

Trump's VP Pick More Favored Than Clinton's: Poll

WASHINGTON - U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's Vice Presidential running mate Mike Pence has a more positive image than Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's VP choice Tim Kaine, a latest Gallup poll has found.

Pence is much better known across the United States as his image has grown significantly more positive over this time than Kaine's. As of now, Republicans are embracing Pence more than Democrats are embrac-



ing Kaine, according to the poll. Both Pence's favorable

and unfavorable ratings have risen, while the percentage of those who



have never heard of him has dropped from 65 percent before last month's

National Republican Convention to 39 percent. His favorable rating

has gone up more than his unfavorable rating, Gallup found.

The Indiana governor received some nationwide media attention last year for signing a "religious freedom" law that the gay and lesbian community of that U.S. state sharply criticized, and was facing a difficult gubernatorial re-election campaign before Trump chose him as running mate, Gallup found.

Trump has grabbed many negative headlines since the conventions, ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

US Satisfaction with Country's Direction Still Low: Poll

WASHINGTON - Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the US rebounded in the month of August but is still low, according to a new poll. Only 27 percent of Americans are now satisfied with the state of affairs in their country, similar to the level from February through June, Gallup's monthly poll found. Dissatisfaction with the US economy and government was at the top of the list, according to the survey.

Seventeen percent believe the economy in general is the most important problem facing the country, while 13 percent name the government dysfunction as the main problem. Dissatisfaction with terrorism is at 9 percent, ranking third among the most important problems, followed by the unemployment/jobs and immigration/illegal aliens at 8 percent. Dissatisfaction with crime/violence was at 7 percent, ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Russian President's Envoy Due in Iran for Mideast Talks

TEHRAN - Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov plans to pay an official visit to Iran to hold talks with the country's senior officials on mutual relations and key developments in the Middle East. Bogdanov, who serves as Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to the Middle East, will arrive in Tehran later on Sunday. The Russian diplomat is scheduled to sit down with Iranian Foreign Minister



Mohammad Javad Zarif and Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaberian on Monday. ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

51 Civilians Killed in Fresh Shelling, Airstrikes in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - At least 51 people were killed Saturday as a result of rebels' shelling and airstrikes in Syria's northern city of Aleppo, a monitor group reported. Four children and six women were among those killed by rebels' shelling on government-controlled areas and Syrian airstrikes on rebel-held districts, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The UK-based watchdog group said 15 people

were killed by Syrian airstrikes on the rebel-held districts of Fardus, Wajr al-Haj and others in the rebel-held areas in the rebel-held areas in the rebel-held areas. It added that another 27 people were killed in airstrikes in the western countryside of Aleppo. In the government-controlled areas west of Aleppo city, nine people including a child and an old man were killed when mortar shells struck residential areas in the Salahuddin district in Aleppo. (Xinhua)

Russia Warplanes Pound Daesh Positions in Eastern Syria

DAYR AL-ZAWR - Russian fighter jets have carried out fresh airstrikes on Daesh positions near the eastern Syrian city of Dayr al-Zawr, inflicting heavy damage on the Takfiri terrorist group. The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that six Russian Tupolev Tu-22M3 bombers conducted the "concentrated" air raids against Daesh targets to the southwest, east and northeast of the city on Sunday. The aerial attacks wiped out two militant command posts, six



arms depots, vehicles and "a large number" of Daesh militants, the statement added. Daesh controls large parts of Dayr al-Zawr city as well as most of the province with the same name and has engaged in ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

Iraqi Forces Free 4 Villages From IS in South of Mosul

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces launched an operation against the Islamic State (IS) extremist militants and retook control of four villages on Saturday in south of the major IS stronghold in Mosul, the capital of Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, a military senior official said.

The security forces, backed by heavy support from the U.S.-led coalition aircraft, started their advance late on Friday night against the IS positions in villages scattered at the western bank of Tigris River near the militant-seized town of Qayyara, some 50 km south of Mosul, Major General Najim al-Jubouri, commander of Free Nineveh Operations Command, told Xinhua.

After hours of heavy clashes with the extremist militants, the troops managed on Saturday morning to recapture the villages of Imam Gharbi, al-Mreir, al-Tal'ah and al-Bazajlah, leaving more than 57 IS militants killed, including seven suicide bombers, Jubouri said. "The international coalition aircraft conducted more than 30 airstrikes against the IS positions and destroyed at least seven of their vehicles," Jubouri added. (Xinhua)

I'm Running against Media, Not Clinton: Trump

WASHINGTON - US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has lashed out at the "crooked" media for their unfavorable coverage of his bid for the White House, saying he is now running against the press rather than Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. "I'm not running against crooked Hillary, I'm running against the crooked media," Trump told his supporters at a rally in Fairfield, Connecticut on Saturday. "That's what I'm running against, I'm not running against crooked Hillary."



received a wave of bad publicity from the media over the past few weeks, falling further behind Clinton on the path to the presidency. Many blame Trump's own erratic behavior as the main reason behind the trend. Military veterans, Gold Star families, minorities and GOP officials are among those who have been outraged by a number of the bombastic candidate's insensitive remarks. Trump, however, has rejected that notion, repeatedly lashing out at what he calls "dishonest" media for ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

Swiss Train Attacker Dies from Burn Wounds, Motivation Still Unclear

GENEVA - The man who set fire to flammable liquid and stabbed six passengers on a train in northern Switzerland was confirmed dead on Sunday after suffering serious burns in the attack Saturday. A 34-year-old woman victim also died from her injuries on Sunday. Another two injured passengers, a 17-year-old girl and a six-year-old child, are reportedly in serious conditions. Local police said in a statement issued Sunday that the motive for the attack remained unclear, but "to date there is no evidence this was a terrorist attack or politically motivated." ...*(More on P4)...*(24)

U.S. Special Forces Kill 30 Al-Shabaab Militants in Southern Somalia

MOGADISHU - The United States Special Forces have killed more than 30 Al-Shabaab militants including senior commanders during two separate security operations in southern Somalia in the past four days. Sources close to the government army told Xinhua on Sunday that the operations which took place on Aug. 10 and 13 targeted insurgents in Sakow town in Middle Jubba region. "The U.S. backed by Somali commandos hit Al-Shabaab targets in Sakow town, killing 30 militants in separate security operations that took place ...*(More on P4)...*(25)

Signs of Thaw Appear in Egypt-Turkey Ties, Yet Reluctant and Conditional

CAIRO - Recent remarks of Egyptian and Turkish foreign ministers indicated "reluctant and conditional" desires to normalize tense bilateral ties since the military removal of former president Mohamed Morsi in 2013, said Egyptian political experts. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Wednesday that Egypt is facing a security threat and a serious economic crisis. "We don't want to see Egypt like that. We want to see a great Egypt," he added, showing Turkey's willingness to restore ties with Egypt provided the Arab country stops its crackdown on Morsi's loyalists, mostly from the now-blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood group. "We did not want our relations to be sour," Cavusoglu told state-run Anadolu news agency, noting relations between Cairo and Ankara soured due to disagreement of visions on the Syrian crisis besides Morsi's military overthrow. On ...*(More on P4)...*(23)

AU Mission Steps Up Training to Secure Elections in Somalia

MOGADISHU - The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has stepped up training of security officers to help secure the forthcoming elections in the Horn of Africa nation. In a statement issued on Saturday, AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, called on the Ugandan police contingent serving with the peacekeeping mission to help Somali security forces secure the elections scheduled for September and October. Alalo was speaking at the closure of an induction course for more than 100 Formed Police Unit (FPU) officers serving in the police component of AMISOM. The FPU is tasked with public order management, support to the Somali Police Force and protection for AMISOM, UN and African Union staff. Somalia will choose a new ...*(More on P4)...*(26)

Neighbor News

Pakistani President Vows to Defeat Terrorists in Independence Day Speech

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain said on Sunday that the government will take revenge of every drop of the blood of innocent people who lost lives in a recent terrorist attack in the southwestern city of Quetta.

The Islamic States (IS) and a Pakistani Taliban group claimed responsibility for the suicide attack at the emergency department of a hospital on August 8 which killed over 70 people and injured nearly 200 others. Most of those killed were senior lawyers who gathered outside the hospital to collect body of a lawyer who was also killed by militants.

"We are shocked at the Quetta terrorist attack and we stand with the bereaved family. Every Pakistani feels the

pain. Blood of the innocent people will not go waste. I announce here, the government will take revenge of the blood of the innocent people," Hussain said in his Independence Day address in Islamabad.

Pakistan is celebrating its 69th Independence Day with traditional enthusiasm to pay homage to those who sacrificed lives to achieve the goal of an independent country for the Muslims of the sub-continent. "Every visible and invisible enemy will be chased and crushed, in order to establish durable peace in the country," said the Pakistani president.

He said the menace of terrorism will be eliminated from the country by carrying out decisive actions with a renewed determination. (Xinhua)

China, India Pledge to Build Closer Partnership, Enhance Pragmatic Cooperation

NEW DELHI - China is ready to build closer partnership with India, and enhance pragmatic cooperation with India in all fields, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj during their meeting on Saturday here.

Wang positively reviewed the development of China-India ties, which he said have been making remarkable and comprehensive headways in recently years thanks to joint efforts by both sides. Leaders of the two

countries have maintained close exchange of visits and communications, the dialogue mechanism between the two governments has been ever increasing and perfecting, the complementarity of the two economies has been further tapped and a win-win cooperation pattern is taking shape, Wang noted.

What's more, the two peoples have enhanced understanding and friendship through more and more trade and cultural exchanges and communications, he added. (Xinhua)

Iran Optimistic About JCPOA, Not About US: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Irani President Hassan Rouhani says Iran's positive attitude towards last year's nuclear agreement with the P5+1 does not represent its view about the United States and other world powers. Rouhani made the remarks in an address to a large crowd of people in the southwestern city of Yasuj on Sunday.

"Optimism about the JCPOA does not mean optimism about superpowers; we are optimistic about the JCPOA, but pessimistic

with regards to the US," Rouhani said in reference to the nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The accord was signed between Tehran and the P5+1 group of world powers, namely Russia, China, France, Britain, the US and Germany, on July 14, 2015. It took effect in January, ending decades of economic sanctions against Iran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program. (Presstv)

Journalists in Tajikistan to Face Fines for Using 'Incomprehensible' Words

DUSHANBE - The reclusive nation has a history of restrictive legislation, including bans on Russia's version of Father Christmas and non-Tajik names for babies.

Tajikistan, one of central Asia's most reclusive states, is to start fining journalists caught using "incomprehensible" words, a government official has said.

"There are cases when journalists use as many as 10 words in one day that the simple reader, viewer or listener cannot comprehend," said Gavhar Sharifzoda, the head of state language committee, in comments carried by Russia's Interfax news service. "This grossly violates the norms of state language."

The move is the latest attempt by Tajikistan's government to boost the Tajik language. It comes after the country's veteran president Emomali Rahmon made Tajik the sole language in 2009, ending the use of Russian for official purposes. Impoverished, and dependent on remittances from Tajiks working in Russia, the country of eight million has been trying to defend its national identity from what are seen as unhelpful foreign influences.

The authorities have recently complained of the encroachment of Farsi and Dari, which are spoken in Iran and neighboring Afghanistan respectively. (Monitoring Desk)