

Migration, Security Global Challenges: EU Commissioner

BUDAPEST - The issues of migration and security are global challenges, no country can deal with them on their own, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, said here Tuesday.

Speaking to journalists after meeting with Hungarian Interior Minister Sandor Pinter and Justice Minister Laszlo Trocsanyi, Avramopoulos said: "We are not where we were two years ago, but are using a comprehensive approach, and Hungary is part of it... Only through this joint and coordinated approach can we address the upcoming challenges," he added.



The European Union (EU) and Hungary, an EU member state, have been in a long-running dispute over migrant policy.

"What happens in Syria is not only felt in Turkey or Greece, but also in Hungary and Germany," Avramopoulos explained. Pinter told reporters that there was an understanding between Hungary and the EU regarding the need to defend EU borders. "We understand that it is necessary to control the citizens of the EU coming in and going out through the borders, and also those coming from third countries," he explained. "On the issue of passing through...(More on P4)...(14)

Trump, China's Xi to Meet April 6-7: Source

BEIJING - U.S. President Donald Trump will meet April 6-7 with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the president's Mar-a-Lago retreat in Florida, a source familiar with the meeting said on Tuesday. It will be their first

face-to-face meeting since Trump took office on Jan. 20. Trump played host to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last month at Mar-a-Lago, in Palm Beach, Florida. (Reuters)

Europe Undergoing "Existential Crisis": Former Spanish PM

LISBON - Former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said here on Tuesday that the European Union (EU) was undergoing an "existential crisis" following Brexit, saying there was a risk that the desire to leave the EU would spread to other countries.

"Because one country, the United Kingdom, decided to exit the European Union, that could be contagious for other countries, and in the current circumstances, in which there are different forces pushing in different directions, that could put the actual existence of the EU at risk," Anzar said.

The former prime minister added that the answer was not to "finish with Europe," an idea defended by populist

parties. "That would be the worse answer possible," he pointed out, adding that the solution would be to recover the "founding spirit" of the EU.

Aznar said it was vital to tap into the original spirit so as to construct a Europe that is "concentrated in its competences, that respects the identity of national states, and dedicates itself to the banking union, to the internal market," while also citing promoting free trade and common energy policy.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said she would go ahead and trigger Article 50 on Wednesday, thereby launching the formal process an EU member state must go through to leave the EU. (Xinhua)

NATO, Russia to Hold Council Meeting this Week

BRUSSELS - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday announced in a statement that NATO would hold a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council this week. The meeting will take place on March 30 at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, one day ahead of NATO's foreign ministers meeting. "Following consultations with the members of the NATO-Russia Council, I have invited them to a meeting at ambassadorial level," said the NATO chief. NATO suspended practical cooperation with



Russia in April 2014 in response to the Ukraine crisis, and the NATO-Russia Council was the only channel left open. The NATO-Russia Council, which was established in 2002, was conceived as a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision and joint action. (Xinhua)

Trump to Sign Order Sweeping Away Obama-Era Climate Policies

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump will sign an executive order on Tuesday to undo a slew of Obama-era climate change regulations that his administration says is hobbling oil drillers and coal miners, a move environmental groups have vowed to take to court.

The decree's main target is former President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, requiring states to slash carbon emissions from power plants - a critical element in helping the United States meet its

commitments to a global climate change accord reached by nearly 200 countries in Paris in 2015. The so-called "Energy Independence" order will also reverse a ban on coal leasing on federal lands, undo rules to curb methane emissions from oil and gas production, and reduce the weight of climate change and carbon emissions in policy and infrastructure permitting decisions.

"We're going to go in a different direction," a senior White House official told



reporters ahead of Tuesday's order. "The previous administration devalued workers with their policies. We can protect the environment while providing people with work." The wide-ranging order is the boldest yet in Trump's broader push to cut environmental regulation to revive...(More on P4)...(15)

Turkey's Election Threshold could Change if Presidential System Adopted: Turkish PM

ANKARA - Turkey's political parties law and election procedure could be changed if Turkey adopts a presidential system after the April 16 referendum, Turkish Prime Minister Bi-

nali Yildirim said Monday. If the constitutional amendment passes at the referendum, the 10 percent election threshold could be discussed and lowered, Yildirim said, cited by local

Haber Turk channel. "Because with the new model under the presidential system, the lawmakers rather than political parties will be at the forefront," he ... (More on P4)...(16)

UN Agency Calls for Stronger Coordination to Improve Situation of Refugees in Greece

UNITED NATIONS - The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said Monday that joint efforts and strengthened cooperation are crucial for improving the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece, a UN spokesman told reporters here. "UNHCR has issued eight ... (More on P4)...(17)

Syrian Army Scores New Victories: Russian General

MOSCOW - Syrian government troops supported by Russian air force have scored a number of victories in the west and the center of the war-torn country, the Russian General Staff said Tuesday. "A total of 115 settlements and over 1,100 square kilometers of territory have been liberated from Islamic State terrorists since the beginning of March," Col. Gen. Sergey Rudskoy, chief of the General Staff's Main Operations Department, told a news briefing.

Syrian troops have launched a counteroffensive operation in the west of the country, where a group numbering 10,000 militants had managed to seize several settlements, he said. More than 2,100 militants, 55 armored vehicles and more than 100 cars with heavy weapons were destroyed in the four days of fighting in this region, said Rudskoy.

He said the Syrian army also conducted successful operations against terrorists near the country's capital of Damascus, and in the northeast of Aleppo province and in the vicinity of the recently liberated ancient city of Palmyra. Meanwhile, the Russian Center for the Reconciliation of Warring Parties continued providing medical assistance and distributing food to civilians throughout Syria, Rudskoy said.

He said a detachment of Russian sappers had conducted mine clearing in 18 areas of Palmyra, including 940 buildings on the territory of more than 445 hectares, 46 km of roads, neutralizing more than 1,800 explosive items and improvised explosive devices. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

United States, Tajikistan Conduct Military Exercises

ASTANA - The U.S. Department of Defence and the Armed Forces of Tajikistan launched joint military exercises on Monday, according to local media, about 150 American and 100 Tajik experts will take part in the exercises that will last till April 7. The exercises aim at improving coordinated capacity in antiterrorist fight in the region and promoting long-term regional stability, said local media. U.S. President Donald Trump wrote in his message to Tajik President Emomali Rahmon that his administration hopes to advance the common goals of regional security and stability. In February, Tajikistan and the U.S. marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. (Xinhua)

Operation Radd-ul-Fassad to Bring Lasting Peace, Stability to Pakistan: Gen. Bajwa

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Tuesday that operation Radd-ul-Fassad (RUF) will bring lasting peace and stability to Pakistan. The army chief visited the Bahawalpur Garrison where he was given a detailed briefing on operational preparedness and other aspects of functioning troops, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. Gen Bajwa lauded exemplary performance of young officers and sacrifices rendered by them during the security operations, adding that they are his pride and nation also owes peace and stability to their patriotic devotion. Expressing his satisfaction over the military officers involved in the operations, he said the experience of war against terrorism has made the Pakistan Army battle hardened, which makes its soldiers better prepared for a conventional war. (Monitoring Desk)

Rouhani Says Syrian Peace Talks to Continue in Kazakhstan

MOSCOW - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that Syrian peace talks sponsored by Tehran, Russia and Turkey would continue in Kazakhstan without specifying a date for the next round of negotiations. Rouhani, who was speaking after wrapping up two days of talks in Moscow, said he had discussed the situation in Syria and Yemen with Russian President Vladimir Putin. (Reuters)

Uzbekistan Approves Agreement with Russia

TASHKENT - The Senate of the Uzbek Parliament on Tuesday during the session approved the law on ratification of the agreement on development of military and technical cooperation with Russia, reports the Voennoye Obozreniye newspaper. The document was earlier passed and introduced to the Senate by the legislative chamber of the country. During the discussion, participants of the session noted that Russia was and remains one of the main partners of Uzbekistan, including in military and technical sphere. The Senate members approved the law. It was earlier reported that Uzbekistan and Russia plan to exchange ratification instruments on the entry into force of the agreement on military and technical cooperation between the two countries signed in November 2016 in Moscow. (AKI)

Iran Says Russia can use its Military Bases 'on Case by Case Basis'

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told Reuters on Tuesday that Russia could use Iranian military bases to launch air strikes against militants in Syria on a "case by case basis." Russia and Iran are both key allies of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and have played decisive roles in the past 18 months to turn the tide of the Syrian conflict in his favour. Russian jets used an air base in Iran to launch attacks against militant targets in Syria last summer, the first ... (More on P4)...(18)

Commissioning of Mining by Belarus in Turkmenistan Hailed as Momentous Event

MINSK - The implementation of the project to build the Garlyk mining and processing factory in Turkmenistan by Belarusian specialists signals Belarus' civil engineering capabilities to the entire world. Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko made the statement as he met with Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Mikhail Myasnikov on 28 March, BelTA has learned. The Belarusian head of state is expected to visit Turkmenistan on 29-31 March. The opening of the Garlyk mining and processing factory will be the key event in those days. The factory has been built by Belarusian specialists using the turn-key approach. "We've at last mastered this kind of an enterprise. Back in the Soviet period when surveys were in progress over there the Soviet Union did not risk venturing into this kind of business. It was a very complicated technology due to the soil layers we've had to go through. But we've done it. It means our technologies are solid. (Monitoring Desk)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Procuring Entity	National Procurement Authority (NPA) on behalf of DABS
Funded By	World Bank,
Item Description	Consultancy Services for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) for Naghlu Dam Rehabilitation Project
Reference No	NPA/DABS/96/CS-1631/QCBS-(re-bid)
Deadline for Submission of EOI	April 20, 2017, 14:00 hrs (Kabul Local Time)
Address for Submission of EOI	Request for Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail): Attention: Mr. Aziz Ahmad Obaidi National Procurement Authority Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan Email: aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af copy to wais.rahimi@aop.gov.af , saifullah.lodin@dabs.af , asadullah.haidari@aop.gov.af
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