**NATO Seeks to Allay Concerns at Meeting with Russia**

BRUSSELS - NATO will seek to reassure Moscow on Monday that it is not planning to redeploy forces to the Baltics and Poland next year in a purely defensive, in a move that could allay the worst fears of those who see the alliance as poised to move into involving long-standing grievances.

The North Atlantic Council, the forum bringing together members of the 28-nation Treaty Organisation, has been trying to top-shot dealing with the US-led allies, who for only the third time this year, and the first time in that, the Partnership for Peace Council will hold a meeting Monday in Brussels.

The meeting is to discuss recent incidents involving Russia, including alleged Russian involvement in the downing of a Ukrainian military transport plane near Crimea on Wednesday, which killed all 29 military personnel on board.

**EU Extend Russia Sanctions by another 6 Months**

BRUSSELS - The European Union has extended its sanctions against Russia to keep pressure on Moscow over the war in eastern Ukraine.

The new measures, approved Monday in Brussels, ban six Russians, including a top spox with the Russian embassy, from entering the EU and freeze assets. They also block payments to an international bank in London.

The measures are to last for 15 months, and could be extended for another six months starting in March.

**WHO Moves to Protect Children From Unhealthy Food, Drinks**

MANILA - The World Health Organization (WHO) is launching Monday a newtool to protect children from unhealthy food and drinks, the causes of obesity and other serious health problems.

The tool, called the regional profile model, will help governments and policymakers to more easily identify food and non-alcoholic beverages that are unhealthy for children.

“Scores of nations need this tool more than others, but we must all be united in our efforts to protect children,” WHO’s regional director for the Western Pacific, Dr. Takeshi Kasai, said.

**May Urged to Unilaterally Agree EU Citizens’ Stay in Britain after Brexit**

MANILA - European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans has urged a “pragmatic, non-confrontational” approach to keeping EU citizens in the UK after Britain’s exit from the EU.

He said countries’ concerns about retaining EU citizens had to be balanced against the need to respect the EU’s principles such as free movement of people.

**Kerry Says War in Yemen Should End In Way Protecting Saudi Security**

WASHINGTON - US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday that the war in Yemen should end in a way that protects Saudi security.

He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington that the US has been working with the Saudi-led coalition for the past year to ensure that civilians are not killed.

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One week ago, two bombing attempts by the Islamic State and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, a regional guerrilla organization, killed 44 people in Khakassia and in Dhaytaray, the largest city in the province.

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