

# Hillary Clinton Interviewed by FBI about Email Arrangement

WASHINGTON - Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee for the 2016 U.S. election Hillary Clinton was interviewed on Saturday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) about her email arrangement while she was U.S. secretary of state, according to a campaign spokesman. "Secretary Clinton gave a voluntary interview this morning about her email arrangements while she was Secretary," said campaign spokesman Nick Merrill in a statement. "She is pleased to have had the opportunity to assist the Department of Justice in bringing this review



to a conclusion," said Merrill, adding that no details of the interview would be

offered. According to The New York Times, the interview

lasted about three and a half hours at FBI Headquarters in Washington,

D.C. The long-awaited interview came as federal of-

officials were expected to soon wrap up their investigation into Clinton's personal email setup during her stint as U.S. secretary of state. It also came days after a private and impromptu meeting between former U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch early this week at the Phoenix International Airport in Arizona rekindled concerns about a potential conflict of interest while Clinton was still under federal investigation. In an apparent move to quell such concerns, Lynch said on Friday that she...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## California Governor Signs Gun-Control Laws

LOS ANGELES - California Governor Jerry Brown has signed six gun-control measures into law, according to local media reports Saturday. His signature on Friday drew criticism from conservatives who complained Sacramento was eroding Second Amendment rights, though the San Bernardino terrorist attack last December killed 14 and injured 22. The six bills signed into law will ban possession of magazines with the capacity to hold more than 10 rounds. They also requires people who already have such magazines to turn

them over to authorities. The bills put assault rifles with a feature known as a bullet button into illegal and mandate background checks when a gun is loaned to someone other than a close relative of the owner. Filing false reports of stolen guns will have tougher punishment and there will be stricter regulations for ammunition, including requirements that ammo sellers get a license, purchases be screened and transactions be recorded. California Senate President Kevin de Leon, who was author of one of the signed bills,...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Assad Endorses New Syrian Gov't

DAMASCUS - Syria's President Bashar al-Assad endorsed on Sunday the new government, which maintained many of the old ministers, according to the state news agency SANA. On June 22, al-Assad issued a decree, tasking Minister of Electricity Imad Khamis with forming the new government, as the new prime minister replacing Wael al-Halqi. With Khamis as the new prime minister, the new government brought 14 new ministers and four ministers of state to the 32-seat cabinet. Few of the key ministries



that received a change are the Information Ministry, which is now claimed by Ramez Tarjaman, the former director of the national Syrian TV, replacing Omran al-Zoubi.

The Electricity Ministry, which was headed by Khamis in the previous government, the Industry Ministry, the Economy Ministry, the Oil Ministry, and the Ministry of Finance. Major ministries were kept unchanged, as Fahed Jassem al-Fraj remains the Minister of Defense, and Walid al-Moallem continues...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## 79 People Killed in Suicide Car Bomb Attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD - The suicide car bomb attacks at a crowded commercial area in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad early Sunday has killed 79 people and wounded 133 others, an Interior Ministry source said. "Our latest report said up to 79 people were killed and 133 wounded by the suicide bomb attack in Baghdad's Karrada-Dakhil district," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Two busy commercial areas in Baghdad were hit by car bombings, with one of the attacks occurring



at about 1:00 a.m. local time (2200 GMT) when a suicide bomber detonated his car bomb at a crowded thoroughfare in Karrada-

Dakhil in southern central Baghdad, according to what the source told Xinhua earlier. The powerful blast set fire to sev-

eral nearby shops and destroyed many stalls and civilian cars at the scene which was crowded...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Gaza-Bound Turkish Aid Ship Arrives in Israel

JERUSALEM - A Turkish ship with humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza Strip docked on Sunday afternoon in Israel, as part of a deal between Turkey and Israel to normalize ties after years of tensions. The Lady Leyla docked at the Ashdod Port in southern Israel after embarking on Friday from Turkey's southern port of Mersin. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said last week that the ship is carrying 10,000 tons of supplies, including medical equipment, food, toys, and other aid. A spokesperson for Israel's Coordinator of Govern-

ment's Activities in the Territories Office said that 250 trucks would carry the shipment to Gaza in the next two days through Kerem Shalom, a border crossing on the Gaza-Israel-Egypt border. The cargo will be arriving at the Palestinian enclave just before Tuesday's Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which celebrates the end of the holy month of the Ramadan. The shipment is part of a reconciliation deal that Israel and Turkey signed on Tuesday, after six years of a diplomatic crisis between the two former allies over the...*(More on P4)...(23)*

## 9 Italians, 7 Japanese, 2 Bangladeshis, a U.S. Citizen, an Indian Among 20 Killed in Dhaka

DHAKA - Nine Italians, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, a Bangladeshi-born U.S. citizen and an Indian female were killed in the attack on a Spanish restaurant in Bangladesh capital Dhaka popular with foreigners. An official at the Bangladesh Army's Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed the nationalities of the victims to Xinhua on late Saturday. He said Nine Italians, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, an Indian and a Bangladeshi-born U.S. citizen were among the 20 people hacked to death by the terrorists who burst into the restaurant on Friday night. The official who preferred to be unnamed said the victims include 10 males and...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## Over 35,000 Americans Killed as Traffic Deaths on Rise in 2015

WASHINGTON - An estimated 35,200 Americans died in traffic accidents in 2015, an increase of 7.7 percent from a year before, according to newly-released government data. Nine out of 10 regions within the United States had increased traffic deaths in 2015, shows the preliminary data released Friday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The NHTSA is analyzing the data to determine what factors contributed to the increase in traffic fatalities while aggressively testing new safety technologies and new ways to improve driver behavior, said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. Improved economy and falling gas prices were believed to be among major reasons for the increased traffic deaths in the United States last year. However, NHTSA head Mark Rosekind said that improved economy only explains...*(More on P4)...(25)*

## China Issues Warning on Geological Disasters

BEIJING - China's weather authorities on Saturday evening warned of possible geological disasters in the south and southwest of the country as heavy rain offers no respite for the region. The National Meteorological Center (NMC) and the Ministry of Water Resources warned of high risks of mountain torrents in parts of Anhui, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Yunnan and Tibet from Saturday evening to Sunday evening, suggesting residents take necessary



precautions. The NMC on Saturday evening renewed its orange alert, the second highest of the four-tier warning system, for storms, forecasting torrential rain in

parts of Anhui, Jiangsu, Hubei, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guizhou and Guangxi from Saturday evening to Sunday evening, with precipitation reaching 280 millimeters in some

areas. China has a four-tier color-coded warning system for severe weather, with red being the most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue. (Xinhua)

## Hezbollah Fighters Kill Senior IS Leader near Border

BEIRUT - Lebanon's Shiite militant movement Hezbollah destroyed two Islamic State (IS) positions entrenched on the outskirts of the border town of Ras Baalbek and al-Zwaitinah, killing a highly ranked official of the extremist group, Hezbollah's al-Manar TV station said Saturday. Abu Khatib and members of his company were killed in their com-

mand center in the area of al-Zwaitinah, on the outskirts of Al-Qaa and neighboring Ras Baalbek, the report said. Hezbollah fighters posted a video showing guided missiles destroying two bunkers hundreds of meters apart in the barren region that comprised the command center. Militants from the al-Qaida-linked al-Nusra Front and the...*(More on P4)...(26)*

## Election of New AU Commission Chairperson among Top Activities at AU Summit

ADDIS ABABA - Election of new chairperson and deputy chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission is among the major activities of the upcoming AU summit scheduled to take place July 10-18 in Kigali, Rwanda. The summit to be held under the theme, "Year of Human Rights, with a particular focus on the Rights of Women," will also elect

new commissioners and other officials. AU has briefed a cross section of African society and international organizations on the forthcoming 27th AU summit and key events, according to a statement from the pan-African bloc on Saturday. Addressing almost 100 participants at the Oxfam-organized forum in Ethiopia's...*(More on P4)...(27)*

## Neighbour News

### U.S. Senator Calls for Strong Ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Chairman of the U.S. Senate Arms Services Committee, Senator John McCain, on Saturday called for close ties with Pakistan at a time when relationship is under pressure over several issues. McCain arrived in Pakistan on Saturday as the head of a congressional delegation including senator Lindsey Graham and senator Joe Donnelly for talks on how to reduce tensions between the two countries. The U.S. Congress blocked Pakistan's purchase of subsidized F-16 fighter aircraft for its fight against insurgents in the difficult mountainous terrain in early May.

The administration was to pay 430 million U.S. dollars in subsidies through the U.S. foreign military's financing budget of the jets valued at nearly 700 million dollars. Pakistan's share was only 270 million dollars. The decision had disappointed Pakistan as the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama had provisionally approved the sale of eight F-16s in February. On May 21, a U.S. spy aircraft killed the Afghan Taliban chief, Mullah Akhtar Mansour in Pakistan's Balochistan province that sparked angry reaction in the country. Pakistan said the U.S. ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

### US Seeking Pretexts to Stall Iran's Economy: MP

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian lawmaker says the United States is looking for pretexts to stall the growth of the Islamic Republic's economy. Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi on Sunday dismissed the recent claims by US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tehran's support for terrorism. "Since the US is regarded as an established enemy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is looking for pretexts with regard to Iran's economic issues and activities under the current circumstances," Boroujerdi said. He added that such measures by the US to impede Iran's economic growth

would bear no fruit. "The Americans are clearly among the blatant examples of state terrorism and supporters of terrorist measures and extremist groups in the world. They, however, have an unreal view of the Islamic Republic," the Iranian lawmaker said. Boroujerdi criticized the US double-standard policies on the fight against terrorism, saying that Washington uses every means to counter Tehran. "The United States regards itself as the symbol of the fight against terrorism, on the one hand, but it provides terrorist groups in the [Middle East] region with full support, on the other," he pointed out. The...*(More on P4)...(29)*

### Tajikistan Looking for Yet More Bailouts

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's National Bank is once again pleading for an international bailout as the country's lending sector remains mired in an existential crisis. At a meeting with a visiting European Bank for Reconstruction and Development delegation, National Bank deputy chairman Jamoliddin Nuraliyev appealed for assistance to the country's systemically important banks. "It is necessary to carry out remedial work in some of the lending institutions," Nuraliyev said, according to a National Bank statement. "I urge the executive directors of the EBRD during their coming board meetings

to support proposals from the National Bank." Nuraliyev did not specify what those proposals were, but given that Tajikistan suffers from chronic liquidity problems, it is not hard to guess: Tajikistan desperately needs for its banks to be recapitalized. The National Bank has already obtained assurances that the EBRD is to take a controlling stake in Tojikisodirobank, the country's second largest bank. The situation at that bank is grim. People who draw their salaries at the bank have had no joy for the best part of half a year and ATMs only began issuing money in June, after a hiatus lasting several months. For what it's...*(More on P4)...(30)*

### Turkmenistan Pardons over 600 Prisoners

ALMATY - Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov has pardoned 612 prisoners including 26 foreign citizens ahead of festivities marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, state media reported. A state television report in the gas-rich country noted Berdimukhamedov had signed the order of amnesty "to further strengthen the unity and solidarity of Turkmen society." The report did not clarify the nationalities of foreign prisoners released under the amnesty but Turkmenistan's prisons are known to hold citizens of neighbouring countries convicted of smuggling and trafficking offences. Last year the government

passed a law excluding prisoners convicted of drug trafficking from state amnesties. The ex-Soviet country, which rights groups regularly list as one of the world's least free states, often carries out pardons ahead of major state holidays. On Thursday a number of prominent rights groups signed a letter addressed to Berdimukhamedov asking him to release a local journalist incarcerated for almost a year on narcotics charges. Saparmamed Nespikuliev who worked for Radio Free Europe's Turkmen service was convicted on the "fabricated" charges on Aug.31 and has not been in contact with relatives since September, the letter stated. (Gulf today)