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US CURRENT ACCOUNT TRADE DEFECIT AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN 7 YEARS

June 16, 2016 Associated Press reported: “The deficit in the nation’s broadest measure of trade increased in the January-March quarter to the highest level in more than seven years. The current account trade deficit jumped 9.9 percent in the first quarter to \$124.7 billion, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. It was the biggest gap since a deficit of \$152.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2008, the height of the financial crisis.

The higher deficit reflected a \$9.6 billion decline in the surplus on investment earnings. That offset a \$2 billion decrease in the deficit on merchandise trade and an increase of \$400 million in the surplus on services. The current account is the broadest measure of trade because it covers not only trade in goods but also services and investment flows. Economists closely watch the figure because it indicates how much the United States needs to borrow from foreigners.

The first quarter deficit represented 2.7 percent of overall economic output, as measured by the gross domestic product, up from 2.5 percent in the fourth quarter when the deficit totaled \$113.4 billion.”...

BRITAIN’S E.U. VOTE COULD BRING CAMERON’S GOVERNMENT CRASHING DOWN

June 16, 2016 Washington Post reported: “British Prime Minister David Cameron’s high-stakes decision to let the British public decide whether the country stays in the European Union looks increasingly like a bad bet, with his party veering into civil war, the polls pointing toward an exit and the Conservative leader’s job appearing ever more precarious.

Just a week before Britain votes, the prime minister’s hope of settling once and for all the country’s long-simmering European question with a resounding vote to stay in the E.U. may be out of reach. Surveys show the country is almost exactly divided, with momentum in recent days for “out.”

If Britain does vote to leave — a scenario popularly known as Brexit — analysts say that Cameron would probably be forced to resign, perhaps within hours of the result. Even if British voters heed Cameron’s call to stay in the E.U., a narrow victory could leave him vulnerable to a vengeance-fueled coup by pro-Brexit politicians in his party who think the prime minister has played dirty in his no-holds-barred campaign to keep Britain in.

Politics were put on hold Thursday afternoon by the death of Jo Cox, a 41-year-old member of Parliament who was shot and stabbed to death after a meeting with constituents near the northern English city of Leeds. The killing shocked Britain, and both sides of the referendum debate said they would suspend their campaigns until at least the weekend. But when they resume, Cameron will be on tenuous ground, with just a few days to pull his country back from the brink of Brexit.

The fragility of Cameron’s position marks a stunning turnabout for a politician who won a commanding electoral victory just a year ago and who called the E.U. referendum as a way to unify his fractious party behind his leadership.

“This has turned out worse for Cameron than he ever conceived it could have,” said Roger Mortimore, a politics professor at King’s College London who directs political analysis at the polling firm Ipsos Mori. “I don’t think anyone really saw this coming. It’s very clear that David Cameron didn’t see it coming.”...

NEXT WAR WITH HAMAS ‘INEVITABLE’ MUST BE ISRAEL’S LAST, TOP DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAYS

June 16, 2016 thetimesofisrael.com reported: “A senior Defense Ministry official said Wednesday that the next round of fighting in the Gaza Strip against the Hamas terror group was inevitable, because Hamas is gearing up for it, and that it must be the last.

‘A war of attrition is not an option. The next confrontation must be the last in terms of Hamas’s regime,’ the senior official, who insisted on anonymity, told Israeli reporters at a briefing.

Israel has arguably been involved in a war of attrition against Hamas for years, with each side slowly grinding away at the other. New Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman has frequently criticized the government in recent years for failing to smash Hamas, and repeatedly called for more to be used in the course of the 2014 war, during which he was himself a member of the key security cabinet that oversaw the conflict...”

‘IRAN THE GREATEST THREAT TO ISRAELI SECURITY’

June 16, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Amos Gilad, Director of the Defense Ministry’s Political-Military Affairs Department, spoke on Wednesday at the 2016 Herzliya Conference, warning that the Iranian regime represented the greatest threat to Israel’s security.



In his address, Gilad rejected calls for efforts to spread democracy in the Middle East, arguing instead that for the moment, stability must be the priority.



Iran

‘We need to emphasize stability over ideas about bringing democracy to the region,’ said Gilad. ‘You can’t force your culture onto other peoples. Look at Libya, a country that had a regime which was developing nuclear weapons and supported terror. At the end it dismantled its nuclear weapons program, ceased its support for terror, and prevented the mass migration to Europe. After it was overthrown, how does Libya look now? There is no future.’

Gilad also pointed out that while Iran current represents the greatest security threat for Israel, the danger posed by the Shi’ite regime could grow significantly...”

UN: ISLAMIC STATE COMMITTING GENOCIDE AGAINST YAZIDIS

June 16, 2016 Reuters reported: “Reuters reports: “Islamic State is committing genocide against the Yazidis in Syria and Iraq to destroy the religious community of 400,000 people through killings, sexual slavery and other crimes, United Nations investigators said on Thursday.

Their report, based on interviews with dozens of survivors, said that the Islamist militants had been systematically rounding up Yazidis in Iraq and Syria since August 2014, seeking to 'erase their identity' in a campaign that met the definition of the crime as defined under the 1948 Genocide Convention.

'The genocide of the Yazidis is ongoing,' it said. The 40-page report, entitled 'They Came to Destroy: ISIS Crimes against the Yazidis', sets out a legal analysis of Islamic State intent and conduct aimed at wiping out the Kurdish-speaking group, whom the Sunni Muslim Arab militants view as infidels and 'devil-worshippers'..."

ISIS PRAISES MATEEN AS 'LION OF CALIPHATE,' URGES ATTACKS AT THEATERS, HOSPITALS, AMUSEMENT PARKS

June 15, 2016 pjmedia.com reported: "An ISIS-affiliated media group issued new statements today praising Orlando nightclub shooter Omar Mateen as a 'lion of the caliphate' and a 'hero' for slaughtering 49 'infidels' — and calling on other lone jihadis to follow his example..."

The Al-Battar Media Foundation, which previously posted an ISIS claim for the November attack on a Jordanian police training facility in which two Americans were among the dead and released a March video celebrating the Brussels attacks while urging more attacks in Europe, released a few separate statements on Orlando a few hours after Obama spoke. Al-Battar is reportedly the media operation of elite ISIS Libyan unit Kalibat al-Battar al-Libi, which is led by a Tunisian terrorist who may at one point have been held by the U.S.

The first statement today featured a selfie of Mateen, who was credited with killing 'gay crusader infidels in the city of Orlando, America' and putting 'horror, fear and heartbreak' in 'the hearts of the infidels' during the 'great blessed battle successfully carried out by one Muslim man.'..."

PA DEMANDS ISRAEL REMOVE ALL POLICE FROM JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY

June 15, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The Palestinian Authority, under the leadership of Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, has criticized Israel's alleged 'extremist' policies, which it claims include calls for revenge, collective punishment against the Palestinian people, and incitement against the Palestinian leadership. In an official statement, the PA condemned the closure imposed on the town of Yatta near Hevron following last week's deadly terrorist attack in Tel Aviv, saying that it is an example of collective punishment that has become official Israeli policy and is a 'flagrant violation' of international law.

The two terrorists who carried out the recent attack in Tel Aviv came from Yatta, and Israel only surrounded the city after information about the attack came to light. Earlier this week the IDF loosened the closure significantly.

The message emphasized that the Palestinian people, 'like other nations under occupation', have the right to fight and defend themselves using any means permitted under international law. Unfortunately, it did not show what statutes in international law permit the murder of innocent civilians trying to eat dinner.

The governing body further emphasized its opposition to the 'settlement policy,' 'war crimes,' and 'extrajudicial executions' of Palestinians. The PA and other pro-Palestinian groups have consistently pursued a contradictory policy of hailing terrorists killed while trying to kill Israelis as heroes, while simultaneously claiming they were killed by Israel for no reason whatsoever..."

1,200 ROCKETS A DAY IN NEXT LEBANON WAR, OFFICER WARNS

June 14, 2016 thetimesofisrael.com reported: "The former head of the IDF Home Front Command warned Tuesday that in a future war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israel could be pounded with over 1,000 rockets a day, far more than the country has endured in any past conflict.

'If in the Second Lebanon War the record was 160 rockets in a day [fired] at the northern region, we need to expect up to 1,200 rockets in a day — it will be a completely different scenario from anything we've known,' Major-General (res) Yitzhak Gershon, who was home front chief during the last major conflict with Hezbollah in 2006, said in an Army Radio interview published Tuesday.

'We will need mental fortitude more than physical protection,' added Gershon, who now commands the IDF's reservist northern region emergency division. His remarks came as Israel marked 10 years since the outbreak of fighting with Hezbollah in Lebanon on July 12, 2006, known as the Second Lebanon War..."

TOP GAZAN JIHADIST CLAIMS ORLANDO SHOOTER WAS TERROR GROUP MEMBER

June 12, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "A top Islamic State-tied jihadist in the Gaza Strip claimed in an interview on Sunday that he 'knows' that Omar Mateen, the Orlando club shooter, was a member of a terrorist organization.

Abu al-Ayna al-Ansari, a Salafist movement senior official in the Gaza Strip, claimed he was told that Mateen was a member of one of the groups that fall under the jihadiya Salafiya franchise, meaning the network of loosely-based Salafist jihadist groups such as the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda, and the Al Nusra Front..."

CHILD BRIDE LEGALLY MARRIED UNDER SHARIA LAW, GERMAN JUDGE RULES

June 12, 2016 Breitbart.com reports: "A regional German court has recognised as valid the marriage of a 14-year-old Syrian girl to her 20-year-old cousin, despite the legal age for marriage in Germany being 16. The case represents a landmark ruling, with the Federal Court set to adjudicate on the implications for the country as a whole.

Among the hundreds of thousands of migrants arriving in European countries over the eighteen months have been a number of underage wives, some as young as eleven, others already mothers. But although most European countries stipulate that a girl must be 16 to marry, the authorities seem unsure what to do with young bride migrants.

In what is likely to become a landmark ruling, the Oberlandesgericht Bamberg (Higher Regional Court in Bamberg, Bavaria) has this week decided that the marriage of a 14-year-old girl to her 20-year-old husband must be recognised as the wedding has already taken place, was recognised as legal in their native Syria, and was conducted in accordance with Sunni marriage rites..."

