

# Clinton's Poll Numbers Likely to Get Boost After Democratic Convention

WASHINGTON - U.S. Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton is likely to get a bump in the polls as result of the Democratic National Convention, after her Republican rival Donald Trump got ahead of her slightly a week before. The bounce in the polls is much needed for Clinton team, as the candidate has in recent weeks been dogged by controversy, and the just-concluded convention could put her back on track, experts said. "I expect her to get a sizable polling bump out of the convention," Darrell



West, vice president and director of governance studies of the Brookings Institution, told Xinhua. In recent days, leaked emails from the Democratic National Committee showed that the organization tried to tip the scales in favor of Clinton to win against her opponents -- mainly rival Bernie Sanders, during the primaries. The scandal has grabbed headlines nationwide and sparked angry protests by Sanders' supporters in the past week outside the convention's venue in Philadelphia, ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

## Syrian Army Sole Capable of Fighting Terrorism: Assad

DAMASCUS - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said Sunday that the Syrian army is the most capable of confronting terrorism, according to state news agency SANA. In a statement on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of establishing the Syrian army, the president said Syrian army "will always remain the pillar of security and stability in Syria and the region." "Today we stand at the threshold to a pivotal stage in the homeland's history, which requires that we all be more



vigilant and prepared and that we double efforts and work with determination until victory is achieved," he said. The army marks its 71st anniversary on the

first of August, while its troops have been stretched out in the battles across the Syrian territory for over five years. The Syrian army engaged in intense battles

on Monday, as the rebels unleashed a wide-scale offensive in the northern province of Aleppo. Several jihadi groups, including the Jaish al-Fateh, or the Conquer Army, and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, which was previously known as the Nusra Front before breaking ties with al-Qaida and changing its name, unleashed a broad offensive in the southern countryside of Aleppo on several fronts to break a siege imposed recently by the Syrian army. (Xinhua)

## U.S. Supreme Court's Job Disapproval Rating Hits Record High: Poll

WASHINGTON - More than half of Americans, or 52 percent, disapprove of the job of the U.S. Supreme Court, setting a new record in the past 16 years, found a latest Gallup poll. This year's disapproval rating of the court was up by 2 percentage points over last year, according to Gallup. Accordingly, the court's current job approval rating, at 42 percent, matches the lowest record in June 2005, showed the July 13-17 poll. The court's approval rating has never surged above 50

percent since September 2010, Gallup said. In fact, the court's approval rating has ranged between 43 percent and 49 percent in the past five years, including 45 percent last year. The Supreme Court, which just concluded its 2015-2016 term, had only eight justices after the death of Antonin Scalia in February. Due to opposition from Republican lawmakers in Congress, President Barack Obama's choice of Merrick Garland to replace Scalia has been blocked so far. (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### China Launches Free Technical Training Project in Poverty Relief

BEIJING - Around 1,000 technical schools in China will provide free training to impoverished people from 2016 to 2020, according to a circular issued recently. According to a document issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, anyone who is able to work from a poverty-stricken household can receive free technical training. Local governments should implement national policies on student

subsidies and free tuition, and formulate regional policies on the deduction and exemption of other fees, as well as on offering living allowances, the circular said. Impoverished families involved in the project can receive a yearly subsidy of 3,000 yuan (450 U.S. dollars) for each student, which will be drawn from a fiscal poverty relief fund. At present, there are over 3.2 million people studying in 2,454 technical schools nationwide, of which over 75 percent come from rural areas. (Xinhua)

### Sartaj Aziz Urges Ambassadors to Proactively Promote Pakistan's Interests



ISLAMABAD - Adviser to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz at the opening of an envoys' conference on Monday urged Pakistani ambassadors to proactively protect Pakistani interests and project the country's stance on vital issues. Confronted with an aggravating foreign policy crisis, the Pakistani government has convened the three-day conference to chart a way out. This is the third such conference during the current government's tenure and will focus on "critical issues in foreign policy", according to a source, Dawn earlier reported.

Nine Pakistani ambassadors accredited to various capitals and multilateral institutions are in attendance at the moot, Foreign Office Spokesman Nafees Zakaria said. Surprisingly, envoys to the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia are not present. Issues that will be taken up during the event include relations with the US, India (especially in the context of Kashmir uprising), Afghanistan, China, Russia and the European Union; the upcoming Saarc summit; membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and disarmament affairs; terrorism, and UN-related matters. (Monitoring Desk)

## Syria Rebels Release Alleged Footage of Crashed Russian Helicopter

DAMASCUS - A video clip claiming to show the wreckage of a Russian helicopter appeared online on Monday, just hours after rebels in northern Syria reportedly shot down the aircraft. The footage showed people gathering around the wreckage of the northwestern province of Idlib. A still image was also released, showing people dragging what was said to be the pilot of the helicopter. Another photo showed a Russian driver license, a paper of Christian amulet,

and a military ID, which were said to have been found in the wreckage. State news agency SANA cited the Russian Defense Ministry as confirming that a Russian Mi-8 military transport helicopter had been shot down after delivering humanitarian aid to the city of Aleppo in northern Syria. It added that the plane was on its way back to the Hmaimim airbase in the northwestern province of Latakia, when it was shot down over Idlib. The statement by the Russian ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

## S. Korea's Current Account Balance Posts Largest, Longest Surplus in History

SEOUL - South Korea's economy posted the largest current account surplus in its history in June on the back of faster fall in imports than exports, boosting worry about the so-called recession-type surplus, central bank data showed on Monday. Current account balance, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, posted a surplus of 12.17 billion U.S. dollars in June, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). It is the largest monthly

surplus in the country's history, surpassing the previous high of 11.87 billion dollars tallied in June last year. The current account balance stayed in black for 52 months, keeping a trend of the longest monthly surplus thanks to faster fall in imports than exports. Goods exports dipped 7.4 percent from a year earlier to 45.25 billion dollars in June, while goods imports tumbled 10.1 percent to 32.43 billion dollars.



Trade surplus for goods reached 12.82 billion dollars in June, up from a 10.74 billion-dollar surplus in May. The BOK attributed the larger trade surplus to lower crude oil prices that helped imports fall at a faster pace than exports. (Xinhua)

## Al-Shabaab Militants Kill at Least 6 in Somali Capital Attack

MOGADISHU - Al-Shabaab militants attacked the headquarters of Somalia's Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in the capital Mogadishu on Sunday, killing at least six people, and seven attackers were killed, a senior official said. Security Minister Abdurizak Mohamed told the media that the militants tried to force their way into the CID headquarters but were repulsed by police. "We have established that five civilians, one police officer and seven Al-Shabaab militants were killed," said Mohamed. Police earlier said twin car bomb blasts hit the gate of the CID headquarters, followed by a shootout. At least 16 people were injured and have been ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

## Israeli PM Wishes to Expand Government Amid "Diplomatic Opportunities"

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he is interested in expanding his government with the center-left Zionist Union party in order to promote diplomatic opportunities, the Ha'aretz daily reported. Netanyahu told Israeli diplomatic reporters in a background talk that he is keeping the foreign ministry portfolio for himself for the time being, hoping that the Zionist Union party would join his government and receive the portfolio. "At this point there are no contacts but I do wish to expand the government," Netanyahu said on Sunday, the Ha'aretz daily reported. The Israeli prime minister said he has "very good reasons" to expand the government, as the ...*(More on P4)...(31)*

## Turkish Police Forces Briefly Close NATO Air Base

ANKARA - Turkey's counter-terrorism police forces briefly closed the Incirlik Air Base in southeast Turkey on Sunday to prevent a new coup attempt, said the Hurriyet Daily News. The shutdown operation carried out by the police forces has been completed in two and a half hours. Earlier, it was reported that supporters of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen would make a new coup attempt in this air base, according to Hurriyet. The Incirlik military base is used by the United



States and shelters combat planes of the U.S.-led coalition launching airstrikes in Syria and Iraq against the Islamic State group outlawed in many countries. Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan announced on Saturday that the country's intelligence agency will be under his control and military commanders will report to the defense minister. Speaking ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

## S. African Ruling Party Outlines Local Gov't Election Goals

CAPE TOWN - The key objectives of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) in the upcoming local government elections are to win the majority seats in all municipalities where the ANC currently governs, ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said on Monday. The second objective is to improve support for the ANC where the party is in opposition, Mantashe said in a statement on the state of readiness for the elections, scheduled for August 3. The ANC will be contesting almost all of the total of 4,392 wards in all 213 municipalities. "We have entered the final push; Our structures and all our supporters are urged to ensure that we go door to door on the August 3 to encourage all our people to go ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

## Australian Trade Minister Calls for Stronger Trade Relationship with Indonesia

CANBERRA - Australia's Trade Minister Steven Ciobo called for stronger economic ties between Australia and Indonesia on Monday, ahead of a trade mission to Jakarta this week. Ciobo said the partnership between the two nations "should be much stronger." "I am visiting Jakarta to build further momentum for concluding a free trade agreement with Indonesia," Ciobo said in a media release on Monday. "While Indonesia is our largest neighbor, a fellow G20 member

and important regional partner, our trade and economic relationship can and should be much stronger." Ciobo said it is a priority of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's government to negotiate an Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership (IA-CEPA). "IA-CEPA will create the framework for a new era of closer economic engagement between our countries and open new markets and opportunities for Australian businesses, primary producers and service providers," Ciobo said. (Xinhua)

## Turkey Summons Senior German Diplomat over Cologne Rally

ANKARA - Turkey on Monday summoned the charge d'affaires at the German Embassy, a day after German authorities prevented Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from addressing by a video link a rally staged by his supporters in Cologne, Turkish media reported. Tens of thousands of Turks living in Germany gathered in Cologne on Sunday condemning the July 15 coup attempt.

Germany's highest court, Federal Constitutional Court, had upheld a ban on Erdogan's broadcasting a message to his supporters at the rally. German police said the measure was taken for "security reasons," while a local court agreed on the decision and issued the ruling. Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said on Monday that further actions will ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

## Uzbekistan to Take Part in C5 + 1 Ministerial Meeting in US

TASHKENT - A delegation of Uzbekistan headed by the country's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov will take part in the ministerial meeting in the Central Asia - US (C5 + 1) format in Washington, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said on Monday. The foreign ministers of the five Central Asian countries and the US will discuss practical issues of cooperation within the C5 + 1 at the meeting August 3. The program of the event includes meetings with businessmen and private investors. The C5 + 1 format was established in 2015. In September 2015, US Secretary of State John Kerry met with the foreign ministers of all five Central Asian countries in New York. In

November 2015, foreign ministers of the US and the Central Asian countries met in Samarkand in C5 + 1 format and adopted Samarkand Declaration, in which they approved creation of a new format of interaction (C5 + 1) for regular political dialogue between foreign ministries of the six countries on issues of common interest. In particular, the parties agreed to work in four areas such as economy, climate change, security and human rights. Working groups were created in order to achieve concrete results of cooperation, and they are ready to present a number of joint projects following the talks in Bishkek and Almaty cities in April 2016. (Trend)