

# Trump Sacks Acting Attorney General for Refusing to Enforce Immigration Order

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday night fired acting Attorney General Sally Yates, hours after she ordered the Justice Department not to defend his temporary ban on refugee and immigration that sparked nationwide protests and worldwide criticism. "Ms. Yates is an Obama administration appointee who is weak on borders and very weak on illegal immigration," said a White House statement. Trump appointed Dana Boente, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, to replace Yates until his nominee, Senator Jeff Sessions, is confirmed by the Senate, local media reported.



Yates had been deputy attorney general before serving as acting chief of the Justice Department from Jan. 20, when Trump was sworn in. "Consequently, for as long as I am the acting Attorney General, the Department of Justice will not present arguments in defense of the Executive Order, unless and until I become convinced that it is appropriate to do so," Yates said in a letter to the department on Monday. "My responsibility is to ensure that the position of the Department of Justice is not only legally defensible, but is informed by our best view of what the law is after consideration of all the facts," she said. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## EU Parliamentarians Meet to Discuss Economic Policy Coordination

BRUSSELS - The annual European Parliamentary Week, which brings together parliamentarians from all over the European Union (EU) to discuss economic policy coordination, kicked off here on Monday. During the three-day event, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) meet their counterparts from EU member states to debate on how to boost growth and employment and increase fairness. The conference started with a debate about this year's economic policy priorities -- structural reforms,

investment, responsible fiscal policies -- and continued with an exchange of views on how to make European economic and monetary union stronger and more efficient. Monday's debate was part of the European Semester, which is a cycle of economic and fiscal policy coordination within the EU. The lawmakers from the EU countries are expected to better implement the country-specific recommendations issued by EU institutions in the previous year after the debate. *(Xinhua)*

## Syrian Groups See More U.S. Support for IS Fight, Plan New Phase

BEIRUT - A U.S.-backed alliance of Syrian militias said on Tuesday it saw signs of increased U.S. support for their campaign against Islamic State with President Donald Trump in office, a shift that would heighten Turkish worries over Kurdish power in Syria. A Kurdish military source told Reuters separately the next phase of a campaign by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance -- which includes the Kurdish YPG militia

-- aimed to cut the last remaining routes to Islamic State's stronghold of Raqqa city, including the road to Deir al-Zor. The YPG has been the main partner on the ground in Syria for the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State, fighting as part of the SDF that has driven Islamic State from swathes of northern Syria with the coalition's air support. The YPG also has links to a Kurdish party, the PKK, designated by ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## UNHCR "Deeply Worried" over U.S. Refugee Program Suspension

GENEVA - UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on Monday said that he is deeply worried by the uncertainty facing thousands of refugees around the world who are in the process of being resettled to the United States. A statement issued by the UN refugee agency UNHCR on Monday said that this week alone, over 800 refugees were set to make America their new home, but instead find themselves barred from traveling to the United States. UNHCR estimates that



20,000 refugees in precarious circumstances might have been resettled to the United States during the 120 days covered by the suspension announced Friday, based on average monthly figures for the

## Finland Does Not Accept U.S. Immigration Restrictions: President

HELSINKI - Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said on Monday he did not accept the U.S. decision to ban entry of citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. Niinisto told Finnish news agency STT that labelling people on the basis of their nationality or extraction was wrong. He said such measures were against Western values and international agreements. Instead, Niinisto suggested cooperating with countries suspected of being sources of terrorism or strengthening information gathering and exchange of information. Some Finnish government ministers including foreign ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

## EC President Says Sanctions Against Russia Untimely for Change

BRUSSELS - European Commission (EC) President Jean-Claude Juncker said here Monday it is "not the time for change" concerning the sanctions the European Union imposed on Russia. "We have taken our decisions, these decisions are valid, and when we have to come back to these decisions we will do so. But this is not the time for change," Juncker told a press conference after meeting with Bulgarian President Rumen Radev. Last December, the European Union extended the

sanctions against Russia for another six months, until July 31, 2017. However, some European countries became unsettled as Trump hinted earlier this month that he could lift the sanctions against Russia if Moscow proved helpful in battling terrorists and reaching other goals important to the United States. "We were discussing our relations -- the relations between the European Union and Russia -- in a not too intense way, but I do not think there are major divergences between the



President (Trump) and the Commission when it comes to the sanctions against Russia," Juncker said. The EU slapped the sanctions on Russia in July and September 2014 in re-

## Left Needs to Take on Hollande's Stock in Order to Win Election: French PM

PARIS - French Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve on Monday told Left presidential contender Benoit Hamon that the Left has to take on Socialist leader Francois Hollande's five-year stock if it wants to win the presidential election. During a meeting with the former education minister, Cazeneuve expressed support to Hamon's presidential bid to challenge conservative candidate Francois Fillon and far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the election sched-

uled for April 23. However, he warned that the Left "will not succeed without taking on the stock of... Hollande's mandate, of which we have every reason to be proud of the progress." "The left can only win if it is proud of itself, of what it has accomplished, of its project for the future," the French premier said. Hamon on Sunday won the Left ticket to join the



presidential competition after beating ex-premier Manuel Valls. He will meet Hollande on Thursday morning in a move to show the party's unity and rally a majority needed to maintain the party's ruling for a further five-year term. *(Xinhua)*

## EU Kicks off New Training Package for Libya to Block Illegal Migrants

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) on Monday kicked off its second package of training for Libyan law enforcers in Greece's Crete island in a bid to stem the inflow of illegal migrants from North Africa and disrupt human trafficking networks. The training package, which will be delivered throughout 2017 in a variety of locations in the Mediterranean area, was launched by EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia in a maritime training center in Crete, according to a statement of the European External Action Service (EEAS), or the EU's diplomatic service. Twenty senior Libyan officers at the rank of Captain or Commodore will receive training in areas including maritime legal aspects, human rights and gender awareness, as well as search and rescue operations, the EEAS said. The second ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## Ex-UN Chief Proposes S. Korean Constitutional Amendment before Presidential Election

SEOUL - Former UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who returned to his home country earlier this month, on Tuesday proposed a constitutional amendment before the South Korean presidential election expected to be held earlier than scheduled. Ban told a press conference at his office in Seoul that he offers to push the constitutional revision before the presidential election by forming a consultative body, comprising representatives from all political parties and factions. The former UN head, whose second, five-year term terminated at the end of last year, arrived in South Korea on Jan. 12. He has not officially declared his run for the presidency, but he has been regarded as the best hope in the conservative bloc as support for the ruling Saenuri Party sank with the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye. Ban, however, had seen his approval rating decline following his comeback to his home country for his mistakes during the so-called "people-friendly" trip across the country and local media speculations about his involvement in a bribery scandal. Ban is estimated to have proposed the constitutional amendment to combine support from potential presidential candidates in all political camps except for Moon Jae-in, the current frontrunner and former head of the biggest opposition Minjoo Party, which was passed in the parliament on Dec. 9, kindled hopes for changes to the presidential power. It increased public support for presidential hopefuls in the opposition bloc. *(Xinhua)*

## Nieghbor News

### Pakistan PM Calls for Solution to Palestinian Issue

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif urged the international community on Tuesday to play its role in just resolution of the Palestinian issue. Speaking at a joint press conference with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after their talks in Islamabad, Sharif said ensuring peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without just settlement of the Palestine-Israeli dispute. The Palestinian president arrived in Islamabad on a three-day visit late Monday on his third visit to Pakistan. He is leading a 17-member delegation including five ministers. Abbas and Sharif jointly inaugurated the newly-constructed Palestine Embassy Complex in Islamabad. Sharif said the

new embassy building in Islamabad would be a symbol of the brotherly relations. The Government of Pakistan had gifted a plot of land in 1992 for the construction of the Palestinian Embassy Complex. Subsequently, in 2013 Pakistan also contributed towards its construction. The two leaders earlier held bilateral talks and exchanged views on regional issues and the challenge of terrorism. Nawaz Sharif called for implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territory. "Pakistan is firm in its support for the just cause of Palestinian people," Nawaz Sharif said. *(Xinhua)*

### Iran FM Warns US Against Fomenting Tension over Ballistic Missile Program

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned the United States on Tuesday against creating new tension over the missile program of the Islamic republic, official IRNA news agency reported. Zarif expressed the hope that Iran's missile program would not be used as an excuse by the new U.S. administration to create new tension for his country. Iran's tests of missiles fall outside the UN Security Council's Resolution 2231, Zarif said in a joint press conference with his visiting French counterpart on Tuesday, according to Press TV. The resolution only points to the ballistic missiles that can

carry nuclear warheads, he said, adding that "We have announced that none of our ballistic missiles are designed to carry nuclear warheads." "Our missiles are for... conventional warfare and serve the purpose of the Islamic republic's legitimate defense, thus falling outside the purview of Resolution 2231," he said. Under the Resolution 2231, adopted on July 20, 2015, to endorse a nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, calls upon Iran not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology. *(Xinhua)*

### Turkmenistan, Belarus Agree to Expand Co-Op

ASHGABAT - Constructive agreements on further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation were achieved as a result of the visit to Ashgabat of a Belarusian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Kalinin, the Belarusian embassy in Turkmenistan said in a message. The delegation included Minister of Architecture and Construction Anatoly Cherny, Deputy Chairman of Belneftekhim Concern Igor Bobyr and Director General of Belaruskali JSC Ivan Golovaty.

The message says that meetings were held with Batyr Ereshov, deputy chairman of Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers and Alexander Dadaev, chairman of Turkmenistan's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. During the meetings, issues of the two countries' cooperation, including in implementation of joint construction projects, supply of automotive and agricultural machinery and equipment, agricultural products, as well as goods and services. *(Trend)*

### CASA 1000 Announces Retender for Engineering Services in Tajikistan and Pakistan

DUSHANBEH - The CASA 1000 project announces a retender for a contractor for engineering services, design supply and installation of two terminal HVDC converter stations in Pakistan and Tajikistan, reports the official website of the project. This is the request for expression of interest following a revision of the initial configuration of the CASA project and corresponding

scope of services related to the HVDC converter stations and HVDC line. The Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000) aims to facilitate electricity trade between hydropower surplus countries in Central Asia and electricity deficient countries in South Asia by putting in place the commercial and institutional ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

### Uzbekistan to Spend Billions in Troubled Aral Sea Region

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan plans to spend \$2.6 billion over five years to develop the area around the shrunken Aral Sea, which is stricken by severe ecological problems. President Shavkat Mirziyayev's decree on the State Program for Development of the Aral Re-

gion In 2017-2021 came into force. The decree says about \$2.6 billion will be allocated to create new jobs, develop water delivery, sanitation, and waste disposal systems, improve medical services, build new homes and infrastructure, and ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

## EU Foreign Policy Chief Brands Trump's Ban on Refugees "Not European Way"

BRUSSELS - European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Monday underlined that the bloc will continue to host refugees, saying the Trump administration's ban on them "is not the European way." "This is not the European way, the European Union will continue to first of all to take care and host Syrian refugees and others who are fleeing from war," Mogherini said at a press conference following a meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Borg Brende. She underscored that the EU is first donor for Syrians and it's financing school for them as well as job opportunities and humanitarian assistance.

"The European Union strongly believes in a system that is based on international rules and norms, full respect of all individuals, regardless of their religion, of their ethnic background or their country or nationality or gender and we will continue to be this way," she said. Mogherini noted that the EU will "continue to work in a sense of cooperation and respect with all the countries of the region, regardless of the religion of their population." "This is the European Union's way, and I am convinced this is also the European way," she stressed. Under the executive order signed by U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday, ...*(More on P4)...(26)*