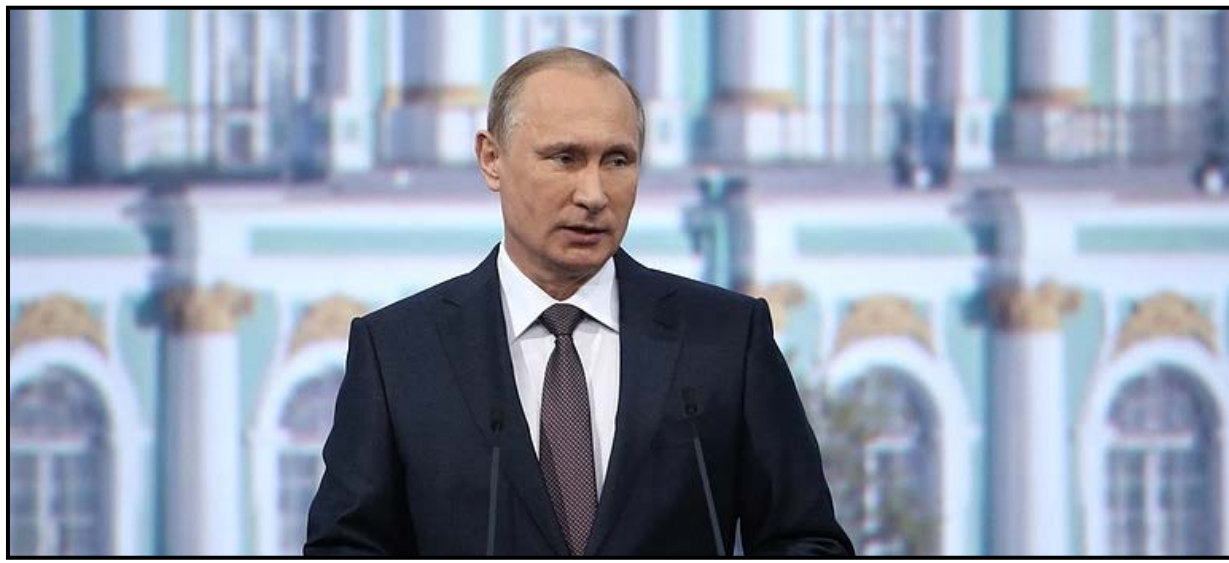


# Russia Calls for Broader Eurasia Partnership to Break Isolation

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia - The three-day annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum ended here Saturday, during which Russian President Vladimir Putin called for the establishment of a broader Eurasia partnership. The partnership will group India, China, and countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Commonwealth of Independent states of the former Soviet Union, as well as other interested states and organizations, according to the Russian president. The move is viewed as an endeavor to break up the



isolation resulting from sanctions imposed on Russia by the U.S.-led Western

countries in the wake of the Ukraine crisis, and to enhance multilateral coop-

eration, especially with the European Union (EU). FUTILE SANCTIONS

Compared with the first quarter in 2015, a remarkably lower amount of for-

eign investment is leaving Russia recently, Putin said at a plenary session of the forum on Friday. Moreover, Russia has abundant reserve funds, and could cut the recent inflation rate to 4 or 5 percent, which all predict Russia would regain a positive economic growth rate in a short term. Relations between Russia and the EU soured after the latter joined the United States in imposing several rounds of sanctions on Russia over its takeover of Crimea and involvement in the Ukraine crisis since 2014. The sanctions on Russia ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Iraqi PM Announces Victory over IS Militants in Fallujah

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced Friday substantial victory against the Islamic State (IS) militants in Fallujah in the western province of Anbar, the state-run Iraqiya TV reported. "Our troops have fulfilled their promise and freed the city of Fallujah," Abadi addressed the nation on the state-run Iraqiya television. "Fallujah has returned to the homeland and our forces took control of the

heart of the city," Abadi said. Earlier in the day, the security forces managed to free the government compound and raised the Iraqi flag on its main building in the central part of Fallujah. The recapture of the government compound came after the troops freed the districts of Nazal, Jubail and Resala, in addition to the industrial area in the southern part of the city, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad,



according to Raid Shakir Jawdat, the Commander of the Federal Police. The latest advance in Fallujah was the result of fierce clashes during

the past few days, which forced many of the extremist militants to flee the city, a provincial source said. ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

## Syria Congratulates Iraq on Dislodging IS from Fallujah

DAMASCUS - Syria on Saturday congratulated the Iraqi government for expelling the Islamic State (IS) group from the city of Fallujah in western Iraq, according to state news agency SANA. "The Syrian Arab Republic congratulates Iraq's people and government on the victory that has been achieved in liberating Fallujah from the abomination of the terrorists," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Iraqi forces have retaken most

of Fallujah from the IS, whose remnants are being haunted in the city, which spiraled out of the government control in 2014. The Syrian Foreign Ministry said the victory in Fallujah constitutes a step in the course of eliminating the IS terrorists in Iraq and Syria. The ministry said the war on terror is one on both sides of the borders between Iraq and Syria, stressing the Syrian government's determination to cooperate by all means against the terrorist groups. (Xinhua)

## Shanghai Int'l Film Festival Crowns Asian Talent

SHANGHAI - Indian film "Thithi" won Asia New Talent Awards for best film and best script writer Friday night during the on-going 19th Shanghai International Film Festival. Thithi is a light-hearted story about three generations of men reacting to the death of the family's 101-year-old patriarch. The film's cast were non-professional actors from Indian villages. Best director went to Chen Yujie from China's Taiwan for the film "Lost Daughter." Thai movie "The Island Funeral" won best cinematographer.

Hong Kong director Derek Tung-Sing Yee chaired this year's Asia New Talent Awards. Yee hoped the awards could support independent films and encourage young filmmakers to follow their artistic desires, rather than catering to the market and box office blindly. The Asia New Talent Awards, dedicated to rewarding new-comers to the Asian film industry, began in 2004 as an important competition section in addition to the Golden Goblet Awards. (Xinhua)

## UN Agency Reports Abuse of Migrant Children in France

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has released a report on the serious exploitation of migrant children in the camps of northern France, a UN spokesman said here Friday. The report, entitled "Neither Safe Nor Sound," is a joint effort of the UNICEF offices in France and the United Kingdom (UK), Dujarric said in his daily news briefing here. Migrant children and teenagers that are waiting in north France to cross



the channel into Britain are being forced to turn to crime and prostitution to keep their places in refugee camps, the report said. It details findings of sexual exploitation, violence

and forced labor in the camps. Both UNICEF UK and UNICEF France have made specific recommendations to their respective governments in the light of the study, he said.

"They include increased resources, improving information for and about the children and, increased training for the adults involved in the camps," he added. (Xinhua)

## Trump Defends Stance on Gun Rights, Immigration at Houston Rally

HOUSTON - The presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump defended his stance on gun rights and immigration at a rally in the United States' fourth largest city of Houston on Friday night. Trump told thousands of his supporters at the rally in northern Houston that he supported the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution on gun rights. "Nobody will protect your Second Amendment like Donald Trump," he said, adding that the worst shooting massacre in U.S. history could have been prevented earlier this week if patrons of the



nightclub involved in Orlando, Florida, had been armed. "If some of those wonderful people had guns strapped to their waist or strapped to their ankle and this son of a (expletive) comes out and starts

shooting, and one of the people happened to have it and goes 'boom, boom,' that would have been a beautiful, beautiful sight," he said. "So don't let them take their guns away. We're going to save your ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## British Police Charge Suspect of Murdering MP

LONDON - The suspect Thomas Mair appeared in the Magistrates Court on Saturday morning, being charged with murdering British Labour MP Jo Cox. "We have now charged a man with murder," Detective Superintendent Nick Wallen of West Yorkshire Police said on Saturday. The 52-year-old man also faces charges of grievous bodily harm, possession of firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and possession of an offensive weapon, the police added. The 41-year-old Labour MP was shot and stabbed on Thursday lunchtime outside Birstall public library. Her death ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

## Al-Qaida-Linked Rebels Capture 3 Towns in Syria's Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front and allied militant groups captured three towns in the country's northern province of Aleppo, following battles with the Syrian army, a monitor group reported on Saturday. The Nusra and other jihadi groups have been engaged in intense battles with the Syrian army in the southern countryside of Aleppo over the past four days, when the terror groups unleashed wide-scale offensives against government troops' positions, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The UK-based watchdog group said the rebels finally ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

## UN Building Camps to Serve Displaced People in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS - More than 15,000 people fled Fallujah on June 15 and 16, bringing the total number of people displaced since May 23 to more than 68,000, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said here Friday, quoting the International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Humanitarian workers

are expecting the number to increase further and that thousands more people could still be on the move," Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here. "Thousands of families may still be trapped in Fallujah." "These are estimates, as the UN has no direct access to the city and is not able to directly verify the

situation in the city," the spokesman said. "The UN remains very concerned about the safety and wellbeing of people still in Fallujah." Many of the displaced people are reportedly arriving in poor condition and need all kinds of emergency assistance, notably water, food, shelter ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

## 12 Arrested in Anti-Terror Operations in Belgium

BRUSSELS - Twelve people suspected of planning new attacks have been arrested during dozens of anti-terrorism raids in Belgium overnight, said a statement of the federal prosecutor's office released on Saturday. The operations, mainly

in Brussels and also in other 15 municipalities, came three days after the Belgian police received an anti-terror alert that warns of a series of imminent attacks in France and Belgium. "The investigation continues, and the results of the investigation

necessitated an immediate intervention," the prosecutor's office said. The investigating judge will decide on their possible detention in the coming hours, it added. In addition, the prosecutor's office said in a separate ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

## Egypt Court Sentences Morsi to Life in Jail over Spying for Qatar

CAIRO - An Egyptian court sentenced ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi and two other Islamist co-defendants to life in prison on Saturday on charges of spying and leaking "classified documents" to Qatar, state-run Nile TV reported.

In Egypt, a life sentence is 25 years in jail. Cairo Criminal Court also confirmed death sentences against six people linked to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood over the same charges. Saturday verdicts can be appealed. According to the pros-

ecution, Morsi and the other 10 co-defendants had leaked "classified documents" to Qatar. The documents allegedly contained secrets on "national security," and were allegedly traded with the Qatari intelligence for a million U.S. dollars. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Congress Rejects Amendments to Cut Funds for Pakistan

WASHINGTON - The US House of Representatives has rejected by vote two amendments to cut US assistance for Pakistan. While debating the annual Defence Appropriations Act for the financial year 2017, Congressman Ted Poe of Texas and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard from Hawaii moved an amendment to cut the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan from \$900 million to \$700m. Another lawmaker, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, submitted a separate amendment calling for ending all CSF assistance for Pakistan. Earlier in May, the US House of Representatives had approved \$900m CSF outlay for Pakistan as part of the annual Defence Authorisation Bill.

The house rejected both amendments by voice vote but resorted to a recorded vote after both Congressmen insisted on it. The amendment moved by Mr Poe and Ms Gabbard was defeated by 230 to 191. Mr Rohrabacher's amendment was defeated by 336-84. The Coalition Support Fund was set up to reimburse US allies for the efforts they make for fighting terrorism. It links Pakistan with Afghanistan but the US Senate passed a bill last week, proposing a separate fund of \$800m for assisting Pakistan. The new proposal also delinks Pakistan from Afghanistan, recognising that Pakistan has its own strategic importance. The house, however, is ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

### Iran Congratulates Iraq on Fallujah Liberation

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has congratulated the recent liberation of the central city of Fallujah in Iraq to the Iraqi government and people. In a message to his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Zarif called the victory a "manifestation of... divine victory for those who fight for God." Fallujah, in the western province of Anbar, is located about 69 kilometers (43 miles) west of the capital Baghdad. On Friday, army forces raised the Iraqi national flag over the main government compound in Fallujah, symbolizing the recapture of the beleaguered western city from Daesh, which had seized the city in January 2014. The forces met limited resistance from the ter-

rorists, who were fleeing the city, although the extremists used residents as human shields, which slowed the process of liberation. Members of the Iraqi military sit in the back of their vehicle during an operation in the central city of Fallujah's southern Shuhada neighborhood to retake the area from Daesh terrorists. (Photo by AFP) Zarif also voiced hope that further victories await the Iraqi nation, insisting that the country maintain their "unity and national integrity" in the process. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also hailed the victory, saying there was no place in his country for the Takfiri terrorists. He also said that the liberation of Mosul - Daesh's de facto ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

### China's Ambassador to Syria Wraps up Visits to Key Syrian Coastal Cities

DAMASCUS - China's ambassador to Syria Wang Kejian wrapped up a two-day visit to key Syrian coastal cities, during which he held meetings with officials and distributed agricultural aid. The ambassador first visited the city of Tartous, where he was received by governor Safwan Saadi and taken

on a tour to the city's museum before visiting the town of Duraykish, where he distributed agricultural aid to farmers on Thursday. The ambassador and Saadi signed two protocols whereby the Chinese embassy grants the governorate of Tartous agricultural materials and humanitarian aid. ...*(More on P4)...(31)*

### Belt and Road Initiative Accelerates Cooperation Between China, Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - China and Uzbekistan have ushered in a new chapter in bilateral cooperation thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, an international development drive brought up by China in 2013. Many in the two countries are expecting a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Central Asian country from Tuesday to Friday. Sitting on the route of the ancient Silk Road and a crossroad in Central Asia, Uzbekistan has a unique strength in its geographical location. The Belt and Road Initiative came as a timely proposal, offering a desired opportunity for Uzbekistan to improve its inter-connectivity

with the outside world and play a greater role in wider regional development. The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt that links China with Europe through Central and Western Asia by inland routes, and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road connecting China with Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe by sea routes. In recent years, China and Uzbekistan have achieved consensus on many major cooperation projects as efforts have been made to align the ...*(More on P4)...(32)*