The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

What the Papers Say, April 1, 2014

By The Moscow Times

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Kommersant

1. Petr Netreba article headlined "Ministry of peninsula affairs" reports on Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Crimea where he announced the setting up of a new ministry in charge of the Crimean development; pp 1, 3 (1,308 words).

2. Yelena Chernenko article headlined "Russia and U.S. tone down disagreements" says Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry have started working on a joint plan to resolve the crisis in Ukraine. The U.S. admits the possibility for Ukraine's federalization and Moscow is going to recognize the Ukrainian presidential election results; pp 1, 6 (727 words).

3. Natalya Skorlygina and Yury Barsukov interview with Energy Minister Alexander Novak speaking on the Crimean energy supply and Gazprom's plans in the region; pp 1, 10 (2,380

words).

4. Yekaterina Gerashchenko article headlined "Investors leaving offices" says the commercial property market is likely to lose $1.5 billion in Russia as recent developments in Crimea have scared away possible investors; pp 1, 9 (533 words).

5. Maxim Ivanov et al. report headlined "Law on rallies to be amended for Maidan" says the State Duma is considering amendments to the law on rallies, which envisage prison terms for people who repeatedly violate the law and hold rallies despite official bans; p 2 (711 words).

6. Sergei Goryashko and Irina Nagornykh article headlined "NGOs get ready to ask for grants again" says Russian NGOs have started submitting applications for presidential grants; p 2 (571 words).

7. Viktor Khamrayev and Maxim Ivanov article headlined "Deputies resolve Black Sea Fleet issue" says Russia has withdrawn from the agreement on the Black Sea Fleet with Ukraine. State Duma lawmakers are going to address their colleagues from PACE asking them not to destroy the basis for an inter-parliamentary dialogue as PACE is planning to adopt anti-Russia measures following the annexation of Crimea; p 3 (738 words).

8. Irina Nagornykh and Maxim Ivanov article headlined "Parties join Crimea" says Russian political parties have stepped up their activity in Crimea as regional elections in the peninsula may be held in 2014; p 3 (487 words).

9. Vyacheslav Kozlov article headlined "Spring call-up at stake" reports on the beginning of Russia's spring call-up campaign and notes that the Defense Ministry is reforming the system of keeping records of conscripts; p 5 (556 words).

10. Ivan Safronov and Ivan Nikolsky article headlined "Barack Obama urged to attack Rosoboronexport" says U.S. senators are urging President Obama to impose sanctions against Russian arms exporter Rosoboronexport. Meanwhile, Moscow continues to implement the contract with the U.S. to supply Mi-17 helicopters to Afghanistan; p 6 (530 words).

11. Sergei Mashkin article called "First sentence prepared under Yevgenia Vasilyeva" says a Moscow court is to start considering one of the cases within the so-called Oboronservis case concerning the embezzlement of several billion rubles from the Defense Ministry through the Oboronservis holding company; p 4 (500 words).

Nezavisimaya Gazeta

1. Alexandra Samarina and Ivan Rodin article headlined "Crimean battle march of Dmitry Medvedev" reports on Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Crimea and notes that Moscow is setting up a ministry in charge of Crimean development to speed up the integration of the region into the Russian economy; pp 1, 3 (892 words).

2. Tatyana Ivzhenko article headlined "Decentralization of power begins in Ukraine" says the Ukrainian government is to consider reform of the regional authorities this week. Kiev is ready to give more powers to regions but opposes the federalization of the state. Meanwhile, Moscow insists on Ukraine's federalization. This was one of the topics recently discussed by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry; pp 1, 6 (840 words).

3. Ivan Rodin and Alexandra Samarina article headlined "Denunciation in one package" says the State Duma has canceled all the agreements reached with Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet; pp 1, 3 (472 words).

4. Alina Terekhova article headlined "Notaries entrusted with property" says notaries are now allowed to register housing property rights in Russia; however, the new service is not very popular due to its high prices; pp 1, 4 (748 words).

5. Svetlana Gamova article headlined "Moldovan village being led to Dnestr region" says a Moldovan village is willing to join the Dnestr region, Chisinau opposes the plans; pp 1, 6 (626 words).

6. Tatyana Dvoynova article headlined "Crime with accent" says the Maritime region is in the lead among the Far Eastern regions with regards to the number of crimes committed by foreigners; pp 1-2 (621 words).

7. Oleg Vladykin article headlined "Non-called-up peninsula" says Crimean residents will be called up for military service in Russia starting from 2015; p 2 (633 words).

8. Editorial headlined "About two difficulties Crimea creates for Russia" says that having annexed Crimea, Russia made Kiev unwilling to listen to its proposals for the federalization of Ukraine. At the same time, while speaking on a right to self-government, Moscow should give Crimean Tatars a right to autonomy; p 2 (456 words).

9. Alexei Gorbachev article headlined "United Russia members to replace Ukrainian tourists in Crimea" says the ruling United Russia party has reportedly instructed its lawmakers to spend their summer holidays in Crimea. Some people are not happy with the proposal as

they have different plans for summer holidays; p 3 (736 words).

10. Viktoria Panfilova article headlined "Washington sends courier to Bishkek and Astana" says Central Asia is to become the new region where Russian and Western interests will clash. The U.S. is sending diplomats to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to prevent greater Eurasian integration; p 6 (853 words).

11. Darya Tsilyurik article headlined "Ukraine between decentralization and federalization" says no breakthrough was announced after talks between Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry; p 7 (739 words).

12. Yury Paniyev article headlined "NATO to have Scandinavian face again" says former Prime Minister of Norway Jens Stoltenberg has been approved as NATO's next leader, replacing Denmark's Anders Fogh Rasmussen. A NATO meeting, currently underway in Brussels, has discussed a response to Russia's policy in Crimea; p 7 (614 words).

13. Andrei Vikonurov articled headlined "Free speech regulator" reports on the current state of the press freedom in Russia; p 11 (1,500 words).

Vedomosti

1. Dmitry Kazmin and Margarita Papchenkova article headlined "Crimea at 30 percent rate" says the U.S. has found a way to affect the Russian banking sector. Washington is to disrupt signing an agreement on taxation information exchange between banks in accordance with the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) regulations. If the agreement is not reached, Russian banks will face extra charges; pp 1, 14 (600 words).

2. Roman Dorokhov article headlined "Cisco under suspicion" says the U.S. corporation Cisco Systems Inc used to practice illegal incentive methods, namely kickbacks, for its Russian clients, such as Transtelekom, former employees of the company have claimed; pp 1, 17 (500 words).

3. Editorial headlined "Two federalisms" comments on the Russian advice to Ukraine to become a federation. This policy pursued by the Kremlin shows Moscow's interest in the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine; pp 1, 6 (400 words).

4. Another editorial headlined "European relics" notes that according to recent polls, Russians deplore the fact that European values are spreading in their country. Many respondents, however, have a vague idea of the meaning of these values; p 6 (400 words).

5. Yelena Khodyakova article headlined "Crimea to get Russian gas" says the energy giant Gazprom is ready to build a pipeline linking Russia and Crimea. The project may cost up to $1 billion ; p 11 (400 words).

Izvestia

1. Alexei Krivoruchek article headlined "Airports may be closed without government decision" says a bill submitted to the State Duma allows the management of airports to temporarily close their facilities in case of emergency such as natural disasters or mass disturbances; pp 1, 3 (521 words).

2. Arseny Pogosyan article headlined "WPFC stands up for Kiselyov" says the World Press Freedom Committee has stood up for Russian presenter Dmitry Kiselyov against whom the EU imposed sanctions. A source in the European Council noted that Kiselyov would not be allowed to visit the EU as a tourist, but he would be able to go there on a business trip; pp 1, 3 (875 words).

3. Darya Tsoy article headlined "'Crimean factor' makes West speed up European integration of Moldova" says the Russian and Moldovan foreign ministers will hold a meeting in Moscow on April 4 to discuss the Dnestr region ; p 8 (606 words).

4. Alexander Yunashev article headlined "Russia suspends preparations for G8 summit in Sochi" says the organizing committee of the G8 summit in Sochi has stopped accrediting journalists for meetings between heads of states and governments of G8 member states following the suspension of Russia's membership of G8; p 4 (300 words).

5. Pavel Kochegarov article headlined "Foreign debtors to be banned from entering Russia" says the Federal Migration Service is drafting an amendment to the law on entry and departure from Russia envisaging that foreigners, who have not paid their debts to the budget, may be banned from entering the country; p 5 (600 words).

6. Alena Sivkova article called "Police mandate for self-defense to be broadened" says the State Duma is drafting an amendment extending the authority of police officers; pp 1, 4 (800 words).

Rossiiskaya Gazeta

1. Vyacheslav Prokofyev article headlined "We should meet more often" reports on the talks between Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and notes that

there is hope for an agreement on Ukraine; pp 1, 8 (500 words).

2. Yury Gavrilov article headlined "Not to take sick ones" says 154,000 young men will be called up to do military service in Russia as the spring call-up campaign begins; pp 1, 5 (500 words).

3. Leonid Radzikhovsky headlined "Intellectual neatness" comments on the merger of the Russian Academy of Sciences with the Russian Academies of Medical Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. The author recalls the "glorious" history of Soviet science and backs the ongoing reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences; p 2 (750 words).

4. Igor Zubkov interview with Yevgeny Yasin, expert from the Higher School of Economics, speaking on possible ways out of the global economic crisis and the effect of Russia's annexation of Crimea on the country's economy; p 4 (1,100 words).

Moskovsky Komsomolets

1. Igor Karamazin article headlined "Who killed people in streets of Kiev?" reports on a probe into the firing at protesters in the center of Kiev back in February and notes that the Ukrainian acting Interior Minister blames bandits for it; pp 1-2 (1,126 words).

2. Marina Ozerova article headlined "Black Sea Fleet sails away from Ukraine" reports on Russia's withdrawal from four treaties with Ukraine which regulated the terms of the Russian Black Sea Fleet's presence in the country ; p 2 (300 words).

RBK Daily

1. Natalya Starostina et al. report "German Gref said everything" says that Sberbank head German Gref has told Vladimir Putin that the bank's major borrowers have difficulties in repaying debts; pp 1, 7 (600 words).

2. Alexander Artemyev report "Congress and sanctions" says that the U.S. Congress will vote for a bill obliging Barack Obama's administration to provide aide to Ukraine and impose sanctions against Russia; p 2 (1,100 words).

3. Farida Rustamova report " 2.7 billion rubles for NGOs" says that this year the Kremlin will give grants to Russian NGOs again; p 2 (700 words).

4. Brief unattributed report "Merkel: Process of understanding its actions begins in Russia" says that Putin has talked on the phone to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Putin told Merkel that part of Russian troops had been withdrawn from Ukraine's eastern border; p 2 (250 words).

5. Brief unattributed report "Multiple violations during organization of rallies will become crime" says that a bill has been submitted to the State Duma that will considerably increase fines for violations committed during organization of rallies; p 2 (250 words).

6. Yelena Malysheva report "Crimean technologies" says that Oleg Savelyev, Boris Yeltsin's former political strategist, has been appointed Crimea Development Minister; p 3 (600 words).

7. Katerina Kitayeva interview headlined "So far, we are not talking about closure" with liberal Dozhd TV's co-owner and director-general Natalya Sindeyeva, who speaks about the results of the recent fund-raising marathon; p 9 (650 words).

Noviye Izvestia

1. Sergei Putilov article headlined "Internal enemy" says the economy is falling irrespective of Western sanctions. The authorities try to attribute economic problems to Crimea; pp 1, 3 (1,364 words).

2. Diana Yevdokimova report "Goodbye, iPad" says that Apple products may be banned. According to several sources in the government, the move will be taken in retaliation for sanctions against Russia. The ban will also affect foreigners: they will have to leave their Apple appliances at airports' customs and get them back when leaving Russia; pp 1, 5 (450 words).

3. Gennady Petrov interview "Consequences of Russia's isolation will manifest themselves not in a day" with the head of the Higher School of Economics, Yevgeny Yasin; pp 1-2 (500 words).

4. Yekaterina Dyatlovskaya report "Without lease" says that the State Duma has revoked bilateral agreements with Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet; p 2 (700 words).

5. Vitaly Slovetskiy report "Traveling cabinet" says that Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has arrived in Crimea to discuss the development of the peninsula and Sevastopol; p 2 (500 words).

6. Yana Stadilnaya report "Is it necessary to be in NATO?" says that Ukraine is thinking about the possibility to give up the non-aligned status; p 2 (600 words).

7. Vardan Ogandzhanyan report "On patriotic wave" says that according to a Levada Center poll, most Russians will support the authorities in case of a war against Ukraine; p 2 (400 words).

Komsomolskaya Pravda

1. Yelena Chinkova report "Russian language will lead to Ukrainian federation" looks at the meeting of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the Ukrainian crisis; p 4 (700 words).

Trud

1. Sergei Frolov interview called "Ukraine becomes harmful to itself" with pundit Vitaly Tretyakov who speaks on the results of the meeting between Sergei Lavrov and John Kerry; p 2 (550 words).

2. Vasily Koltashev report "Ghost wanders around Europe" says that Ukraine's new authorities continue to blame Russia for the destabilization in their country; p 3 (650 words).

Tvoi Den

1. Anton Stepanov report "Dialogue line" looks at the unscheduled meeting between Lavrov and Kerry on Paris; p 2 (400 words).

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