

# Brexit "Last Thing the Economy Needs": Cameron

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron has warned local voters that leaving the European Union was the "last thing the economy needs" and would be a vote for recession, Sky News reported on Saturday. Cameron made the remark at an event in his own Witney constituency in Oxfordshire. Economic security was the single most important thing for people to consider, and none of the arguments for Brexit were "able to counter the immediate and sustained hit that we would suffer



to our economy" if the UK left the EU, the broadcaster quoted Cameron as saying. Addressing vot-

ers on the biggest day of campaigning yet, dubbed Super Saturday, Cameron said: "If we vote to leave

on 23 June we will be voting for higher prices, we will be voting for fewer jobs, we will be voting

for lower growth, we will be voting potentially for a recession. That is the last thing our economy

needs." Britain will hold the EU referendum on June 23. Sky Data suggests the economy lags behind immigration as the greatest concern of undecided voters. The poll showed 29 percent of voters were undecided and 28 percent said immigration was the greatest concern, with just 15 percent said the economy.

Cameron said that the referendum was "more important than a General Election" and the "chance for a generation of a lifetime," according to the report. (Xinhua)

## Obama Toasts Nordic Nations After Russia-Focused Summit

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama toasted Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland at a star-studded state dinner on Friday, lauding the nations for their global influence on civil rights, humanitarian issues and curbing climate change. The red carpet glamor followed a White House summit where Obama and the leaders of the five nations presented a united front against Moscow's recent military ag-

gression in Ukraine and the Baltic region. But the meeting was more about soft diplomacy than launching ambitious foreign policy endeavors, given that Obama's second and final term ends in January. Americans will vote in presidential elections on Nov. 8. "I thought this was a very useful and important conversation, although there was probably too much agreement ... (More on P4)...(16)

gress in Ukraine and the Baltic region. But the meeting was more about soft diplomacy than launching ambitious foreign policy endeavors, given that Obama's second and final term ends in January. Americans will vote in presidential elections on Nov. 8. "I thought this was a very useful and important conversation, although there was probably too much agreement ... (More on P4)...(16)

## Germany to Spend \$106 Billion on Refugees

BERLIN - Germany's federal government expects to spend 93.6 billion euros (\$106.2 billion) to support refugees over the next five years, weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday. The Hamburg-based magazine cited a finance ministry document that predicted the annual costs would rise from about 16.1 billion euros (\$18.2 billion) this year to 20.4 billion in 2020. Much of the money would go toward basic benefits, housing sup-

port and language lessons for asylum-seekers, but the overall amount also includes spending on efforts to fight the reasons why people flee their home countries and seek refuge in Germany. Finance ministry spokesman JuergWeisserger declined to comment on the figures but confirmed that federal officials were in discussion with representatives from Germany's 16 states about the cost of supporting refugees.



They are aiming to reach an agreement on sharing the cost by the time Chancellor Angela Merkel meets state leaders on May 31. Heavy gov-

ernment spending on refugees has boosted Germany's economy in recent months, but has also stoked resentment among ... (More on P4)...(17)

## 1,000 Migrants Rescued in Mediterranean Sea: UN

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that approximately 1,000 people of various nationalities, including refugee families and unaccompanied children, had been rescued from the Mediterranean Sea in recent days in operations coordinated with Frontex, the European Union border management agency, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday. In one operation carried out on May 12, some 500 people travelling in two



fishing boats that had departed several days earlier from Egypt had been rescued off Sicily, south east of Cape Passero," UN spokesman

StephaneDujarric said at a daily news briefing here. "Apart from the two fishing boats that had sailed from Egypt, it was

believed that there had been other smaller boats coming from Libya," Dujarric said. "Disembarkation of these people was taking place today at four different locations in southern Italy: Catania, Palermo, Augusta and Crotona." UNHCR staff is providing information and assistance to the rescued persons, he added. According to the Italian Coastguard, there are some Syrians and Iraqis among this group, as ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Ukraine Interior Minister Slams Journalists Accredited with Rebels

KIEV - Ukraine's interior minister on Saturday lambasted reporters who were accredited by pro-Russian rebels to cover fighting in the country's east, after their details were leaked by hackers. Journalist groups have slammed a group of pro-Kiev hackers for this week revealing details of thousands of reporters who got accredited with the insurgents to work in territory they control. The list includes journalists from Agence France-Presse and other global

media organisations and contains the email addresses and phone numbers. Journalists who entered the war zone needed to receive special permits from the separatist authorities to work in the territory the rebels have controlled since the start of the conflict in April 2014. But Interior Minister ArsenAvakov lashed out at those who had worked with permission from the rebels. "I find it impossible to ... (More on P4)...(19)

## UNSC Alarmed At Boko Haram's Linkages with IS

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council (UNSC) on Friday expressed alarm at the extremist group Boko Haram's linkages with the Islamic State, condemning all terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region. In a presidential statement adopted here, the 15-nation council also expressed its deep concern about the alarming scale of humanitarian crisis caused by Boko Haram in the region. It noted that 2.2 million Nigerians are internally displaced and there are over 450,000 internally-displaced persons and refugees in neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. And an estimated



4.2 million people in the Lake Chad Basin region face a food security crisis. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O' Brien will travel to Niger and Nigeria next week to take stock of the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, UN Spokesperson StephaneDujarric told a daily briefing.

The presidential statement came one day before the Second Regional Security Summit on Saturday in Abuja, Nigeria to evaluate the regional response to the threat posed by Boko Haram with a view to adopting a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis. The Security Council also ... (More on P4)...(20)

## NATO Sets up Center in Albania

TIRANA - NATO has decided to open a center in Tirana to help prevent people from trying to join terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq, the Albanian Daily News newspaper reported on Saturday. Albanian Defense Minister Mimi Kodheli said that Tirana's proposal was approved by the alliance's 28 member coun-

tries at a time "when the phenomenon of the foreign terrorist fighters has reached considerable levels." The center will train people from NATO member and partner countries to "understand the causes and reasons of radicalization of the citizens" and find ways to prevent that. This center will also sup-

port projects of the Albanian government for fighting violent extremism and terrorism. Both predominantly Muslim Albania and neighboring Kosovo, from where a few hundred people have joined rebel groups in Syria and Iraq, claim they have stopped that trend since last year. (Xinhua)

## Russia Says Detained Russian Yacht Arrives in DPRK, Crew in Good Condition

MOSCOW - A Russian yacht detained by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has arrived at the country's Kimchaek port, and the crew members are in good condition, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Saturday. The Russian Embassy in the DPRK and Consulate General in Chongjin, capital of the DPRK's North Hangyong Province, are taking measures to settle the issue, and a note has been sent to the DPRK side demanding explanations for the detention, the ministry said in an online statement. Russia's Consul General in Chongjin Yuri Bochkarev is waiting for the permission to go to Kimchaek to meet with the crew. The Elfin yacht with five crew members on board was detained late Friday by a DPRK coast guard ship 80 nautical miles (150 km) off DPRK's shore, the ministry said. The Russian side said the yacht was in international waters at the time of the incident. 8 The vessel was on its way ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Moscow Demands N. Korea's Explanation on Detention of Russian Yacht



MOSCOW - A North Korean coast guard ship has detained a Russian yacht with a crew of five people on board, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, adding it had sent a note to Pyongyang demanding explanation for the cause of the detention. The yacht was on its way from South Korea's port city of Pusan to Vladivostok in Russia's Far East when it was detained 80 miles (129 km) off the coast in North Korea's exclusive economic zone on Friday, the ministry said, giving no further detail. The yacht is now in the North Korean port of Kimchaek, and Russia's consul general is awaiting permission from the authorities to meet the crew, the ministry said, adding that their lives or health were not in danger. (Reuters)

## Nieghbor News

### Singapore Yard Inks \$450 Million Iran Deal

TEHRAN - Singapore's Kim Heng Holdings says it has signed an agreement worth \$450 million with Iran Marine Fund to finance offshore facilities and other maritime ventures. The non-binding agreement calls for manufacturing of platform supply vessels, offshore cranes, chemical tankers, and also aluminum and fiberglass vessels. Tan Keng Hoe Melvin, general manager for supply chain management for Kim Heng, said "maximum domestic production in Iran has been emphasized" for the projects.

In a press release, Kim Heng said the partnership could include shipbuilding, chartering of Kim Heng's assets, pur-

chasing of offshore vessels, rig management and offshore maintenance.

It said the commercial terms and form of financing for each project will be negotiated on a project by project basis and documented in definitive agreements.

"As such, there is no certainty that any of the projects will materialize or that any definitive agreements could be entered into," it added.

The Iran Marine Fund is a state-owned enterprise of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade. Other foreign companies have also expressed their readiness to invest in Iran's fast-growing shipping industry as well as ports. (PressTV)

### Tajikistan's Lower Chamber Ratifies Agreement with EBRD

BISHKEK - Members of the Tajikistan's lower chamber of parliament ratified the agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on financing public transport in Khujand, Sughd province. Deputy Finance Minister JamshedNourmuhammadiyon said EBRD would provide a loan of US\$17.4 million in two tranches to a municipal company in charge of public transport under a sovereign guarantee.

Besides, an investment grant totaling \$8.6 million for this project will

be provided by the EBRD Shareholder Special Fund and an international donor, Nourmuhammadiyon added.

EBRD will also provide \$840,000 in technical assistance.

The agreement was signed in December 2015, and the Bank is financing the purchase of up to 100 new low-floor buses for Khujand. The financing will also enable the city to finance rehabilitation of the depot and the supply of maintenance equipment, and implement a new ticketing system. (AKIpress)

### No Military Funds for Pakistan Without Specific Actions: US

WASHINGTON - Key members of Congress are not prepared to support military aid to Pakistan without some specific actions and the Obama administration has to follow their decision, says the US State Department.

At a Thursday afternoon news briefing in Washington, a State Department official, Elizabeth Trudeau, pointed out that the US administration also wanted Pakistan to act against the Haqqani network. "Key members of Congress have been clear they're not prepared to support US military aid to Pakistan absent some

specific actions," she said.

Ms Trudeau said the United States had clearly conveyed its views to Pakistan on the activities of the Haqqani network and Islamabad knew what to do.

"Pakistan has spoken that they will not discriminate against [militant] groups. We could encourage them to continue to live up to that," she said when asked if the State Department was willing to certify that Pakistan had taken the 'specific actions' needed to justify releasing military funds to the country. (Agencies)

### Arab States Praiseworthy for Stance on South China Sea Issue: Chinese Envoy

BEIJING - Arab countries are praiseworthy for supporting China's stance on the South China Sea issue, a Chinese diplomat has said.

In a statement issued Thursday at the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum held in Doha, capital of Qatar, the participating Arab countries said they support China's efforts to peacefully resolve territorial and maritime differences with certain nations through friendly dialogues and negotiations.

They also stressed that the rights of sovereign nations as well as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea signatories to choose how they solve their disputes should be respected. "It is praiseworthy that

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil al-Araby, some Arab countries and the Doha statement confirmed their support for China's stance on the South China Sea issue," Gong Xiaosheng, China's special envoy on the Middle East issue, said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on Friday. Top diplomats from Algeria, Comoros, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, in their separate meetings with Wang on the sidelines of the China-Arab forum, expressed their support for China's position on the South China Sea issue, stressing that related disputes should be solved through negotiations. "One outstanding point of the ministerial meeting of the forum ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Iraqi Troops Kill 19 IS Militants

BAGHDAD - A total of 19 Islamic State (IS) militants, including 14 attempted suicide bombers, were killed in clashes in west and north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, security sources said on Saturday. In Iraq's western province of Anbar, the security forces and allied paramilitary Sunni tribal

units foiled an attack of IS militants when nine wearing explosive vests tried to infiltrate into the town of Ameriyat al-Fallujah, some 40 km west of Baghdad. The troops clashed with the nine attackers and killed them all at the edge of the town, a local security source said on condition of anonymity. Five

more IS suicide bombers were killed in clashes with the security forces when they attacked military checkpoints along the main road between Ameriyat al-Fallujah and the adjacent province of Babil in south of Baghdad, the source added. In Iraq's northern province of Salahudin, two IS ... (More on P4)...(21)