

# British PM Sets Out Key Demands for EU Reform

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday formally launched his bid to renegotiate Britain's membership in the European Union, setting out his four key demands for EU reform. Cameron has written to Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, to tell him his demands. Cameron is also scheduled to deliver a major speech Tuesday to urge the EU to meet his demands ahead of an "in or out" referendum on Britain's membership in the EU.



is expected to stress his four demands: protecting the single market for Britain and others

outside the eurozone, exempting Britain from "ever-closer union" and bolstering national par-

liaments, limiting EU migrants' benefits in Britain, and enhancing competitiveness in the

EU. On Monday, Cameron said that he had "no emotional attachment"

to the EU institutions and wanted to "debunk" the idea Britain could not survive outside the EU.

Addressing a national business conference, he said he was not satisfied with the status quo and Britain had to renegotiate its deal with Europe. If he got the changes he wanted, Cameron said, he would campaign "vigorously" to stay in the EU; if not, he would "rule nothing out." Cameron has pledged to hold a referendum on whether Britain should withdraw from the EU by 2017. (Xinhua)

## Russia Mulls Possible Bomb Attack behind Airliner Crash

MOSCOW - Russia is considering the possibility of a terrorist attack behind the crash of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt as new evidence has emerged. "The likelihood of a terrorist act as a reason behind what has happened remains, of course," Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev told the official daily Rossiyskaya Gazeta in an interview to be published on Wednesday, excerpts of which have been posted on the government website Tuesday. The Russian Metrojet Airbus A321 plane, en route to Russia's second-largest city St. Petersburg, crashed on Oct. 31 shortly after take-off from Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh,

killing all the 224 passengers and crew members, mostly Russians, on board. President Vladimir Putin on Friday ordered the suspension of all of the country's scheduled flights to Egypt amid rising speculation that terrorist attacks were possibly behind the disaster. Prior to the order, Putin held a telephone conversation with British Prime Minister David Cameron over the crash. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov admitted Monday that London had handed over to Moscow some intelligence related to the accident, but declined to disclose details. Reports in Western media have ... (More on P4)... (19)

## UN Launches Int'l Year of Pulses

ROME - The United Nations (UN) launched the International Year of Pulses 2016, aiming to raise awareness of the many benefits of pulses, boost their production and trade, and encourage new and smarter uses of them throughout the food chain. Pulses are plants which produce legumes such as peas, beans, or lentils and "are important food crops for the food security of large proportions of populations, particularly in Latin America, Africa and Asia, where pulses are part of traditional diets and often grown by small farmers," said UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva at the launch ceremony. "They have been an essen-



tial part of the human diet for centuries," he added. "Yet, their nutritional value is not generally recognized and is frequently under-appreciated." Da Silva also highlighted how the nitrogen-fixing properties of pulses improve soil fertility, which extends the productivity of farmland

and eliminates dependency on synthetic fertilizers. This in turn leads to a smaller carbon footprint and indirectly reduces greenhouse gas emissions. "Pulses can contribute significantly to addressing hunger, food security, malnutrition, environmental challenges and human health," UN

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a written statement delivered on his behalf at the ceremony. In a symbolic gesture following his address, da Silva planted a number of fava beans in a planter full of soil as he proclaimed the international year officially begun. (Xinhua)

## India, Russia Hold Joint Defense Training Exercise in Western State

NEW DELHI - India and Russia are holding a joint defense training exercise in the western state of Rajasthan, defense sources said Tuesday. The two week-long exercise, titled Counter Terrorism Operations in the backdrop of desert terrain under a United Nations Mandate, began Monday. The training exercise, which will continue till Nov. 20, is being held at Mahajan field firing range in the



state's Bikaner town, the sources said. The Russian contingent includes over 250 military personnel from an independent motorised

brigade, who arrived in India on Nov. 7, they said. Major General P.C. Thimmaya, the general officer commanding India's Red Eagle Di-

vision, has urged both contingents to strive to understand each others' battle drills and procedures, a release said. (Xinhua)

## Merkel Confident of Deal with Britain on its EU Membership

BERLIN - Germany wants to respond to Britain's proposals to reform the 28-member European Union in a constructive spirit, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Tuesday, adding that she was confident a solution could be found. "I spoke with him by telephone yesterday," Merkel said of British Prime Minister David Cameron. "I know of the demands, so what

is on the table now is no surprise. We want to take a solution-orientated approach to dealing with these proposals." "There are some difficult points, and some less difficult points. But if one has a spirit of wanting to solve this then I have a certain confidence that this can work out," she told reporters after meeting South African President Jacob Zuma. (Reuters)

## Gulf Air Strikes on IS down Due to Yemen Conflict: US General

DUBAI - Air strikes by Gulf Arab members of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria have diminished since they launched an air war against Yemeni rebels in March, a US general said Tuesday. Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have carried out air strikes against IS in Syria but the three Gulf Cooperation Council members are also involved in an air and ground campaign in Yemen in support of exiled President Abdelrabbo Mansour Hadi. "There is a mix of GCC that is participating in Yemen as well as in the operations in Iraq and Syria," said US Air Forces Central Command chief Lieutenant General Charles Q. Brown. "Less so since March because they've been occupied with the Yemen operation," he told reporters at the Dubai Airshow. Washington has been leading mainly Western allies in carrying out air strikes against IS in Iraq since August last year. In September last year, it launched air strikes against IS in Syria with the support of mainly Arab allies. In September this year, Russia launched its own separate bombing campaign in Syria in support of its ally President Bashar al-Assad. (AFP)

## Austria Calls for Greece, Italy Border Controls

CALAIS - The latest news as tens of thousands of people fleeing war or poverty make their way across Europe. All times local. Austria's chancellor says establishing controls on the borders of Italy and Greece must be a priority to stem the influx of migrants into the EU. Werner Faymann says border controls inside the EU are less effective because refugee flows can "only be shifted" once the refugees have traveled thousands of kilometers (miles) in hopes of a safe haven. Faymann on Tuesday also urged quick completion of an agreement with Turkey offering Ankara billions of euros in aid for incentives to migrants to remain in Turkey instead of leaving for the EU. He said making sure that people fleeing war and hardship from regions in Asia and the Mideast can survive in Turkey is the "only sensible way." Greek authorities say more than 10,000 refugees and economic migrants have crossed from Greece into Macedonia since Monday morning, on their long trek toward wealthier western and northern European countries. Macedonian border police were letting groups of 50 across at regular intervals Tuesday. But large bottlenecks formed due to increased flows toward the border crossing at Idomeni after migrants were stranded on ... (More on P4)... (22)

## Migrant, Refugee Relocations in EU Continue Amid new Arrivals

GENEVA - As the number of migrant and refugee sea arrivals in Europe reaches 800,000 this year, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported Tuesday that asylum seeker relocations are continuing in a bid to reduce the pressure on EU entry point countries with external borders. Two such relocation operations were carried out by the Italian government last week. A total of 19 Eritreans were transferred to the French



city of Nantes on Nov. 5, while 11 Eritreans and one Syrian were received by Spanish authorities on Nov. 8. "Since October, 118 asylum seekers have been relocated to

Finland, Sweden, Spain and France. The program is still in its initial phase, but the positive outcome should soon lead to many more asylum seekers be ... (More on P4)... (20)

## Greek Gov't Confident for Imminent Progress on Bailout Actions

ATHENS - Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras appeared confident on Tuesday that Athens will achieve imminent progress in coming days to unlock the next bailout installment next week, according to government sources. Addressing a cabinet meeting a few hours after Monday's Euro Group meeting in Brussels that gave Greece one more week to resolve pending issues in talks with lenders, the Leftist premier was said to have welcomed the outcome as one more signal that Athens can convince interlocutors by negotiating and building alliances. The govern-

ment's top priority at the moment was to conclude talks on thorny issues such as the management of nonperforming loans and auctions of houses by the weekend, Tsipras said, according to the sources. The goal was that as soon as next Monday the Euro Working Group and the European Support Mechanism (ESM) can give the green light for the disbursement of a two-billion-euro (about 2.14 billion U.S. dollars) loan and an extra 10 billion euros for the recapitalization of Greece's banking sector respectively. Despite progress made in ... (More on P4)... (21)

## Nieghbor News

### Iran Arrests 40 over Terrorist Attacks

TEHRAN - Iran's Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi has announced the arrest of more than 40 terrorist operatives, saying several terrorist plots have been thwarted across the country. Speaking to reporters in Tehran on Tuesday, Alavi added that over 20 operatives, who were traveling between Iran and neighboring Syria and Iraq, were detained in border areas. He said 10 were also captured in the northern provinces of Tehran, Mazandaran and Golestan and the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan. The minister also said

14 others had been detained in connection with last month's terror attack in the Safiabad district of the city of Dezful in the southwestern Khuzestan Province. He said eight of the 14 detainees were the main elements involved in the October 16 attack on a mourning ceremony for Imam Hussein, the third Shia imam. The minister also noted that heavy losses were inflicted on a terrorist group responsible for several attacks on police station and governor's office in the city of Soussangerd in Khuzestan Province on November 7. (PressTV)

### China Wishes APEC Summit a Success: FM

MANILA - China wishes the coming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting to be held in the Philippines a success and is willing to offer the rotating host necessary support. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Tuesday. Wang, who is paying a working visit to the Philippines at the invitation of his Philippine counterpart Albert Del Rosario, told the Chinese press that APEC is important to Asian countries as it helps promote cooperation among developing countries in the region. He said that the Philippine leadership extended their warmest welcome to Chinese President Xi Jinping's planned presence at the summit and considered Xi's visit the most important support for the host. Wang said China and Philippines are close neighbors with

long-lasting friendship between the two peoples. Many Filipinos have Chinese blood, including former President Corazon Aquino. Corazon Aquino, mother of the current Philippine president, once said "I'm president of the Philippines, and also daughter of this village" when she took what Chinese described as a "root-tracing" trip to China's southeast Fujian Province. Wang quoted Corazon Aquino's words, saying her remarks are a vivid reflection of Sino-Philippine friendship. He reiterated China's willingness to resume stable, healthy and friendly relationship with the Philippines. "China is always open to dialogues. Consultation and negotiation are the only correct and feasible way to solve problems between the two countries," said Wang. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan, Belarus Sign Roadmap Economic Cooperation Agreement

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Belarus signed a roadmap for fast track and middle track economic cooperation in Islamabad on Tuesday, officials said. Visiting Belarusian Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif signed the document after their formal talks. The two sides also signed 17 other agreements, memorandums of understanding and protocols on cooperation in diverse fields. These relate to collaboration and cooperation in health, custom matters, agriculture, education, trade, economy, scientific, technical, humanitarian and cultural fields. Earlier, Sharif

held one-on-one meeting with Kobyakov and discussed a wide range of issues. Addressing a joint news conference, Sharif said that agreements signed are reflective of close relationship between the two countries. "The agreements provide robust framework for future bilateral economic cooperation and a comprehensive roadmap for regional trade," the Pakistani prime minister said. Sharif said Belarusian businessmen could invest in Pakistan as its policies are business friendly, adding that the two countries hope to forge closer bilateral relations especially in economy. (Xinhua)

### Cooperation Prospects of Tajikistan and UN ESCAP Reviewed in Dushanbe

BISHKEK - The prospects of cooperation between Tajikistan and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) were discussed at the meeting of Deputy Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Nizomiddin Zokhidi with Head of ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, Tiziana Bonapace, reports the Foreign Ministry of the country. Cooperation in the framework of the UN

Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was considered at the meeting. The sides also exchanged views on the tenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the SPECA Economic Forum "Supporting the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the SPECA region" that started in Dushanbe on November 9. (AKIpress)