

French PM Warns about "Civil War" if Far-Rightists Win Regional Election

PARIS - French Prime Minister Manuel Valls on Friday warned that the far-right National Front (FN) possible major gains in regional runoff would lead to a "civil war." "There are two options for our country. There is an option which is that of the extreme right, which basically advocates the division which may lead to civil war and there is another vision which is that of the Republic," Valls said. Three days ahead a decisive round on regional election, the Socialist premier denounced "a rip-off" of the anti-immigrant party whose (campaign)



project, according to him was "a scam." Never having control of a regional council, the FN made a major victory on Sunday

with its leader Marine Le Pen winning 40.64 percent of the votes in France's northernmost area, Nord-Pas-de-Cal-

ais-Picardie region, while her niece Marion Marechal-Le Pen also came out first in the southeastern Provence-Alpes-Cote

d'Azur region with 40.55 percent of the votes. According to final official figures, the National Front won 27.73 percent of the

first-round vote nationwide followed by the conservative the Republicans party and its allies that secured 26.65 percent. The ruling Socialists ranked third with 23.12 percent of the votes. "I respect the French who made this choice because when there is a vote of anger, we must hear it," Valls told France inter radio. "To all those tempted by the extreme vote because they have had enough, I tell them, for these retired, these workers, these citizens in poverty, the youth who can't see the future, it would be a disaster, it will be the worst," he warned. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Iran Envoy Submits new WAVE Version to UN

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to the UN Gholam Ali Khoshrou has submitted to the world body an updated version of a resolution based on President Hassan Rouhani's proposal for the World Against Violence and Extremism (WAVE). The draft was presented to the General Assembly in New York during a meeting on Thursday. In December 2013, the General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to approve President Rou-

hani's WAVE proposal, which called on all nations across the globe to denounce violence and extremism. The Iranian president had made the proposal in his address to the UN Disarmament Conference in New York on September 25, 2013. Khoshrou said the consensus on the draft and support for it on the part of various countries indicates that the UN must take immediate action for containing violence and extremism in the world. (PressTV)

Pakistan Testfires Long-Range Ballistic Missile

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Friday testfired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, with a maximum range of 2,750 km, the Pakistani military said. The test flight of Shaheen-III was aimed at validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system, an army statement said. Pakistan has different type of missiles and some can also carry nuclear warheads. "The successful flight point in the Arabian Sea, validating all the desired parameters," the statement from the army's Inter-Services

Public Relations said. The president and prime minister of Pakistan congratulated the scientists and engineers on successful conduct of the missile test. Lieutenant General MazharJamil, Director General Strategic Plans Division, which deals with Pakistan's missile system, congratulated the scientists and engineers on achieving a significant milestone in complementing the deterrence capability. "Pakistan desires peaceful co-existence in the region for which nuclear deterrence would further strengthen strategic stability in South Asia," he said. (Xinhua)

First Planeload of Syrian Refugees Arrives in Canada

TORONTO - After months of promises and weeks of preparation, the first Canadian government planeload of Syrian refugees landed in Toronto on Thursday, aboard a military aircraft met by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trudeau was elected to a surprise majority in October promising to accept more refugees more quickly than the previous Conservative government. "This is a wonderful night, where we get to show not just a planeload

of new Canadians what Canada is all about, we get to show the world how to open our hearts and welcome in people who are fleeing extraordinarily difficult situations," Trudeau told airport workers and volunteers standing by to meet the refugees. Trudeau's Liberal government scaled back the number of Syrian migrants it will accept by year end after the attacks in Paris sparked concern that the election promise ... (More on P4)... (25)

Geneva Talks Between Gov't, Houthis Raise Hope Among Yemenis for Peace

ADEN - Talks between Yemen's government and the Shiite Houthi group that are planned to take place in Switzerland on Dec. 15 gives some cause for optimism among Yemeni people over resuming the political process and ending civil war that killed thousands. High-ranking officials of the Saudi-backed Yemeni government including the newly appointed Foreign Minister Abdulmalik AlMekhlafi and leaders of the Iran-

backed Shiite Houthi group will probably move to Switzerland later this week after the UN special envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould-Cheikh Ahmed encouraged them to sit down, bridge the trust gap and work for the revival of the peace process. AlMekhlafi, who will be the head of government's delegation to Switzerland, told aljazeera TV channel that "We will attend the UN talks as a legitimate ... (More on P4)... (26)

Turkish FM Calls on Russia for Calm, Says Patience is not Endless

ANKARA - Turkey is calling on Russia for calm, but its patience is not endless, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Friday. Russia is under "sentiment" over the downing of its warplane, and has been making accusations against Turkey, Cavusoglu said in a televised interview. Russia wanted to "utilize all opportunities" against Turkey, but Ankara's "patience is not endless," he noted. "Russia should reexamine its decisions for economic sanctions. They should not sow discord

among people," Cavusoglu added. Citing to his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Yugoslavia's capital Belgrade last week, Cavusoglu said Russia also expressed its willingness not to escalate tension with Turkey. "We asked to keep dialogue channels with Russia and Lavrov did not object this," he said. Relations between Moscow and Ankara worsened dramatically after Turkey shot down a Russian bomber near the Turkish-Syrian border late November for al-



leged violation of its airspace. Russian President Vladimir Putin called the downing a "stab in the back," and warned of "very serious consequences" for the two countries' relations. Russia has then imposed a series of economic sanctions on Turkey and has been locked in a war of words with Turkish authorities. (Xinhua)

Kerry Says Climate Talks make Progress, Despite Delay

PARIS - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said talks on a global deal to slow climate change "made a lot of progress" overnight but that there were a couple of "very difficult" issues to resolve after France extended the conference by a day into Saturday. Kerry also said, after meeting host French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, that he was "hopeful" that a con-



sensus could be reached among 195 nations and that over the course of Friday contentious issues will "melt away." "There is a lot of progress made last night, a long night, but there are still a couple of very difficult issues that we're working on," he told reporters. (Reuters)

Manchester to be Epicenter as Britons Decide Fate in Europe

LONDON - The eyes of the world will focus on Manchester when the result of Britain's future within the European Union is announced. The city has been chosen as the place where the final result of the in-out referendum will be announced, Britain's Electoral Commission has announced. Regional votes from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland as well as Gibraltar, will be fed to a central point in Manchester where the formal declaration will be announced by chief counting officer Jenny Watson live to a global audience after all the results have been counted and collated. No



date has yet been set for the national referendum, but Prime Minister David Cameron has announced it will be before the end of 2017. Some commentators speculate it could be held during 2016. At stake will be Britain's continued membership of the European Union, in what will be one of the most important decisions

Britons will make in a generation. Although no venue has yet been selected for the referendum count, the same venue in Manchester will also be where the regional count collation center for the counting of votes from across North West England. Across the country there will be 11 other ... (More on P4)... (27)

Sonia Gandhi Not Bothered over Modi's Jibe on Indian Parliament Disruptions

NEW DELHI - A day after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed sorrow over repeated Parliament disruptions, the country's main opposition Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi Friday seemed to be least bothered. "Let him (Modi) say what he wants," Gandhi told the media when she was asked to comment on the prime minister's jibe at Congress that democracy cannot function at the "whims and fancies" of anyone. Modi on Thursday expressed concern over the ruckus in the parliament by members of the Congress party, saying, "You must have seen that these days this (disruptions) is being seen more. I will do whatever comes to my mind. Does the country run like this? The parliament has been witnessing disruptions since its winter session began two weeks ago and the Congress party has been creating the ruckus on one pretext or the other, stalling the Indian government's key reforms bills, including the Goods and Services Tax (GST) bill. The GST bill needs to be passed in the current parliament's session to meet the April deadline for its implementation and the government needs the support of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House), where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is in a minority. (Xinhua)

"Refugees" Named Word of Year 2015 in German Language

BERLIN - The German word "Fluechtlinge," which means "refugees" in English, was named "Word of the Year 2015" in the German language, the Society for the German Language (GfDS) announced Friday. As an annual tradition, linguists of the GfDS Friday released the top ten words and phrases in news reports in Germany this year, choosing from around 2,500 proposals. "Fluechtlinge" won the title not only because it was the dominant theme of the year, but also because the word is linguistically interesting, the linguists said. The phrase "Je suis Charlie" ("I'm Charlie"), a slogan chanted by the public after the January terror attack targeting the editorial offices of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo which killed 12 people, ranked number two on the list. "Grexit" came in third. A combination of the English word for "Greek" and "exit," it reminded people of the severity of Greece's sovereign debt crisis during the first half of 2015, as whether the ... (More on P4)... (28)

U.S., Allies Conduct 25 Strikes Against IS: U.S. Military

WASHINGTON - The United States and its allies staged 25 air strikes against the Islamic State militant group in Iraq and Syria on Thursday, the coalition leading the operations said in a statement. In Iraq, 21 strikes near 10 different cities destroyed several fighting locations, buildings and other targets. Four strikes in Syria hit tactical units and wounded Islamic State fighters, according to the statement released on Friday. (Reuters)

Australian Leaders to Agree on "Preventative Detention" for Convicted Terrorists

CANBERRA - Australia's Prime Minister has on Friday pushed state and territory leaders to back indefinite detention for convicted terrorists, under new laws proposed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting. Malcolm Turnbull has implored state premiers and territory chief ministers to unanimously back a plan which would result in terrorists being treated similarly to pedophiles, whereby they are kept locked up even after their sentence has expired. Such preventative detention

laws would be used on convicted terrorists who are deemed likely to re-offend. According to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the plan was raised at a formal dinner between the leaders on Thursday night, and is expected to be agreed to late on Friday. In Australia, convicted felons are placed in state prisons, meaning legislation pertaining to imprisonment varies from state to state, but Turnbull, alongside Liberal MP and head of the parliamentary joint committee on ... (More on P4)... (29)

Tajik President and his Family to get Life-Long Legal Immunity

DUSHANBE - Tajik lawmakers have voted to grant the president, Emomali Rahmon, and his family life-long immunity from prosecution, drawing sharp criticism from pro-democracy campaigners. The parliament's lower chamber has passed a bill that gives Rahmon the title "Leader of the nation" and officially designates him "the founder of peace and national unity of Tajikistan". The authoritarian Rahmon, 63, is a former collective farm chief who has been in power since 1992, a year after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Under the bill,

property belonging to both him and his relatives would also be exempt from legal proceedings. With both chambers of parliament dominated by government supporters, the bill's approval by the upper house is considered a formality. Elections in Tajikistan are routinely criticised by international observers and deemed fraudulent by Rahmon's opponents. Prominent Tajik human rights activist Oinihol Bobonazarova, who sought to run for president in 2013 but was not allowed on the ballot, said the bill made a "mockery of democracy". (Agenceis)

China Denies Rejection by "Ambition Coalition" at Climate Change Conference

BEIJING - A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson denied on Friday that China was rejected by an "ambition coalition" at the ongoing Paris climate change conference. "China always plays a constructive role in fighting against global climate change and has close communication with parties concerned," spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks in response to some reports that more than 90 countries have joined a coalition at the climate change conference, calling themselves the "high ambition coalition". The United States said Wednesday it had united with the European Union and 79 developing countries to jointly push for an ambitious accord in Paris to curb global warming. The decision, announced

by US Secretary of State John Kerry, came a day after the European Union said it had joined the African, Caribbean and Pacific nations most vulnerable to climate disasters to make a far-reaching deal. China firmly supports reaching ambitious, comprehensive, balanced and practical agreements at the Paris conference, Hua said. At the opening ceremony of the two-week Paris gathering, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent strong signals, warning against a zero-sum game mentality and showing willingness to advance international cooperation. When dealing with global climate change, we are all ambitious partners, there is no possibility of one rejecting another, Hua said. (Xinhua)