

# Trump to Issue New Executive Order on Immigration

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday he will rescind his controversial executive order temporarily barring entry to refugees and immigrants and replace it with a new one next week. "The new order is going to be very much tailored to what I consider to be a very bad decision," said Trump during a news conference in the White House, referring to a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that blocked his travel ban earlier this month. The travel ban is aimed at what the president said to keep out "radical Islamic terrorists."

"We are issuing a new executive action next week that will



comprehensively protect our country," Trump said. Also on Thursday, the Department of Justice asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals not to review a decision by a three-judge panel to keep the immigration policy on hold while it moves through the legal system, citing plans to soon replace the order with a "superseding" one.

"Rather than continuing this litigation, the president intends in the near future to rescind the order and replace it with a new, substantially revised Executive Order to eliminate what the panel erroneously thought were constitutional concerns," the department... (More on P4)...(24)

## Turkey 'Confirms' with US Need to Combat Terror

BEIRUT - Turkey's military says the Turkish and U.S. chiefs of staff have "confirmed" the need to fight terror groups in Syria and Iraq, including the Islamic State group and Kurdish militants.

A military statement said Gen. Joe Dunford met with his Turkish counterpart, Gen. Hulusi Akar, on Friday at Incirlik air base, which is home to warplanes of the U.S.-led coalition that is battling the extremist group. Turkey also carries out airstrikes against Kurdish militants' bases in northern Iraq.

The military statement

said Akar told Dunford that Turkey and Turkish-backed Syrian fighters had "to a great extent" taken control of the IS-held Syrian town of al Bab.

It made no reference to a possible joint operation to retake the IS stronghold of Raqqa, which Turkey's defense minister said would be discussed.

The Russian military says that its strategic bombers have struck the Islamic State group in eastern Syria. The Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Tu-95 bombers that flew from their base in Russia

... (More on P4)...(25)

## France, Germany Welcome 'Useful' Meeting with US on Syria

BONN, Germany - The foreign ministers of France and Germany voiced cautious optimism Friday about the willingness of the Trump administration to engage on Syria, after new U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took part in talks on Syria on the sidelines of a diplomatic summit.

France's foreign minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, said the meeting Friday in Bonn, Germany, was "particularly useful," noting that it came a week before the U.N.-backed peace talks in Geneva are to resume.

"It is important and absolutely instrumental for us to have a close dialogue with the United States on the Syrian issue and on many other issues," Ayrault told reporters.

His German counterpart, Sigmar Gabriel, said Tillerson had "participated vigorously" in the discussion, which also included top envoys from Italy, Britain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Jordan and the European Union.

Gabriel said those who

... (More on P4)...(26)

## China, Europe to Promote Open World Economy: Chinese FM

BONN, Germany - China and Europe should send a positive signal to the world that the two sides would join hands in promoting an open world economy and safeguarding the global trade system based on the World Trade Organization (WTO), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Thursday.

Wang made the statement when meeting European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on the sidelines of the Group of Twenty (G20) foreign ministerial meeting held in Germany's



western city of Bonn.

Wang told Mogherini that China and Europe should further increase strategic consultation and cooperation because the two sides have the same or similar views on many major glob-

## UN Mission to Resume Operations in Eastern Mosul Sunday: Spokesman

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations said Thursday that the UN mission will resume its operations in eastern Mosul in north Iraq on Sunday after it temporarily suspended its activities earlier this week out of security concerns.

"Following the temporary suspension of UN missions into eastern Mosul earlier this week for security reasons, a new security risk assessment was undertaken and the suspension has now been lifted," Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news... (More on P4)...(29)

## Iran, Russia and Turkey to Create Monitoring Group on Syria

ASTANA - Russia, Iran and Turkey agreed on Thursday at a peace talk held here in Astana to create a tripartite operational group to monitor Syria's ceasefire, a Russian foreign ministry official said.

The monitoring group will work on the monitoring of the cessation of hostilities, termination of any violations by any party and take confidence-building measures to continue the peace making process, said Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Vershinin, during Moscow-Astana-Damascus videoconference in Astana on Thursday.

"A concrete result of what happened in

## Turkey Opens Campaign for Constitutional Referendum

ANKARA - Turkish election authority announced campaign for constitutional referendum open on Thursday, state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Constitutional referendum will be held on April 16, which will bring drastic changes to the country's political system, including a shift to an executive presidential system from the current parliamentary system.

Political parties are officially allowed to campaign on the constitutional changes from Feb. 16 to

April 15, Turkish Supreme Election Board declared.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will launch the Yes campaign with a series of meetings in southern Kahramanmaraş province on Friday, the report said.

The Republican People's Party, the main opposition, will begin its No campaign on Monday in major cities, including Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

Turkish nationals overseas will be able to vote at



polling stations in embassies and consulates as well as at Turkish ports and airports.

The constitutional change will bring a shift of regime

## US Could Rule out Most Financial Regulation to Boost Economy: Greenspan

NEW YORK - The United States could do away with a significant amount of financial regulation to expand the real economic activity, said former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan here on Thursday.

Economic vigor depends on free capital investment and willingness of corporations to leverage their balance sheets, which have been hobbled by regulation like the Dodd-Frank Act, Greenspan said in a speech before the Economic Club of New York, where he accepted the club's Award

for Leadership Excellence. The Dodd-Frank Act was enacted in 2010 by former U.S. President Barack Obama in response to the 2008 financial crisis.

Under the law, regulators introduced strict capital standards on banks, called for annual stress tests for systemically important banks, and created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

However, U.S. President Donald Trump has already vowed to scale back Dodd-Frank Act, saying the Wall Street reform law is a "disaster" and "horri-



ble" for business vitality.

"Dodd-Frank Act may undergo a major change and it will hopefully cause a fairly important rise in real economic activity," Greenspan said.

The former central banker

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## Germany will Raise Defense Spending, but Slowly: Merkel

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel says her country will stick to its long-term commitment to raise defense spending to levels agreed with NATO partners - but no hurry about it.

Merkel said that "Germany is conscious of its responsibility" to spend more on arms but added other issues are also important for global security.

She said Germany would stick to the long-term goal of raising defense spending to 2 percent of economic output by 2024.

Merkel spoke Friday when she and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau were asked about U.S. President Donald Trump's calls for NATO allies to carry more of the financial burden. NATO members agreed at a 2014 summit in Wales that countries not currently meeting the... (More on P4)...(28)

## Syria Calls on Turkey to Withdraw Troops from Syria, Close Border

ASTANA - Syrian government calls on Turkey to withdraw its troops from Syria and close Turkish-Syrian border to the flow of terrorists.

"Turkey should withdraw its troops from the territory of Syria," said Bashar al-Ja'afari, head of the Syrian government delegation at the peace talks in Astana on Thursday.

He stated that Turkey bears responsibility for violation of Syrian sovereignty, saying "Turkish authorities must close the border for the flow of terrorists in Syria."

Bashar al-Ja'afari highlighted that Turkish government is responsible for the safety of 910 kilometres of the border common with Syria, saying "Turkey does not bear the responsibility, and, on the contrary, it contributes to the penetration of tens of thousands of mercenaries from different countries of the world through our joint border."

He also said that Syrian government will study a negotiating document on the establishment of tripartite operations group for monitoring the ceasefire with the participation of Russia, Turkey and Iran and will express own position later.

According to the Head of the Syrian government, the Geneva Conference should take into account all the results and the resolution of negotiations in Astana.

"Geneva conference should take into account all the results and resolution of Astana-1 and Astana-2 peace talks, so that they could become the basis for the work at the upcoming meeting in Geneva," Ja'afari said. (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### China, India to Hold Strategic Dialogue in Beijing

BEIJING - China and India will hold a new round of strategic dialogue in Beijing next week, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Friday at a daily press briefing.

Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui and Indian Foreign Secretary Subramanyam Jaishankar will co-chair the dialogue next Wednesday, spokesperson Geng Shuang said. The two sides will exchange views on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concerns. "The dialogue is an important communication mechanism between China and India, and we expect to strengthen

political mutual trust, expand strategic common understandings and further promote bilateral ties through this dialogue," Geng said. Issues including India's bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and its application to list Massod Azhar, the head of the militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed, as a designated terrorist under the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council will be discussed, according to media reports with sources from the Indian side. The two issues mentioned above are essentially multilateral ones rather than bilateral, ... (More on P4)...(31)

### Army Kills '100 Terrorists' after Sehwan Shrine Blast

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's army has killed more than 100 "terrorists" in less than 24 hours following a suicide blast at a Sufi shrine, the deadliest attack in the country in more than two years.

The killings, announced by the military's media office, come amid calls for more security in the country following a string of recent attacks.

In a statement released on Friday, the military said: "Over 100 terrorists have been killed since last night and sizeable apprehensions also made."

A day earlier, at least 88

people were killed and hundreds were injured when a suicide attacker targeted Sufis as they performed a devotional ritual at the famous Lal Shahbaz Qalandar shrine in Sehwan, a town in the southern Sindh province.

"Army is for security," the military statement said. "We shall not let the hostile agenda succeed whatever it may cost."

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack in Sehwan.

Earlier, Prime Minister ... (More on P4)...(32)

### No External Force can Affect Iran-Russia Ties: Deputy FM

TEHRAN - Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov says his country's relations with Iran are not affected by any external influences.

He added that relations between Tehran and Moscow do not depend on external circumstances as the two sides are cooperating with each other on many issues, including the fight against terrorism and the landmark nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, including Russia, in June 2015. The Russian diplomat added that the two

countries would proceed with their cooperation.

"Our position is that Iran is a reliable, stable partner, a near neighbor," Ryabkov told Sputnik.

"We cooperate with Iran on many issues on various international platforms, including conducting a productive dialogue on the subject of counterterrorism, which we will continue," he added.

He emphasized that both Tehran and Moscow would continue working on the implementation of the JCPOA.

The top Russian official's comments came after Director General of the ... (More on P4)...(33)

### Turkmenistan Leader Sworn in After Almost Uncontested Electoral Win

ASHGABAT - Isolated Turkmenistan's strongman Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov was sworn in Friday in a grand ceremony after securing over 97 percent of an almost uncontested vote at the weekend.

Berdymukhamedov, 59, kissed the state flag three times and stood on a white sheep wool carpet symbolising a "bright

path and kind deeds". The ceremony was attended by around 2,500 people.

Central Election Commission chair Gulmyrat Myradov said the inauguration would be "written in golden letters in the history of Turkmenistan", a Central Asian country that gained independence from Moscow in 1991.

"The presidential election ... (More on P4)...(34)

### Uzbekistan's President Receives Russian Deputy Prime Minister

TASHKENT - President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Kozak, who has arrived in our country to take part at the regular session of the Uzbekistan-Russia intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation.

The Head of our state, welcoming the guest, has underlined the dynamic

development and steady reinforcement of strategic partnership relations between Uzbekistan and Russia in many areas, including in commercial and economic spheres.

The parties have emphasised the active and productive implementation of the agreements, reached during the meeting of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and ... (More on P4)...(35)