

# Britain in Push to Help Global Eradication of Polio by 2020

LONDON - The last-ever case in the world of polio is expected to be diagnosed this year, paving the way for the potential killer disease to be officially eradicated in 2020, Britain's Department for International Development (DfID) said Friday. DfID said British aid would be used to immunize 45 million children against polio each year until 2020 in a last push to eradicate the disease, equivalent to 80 children being immunised every minute. Polio was wiped out in Britain in the 1980s and there are more than 100,000 British survivors today. Globally, the poliovirus still exists in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan, with eight new cases this year. "It is likely



that the last new case of polio will be diagnosed this year, paving the way for the world to be certified polio-free in 2020," said DfID. "Britain has had a long standing commitment to making polio, the second human disease in history, to be eradicated, after smallpox." The end of polio will help save around 2.6 billion U.S. dollars globally by 2035, as health care systems are freed up from treating polio victims, says DfID. Britain's international development secretary Priti Patel, said: "The world is closer than it ever has been to eradicating polio for good, but as long as just one case exists in the world, children everywhere are still at risk." (Xinhua)

## Trump on Russia: 'We Won. Move on'

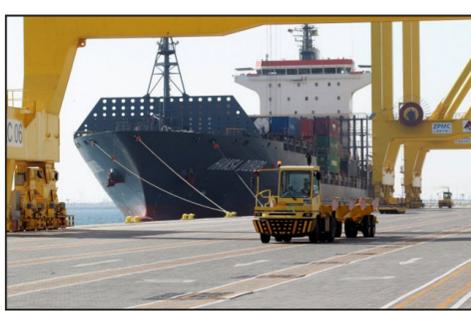
WASHINGTON - "We won. Move on," President Donald Trump declared tersely in an early morning tweet Friday. Trump, who has grown increasingly angry over the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller of Russian interference in last year's election, is using his Twitter account to argue that the probe is unwarranted and should be terminated. His Friday morning tweet followed a series of broadsides the president leveled against investigators at a rally Thursday evening in Huntington, West Vir-

ginia. At one point he said "I just hope the final determination is a truly honest one." Special Counsel Robert Mueller is using a grand jury in Washington as part of an investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia, a person familiar with the probe says. The use of a grand jury, a standard prosecution tool in criminal investigations, suggests that Mueller and his team of investigators are likely to hear from witnesses and demand documents in the coming weeks and months. (AP)

## WTO Reveals Qatar's Complaints against UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

GENEVA - The World Trade Organization (WTO) said on Friday that Qatar has requested it dispute consultations with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The WTO revealed details of the complaints outlined from the Doha delegation. Although Qatar filed its wide-ranging complaints at the WTO on Monday to challenge the trade boycott by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, the WTO had to allow relevant documents to circu-

late before formally announcing the procedure. The three boycotting countries, along with Egypt, severed diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing the latter of financing terrorism and interfering in other countries' domestic affairs, which Doha has repeatedly denied. The complaints relate to measures adopted by the three nations as restricting trade in goods and services, and trade-related intellectual property



rights, the WTO said in a statement. "The request for consultations formally initiates a dispute in the WTO," said the WTO statement. Consultations allow the parties an opportunity to discuss the complaint and to find a satisfactory solution without proceeding further with litigation. (Xinhua)

## World Leaders Arriving in Tehran to Join Rouhani Inauguration



TEHRAN - Leaders and senior politicians from around the world are arriving in the Iranian capital, Tehran, to attend the upcoming inauguration ceremony of President-

elect Hassan Rouhani. Since Thursday, aircraft carrying as many as 30 delegations have touched down in Tehran's Imam Khomeini and Mehrabad International Airports,

with yet more scheduled to arrive. In May, Rouhani won re-election in a landslide victory after securing 57 percent of the votes and defeating his main contender Ebrahim Raeisi, the current custodian of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH). The swearing-in ceremony is slated to be held (at Majlis Parliament) on Saturday. On Thursday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei formally endorsed Rouhani as president. Representa-

tives from a total of 92 countries are slated to partake in the ceremony. Most lately, Madagascar's Parliament Speaker Jean Max Rakotomamonjy, his Cambodian counterpart Nguon Nhel, Lesotho's King Letseie III, First Ghanaian Deputy President Alhaji Bawumia, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, his Moldovan counterpart Igor Dodon, and Chairman of the Britain-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group Richard Bacon have reached Tehran. (Presstv)

## German Opposition Party Accuses Merkel of Having 'No Answers' to Refugee Crisis

BERLIN - The head of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) faction in the German Federal Parliament, Thomas Oppermann, attacked the immigration policy of Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) on Friday in an interview with German newspaper Die Zeit. "Ms. Merkel does not want to address the subject of refugees, because she has no answers," Oppermann said. The challenges posed by the arrival of refugees and migrants since 2015 cannot be ignored

and need answers, according to Oppermann. By leaving the subject to populist forces such as the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, the government risks strengthening anti-democratic and intolerant forces in German society. Oppermann praised proposals made by his party leader Martin Schulz to award European Union funds to countries which accepted refugees, and cut payments to those which refused to participate in burden-sharing measures. (Xinhua)

## U.S. Confirms Senior Al-Shabaab Commander Killed in Airstrikes

MOGADISHU - The United States on Friday confirmed that Al-Shabaab senior terrorist Ali Mohamed Hussein alias Ali Jabal was killed in drone strikes by American and Somalia security forces in southern region on July 31. The U.S. Africa Command (Africom) said the United States conducted this operation in coordination with its regional partners as a direct response to Al-Shabaab actions, including recent attacks on Somali forces. "There were no civilian casualties from this strike," Africom said in a statement following a coordinated operation with international partners near Torotoroow in southern Somalia. Ali Jabal was responsible for leading Al-Shabaab forces operating in the Mogadishu and Banadir regions in planning and executing attacks against the capital of Mogadishu. (Xinhua)

## EU: 850,000 Refugees in Turkey Benefit from Cash Assistance

ANKARA, Turkey - A European Union official says more than 850,000 people are now benefiting from a EU-funded project that provides cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugee families in Turkey. The program, billed as the EU's largest humanitarian program, provides debit cards to the most disadvantaged families allowing them to buy food and meet other needs. It was launched last year following an agreement in which the EU pledged 3 billion euros to help Syrian migrants in Turkey in return for Turkish assistance in curbing illegal migration to Europe. Turkey hosts more than 3 million mostly-Syrian refugees. (AP)

## U.S. Sanctions against Russia Widens Rift in Transatlantic Relations

BRUSSELS - The newly-adopted U.S. sanctions against Russia sparked a backlash in the European Union (EU) and risks further damaging transatlantic relations, which have already been soured since Donald Trump took office, a senior analyst cautioned. Critics of Nord Stream-2, a twin pipeline system via the Baltic Sea transporting natural gas from Russia to the EU, will "view the U.S. sanctions as a chance to put pressure on Berlin to end its support for the project," wrote Judy Dempsey, non-



resident senior fellow of Brussels-based think tank Carnegie Europe, underscoring that the European unity is at stake. In the wake of Trump signing into law a sanctions bill against countries of Russia, Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Wednesday warned that the EU was ready to take "appropriate steps" if European firms' interests are undermined. (Xinhua)

## ASEAN Ministers to Hold Discussions on DPRK

MANILA - ASEAN foreign ministers will discuss on Friday ways to deal with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which has continued its nuclear program despite international condemnation, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said. Cayetano told reporters that he planned to consult his counterparts on the Korean Peninsula issue again to explore how to engage the DPRK in the future, at an informal dinner on Friday night in preparation for the ASEAN

ministerial meeting scheduled for Saturday. "We feel as strongly as they feel that this testing of missiles does nothing but destabilize the region and also creates an atmosphere that's not conducive to resuming talks," Cayetano said. The DPRK's behavior "courts accidents that can lead to armed conflict," Cayetano said. "We've been consistent in pointing out to North Korea what we feel is wrong." Cayetano said the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is a good venue to engage Pyongyang. (Xinhua)

## Turkey, Qatar Vow to Boost Trade Ties amid Gulf Diplomatic Crisis

ISTANBUL - Turkish and Qatari economy ministers on Thursday pledged to boost bilateral trade and investment at a business forum.

The two ministers, accompanied by a total of 250 businessmen from various sectors, met in the Turkish western city of Izmir to develop "productive alliances."

"As governments our only function is to bring our businessmen together," Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said at the forum.

"Turkish economy can satisfy all the needs of Qatar from food to tourism, from construction to energy," he added. Addressing to the forum, Qatari Economy and Commerce Minister Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani said the two countries will be stronger through the establishment of high-level cooperation when facing problems in the future, local media reported.

"Increasing our trade volume and boosting successful investments will also strengthen our economies," Al-Thani added. The trade volume between the two countries achieved 554 million U.S. dollars during the first half of this year, according to Turkish state-run Anadolu agency. Al-Thani also praised the role of Qatari and Turkish private sectors in breaking the blockade imposed on his country by several Arab states in early June, Anadolu said. Turkey has sent a total of 221 cargo planes of daily used items to Qatar since the blockade, according to the figure released by Zeybekci at the forum. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### China, Turkey Underscore Security, Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

BEIJING - China on Thursday voiced appreciation of Turkey's decision to list the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as a terrorist organization. During a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, the two sides agreed that anti-terrorism cooperation and common security are in their fundamental interests and the core of political mutual trust. China firmly supports Turkey's defence of its national sovereignty, security and stability, said Wang. Cavusoglu said Turkey regards China's security as its own and will never allow any activities in Turkish territory that jeopardize China's sovereignty and security.

The two sides agreed to improve cooperation and alignment between the Belt and Road Initiative and Turkey's Middle Corridor plan, according to Wang. Stressing Turkey's geographic importance to the Belt and Road initiative, Wang said China will work with Turkey to expand areas of cooperation in the process of promoting the Belt and Road construction. The two sides also discussed the Palestine-Israel issue, with Wang saying the only way out is peace talks. During Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' visit to China in July, President Xi Jinping made a four-point proposal on the issue and China has taken measures to implement Xi's ideas, said Wang. (Xinhua)

### Pakistani President Swears in Members of New Cabinet

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Friday swore in a new Cabinet, following a week of turmoil that included the election of a new prime minister after the resignation of his predecessor, who was dismissed from office by the country's Supreme Court for concealing family assets. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's 43-member Cabinet includes Foreign Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif, who served as Defense Minister in the government of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif until Friday, when Sharif was disqualified by the court. Since coming into power in 2013, Sharif's government had no foreign minister, though the job was often handled by one of his advisers, Sartaj Aziz. Abbasi named a young lawmaker, Khuram Dastgir, as defense minister. The move was seen as an effort by Abbasi to avoid confrontation with the military. Among those included in the Cabinet was Ishaq Dar, a close relative of Sharif who previously served as finance minister. His inclusion came as a surprise because of a Supreme Court order that he be charged with corruption. Sharif's interior minister, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, was not in the new Cabinet - he had resigned earlier this month over disagreements with Sharif. (AP)

### New UNDP Rep Takes Office in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov received Helena Fraser, the newly appointed UN resident coordinator and UNDP permanent representative in Uzbekistan, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's press service said in a message. Fraser presented a letter of appointment from the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to Minister Kamilov. During the meeting, Kamilov and Fraser discussed the current state and prospects for the development of bilateral relations.

The parties noted that the recent visits of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein to Uzbekistan and their negotiations with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev testified to the increase in attention that UN pays to Uzbekistan, as well as the Central Asian region in general. Two sides also emphasized that, the Strategy of actions on five priority areas of development for 2017-2021, which was adopted by Uzbekistan, as well as the Strategic Development Goals for 2016-2030, approved by the UN General Assembly are united by the main principle - human interests are above all. (Trend)

### Pakistani PM Vows to Implement CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that he will work to implement China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and personally supervise the speedy completion of all the projects under the CPEC. "Beyond CPEC, our economic cooperation will further enhance," said Abbasi at a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong on Thursday night. During the meeting, the Chinese ambassador conveyed the congratulatory message of the Chinese leader to Abbasi on his election as the prime minister of Pakistan. He said that the Chinese leadership is happy to see the smooth transition in Pakistan and will continue to support the government of Pakistan in the development and prosperity of Pakistan. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi thanked the ambassador and conveyed his good wishes for the Chinese leadership. The Chinese ambassador said that during the last four years, the bilateral relationship between China and Pakistan has attained new heights and he expressed belief that such ties will further strengthen under the leadership of Abbasi. (Xinhua)