

Majority of Germans Want UK to Remain in EU, Poll Finds

BERLIN - A new poll indicates that a large majority of Germans would prefer Britain to remain a member of the European Union. The survey released Friday by public broadcaster ZDF found that 67 percent of respondents want the United Kingdom to stay in the 28-nation bloc. Eight percent of respondents favored



a so-called Brexit in ed by polling group Wahlen. Some 23 per- they don't feel strongly either way, while two

percent said they don't know. The poll of 1,292 voters was conducted by phone from May 31 to June 2. The margin of error was between two and three percentage points. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said she hopes Britain will choose to remain in the EU in a June 23 referendum. (AP)

UN Envoy Warns Austerity Policies Hitting the Poor Hardest

BRUSSELS - The U.N.'s expert on debt and human rights says economic austerity policies are hitting poor people hard in Greece and Spain and undermining social rights in the European Union. U.N. envoy Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky said Friday that it's not acceptable when people "no longer have the means to buy adequate food, lose access to essential medical



services or cannot keep a roof over their head." He noted a "massive violation of social and economic rights in Greece" exacerbated by austerity measures the debt-stricken country has introduced to satisfy international lenders. Bohoslavsky called on the ... (More on P4)...(22)

Syria Insurgents Launch Assault Against Government Forces Near Aleppo

BEIRUT - Syrian Islamist insurgents attacked government forces and their allies in the country's northwest on Friday where the same factions recently waged a fierce assault that inflicted heavy losses, monitors said. The insurgents, including fighters from the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front, had already captured one village just two hours after beginning the latest attack southwest of Aleppo,

the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Government forces were responding with shelling and heavy air strikes in the area, near the town of Khan Touman, the British-based monitoring group said. Nusra Front spearheaded an attack on Khan Touman last month, delivering one of the biggest battlefield setbacks yet to a coalition of foreign fighters... (More on P4)...(30)

Neighbor News

CSTO Provides Nearly \$10 Million Worth of Humanitarian Aid to Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) provided nearly US\$10 million worth of humanitarian aid to Tajikistan during the period from July 2015 to May 2016, according to the CSTO Secretariat. In all, six 20-ton dump trucks MAZ, 3,335 tons of food products, 1,190 tons of building materials, fuels, and other materials have been delivered to Tajikistan over the report period. We will recall that mudslides and floods caused by rains and melting glaciers in July 2015 destroyed dozens of houses, trade and cultural facilities, electricity lines, and an irrigation systems in the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) and Rasht Valley (eastern Tajikistan). Besides, heavy rains throughout Tajikistan last month triggered floods and mudslides killing five persons, affecting ... (More on P4)...(21)

Chatter Surrounds Turkmenistan's Gas Export Plans

ASHGABAT - Earlier this week, Crossroads Asia took a look at the current, and declining, state of affairs within the China-Central Asia gas pipeline network. As the recent news out of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the project appears effectively stalled, confirming news out of Uzbekistan earlier this year. As the news of Line D's delay hit, though, Beijing offered a bit more context as to how the delay may affect China's regional gas imports, and what the current state of affairs mean for Turkmenistan, the country that supplies the pipeline network. As flagged by Natural Gas Europe, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) announced last week that, since 2009, Chinese imports of Turkmen gas had totaled nearly 140 billion cubic meters. China, which supplanted Russia as the primary export destination for ... (More on P4)...(31)

New Permanent Seats in UNSC won't Make it More Representative: Pakistan

NEW YORK - Reiterating its firm opposition to expanding the United Nations Security Council's permanent members, Pakistan has questioned how adding new permanent seats to the 15-member body could enhance its representativeness and effectiveness. Speaking in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform, Pakistan's Permanent to Maleeha Lodhi said no cogent answer has ever been given to how the move would make the Security Council more representative. Adding new permanent members would in fact have the opposite effect, the Pakistani envoy said. Calling for comprehensive reform of the Security Council, Ambassador Lodhi warned against a piecemeal approach and argued that the negotiating process must be member-state driven, aimed at achieving the widest possible ... (More on P4)...(24)

Leader Urges Iranians to Preserve Revolutionary Spirit

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on Iranians to preserve their "revolutionary spirit" with which they drove the enemies out of the country some 38 years ago. Ayatollah Khamenei addressed more than one million mourners in southern Tehran on Friday to mark the 27th anniversary of the passing away of Imam Khomeini who ended a pro-Western monarchy in Iran in 1979. "We have many small and big enemies, but foremost among them are America and this very evil Britain," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader touched on the history of US hostility with Iran, including its support for Saddam Hussein in the war on the Islamic Republic, US downing of an Iranian passenger plane, its attack on Iranian oil platforms and a CIA coup in Iran. "Any individual or current which is working for Islam, if they trust America, they will be slapped in the face," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader said enmity with Iran stems from its ... (More on P4)...(27)

China, Russia Vow to Boost Military Ties

SINGAPORE - Admiral Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, met with Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov here Friday and the two sides pledged to step up military cooperation. Sun, who met Antonov on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, said that the two countries have seen a sound development trend in military cooperation, as the overall relations between the two sides are running well. He said the two sides are both facing with a more complicated international security situation and closer mutual cooperation is in need. Antonov praised the effective cooperation between the two defense ministries and expressed the willingness to join hands with China in the fight against security threats including terrorism. Antonov also vowed to deepen the mutual military cooperation under the ... (More on P4)...(29)

117 Bodies of Migrants Washed Ashore in Libya

TRIPOLI - Bodies of at least 117 migrants were washed ashore in the western Libyan city of Zwarah after their boat sank on the way to Europe, Libyan navy spokesman revealed on Friday. Ayob Qasem said that the number is likely to increase, as the boats that carry illegal immigrants to Europe usually carry 125 people. In a statement on Thursday, Zwarah's municipality council condemned "leniency and inaction of the state institutions and international organizations" towards the migrant crisis in the city. "The municipality of



Zwarah holds the officials of the Libya institutions and international organization responsible for the failure to provide assistance to fight this phenomenon." According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, at least 880 migrants died on the way to Europe this week. Smugglers take advantage of the state of chaos and insecurity in Libya to send thousands of migrants to Europe. Thousands of migrants chose to cross the Mediterranean towards Europe from Libya, many of whom died on the way. (Xinhua)

EU Leaders have Gone Against Own People on Migrant Issue: Hungarian PM

BUDAPEST - The European Union's leaders have gone against their own people on the migrant issue and have to revisit their policies, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on national public radio Kossuth on Friday. Orban was referring to what he says is the EU leadership's policy of accepting asylum seekers despite protests from residents. Orban also called on Europe's leaders to rethink their foreign policy. He noted that in recent years Europe had intervened in three countries -- Iraq, Syria, and Libya -- and all three have collapsed, resulting in chaos and mil-



lions of refugees. He called this "democracy export" madness, pointing out that the attempt to introduce European cultural concepts and methods to improve the civilizations and culture of peoples who think ... (More on P4)...(23)

Trump Protesters, Supporters Clash Outside California Rally

CALIFORNIA - Scuffles broke out between supporters of U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump and protesters on Thursday before and after the Republican spoke at a rally in San Jose, California. Videos posted on Twitter and online by local and national media showed clashes in the street outside of the San Jose Convention Center, where demonstrators fought and threw punches at each other. Hundreds of protesters waved Mexican flags, chanted anti-Trump slogans and burned Trump hats and at least one American flag outside of the rally, where Trump, to the delight of his supporters, vowed to stop illegal drugs from coming into the United States from the south, to build a wall on the U.S. border and have Mexico pay the bill. "We are going to build that wall, don't even think about it," he said gave two thumbs up as his supporters chanted "build that wall." Protests have become common outside rallies for Trump, the party's presumptive nominee, who has polarized opinion with his rhetoric against illegal immigration. He abandoned a rally in Chicago in March after clashes between his supporters and protesters. "Violence against supporters of any candidate has no place in this election," John Podesta, the Clinton campaign chairman, wrote on Twitter in response to the clashes. Footage ... (More on P4)...(28)

China "Dissatisfied" with U.S. Report on Terrorism

BEIJING - China is dissatisfied with the false accounts relating to China in a U.S. State Department report on terrorism, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Friday. In the "Country Reports on Terrorism 2015," the U.S. blamed China for primarily focusing on the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in its international counterterrorism. The report alleged that China has implemented stricter controls and curbs on religious practice in Xinjiang Uygur



Autonomous Region, and that there is a lack of transparency and information provided by China about violent incidents in China that the government characterized as terrorism. "China is dissatisfied with the false accounts relating to China, and regrets the unobjective remarks concerning China-U.S. counterterrorism cooperation," Hua said at a regular news briefing. "... (More on P4)...(25)

Turks Protest in Ankara Against German "Genocide" Recognition

ANKARA - Around 40 people from two Turkish organizations gathered outside the German Embassy in Ankara on Friday, protesting the German parliament's resolution recognizing an Armenian "genocide" during the World War I. The protesters are affiliated with the Turkish Modern Women Association and Turkey Union of Public Employees. On Thursday, the German parliament passed a resolution recognizing the World War I-era killings of Anatolian Armenians at the hands of Ottomans as "genocide." Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) signed a joint declaration on Thursday rejecting the German move. "We strongly condemn the resolution that is based on groundless Armenian allegations. The resolution has no historical or legal validity," read the joint declaration. ... (More on P4)...(26)

Russian Arms Export Agency's Portfolio Reaches \$48 Bln

MOSCOW - The export portfolio of Rosoboronexport, the Russian state arms exporter, has reached 48 billion U.S. dollars, the CEO of State Corporation Rostec, Sergey Chemizov, said Friday. Rosoboronexport is the sole state intermediary agency for Russian exports and imports of defense-related and dual use products, technologies and services also form part of Rostec. "It supplied arms worth 115 billion U.S. dollars to 116 countries within these 15 years," Chemizov said in an interview with Kommersant, a local Russian newspaper. Rosoboronexport has about 50 offices around the world and is responsible for over 85 percent of Russia's arms and military technology exports. (Xinhua)

Collaboration between SAARC Development Fund (SDF) SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)

KALUTARA, Sri Lanka - Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO of SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and Suraj Vaidya, President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) have jointly announced to work together for regional integration and economic cooperation among the SAARC Member States through project collaboration and co-financing of projects under the three windows of SDF. Both the organizations are committed towards



the idea of promoting regional connectivity across the SAARC region by strengthening cooperation in the areas of transportation, infrastructure development and investment & trade through co-funding. This was decided during the conference "South Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm or Growth" organized by SCCI at Kaluatra, Sri Lanka. Dr. Motiwal was invited by SCCI as one of the speakers of this important event. (PR)