

UK Should Start Brexit By Tuesday: EU Chief

BRUSSELS - The European Parliament's chief has called on David Cameron to begin formal proceedings to leave the EU as early as Tuesday, when leaders are due to meet in Brussels.

Martin Schulz told a German newspaper that a period of uncertainty over Brexit would "lead to even more insecurity and thus endanger jobs".

"Hesitating simply to accommodate the party tactics of the British conservatives hurts everyone," he said.

"That is why we expect the British government to now deliver. The summit on Tuesday is the right



time."
 :: Does A Leave Vote Definitely Mean A Brexit? The four biggest groups

in the European Parliament are also reported to have drawn up a draft resolution calling for the

Prime Minister to begin the process of the UK leaving the EU. But the Foreign Secretary

Philip Hammond said: "There is no imperative on us to serve Article 50 at any particular time.

We're under pressure from our EU partners to do it quickly, but the timing is entirely up to us." One of the leading Brexit campaigners, Conservative MP Liam Fox, insisted talks should begin with the aim of the UK leaving the union by the beginning of January 2019.

"What we want to be doing is seeing a process that means we can leave the European Union on 1 January 2019. That seems to me like a reasonable timetable," Mr Fox said. The Prime Minister said in the wake of the referendum result that he would step... (More on P4)... (22)

Trump, Clinton Espouse Competing Narratives after Orlando Shooting to Woo Voters

WASHINGTON - After the recent shooting attack in Florida, U.S. presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are espousing two competing narratives as explanation for the incident, in hope to control the agenda in the presidential race, experts said.

The Clinton campaign described the shooting at the Orlando gay club that left 50 dead as the worst mass shooting attack in the nation's history, while the Trump team called it a terrorist attack.

While the gunman, Omar Marteen, allegedly pledged allegiance to the terror group Islamic State (IS), he used legally pur-

chased firearms to carry out the attack, highlighting an ongoing argument over gun control.

Just a day after the horrid attack on June 12, Clinton cited the need to tackle terrorism but also put a great deal of emphasis on gun control, sounding a familiar tone geared toward her support base.

On the same day, Trump said terrorism needs to be crushed in order to keep the country safe. He also doubled down on his call for curbing immigration from countries related to terrorism.

"The fight over the Orlando attack is a battle for agenda control," said Darrell... (More on P4)... (23)

China, Russia Sign Joint Statement on Strengthening Global Strategic Stability

BEIJING - China and Russia vowed to strengthen global strategic stability in a joint statement signed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

The statement was signed after their talks on Saturday afternoon in Beijing. In the joint statement, the two sides voiced concern over increasing "negative factors" affecting the global strategic stability.

Some countries and military-political alliances seek decisive advantage in military and relevant technology, so as to serve their own interests through use or threat to use of force in international affairs.



Such policy resulted in an out-of-control growth of military power and shook the global strategic stability system, the joint statement said.

It expressed concern over the unilateral deployment of anti-missile systems all

over the world, which it said is non-constructive and has negatively affected global and regional strategic balance, stability and security.

The statement said China and Russia are strongly opposed to the deploy-

ment of the Aegis Ashore ballistic missile defense system in Europe and the possible deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in northeast Asia, which severely infringe upon the... (More on P4)... (24)

Iraqi Military Commander Declares Liberation of Fallujah from IS

BAGHDAD - A senior Iraqi commander on Sunday declared full liberation of the city of Fallujah from Islamic State (IS) militants after about a month of battles against the extremist militants.

Iraqi troops entered Golan district in northwestern Fallujah, which was the last area to be freed from IS militants in the city, Lieutenant General Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, Commander of Operations Command for Fallujah Liberation, said in a press release.

A statement from media office of Iraq's Joint Operations Command con-



firmed that Fallujah was fully liberated and said the paramilitary units, known as Hashd Shaabi, are conducting clearance operations to the newly-

freed neighborhoods.

The operation to free the IS stronghold in Fallujah was launched on May 23, and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared

victory against IS group in the city on June 17 after the security forces recaptured of the government compound in central the... (More on P4)... (25)

UK Petition Calling for Second EU Referendum Has 77,000 Fake Signatures

LONDON - Almost 80,000 fake names have been removed from the 'second EU petition after they have been found to be fraudulent. The House of Commons Petition Committee removed 77,000 signatures which they believe were added fraudulently.

A UK petition calling for a second EU referendum now has more than 3.1 million signatures. It will have to be debated by parliament, as it has surpassed the minimum 100,000 required. It has emerged the petition for a second refer-

endum on EU membership, was set up by a leave campaigner a month ago when he thought his side would lose.

Oliver Healey claims the remain camp have "hijacked" the document on the UK government website.

However, the House of Commons petitions committee said it is investigating allegations of fraud in connection with the petition.

And the British Prime Minister David Cameron has already said there will be no second vote. (Monitoring Desk)

Death Toll from Somalia Hotel Attack Rises to 16, State Minister Killed

MOGADISHU - Death toll from Saturday's attack by Al-Shabaab militants on a hotel in the Somali capital of Mogadishu has risen to 16 and a state minister was among those killed, an official said Sunday.

Spokesman for the Ministry of Internal Security, Abdikamil Mo' allim Shukri told Xinhua that more bodies had been found from the debris of the hotel, including the body of Bur'i Mohamed Hamza, the State Minister in the Prime Minister's Office for Environment Affairs.

More than 30 others have been injured in the attack, he added.

Twin explosions rocked the Nasa-Hablod Hotel in the center of Mogadishu on Saturday afternoon and Al-Shabaab militants stormed the hotel, which is frequented by politicians.

Somalia's security forces have retaken the hotel after gunfire, and a team is searching the debris to find out if there are more bodies.

Somalia's Islamist group Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the latest in a series of attacks by its militants on hotels in Mogadishu in recent years.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud has condemned the assault and vowed continued efforts to... (More on P4)... (26)

Israel, Turkey to Hold Reconciliation Meeting in Rome



JERUSALEM - Israeli and Turkish teams will meet Sunday in Rome to finalize a deal to normalize relation, nearly six years after deadly raid strained relations, Israeli media reported.

Recent reports in Israeli and Turkish media said the agreement is likely to be concluded on Sunday.

If a deal is reached, it will be brought for the approval of Israel's security cabinet on Wednesday.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanya-

hu said he will depart to Rome in the afternoon, for meetings with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

Relations between Israel and Turkey, former allies, broke apart after the May 2010 deadly raid by the Israeli Navy on a Turkish ship, the Mavi Marmara, part of a flotilla headed to the Palestinian enclave in demand to remove the Israeli blockade. Ten Turkish nationals were killed in the clashes. The expected deal has angered families of missing Israeli civilians, who... (More on P4)... (27)

Death toll from West Virginia Floods Rises to 26

WASHINGTON - The Death Toll from the Sudden Flooding In The Eastern U.S. State of West Virginia Has Risen To 26 On Saturday as the bodies of three more victims were found overnight. The newly found victims in Kanawha County were one male and two females who presumably drowned when high water flooded their homes, said a USA Today report, quoting the county's Sheriff's Office.

Just after midnight on Saturday, the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management tweeted that at least 23 people died in the flooding and more than 32,000 homes and businesses were without power across the state.

A state of emergency has been declared in 44 of the state's 55 counties, according to an ABC News report.

West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin said Friday that the damage is widespread and devastating, lamenting the flooding "among the worst in a century for some parts of the state."

As much as 8 to 10 inches of rain fell in six to eight hours in parts of the state on Thursday, said the National Weather Service, calling the amount of rain in such a short time likely a "one-in-a-thousand-year event." (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

Iran Arrests Key Member of Terrorist Group in Southeast

TEHRAN - Iranian security forces have arrested one of the main members of the Ansar al-Forqan terrorist group in the southeastern parts of the country, a senior Iranian judicial official says.

Zahedan chief prosecutor Mohammad Marzieh told reporters on Sunday that the security forces dismantled a terrorist group in the Khash region of the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan last week.

During the clashes, one terrorist was arrested, who has admitted that the group was affiliated with the Ansar al-Forqan terrorists, the official added, noting that six members of the group, including one terrorist who died of his injuries, were killed by the Iranian forces.

On April 22, the head of

the Ansar al-Forqan terrorist group, Hesham Azizi, and two other members were killed in a successful security operation by Iranian security forces in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. Two other members of the terrorist group were also captured during the operation.

Furthermore, a police spokesman, General Saeed Montazer-al-Mahdi, said on June 13 that Iranian security forces killed five members of the so-called Jaish-ul-Adl terrorist group in Khash.

He added that the terrorists sought to conduct acts of terror inside the country, noting that a huge amount of ammunition was confiscated from them.

Jaish-ul-Adl has claimed... (More on P4)... (28)

Majlis Podcast: Turkmenistan's Official 'Body Count' on the Rise

ASHGABAT - Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov visited his country's northern Dashoguz Province in mid-June. He fired seven district officials and reprimanded nine others. Berdimukhammedov visited the western Balkan Province at the end of May. Twelve provincial and district officials were fired and 13 others reprimanded. Qishloq Ovozi has written about earlier dismissals this year.

Regular dismissals of Turkmen government officials have become something of a tradition. The only person truly safe from being sacked is the president. A very, very small number of officials have lingered on; you could count them on one hand.

But 2016 has already been different. The rate at which officials are falling or receiving warnings about "shortcomings" is more accelerated than seen before in Turkmenistan. To look a bit at the

history of the tradition of the "Turkmen sack" and explore what might be prompting this recent, unprecedented wave of dismissals, RFE/RL's Turkmen Service, known locally as Azatlyk, organized a majlis, or a panel discussion.

Azatlyk Director Muhammad Tahir* moderated the talk. Luca Anceschi, chairperson of the Central Asian Center at Glasgow University, participated in the Majlis podcast, as did Ruslan Myatiev, who runs the Alternative Turkmenistan News website. I like talking with both of those guys, so I joined in also.

The symbol for the Turkmen government's coat of arms should be a turnstile."

Turkmenistan's people - and those watching the country from outside - have long grown accustomed to an endless rotation of officials. The symbol for the Turkmen government's coat of arms should be a turnstile.

... (More on P4)... (29)

Leave 'No Stone Unturned' in Search for Sabri Murder, Awais Kidnapping Perpetrators: Gen. Raheel

RAWALPINDI - Pakistani Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif in a high-level briefing at Rangers Headquarters Karachi on Sunday directed all commanders to leave 'no stone unturned' finding the perpetrators behind the Amjad Sabri murder and Awais Shah kidnapping. The Pakistani army chief's visit to Karachi comes days after the high-profile kidnapping of the Sindh High Court chief justice's son Awais Shah and the assassination of famed qawwal Amjad Sabri, who was gunned down in Liaquatabad by unidentified motorcyclists in an attack claimed by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Shah's kidnapping and Sabri's murder occurred within days of each other, causing fear and panic to spread among residents of Karachi, where citizens had perceived an improvement in the law and order situation since the initiation of the Rangers-led operation in 2013. Gen Raheel was briefed

in detail by Director General (DG) Rangers Major General Bilal Akbar on the paramilitary force's ongoing operation, the law and order situation and the way forward for Karachi during the meeting.

Referring to recent incidents, the army chief directed all commanders, including those of intelligence agencies, to continue working hand-in-glove, leaving no stone unturned finding the perpetrators. The COAS reiterated that the Karachi operation focuses on the entire network of terrorists, their abettors and financiers, and will continue until peace is restored to the city.

Every form of assistance, including intelligence and material combat support, will be provided to the Rangers to accomplish their mission, he said. As law enforcement agencies count successes in the ongoing operation against terrorists, banned outfits and militant wings of political and religious organisations,

... (More on P4)... (30)