cooperation talks in Azerbaijan

Rosneft President Igor Sechin met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during a working visit to Azerbaijan, where the parties discussed a wide range of topics related to oil and gas cooperation.

The Russian state-owned oil company said in a statement that Sechin also held talks with President of State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (Socar) Rovnag Abdullayev and expressed his hope for fruitful cooperation between the two companies.

## AZERBAIJAN

### Ibrahimbeyov abandons Russian citizenship to run for Azeri president

Screenwriter and single presidential candidate of the National Council of Democratic Forces Rustam Ibrahimbeyov has abandoned his Russian citizenship.

He told Interfax on Friday he took the step for running in the Azeri presidential election in October 2013.

"I have had Azeri citizenship since I was born," Ibrahimbeyov said.

The National Council of Democratic Forces, which unites several opposition parties, nominated Ibrahimbeyov on July 2 as the single candidate of the opposition in the Azeri presidential election.

## BELARUS

### Lukashenko appoints new presidential property deputy chief

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has signed a decree appointing Nadezhda Kotkovets as the presidential Property Management Directorate's deputy chief, Lukashenko's press office told Interfax.

Lukashenko signed the decree on July 5, the press office said.

The Belarusian president also signed a decree relieving Iosif Rolich of his duties as Property Management Directorate deputy chief due to his transfer to a new job.

In April 2012, upon the approval of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Kotkovets headed the commission's agricultural department.

Prior to her appointment to the Eurasian Economic Commission, Kotkovets was the Belarusian first deputy minister of agriculture and food.

## KAZAKHSTAN

### Nazarbayev sure "everything will be normal" after he leaves office

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said "everything will be normal" in Kazakhstan after he leaves office.

"Any politician, any president, especially one who has been in power for so long, should think of [what

would happen after he goes] because it is the concern of any politician, any president, that his cause should continue, that things shouldn't get reversed," Nazarbayev said in the film "Nazarbayev. Live," which was shown on Kazakhstan's KTK television on Thursday evening.

"A moment of change is the hardest moment," the president said. "Those who start reformation are always risking. So you're always wondering how it'll be. A system should evolve that is stable by itself, despite the replacement of the leader."

He pointed out the smooth change of government in Singapore and Malaysia.

"Russia after Yeltsin may be a similar example. There were, of course, zigzags of all kinds, but it was a peaceful transfer of power nevertheless. It happens that they get used to one person and wonder what'll happen when he goes. Nothing untoward will. We have built a culture of relationships between people, and now a completely new generation is emerging in Kazakhstan that has seen the way the civilized world works and lives. I believe that everything will be normal," Nazarbayev said.

## KAZAKHSTAN

Nazarbayev signs into law bill National Chamber of Entrepreneurs

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has signed into law the bill "On National Chamber of Entrepreneurs in the Republic of Kazakhstan," the president's office says in a press release.

"The National Chamber is formed on the principles of compulsory membership of all business entities, duly registered on the territory of Kazakhstan," earlier said Deputy Minister of Regional Development Serik Zhumangarin presenting the document in the parliament.

The National Chamber of Entrepreneurs will evaluate government agencies, support and promote local production, increase local content, organize training of personnel, attract foreign investment, expand foreign trade and assist in economy diversification.

The National Chamber of Entrepreneurs will replace the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan upgrading its military structure

The Kyrgyz Defense Council chaired by President, Supreme Commander Almazbek Atambayev approved the country's military doctrine on Friday.

"The military doctrine targets the creation of an efficient military structure of the country, in particular, the professional armed forces equipped with modern armaments and hardware, capable of giving an adequate response to military threats in the peace and war time and guaranteeing the protection of sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitutional system of Kyrgyzstan and implementation of its international commitments," the Kyrgyz presidential press service told Interfax.

"The Defense Council also elaborated main areas of reform of the armed forces' command and approved a list of strategic sites in Kyrgyzstan," the press service said.

"The bitter experience of the independence years showed that deficient interaction between law

enforcement agencies was a weak point of state management in crises," the president told the meeting participants.

"Time has proven the need for a unified command center, which will guide operations of the armed forces and other state entities in the case of crises. The center must operate on the permanent basis and be prepared for any military and civilian emergency," Atambayev stressed.

He recalled the signing of a military cooperation protocol between the Kyrgyz and Russian governments last fall. The protocol sets the task of "forming a highly mobile army of the Kyrgyz Republic possessing modern armaments and professional personnel and capable of using innovative forms and methods in military operations, including the deterrence of international terrorism," the president said.

"The Russian Defense Ministry starts the delivery of modern armaments to the Kyrgyz Armed Forces already in the fourth quarter of this year in line with the agreements," the presidential press service added.

## RUSSIA

Putin: Defense programs must not be a heavy burden on economy, social sector

The development of Russia's armed forces should not deprive the national economy and public sector of financial resources, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"The defense programs should be reasonable and should not be a heavy burden on the country's economy and public sector," Putin said at a Russian Security Council meeting dealing with the development of Russia's armed forces on Friday.

Russia has done a lot in the past several years to improve the qualitative parameters of its military organization, Putin said. "We have actually reached the 50-50 formula, that is, budget funds are currently being allocated equally for the armed forces' maintenance and development," he said.

Recently, only 30% of budget funds were spent on the development of the armed forces while 70% of funds were spent on their maintenance, he said.

Nearly 100 Russian army and naval units have been provided with modern military hardware items in the past several years, he said.

## RUSSIA

Centers to be set up in regions to prepare citizens for military service - Putin

The quality of pre-conscription military training is of great importance, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

"There was once an effective system in our country that prepared young men for military service. Schoolchildren and university students would learn basic military skills at schools and at the Voluntary Society for Assisting the Army, Air Force and Navy (DOSAAF). Such a system is in great demand today," Putin told Russia's Security Council which discussed the development of the armed forces on Friday.

Putin instructed the Defense Ministry, DOSAAF and regional governments "to complete the formation of regional centers for the preparation of citizens for military service."

"The best achievements of the old system must be used, and new methods and programs must be proposed for helping the younger generation get prepared for present-day military service," Putin said.

"However, what was once practiced should not be blindly copied," he said. "Again, the best must be borrowed and applied," he said.

## RUSSIA

Putin: moving deadlines in arms program must be "well substantiated"

President Vladimir Putin insisted on Friday that all deadlines set by Russia's current State Armaments Program be met and that, "if there is any need to push back any of the deadlines, such decisions must be well substantiated and approved."

Putin was speaking at a meeting of the Russian Security Council concerning military development plans for the period until 2020, the expiry year of the State Armaments Program.

"We hold regular conferences on the implementation of the State Program. The main problems have on the whole been worked through. Including those related to the planning and fulfillment of the state defense contracts. Instructions have been given to ensure that the deadlines for the re-equipment of the armed forces with new armaments are strictly met. It has been decided who will be personally responsible for the deadlines for the design and manufacture of each type of weaponry and for the quality of its design and manufacture. Schedules have been revised for the sequence in which they will be developed and supplied," the president said.

"Plans for the next two years involve optimizing the military research complex of the Defense Ministry, building a system of innovative military research, and finding new stimuli for attracting young specialists to military research centers and retaining them," he said.

## RUSSIA

Putin wants Russian strategic reserves to be revised

Russia's strategic reserves must be reformed and approaches to their configuration must be adjusted, said President Vladimir Putin.

"The time has come for us to detail approaches to our strategic reserves, to decide what they are intended for, how large they should be and how they should be maintained," Putin told Russia's Security Council in Moscow.

"All aspects of the armed forces' mobilization readiness, of the national economy and of territorial defense systems must be integrated," Putin said.

## RUSSIA

Precision weapons influence global balance of forces - Putin

Russia must take into account the fast-changing nature of military conflicts, the speedy development of precision weapon systems and the militarization of outer- and cyberspace, said President Vladimir Putin.

"We can see the nature of military conflicts changing quickly, along with the ways of unleashing and waging them, and the emergence of combat robotic weapons," Putin told Russia's Security Council which discussed the development of the armed forces on Friday.

"Precision weapons systems have become almost as effective as strategic weapons, a fact that influences the global balance of forces," he said.

"Outer- and cyberspace is being militarized and special operations and 'software forces' are being widely used," he said.

Putin said Russia is to complete exceptionally large-scale defense and security tasks "reflecting the complex international situation and an array of traditional and new threats that must be adequately met."

"The armed forces must have ample capacity to prevent aggression, and to give a resolute response to any attempt to put pressure on or blackmail Russia, and to guarantee the defense of its sovereignty and its citizens' security," Putin said.

"We must move forward and specify the main priorities of the program for the development of the armed forces through 2020," he said. "We should assess how the current programs are being implemented and see which decisions were ineffective, where systemic setbacks occurred and what should be done to adjust the situation in each area," he said.

## RUSSIA

Russia must respond to cyber attacks effectively - Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the importance of information technologies was growing in the military sphere and that it was necessary to improve the security of relevant infrastructure from cyber attacks.

"The so-called 'information attacks' are already being used for military and political purposes. And, according to experts' evaluations, their so-called 'destructive power' could be greater than conventional types of weapons," Putin said at a meeting of the Security Council dedicated to military reforms through 2020.

"It is necessary to be ready to respond effectively to threats in cyberspace and to improve the security of relevant infrastructure, most importantly the information systems of strategically and critically important installations," Putin said.

It is necessary to pay special attention to building up the operative, technical and personnel potential of the bodies responsible for the security of strategic installations, Putin said. "This is a common and important task for the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Federal Guard Service and the Federal Security Service," Putin said.

## RUSSIA

Putin: New defense plan for Russia must be submitted no later than 2015

A new defense plan for Russia must be presented for endorsement no later than 2015, President Vladimir

Putin said at a Russian Security Council meeting on Friday.

Putin stressed that he also means plans for national armed forces development in 2016-2020.

"These documents must be presented for endorsement no later than 2015," he said.

The president also asked for the finalization of an updated version of the Military Planning Regulations. "It is necessary to optimize and coordinate the work of all of its participants and to improve the quality of documents being drawn up," he said.

Putin also called for further optimization of the composition, structure and stationing of Russia's armed forces, attaching particular importance to the development of the aerospace defense system.

## RUSSIA

Putin: Russia needs measures to restart economic growth

President Vladimir Putin on Thursday insisted on urgent measures to restart Russia's stalled economic growth.

"Let me stress that the situation in the economy is such that we can't wait, and spending time on the constant coordination of positions between agencies is also counterproductive. We should act, move forward, make balanced systemic decisions and urgently put them into practice," Putin told a conference on banking.

He mentioned that there had been a whole series of conferences recently that considered ways of stimulating economic growth.

Russia needs measures that would stimulate enterprise, facilitate new projects, primarily in non-commodity sectors, and "open up extra opportunities for the renewal of fixed assets, the creation of jobs, and higher productivity," he insisted.

"Our companies, our enterprises, including small and medium businesses, need cheap and, as one normally calls it, long money, primarily loans. However, in the opinion of entrepreneurs, the cost of bank loans is patently too high at the moment," he said.

He mentioned earlier measures.

One of them is a 2004 rule that limits rises in prices set by natural monopolies to the de-facto inflation level of the previous year. The reason is that the cost of loans is linked to inflation natural monopolies' prices remain a powerful factor, Putin explained.

"Simultaneously, a proper balance must be found between the course for the stabilization of inflation and greater accessibility of loans," he said.

This is largely the responsibility of the Central Bank, Putin said. However, the government "must act consistently and efficiently within its competences," he said.

Putin said that, though inflation is on the decline, Russian banks keep their interest rates unchanged and some have even put them up.

## RUSSIA

Putin: Russian banks have excessive corporate loan rates

President Vladimir Putin has insisted that Russia's banking sector reduce its rates on corporate loans but warned that this would not be done through legislation and argued that market mechanisms should be used to achieve this.

"I want to emphasize specially that on the basis of the results of our conference today we must come up with specific solutions for the reduction of interest rates for entrepreneurs. Naturally, they should be market solutions. Of course, nothing will be done administratively nor can that be effectively," Putin said at a conference on banking on Thursday.

"We know how the profits of our banks are growing. It's good that they put these profits into development, that they put them into their capital and lay the basis for more lending, but we won't have a fundamental solution to this problem if we don't, after all, take a closer look at the problem and evolve more careful instruments for solution," he said.

He cited former chairman of the Russian Central Bank Sergei Ignatyev as telling him during a recent meeting that banks put exaggerated risks at the basis of their rates.

## RUSSIA

Putin deplores poor competition in Russian banking

President Vladimir Putin has deplored the lack of proper competition in Russia's banking sector and suggested that the reason was that big lenders "are linked to the state and affiliated to the state in one way or another."

"Why does it happen that the mechanisms of competition that we are always talking about when we take up such issues don't work in our country, why don't they work here though we've got 900 banks? Maybe because there are only four or five large banks and all of them are linked to the state and affiliated to the state one way or another?" Putin said at a conference on banking on Thursday.

He also claimed that Russian banks charge excessive interest rates.

In the euro zone, macroeconomic risks are much higher than in Russia but interest rates are a lot lower, he argued. "We should carefully analyze this situation and find out what factors, besides the natural desire to get a profit, push our financial institutions to maintaining high rates on loans," he said.

## RUSSIA

Putin confirms readiness to meet Obama in Moscow, St. Petersburg in Sept - Kremlin

Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to meet his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama in Moscow and St. Petersburg in early September.

"The Russian president confirmed the readiness to hold meetings in early September in Moscow and St. Petersburg," the Kremlin press service quoted a telegram sent by Putin to Obama over the U.S. Independence Day.

Putin also noted in the telegram that Russia and the United States bear particular responsibility for ensuring global security and stability, resolving regional crises and countering terrorism and other challenges of the modern world.

"The Russian president expressed certainty that Russia and the U.S. despite the fact that their positions do not always coincide will be able to find solutions to many crucial issues if Russian-U.S. dialog is based on mutual respect and the real consideration of each others' interests," the press service said.

Putin also noted the usefulness of a meeting with Obama on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Lough Erne at which bilateral and international agendas were discussed frankly and in detail and a number of steps to expand practical cooperation between the two countries were agreed on.

St. Petersburg will host a G20 summit on September 3-5.

## RUSSIA

### Putin accepts Yevkurov's resignation, makes him Acting Head of Ingushetia until election

Russian President Vladimir Putin has accepted the resignation of Ingushetia Head Yunus-Bek Yevkurov and appointed him as the Acting Head of the republic until the election.

"I ask you to accept my resignation and to appoint me as the Acting Head until the election in the Republic of Ingushetia," Yevkurov told Putin.

Putin thanked Yevkurov for his work and said, "I ask you to fulfill these duties until the election of the new Head of the Republic of Ingushetia."

Earlier Putin asked Yevkurov whether he intended to take part in the election.

"Yes," Yevkurov replied.

Presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov reported Putin had signed an ordinance on the early termination of Yevkurov's powers. Putin accepted the resignation of the Ingushetia head and appointed him as the acting head until the election.

## RUSSIA

### Medvedev welcomes adoption of bill on Academy reform

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev welcomes the unanimous adoption of the bill on the Academy of Sciences reform in its second reading on Friday.

"The State Duma supported the bill unanimously following its second reading. It is a long-expected event," Medvedev told the Council for Enhancing Competitiveness of Russian Universities.

Education and Science Minister Dmitry Livanov said he was satisfied with the fine-tuned edition of the bill.

"We are satisfied by the edition passed in the second reading. It retains the basic provisions of the original bill, submitted by the government," Livanov told the press after the Council meeting.

The adopted edition retains the idea of separating the Academy of Sciences' expert functions from those of property management and financing, Livanov said.

## TURKMENISTAN

Turkmen president invites Chinese leader Xi Jinping to Ashgabat

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has sent a message to Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow thanking him for his congratulations on his 60th birthday and offering his best wishes to Berdimuhamedow on his 56th birthday.

"Under your outstanding leadership, Turkmenistan is moving forward with confidence on the way of development in the epoch of power and happiness, achieving great success in the social and economic sphere. China, as a sincere partner, is happy for this success from the bottom of its heart," the Turkmen State Information Agency said in a statement on June 4 citing Xi Jinping's message.

Xi Jinping, thanking Berdimuhamedow for the invitation to make a state visit to Turkmenistan, said he attached much attention to the development of the Chinese-Turkmen relations and was looking forward to the meeting in Ashgabat. At this meeting "comprehensive cooperation between China and Turkmenistan is to be planned jointly, and to be advanced further, and thus broader prospects of intergovernmental interaction for the benefit of the two countries and their nations are to be opened," the statement said.

The Chinese leader said he wished good health and success in work to Berdimuhamedow, further prosperity to Turkmenistan and happiness to the Turkmen people.

## UKRAINE

Yanukovych proposes to appoint judges for unlimited term

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has proposed the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, to appoint judges for unlimited term, Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Andriy Portnov said.

During a press briefing on Thursday, Portnov said that the president has submitted relevant bill amending the Constitution of Ukraine regarding justice to the parliament and hopes that the parliamentary majority will support it.

"It is for the first time proposed to cancel the appointment of judges for a five-year term. The head of state suggested that the parliament should change the procedure and appoint judges for unlimited term, once and until the end of career," Portnov said.

He added that Yanukovych also proposed to reorganize and dissolve courts by laws of Ukraine, and not by presidential decrees.

The president's bill also deals with change of authorities of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and amendment of regulations on the parliament's participation in the appointment and dismissal of judges.

The president also proposed to remove from the constitution sentences about a five-year term of prosecutor general of Ukraine.

Portnov added that two options for determining prosecutor general's term in office are being considered -

unlimited terms and appointment for at least seven years if this term does not coincide with the terms of the president and the parliament.

Once one of the options is selected, it will be added to the public prosecution bill, which is being drawn up, the presidential advisor said.

The president also proposed a new procedure to form the Supreme Council of Justice, as well as amendments to the current procedure of stripping judges of immunity. In particular, according to Portnov, the Supreme Council of Justice will have to give its consent to bringing a judge to responsibility by recommendation of the High Qualifications Commission of Judges.

Portnov stressed that the bill was in line with the best European traditions, rulings of the European Court of Human Rights, numerous resolutions of the PACE and has underwent expert assessment by the Venice Commission.

He added that the Venice Commission has approved all of the abovementioned president's draft amendments to the constitution.

## UKRAINE

Cabinet drawing up a road safety program, says premier

The Ukrainian government is drawing up a program on the improvement of traffic safety on motor roads and reduction of the number of accidents, Ukrainian Premier Mykola Azarov said at a meeting with Prince Michael of Kent on Thursday.

"We're drawing up a serious program called to ensure road safety and we will be grateful to you for providing information in this issue," the press service of the government reported, citing the premier.

Prince Michael of Kent said that according to the data of a UN Commission for Global Road Safety, a member of which he is, the largest number of people in the world die from AIDS, typhoid and in the result of road accidents.

"And in the framework of this commission we have put an extremely ambitious task - from 2010 till 2020 to shorten twofold the number of road accidents, which lead to death or severe injuries for the victims," he said.

"Certainly, deaths or severe injuries as a result of road accidents appear extraordinary huge grief for the families and friends, but from the economic point of view it is also an exceedingly serious problem. We have calculated in Great Britain that each road accident is worth to the budget of one million dollars, as it demands payments for services of hospitals, insurance policies, services of lawyers, police etc." Prince Michael of Kent noted.

He promised all the materials which were in possession of the special commission would be sent to the Ukrainian government.

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Galina Seregina

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By Interfax

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Record: 14

Title: Ruling party expresses its attitude to Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov's return to Azerbaijan

Authors: Mehdiyev, E.

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Ruling party expresses its attitude to Cinematographer Ibrahimbeyov's return to Azerbaijan

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E. Mehdiyev

June 14--The law enforcement bodies know better how to consider Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's return to Azerbaijan from a legal point of view, Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party Ali Ahmadov told media today.

"I can not say whether Rustam Ibrahimbeyov will be detained if he returns to Azerbaijan," he added. The law enforcement bodies know better how to consider this issue from a legal point of view."

Regarding Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's return and holding any meetings, Ahmadov said that nobody thinks about this in Azerbaijan.

"No one is interested in Rustam Ibrahimbeyov's further activity except for some opposition parties," he said. "I believe that much more attention is paid to the National Council."

He added that the survey conducted in Azerbaijan shows that the public knows little about the National Council. The society has no interest in this organization.

"The National Council's activity has no influence on public opinion," he said. "Those gathered in this

organization do not have the final word in the life of the country."

"The policy conducted by President Aliyev and its success determine the social-political mood in Azerbaijan," he said. "The vast majority of citizens support the candidacy of Ilham Aliyev in the upcoming elections. If we make a poll, we will see that my opinion about the National Council is true. This is the reality."

Do you have any feedback? Contact our journalist at [agency@trend.az](mailto:agency@trend.az)

Tags: Ali Ahmadov , Rustam Ibrahimbeyov

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**Record: 15**

**Title:** Trapped behind the Iron Curtain

**Authors:** PETROVIC, Hans

**Source:** Press, The, 08/26/2000, pWE43

**Document Type:** Article

**Abstract:** East-West. Directed by Regis Wargnier. Written by Sergei Bodrov, Louis Gardel, Rustam Ibragimbekov, and Wagnier. (M)

**Accession Number:** CPL000826G4323042897-DF

**Database:** Newspaper Source Plus

**Edition: 2, Section: FEATURES--ENTERTAINMENT, pg. WE43**

### **Trapped behind the Iron Curtain**

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Hans PETROVIC
AT THE MOVIES

East-West. Directed by Regis Wargnier. Written by Sergei Bodrov, Louis Gardel, Rustam Ibragimbekov, and Wagnier. (M)

East-West is the kind of Cold War political melodrama that we have not seen in a while, combining a harsh look at life in the Soviet Union after World War 2 and a tense escape thriller.

Directed by Regis Wargnier (Indochine), this French production covers another dark chapter of life in Russia under Stalin, whose human-rights atrocities put Hitler's to shame.

After the war, Stalin "welcomed home" anyone who had previously fled the Soviet Union. However, for most who accepted this offer, death or imprisonment awaited, with many being executed as "imperialist spies" by the paranoid regime.

Only some professionals, whose skills were needed, were allowed to remain alive, but their activities were carefully monitored and their families used as collateral to ensure their good behaviour.

Among the optimistic returnees is a Russian doctor (Oleg Menchikov, of *Burnt by the Sun* and *Prisoner of the Mountains*), who is bringing with him his French wife (Sandrine Bonnaire) and their young son.

Instead of reparation, they find oppression. The husband is willing to toe the party line and fit in while he bides his time for an opportunity to escape. The wife, however, is brought low by domestic and State-sponsored deception. She will risk anything to get out as soon as possible.

Brought into the periphery of the story is a French actress (Catherine Deneuve, also of *Indochine*), who plays a crucial part in the final outcome.

Besides presenting an intriguing slice of little-known history, *East-West's* strongest point is its authentic recreation of this dark period. It was filmed on location in Kiev, Russia, and Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Third Miracle. Directed by Agnieszka Holland. Written by John Romano and Richard Vetere. (M)

Spirituality and sex, plus a touch of the supernatural, are combined in the potent religious drama, *The Third Miracle*, which asks some serious questions about the workings of the Catholic Church.

Ed Harris plays Father Frank, an apostate priest with as many doubts about himself as he has about the Church. In his last assignment as a postulator, investigating claims of miracles and the lives of people proposed for sainthood, he disproved a man's "heroic virtue".

That got him the name of "the miracle killer", and in his dark moments he broods that he "destroyed the faith of an entire community". Now, he may have to do it again.

Frank is called out of self-imposed retirement, working without his white collar in the down-and-out soup kitchens of Chicago, to look into the case of another possible saint. At a nearby church, a statue of the Virgin Mary is reported to cry tears of blood, which the parishioners accept as a sign of the sainthood of a deceased immigrant woman who worked there.

Already cursed by scepticism, the priest is further conflicted when he meets Roxanne (Anne Heche), the scrappy, sexy daughter of the proposed saint. Highly cynical about the entire matter, she believes her late mother abandoned her -- which is not something a saint would do.

Frank and Roxanne's relationship bristles with sexual energy, and things are complicated even further by the arrival of the "Devil's advocate", a crusty archbishop (Armin Mueller-Stahl) who sees his task as making sure America does not get another saint on top of the three it already has.

Although looking at the Church warts and all, Polish-born director Agnieszka Holland, herself a practising Catholic, nevertheless presents her religion, its creeds, processes, and beliefs with fairness and respect.

Maybe Baby. Written and directed by Ben Elton. (M)

Infertility is not a laughing matter, but in the deft, comedic hands of writer-director Ben Elton, it is surprising how this difficult subject can be turned into enjoyable entertainment.

Although Elton claims the film is not autobiographical, he does admit he and his wife had to face the problem of not being able to conceive. Further parallels between real life and fiction exist in the lead male character, Sam (Hugh Laurie), also having aspirations about writing a comic screenplay on the subject.

Laurie is his usual charming, befuddled self as a commissioning editor at the BBC, frustrated at his job and keen to prove himself both as a father and a successful writer.

His loving wife, Lucy (Joely Richardson), works for a theatrical agency. Together, they have an enviable lifestyle, blighted only by their inability to have a child.

The majority of the laughs come from their increasingly desperate efforts to get Lucy pregnant, ranging from New Age birthing rituals, aromatherapeutic massages, sex on the ley lines at night, and trying to summon the ancient pagan gods of fertility, until IVF seems the only answer. This is presented with healthy energy and humour, and with hardly a touch of tackiness.

Obviously aimed at the American market, Elton presents *Maybe Baby* as a bubbly romp, with hardly a dull moment and an impressive cast of British talent, including Joanna Lumley, Emma Thompson, Rowan Atkinson, Dawn French, Tom Hollander (of *Bedrooms and Hallways*), and Elton in a cameo role.

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER

Motherhood is celebrated in gender-bending Spanish writer- director Pedro Almodovar's best film. (R16)

GLADIATOR

Great Roman spectacle, with Russell Crowe as a wronged general seeking revenge on the emperor. (M)

MAGNOLIA

Original interweaving of half a dozen plots, with a surprise ending, from the writer-director of *Boogie Nights*. (R18)

MANSFIELD PARK

Jane Austen is placed in the lead role of this clever costume drama, which includes excerpts from her personal writings. (M)

ANGELA'S ASHES

Frank McCourt's grim but comic account of his impoverished childhood in rain-sodden Limerick. (M)

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

A death opens old wounds in a small US town in this beautifully shot adaptation of the David Guterson novel. (M)

CAPTION:

Sandrine Bonnaire and Oleg Menchikov in East-West.

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