

AIIB Can Play Constructive Role in Global Economy: Senior U.S. Treasury Official

WASHINGTON - The China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) can play a constructive role in global economy, in view of the high infrastructure demand in Asia, said a senior U.S. Treasury official on Tuesday.

"As the AIIB is pursuing sound policies as well as principles and practices that are consistent with international best practices in other multilateral development banks (MDBs), it can play a constructive role in global economy," said Nathan Sheets, undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs of the U.S. Treasury Department, at



an event held by the Center For Strategic and International Studies.

The AIIB takes constructive steps to address the massive infrastructure demand in Asia, and "that's good for global growth," said Sheets. He regarded the AIIB's documents and projects as encouraging signs that the multilateral development bank is moving in the direction consistent with international standards.

The AIIB has been consulting with and has reached co-financing frameworks with other MDBs, such as the World ... (More on P4)...(25)

Turkish Intelligence Agency Warns of IS Attacks

ANKARA - Turkey's National Intelligence Agency (MIT) issued warnings against imminent attacks by the Islamic State (IS) group in five Turkish provinces, reported the daily Cumhuriyet on Tuesday.

According to MIT's report, terrorists might target Istanbul, Ankara, the southeastern province of Gaziantep, the southern province of Antalya and the western province of Izmir.

The report added that the five provinces were high-risk areas and that public transport is also an IS militants' target. Metros, buses, bridges, airports, bus terminals and sea

transport were listed as IS targets. The agency warned that the Eurasia Tunnel is also an IS target. The tunnel is scheduled to connect Istanbul's European and Asian regions in December.

"The terrorist group is seeking an attack targeting the Turkish aviation sector," MIT said in the report citing "intelligence information was received on militants planning to sneak explosives or sharp objects such as knives and razors onto airplanes hidden inside electronic devices."

"The danger of attacks has increased in recent days," MIT declared. (Xinhua)

Turkey Seeks Referendum in April for Presidential System

ANKARA - Turkey's ruling party is considering holding a referendum in April for a constitutional amendment on the presidential system.

The government revived plans endowing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with increased authority, therefore switching the country's system from a parliamentary one to a presidential one.

The Turkish Justice and Development Party (AKP) will introduce the

amendment draft to parliament soon, said AKP Deputy Chairman Hayati Yazici on Wednesday during a televised interview with NTV.

If the draft is approved by parliament in January, the referendum will most likely take place in April, he stated.

The draft includes 12 to 15 articles delivering the AKP's presidential model, he added.

"We will take inspiration



from other countries' own conditions," Yazici said, referring to questions regarding whether the ... (More on P4)...(26)

More than 18,000 Aussies under Investigation for Voting Twice at Federal Election

CANBERRA - More than 18,000 Australians have been investigated for voting twice or more at the nation's federal election held on July 2, 2016.

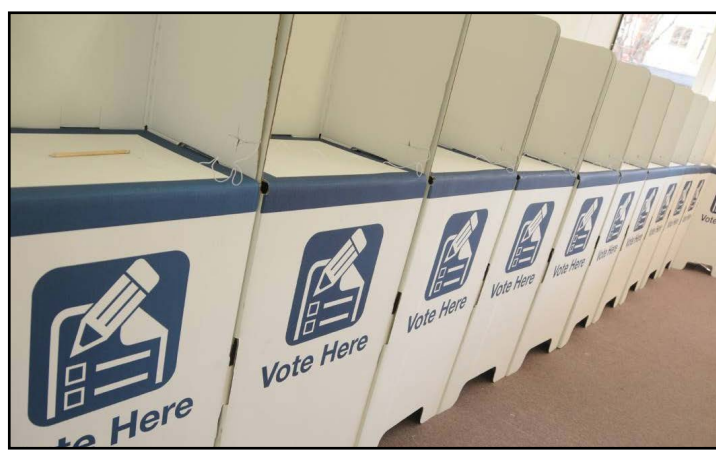
The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) told a Senate estimates hearing Tuesday night that 18,343 Australians have formally been asked to explain why their names might have been "ticked off" twice, with 59 people asked to explain why it seems they voted three or more times.

Australians who are convicted of voting more than once in the election face

hefty fines of up to 7,500 U.S. dollars, while some could face the prospect of jail for one year.

Surprisingly, two Australians were marked off on 11 separate electoral roles and two were marked off five times, while four voters were ticked off four times and 51 Australians apparently voted on three different occasions.

AEC Commissioner Tom



Rogers told the Senate estimates hearing that New South Wales had the most number of multiple voters with 6,760, while Victoria and Queensland had 4,800 and 2,792 cases respectively.

The New South Wales figure ... (More on P4)...(27)

Putin, Erdogan Discuss Syria Crisis over Phone

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan exchanged views on Syria over the phone Tuesday evening, said the Kremlin.

"The Russian side stressed the importance of efficient separation of 'moderate' opposition groups from militants of Jabhat al-Nusra (in Syria) and other terrorist groups affiliated with

it," it said.

The two presidents also discussed further development of bilateral cooperation in the political, trade and economic and other areas, following the top-level Russian-Turkish talks in Istanbul on Oct. 10.

The two sides "agreed to continue contacts on bilateral and regional problems at various levels," the Kremlin said. (Xinhua)

UNHCR Stresses Solidarity with Lebanon

BEIRUT - The United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements, expressed Tuesday her solidarity with Lebanese host communities and more than one million Syrian refugees in the country, ahead of the onset of winter.

According to a release by the UNHCR, Clements, who is on a three-day visit to Lebanon, said during a stop at a collective shelter hosting refugee families in Koura, north Lebanon "there are acute vulnerabilities in the refugee population in Lebanon, and as winter approaches, it's important that an action plan to alleviate hardship is in place."

"The focus of UNHCR this year is on the provision of winter assistance to help refugees and Lebanese families survive the cold season. For them, meeting winter needs including fuel, warm clothes and nutritious meals is often prohibitive," she added.

According to preliminary findings from a 2016 survey by UN agencies, over 70 percent of registered refugees continue to live

EU Trade Ministers Fail to Approve CETA

BRUSSELS - Despite time running out before a scheduled EU-Canada summit on Oct. 27, trade ministers from European Union (EU) members failed on Tuesday to reach unanimity on approving the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a trade deal between the EU and Canada.

At an extraordinary trade council meeting in Luxembourg, EU trade ministers were expected to approve



three draft decisions: provisional application, signature, and conclusion of CETA. Although all three documents are formally subject to a qualified majority vote, consensus will

be required. However, due to continued opposition from Belgium, the final decision has been pushed back to the European Council scheduled ... (More on P4)...(29)

Iran Urges all Sides to Respect Truce in Yemen

TEHRAN - Iran welcomed a 72-hour ceasefire in Yemen and asked all sides to respect the truce, Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday.

In a statement, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi said Yemen is suffering from a very disastrous humanitarian situation; hence all parties engaged in the Yemeni conflict, particularly the Saudi-led coalition, should respect the ceasefire.

He also expressed the hope that warring parties would allow the immediate dispatch of humanitarian aid to the oppressed Yemeni civilians and the wounded people, including those

injured in a recent bloody airstrike against a funeral hall in the capital of Sanaa.

On Monday, the United Nations special envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, announced the three-day ceasefire between the Saudi-led coalition and the Yemen's dominant Shiite Houthi group and its ally of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's party, The ceasefire will take effect on Wednesday. The 19-month civil war have killed over 10,000 people, mostly civilians, and pushed the country's 26 million people to near famine. (Xinhua)

Russian Naval Flotilla Arrives in Iran's Anzali Port

TEHRAN - A Russian naval flotilla arrived in Iran's port city of Anzali on Tuesday, semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

The arrival of Russian naval flotilla is conveying messages of peace and will help improve bilateral ties, Iran's Rear Admiral Afshin Rezaei Haddad was quoted as saying.

"Russian fleets have regularly paid visits to Iranian ports to which we responded with dispatch of Iran's naval fleets to Russia's Astrakhan in September," Rezaei Haddad said.

More fleets from Caspian littoral states would arrive in Iran's northern ports in the future, he said, adding that the navies of five Caspian littoral countries are cooperating to secure it as the sea for peace, mutual respect and good-neighborliness.

The visiting Russian naval flotilla is comprised of several warships, including a frigate named ... (More on P4)...(30)

Will Clinton Use Final Debate to Counter Trump's 'Rigged' Claims?

LAS VEGAS - Hillary Clinton faces off against perhaps the most unpredictable version of Donald Trump for the third and final debate Wednesday night in Las Vegas, amid her opponent's increasingly loud cries of an election that is "rigged" against him as he falls in the polls.

Much has changed in the 10 days since the two last debated each other. Last week, Trump tweeted that he was glad the "shackles" had finally been taken off him, and then repeatedly

Neighbor News

China, EU Hail Outcomes of High-Level Trade Dialogue

BRUSSELS - China and the European Union (EU) on Tuesday hailed the outcomes of a high-level trade dialogue in Brussels.

The sixth China-EU High-level Economic and Trade Dialogue was co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai and European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen.

Ma said the dialogue, since inception nine years ago, has played an important role in promoting bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The sixth dialogue held on Tuesday deepens mutual trust, promotes pragmatic cooperation, and actively implements the agreements reached during the 18th China-EU summit and the G20 Hangzhou

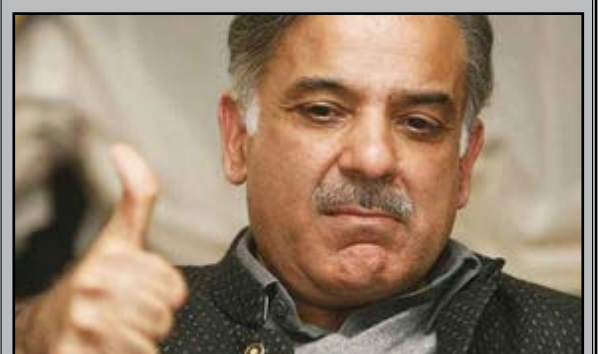
Summit, Ma said.

Under the theme "strengthening policy coordination, promoting sustainable growth," the sixth dialogue highlighted topics on macro-policy coordination, the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-EU connectivity on development strategy.

At the Dialogue, China and the EU reached consensus on cooperation on digital economy, third-party market and intellectual property rights.

China and the EU should further coordinate on macro-policies and join hands in developing their economies, Ma said, adding that they should also enhance cooperative work on trade and investment. (Xinhua)

Shahbaz, Pervaiz Set to Win Party Slots



LAHORE - Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) council members will likely elect Shahbaz Sharif and Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi their party Punjab president on Wednesday.

The PML-N is holding intra-party election in Expo centre and PML-Q in the Muslim League House.

PML-Q's central intra-party election will be held on Oct 21. PML-N's central election held in Islamabad on Tuesday in which the workers elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif their president.

"More than 1,000 council members of the party

will elect Shahbaz Sharif as PML-N Punjab president and other office-bearers on Wednesday (today)," PML-N leader and Punjab parliamentary secretary Rana Muhammad Arshad told Dawn on Tuesday.

PML-Q has criticised the PML-N for holding central intra-party election prior to the provincial. "The N-League has committed gross violation in conducting intra-party election. The PML-N held central election prior to the provincial one is a clear violation of the Election Commission's rules. The ECP should take notice of this," the PML-Q demanded. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan to Put up State Property for Auction

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen Economy and Development Ministry will hold an auction for the sale of state facilities at 15:00 (GMT + 5 hours) October 31, 2016 at the following address: Archabil Avenue, 156, Ashgabat.

Industrial plant, pipe plant, shopping malls, carpet factory, textile enterprises and others are among the facilities to be put up for auction.

The citizens of Turkmenistan and foreign countries, as well as private legal entities of Turkmenistan and legal entities of foreign countries, who made bids in the prescribed form, as well as a deposit and

a special fee and who have registered to participate in the investment contest in due time, are allowed to participate in the investment contest.

Foreign legal entities, international organizations established under the laws of foreign countries, their permanent representative offices and branches in Turkmenistan may participate in such a process only in case of the conclusion of the Agency for Protection from Economic Risks under the Turkmen ministry.

All participants are able to preliminary review a facility for privatization. (Trend)

Acting Uzbek Leader Nominated as Presidential Candidate

BAKU - Acting President of Uzbekistan, Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been nominated as a presidential candidate.

Mirziyoyev was nominated at the congress of the Liberal Democratic

Party of Uzbekistan, RIA Novosti reported.

His candidacy will be presented to the Central Election Commission for approval. The presidential election in Uzbekistan is scheduled to be held on Dec. 4. (APA)