

German Parliament Votes to Criminalize Commercial Euthanasia

BERLIN - Germany's parliament voted on Friday to criminalize commercial euthanasia after rejecting draft laws that would have made assisted suicide fully legal in the country.

The new law criminalizes organizations that assist patients seeking to terminate their lives in return for payment and makes assisting a suicide punishable by up to three years in prison.

But critics said the law, the first detailed legislation on assisted suicide ever passed by the German parliament, did not make clear whether assisted suicide was now



a criminal offense in all cases.

"A punishment of com-

mercial euthanasia would expose doctors to the severe risk of legal invest-

tigations," said Renate Kuenast, a member of the Green Party and initiator

of one of the bills in favor of legalizing assisted suicide.

Passive euthanasia, including the withholding of life-prolonging medical treatment, is generally accepted in Germany, where a number of associations that provide terminally ill patients with lethal medication have also been established. These are classed as "Vereine", or registered clubs, and charge membership fees. Germany's biggest association for assisted suicide, Sterbehilfe Deutschland, which organizes assisted suicides in Switzerland, said it would suspend its activities pending an appeal to Germany's constitutional court. (Reuters)

US Deploys 6 F-15 Jets to Turkish Air Base



ANKARA - The U.S. military says it has deployed six F-15C jets to Turkey's southern Incirlik air base to help defend Turkish airspace against potential intruders. The deployment of the air-to-air combat planes, announced Friday, comes after two Russian warplanes active in Syria strayed into Turkish airspace last month, triggering protests from Turkey and its NATO allies. The deployment

sends a message of NATO's resolve to protect its members following the Russian warplane's intrusion. A U.S.-European command statement said the deployment was in response to Turkey's request for support in securing its airspace. It said the deployment was a "demonstration of our unwavering support for Turkish sovereignty and the collective security of the region." (AP)

S. Korea Says No Response from DPRK for Dialogue Offers

SEOUL - South Korea's unification ministry said on Friday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had given no response to its inter-governmental dialogue offers at least three times.

The ministry said that it had offered to the DPRK holding a preliminary contact for the inter-government dialogue, which had been agreed between Seoul and Pyongyang during top-level military talks in August, on Sept. 21, Sept. 24 and Oct. 30, according to local media reports.

Pyongyang had given no response to the dialogue offers until Friday, the ministry was quoted as saying. South Korea and the



DPRK agreed to hold talks in Seoul or Pyongyang at an earliest possible date after a marathon dialogue on Aug. 25. Tensions soared on the Korean Peninsula in August after a rare exchange of artillery fire and landmine explosions in the demilitarized zone. The two Koreas put their

troops on the highest alert, pushing the peninsula to the brink of armed conflict. After the Aug. 25 agreement to deescalate tensions, the two Koreas held the reunion of families, separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, in the DPRK's Mount Kumgang resort in October.

Under the name of Unification Minister Hong Yong-Pyo, Seoul sent a dialogue offer to his DPRK counterpart Kim Yang Gon, director of the DPRK's United Front Department, proposing a preliminary contact to be held on Oct. 2 in the truce village of Panmunjom. (Xinhua)

UNEP Report Signals Unprecedented Momentum for Climate Agreement in Paris

GENEVA - Existing policies and strong engagement by nations submitting their contributions ahead of the Paris climate meeting will limit anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, according to a new United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report published on Friday.

The new report presented an assessment of the 119 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted to the UN Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report covers 146 countries (including the European Union submitting as a bloc) and up to 88 per cent of global GHG emissions in 2012. The INDCs represent GHG emission reductions of 4 to 6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year (GtCO₂e/yr) in 2030 compared to projected emissions under current policy trajectories.

Based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Cli-



mate Change's Fifth Assessment Report scenarios, which assumed no additional climate policies are put in place after 2010, 2030 projections based on current

policies are themselves 5 GtCO₂e per year lower than the estimate of 65 GtCO₂e. This indicated that efforts to tackle climate change, ... (More on P4)... (17)

Russia's Putin Suspends all Flights to Egypt on Security Advice

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin ordered the suspension of all Russian passenger flights to Egypt on Friday until the cause of a deadly plane crash at the weekend was established. Putin's decision was a response to the unexplained crash of an Airbus A321 operated by a Russian carrier on Saturday over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. All 224 people on board were killed. The move, which follows decisions by

Britain and Ireland to suspend flights to and from Sharm al-Sheikh, the Egyptian resort where the downed Russian airliner originated, is the first sign that Moscow is attaching credibility to the theory that Islamist militants somehow planted a bomb on the aircraft. Putin acted after Alexander Bortnikov, the head of Russia's FSB security service, recommended that Russia ... (More on P4)... (18)

Syrian Rebels Recapture Village in Country's West

BEIRUT - Syrian rebels recaptured a village in the country's west on Friday, days after it was seized by government troops as part of a major offensive that began last month.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and other activist groups said a coalition of rebel fighters regained control of Atshan in Hama province on Friday. The rebels are fighting back multiple offensives by Syrian President Bashar Assad's government forces and allied militiamen. The government offensives were launched last month after Russia began airstrikes in Syria to assist Assad's overstretched army.

Russia says it is striking mainly Islamic State extremists, although many of the airstrikes have focused on areas where rebels are fighting to topple Assad. On Thursday, rare airstrikes on a city held by the Islamic State group near the border with Iraq killed at least 25 civilians, the Observatory and other activists said Friday.

It was not clear if it was a Russian or a Syrian army airstrike that struck a school in the eastern city of Boukamal. The Islamic State group accused Russia of being behind the strikes. The IS-affiliated Amaq news agency said at least 50 civilians were killed, including four women and 13 children, adding that the air raids targeted popular markets and neighborhoods. It posted a video that showed people frantically trying ... (More on P4)... (20)

Singh Expresses Concern over Rising Religious Intolerance in India

NEW DELHI - Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Friday expressed concern over rising religious intolerance in his country after a spate of attacks against Muslims, leftwing activists and minority people. In a function marking the 125th birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Singh said the country is deeply concerned at the "blatant violation" of right to freedom of thought, belief and speech and termed such incidents as an "assault to nation" by extremists.

"The assault or murder of thinkers for their disagreement in views cannot be justified on any ground. All right thinking people have condemned such incidents in strongest term. It is an assault to nation," he said. Describing the assault on Muslims and leftwing activists by extremists as "an attack on the nationhood," the former prime minister said everybody "in their right mind" has condemned with the strongest terms such actions. Extremists have recently staged murder and attacks upon Muslims and leftwing activists, killing at least four of them. Many intellectuals, artists and scholars have criticized the government of Bharatiya Janata Party for keeping silent over the incidents. The opposition Congress and leftwing parties have also staged protests over the incidents. (Xinhua)

India must Reform to Transform Lives of its Citizens: Modi

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said the economy is doing better and stressed that the country should reform to transform the lives of its citizens.

"The economy has improved by every economic indicator. The economy is doing better than what it was when we took over 17 months ago. The economy is doing better in all the parameters like GDP, fiscal deficit, revenue etc," Modi said, after inaugurating the Delhi Economics Conclave. He added: "The coun-



try should reform to transform the life of the citizens of the country, particularly the poor. Reforms to transform is like a marathon not sprint." Spelling out the reasons for success so far, Modi attributed them to the series of well laid-out

policies. "We have embarked on a course of fiscal consolidation, we have increased fiscal productive investment," he said. The prime minister added: "The government wants to have maximum value for ... (More on P4)... (19)

Moscow, Washington Adopt Different Stands on Cause of Russian Plane Crash

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON - Since the crash of the Russian Airbus A321 over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula last weekend, Russia and the United States have obviously adopted different attitudes towards possible cause of the accident. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday that none of the assumptions related to the crash could be confirmed yet as the investigation is still underway. "Only the investigation may put forward some theories of the accident. We haven't had any

statements from the investigation so far," Peskov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. The Sinai-based group "Sinai State" that had announced loyalty to the IS said in a statement posted on Twitter that its militants managed to target the Russian plane and killed all its passengers. It said the attack was in revenge for Russia's military operations in Syria, but Moscow has dismissed the claim as incredible. On the other hand, U.S. President Barack Obama said... (More on P4)... (21)

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European Parliament's Head to Visit Iran

TEHRAN - President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz will make a trip to Tehran Nov. 7, to discuss stepping-up dialogue between the EU and Iran, RIA Novosti reported.

He will also meet with the speaker of Iran's parliament, Ali Larijani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, with President Hassan Rouhani.

Earlier, Schulz, due to the busy schedule, had to postpone his visit to Tehran, which was scheduled for Oct. 13.

Following Iran's historic nuclear deal with the P5+1 group (the US, the UK, China, Russia, France and Germany), many for-

eign officials, politicians and business circle representatives started coming to Iran to normalize relations with the Islamic Republic.

Iran and six international negotiators (the US, the UK, China, Russia, France and Germany) reached a historic agreement July 14 to settle the long-term problems of the Iranian nuclear program.

Negotiations culminated in the adoption of the joint comprehensive action plan, the implementation of which will completely remove economic and financial sanctions on Iran earlier imposed by the UN Security Council, the US and the EU. (Agencies)

Belarusian PM to Visit Pakistan from Nov. 9 to 11: Islamabad

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister of Belarus Andrei Kobyakov is scheduled to pay a three-day official visit to Pakistan from November 9 to 11 for talks on bilateral matters, focusing on economic cooperation, officials said Friday. This will be the first ever visit by a Belarusian prime minister to Pakistan, the Foreign Ministry said. During the visit, Kobyakov will hold official talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Several important agreements and memorandums of understanding are also

expected to be signed. The president of Pakistan will host a banquet in honour of the visiting prime minister. A large business delegation would precede the prime minister's entourage for participating in the Third Pakistan-Belarus Business and Investment Forum that will be held on Nov. 10. "Pakistan and Belarus enjoy close and cordial relations. Prime Minister Kobyakov's visit will help in strengthening the existing ties between the two countries," a foreign minister... (More on P4)... (22)

Xi Calls for New Chapter of China-Vietnam Strategic Partnership

HANOI - Chinese President Xi Jinping said Friday that China and Vietnam should be good comrades, good partners, good neighbors and good friends in their future featuring pragmatic and extensive cooperation.

While addressing hundreds of Vietnamese congressmen in the country's legislative National Assembly, Xi said both countries, boasting of the valuable friendship cultivated by leaders of the older generations, should stick to the big picture of friendly communication and common development to cement bilateral ties, which is of great strategic significance.

With similar challenges ahead for both countries, Xi said, China highly values its relationship with Vietnam and is willing to promote the lasting stability and healthy devel-

opment of their relationship, so as to benefit the two peoples. Quoting the late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh's remark that "China and Vietnam enjoys comradely and brotherly friendship," Xi said the two countries are expected to become good comrades that help and trust each other; good partners that features win-win cooperation; good neighbors with remarkable amity; and good friends with frequent exchanges and visits.

To make those prospects come true, the Chinese leader said, the two sides should resort to friendly consultation to properly resolve their differences, to enhance exchanges to build up the socialist cause with unswerving confidence, to connect their development strategies and to work together for a better regional order. (Xinhua)

EU Stands for Tajikistan's Economic Development: Grigule

BISHKEK - Delegation of the European Parliament headed by Iveta Grigule said that Tajikistan will receive support of the European Union in fight against terrorism and other challenges that faces this Central Asian country in Dushanbe after the meeting with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

According to her, the European Union is implementing projects on border reinforcement and drug control, which are important not only for Tajikistan, but also for the Europe and the whole world. Tajikistan is a good, reliable and constructive

partner of the European Union in Central Asia, said Grigule. The main themes of the discussions with the President were issues of stability and security in the Central Asian region. Taking into consideration the global situation, this issue remains the most important, noted the head of the European Parliament delegation. The sides also reviewed the prospects of cooperation between the EU and Tajikistan in the field of economy. Iveta Grigule said that the EU stands for development of economy and improvement of living standards in Tajikistan. (AKIpress)