

Divided Europe Faces Mounting Migrant Crisis

BRUSSELS - Faced with its worst migrant crisis since World War II, Europe has many sensible options to deal with people fleeing conflict in Syria and elsewhere - but can't agree on any of them. French, German Leaders Seek Co-ordinated EU Action on Migrants The Wall Street Journal The Migrant Threat to EU Cohesion The Wall Street Journal The situation has accelerated over the summer with a new stream of migrants arriving via the Balkans, adding to those braving death to cross the Mediterranean or risking their lives to enter the Channel Tunnel. Efforts



to redistribute refugees around the European Union have been hobbled by a lack of unity among governments running scared of right-wing populist parties. Meanwhile, measures to stop the flow of asylum

seekers at its source in the Middle East and North Africa have stalled because the turbulence in the region means Brussels has no stable governments it can deal with. With no solution in sight, European countries are now resorting to desperate measures to keep out equally desperate migrants, such as a huge razor fence that Hungary is erecting on its Serbian border. Officials and experts say EU states need to act quickly before the situation becomes uncontrollable, with no end in sight to the wars and political repression that are making the migrants ... (More on P4)...(23)

US, Israel Enmity Toward Iran Never Waned : Leader

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khomeini says the enmity of the US and the Israeli regime toward Iran has never subsided. "Since the beginning of the [1979] Revolution to this day, the enmity of the Zionists and the Americans has not waned; and this reality should never slip the minds of [Iranian] authorities," Ayatollah Khomeini said in a Wednesday meeting with President Hassan Rouhani and Cabinet members. The Leader said concluding the nuclear negotiations was "one of the very important tasks" accomplished by the administration, adding, however, that the likelihood of neglecting the goals of enemies in the nuclear issue

is a concern. "Of course, methods of enmity and doing harm may change and renew; however, all 'political, economic, and cultural' authorities must be vigilant not to play into the hands of the enemy under any circumstances and so that their (the authorities') decisions do not willingly or unwillingly help implement the package envisaged by the enemies," the Leader pointed out. "If we abandon our vigilance, we will suddenly find the enemy having infiltrated in certain areas and being engaged in dangerous cultural, economic and political activities; therefore, we must be completely careful," Ayatollah Khomeini said. (PressTV)

Israeli Navy Chief Visits Indian Navy's Western Command in Mumbai

NEW DELHI - Israeli Navy chief Vice Admiral Ram Rutberg has visited Indian Navy's western command in Mumbai, a defense release said here Wednesday. Vice Admiral Rutberg met Vice Admiral S.P.S. Cheema, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command and visited Indian Naval Ship Kolkata, an indigenously developed guided missile destroyer on Tuesday,

according to the release. Both the Indian and Israeli navies have a long history of cooperation on many fronts and INS Trikand, which is a frontline warship of the Western Naval Command, visited Haifa in Israel from Aug. 19 to Aug. 22, the release said. The Israeli Navy chief, who arrived in India Monday, will wrap up his official tour on Thursday. (Xinhua)

Meeting of Joint Arab Defense Council Postponed



CAIRO - The Arab League decided on Wednesday to postpone the meeting of the Joint Arab Defense Council which was due to be held on Thursday. The secretariat of the League said in a press statement that it has received a request from Saudi Arabia to postpone the meeting without new date set for it. The meeting was supposed to approve the protocol of forming an Arab joint force. The secretariat said Bahrain, Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have also supported the Saudi re-

quest. Arab leaders who met in Egypt on March 28-29 agreed to form a joint military force to counter growing security threats. Prior to the decision to form the military force, Saudi Arabia formed an Arab military coalition in March without getting the permission of the Arab League or the United Nations Security Council. The coalition has been fighting the Shiite Houthi rebel group which seized parts of Yemen, including the capital Sanaa. (Xinhua)

China, U.S. Urged to Carry on WWII Legacy of Cooperation

WASHINGTON - China and the United States, which fought the Fascists together 70 years ago, should carry on the legacy of cooperation and friendship forged in the World War II, said Nell Calloway, granddaughter of "Flying Tigers" commander Gen. Claire Chennault. "During the dark days of WWII, American pilots provided hope, grit, military support and brotherhood to the Chinese people battling the scourge of an overwhelming, often brutal invasion," Calloway wrote in an article titled "Recalling the heroics of the Flying Tigers" on Monday's The



Washington Times. The "Flying Tigers" was a nickname given to the American Volunteer Group, which fought along with China against Japanese aggression during WWII.

The group of volunteer pilots from the U.S. Navy, Army and Marine Corps was set up by Gen. Chennault in 1941 under the authority of President Franklin Roosevelt. "The Flying

Tigers story is widely and emotionally commemorated by Chinese. Both sides risked their lives for each other, strengthening the bond between American ... (More on P4)...(24)

Shinzo Asks Obama to Investigate Alleged Spying Activities

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has asked U.S. President Barack Obama to look into the alleged spying activities on the Japanese government and companies raised by the Wikileaks website earlier this month, local media reported Wednesday. During a 40-minute telephone

conversation between the two leaders, Obama apologized to Abe and the Japanese government over the suspected eavesdropping by the National Security Agency. Abe told Obama that if the spying allegations are "true, it could shake the relationship of trust between alliance partners,"

and that he has "no choice but to express our grave concern," according to Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihida Suga. Obama said the U.S. is taking appropriate actions based on a presidential directive in 2014 on collection of intelligence and that the U.S. currently does not take any action that would

hurt trust between the two countries, said Suga. However, the top government spokesman did not say whether Obama admitted to U.S. spying. Earlier this month, Abe made similar remarks regarding the matter during a telephone conversation with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden. (Xinhua)

Merkel, Jeered on Visit to Refugees, Says No to Xenophobia



HEIDENAU - Dozens of protesters heckled Chancellor Angela Merkel and waved placards that read "traitor" on Wednesday when she visited an eastern German town where anti-refugee protests erupted into violence at the weekend. Merkel vowed that Germany would not tolerate xenophobia and repeated that the weekend scuffles, in which 31 police officers were hurt, were "shameful and repulsive". "There is no tolerance for those people who question the dignity of others, no tolerance for those who are not willing to help where legal and human help is required," Merkel told reporters and local people in the town of Heidenau. "The more people who make that clear ... the stronger we will be," she added. Europe is struggling to cope with a flood of migrants and refugees fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and beyond. Germany, with the biggest economy on the continent and relatively liberal asylum laws, is set to receive the largest share, estimated at some 800,000 people this year, equivalent to almost 1 percent of the total population. Attacks on asylum shelters now occur almost every day and politicians have warned of rising hostility toward foreigners. (Reuters)

Greek President Expected to Formally Call Election on Friday



ATHENS - Greek President Prokypis Pavlopoulos is expected on Friday to call a snap election for next month, an official at the presidency told Reuters, ending fruitless coalition efforts among parties deeply divided over the country's new bailout. Following last week's resignation of leftist Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Pavlopoulos asked a conservative and a radical left leader to try to form a new government and thereby avoid another election just seven months after the previous poll. The official stressed on Wednesday that the timetable could still change, but said Pavlopoulos intended to appoint a caretaker premier, Supreme Court judge Vassiliki Thanou, on Friday. Thanou would become Greece's first

female prime minister, albeit briefly. "The same day the president will announce the election date and it will probably be Sept. 20. The president wants the process to be fast and have elections as soon as possible," the official said. Tsipras, who during his seven months in office took Greece to the brink of financial collapse and exit from the euro, resigned in the hope of crushing a far-left rebellion in his Syriza party and strengthening his grip on power through a snap election. Syriza says it is aiming for an outright majority, although the strength of its support is unclear due to a lack of surveys by leading pollsters in the past month. Last week, 25 out of Syriza's 149 lawmakers walked out to form a new anti-bailout party. (Reuters)

Neighbour News

Hoping for Domestic Reform, Iranian Activists back Nuclear Deal

DUBAI - Iranian pro-democracy activists, lawyers and artists have thrown their weight behind last month's nuclear deal with world powers, hoping it will lead to a promised political opening that President Hassan Rouhani has so far failed to deliver. Dozens of prominent figures, many of whom have spent time in jail and faced travel or work bans, have recorded short video clips on social media sites this week praising the July 14 accord that will lift international sanctions from Iran in exchange for strict curbs on its nuclear program. "These video messages show that those who have paid the highest prices for the cause of democ-

racy and human rights in Iran are supporting the deal," Mohammadreza Jalaeipour, a pro-democracy activist who organized the campaign said. Many of the videos implored the U.S. Congress to approve the deal in a vote due next month, arguing that it offers the best hope of promoting democracy in Iran and is not a capitulation to Iranian hardline factions to which they, too, are opposed. "War and sanctions create crisis, and crisis is the death of democracy, the death of peace and human rights," film director Jafar Panahi, who has received accolades abroad but seen his work banned in Iran. (Reuters)

Tajikistan Hosts Anti-Drug Exercises of the CSTO Countries

DUSHANBE - From August 27 to September 3, Tajikistan will hold special tactical exercise "Thunder 2015" Special Forces of anti-drug agencies and services, interior security forces, interior troops, bodies of internal affairs and state security - members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, allocated in the units of Special Forces of the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Force. As reported the Head of the Public Relations Agency for Drug Control under the President of Tajikistan Colonel Hushnud Rakhmatulloyev, exercises are organized to carry out joint activities (operations) to cut off the channels of smuggling drugs and suppression of the criminal groups activities in the border area of the Republic of Tajikistan, to improve the practical skills of the staff of special forces, during

search and ambush measures of cutting off the channels of drugs smuggling, seizure drugs, weapons, ammunition and explosives from illicit trafficking. On August 27, on the range the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan "Fakhrabad", will take place the demonstration of tactical and special operations by special anti-drug agencies forces and services, interior troops, bodies of internal affairs and state security - members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, allocated in the units of Special Forces CRRF and other units of the competent authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan, taking part in the exercises. Deputy Secretary General of the CSTO Amanzhol Zhankulyev, Director of Federal Drug Control Service of Russia Viktor Ivanov, Chairman of ... (More on P4)...(25)

Pakistan's Economy Facing Revenue Generation Crisis

ISLAMABAD - Despite recent optimism surrounding Pakistan's economy, the country is facing an "existential crisis" stemming from its woeful tax collection rates and inability to finance itself, a report said Wednesday. Pakistan's economy grew at 4.24 per cent during the 2014-2015 fiscal year with per capita income rising a significant 9.25 per cent, markers that come as investor confidence in the long-underperforming South Asian giant have also increased. But according to the report by non-

profit organisation Raftar, funded by Britain's Department for International Development (DFID), Pakistan's economy continues to rely heavily on "commercial loans, concessional donor loans and aid". The country's tax-to-GDP ratio of 9.4 per cent is among the lowest in the world, leading to a public debt of 17 trillion rupees (\$163 billion). This an almost three-fold increase since 2008 for the \$232 billion economy, with 44 per cent of tax revenue going toward interest payments. (Agencies)

China VP Stresses Private Investment in Africa

HANGZHOU - Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao called on China and Africa to draw on private investment in their industrial cooperation when he addressed the fourth China-Africa People's Forum in Yiwu of east China's Zhejiang Province on Wednesday. The city is known as the world's largest wholesale market for small consumer goods and is home to more than 3,000 African businessmen. As China works to upgrade its industrial mix, it has spare industrial capacity to transfer overseas and its private sector has lots of money to invest, know-how and management experience, Li said. "The main resources of these transferable industries lie in the private sector," which

is helpful in meeting Africa's dire need for foreign investment in manufacturing, agriculture, energy and resources, he said. The vice president urged African countries to create a sound environment with rule of law, preferential policies and better infrastructure to attract Chinese investors for common development. "China-African cooperation should direct more financial and human capital to areas that directly relate to people's livelihoods, such as poverty reduction, agriculture, public health, clean water and disaster prevention to bring the African people tangible benefits," Li said. The first China-Africa People's Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2011. (Xinhua)