WASHINGTON: The US and China showed no sign of quelling tensions in the disputed South China Sea as their navies conducted joint exercises in the region this week as China was seeking to control East Asia. But there was no sign of that from the US and Korea Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who on Friday received a senior-level US political officer said yesterday. “The US and China’s history of mutual understanding and respect for differences, and the need to address their differences on equal terms and in a peaceful manner, are crucial to the development of a positive and stable relationship between the two countries and the broader region,” he said. The meeting between the two sides had been “conscientious and constructive,” he said. The US and China are said to have reached an agreement on a joint statement on the South China Sea, which will be released on Saturday. It is the first joint statement on the South China Sea since January 2015, when the two sides agreed to work on a code of conduct in the region. US Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe will co-chair the talks, which will include a high-level US-China strategic dialogue on the South China Sea.

BEIJING: Over the next few days, the US military will conduct joint exercises in the South China Sea, as Chinese ships and aircraft conduct joint patrols in the region. The joint exercises will be the first between the US and China since the US Navy conducted a similar exercise in the South China Sea in 2015. The joint exercises are part of a broader strategic partnership between the US and China to manage competition, not conflict, in the region. The joint exercises will include a visit by a US aircraft carrier strike group to the South China Sea, which is expected to provide a strong signal to China that the US is committed to the region.

WASHINGTON: The US and China are continuing to improve their relationship, but there are still significant differences between the two countries. The US and China discussed the South China Sea, trade, and technology issues during their recent meeting.

US CHINA TENSIONS PERSIST DESPITE N KOREA PROGRESS

TOP DIPLOMATS MEET IN WASHINGTON

MALAYSIA REVIEW PANEL ASKS ANTI-GRAFT AGENCY TO CONTINUE PM NAJIB PROBE

MALAYSIA: The Malaysian anti-graft agency (MACC) will investigate the former prime minister's role in the 1MDB scandal, which has been under investigation for two years. The probe will be led by a panel of three former judges, who will review the agency's investigation and determine whether further action is needed.

PHILIPPINES TIGHTENS SECURITY AT SAUDI EMBASSY, AIRLINE

President Prost said that the Saudi Arabia-based anti-graft agency would launch an investigation into the case, “the agency said in a statement. Prost added that the agency would seek the assistance of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in conducting the investigation.

PHILIPPINES: A child actor holds photos of human rights victims during martial law period in Manila.

MALAYSIA: The Philippines will be seeking to recoup the billions of dollars it has lost in recent years due to the state-owned oil company's (SPSO) debt to the government. The government has already stated that it will pursue legal action against SPSO, which has been in default on its obligations.

PHILIPPINES: The Philippines remains committed to the peace process with the National People's Army (NPA), but the government has not yet agreed to a ceasefire. The government has been seeking a compromise with the NPA, but the group has been reluctant to engage in any meaningful dialogue.

PHILIPPINES: The Philippines has been seeking to negotiate a peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for over two decades. The peace process has been plagued by delays and complications, but the government has not yet given up on finding a solution.

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