

Thousands Gather For Anti-Brexit Protest in London

LONDON - Thousands of people are taking part in a "March for Europe" in London to protest against plans to leave the European Union.

The UK voted to leave the EU by 52% to 48% last week - a decision which divided the country, sparked huge political upheaval and heightened market uncertainty.

Protesters draped in EU flags and with homemade banners saying "Bremain" and "We Love EU" gathered around Park Lane before marching towards Parliament Square.

It is the second large-scale protest against the result after thousands, includ-



ing a tearful pro-EU Tory minister, gathered in Trafalgar Square on Tuesday.

They later gathered outside Downing Street and began chanting "Shame

on you". Comedian and satirist Mark Thomas organised the march on

social media to address his "anger, frustration and need to do something".

He claimed up to 40,000 people were expected to attend.

"We would accept the result of the referendum if it was fought on a level playing field but it was full of misinformation and people need to do something with their frustration," he said.

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron - who has vowed to take Britain back into the EU as part of his pledge for the next general election - addressed the protesters before they set off soon after 11.30am. Father and daughter Bill Baker, 59, and Jess Baker, 22, from Islington, north ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Russian Federation Council Chief to Visit Iran

TEHRAN - Russia's upper house of parliament speaker will pay an official visit to Iran to discuss possible avenues for strengthening relations.

Russian Federation Council Chairperson Valentina Ivanovna Matvyenko plans to hold talks with senior Iranian officials and will probably meet with President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran, said the council's deputy chairman Ilyas Umakhanov on Friday.

He added that the senior Russian official will exchange views with Iranian authorities on a variety of issues during her visit, which is likely to take place

in November.

Matvyenko's trip to Tehran will come in a series of visits between Iran and Russia following the implementation of last year's nuclear agreement between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries.

Trade between the two countries during the first half of 2016 stood at USD 1.8 billion, almost 70 percent up from the same period last year. Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China - plus Germany started implementing the nuclear ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

US Strikes Kill Up to 116 Civilians Outside Active War Zone Between 2009-2015: WH

WASHINGTON - The White House (WH) announced on Friday that between 64 and 116 civilians were killed in U.S. strikes outside areas of active war zones from 2009 to 2015.

In its first public assessment of civilian casualties of U.S. counterterrorism strikes, the White House said in a summary released on Friday that as many as 473 U.S. strikes were conducted in Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and North Africa. Civilian casualties in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were not included in the summary. Few de-



tails were offered about the strikes and the people who were killed, provoking criticism from human rights groups which called for more transparency of

the U.S. counterterrorism strikes, especially the U.S. drone program.

The drone war initiated in the wake of 9/11 terrorist attacks by former U.S.

President George W. Bush, continues to be one of the Obama administration's trump cards.

According to the Bureau ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Over 600 People Killed in Violence, Armed Conflict in Iraq in June, UN Warns

UNITED NATIONS - A total of 662 Iraqis were killed and another 1,457 others injured in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in Iraq in June, a UN spokesman said here Friday.

Those numbers include 382 civilian deaths and 1,145 wounded civilians, Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here, citing casualty figures from the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The overall casualty figures dropped over the previous month of May, but the casualty figures



for June are likely to increase due to the combat to liberate Fallujah in Anbar Governorate, said UNAMI.

The UN secretary-general's special representative for Iraq, Jan Kubis, said that although there had been hope for a

period of calm during Ramadan, unfortunately the violence continued to take its toll on civilians. "We ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Pentagon Confirms Killing of Two IS Commanders in Airstrike

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon confirmed Friday that it has conducted an airstrike recently near Mosul, Iraq that killed two Islamic State military commanders.

In a statement, Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook identified the two commanders as Basim Muhammad Ahmad Sultan al-Bajari, IS deputy minister of war, and Hatim Talib al-Hamduni, an IS military commander in Mosul.

"These deaths are the latest in coalition efforts to systematically eliminate ISIL's cabinet wherever they hide, disrupting their ability to plot ex-

ternal terror attacks and hold onto the territory they use to claim legitimacy," Cook said, using another acronym for IS.

"The international coalition fighting ISIL, working with local, capable and motivated forces on the ground in Iraq and Syria, continues to make sustained progress in our campaign to deal ISIL a lasting defeat," he continued.

The progress included the liberation of the city of Fallujah, devastating strikes against IS forces fleeing the city, and the completion of the encirclement of Manbij, as well as ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

UN, Partners Call for Support for Syrians Stranded Along Border with Jordan

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations and its partners continue to call for the immediate provision of life-saving assistance to more than 85,000 Syrians estimated to be stranded along the Syrian and Jordanian border area in makeshift tented settlements, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday.

The proposed humanitarian assistance included water, food and basic health care, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here. As of July 1, the northern border with Syria remained sealed following the June 21 terrorist attack on a border command post in northeast Jordan that killed seven soldiers and injured over a dozen.

"The provision of water through a partner of the United Nations Children's ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

India Clears Acquisition of 4 U.S. Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared acquisition of four surveillance and antisubmarine warfare aircraft from the United States, in a clear sign of tighter India-U.S. strategic ties, local media reported Saturday.

The Times of India online quoted Defense Ministry sources here as saying Friday the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Modi, had cleared the acquisition of four Poseidon-8I long-range surveillance and antisubmarine warfare aircraft at a cost of over 1 billion U.S. dollars.

"The contract will be inked with Boeing in the next few days. The first P-8I will be delivered to the Navy within three years," the report quoted an unnamed source as saying.

The four new P-8I aircraft, packed with radars and weapons, will join the first ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Security Council Straw Poll of Next UN Chief Set for July 21

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council will hold the first of its three secret, non-binding straw polls on selection of the next UN secretary-general on July 21, the panel's president announced here Friday.

Ambassador Koro Bessho of Japan, who assumed the rotating Security Council presidency for July on Friday, announced the date during a briefing with reporters on the program of work for the panel during July. No dates were set for the sec-



ond and third straw polls. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will retire on Dec. 31 after serving two five-year terms and diplomats are working to make selection of his successor more transparent. "There is an agreement that we would like to move the process along as expeditiously as possible so that we can

have a decision at an early date which will make it possible for the chosen candidate to prepare to be the (next) secretary-general," Bessho ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Chinese Economy Maintained Stability Despite Continued Slowdown in Global Growth: Li

TIANJIN - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2016, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, in Tianjin.

Chinese Premier said that this is the tenth Annual Meeting of the New Champions, or the Summer Davos, as it is known. There is a Chinese saying which goes, "It takes ten years to grow a tree." If we could compare the Summer Davos to a tree, after ten years of careful nurturing, it has grown into a luxuriant tree with bountiful fruits. It has showcased to the world the process and achievements of China's reform, opening up and modernization. It has also contributed wisdom and strength to the common development and prosperity of China and the world.

When the international financial crisis broke out eight years ago, countries resorted to various policy tools

to grapple with the crisis and stimulate growth. Eight years on, recovery of the world economy has fallen far short of people's expectations: global trade and investment are lackluster; commodities and financial markets have experienced volatility from time to time; growth prospects of developed and emerging economies are diverging; and geopolitical risks and destabilizing factors are both on the rise. Just a few days ago, the UK voted to leave the EU in a referendum. This is already making an impact on the international financial markets and adding to the uncertainties in the world economy. Against such a backdrop, to promote world economic recovery and the growth of all economies, we need to make joint efforts to tackle challenges, strengthen confidence, foster a stable international environment and find solutions to address root causes of the problems we face. European countries are important partners ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Neighbour News

Iran, Turkmenistan Keen to Broaden Trade Relations: Envoy

TEHRAN - Iranian Trade Attaché to Ashgabat Rahmatollah Khorrami announced that Tehran and Ashgabat are determined to further expand their mutual cooperation, specially in trade and economic fields.

"Banking ties and easing visa issuance are top on the agenda for expansion of trade relations with Turkmenistan," Khorrami said on Saturday.

The Iranian attaché reiterated that his country is willing to develop trade relations with Turkmenistan. "Easing the visa issuance will help the Iranian businessmen go

to Turkmenistan without delay for negotiations with their Turkmen partners and augment the trade exchanges," Khorrami added.

In a relevant development in early June, Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in a meeting in Ashgabat discussed economic ties, specially in the transportation sector. During the meeting in the Turkmen capital, Akhoundi and President Berdimuhamedov discussed mutual ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

At UN, Pakistan Demands Immediate Cessation of Illegal Drone Strikes

UNITED NATIONS - Pakistan on Saturday demanded an immediate cessation of drone strikes in its territory at United Nation terming it a violation of "territorial integrity and sovereignty of states".

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to United Nations (UN) Dr Maleeha Lodhi told the UN General Assembly that the extraterritorial use of armed drones or remotely-piloted aircraft is a violation of international and humanitarian laws.

Dr Lodhi highlighted

recognition by member states of the notion that counter-terrorism measures violating territorial integrity and sovereignty of states can be counter-productive and also fuel violent extremism.

Last month, Pakistan urged the UN Human Rights Council to respond to loss of lives, human rights violations and breach of its territorial sovereignty because of drone attacks.

Speaking at a meeting of the council in Geneva, Pakistan's permanent repre ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

Chinese Envoy Calls for Int'l Cooperation on Border Control to Counter Terrorism

UNITED NATIONS - All countries must strengthen cooperation on border control and enforcement to effectively stop foreign terrorist fighters from moving across borders, said a Chinese envoy here on Friday.

Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, made the remarks at a UN General Assembly meeting on global counter-terrorism strategy.

Wu said the international community must also enhance cooperation in cracking down on terrorist financing through illegal trafficking of petro-

leum, cultural relics and narcotics. In addition, he called for strengthened cyber space regulations to combat and stop terrorist organizations from using the Internet to spread extremist ideas, recruit personnel and plan terrorist activities. In December, China promulgated its Counter-terrorism Law, noted Wu. "China will continue to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with law and maintain our national security as well as the safety and security of our people and their assets."

"China will continue to ...*(More on P4)...(31)*

No Obstacles before Further Deepening of Armenia-Tajikistan Relations: Sargsyan

YEREVAN - President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan on Saturday received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Sirodiddin Aslov.

Press office of the President informed Armenian News-NEWS.am that the President expressed the hope that the FM's visit will give new impetus to the strengthening and deepening of Armenian-Tajik relations, promote

the high-level reciprocal visits, and allow for a greater use of the great existing potential for cooperation, for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.

On behalf of Armenia, Sargsyan expressed readiness to intensify bilateral contacts and visits, and underscored that there are no obstacles before the further deepening ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

Gunmen Kill 20 Foreigners, 13 Hostages Rescued in Dhaka Restaurant Siege

DHAKA - Gunmen killed 20 foreigners by slitting throats soon after they stormed a Spanish restaurant in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, a spokesman of the Bangladesh Army said on Saturday.

Brigadier General Naim Ashfaq Chowdhury did not disclose nationality of the victims, but sources said all of the victims were foreigners. They said seven Italians

and seven Japanese were thought to be among 20 victims in the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant which the gunmen attacked on Friday night.

He told a press briefing that most of the victims were killed by slitting throats. Chowdhury said six attackers were killed during an armed raid on Saturday morning that ended the 13-hour siege in Dhaka's ...*(More on P4)...(33)*