

Germany to Elect New President, Steinmeier as Frontrunner

BERLIN - German Federal Assembly will convene a session on Sunday to elect a new president to succeed Joachim Gauck who has decided not to run for a second term.

The new head of state will be decided by the convention consisting of 630 lawmakers and an equal number of representatives from Germany's 16 states.

German local media speculated former Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier as an obvious winner since he has gained the grand governing coalition on his back.

On Saturday evening, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Minister President of Bavaria Horst Lorenz See-



hofer, representing the center-left and center-right political union, called for support for Steinmeier, saying he would be the right person to represent Germany.

Steinmeier, one of Germany's well known politicians, have served twice as foreign minister, from 2005 to 2009 and again from 2013 until this year. He is known for his efforts trying to mediate the crisis in Ukraine. He also served as vice chancellor from 2007 to 2009. Some German media described him as "pragmatic, assertive and popular." Gauck, assuming office in March 2012, will not seek another five-year tenure citing his... (More on P4)...(25)

DPRK Test-Fires 1st Ballistic Missile Since U.S. President Trump Takes Office

SEOUL - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) fired what is believed to be a ballistic missile into its eastern waters early Sunday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

The presumed intermediate-range Musudan ballistic missile was launched at around 7:55 a.m. local time (2255 GMT Saturday) near Banghyeon in the DPRK's northwestern North Pyongan province.

The projectile is estimated to have traveled about 500 km, according to the JCS.

It landed in waters off the DPRK's east coast, according to local media reports. Pyongyang test-fired Musudan missiles near the same place, where an airfield is located, in October last year.

It was the DPRK's first test-launch of a ballistic missile in 2017 and also the first since U.S. President Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20.

South Korea's military said Pyongyang's launch of ballistic missile was a provocative act in violation... (More on P4)...(26)

S. Korea Denounces DPRK's Test-Launch of Ballistic Missile

SEOUL - South Korea denounced the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s test-launch of a ballistic missile on Sunday, the first since U.S. President Donald Trump took office last month.

Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement that the launch was a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions and a serious threat to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the international community. The statement said repeated DPRK provoca-

tions are a direct challenge to the international society's concerted will reflected in the Resolution 2321, unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council.

Pyongyang fired off what is presumed to an intermediate-range Musudan ballistic missile, called Hwasong-10 in the DPRK, from its northwestern North Pyongan province earlier in the day. It flew about 500 km and landed in waters off the DPRK's east coast. Musudan can put... (More on P4)...(27)

Erdogan Vows to Wipe out Terrorism from Northern Syria

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that Turkey's ultimate goal in its military operation in northern Syria is not the town of al-Bab alone but clearing the region of terrorism.

"The ultimate goal is to establish a 5,000-square-kilometer terror-free zone," the president told reporters at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport prior to his departure for Bahrain.

"In the following period, toward the east, there are Manbij and Raqqa," Erdogan said of Turkey's



next targets. Manbij is currently under the control of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, which is seen by Ankara as the Syrian offshoot of Turkey's outlawed Kurdistan

Workers' Party. Raqqa is a stronghold of the Islamic State (IS).

For months, Turkish troops, sent into northern Syria in August last year for... (More on P4)...(28)

Italy Says N. Korea Missile Tests Threaten Peace

SEOUL, South Korea - The latest on North Korea's missile launch (all times local):

Italy says North Korea's "repeated missile tests" threaten peace and that the country must stop challenging the international community.

In a statement Sunday, the Italian foreign ministry expressed "great concern" about the news that the North had launched a ballistic missile. It said the repeated tests, combined with North Korea's development of a nuclear arsenal, "constitute a threat to peace and to international security." Italy said North Korea "must abandon the development" ... (More on P4)...(30)

Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy Re-Elected as Popular Party Leader

BARCELONA, Spain - Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was re-elected as the leader of the conservative Popular Party for a fourth term, sweeping 95 percent of the vote at a party congress in Madrid. "It's an honor because I have spent all my life in this party," the 61-year-old Rajoy said Saturday night as he thanked party members. He ran unopposed.

Hours later on Sunday, his political rival Pablo Iglesias likewise won a vote to maintain his leadership of the left-wing Podemos ("We Can") party at its congress in the Spanish capital. The pony-tailed former political science professor

Success of EU Exit Bill Sends Strong Message to Upper House: UK Minister

LONDON - The successful passage of British legislation to start Brexit talks through the lower house of parliament is a "pretty powerful message" to the upper house which will consider the bill, the leader of the House of Commons said on Sunday.

In an interview with the BBC's The Andrew Marr Show, David Lidington said the House of Lords, or upper house, had a role in debating the legislation that gives the government the right to



trigger Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty and start talks. "The fact that the exit

bill, the Article 50 bill, has gone to the House of Lords with a majority of more than 300 from the

House of Commons and unamended ... is a pretty powerful message to the lords," he said. (Reuters)

"Asian Values" can Help Overcome Globalization Backlash: WEF Chairman

DUBAI - The Asian way of life to harmonize individual rights with obligations to serve the society can tackle the rise of anti-globalization movements, Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the world economic forum (WEF) said here on Sunday.

Those who rose against globalization movements, like the majority of voters in the United Kingdom who opted to leave the European Union in the Brexit referendum, "overlook that globalization and liberalism

have lifted one billion people worldwide out of poverty and led to lower prices across the entire consumer supply chain," Schwab said in his opening key note at the 5th edition of the World Government Summit (WGS).

"Instead of opposing globalization because jobs are in danger, we should try to harmonize the national identity of citizens with social harmony, a concept which is practiced in many East Asian societies," The 78-year-old WEF founder said.



"I remember when I was invited to fly with Singapore's late Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew from Singapore to China. During our conversation aboard, he explained to me that

the East Asian way of thinking is to embrace changes by trying to put apparent new developments into a harmonious balance," Schwab said. (Xinhua)

EU Provides 115 Mln Euros in Support to Jordan

AMMAN - The European Union on Sunday said in a statement it will support Jordan on political and environmental reforms with 115 million euros.

The statement said that the deal consists of two cooperation programs totaling 115 million euros (about 122 million U.S. dollars) to support Jordan in its political and environmental reforms.

One of the programs called "Support to the Implementation of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy" (106 million dollars) aims at improving health, quality of life and environmental conditions of the population by developing environmental and financially sustainable systems for solid waste management.

The other program "Enhanced Support to Democratic Governance" (16 million dollars) will support ... (More on P4)...(29)

Anti-Corruption Protest Claims Lives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD - A massive rally on Saturday against corruption in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad turned violent as fierce clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces, leaving at least four protesters and one security member killed.

The protests began before noon when thousands of people, mainly followers of the influential Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, rallied in Tahrir Square on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, which bisects Baghdad, demanding a change in the Independent High Electoral Commission, and arguing that the electoral body is under the influence of leading parties.

The protesters also demanded real and comprehensive reform in the political process in order to fight the wide spread corruption in the country. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi called on the demonstrators to remain peaceful and to "abide by the law."

However, fierce clashes erupted a few hours later when the demonstrators crossed al-Jamhouriyah Bridge to the western bank of the Tigris and marched at the gates of the Green Zone, which houses the main government offices and foreign embassies.

The security forces warned the protesters not to come closer to the gates of the Green Zone, but clashes soon sparked with security forces, who fired tear gas and shot live ammunition in the air to disperse demonstrators.

Baghdad Governor, Ali al-Tamimi, said in a press release that four protesters were killed and 320 others wounded, 79 of whom received wounds by gunshots. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China to Increase Protection of Immovable Cultural Relics

BEIJING - The Chinese State Administration of Cultural Heritage plans to step up preservation of immovable cultural relics, amid rapid urbanization. "Immovable cultural relics should be avoided as much as possible in the choosing of construction sites," according to a circular issued by the administration.

The circular clarified procedures for the removal of immovable cultural relic status, and said that if such cultural relics were destroyed by natu-

ral disasters or construction activity, authorities should review and establish whether they still had heritage value.

Authorities should also publish such information and solicit public opinion. More efforts will be made to protect poorly-preserved immovable cultural relics through government support.

China is home to more than 760,000 registered immovable cultural relics, according a 2011 national archaeological survey. (Xinhua)

2016 Survey on Pakistan Based Upon Int'l Standards: IRI

ISLAMABAD - The International Republican Institute (IRI) said that information gathered from nationwide poll in Pakistan between September 27 and October 26, 2016, was based upon international standards for market and social research methodologies.

"IRI has worked in Pakistan since 2002, and has conducted numerous polls for more than a decade. Our current program in Pakistan focuses on work with political parties from across the political spectrum and relies on polling to inform decision-makers about the priorities of Pakistani citizens," it said in a statement.

The IRI's statement said

the survey was undertaken to provide a tool for political parties to develop sound policy solutions that reflect public priorities.

Giving information about its methodology, the IRI said the survey sample consisted of 4,978 voting-age residents of Pakistan from 75 districts across the provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan (excluding the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Chitral).

It further said in recent months IRI briefed representatives from political parties including Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf ... (More on P4)...(31)

Iran Aims to Boost Security, Stability in Mideast: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the main goal of the Islamic Republic is to establish and promote stability and security across the Middle East region.

"We attach great importance to the security of our neighbors and that's why we have rushed to help countries that have asked for Iran's assistance in the fight against terrorism," Rouhani said in a meeting between senior delegations of Iran and Sweden, co-chaired by him and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, in Tehran on Saturday.

He described terrorism as the main threat to the region and stressed the

importance of adopting measures to uproot the vicious phenomenon.

He said the Israeli regime is making very provocative moves in the region, adding, "As a big responsibility, all [countries] must understand that the acts and behavior of the Zionist regime [Israel] are among the main root causes of insecurity and tension in the region."

The Iranian president pointed to numerous conflicts among regional countries and expressed hope that the United Nations Security Council would be able to play a positive role in establishing peace and stability in the region. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan Votes in One-Sided Presidential Poll

ASHGABAT - Citizens of Turkmenistan went to the polls Sunday for a presidential vote expected to further tighten strongman Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov's hold over the gas-rich Central Asian country.

The turnout in the country of over 5 million people exceeded 74 percent in the first six hours of voting, the Central Election Commission said.

Berdimukhamedov, 59, faces eight other candidates including low-level regional officials, the director of a government-owned oil refinery and a representative of a state agribusiness complex.

But these candidates are viewed as token opponents for the former dentist and health minister who took power following the death of predecessor... (More on P4)...(32)

Uzbekistan Signs Contracts for \$74 Million

TASHKENT - Companies of Uzbekistan signed agreements for US\$74 million to supply fresh and processed agriculture products within the International exhibition of food, drinks and raw materials PRODEXPO-2017. Representatives of trade networks, processing companies and individuals visited the stand of Uzbekistan. The visitors tasted Uzbek fresh, processed and dry fruits and

vegetables. Uzbek companies held negotiations with representatives of the foreign companies to discuss establishment of mutual beneficial long-term relations on organization of supply of fruits and vegetables from Uzbekistan. Uzbek companies reached agreements on establishing of cooperation with large importers from Mongolia and Vietnam. These markets are... (More on P4)...(33)