NATO Chief says Talks with Russia “Frank and Serious”

BRUSSELS - The European Union has decided to extend sanctions against Russia that had been imposed in the aftermath of the downing of the Malaysian jetliner Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine. The EU has continued to increase its economic measures against Russia and to maintain financial pressure, such as the existing capital controls and restrictions on financial transactions. The decision is also supported by the United Nations Security Council, which has imposed economic sanctions on Russia in response to its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Houthis, Saleh Agree to Unite Under-Peace Talks

SANAA - Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and the Houthis, the Houthi Shiite rebels in Yemen, have agreed to work together again on the condition that the Houthis agree to work under the UN brokered-facilitation agreement. The Houthis had been previously excluded from peace talks due to their refusal to accept the agreement. The Houthis and the government have agreed to meet in Saudi Arabia to discuss the issue.

Rebel Fires off Suicide Bomb in Damascus

Three suicide bombs hit the Shia neighborhood of Al-Mussanna in the heart of Damascus, killing at least 10 people and wounding 50 others. The attacks targeted the headquarters of the ruling Baath Party. The bomb attacks occurred during a popular demonstration in support of President Bashar al-Assad.

Japanese PM Visits to 6 May: Putin

KASAN, Russia (Reuters) - Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Wednesday that the two countries would work towards a peace treaty, a key demand of Russia's former Cold War foe. Abe said that Russia and Japan would start talks on the treaty, which has been blocked by territorial disputes.

Obama in Saudi Arabia to Attend GCC Summit

RIYADH - U.S. President Barack Obama visited Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to attend a GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) summit. This is the first time a U.S. president has visited the kingdom in seven years. Obama met with Saudi King Abdullah and Vice President Nasser bin Abdulaziz and said he would work with them to strengthen the alliance.

Gcc Defense Ministers Meet with Pentagon Chief in Riyadh

The GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) defense ministers met with the Pentagon chief (Secretary of Defense) in Riyadh. The meeting was held to discuss regional security issues, including the situation in Yemen, and to strengthen military cooperation between the Starbucks and the United States.

Refugee Crossings to Europe in Decline, Turkish FM

Turkey's foreign minister said that the flow of refugees crossing into Europe has declined. The minister said that this is due to the fact that the EU has been successful in stopping the flow of refugees entering the continent through Greece.

EU Hails Progress in Implementing Deal with Turkey

The European Union (EU) has hailed progress in implementing the deal with Turkey to stop migrants from entering European Union countries. The deal includes measures such as EU financial support to Turkey and a readmission agreement between Turkey and EU member states.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel Visits China

The German chancellor said that China is now an important partner in the global economy and that the two countries should work together to ensure stability and prosperity in the region. She also expressed her commitment to continuing the dialogue with China on a wide range of issues, including trade, security, and climate change.

US Should Feel Responsible for Iran Banking Access: Seif

TEHRAN - The Iran-Germany-plus-China (EGC) talks in Brussels on Tuesday were described by the EU as a step forward in the effort to reach a comprehensive agreement with Iran on its nuclear program. The discussions are expected to continue in the upcoming weeks.

Non-Member

Xi Stresses Joint Battle Command for Military Reform

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping Saturday met with the UK Prime Minister David Cameron in Beijing. During their meeting, the two leaders discussed a range of issues, including bilateral relations, trade, investment, and security.

Sri Lanka, Pakistan Enjoy Exceptionally Good Relations: Punjab Governor

Lahore - The Governor of Punjab, Syed Mansoor Bhandari, said that relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka are at an all-time high.

Belarus-Tajikistan Intergovernmental Commission to Review Prospects for Cooperation

Minsk - The tenth session of the Belarus-Tajikistan Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation was held in Minsk on April 25-26. During the meeting, both sides discussed a range of issues, including trade, investment, and cultural cooperation.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said that the meeting was a positive step towards further strengthening of bilateral ties. He emphasized the need for closer cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, and tourism.

Banking Access: Seif told IRNA news agency Wednesday that the removal of Europe’s sanctions on Iran is an effective move to allay the fears of the international community and to improve the country’s economy. The official said that Iran has made significant progress in reducing its reliance on foreign currencies and in diversifying its出口 market. The official also emphasized the need for continued efforts to implement the nuclear agreement with the P5+1 countries.