

# 16 US State Attorneys General Call Trump's Refugee Ban "Unlawful"

WASHINGTON - Attorneys general from 15 U.S. states and the District of Columbia Sunday condemned President Donald Trump's executive order temporarily barring refugees and seven Muslim-majority countries' citizens from entry into the United States, calling it "unconstitutional, un-American and unlawful."

In a joint statement, the 16 state attorneys general, all Democrats, vowed they will quickly act and "use all of the tools of our offices to fight this unconstitutional order and preserve our nation's national security and core values." "We are confident that the Executive Order will



ultimately be struck down by the courts. In the meantime, we are committed to working to ensure that as few people as possible suffer from the chaotic situation that it has created," they said in the joint statement.

"Together we are the chief legal officers for 130M+ people & we won't hesitate to protect their rights," New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman tweeted. "Let me be clear - Discrimination based on national origin is illegal," Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in a statement Saturday.

Other state attorneys general are from California, Pennsylvania, ... (More on P4)... (17)

## Trump's Refugee Ban Sparks Protests before White House, at over 30 U.S. Airports

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK - Thousands of protesters rallied in front of the White House on Sunday while demonstrations continued across more than 30 American airports after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order temporarily barring all refugees and seven Mideast and North African countries' citizens from entry into the U.S..

Hundreds of protesters gathered Sunday at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to demonstrate against the ban. The protesters, hoist-

ing signs like "Bridges, not wall" "Dump Trump," chanted loudly "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here," and "Build a wall, we'll tear it down" in front of JFK's Terminal 4. Steve Golden is one of a group of volunteer attorneys that are trying to help those held up by custom officials at JFK since Saturday. They did not sleep over the past 24 hours. He escorted an unidentified lady who was just freed by the custom to her relatives' vehicle. "Most of these people are ... (More on P4)... (18)

## Over 17 Mln People Face Food Shortages in Horn of Africa Region: FAO

NAIROBI - The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations said on Sunday that more than 17 million people are currently in crisis and emergency food insecurity levels in the Horn of Africa region. FAO said widespread drought conditions in the Horn of Africa have intensified since the failure of the October-December rains with only one-quarter of expected rainfall received. FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, Maria Helena Semedo

warned that if response is not immediate and sufficient, the risks are massive and the costs high. "The magnitude of the situation calls for scaled-up action and coordination at national and regional levels. This is, above all, a livelihoods and humanitarian emergency - and the time to act is now," Semedo said in a statement received in Nairobi.

The UN food agency said the 17 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance are in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Su-



dan, Sudan and Uganda. Currently, close to 12 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in need of food assistance, as families face limited access to food and income, together with rising debt, low cereal and seed stocks, and low milk and meat production. A pre-famine alert has been issued for Somalia and humanitarian response is highly required. (Xinhua)

## Early Elections in Italy Likely, but Divisions May Delay Vote

ROME - A Constitutional Court ruling this week opened the door to new elections in Italy, as much as a year before scheduled. But it's not clear whether the country's polarized political landscape will be able to agree on terms that would make it happen.

Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni took power in December, the country's fourth consecutive prime minister to come into office without a national vote. He was appointed after the December resignation of Mat-

teo Renzi, who stepped down after the failure of a constitutional referendum he championed. Gentiloni's low-key style combined with widespread political fatigue after a bruising six-month battle leading up to the constitutional referendum has ushered in a period of relative calm. But that calm papers over a level of discord between the country's major political factions that could soon come to light. "You don't ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Russia Calls for Int'l Aid for Residents of Syria's Aleppo

MOSCOW - Russia's Defense Ministry on Monday called on international organizations and other countries to provide aid for residents of the Syrian city of Aleppo. "Humanitarian aid from Kazakhstan was sent from the Syrian port of Tartus (to Aleppo). Earlier, aid came from Armenia, Belarus and Serbia. However, aid from other countries and international organizations, whose representatives in their offices have repeatedly talked about the

plight of the Syrian people and the humanitarian disaster in the country, hasn't been received so far," said Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov. Besides water and bread, residents in Aleppo also need glass, cement, pipes and construction materials, he said. Konashenkov said a peaceful life has returned to Aleppo and other towns. Locals are rebuilding their houses, and schools and hospitals have reopened.



Last month, the Syrian government forces recaptured the city from rebel forces which had been occupying the city since 2012. The five-year civil war in Syria has killed more than 300,000 people and caused a serious refugee crisis. (Xinhua)

## EU at Odds with Trump Administration over "Muslim Ban"

BRUSSELS - The EU on Monday dismissed the executive order by U.S. President Donald Trump banning entry of citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries.

"The EU will not discriminate on the basis of nationality, race, or religion, not only when it comes to asylum, but in an overall policy," The chief spokesperson of European Commission Magaritis Schinas told a press conference, adding that European Commission President



Jean-Claude Juncker "has constantly stressed our attachment to this principle." Quoting Juncker's state of union address in September, he said, "there's no religion, no belief, no philosophy, when it comes to refugees." Referring to a "European model," ... (More on P4)... (20)

## New Zealand PM Voices Disagreement with U.S. Refugee Policy

WELLINGTON - New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English on Monday said he disagrees with the United States' entry restrictions on citizens from seven mainly Muslim countries.

However, English said he had not made his views known to U.S. President Donald Trump, Radio New Zealand reported. Trump has issued an executive order preventing people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan from entering the United States for 90 days, and suspending refugee entries to the U.S for four months as well as banning refugees from Syria indefinitely.

English had been under mounting criticism for failing to condemn Trump's immigration order, but on Monday he said he would not implement such a ban in New Zealand and ... (More on P4)... (21)

## Iraq Asks Trump Administration to Reconsider Travel Ban on Iraqis

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi Foreign Ministry on Monday expressed "regret" over the latest restrictions by U.S. President Donald Trump on the entry of Iraqi nationals into the United States, and asked Washington to "reconsider" the travel ban on Iraqi citizens. "It is very unfortunate that such U.S. decision issued against an allied country (Iraq), which is linked with the United States in a strategic partnership," the foreign ministry said in a statement. "It is necessary that the new U.S. administration reconsider this wrong decision," the ministry said. "Iraq has a real desire to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries."

The ministry's statement came after the parliament's foreign affairs committee voted for recommendations that the Iraqi government should demand "reciprocation" and take countermeasures against the Trump decision. "We reject the decision of President Trump as Iraq is on the frontline of fighting terrorism, and we are the side who gives martyrs and sacrifices for a war that we fight on behalf of the whole world," said Hanan al-Fatlawi, a member of the foreign affairs committee. "It is unfair that Iraqis are treated in this way," she told a press conference after a committee meeting to discuss the U.S. decision. "We ask the Iraqi government to take a similar action against the United States decision," she said, adding that the parliament committee has demanded that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry contact the U.S. government for review of their decision. (Xinhua)

## 28th AU Summit Opens, Hails Progress in Africa

ADDIS ABABA - The 28th African Union (AU) Summit opened on Monday in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa with a recognition of many socio-economic gains on the continent.

The two-day summit is held under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth." Speaking at the opening of the summit, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, hailed progress on areas from free movement of persons to railway development to ending child marriage. The chairperson hailed the fastest economic ... (More on P4)... (22)

## U.S. Army Seeks to Cement Trump's Promise to Stick by NATO

ZAGAN, Poland - The United States deployed thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry to Poland, the Baltic states and southeastern Europe on Monday in its biggest buildup since the Cold War, condemned by Russia as part of an aggressive strategy on its frontiers.

The deployment of a full armored brigade, returning U.S. tanks to Europe for the first time since 2013, offers reassurance of U.S. support for east European allies alarmed by Moscow's military assertiveness towards Ukraine, in the south, and by Russian air, land and sea exercises in the Baltic region. Originally ordered by Barack Obama, the

troop arrivals are the first since Donald Trump succeeded him and may go some way to assuage the alarm of 27 allies over his recent description - since modified - of the alliance as "obsolete". His expressed wish to move closer to Russia has also caused dismay.

Polish Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz declared "God bless President Trump" at an opening ceremony with U.S. generals who watched live tank fire at a base near the German border. "The full weight of the U.S. military stands behind these sentinels of freedom," Lieutenant General Tim Ray, deputy commander of U.S. ... (More on P4)... (23)

## Nieghbor News

### China Reacts to EU Anti-Dumping Penalties with Bid for US-Slovakian Steelworks

BEIJING - While the EU attempts to block the sale of cheap Chinese steel in Europe, Chinese buyers have "swept all other offers off the table," in their bid for U.S. Steel Košice, Slovakia's largest steelworks.

Slovakia's Prime minister Robert Fico arrives for an emergency Eurogroup finance ministers' meeting on Greece at the European Council in Brussels, on June 22, 2015

Last week Slovakia's Hospodárske Noviny reported that Chinese buyers are close to finalizing a deal to buy U.S. Steel Košice, Slovakia's largest steelworks. The factory, formerly known as Východoslovenské

železniarne (East Slovakian Ironworks), was bought by US Steel in 2000. According to Bratislava-based Finweb, the prospective buyers, Hesteel Group, have made a 1.4 billion euro (\$1.5 billion) bid for the factory, the largest acquisition or merger by a Chinese company so far this year. The owners reportedly rejected lesser offers from the CEFC China Energy conglomerate, and a Czech consortium led by Moravia Steel.

In 2015 Hesteel produced 47.7 million tons of steel, making it the world's second-largest steel producer in the world behind Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal. (AP)

### Pak Senate Panel to Take up Inquiry Commissions Bill

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan's Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice will take up on Tuesday (today) the controversial inquiry commissions bill that had already been passed by the National Assembly despite opposition's protest against the backdrop of the controversy over the Panama Papers scam.

The government had managed to secure the passage of the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Bill, 2016, from the National Assembly on Nov 30 last year after the opposition had foiled its three similar attempts by boycotting the proceed-

ings and pointing out the lack of quorum. Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani had referred the bill to the law and justice committee headed by Javed Abbasi of the ruling PML-N after its introduction by the government in the house last month. The new law had been drafted after the then chief justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali wrote back to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while refusing to constitute an inquiry commission to hold investigations into the Panamagate scam under the old law which he termed "toothless". (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran-Russia Ties Serve Regional Peace: Zarif

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called for diversification of relations with Russia, saying stronger ties between the two countries will contribute to peace and stability in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Enhancement of relations between Iran and Russia would not only serves their own interests, but works as "a major factor in the security, stability and development of regions like Central Asia and the Middle East," Zarif said in a message to a Monday conference in Tehran, held to mark 515 years of relations between the two countries.

Pointing to the ups and downs in more than five centuries of political interaction between Iran and Russia, Zarif said the two neighbors should maintain broad relations and try to diversify and promote ties in all directions.

The conference could pave the way for closer cultural interaction and stronger links between the two peoples, Iran's diplomat went on to say. Attended by Russia's Ambassador to Tehran Levan Jagarian and Iran's envoy to Moscow Mahdi Sanai, the conference was held at the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Center for International Research and Education. (Tasnim)

### Uzbekistan to Allocate \$1.2 Billion for Aral Sea Protection

TASHKENT - The government of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 plans to allocate 8.4 trillion sums (more than \$1.2 billion) for the development of regions located in the environmental crisis zone of the Aral Sea, according to the decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev published on Monday.

According to the document, the biggest amount of funds will be allocated for creation of

about 100,000 jobs and increasing of the investment attractiveness of the regions, as well as boosting infrastructure and fight against desertization and water resource management.

To finance the program, the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan will create a Regional Development Fund. The funds will be raised from the state budget, donors, foreign loans and grants etc. (AKI)

### Tajikistan in 2016 Receives \$55.8 Mln Humanitarian Aid from 55 Countries

DUSHANBEH - The humanitarian aid worth \$55.8 million has been delivered to Tajikistan from 55 countries last year, reports Avesta news agency. The Statistics Agency says the country received more than 17,600 tons of

humanitarian aid in the form of flour, vegetable oil, medicines, clothes, as well as bedding items. The largest donors were Russia (25.9%), China (24%), Serbia (8.2%), India (7.7%) and others. (AKI)