

# Britain Could Face Second Election before Christmas, Warns Deputy PM

LONDON - Britain faces a disruptive second election before Christmas if either of the two main parties try to govern alone as minority governments after Thursday's ballot, Nick Clegg, the

deputy prime minister and Liberal Democrat leader, warned on Tuesday.

Two days before the country's closest election since the 1970s, Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party are level in most polls with neither on track to win outright. That raises the prospect of another coalition, something Britain has

had since 2010, or of one of the two main parties trying to govern as a minority administration relying on smaller parties for support on a vote-by-vote basis.

Clegg, whose centrist party has been in coalition with Cameron's Conservatives for the last five years, wants to form another coalition with whoever wins the most seats and votes in Thursday's election. He

therefore has an interest in talking up the risks of minority governments. He said a minority government would turn into "a shambles" because it would be vulnerable to the... (More on P4)...(17)

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## Neighbour News

### EU Seeking Closer Security Cooperation with China: Mogherini

BEIJING - Europe aims to improve security and defense cooperation with China, especially in the Middle East and in the fight against human trafficking, the European Union's foreign policy chief said on Tuesday following high-level talks in Beijing.

Federica Mogherini's two-day visit comes as Beijing launches a diplomatic offensive to move Sino-European relations beyond trade and raise China's international profile, buoyed by its success winning European participation in a new Asian bank.

Trade is still at the core of the relationship, worth 467 billion euros (\$519 billion) last year, but China's bid to deepen cooperation on world affairs resonates with the EU as it seeks to forge a more unified for-

eign policy among its 28 member countries.

Mogherini told reporters during a joint appearance with China's top diplomat, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, that the two discussed "concrete possibilities" of strengthening security and defense ties, pointing to the example of successful anti-piracy cooperation in the Gulf of Aden.

"We also discussed the situation in Iraq and Syria and briefly in Libya, where the European Union and China share common interests and where our joint efforts could make a real difference," Mogherini said.

She said both sides had reiterated that the conflict in Ukraine can only be solved diplomatically with "full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty". (Reuters)

### Iran's Rouhani Denounces Boasting over Arms Deals

TEHRAN - Iran's president denounced western countries for taking pride in arms sales Tuesday, after France signed a warplanes deal with Qatar, saying weapons agreements add to Middle East instability.

Although he did not name France, Hassan Rouhani's comments came after it agreed a 6.3-billion-euro (\$7-billion) contract with Qatari defence officials in Doha. French President Francois Hollande was at the signing ceremony prior to a Gulf Cooperation Council leaders' meeting in Riyadh, the first time a western head of state has attended a GCC summit. "Good choice," Hollande said on Monday as the deal,

which includes an order for 24 Rafale fighter jets with an option on a further 12, was signed.

However Rouhani, in a speech carried live on state television, said that given the turmoil wracking the region, large military equipment or arms deals would not help the situation.

"The world should not smile at the problem of our region. Some American or European nation should not be proud of selling more weapons to this or that country," he said.

"They create insecurity in the region and unjustly make regional countries scared of each other, preparing the ground for a weapons market." (AFP)

### Pakistan First-Ever Solar Generation Project Inaugurated

BAHAWALPUR - Pakistan's first-ever solar generation project was formally inaugurated at the Quid-i-Azam Solar Park (QASP) on Tuesday by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif along with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif. The QASP has been designed to generate a total of 1,000MW of electricity. The QASP's first unit reportedly went into test run last month and had achieved successful results. The generated electricity was being supplied to the National Grid System. PM Nawaz was warmly welcomed upon his arrival as dancers presented a beautiful traditional dance of the area while two renowned folk singers of the area also entertained the gathering with their melodious voices. The premier also inaugurated a commemorative stamp issued by the Pakistan Post. On the occasion, PM Nawaz said several mega projects in the power sector have been launched which will help overcome the power shortage in Pakistan by 2017-2018, said a report published on Radio Pakistan. Topping the 46 billion dollars of Chinese investment in Pakistan as unprecedented, PM Nawaz said that all... (More on P4)...(23)

### Tajikistan Establishes Cooperation with EUROCHAMBERS

DUSHANBE - Ambassador Rustamjon Soliyev, the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the European Union met in Brussels with Arnaldo Abruzzini, the Secretary-General of the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EUROCHAMBERS). According to the Tajik MFA information department, the two discussed issues related to establishment of cooperation between Tajikistan and EUROCHAMBERS and expansion of economic ties between Tajikistan and the European Union countries. Ambassador Soliyev reportedly briefed Mr.

Abruzzini on the current political and socio-economic situation in Tajikistan and Tajikistan's investment opportunities. EUROCHAMBERS is one of the largest business representative organizations in Brussels, representing over 20 million companies through 45 members and a European network of 1,700 regional and local Chambers. About 98% of these enterprises are SMEs. EUROCHAMBERS' direct members are national associations of Chambers of Commerce based in 26 EU countries, EFTA countries, and some... (More on P4)...(24)

### Israel's Netanyahu Fights to Form a Majority Coalition

JERUSALEM - Israeli coalition talks took on heightened urgency on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu still short of even the slim majority 36 hours from the deadline to form a government. Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party won 30 seats in the March 17 general election and has so far signed coalition agreements with two ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and the centre-right Kulanu led by Likud defector Moshe Kahlon. That gives him the backing of 53 seats, still woefully short of a majority in the 120-seat Knesset or parliament. If Netanyahu is unable to form a coalition

by midnight on Wednesday, President Reuven Rivlin must then assign another party leader to the task, with a 28-day deadline. If that fails, he must select a third person who has just 14 days to complete the task. And if that also ends in failure, Rivlin would call a new election. Incumbent Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman dropped a bombshell on Monday when he announced that his six-seat Yisrael Beiteinu party would not be part of the next coalition. Netanyahu now needs to sign up the far-right Jewish Home party of... (More on P4)...(18)

### Yemen Talks May 17 Could Bolster Anti-Houthi Alliance

ADEN - Yemen's president has called a meeting of political forces on May 17 to discuss his country's war that will include former associates of a powerful ally of the Houthis, a move that could bolster the ranks of opponents of the Iranian-allied force. Mukhtar al-Rahbi, press secretary at President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's office, said neither the Houthis nor their influential ally, former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, were expected to attend the

gathering, to be held in Saudi Arabia. But individuals who recently broke with Saleh, who has the loyalty of large sections of the factionalised military, would be there, he said. "The Houthis and Saleh will not attend, but leaders of the General People's Congress party who have broken away from Saleh, will attend," Rahbi told Reuters, referring to a political party led by the former veteran leader. The... (More on P4)...(19)

### Saudi to Host Meeting of Syrian Opposition Groups

DUBAI - Saudi Arabia will host a meeting of Syrian opposition groups fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad to stress the need for a political settlement in Syria, Gulf Arab heads of state said after a meeting on Tuesday. Leaders of the six-member political alliance said the meeting would try to

"map out" the landscape after Assad and stress the need for a political solution that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people, the statement said, according to the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya television. It gave no time for the meeting and did not say which groups would attend. (Reuters)

### UN Envoy Starts Consultations on Syrian Civil War in Geneva

BEIRUT - A United Nations envoy has begun a series of low-level consultations in Geneva with representatives of the Syrian government and its opponents in the hopes of finding enough common ground to restart peace talks. Staffan de Mistura was keen to lower expectations that the talks would yield any agreement at

this point. Speaking at a news conference Tuesday in Geneva, de Mistura said: "These are not yet peace talks." He described the talks as closed, low-key and separate discussions to consult on the current crisis in Syria. He said the talks would last for an initial period of five to six weeks with no cutoff date. (AP)

### IS Claims Texas Shooting, First Attack on US Soil

GARLAND, United States - The Islamic State group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for its first attack on US soil in which two gunmen were killed after opening fire at an event in Texas showcasing cartoons mocking the Prophet Mohammed. "Two of the soldiers of the caliphate executed an attack on an art exhibit in Garland, Texas, and this ex-

hibit was portraying negative pictures of the Prophet Mohammed," the jihadist group said. "We tell America that what is coming will be even bigger and more bitter, and that you will see the soldiers of the Islamic State do terrible things," the group announced. It marked the first time the extremist... (More on P4)...(20)

### C. African Militias Agree to Free Child Soldiers: U.N.

BANGUI/GENEVA - Armed factions in Central African Republic agreed on Tuesday to free all child soldiers and other children used as sex slaves or menial workers, boosting the U.N.-driven efforts at national reconciliation after two years of turmoil. The pact signed by the eight main militia groups in the landlocked ex-French

colony covers an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 children, according to United Nations child agency UNICEF. Armed groups also pledged to end the recruitment of children. The accord emerged from a week-long national reconciliation forum which began on Monday with the goal of ending conflict that... (More on P4)...(21)

### Ex-IRA Man Linked to 2005 Slaying Shot to Death in Belfast

DUBLIN - A former Irish Republican Army commander linked to one of the outlawed group's most notorious killings has been shot to death in Belfast, residents and police said Tuesday. No group claimed responsibility

for shooting Gerard "Jock" Davison at short range near his home in the Markets neighborhood of south-central Belfast. He was in his mid-40s. Davison was a Belfast IRA commander in 2005 when he allegedly... (More on P4)...(22)

## Invitation for Bids

Date:	04 May, 2015
Grant No and Title :	Grant - 0362 : Afghanistan Water Resources Development Investment Program - Project 2
Contract No and Title:	Rehabilitation of Lower Kokcha Irrigation System Main Canal and Intakes
Deadline for submission of Bids	22 June, 2015; 10:00 hours ( Kabul local time)

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has received a Grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards funding the cost of the Water Resources Development Investment Program. Part of this Grant will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to Contractors from eligible source countries of the ADB.

2. The Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) herein referred to as "Employer" invites sealed bids (technical & price bids in separate envelopes, clearly mentioned on the first envelope as Technical Bid and the other (second) envelope as Price Bid) from eligible bidders for the execution of the Rehabilitation of Lower Kokcha Irrigation System's Main Canal and intakes. The scope of work will include but not be limited to the following.

3. The project area is located in Imam Shahib and Archi districts of Kunduz province and Khwoja Ghar district of Takhar province. The project objective is to upgrade the irrigation system to make it more reliable and efficient, both in terms of water use and distribution, and improve food security. The Lower Kokcha Irrigation Program includes upgrading of the existing Shahrawan irrigation system, covering 48,000 ha net command area of Zone I and rehabilitation and upgrading of the Archi Canal covering 28,000 ha cultivated area of Zone II. In addition to these, the project will also improve the drainage systems in the command area, which will drain water from about 3000 ha of water logged area.

4. International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with [ADB's Single-Stage-Two-Envelope Bidding Procedure](#) and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as described in the Bidding Documents.

5. Delivery of bid: Completed documents (Technical & Price Bids) sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked as technical bid and price bid in each envelope with the Project name.

- In hard copy at the location and address as described above.
- On or before the deadline: (22-June-2015) at 10:00 AM
- Together with a Bid Security of One Million and Five Hundred United States Dollars (US\$ 1,500,000) valid up to 28 days after the expiry of the bid validity period or on (28-November-2015)

6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, bidders should contact:

Attention: Mr. Ahmad Khalid "Abdullah"  
Ministry of Energy and Water  
Street Address: Dar-ul-Aman Road  
Floor/Room number: 2nd Floor General Planning Department  
City: Kabul  
Country: Afghanistan  
Telephone: +93 (0) 789169909/ +93(0)777-238320  
Electronic mail: [akhalid@mew.gov.af](mailto:akhalid@mew.gov.af), copy to [khalidabdullah\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:khalidabdullah_1@hotmail.com), [h\\_stanik@yahoo.com](mailto:h_stanik@yahoo.com)

7. A complete set of Bidding documents (Technical Bid and Price Bid) in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders by downloading the same from the ARDS website [www.ards.gov.af](http://www.ards.gov.af) or may obtain in flash or CD from the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) office above. In case of any difficulty in downloading from the website, interested bidders may contact the e-mail address [khalidabdullah\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:khalidabdullah_1@hotmail.com). Bids should be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes, one containing a technical bid and the other Price Bid. The bids shall be rejected if the technical bid and price bid are sealed in the same envelope (one envelope). The technical bid will be opened on (22-June-2015) at 10:00am in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend.

8. Delivery of bid: Completed documents (Technical & Price Bids) sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked as technical bid and price bid in each envelope with the Project name.

- In hard copy at the location and address as described above.
- On or before the deadline: (22-June-2015) at 10:00 AM
- Together with a Bid Security of One Million and Five Hundred United States Dollars (US\$ 1,500,000) valid up to 28 days after the expiry of the bid validity period or on (28-November-2015)

9. When comparing bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will not be applied.

10. Site visit for bidders are compulsory. This will help them to assess the site condition and will raise questions that can be asked by them during the pre-bid meeting.

A site visit will be organized on:

Date: 1-June-2015

Time: 10:00 hours (local time)

11. A pre-bid meeting shall take place at the following date, time and place:

Procurement Directorate  
Ministry of Energy and Water  
Dar-ul-Aman Road  
Kabul, Afghanistan

Date: (10-June-2015)

Time: 10:00 hours (local time)

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