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the world

Putin Offers Shawl To Xi Jinping's Wife

BEIJING (AP) — It was a warm gesture on a chilly night when Vladimir Putin wrapped a shawl around the wife of Xi Jinping while the Chinese president chatted with Barack Obama. The only problem: Putin came off looking gallant, the Chinese summit host gauche and inattentive.

Worse still were off-color jokes that began to circulate about the real intentions of the divorced Russian president a heartthrob among many Chinese women for his macho, man-of-action image.

That was too much for the Chinese authorities.

The incident at a performance linked to this week's Asia-Pacific summit originally was broadcast on state broadcaster CCTV and spread online as a forwarded video. But it was soon scrubbed clean from the Chinese Internet, reflecting the intense control authorities exert over any material about top leaders while also pointing to cultural differences over what's considered acceptable behavior in public.

"China is traditionally conservative on public interaction between unrelated men and women, and the public show of consideration by Putin may provide fodder for jokes, which the big boss probably does not like," said Beijing-based historian and independent commentator Zhang Lifan.

Abbas Accuses Israel Of 'Religious War'

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused Israel on Tuesday of leading the region toward a "religious war," saying frequent visits by Jewish worshippers to a site sacred to both Islam and Judaism are fueling clashes that have raised fears of a widespread outbreak of

The accusation drew a sharp response from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said Abbas was making

"Instead of calming tempers, he is inflaming them. Instead of educating his people for peace, Abu Mazen is educating them for terror attacks," Netanyahu said in a nationally televised address, referring to Abbas.

After meeting his Security Cabinet for several hours, Netanyahu also said security forces had been bolstered, and that he would begin imposing tough measures against violent

Much of the recent unrest has stemmed from tensions surrounding the holy site in Jerusalem's Old City known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

Incremental Truce Deal Made In Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Traction is growing for one of the few ideas left for peace in Syria's civil war: Work out a series of local cease-fires to try to quiet the bloodiest fronts around the country, without tackling the core issues of the conflict between President Bashar Assad's government and the

The U.N. envoy to Syria called Tuesday for such an incremental truce in the northern city of Aleppo as a building block for more — an idea that Assad has said is "worth"

The Islamic State group's onslaught has given greater urgency to finding some sort of solution for the nearly 4-yearold conflict. But reaching even small-scale truces in the fragmented country of multiple, divided fighting forces could be a near impossible task.

Staffan de Mistura is the third U.N. envoy to try to mediate a solution to the Syrian war. Previous peace initiatives and cease-fire attempts brokered by veteran U.N. diplomats Kofi Annan and Lakhdar Brahimi all ended in failure, including the brief deployment of a U.N. monitoring mission and two rounds of peace talks in Geneva earlier this year meant to discuss a political transition.

US Marks Veterans Day With Celebration

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans marked Veterans Day on Tuesday with parades, speeches and military discounts, while in Europe the holiday known as Armistice Day held special meaning in the centennial year of the start of World

Thousands of veterans and their supporters marched up Fifth Avenue in New York, home to the nation's oldest Veterans Day parade.

At 11 a.m. — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — a solemn hush fell over Manhattan's Madison Square Park as veterans laid wreaths under the Eternal Light Monument to honor the fallen.

and sing Christmas carols.

of soccer between troops.

In some places, small gifts were exchanged

and there were even reports of a quick game

Missouri Gov. Prepares For Brown Trial

Associated Press

WELDON SPRING, Mo. — Police will work to protect peaceful protesters after a grand jury's decision in the Michael Brown shooting case is announced, but those who cross the line into violence will face consequences, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon warned Tuesday.

More than 1,000 police officers have received special training ahead of a decision expected later this month about whether Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson, who is white, will face criminal charges for fatally shooting Brown, 18, who was black and unarmed.

The National Guard will be available if needed and a unified command of state, St. Louis city and St. Louis County police will provide security for protests.

At a news conference with law enforcement officials to outline preparations, Nixon recalled violent protests that occurred soon after Brown was killed in Au-

"That ugliness was not representative of Missouri and it cannot be repeated,' he said.

Weeks of protests followed the shooting and some of the unrest included looting and rioting. Many businesses along West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, a St. Louis suburb, still have boards on their windows.

During the first days of



CHRISTIAN GOODEN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, center, speaks at a news conference to announce law enforcement planning on Tuesday with Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson, left, and Missouri Director of Public Safety Dan Isom in the event that violence erupts in the area if a grand jury decides not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wison in the shooting death of unarmed teenager Michael **Brown in August.**

mostly peaceful protests, police donned riot gear and patrolled in armored vehicles, drawing widespread criticism and raising questions about a program that supplies surplus military equipment to local police

departments. A small number of protesters attacked squad cars, tossed molotov cocktails at officers and, in a few cases, shot guns in the direction of police, who responded with tear gas, smoke canisters and rubber bullets. On many nights, dozens were arrested.

St. Louis County police initially handled security, but criticism of their tactics

prompted Nixon to put Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson in charge. He and other police leaders said the response was necessary to protect officers, protesters and the public.

This time around, officers have undergone a combined 5,000 hours of training and police leaders have reached out to civil rights and protest groups to urge cooperation. Last week, a coalition representing more than 50 activist groups asked St. Louis County prosecutor Bob McCulloch for 48 hours notice before a grand jury decision is announced, saying that will allow them to help prevent violence.

But some organizers fear police will be heavy handed after the grand jury announcement.

Ashley Yates of St. Louis, co-creator of the group Millennial Activists United, noted that the vast majority of protests have been peaceful and said Nixon should focus on addressing the systemic problems faced by minority communities, "not reactionary policing techniques.

Organizers of her group and other protesters gathered Tuesday for training that includes how to take notes and shoot video of police actions on the streets.

"There is a significant effort to make sure that people's rights are protected and that there's no violence on either side," said Andy Stepanian, a spokesman for several protest groups.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who has spent time with Brown's family and called for a federal prosecution of Wilson, slammed Nixon's remarks, saying he was ignoring the underlying issues in the case.

"For the governor to denounce the violence and ugliness and not address the militarization of Ferguson in August, including policemen wearing armbands supporting the policeman who killed Michael Brown, and selective leaks of grand jury testimony that could taint the decision of this grand jury, is questionable on all accounts," he said in a statement.

Obama's Bid For China Ties Can't Quell Tension

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

BEIJING - When Xi Jinping took the reins of a booming China two years ago, President Barack Obama saw an opportunity to remake America's relationship with the Asian power. But even after Obama's unusually robust efforts to forge personal ties with Xi, the two leaders are meeting in Beijing amid significant tensions, both old

Xi has consolidated power since taking office, deepened China's provocative maritime disputes with its neighbors and stands accused of continuing cyberattacks against the United States. U.S. officials have new concerns over the potential for a crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong and are warily watching Beijing strengthen ties with Moscow as the West

distances itself from Russia. For its part, Beijing remains skeptical of Obama's

intentions in Asia, seeing his efforts to bolster U.S. economic ties in the region as a way of countering Čhina's rise. Obama's domestic political weakness, particularly following the Democrats' defeats in last week's midterm elections, has also sparked questions in China about whether the U.S. president can deliver on potential international agreements.

As he met with Xi for a private dinner Tuesday, Obama declared he wanted to take U.S.-China relations to a "new level." The dinner stretched on for five hours — two hours longer than scheduled — and White House officials called it "very worthwhile and useful." The leaders planned to meet again on Wednesday, then take questions from reporters, a surprising last-minute addi-

Day flag. Display

your flag in your

classroom or in a

window at home.

Standards Link: Visual Art: Know how subject matter, symbols and ideas are used

Kid Scoop Puzzler

tion to the schedule given China's tight media controls.

In the lead-up to the Obama-Xi meetings, U.S. officials sought to refocus attention on areas of U.S. agreement with the Chinese. The two countries announced a reciprocal accord to extend visa lengths for their citizens. And Obama announced that the U.S. and China had reached an understanding that would allow negotiations to move forward on a deal with the World Trade Organization to reduce tariffs on high-tech

U.S. officials said the two leaders were also likely to announce progress on deals to avert military confrontations in Pacific, where their aircrafts have come into close contact. Officials have also been working on possible announcements on climate change to set the stage for a summit in Paris early next year. The U.S. has been pressing China to set

an ambitious target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and Beijing appears to be get-ting serious about the problem. That's a shift for China, which in previous years argued that developed countries like the U.S. bore most of the responsibility to deal with cli-

But despite the White House's public focus on cooperation, analysts say Xi's approach to running China is likely to lead to more tensions ahead.

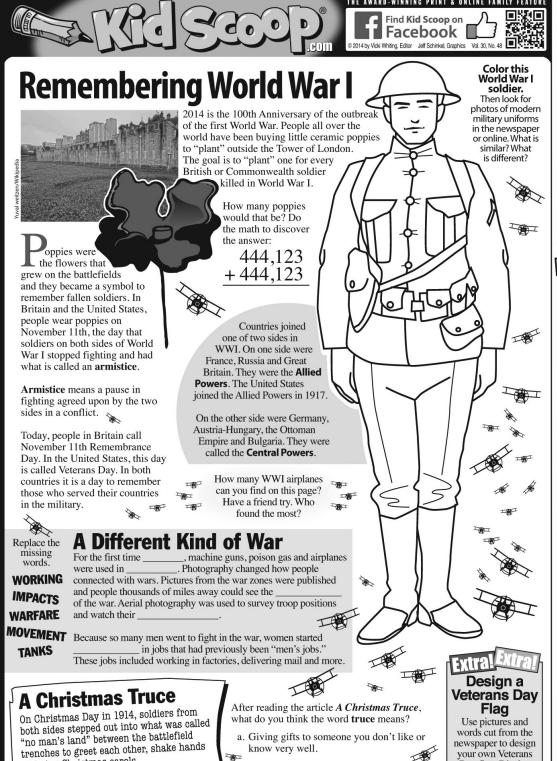
"I think that consensus is growing that there's going to be more viscosity, more tension with China over the next few years," said Michael Green, an Asia analyst at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. He added that Xi has proved to be "less accommodating" and "tougher than expected" in his dealings with the U.S.

Kid Scoop Together:

Are you an eagle-eved reader? Circle the seven errors in the article below. Then, rewrite it

Veterans Day

correctly.



b. An agreement between enemies to stop

fighting for a certain amount of time.

An unscheduled soccer match.

