**NATO Flexes Muscles in Baltics, Poland**

VLINIS - US-led NATO drills began Monday in Latvia and Poland, a move intended to reassure Russia's neighbors about a military presence in the Baltic Sea and regional airspace that has raised alarms among officials in Lithuania and Latvia. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Antanas Antanaitis said Monday that the drills are a response to the presence of troops from Eastern European states and are aimed at reassuring the war-torn Baltics that the EU and NATO will stand behind them if Russia attacks. The move comes amid growing concern over Russia's military build-up in the Crimea and its annexation of the region last year.

**Iran Military Adviser Killed Near Iraq's IS-Heled Ramadi**

TURKMANISTAN - An Iranian military adviser serving with the Islamic State group in southern Iraq was killed last month in Ramadi, a US military official said Tuesday. Iran's Revolutionary Guard cautious about cooperation with the US in the past but has not yet ruled out talks with the US, the official said. The drills, which are set to begin Monday, are being held near the border with Iran and are expected to attract thousands of troops from both countries.

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**Pakistan's Bilawal Calls for UN Resolution**

PARIS - As the UN General Assembly reconvenes, Pakistan's Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is calling for a UN resolution to address the Kashmir crisis. Zardari, who is also the chair of the Pakistan Peoples' Party, said in a speech in Paris that the UN has a role to play in resolving the dispute between Pakistan and India. He said the UN should be more proactive in its efforts to bring the two countries to the negotiating table.

**China to Hold Fire Drills Along Mongolian Border**

BEIJING - China's military is to hold live-fire drills along a part of the border between China and Mongolia, according to local media reports. The drills will be held in the Inner Mongolia region, which borders China to the north. The reports said the drills are part of China's efforts to strengthen border defense and ensure national security.

**Russia tractor suicide attack**

BAGHDAD - A tractor suicide bomber blew himself up near the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah on Monday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens of others. The attack was the latest in a series of bombings and attacks in the southern region of Iraq, where security has been improving since the start of the second US-led war in 2003.

**Turkmenistan May Extend Presidential Term**

MOSCOW - Turkmenistan may extend its presidential term beyond the current six-year limit, according to a law that is set to be introduced in the near future. The move, which would allow President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov to serve for a lifetime, is seen by some as an attempt to strengthen the president's grip on power and prevent the emergence of a successor. The law has been introduced in the country's unicameral parliament, which is controlled by the president's party.