

# UN Urges Protection of Children in Conflicts, Disasters

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations on Monday urged protection of children in conflicts and disasters, making a strong call for the end of the scourge. The United Nations International Labor Organization (ILO) warns children in areas affected by conflicts and disasters are among the most vulnerable, especially as children trapped in crisis risk falling prey to trafficking or being forced into hazardous work, on the World Day Against Child Labor. "All children have the right to be protected from child labor," ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said in a statement on the World Day. "Yet, around the world, there are still 168 million children in child labor. Eighty-five million



of them are engaged in hazardous work," he added. A significant number of the children are undertaking dangerous work, living in areas affected by conflicts and disasters and they are the focus of the 2017 Commemoration of the World Day, marked annually on June 12. As the world strives to achieve the elimination of child labor by 2025, the UN underlines that conflicts and disasters have a devastating impact on people's lives. They kill, maim, injure and force people to flee their homes; destroy livelihoods, push people into poverty and starvation, and trap many in situations without basic safeguard for their rights. (Xinhua)

## Macron's Camp Urges Voter Participation while Set to Win Big in Election

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party has urged voters who had stayed away to cast their vote in the second and final round of the country's parliamentary election after winning a sweeping majority in the first round on Sunday. Final results released by the Interior Ministry have shown that Macron's party (LREM) and its ally MoDem took a big lead in the parliamentary election's first round, with 32.32 percent of the bal-

lots cast, suggesting the novice president's camp is on course to land an absolute majority in the lower house of parliament in a runoff. Alone, LREM garnered 28.21 percent of the votes, making a majority with more than 400 seats in reach for the multiform movement that Macron had created only one year ago. However, fewer than half of the 47 million eligible voters cast their ballots in the first round, the lowest level by far in a legislative election in the



fifth Republic, raising concerns that the low turnout would weaken Macron's advantage. The lower turnout was mainly attributed to two

major reasons -- too intensive election arrangements, and the public's doubt over the French-style democracy and its effectiveness. (Xinhua)

## Putin Signs Order to Approve Anti-Doping Measures before June 20

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed an order for a set of anti-doping measures that the government shall approve before June 20, the Kremlin said Tuesday. The national anti-doping plan for sports was adopted by Russia's Independent Public Anti-Doping Commission on Feb. 1, 2017, according to the order published on the Kremlin's website. A number of Russian athletes were banned from participating in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. The

whole Russian team was also prohibited from taking part in the later Paralympic Games, following an investigation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that had disclosed a wide use of doping among Russian athletes. The Russian authorities took a series of measures aimed at preventing doping in Russian sports circles in the wake of the prohibition, such as establishing the Independent Anti-Doping Commission in July 2016, so as to prevent the abuse of prohibited substances in sports. (Xinhua)

## Some 3,000 Migrants Rescued Between Europe, North African Coast: IOM

GENEVA - The UN migration agency IOM reported on Tuesday that since last Friday, over 3,000 migrants and refugees have been rescued between Europe and the North African coast. However, IOM cited its Rome office as saying that at least 61 migrants who had been on board remained missing at sea. According to the latest IOM figure, issued on Tuesday, a total of 73,189 migrants and refugees entered Europe

by sea in 2017 through June 11, with almost 85 percent arriving in Italy and the remainder divided between Greece, Cyprus and Spain. This compares with 211,433 arrivals across the region through June 11, 2016. Also on Tuesday IOM said that worldwide it has documented 2,524 migrant fatalities through June 11 this year, with the Mediterranean region accounting for over 70 percent of the deaths. (Xinhua)

## Putin Says Washington Nervous about Russia Joining NATO

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin once raised the issue of the country's possible accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), but Washington was clearly nervous about the idea, according to a Tuesday report by the RIA Novosti news agency. In a released clip of an interview with American film director Oliver Stone, Putin recalled that he inquired about Russia joining the alliance when then U.S. President Bill Clinton visited Moscow in 2000. "During the meeting I

said: 'Let's consider an option that Russia might join NATO,'" Putin recalled. "Clinton said 'Why not?' But the U.S. delegation got very nervous." "Why did our partner get nervous? Because if Russia joins NATO, it will always have a voice. We would not allow us to be manipulated. But our U.S. friends do not even allow a thought about this," Putin said in the interview with Stone. Such disclosures were from a series of interviews with Putin by Stone in 2015-17. The full content is scheduled to be shown



in the United States beginning Monday. Putin also said in the interview that the United States is "using terrorists" to wobble the domestic

political situation in Russia, and what happened in Chechnya was an example of U.S. meddling. "The Cold War is in the past. (Xinhua)

## EU Moves to Gain Control of Key London Financial Market

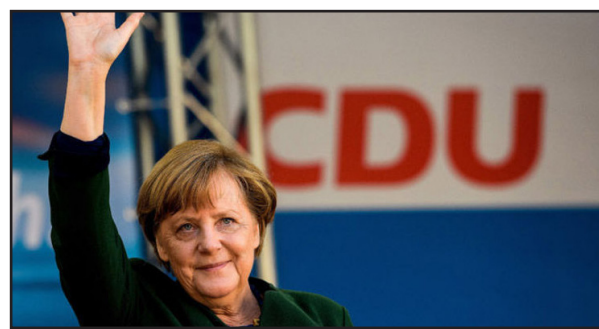
LONDON - The European Union is moving ahead with new rules that could force a key financial market to leave London once Britain exits the bloc. The European Commission, the EU's executive body, proposed Tuesday to tighten its oversight of companies that clear euro-denominated derivatives, a market currently dominated by U.K.-based firms. The draft regulations would force any firm considered important to the EU financial system to accept direct oversight from the bloc and, if requested, relocate to within the EU. The move affects tens of thousands of jobs in Britain, where three-fourths of euro-denominated interest rate derivatives are cleared. (AP)

## EU to Launch Action Against 3 Countries over Refugee Plan

BRUSSELS - The European Union warned the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland on Tuesday that they have 24 hours to start taking in refugees under an EU sharing plan or face legal action. The European Commission said in a statement that it has repeatedly urged the three countries to relocate refugees or at least pledge to do so under the legally-binding refugee plan agreed two years ago. But it said they haven't taken action "in breach of their legal obligations," and that it "has decided to launch infringement procedures." The plan to share 160,000 refugees in overwhelmed Italy and Greece among other European countries over two years was endorsed in September 2015 by a qualified majority vote. (AP)

## Brexit Prompts Record Number of Brits to Apply for German Citizenship

BERLIN - The German Federal Statistical Office reported Tuesday that the number of British citizens who were naturalized as German citizens in the country rose to a record high of 2,865 in 2016. An increase of 2,200 successful applications or 361 percent compared to the previous year, the striking figure highlighted another possible effect of Britain's decision to leave the European Union in the June 2016 referendum. In the event of a so-called "Hard Brexit" scenario, in which Britain leaves the European Union as well as its single market, British citizens are likely to lose their right



to live and work across the 27 member states of the European Union. In total, 110,400 individuals were naturalized as German citizens in 2016, a year on year increase of 2.9 percent. The largest national group of those who received a German passport were Turks with 16,290 naturalizations. However, that num-

ber marked a decrease of 16.9 percent compared to 2015. The second largest national group, Poles, recorded an increase of 11.3 percent to reach 6632 naturalizations. According to the statistics presented, on average naturalized citizens were 33 years of age and had resided in Germany for 17 years. (Xinhua)

## Brexit 'Uncertainty' Can't Go on: EU's Verhofstadt

STRASBOURG, France - Britain must quickly end the "uncertainty" over Brexit talks caused by a chaotic election result, the European Parliament's Brexit pointman, Guy Verhofstadt, said Tuesday. The former Belgian premier also urged embattled Prime Minister Theresa May to back away from a "hard Brexit" following her disastrous poll showing last week. "We are impatiently waiting for the negotiating position of the UK government. The current uncertainty cannot continue," Verhofstadt said on Twitter. Brexit negotiations had been due to start

next Monday, but that timetable has been thrown into doubt by May's disastrous loss of parliamentary majority last Thursday. Verhofstadt is the official Brexit negotiator for the European Parliament, which will have the final say on any deal on future relations after Britain leaves the EU in 2019. Verhofstadt said Britain must urgently either confirm the positions she outlined in its March 29 letter triggering the two-year Brexit process, "or they open the game in another direction, that's their responsibility." (AFP)

## White House Defends Trump over Lawsuit on Violation of Anti-Corruption Rules

WASHINGTON - U.S. capital city Washington D.C. and nearby state Maryland on Monday filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump, alleging he violated clauses in the Constitution by accepting millions of U.S. dollars in payments and benefits from foreign governments since his inauguration.

The lawsuit, the first of its kind brought by government entities, was launched by Washington D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine and his Maryland counterpart Brian Frosh. It claims Trump violated two anti-corruption rules in the Constitution that prohibit the president from pulling in profits from businesses he owns, controls or prospers from.

"An emoluments lawsuit against Trump has been filed by D.C. and Maryland. It is time to open a House Judiciary Committee inquiry," Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democratic member of the committee, tweeted. In response, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer attacked the lawsuit as motivated by "partisan politics" during his daily press briefing. "This lawsuit is just another iteration of the case filed by that group CREW, filed by the same lawyers," Spicer said, referring to a government watchdog group that first sued Trump over the issue in January. "It's not hard to conclude that partisan politics may be more the motivations behind the scenes," he added. (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### China, Germany Hold Security Dialogue to Strengthen Cooperation

BEIJING - China and Germany held their first high-level security dialogue in Beijing Tuesday, with both countries agreeing to deepen security communication and cooperation. The meeting was co-chaired by Wang Yongqing, secretary-general of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Klaus-Dieter Fritsche, Germany's State Secretary of Intelligence of the Federal Chancellery.

During the dialogue, the two sides exchanged views on the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as international and regional security issues. Chinese and German delegates reached important consensus on cooperation in fields such as fighting terrorist threats, illegal immigrants, and organized crime. The second high-level security dialogue is scheduled for Berlin in 2018. (Xinhua)

### Iran Blames Saudi for Promoting "Terrorism" in its Borders

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday that Saudi Arabia is supporting terrorism in Iran's borders, Tehran Times daily reported. "We have intelligence that Saudi Arabia is actively engaged in promoting terrorist groups" in Iran's eastern and western borders, Zarif told the opening of the Oslo Forum in Norway on Tuesday. Zarif told the forum that recent Saudi officials' remarks against Iran are a "direct threat and very dangerous provocation." The remarks by Zarif partially referred to the comments made by Saudi

Arabia's deputy crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud, in May, who said Riyadh would bring "the battle" into Iran. Also, just hours before the deadly attacks by the Islamic State (IS) in Iran's capital Tehran last Wednesday, which killed 17 people, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir claimed that Iran was the world's leading supporter of terrorism and must be punished. Top Iranian political leaders have gestured the United States and Saudi Arabia of being behind the recent twin deadly attacks in Tehran. (Xinhua)

### Sharif Hopes Impasse in Gulf to End Soon

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed the hope that the current impasse in the Gulf would be resolved soon in the best interest of the Muslim Ummah. This was stated in a press release issued by the PM House at the end of his day-long visit to Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held meeting with Khadim Al Harmain Al Sharifain King Salman bin Abdul Aziz at the Royal Palace Jeddah on Monday. The Prime Minister undertook the visit in view of the "emergent situation" between members of the Gulf Cooperation Council mainly Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the

PM House said. He was accompanied by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. "While expressing solidarity with the Kingdom and the people of Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister said the Kingdom had a very special place in the hearts of Pakistanis and that the Muslim world looked up to the King as the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques," the statement said. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the strong commitment of the people of Pakistan for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Kingdom, and the safety of Harmain al Shareifain. (APP)

### Uzbekistan, ILO Eye to Continue Co-Op

TASHKENT - The delegation of Uzbekistan held a meeting with Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder in Geneva, the press service of the Uzbek Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations reported Tuesday. "Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Tanzila Narbaeva and the country's Labor and Employment Minister Aziz Ab-

dukhakimov informed Ryder about the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan in the sphere of social and economic development and ensuring decent employment of the country's population," the report said. Ryder thanked the Uzbek authorities for ratifying the ILO's Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention (No. 87). (Trend)

### Tajikistan's President Due in Armenia for Official Visit

DUSHANBEH - President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon will pay an official visit to Armenia June 14-15 at the invitation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. The President of Tajikistan will have meetings with the highest leadership of Armenia.

A number of documents are expected to be signed following the high-level Armenian-Tajik talks at the Presidential Palace. Serzh Sargsyan and Emomali Rahmon will make a statement for the press to sum up the results of the meeting. (Agencies)