

Brexit Vote to Worsen UK, EU Economic Outlook: EU

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) downgraded its economic outlook for the United Kingdom and the rest of the bloc on Tuesday, saying the Brexit vote ushered in uncertainty and would weigh on growth. The gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the 19-country eurozone is expected to slow to between 1.3 and 1.5 percent in 2016 from the previously estimated 1.7 percent in May. The same growth figures are expected for next year. This implies a loss of GDP



of 0.25 to 0.5 percent by the UK (1.0 to 2.75 percent), the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm. "The UK's 'leave' vote is expected to slow

private consumption and investment and impact on foreign trade," it noted. The report warned that the UK's referendum had created an "extraordinarily uncertain situation," which is likely to prevail for some time, and would affect not only the UK but also the rest of the EU economy through several transmission channels, mainly uncertainty, investment, trade, and migration. The increased uncertainty in the UK and other member... (More on P4)... (18)

UN Criticizes Britain, Germany for Undermining Paris Climate Deal

LONDON - Fossil fuel subsidies from the British and German governments have undermined the spirit of the Paris climate deal aimed at reducing emissions worldwide and limiting global average temperatures, the UN climate change envoy said Monday. Mary Robinson, former Irish president and UN special envoy on climate change and El Nino, said she had to speak out after Germany's compensation for coal power and British tax breaks for oil and gas. "The British government



introduced new tax breaks for oil and gas in 2015 that will cost the UK taxpayer billions between 2015 and 2020, and at the same time they have cut support for renewables and for energy efficiency," Robinson told The Guardian newspaper. "It's regrettable. That's not in the spirit (of Paris)," she said. "In many ways, the UK was a real leader (on climate change) and hopefully the UK will become again a real leader. But it's not at the moment." ... (More on P4)... (19)

UN Chief's Report Violates JCPOA Spirit: Iran

TEHRAN - Iran says the latest report by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the implementation of last July's nuclear agreement between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group of countries violates the letter and spirit of the deal. Speaking ahead of a scheduled meeting of the UN Security Council in New York on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Qasemi, dismissed as unbalanced and biased the UN chief's report about the implementation of the council's Resolution 2231 that endorsed the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "This report runs counter to the letter and spirit of the JCPOA and even the Resolution 2231," Qasemi said, adding, "This report has been drawn up under obvious pressure by the US on the United Nations secretary and the allegations made in it against Iran are baseless." On July 7, Reuters quoted a confidential report by the UN secretary general as ... (More on P4)... (20)

Obama Administration Asks Supreme Court to Reconsider Landmark Immigration Plan

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Justice Department on Monday filed a request to the Supreme Court for a review of its plan to protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation. The Department argued in its filing that the immigration case is so important that it hopes the Supreme Court will rehear the case when it has the full complement of nine justices. "This filing is consistent with historical practice and reflects the need for prompt and definitive resolution of this impor-

tant case," Justice Department spokeswoman Melanie Newman said in a statement. On June 23, the Supreme Court, in a 4-4 split vote, left intact a lower court ruling to block the implementation of the immigration plan, or Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents. Under the plan unveiled in late 2014, about 4 million undocumented immigrants would be protected from deportation and issued work permits if they have lived in the U.S. ... (More on P4)... (21)

Close to 3,000 Mediterranean Migrant Deaths Recorded this Year: IOM

GENEVA - The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported Tuesday that some 2,954 migrants and refugees have drowned attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea this year. Most of these deaths (2,526) have taken place on the Central Mediterranean route linking North Africa with Italy. A further 383 individuals have perished on the Eastern Mediterranean passage separating Turkey and Greece while 45 migrants have died on the Western Mediterranean and Western African



routes. This year's death toll is significantly higher than fatality figures over the same period in 2015, when 1,906 migrant and refugee deaths were re-

corded through July 30. The number of arrivals so far this year however is similar to that registered over the same period a year ago. According to statistics, 240,884 migrants have reached European shores in 2016, up from 220,054 maritime entries between January and July last year. (Xinhua)

Aust'n DM Heads to U.S. for Counter-Islamic State Meetings

CANBERRA - Australian Defence Minister (DMO) Marise Payne on Tuesday left Canberra bound for Washington D.C., where she will meet with counterparts at a counter-Islamic State (IS) meeting later this week. Payne said the meeting would focus on "accelerating efforts" to defeat IS in the Middle East -- a conflict in which Australia has already played a "significant role." "I will represent Australia at the Counter-Daesh Defence Ministers' meeting in Washington on July

20," a statement released by the defence minister read. "The discussion will focus on accelerating efforts to defeat (IS) in Iraq and Syria and to stop the expansion of Daesh's global networks. "Australia is committed to playing a significant role in making the world a safer place, reflecting our values and our role as a responsible, active, global citizen." Payne said the meeting would provide a platform for the world's defence ministers to come up with



a plan for the "next phase" of the war on terror. "This is an important opportunity to review the progress that has been

made in the military campaign against Daesh and to plan for the next phase of the campaign," she said. (Xinhua)

DPRK Test-Fires 3 Short-Range Missiles in Show of Force

SEOUL - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday test-fired three short-range ballistic missiles in a show of force against the decision between Seoul and Washington to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) to South Korean soil. Yonhap news agency quoted South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) as saying that the DPRK fired off three ballistic missiles, which are believed to have been a Scud-C type, from the western region of Hwangju in North Hwanghae province between 5:45 a.m. and 6:05 a.m. The missiles were directed toward the East Sea, traveling about 500 to 600 kilometers, which are a flight enough to reach the entire South Korean territory. The test-launch came six days after Seoul and Washington agreed to deploy one THAAD battery to the Seongju county, some 250 km southeast of Seoul, by the end of next year. The DPRK's military threatened to take "physical measures" against THAAD when the deployment site is determined in response to the THAAD deployment decision. (Xinhua)

Japan Protests against DPRK's Missile Launches

TOKYO - The Japanese government on Tuesday protested against missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) earlier in the morning, warning further military threats possible. The Japanese government released a statement on Tuesday morning, saying DPRK's missile launches violate UN Security Council resolutions, which bans DPRK's development of nuclear and missile technologies. The statement also vowed to step up co-

ordination with South Korea, the United States and other related countries to deal with the matter. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday directed relevant departments to thoroughly gather and analyze information on missile launches by DPRK. Meanwhile, Japan's Defense Minister Nakatani denounced the launches as provocative act that harm the peace and security of the global community, saying they absolutely cannot be accepted. (Xinhua)

New Anti-HIV Vaccine Presented at 2016 International AIDS Conference

DURBAN - Current and forthcoming studies of vaccines to prevent HIV infection were presented at the ongoing 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) in Durban. These included information on advances in the development of novel vaccines, and in the field of antibody mediated prevention (AMP), it was revealed at the conference on Tuesday. Interim immunology re-

sults open the way for the first major HIV vaccine efficacy study in seven years, scientists say. Participants at AIDS 2016 heard results from the HVTN 100 study, conducted by the US-based HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) in partnership with South African research sites. HVTN 100 tested the immune responses of South African study volunteers ... (More on P4)... (22)

S.Korea Denounces DPRK's Missile Launch Provocation

SEOUL - South Korea's military on Tuesday denounced the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for its test-launch of ballistic missiles, which came in protest against the decision between Seoul and Washington to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) to South Korean soil. An official with South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) told a regular briefing of the defense ministry that the DPRK's missile

launches were a provocative act threatening South Korea's national security and safety of its people, slamming Pyongyang's repeated "reckless provocations." The denunciation came after Pyongyang test-fired three short-range ballistic missiles earlier in the morning in an apparent show of force to protest against the THAAD deployment decision. The DPRK fired off three ... (More on P4)... (23)

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Pakistani Court Orders Confiscation of Musharraf's Bank Accounts

ISLAMABAD - A court in Pakistan on Tuesday ordered confiscation of all property and bank accounts of former President Pervez Musharraf for not appearing in a high treason case, lawyers said. Pervez Musharraf, who quit in 2008, faces high treason charges for abrogating the country's constitution when he imposed emergency rule in 2007. He had dismissed the government of Nawaz Sharif in 1999 in a bloodless coup. Musharraf had gone to UAE for treatment in March this year and is still living there. The three-member special court, hearing the high treason case against Musharraf, instructed the State Bank of Pakistan to freeze all

accounts of the former leader and inform the court. The court also asked the revenue departments across Pakistan to confiscate assets of the former President. Musharraf's defence lawyer Faisal Chaudhry told the court the former President had gifted all his assets to his wife and daughter and the gifted assets could not be confiscated. He said he will challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. The court rejected request by the prosecution to continue the hearing in the absence of the accused. Justice Mazhar Alam Mian who heads the court said the case will not be heard unless Musharraf is arrested and produced in the court. (Xinhua)

Chinese, ASEAN Leaders Hail 25th Anniversary of Dialogue Relationship

BEIJING - Leaders of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday exchanged congratulations to mark the 25th anniversary of the dialogue relationship between the two sides. In a congratulatory message sent to Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sissoulith, the ASEAN's rotating chair, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang noted that China and ASEAN are friendly neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. China became ASEAN's dialogue partner in 1991. The two sides established a strategic partnership in 2003 and built the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2010. In the message, the Chinese premier said since

the establishment of the dialogue relationship 25 years ago, the two sides have maintained mutual respect, understanding, trust and support. The China-ASEAN relations have withstood various tests and the two-way cooperation has achieved plentiful fruits, bringing tangible benefits to the peoples of both sides, and setting up a paradigm of equal treatment and common development between countries of different sizes, Li said. China congratulates the formal establishment of ASEAN Community and is glad to see a peace-loving, prosperous and vigorous ASEAN play a bigger role in international and regional affairs, he added. (Xinhua)

Iran Plans to Export Gas to Georgia in near Future

TEHRAN - Iran will start natural gas exports to Georgia in near future, said an Iranian energy official, reported Tasnim news agency on Monday. A supply station and a border village used for gas delivering from Iran to Armenia would be adopted for delivery to Georgia, managing director of National Iranian Gas Exports Company, Alireza Kameli,

He mentioned that the gas metering station in Nurduz, bordering Armenia, has sufficient capacity for the delivery to Georgia. Reports said that Iran has built a pipeline of 113 kilometers from northwestern city of Tabriz to Nurduz. And Armenia completed construction of the gas pipeline inside its territory in 2007. (Xinhua)

Uzbekistan Once again Reminds Tajikistan about Danger of Rogun Plant Construction

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev sent a letter to his Tajik counterpart Kohir Ruzulzoda on Tuesday, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said in a message. In his letter, Mirziyoyev expressed the Uzbek side's concern over the information on the conclusion of a framework agreement between the government of Tajikistan and Salini Impregilo company for the construction of the Rogun hydropower plant. "We consider it necessary to once again draw your attention to the fact that the exploration on the construction site, comprehensive international assessment of the project, carried out

under the auspices of the World Bank (WB), confirmed that the construction of the Rogun hydropower plant is associated with the huge threats to the entire Central Asian region," the letter said. According to the letter, the WB refused to finance the construction of the Rogun hydropower plant realizing the enormous technological, environmental, social and economic risks in the project. According to the document, the Rogun plant construction project was worked out in the 1970s. The project needs reconsidering in accordance with modern requirements and experience. (Trend)