

# UNEP Says Greening of Global Financial System has Accelerated

NARABI - The greening of global financial markets has reached a new milestone thanks to enactment of a raft of policy and regulatory incentives by governments, said a UNEP report received on Saturday.

According to the second edition of The Financial System We Need, the global momentum to green capital markets, banks and sovereign wealth funds has gathered steam.

The report said that 60 countries across the globe have already enacted 217 policy and regulatory measures to promote sustainable finance. UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim said multilateral institutions are commit-



ted to help governments and businesses implement measures that would advance greening of the financial sector.

Solheim said recommendations were being put forward to accelerate the conversion of the financial system's assets held by banks, capital markets and institutional investors into sustainable financial flows, Solheim said. Both the developed and emerging economies have prioritized greening of the financial markets.

The UNEP report disclosed that issuance of green bonds hit 51.4 billion U.S. dollars this year, up from 41.8 billion dollars in 2015.

It added...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## British PM to Start Brexit Process in Spring 2017

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May says she will formally begin the Brexit process by the end of March 2017, in an interview with the BBC.

Speaking on the Andrew Marr Show, she did not give an exact date beyond saying "by the end of March" for triggering Article 50 in the Lisbon treaty of the EU needed by a member state to exit the bloc.

May said she hoped there would now be "preparatory work" with the remaining EU members so

that "once the trigger comes we will have a smoother process of negotiation".

She added: "It is important to do this in the best possible way so there is a smooth transition (for away from the EU." In an interview with the Sunday Times, May said



the UK

that she is to put a new law in next spring before the British Parliament to repeal the act passed in 1972

that took the country into the EU. The so-called "Great Repeal...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Turkish Parliament Extends Cross-Border Military Operation Mandate

ANKARA - The Turkish parliament extended the mandate to send military troops abroad for one year during its first convention of the new legislative year on Saturday, Dogan News Agency reported.

The motion also allows foreign forces to use Turkish airbases and territories to fight militants from the Islamic State (IS), the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People's Protection Units (YPG), according to

Turkish Daily Sabah.

The mandate was given to the Turkish armed forces in 2014 and was extended for one year in September 2015.

Parliamentary speaker Ismail Kahraman said making a simple, civilian, democratic, libertarian and individual-centered new constitution is a top priority for the new legislative year.

In his address to the parliament, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he supports the...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Poll Shows U.S. Voters do not Trust Media's Fact-Checking

WASHINGTON - A majority of U.S. voters say that they do not trust U.S. media's fact-checking of presidential candidates' statements, according to a new poll.

The new Rasmussen Reports poll released on Friday found that when it comes to fact-checking presidential candidates' statements, almost two in three likely U.S. voters do not trust the media, with only 29 percent saying otherwise.

The distrust of media is deeper among Republi-

can presidential nominee Donald Trump's supporters, with 88 percent believing that U.S. media are biased. By contrast, almost six in ten Democrat Hillary Clinton's supporters trust media fact-checking.

While Clinton was criticized for shunning media by rarely holding a press conference, Trump, the New York billionaire developer famous for his bombastic tone, wrangled with the media now and then after his usually...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Majority of U.S. Voters Say 2016 Election Brings out Worst in People: Poll

WASHINGTON - With harsh rhetoric as the brand image of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, an overwhelming majority of voters say this year's race has brought out the worst in people.

According to a new Monmouth University poll released early this week, 70 percent of U.S. registered voters believe that the matchup between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump has brought out the worst in people, with only four percent thinking otherwise.



While almost two in three voters say harsh language used in U.S. politics is unjustified, nearly half of Trump supporters say the

harsh language adopted by their candidate's campaign is justified, the poll found, compared to only 17 percent of Clinton sup-

porters and 21 percent of those either undecided or are supporting a third party candidate...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## South Korean President Urges N. Koreans to Defect

SEOUL - South Korean President Park Geun-Hye called on North Koreans to abandon their country on Saturday and defect, just a day after a soldier walked across the heavily fortified border into the South.

In a rare message directly addressed to rank-and-file troops and North Korean citizens, the president invited North Koreans to relocate to the "bosom of freedom" in the South. "We are well aware of the gruesome realities you face," said Park during a speech marking the country's Armed Forces Day.

"The universal values of freedom, democracy, human rights and welfare are the precious rights you...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Syrian Army Recaptures Industrial Area in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army backed by allied fighters succeeded Sunday to wrest control over factories in the northern province of Aleppo, as part of a wide-scale offensive against rebel-held areas, a military source told Xinhua.

The military forces captured the industrial area of Shaqif in the northern countryside of Aleppo, further securing the road of Castello. As a target of repeated rebel attacks, the road was the opposition fighters' only supply route to rebel-held areas in eastern Aleppo, before the army captured it a couple of months ago.

The advance of the army comes as part of the recently declared battle by the general command of the Syrian army against the rebel-held areas in...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Damascus Hails Russia's Military Operations in Syria

DAMASCUS - Syria on Sunday praised Russia as a "serious and credible" player in fighting terrorism, state news agency SANA reported.

The Russian aerial military operations in Syria have proven its seriousness and credibility in fighting terrorism, the Syria's foreign ministry said, commenting on the first anniversary of the Russian military intervention in support of the Syrian government against five years of insurgency.

"The Russian military support in Syria has led to tightening noose on the terrorist groups and prevented them from expanding to other countries," the



ministry said. It said the "strategic" relation between Moscow and Damascus is not just confined to the military support, which also coordinates in reaching a political solution to the country's

long-running conflict. The ministry concluded by expressing gratitude to Russia for "standing by Syria on the military, political and economic levels and helping Syria to regain...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Russian Military Intervention Spares Syria Fragmentation

DAMASCUS - A year has passed since Russia launched military operations in Syria against the radical rebel groups, in what was seen by Syrian analysts as an intervention that has saved Syria from fragmentation.

Unlike the U.S.-led intervention with the pretext of fighting the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria, the Russian intervention to support the Syrian government forces is seen to have helped shift the course of actions on ground in favor of the Syrian

government army, which has been facing an array of ultra-radical groups for over five years.

Local analysts said the Russian air force intervention has protected Syria from division, especially that many plans to fragment Syria were put forward in the shape of a political solution.

The Kremlin said on Friday that the Russian military support played a role in preventing the downfall of the capital city of Damascus in the...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## Turkey Police Detain Gulen's Brother in Coup Probe



ISTANBUL - Turkish police on Sunday detained a brother of the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen who is accused of masterminding the failed July coup aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Kutbettin Gulen was detained by police acting on a tip-off at the home of a relative in the Gaziemir district of the western Izmir province, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

He is the first of Gulen's siblings to be detained after the coup bid.

He is accused of "membership of an armed terror group", Anadolu said, without giving further details. Kutbettin Gulen is currently being questioned by anti-terror police.

Anadolu said books belonging to Fethullah Gulen himself were confiscated in the police raid. Fethullah Gulen, a former Erdogan ally who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, is accused by Turkey of orchestrating the July 15 coup plot.

Gulen denies the claims and his supporters ridicule the description of his group by the Turkish authorities as the Fethullah Terror Organisation (FETO), saying he merely runs a peaceful organization called Hizmet (Service). (Monitoring Desk)

## Neighbor News

### No Country can Set Conditions for 'Independent' Iran: Zarif

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says no foreign state can impose conditions on an "independent" country like Iran.

"No one can set conditions for Iran and Iran is an independent country," Zarif told reporters on Saturday.

He made the remarks in response to an earlier demand by German Economy Minister and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel who told online weekly magazine Der Spiegel on Friday that Iran could have normal and friendly relations with Germany "only when it accepted Israel's right to exist."

Gabriel plans to visit Iran at the head of a large delegation of business executives to discuss possible business deals after last year's historic nuclear

agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries.

As part of the deal, Iran has agreed to limit certain aspects of its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of all nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Zarif dismissed the German official's call and said, "Our policies are clear and [officials of] different countries travel to Iran in the knowledge that that the country's policies are constructive." "Our country is the main country fighting against terrorism in the region," the top Iranian diplomat said. He added that Iran has been resisting foreign bullying over the past 37 years "while it is a peace-seeking country." (Presstv)

### Pakistan will Welcome Iran, Saudi if They Want to be Part of CPEC: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal said that Iran and Saudi Arabia's desire to join China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework was a good step and Pakistan would welcome their involvement.

"We will welcome both the brotherly Islamic countries if they want to be part of CPEC," he told APP.

In Pakistan, he said, would also welcome and appreciate any friendly country which desired to participate in the multi-billion gigantic flagship project of

"One Road One Belt" initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

CPEC, a trans-regional project, will benefit three billion people of the region through enhanced regional connectivity with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and will play instrumental role integrating the whole region, he said.

It is a 15-year-long project to be completed in 2030 by focusing on infrastructural development, the Gwadar Sea Port, and energy and industrial cooperation, he added. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran, Pakistan Stage Joint Naval Drill

TEHRAN - Iranian and Pakistani naval forces on Saturday staged a joint naval exercise in the Pakistani territorial waters near the port of Karachi, official IRNA news agency reported.

The Iranian Navy's 43rd flotilla, which docked at Karachi port on Sept. 27, represented Iran in the naval rescue and relief operation, the report said.

The Iranian flotilla comprises Lavan logistic warship, Falakhan and Khanjar missile-equipped warships, Konarak troop-carrier

warship and a domestically-manufactured helicopter. Several exercises were carried out during the joint drill including search and rescue training, helicopter vertical reference training, telecommunication exercises using flags, lights, radiographs and the formation and combination of the surface vessels of Iran and Pakistan, according to pre-determined scenarios, Press TV reported.

Iran and Pakistan held a joint naval exercise in the Strait of Hormuz in 2014. (Xinhua)

### Over 460,000 Jobs Created in Uzbekistan for Six Months

TASHKENT - More than 462,500 people were provided with jobs in Uzbekistan in January-June 2016, 59.8 percent - in rural areas, Aziz Abdulkhalkimov, Uzbek minister of labour, said at a meeting of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis.

The employment was ensured by commissioning new facilities, mainly in industry, services, as well as by accelerating the development of small businesses.

The Senate (upper house of the Uzbek parliament) approved a

program in December 2015 to create 993,000 jobs in 2016.

According to the ministry, some 896,000 jobs were created in the country in 2015.

According to the Uzbek State Statistics Committee, the country's population is 31.8 million people as of early July 2016, including the economically active population - 13.2 million people.

The official unemployment rate amounted to 5.2 percent in Uzbekistan in January-June 2016. (Trend)