

EU Gets Tough: Bloc Tells UK Brexit is Lose-Lose Situation

LONDON - Since Britain voted to leave the European Union, U.K. officials have had one message: Brexit means Brexit. Now they have EU leaders' reply: And it's going to hurt. The prime minister of Malta, whose country is about to assume the EU presidency, is the latest leader to dash Britain's hopes of an easy divorce, signaling that the 27 other nations will drive a hard bargain. Joseph Muscat told the BBC that "there will not be a situation when the U.K. has a better deal than it has today."



"In the U.K. it's fair game to bash Brussels and then you don't need to be surprised that in Brussels they bash you back," Muscat said in an interview broadcast Friday. "So this is a bit of Catch-22. It won't be a case whether one side gains and the other side loses. We are all going to lose something." Malta, a former British colony, is usually one of the U.K.'s strongest supporters in Europe. The island nation is due to hold the EU's rotating presidency for six months ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

European FMs to Discuss Ukraine Next Week in Minsk

PARIS - The foreign ministers of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine are to meet in Minsk next week to discuss plans for implementing a ceasefire agreement for eastern Ukraine, said a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry. "The meeting in Minsk will allow us to go over what has been done and what has not been done since the October meeting in Berlin," said French foreign ministry spokesman Alexandre

Giorgini on Friday, adding that the meeting is due on Nov. 29. In October, Ukraine, Germany, France and Russia agreed to draw up a roadmap in November on how to implement last year's Minsk ceasefire accord. Separatist violence erupted in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and has killed 9,600 people so far. It continues despite the ceasefire agreed in the Belarusian capital last year. *(Reuters)*

EU Should Not Freeze Accession Talks with Turkey: Germany

BERLIN - The European Union should not freeze Turkey's negotiations to join the bloc, Germany's Foreign Ministry said on Friday, a day after members of the European Parliament voted in a non-binding motion in support of such a freeze. "It is important that we keep talking," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Sawsan Chebli told a regular government news conference. "It is important that we do not freeze the accession negotiations because that would only further damage the relationship between Turkey and Europe,

and that would not be in the interest of Turkey or of Europe," she added. EU lawmakers called on Thursday for a temporary halt to Turkey's accession talks because of what they called Ankara's "disproportionate" reaction to July's failed coup. Turkish authorities have detained or dismissed more than 125,000 people - including soldiers, academics, judges, journalists and Kurdish leaders - over their alleged backing for the coup, in what opponents, rights groups and some Western allies say is an attempt to crush all dissent. ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Syria Stresses Resolve to Dislodge Rebels from Aleppo Soon

DAMASCUS - A security source in the joint military room of the Syrian army and its allies stressed Friday the Syrian administration's resolve to dislodge rebels from the northern city of Aleppo as soon as possible. "Our decision is not to accept the status quo of the civilians who have become hostages in the besieged part of Aleppo, and we have an operation that will be commensurate with the threats and will dislodge the terror-

ists from Aleppo as soon as possible," the security source said in a statement sent to Xinhua. The statement also mentioned a security meeting being held in Turkey with the participation of representatives from Saudi Arabia, United States, Turkey and the rebels' Jaish al-Fateh. It said that the foreign powers told Jaish al-Fateh, backed by the West but deemed as a terrorist group by the Syrian government, not to leave the rebel-held part in eastern



Aleppo. The powers also asked Jaish al-Fateh, or the Army of Conquest, to lead a new offensive in Aleppo. "The meeting proves again that the countries

that pretend they have concerns for the civilians are partners in killings and destructions in Aleppo and their pretense of concern about civilian lives is nothing but lies," the ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Turkey Threatens to Open Borders to Migrants after EU Talks Freeze

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday threatened to open borders to illegal migrants to flood into Europe, one day after European lawmakers voted to freeze talks over Ankara's accession to the European Union. "If you go further, those border gates will be opened. You should know that," the president, who had made similar threat in the past, said at a meeting in Istanbul. He slammed Europe for "never being honest toward the humanity," say-



ing Turkey opened its borders to save refugees from "barrel bombs." While Ankara has spent 15 billion U.S. dollars for more than 3 million refugees being sheltered on its

soil, the European Union has only offered some 700 million dollars in aid, the Turkish leader said. A day earlier, the European Parliament voted in favor of a non-binding

motion on suspending membership talks with Turkey, sparking strong reactions from the country. Erdogan dismissed the vote as being valueless for his country. EU nations have been criticizing Turkey over what they called "disproportionately repressive measures" adopted in the wake of a failed military coup in July, in which 246 people were killed. More than 100,000 people have been suspended or dismissed in the ensuing ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

2016 Sees Sharp Decrease in Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in Europe: IOM

GENEVA - A total of 345,676 migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe since January this year, a significant drop from 2015's entries over the same period, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Friday. "Some 171,463 people have arrived in Greece and 168,579 in Italy during 2016," IOM said in a statement, adding that a further 5,445 and 189 had landed in Spain and Cyprus respectively. "The total is well below the



number of arrivals at this point in 2015, by which time 883,393 migrants and refugees had made the journey," it added. While the number of migrant sea entries is significantly lower this year, the

number of deaths is much higher. According to latest IOM statistics, 4,663 individuals have drowned attempting to reach European Union shores by sea this year, up ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Former PM Tony Blair Says Brexit Can be Stopped if Voters Decide

LONDON - Former Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that Britain's exit from the European Union can be stopped if voters decide the pain of leaving the world's biggest trading bloc outweighs the benefits of leaving. In Britain's June 23 referendum, 51.9 percent, or 17.4 million people, voted to leave the EU while 48.1 percent, or 16.1 million people, voted to stay. Blair, who is pro-European, compared Brexit to "agreeing to a house swap without having seen the other house" and said access to the EU single market would define Brexit. "It can be stopped if the British people decide that, having seen what it means, the painful cost-benefit analysis doesn't stack up," Blair, who served as prime minister from 1997 to 2007, told the New Statesman weekly. "I'm not saying it will [be stopped], by the way...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Syrian Army Captures Swathes of Land from Rebels in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army have captured large swathes of the largest rebel-held district in the northern city of Aleppo over the past 24 hours, a monitor group reported on Friday. Battles, accompanied by intense shelling, have raged since midnight Thursday between the government forces and an array of rebel groups in Masaken Hanano, the largest rebel-held district in eastern Aleppo, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The UK-based ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Turkish Soldier Killed in Clashes with PKK Militants

ANKARA - A Turkish soldier was killed on Friday in clashes with militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir, state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Security forces launched an operation against PKK militants in the Lice district of Diyarbakir province, the report said. Clashes erupted between the forces and the PKK militants, leaving a soldier seriously wounded, it said. The soldier was carried to hospital where he later died of his injuries, it added. The security forces' operation is still ongoing. On Thursday, another Turkish soldier was killed in a PKK attack in the southeastern Turkish province of Sirnak. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union and Turkey. *(Xinhua)*

IS Truck Bomb in Iraq Sows Carnage Among Shiite Pilgrims

HILLA, Iraq - A suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State group killed at least 70 people, mainly Shiite pilgrims, south of Baghdad, as Iraqi forces battle to retake Mosul from the jihadists. The huge truck bomb blast ripped through a petrol station where packed buses returning from the Arbaeen commemoration in Karbala were parked, officials said. Most of the dead were Iraqis, the largest contingent of foreigners in the pilgrimage, which is one of the world's largest religious events and culminated on Monday. The attack took place near a village called Shomali, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) southeast of Baghdad. IS, which is fighting



to defend its Mosul stronghold in northern Iraq, claimed responsibility for the attack. Falah al-Radhi, head of the provincial security committee for Babylon, the province where the bombing happened, said several buses were targeted. "A large truck ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

1,638 Women Murdered in Turkey in 6 Years

ISTANBUL - At least 1,638 women have been murdered in Turkey over the past six years that prompted Friday President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's calls for necessary steps to confront. While speaking at a meeting on women in Istanbul on Friday, President Erdogan said that necessary steps should be taken to raise social and cultural awareness to solve the issue. "There should be a change of understanding in the society," he said. "Otherwise no legislation would prevent early marriages as long as they exist in the culture." The figure was released by "kadincinayetleri.org," a website that ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Neighbor News

China on New "Long March" to Deepening Military Reform

BEIJING - China marked a fresh start in the history of the Chinese Armed Forces, as the nation embarked on a long march of deepening military reform. One year on, the blueprint of the reform are clearer, and the commitment to building a strong military has become stronger. Amid profound and complicated changes in

the international situation and the country's ongoing efforts in revitalizing the Chinese nation, China has entered a key stage of transforming itself from a big country to a strong power, which calls for greater courage in advancing military reform. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in late ...*(More on P4)...(31)*

Passenger Trains Collide in Iran, at Least 36 Killed

ANKARA - At least 36 people were killed and 95 injured when two Iranian passenger trains collided near the city of Shahroud, about 400 km (250 miles) east of Tehran, state television reported. It said the death toll was likely to rise. Video footage showed four derailed carriages, two of them on fire. A spokesman for Iran's Red Crescent, Mostafa Mortazavi, told the semi-official Fars news agency that firefighters

were trying to control the blaze. Fars quoted provincial governor Mohammad Reza Khabbazi as saying the death toll was expected to rise. It was not clear how many passengers had been on the trains but Fars said 100 had been rescued. It said a train entering the Haft-Khan station on the outskirts of Shahroud appeared to have hit one that was waiting ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

Nawaz Visits Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has arrived in Ashgabat on Friday on a two-day visit to Turkmenistan. Nawaz Sharif is paying a two-day visit to Turkmenistan at the invitation of Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. At the airport, he was received by the deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan and officials of Pakistani embassy. The prime minister will lead the country's delegation at the first ever Global

Conference on Sustainable Transport. The president of Turkmenistan is co-hosting the conference along with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The conference is likely to be attended by around 1,500 participants, including heads of state and government ministers, civil society, leaders and UN officials. It will discuss promotion and role of sustainable transport towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Pakistan is ...*(More on P4)...(33)*

Turkmenistan to Host First Ever UN Conference on Sustainable Transport

ASHGABAT - "This first-ever UN conference dedicated to sustainable transport reflects the growing awareness of the crucial role that sustainable transport plays in advancing sustainable development and climate action," UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo said. Taking place on 27-28 November in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the Conference seeks to show the importance of sustainable transport in promoting economic and social development while protecting the environment. Mr. Wu described the numerous challenges caused by unsustain-

able transport - with around one quarter of greenhouse gas emissions being generated by the transport sector and with more than 1.25 million people killed annually in road traffic accidents. "Sustainable transport, on the other hand, helps create the infrastructure on which we can build a sustainable future," Mr. Wu explained. "It provides access to trade, jobs, markets, education, health care and other services that contribute to better lives. It empowers women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups." SustainableTransport ...*(More on P4)...(34)*

Early Voting at Presidential Election in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Early voting has started at the presidential election in Uzbekistan, the country's Central Election Commission told Trend on Thursday. In accordance with the law "On Uzbek presidential election", a voter who is unable to be present at his (her) place of residence on the election day, has the right to vote early. The early voting starts ten days before the election and ends one day before the election. In order to vote early, a

voter must write an appeal indicating the reasons for his (her) absence on the election day. As many as 9,381 polling stations were established for the presidential election in Uzbekistan, and 21.435 million persons are expected to cast their votes at these polling stations, according to the CEC of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is to hold an early presidential election December 4 due to the death of ex-president Islam Karimov, who ...*(More on P4)...(35s)*