

# Courts are Right in Blocking Trump's Travel Ban

WASHINGTON — Most Americans say federal courts are acting properly in blocking President Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Two versions of the travel ban targeting Muslim-majority countries have been put on hold by federal courts. Trump says the ban is necessary to keep would-be terrorists from traveling to the United States. Opponents, including some state officials, argue that it is intended to keep Muslims out.

Fifty-seven percent of Americans say the courts have acted correctly by blocking the travel ban from taking ef-



fect, while 39 percent say the judges are wrongly interfering. The poll shows a sharp partisan divide: 82 percent of Democrats say the courts acted rightly, while 73 percent of Republicans say they're wrongly interfering. Among independents, 56 percent agree with the courts.

"From the beginning President Trump said, even before the election, that he intended to ban Muslims, not that he intended to ban terrorists but Muslims," said Nick Hardy, 54, an independent voter who said he leans Democratic. "That's just not right." Trump initially signed an executive order in late January that banned people from Iran, Iraq, ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Qatar Says it Will not Negotiate Unless Neighbours Lift 'Blockade'

DOHA - Qatar said it will not negotiate with its neighbours to resolve the Gulf dispute unless they first lift the trade and travel boycott they imposed two weeks ago.

Doha still believed a solution was possible, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said. The United Arab Emirates, which along with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain imposed the measures to isolate Qatar, said the sanctions could last for years unless Doha accepted de-

mands that the Arab powers plan to reveal in coming days. Qatar has denied accusations by its neighbours that it funds terrorism, foments regional instability or has cosied up to their enemy Iran. The dispute has opened a rift among some of the main US allies in the Middle East, with President Donald Trump backing tough measures against Qatar even as his State Department and Defence Department have sought to remain neutral. On Monday Qatar held war games with Turk-



ish troops, showing off one of its few remaining strong alliances after two weeks of unprecedented isolation. Foreign Minister al-Thani said Doha was ready to "engage and address" the concerns of other Gulf Arab states in what he described as a proper dialogue with pre-determined principles, but reiterated that sanctions must be lifted first. (Reuters)

## French Defense Minister Resigns over Investigation into Fake Job Allegations

PARIS - French Defense Minister Sylvie Goulard resigned Tuesday to show "good faith" in her political party, the Democratic Movement (MoDem), days after a probe into fake job allegations against the group.

"I asked the President of the Republic, in agreement with the Prime Minister, not to be part of the government anymore," she said. "If the preliminary investigation into the MoDem would verify the work conditions of my assistants in the European

Parliament, I wish to be able to demonstrate freely my good faith and all the work I have done there," she said in a statement.

"Defense is a demanding portfolio. The honor of our armies, that of the men and women who serve and who put their lives in danger, should not be mixed up with controversies," she said.

Earlier this month, the Paris prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation into the centrist MoDem party, an ally of ... (More on P4)... (20)

## EU, Britain Possible to Strike "Fair Deal": EU Chief Negotiator

BRUSSELS - It's possible for the European Union (EU) and Britain to strike a fair Brexit deal which is "far better than no deal", EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier told reporters on Monday.

"Both for the EU and the UK, a fair deal is possible, and far better than no deal, that is what I say to David today, that is why we will work all the time with the UK and never against the UK," Michel Barnier said at a joint press conference with his British counterpart David Davis, after wrapping up the opening

salvo of the Brexit talks in Brussels.

He hailed that the first session was "important", "open", and "useful indeed to start off on the right foot as the clock is ticking".

"Today we agreed on dates, we agreed on organization, and we agreed on priorities for the negotiation," he said, outlining a two-step negotiation.

"In the first step, we will deal with the most pressing issues, we must lift the uncertainty caused by Brexit; we want to make ... (More on P4)... (21)

## Diplomatic and Security Dialogue Helps Promote China-U.S. Ties

NEW YORK - The first round of the Diplomatic and Security Dialogue between China and the United States slated for Wednesday in Washington D.C. will help further push forward China-U.S. relations in the spirit of win-win cooperation.

The move is seen as an important step in implementing the outcomes of the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump in Mar-a-Lago, Florida in April. The Diplomatic and Security Dialogue is one of the

four-pronged high-level dialogue mechanisms initiated by the two leaders in the meeting, which has set the course for future cooperation between Beijing and Washington. The other three dialogues cover the economy, law enforcement and cybersecurity, and social and cultural issues.

The newly established dialogue mechanism is aimed at strengthening high-level communication, enhancing mutual understanding and trust, as well as promoting win-win cooperation between



China and the United States. The Diplomatic and Security Dialogue, expected to include various topics of bilateral and global relevance, is another encouraging sign for

bilateral ties following the announcement by both sides of the "early harvest" in May from a 100-day plan on which Xi and Trump had agreed on in ... (More on P4)... (22)

## Macron Opens Paris Air Show, Promotes Defense Aeronautic Business

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday marked the debut of this year's Paris Air Show on board of 400M military transporter in a move to further promote defense aerospace projects.

Earlier in the day, Macron flew to the Bourget Parc des Expositions on an Airbus A400M military transporter in a sign of support to four-engine transport military aircraft which has to cope with costs overruns and industrial problems.

"The Bourget exhibition gives honor to aeronautics in general and military aviation in particular, committed to fight Daesh (Islamic State)," General Zimmermann, second ... (More on P4)... (23)

## EU Says Brexit Citizens Issue not about 'Generosity'

BRUSSELS - The EU on Tuesday played down reports that British Prime Minister Theresa May would make a "generous offer" to protect European citizens after Brexit, saying it was only fair to guarantee their rights. "For us it's not a question of generosity, it's a question of continuity and fairness," Stefaan De Rynck, a senior aide to chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, said at a seminar in Brussels.

Brussels has made the future of three million EU citizens in Britain and one million Britons in Europe a priority, insisting they should be allowed to keep their rights to live, work, study and claim welfare benefits.

May will set out her plans on the issue to the 27 other European Union leaders at a summit this week, Brexit minister David Davis said on Monday after ... (More on P4)... (25)

## Germany's Merkel Vows not to Give up on US Free Trade Deal

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed Tuesday to seek a broad agreement on trade at next month's Group of 20 summit and told German business leaders that she won't give up on a free-trade deal between Europe and the U.S.

Merkel will host leaders of the G-20 powers in Hamburg on July 7-8 amid widespread concern over the Trump administration's "America first" approach to trade. In a speech to an annual German industry congress, she stressed the need to persuade others of the advantages of open markets and free and fair world



trade. "We will do everything to achieve as broad an agreement as possible on this in Hamburg," Merkel said. "In view of the new American administration that isn't easy, but we must make the effort nonetheless." President Donald Trump has pulled the U.S. out of

a trade agreement with Pacific nations. Prospects for a planned U.S.-European Union deal, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, also look poor. Merkel, however, insisted that it offers a chance to set "common standards ... (More on P4)... (24)

## Merkel Ready to Consider Macron Eurozone Reform Ideas

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Tuesday she was prepared to consider proposals by new French President Emmanuel Macron for a shake-up of the eurozone.

Speaking to business leaders in Berlin, Merkel acknowledged that the "economic cohesion of the eurozone member states leaves something to be desired". Merkel, who is running for a fourth term in a September general election, said Germany would be open to an "economic government" to pool "best practices"

for promoting jobs and growth among the 19 eurozone members. "We could of course consider a common finance minister, if the circumstances are right" with the proper balance among risk, liability for debt and the power to dictate policy, Merkel said. "We could also consider a euro-budget if it is clear that we are really strengthening the structure of the economy and doing sensible things," she added, backing another suggestion by the French leader. Merkel, who also holds the rotating ... (More on P4)... (26)

## Nieghbor News

### Xi Urges Efforts to Boost Integrated Military and Civilian Development

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday underscored centralized and unified leadership to boost integrated military and civilian development.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at the first plenary meeting of the central commission for integrated military and civilian development, which he heads.

Upgraded as a national strategy, integrated military and civilian development is a major achievement of China's long-term coordinated development of economic and national defense

construction, Xi said. It is also a major decision concerning national development and overall security, and a major measure to deal with complicated security threats and gain national strategic advantages, Xi said.

Li Keqiang, Liu Yunshan and Zhang Gaoli, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and deputy heads of the commission, also attended the meeting.

Working rules and recent tasks of the commission as well as a guideline on setting up local leading and working organs for integrated military and civilian development, were adopted at the meeting. (Xinhua)

### Beijing and Islamabad to Ensure Security of the CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China agreed to ensure security of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that connects China with a Pakistani port of Gwadar for which Pakistan has already allocated 10 thousand military personnel. According to Nezavisimaya Gazeta, a meeting between Chief of Joint Staff of Chinese Army, Fang Fenghui and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Commit-

tee of Pakistani Army, Zubair Mahmood Hayat was also held in Beijing in which they agreed to jointly provide security to CPEC. China has promised to inject some 55 billion US dollars in the project that would allow China to export its goods to the Middle East and Africa, and import oil bypassing the narrow Strait of Malacca, which may be easily blocked in case of a conflict with the US. (APP)

### Iran: Missile Strike Fraction of Response to Daesh

TERHAN - Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan says the recent missile attack against Daesh in Syria was just a small part of the Islamic Republic's reaction to the "indiscriminate" attacks by the terror group on the Iranian soil.

"Iran's defense doctrine is based on the principle of active and effective deterrence and responds to any possible regional and trans-regional threats in the strongest way," Dehqan said on Tuesday.

The comments came two days after the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired six medium-range ground-to-ground ballistic missiles at the Daesh-held

Syria town of Dayr al-Zawr in retaliation for the recent terror attacks in the capital Tehran.

On June 7, gunmen mounted assaults on Iran's Parliament and the Mausoleum of late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini, killing 18 people and wounding over 50 others. Dehqan said Iran has, over the past three years, had serious and extensive programs on the agenda in the field of missile defense, adding that the country is today capable of designing and producing different types of ballistic and cruise missiles featuring high precision and destructive power. (Presstv)

### Turkmenistan Combating Desertification

ASHGABAT - Deserts occupy 80 percent of the territory of Turkmenistan, and both cultivated and uncultivated lands are subject to various degrees of desertification, the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper reported June 20.

The National Institute of Desert, Flora and Fauna of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Environmental Protection and Land Resources is addressing these issues in the country.

Aman Babaev, leading research fellow at the institute, said in an interview with the Neutral Turkmenistan that desertifica-

tion is aggravated by natural factors - mudflows, dust storms, fluctuations of the level of the Caspian and Aral seas.

Turkmenistan was one of the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1996, starting a year later to implement a national action plan.

Rational use of pastures, forestry development, afforestation, and improvement of irrigated lands are among the main aspects of this action plan.

When monitoring desertification processes, special attention is paid to a region bordering the Aral Sea. (Trend)

### Uzbekistan, Tajikistan to Mull Economic Co-Op

TASHKENT - An Uzbek delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ulugbek Rozukulov will on June 20 arrive in Dushanbe to participate in the Uzbek-Tajik talks, said the press service of the Uzbek Foreign Min-

istry. "During the two-day visit, it is planned to mull practical issues of expanding cooperation in trade, economic, investment and other spheres," reads the message. (Trend)