

# Brexit to Dominate as May Sets out Stall for UK Re-Election

LONDON - Whatever Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives promise in their manifesto before a June election, managing Britain's exit from the European Union will limit her opportunity to push wide-ranging radical domestic change. Brexit is already diverting government attention from other, often pressing, issues - the number of laws coming into force has dived to a 20-year low - and parliament will be occupied for a long time in deciding the fate of EU legislation introduced during Britain's four-decade membership of the bloc.

May, who was appointed prime minister shortly after Britain voted last year to leave the EU, has framed the elec-



tion on June 8 as an opportunity to bolster support for her Brexit plan, while saying it will help her put her own stamp on government. She will rip up several of the pledges made by predecessor David Cameron and hope a bigger majority will secure parliamentary backing for some more contentious measures, such as opening new selective schools and capping energy prices. But beyond a few flagship policies she is most passionate about, Brexit will dominate. The complexity of delivering Brexit will sap government and parliamentary time, possibly requiring as many as 15 pieces of major legislation, and leave little room for domestic policy promises. (Reuters)

## Over 43,000

### Mediterranean Migrants Reach EU this Year: IOM

GENEVA - An estimated 43,204 migrants and refugees have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe this year, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported Tuesday. According to the latest statistics, most of these migrant entries have been documented in Italy, a country which has already seen some 36,581 individuals land on its shores since the beginning of the year. IOM said that the figure represents close to a 45

percent surge from the total number of arrivals to Italy through the same period in 2016. Unsurprisingly, the central Mediterranean route linking North Africa with Italian shores also remains the deadliest passage for migrants. The Geneva-based agency reported that 1,002 men, women, and children have died there this year, out of a total 1,089 migrant deaths registered on all Mediterranean Sea routes in 2017. (Xinhua)

### U.S. President Trump Holds Supportive Base Firmly: Poll

WASHINGTON - Approaching his first 100 days in White House, U.S. President Donald Trump suffers from a historically low approval rating, but almost all supporters voting for him last year remain firmly loyal to him. Only 42 percent of Americans say they approve of the job Trump is doing, compared to 53 percent who disapprove, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll released Sunday. However, 96 percent of those who voted for Trump in November say

it was the right decision. Just two percent say they regret their decision, the poll finds. A majority of Americans said the president does not have the judgment and temperament to effectively serve in his post. About 60 percent have questions about Trump's honesty and trustworthiness and think he is out of touch with the country. More than half of Americans say Trump hasn't accomplished much in his first 100 days in office. Nearly three-quarters of ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Council of Europe Assembly Wants to Monitor Turkey Again

BASEL, Switzerland - Legislators representing Europe's top human rights body on Tuesday voted in favor of re-opening monitoring procedures in Turkey in a move that reflects its strong concern over the functioning of democratic institutions in the country. The decision in the Strasbourg-based Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was approved on a vote of 113-45 after a nearly three-hour debate. The assembly's monitoring committee raised concerns over constitutional amend-

ments that were approved this month in a national referendum amid a state of emergency. Turkey rapporteur Marianne Mikko said Tuesday the amendments, which significantly expand the powers of the presidency, "do not comply with our fundamental and common understanding of democracy." She stressed that the monitoring process is not "punishment" but a bid to strengthen dialogue with Turkey. The committee was critical of the atmosphere ahead



of the referendum and of emergency decrees after the failed coup attempt in July 2016. It pointed to the detention of parliamentarians and journalists and the sweeping dismissals of civil servants allegedly linked to the coup. Mikko also expressed disappointment that Turkish authorities were considering the re-introduction of the death penalty. (AP)

## U.S., S. Korean, Japanese Officials Meet to Coordinate Moves

TOKYO - Senior officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan met in Tokyo on Tuesday amid rising tensions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The meeting was attended by U.S. special envoy Joseph Yun, South Korean special representative Kim Hong-kyun and Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian affairs chief Kenji Kanasugi. Kim told reporters that the three countries would continue to exert pressure on the DPRK, adding that punitive measures were

also discussed in case Pyongyang should carry out future acts of provocation. Kanasugi said the three countries agreed to strengthen their deterrence power and urged the DPRK to exercise restraint. The United States has maintained its stance that all options, including military action, are on the table regarding the DPRK's missile and nuclear programs. A U.S. nuclear-powered submarine on Tuesday arrived at the South Korea port of Busan. The



USS Michigan guided-missile submarine is not supposed to participate in any drills or military operations, but its call would send a meaningful message to the DPRK, said South Korea's YTN television. At a national meeting held Monday, the DPRK again warned the United States that it would stage preemptive nuclear strikes against American forces. (Xinhua)

## UN Voices Deep Concern over Safety of 400,000 People in Raqqa

UNITED NATIONS - The UN is deeply concerned about the safety and protection of over 400,000 people in Syria's Raqqa, a UN spokesman said Monday. "In past weeks, civilians have been exposed to daily fighting and airstrikes which resulted in an escalating number of civilian deaths and injuries as well as damage to civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, markets and water infrastructure," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at the daily news briefing.



"Yesterday, airstrikes on Atabaqa City reportedly killed eight people including five children and damaged two schools. On April 22, dozens of people were reportedly killed and injured in airstrikes on an

IDP (internally displaced persons) camp near Albaradah village, 20 kilometers west of Raqqa," said Dujarric. Some 39,000 newly displaced people fled to the Jib Al-Shaair makeshift ... (More on P4)... (20)

## UNHCR Returns Nearly 62,000 Somali Refugees from Kenya

NAIROBI - The UN refugee agency said Tuesday it has repatriated some 61,665 Somali refugees in Kenya since the return exercise begun in December 2014. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in its bi-weekly Update released in Nairobi that some 1,836 refugees were supported to return to their home in Somalia in the past ten days. The UN agency said 22,351 out of 61,665 refugees were supported in 2017 alone, adding that 20,991 refugees are currently being registered for voluntary repatriation. "Road convoys to Somalia are suspended due to the heavy rains in Dadaab area of operation and some parts of Somalia. UNHCR Somalia and its partners are closely monitoring the accessibility of roads in the twelve designated return ... (More on P4)... (21)

## UNICEF Seeks to Immunize 30,000 Somali Children Against Measles

MOGADISHU - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners on Tuesday kicked off an emergency campaign to immunize 30,000 children against measles in Baidoa, one of the hardest-hit areas in southern Somalia. Steven Lauwerier, UNICEF's Representative in Somalia said the children, many of them displaced by a searing drought, have never been immunized before and come from remote areas. Health workers often cannot reach because of a decades-old conflict that has ravaged the impoverished country in the Horn of Africa. "The only way to prevent sickness and death from measles is to make sure all children receive the vaccine," Lauwerier said in a statement issued in Mogadishu. "A child suffering from severe acute malnutrition is nine times more likely to die from a disease like measles than a healthy child. We have no time to lose," he added. Conducted in partnership with the ministry of health, WHO, and several non-governmental organizations, the campaign also includes a vitamin A supplement to boost immunity as well as de-worming tablets. About 5,700 cases of suspected measles have so far this year been reported across the country, more than the total number of cases in 2016. Measles, a viral respiratory infection that spreads through air and contact with infected mucus and saliva, thrives in congested, unsanitary displacement camps, which have mushroomed across the town and surrounding areas. (Xinhua)

## U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Syrian Researchers in Response to Alleged Chemical Attack

### Australian Prime Minister Looking Forward to Meeting Trump

CANBERRA, Australia - Australia's prime minister said Tuesday he is looking forward to meeting soon with U.S. President Donald Trump, three months after their heated telephone conversation over an Obama-era refugee deal.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was speaking to reporters at the al-Minhad air base in the United Arab Emirates after meeting in Afghanistan with Defense Secretary James Mattis and greeting Australian troops in the Middle East ahead of Veterans' Day commemorations on Tuesday. Turnbull met in Sydney over the weekend with Vice President Mike Pence, whose visit was intended ... (More on P4)... (22)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. on Monday slapped sanctions on 271 employees of Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC) in response to Syrian government's alleged use of chemical weapons. The employees of SSRC, a Syrian government agency, are designated for their role in "developing and producing non-conventional weapons and the means to deliver them," the U.S. Treasury Department said in a statement. "These 271 SSRC employees have expertise in chemistry and related disciplines and/or have worked in support of SSRC's

chemical weapons program since at least 2012," it added. As a result of the action, any property or interest of the designated persons in the U.S. must be blocked, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from dealing with them. The sanctions are part of Washington's response to what it believed the April 4 sarin attack on innocent civilians in Khan Sheikhoun in east Syria by the Syrian government. Two days after the alleged chemical attack, the United States launched 59 Tomahawk missiles at a Syrian airbase to neutralize its ... (More on P4)... (23)

## Nieghbor News

### Iran Nuclear Deal Reviewed as Uncertainty Grows

VIENNA - Iran and major powers met Tuesday in Vienna to review adherence to their 2015 nuclear deal as uncertainty grows about the landmark accord's future under US President Donald Trump.

The regular quarterly meeting was expected to hear, as Washington confirmed last week, that Iran is sticking to its side of the deal with the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany.

The accord saw Tehran drastically curb its nuclear activities in order to ease concerns that Iran wanted to build an atomic bomb. In return nuclear-related Western and UN sanctions were lifted. However, Trump has ordered a 90-day review,

saying last Thursday that Iran was "not living up to the spirit" of the "terrible" deal because of its actions in other areas.

This refers to Iran's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, rebels in Yemen, and militias in Iraq and in Lebanon as well as Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

US State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Monday the review would examine the nuclear accord "in the larger context of Iran's role in the region and in the world, and then adjust accordingly."

Trump's Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last Wednesday expressed misgivings about the nuclear deal itself, in particular the time limits in key areas. (AFP)

### Pakistan Desires Peace, Cooperation in South Asia: Sharif

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Tuesday said it was Pakistan's ardent desire to promote peace and cooperation in South Asia for which security and stability were the pre-requisites.

Talking to Foreign Minister of Maldives Dr. Mohammed Asim who called on him here at the PM House, he said Pakistan attaches great importance to SAARC and wishes to see it as a vibrant regional organization. He said Pakistan was committed to the principles and objectives of the SAARC Charter. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan attaches importance to its relations with Maldives. He said both countries were bound

in fraternal ties of common faith, mutual understanding and respect and stressed the need to work for enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said it was encouraging to note the growing Parliamentary cooperation between Maldives and Pakistan and recalled that the visit of Pakistan's Chairman Senate to Maldives last year, was a testimony of strengthened parliamentary ties.

Dr. Mohammed Asim expressed the hope to further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by Advisor to PM Sartaj Aziz and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi. (APP)

### Tajikistan, U.S. Discuss Military Cooperation

DUSHANBEH - Tajik President Emomali Rahmon received Commander of the U.S. Central Command Joseph Leonard Votel, the President's press service said. The meeting addressed cooperation of Tajikistan and the U.S. in military and military-technical

sphere to ensure regional security and stability.

The sides praised the Tajik-American military cooperation in the framework of the international programs. The two also confirmed their readiness and interest in further expansion of ties in this direction. (AKI)

### Uzbekistan Submits New Climate Action Plan to UN

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan has submitted its new climate action plan to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) means there is "near universal participation" of countries in the Paris climate agreement. This takes the number of nations having formally submitted their INDCs to the UN to 163. UNFCCC Executive Sec-

retary Patricia Espinosa said: "I am delighted to have received Uzbekistan's INDC. It means that we now have universal participation in the Paris Agreement, which clearly illustrates the world's strong support for accelerated climate action." The Paris deal sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. (Agencies)

### UAE, Turkmenistan Discuss Joint Defence Cooperation

ABU DHABI - Mohamed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, received here on Monday the visiting Turkmenistan's Deputy Minister of Defence Yusup Muhammetgulyev. Al Bowardi and Muhammetgulyev discussed ways to enhance ties, especially in the military and defence domains. They also discussed bi-

lateral relations, issues of mutual interest and latest regional developments, particularly the joint efforts and coordination between the two countries to boost pillars of security and stability in the region. The meeting was attended by senior defence ministry officers and the accompanying delegation of Turkmenistan's Deputy Minister of Defence. (WAM)