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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Plan set to ease crisis in Ukraine

Russian foreign minister announces agreement with West

Lara Jakes and John Heilprin

GENEVA // Top diplomats from the United States, European Union, Russia and Ukraine reached agreement yesterday on immediate steps to ease the crisis in Ukraine.

The agreement, reached after seven hours of negotiation in Geneva, requires all sides to refrain from violence, intimidation or provocative actions.

Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, announced the plan to de-escalate dangerously high tensions in the former Soviet republic.

"We adopted a document, the Geneva statement of April 17, where we agreed on immediate initial steps to de-escalate tensions," Mr Lavrov said.

"All illegal armed groups must be disarmed, illegally seized buildings returned to their rightful owners," he said.

Pro-Kremlin separatists have wreaked havoc in Ukraine's south-east in recent days, occupying state buildings in several towns and cities and severely destabilising the country.

The West had come to the Geneva talks hoping to persuade Moscow to disband these militias, although Russia has always denied any links to them.

US secretary of state John Kerry said the deal "represents a good day's work". But he said "words on paper" would have little meaning if they were not followed by actions on all sides.

"If we're not able to see progress on the immediate efforts, to be able to implement the principles of this agreement this weekend, then we will have no choice but to impose further costs on Russia," he said.

The deal also gives amnesty to protesters who comply with the demands, except those guilty of committing capital crimes.

Monitors with the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe will be responsible for helping Ukraine authorities and communities to comply with requirements in the agreement.

Ukraine, continued on **6** →

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Saved from the hangman's noose



Just moments from being executed in the Iranian city of Nowshahr, a murderer, Balal, who stabbed to death the young Iranian man Abdollah Hosseinzadeh in 2007, has his life spared when Abdollah's mother slaps the killer and forgives him. She and her husband then take the noose from his neck. Full story, **a7**. Arash Khamooshi / AFP

A 'smart paper for a smart city' as our anniversary edition is talk of the town

Readers heap praise on The National's unique presentation

Mohammed N Al Khan

DUBAI // Readers were buzzing with enthusiasm for *The National's* sixth-anniversary edition, with the paper being praised as "a hard-copy website" – minus the pop-up ads.

Each page of yesterday's newspaper was filled with photographs

or graphics, with words replaced by stunning images that captured the mood of the day's news. The stories themselves were all available online or on readers' smartphones via a QR Code.

"This is a really good job," said Sherwin Talaguit, a data analyst. "The pictures really get your attention. Too many words can be boring visually. It feels like a PowerPoint presentation, very unique."

"You should have more editions like this, maybe a weekend paper. It is really nice to ease up on the tension from the rest of the week," said Mr Talaguit.

"This feels like a hard copy of a website, like I'm on the internet," said Romulo Kintanar, a government studies officer. "But it's better, there are no annoying pop-up ads. It really captures the attention, this should be done more often. I really like the illustrations. People browse the paper more anyway, so it makes sense to make it more visual."

First-time reader Zainab Mirza was also impressed, hailing the edition as a "smart paper for a smart city".

Anniversary, continued on **2** →

UAE signs two key deals with Australia

Countries to collaborate on education

Australia will export uranium to the UAE and agreement is signed to promote exchange of students, academics and researchers

Caline Malek

ABU DHABI // The UAE and Australia have agreed to work together in linking the areas of higher education and nuclear power.

During a visit to the UAE this week by Andrew Robb, Australia's trade and investment minister, an agreement was signed with Sheikh Hamdan bin Mubarak, the Minister for Higher Education.

The countries will collaborate on vocational education, training and research cooperation in higher education. It should mean a number of Emirati students travelling to Australia to study and maybe Australian schools being set up in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Australia will also begin to export uranium to the UAE for its nuclear power plants.

"It is an all-encompassing memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will provide for increased government-to-government consultation," said Pablo Kang, Australia's ambassador to the UAE.

"It also includes the exchange of students, academics and researchers, and sharing of information on issues such as teaching, curriculum materials, standards and accreditation systems."

Other areas will focus on policy developments, benchmarking of occupational standards and the development of credit-transfer arrangements between educational institutions in both countries. "It is now operational as it does not require ratification," he said.

"We hope it will be the catalyst to increasing numbers of Emirati students travelling to Australia to study, or to study at Australian institutions in the UAE."

Mr Kang said he hoped more Australian schools would be set up in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

"There are no student numbers specified in the MoU but the sky is the limit as far as I am concerned."

Mr Robb said Arabian Gulf countries faced challenges in providing education and skills development for their growing and youthful populations.

Mr Robb said the UAE was investing in infrastructure and restructuring its economy, creating opportunities in sectors where Australia had a proven track record.

He also met senior ministers to advocate for a resumption of negotiations for a free-trade agreement with the GCC.

Australia, continued on **5** →

Abu Dhabi chips in with Samsung

GlobalFoundries and Korean giant to make super-fast microchip

The National staff

An Abu Dhabi-owned microchip maker is to produce the fastest, most energy-efficient semiconductors that will enable the next generation of mobile devices, after a deal with Samsung.

GlobalFoundries, wholly owned by Mubadala's Advanced Technology Investment Company, and the Korean smartphone and TV manufacturer yesterday announced a partnership to mass produce the chips by the end of year.

The process, developed by Samsung and licensed to GlobalFoundries, utilises a three-dimensional design and results in chips that are 20 per cent faster, 35 per cent more efficient and 15 per cent smaller than those produced with the current industry standard "20nm planar" platform.

Media reports last year said that Samsung would provide the processor for Apple's iPhone 7, due in 2015, using 14 nanometre technology.

Rival Intel had seemingly been ahead in the development of this technology but the gap has narrowed after Samsung invested billions in research and development and facilities development over the past two years.

"The industry's most advanced 14nm Finfet technology will be available ... with volume production at Samsung's fabs in Hwaseong, Korea and Austin, Texas, as well as GlobalFoundries fab in Saratoga, New York," a joint statement from the companies said. A human hair is 75,000nm in width.

According to the Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, the number of transistors that can be placed on a chip at the same cost will double about every two years. This is known as Moore's Law and so far this has roughly been the case in the decades since the idea was proposed.

GlobalFoundries is the world's second-largest foundry after Taiwan's TSMC.

"Today's announcement is further proof of the importance of collaboration to enable continued innovation in semiconductor manufacturing," said GlobalFoundries chief executive Sanjay Jha.

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