

► Showcases capabilities, defiance amid sanctions

Russia celebrates Victory Day despite shadow of conflict

By Yang Sheng, Xia Wenxin in Moscow and Fan Anqi in Beijing

Parades, concerts and celebrations, as well as countless crowds of cheering people filled the streets across Moscow on Thursday, as Russia commemorates the annual Victory Day, marking the 79th anniversary of its victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

Neither the deadly Moscow terror attack, nor the smoke of conflict on the Ukrainian frontline has affected the celebratory atmosphere in Russia, as the country has found a unique path to national industrial revival under suffocating Western sanctions, the Global Times reporters learned at the scene and from the local people.

The annual military parade was held on Moscow's Red Square on

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Thursday morning, when more than 9,000 troops and 70 pieces of equipment went on display.

Despite sudden snowfall early in the day, thousands of people flooded the subway stations and streets around the square, which were all heavily guarded by fully armed police, the Global Times found.

"Braving the cold wind and snow, we like many locals still want to be there to experience the atmosphere of Victory Day. Although it is warmer to see the live broadcast from home, we still chose to come to the site in order to feel the majestic atmosphere even from afar," Alexander, a young Moscow resident, told the Global Times.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who just started his fifth term as the country's head, said as he addressed the nation on Thursday that Russia "will do everything to prevent a global clash," but at the same time, it would not let itself be threatened. "Our strategic forces are always in a state of combat readiness," Putin said.

Compared with last year's parade, the most significant difference this time is an exhibition of NATO weapons captured from Ukraine as part of the Victory Day events. They totaled 32 types of tanks and hundreds of weapons from 12 countries.

This showcased Russia's capabilities and defiance against Western pressure amid conflict in Ukraine. The parade serves as a deterrent to NATO and highlights Russia's resolve to continue the fight, experts said.

Transcript on Ren'ai Jiao 'new model' is real; Philippines breaches commitment: source

By GT staff reporters

The Philippine government has been overdrawing on its reputation and national credibility on issues related to the South China Sea, saying one thing and doing another and constantly flip-flopping, Chinese analysts said after Philippine officials accused China of "violating wiretapping law" over a phone conversation in which a Philippine navy official agreed to a "new model" for resupply missions concerning Ren'ai Jiao.

A transcript of the supposed recording of a phone call between the Chinese side and the Philippines' Western Command (WESCOM) Commander Vice Admiral Alberto Carlos on January 3 was revealed by media in recent days, in which Carlos agreed to a "new model" for resupply missions concerning Ren'ai Jiao.

The transcript which documented the phone conversation between the Chinese side and Carlos on January 3 has been confirmed to be true, the Global Times has learned from a source familiar with the affair on Wednesday.

Following the conversation, the Philippine side adhered to the "new model" in the subsequent resupply mission, only delivering essential daily supplies to the grounded warship, and notified the Chinese side in advance.

However, the Philippine side later reneged on its promise.

Not only did it fail to notify the Chinese side in advance of its resupply activities, but it also attempted to transport construction materials to the illegally grounded vessel, deliberately causing trouble and maliciously hyping up the situation, according to the source.

On Wednesday, Philippine defense chief Gilberto Teodoro Jr. told reporters that the audio recording had "violated" the country's Anti-Wire Tapping Law.

Teodoro's remarks sound more like chicanery when facing undeniable facts, as the transcript of the "new model" is true, said Chinese analysts.

The Chinese proverb "listen to what they say, watch what they do" seems fitting when considering the recent reactions of senior officials in the Philippines.

It appears that the country has habitually been overdrawing on its government's reputation and national credibility on relevant issues, saying one thing and doing another, presenting one face in public and another in private, constantly flip-flopping, Ding Duo, a deputy director of the Institute of Maritime Law and Policy at the China Institute for South China Sea Studies, told the Global Times.

► Lighting the torch



French rapper Julien Mari aka Jul lights the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay cauldron in Marseille, southeastern France, on May 8, 2024 local time. The torch has begun its 11-week journey across the country with about 10,000 bearers passing through more than 450 towns until the Games' opening ceremony in Paris on July 26. Photo: VCG

Biden threat over Israel arms supply a show to ease domestic pressure: observers

By GT staff reporters

For the first time, US President Joe Biden stated that he would stop certain deliveries of American weapons to Israel if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu orders a significant incursion into the Palestinian city of Rafah. Observers interpreted the move as a "show" staged together by the US and Israel to meet their own aims, and won't alter Netanyahu's determination to eradicate Hamas.

The US president had pre-

viously stopped the delivery of 3,500 bombs last week due to worries that American weapons could be used to cause further civilian casualties in Rafah. He announced on Wednesday that he would also prevent the transportation of artillery shells.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times that although the US is by far the biggest supplier of weapons to Israel, Biden specifically used the word "some"

when talking about the halt in weapons shipments, which means the US still hasn't ultimately altered its position of being a supporter of Israel.

With anti-war protests continuing at American universities and the November election looming, Biden finds himself behind Donald Trump in the polls, and his administration must demonstrate a willingness to enact changes.

Therefore, the decision to halt certain weapon shipments is seen as just a tactic to send a

warning message to Israel, and serves as a temporary measure by the US to ease pressure for his own election interests, Liu noted.

In addition to suspending the shipment of ammunition to Israel, US politicians have repeatedly expressed "criticism" toward the country. Some analysts believe that these statements are nothing but "smoke-screens" aimed at diverting public attention from Israel's ground offensive in Gaza.

Not having support from US

weapon supplies doesn't mean Israel is out of weapons to sustain its bombing and attacking. The channels for military supplies from other countries including from Europe as well as reserves will allow Israel to continue its operation. Most importantly, the operation in Rafah will not consume large amounts of ammunition, Liu noted.

