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LEADER BRUSHES OFF WORLD CONDEMNATION

Putin reaches into history to claim Crimea

Move to redress 'historical mistake' could leave Russia isolated for years

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed Crimea as a part of Russia yesterday, reversing what he described as a historical mistake made by the Soviet Union 60 years ago and brushing aside international condemnation that could leave Russia deeply isolated for years to come.

Within minutes of delivering a passionate speech to Russia's entire political elite, Mr Putin cemented his pledge by signing a draft treaty with Crimean leaders to make the strategic Black Sea peninsula part of Russia. The events unfolded two days after Crimeans voted in a disputed referendum to break away from Ukraine.

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“Crimea has always been an integral part of Russia in the hearts and minds of people.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin
IN HIS ADDRESS
AT THE KREMLIN



Mr Putin addressing the Federal Assembly at the Kremlin yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Keppel Club eyes fairways of other golf clubs

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SINGAPORE – Keppel Club is eyeing the fairways of other golf clubs here and overseas, after a suggestion by the authorities to convert the 110-year-old institution to a social club failed to garner support among its members, TODAY has learnt.

It is understood to be exploring the possibility of buying land from other clubs or entering into a collaboration, such as through reciprocal fees or corporate memberships, to allow its members to use their golf courses.

Responding to TODAY's queries, its management committee said talks have begun or will be held with other clubs and the Singapore Labour Foundation, which controls Orchid Country Club. "We have spoken to one 36-hole club and intend to approach two other 36-hole clubs, which may have excess capacity, to consider a collaboration ... The models of collaboration could be by way of a sub-lease or master corporate membership for our members' use."

The management committee said things were at an exploratory stage and "nothing has been put on the table yet".

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