

# Clinton, Trump Gaining Steam within Own Parties: Gallup

WASHINGTON - Both U.S. presumptive presidential nominees Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are gaining steam among their own parties, but remain unfavorable nationally, Gallup found in a poll Monday.

Since clinching the Democratic nomination in early June, Clinton's favorable rating among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents has been up slightly to 71 percent, compared with 68 percent in April and May.

At the same time, Trump's favorable rating among Republicans averages 64 percent in June,



the same as in May but higher than the 54 percent to 56 percent in the three prior months, Gal-

lup found. Despite steady or even sagging ratings nationally, Trump and Clinton have begun the

process of repairing their images within their own parties as they prepare to officially receive their

nominations at their respective conventions in July, Gallup said. While Clinton may have

earned a bump from clinching the Democratic nomination in early June, she has not built on that in the following weeks, perhaps because of her rival Senator Bernie Sanders' reluctance to withdraw from the race, Gallup said.

Trump, on the other hand, has picked up some additional steam among Republicans in June. It will be important to see if Trump can hold or build on his improved status among Republicans into July, Gallup said.

Still, Clinton and Trump, ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Exit Talks not to Start without British Notification: EU's Tusk

BRUSSELS - The European Union will not start exit negotiations without Britain's notification, said European Council President Donald Tusk on Tuesday. "Europe is ready to start the divorce process, even today, without any enthusiasm, as you can imagine," he told reporters upon his arrival at the EU summit.

"I would like to underline very very clearly: without the notification from the UK, we will not start any negotiations on divorce process or on our future relations," he said.

According to EU treaties, the British government has to initiate the exit process by informing the European Council.

Tusk said the EU has precise procedures and a ready work plan for Britain's exit talks, but also urged patience on London's next move.

A total of 52 percent of British voters voted in favor leaving the bloc in a referendum on June 23.

EU leaders gather here on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss how to deal with the outcome of Britain's...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## U.S. to Keep Pushing TTIP Talks with EU Despite Brexit

WASHINGTON -- The United States will continue to talk with the European Union (EU) on the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement, despite Britain's vote to leave the EU.

The agreement to get a TTIP has now been affected in light of the decision by the British people over the weekend, said Eric Schultz, White House principal deputy press secretary at a briefing on Monday.

"If we have to start negotiating separately with



the United Kingdom, that's going to start from a different vantage point," Schultz said.

Also on Monday, U.S. Trade Representative

Michael Froman said that a lot of progress has been made on the agreement during the last eight months. "The economic and strategic rationale for

TTIP remains strong," he said at the Bretton Woods Committee annual meeting. "Our goal remains to continue working with the EU...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Turkey Signs Deal to Normalize Ties with Israel

ANKARA - Turkish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu signed the Turkish side of deal to normalize ties with Tel Aviv on Tuesday in Ankara, Anadolu Agency reported.

The director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Dore Gold, signed the deal in Tel Aviv. Turkish media CNN Turk has reported. Turkey and Israel will exchange ambassadors after reaching a deal to normalize ties. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Monday that Turkey



and Israel will exchange ambassadors after reaching a deal to normalize ties after a six-year diplomatic rift, adding

that the deal would be signed on Tuesday.

Relations between Turkey and Israel had come to a halt after Israeli forc-

es raid on an aid flotilla that killed 10 Turkish pro-Palestinian activists who tried to sail to the...*(More on P4)...(23)*

## Merkel Warns Britain against "Cherry-Picking" in Exit Negotiations

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned on Tuesday that Britain should not expect to retain privileges it had before without fulfilling certain obligations in negotiations over its new relations with the European Union.

"We will make sure negotiations are not guided by the principle of 'cherry-picking,'" Merkel told the lower house of German parliament before heading to Brussels for a summit with European leaders.

"There must be a noticeable difference whether a country wants to be a member of the EU or not," she said, "Whoever wants to leave this family cannot expect to lose all the obligations while keeping the privileges."

Merkel added that Britain, which opted to leave the EU in a referendum last week, would not get access to the European single market without accepting obligations such as freedom of movement, mentioning...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## UN Chief Calls for Ending Gaza Blockade as "Collective Punishment"

GAZA - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday called for ending the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip and described it as "collective punishment."

Ban said in a press conference in a UN-run school in Gaza that the "blockade on Gaza suffocates its residents, destroys its economy and impedes reconstruction operations."

He added that "the blockade is a collective punishment which must be ended and be held accountable," and that the UN is always with the people of Gaza and knows the difficult living conditions they are experiencing.

He pointed to the...*(More on P4)...(25)*

## Indian PM to Visit 4 African Countries

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit four eastern and southern African countries early next month to seek cooperation in energy, maritime security and defense, said local media Tuesday.

Modi will visit Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa from July 7 to 11, during which he will also meet with the large Indian diaspora in Africa, local daily Economic Times quoted unnamed official sources here as saying.

Modi will also revisit the railway trains once used by modern India's founding father Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa one century ago. Nearly...*(More on P4)...(26)*

## Wijemanna Visits SDF Secretariat, Discusses Collaboration



THIMPBU, Bhutan: Mr. Thusantha Wijemanna, Director General, SAARC Arbitration Council visited SDF Secretariat to discuss areas of collaboration and to sign MoU with SAARC Development Fund.

In order to contribute to the economic development and social progress of the SAARC region both the organizations recognized the need for collaboration to have synergy of their skills, strengths and competencies.

Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO, SDF confirmed that both the organizations have also agreed to utilize the services of SARCO Model Arbitration Clause, as provided in

the SAARC Arbitration Rules, for SDF project agreements/other agreements as and when required by SDF.

About SAARC Arbitration Council SAARC Arbitration Council, Islamabad (SARCO) is one of the Specialized Bodies of SAARC mandated to provide a legal framework/forum within the region for fair and efficient settlement of commercial, industrial, trade, banking, investment and such other disputes, as may be referred to it by the Member States and their people.

About SAARC Development Fund SDF was established by the eight SAARC Member States in April 2010 to promote the welfare of the people of SAARC region...*(More on P4)...(27)*

## NATO Military Transport Drill to Kick off in Bulgaria

SOFIA - A ten-day multinational flight training of military transport aviation, involving six NATO countries and the European Defense Agency, will kick off in Bulgaria on Wednesday, it is announced on Tuesday.

During the drill Balkan Spartan 16, which would continue until July 8, Bulgarian, Italian and Romanian C-27J Spartan military transport aircraft would perform tasks such as low altitude flights, landing and takeoff, and drop of cargo and paratroopers, Bulgarian Air Force said in a statement on its website. Representatives of Slovak Air Force and the European Defense Agency would join the headquarters of...*(More on P4)...(28)*

## 19 IS Militants Killed in Syria

ANKARA - At least 19 Islamic State (IS) militants were killed in northern Syria on Monday in military operations by the Turkish army and the U.S.-led anti-IS coalition, security sources told semi-official Anadolu Agency Tuesday.

35 IS targets, including Katyusha rockets, mortars and other weapon positions were destroyed in the airstrikes and shellings, according to the sources.

Turkey is set to install new air defense systems in its southeastern province of Kilis, as rocket attacks from IS-held regions across the border in northern Syria have killed over 21 people in the province this year. (Xinhua)

## Neighbour News

### Pak Senate Body Recommends Disbanding of 'Anti-Women' CII

ISLAMABAD - Holding the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) responsible for the rise in incidents of violence against women, members of the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights on Tuesday recommended disbanding the body and urged the government to ban the use of Qisas and Diyat laws in honour-killing cases.

The CII, a constitutional body, advises the legislature whether or not a certain law is repugnant to the Quran and Sunnah. The senate committee's recommendations come just a month after the CII in a proposed women's protection bill ruled that 'lightly beating' one's wife is permissible in Islam. During a meeting, the committee observed that the 'anti-women' stance of the

CII permitted violence against women and had contributed to an increase in crimes against the gender.

Committee Chairperson Senator Nasreen Jalil said that the CII's recommendations encouraged a negative attitude towards women and incited violence against them.

The body's recommendations only added to the miseries of women instead of providing any relief to them, Jalil said, adding that CII members appeared to be unaware of legislating in a modern age.

Jalil said the CII recommendation which allowed a husband to beat his wife made no sense. She added that "not accepting DNA tests as evidence in rape cases shows the backwardness of members of the council." (Dawn)

### Iran-Turkmenistan Cooperation Deal Finalized

TEHRAN - Iranian Special envoy of Minister of Petroleum for Export of Technical and Engineering Goods and Services Mohammad-Taqi Amanpour says the Iran-Turkmenistan \$2.5 billion agreement was finalized. Amanpour told Shana more than 150 Iranian companies are now active in Turkmenistan.

He said Iran will import about 30 billion worth gas from Turkmenistan

in the next 10 years, while exporting \$30 billion worth technical and engineering worth goods and services to the country.

He said cooperation with Turkmenistan in the domain falls among policies of Iranian government and President Hassan Rouhani had talked with the Turkmen Party about the issue during his visit to Turkmenistan in 2014. (Farsnews)

### Iran Diplomat, Hezbollah Chief Discuss Mideast Developments

BEIRUT - The newly-appointed Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari has held talks with Secretary General of the Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah.

During a three-hour meeting in Beirut on Tuesday, Jaber Ansari and Nasrallah exchanged views about the latest political developments in the Middle East, particularly the Syrian issue. Iranian Ambassador to Beirut Mohammad Fat'hali was also present in the meeting.

On Monday, Jaber Ansari held separate meetings with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Tammam Salam and Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil.

Syria has been gripped

by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. According to United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Hezbollah fighters are fighting alongside Syrian government forces against a range of terrorist groups operating in the country, including Daesh and the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front. The movement has been helping the Syrian army to prevent the spillover of the crisis into Lebanon.

Iran maintains military advisers in Syria, where the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is fighting an array of foreign-backed militant forces, including, but not limited to, those of the Daesh terrorist group. (PressTV)

### Turkmenistan Preparing for Parliamentary, Local Authorities Elections

ASHGABAT - elections of members for the parliament and local authorities - velayat (regional), etrap (district) and halk maslahaty (People's Council) of Turkmenistan are scheduled for August 21, 2016, the country's Central Commission for Elections and Referenda said in a message.

The message says that in view of the completion of the term of office, on the basis of the results of meetings held by political parties, public associations, nomination groups of citizens for representatives to election commissions, regional election

commissions and commissions in the Ashgabat city were re-formed and their compositions were approved, which included workers of various industries of the national economy, spheres of education and health, science and culture.

Training seminars, which will enable their members to become fully acquainted with the Electoral Code, their duties, and the arrangements for the upcoming elections, will be held for the new members of electoral commissions and observers, according to the message. (Trend)