

EU, U.S. Need to Collaborate to Eliminate Root Causes of Refugee Crisis

BEIJING - Europe and the United States need to collaborate closely with the international community to address symptoms and root causes of the refugee crisis, looking into a long-term solution.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday, the root of the current refugee crisis troubling the Europe lies in unbalanced development and social instability. Thus, in addition to humanitarian aid, the international community should find an effective solution to poverty and social instability, and especially eliminate the cause of conflicts in the refugee source



countries, Xi told Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras at the UN headquarters. According to the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, most of the 300,000 refugees who arrived and trav-

eled through Europe from January to August came from war-torn countries, like Syria, Libya and Iraq.

And what was worse is that at least 850,000 more refugees are expected to cross the Mediterranean to

arrive in Europe over the next two years, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In this context, to receive asylum seekers and resettle them is just a starting point to handle the crisis, while solving the conflict in Syria, Libya, Iraq and many other places is essential for any lasting solution. First, to end conflict and violence, any kind of foreign intervention should be abandoned, as the neo-interventionism has been proved a failure and seriously harmed the peaceful and stable international order. (Xinhua)

Russia Targeted IS in Central Syria: Syria

MOSCOW - The latest developments as Russia and other nations counter Islamic State militants in Syria. All times local: A Syrian military official says Russian warplanes have targeted positions of the Islamic State group in central Syria. Syrian state TV quotes an unnamed military official as saying that the air raids are part of the "Russian-Syrian agreement to fight international terrorism and wipe out the Daesh organization." The official used an Arabic acronym to refer to the Islamic State group. The official said on Wednesday that the air raids targeted the extremists' positions in central Syria including the

areas of Rastan and Talbiseh, as well as areas near the town of Salamiyeh in Hama province. The official said the Russian airstrikes were in cooperation with the Syrian air force. Pentagon's press secretary says Defense Secretary Ash Carter has instructed his staff to talk to Russian officials about how to keep each other's air operations in Syria from colliding or getting in each other's way. Peter Cook said it was not yet clear when these talks would start or who would participate. Russia's defense ministry earlier Tuesday said its jets have started carrying out airstrikes on Islamic State group ... (More on P4)...(23)

Russia Starts Airstrikes Against IS Positions in Syria

MOSCOW - Russian air forces have begun precise airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) ground positions in Syria, Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Wednesday. "In accordance with the decision made by President Vladimir Putin, the aircraft of Aerospace Defense Forces today started an aerial operation and carried out localized strikes against ground targets of IS in Syrian territory," Konashenkov told reporters. "Strikes would be carried out against the military equipment, communication centers, transport ve-



hicles, arms depots, ammunition as well as fuels and lubricant materials of IS terrorists," Interfax news agency quoted Konashenkov as saying. He added that Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has informed Collective

Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) countries of Russia's military operation in Syria. Earlier in the day, Russia's Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, granted Putin approval to send armed

forces to Syria. Presidential Administration Chief Sergei Ivanov stressed that only air forces would be used by Russia in Syria to fight against IS militants at Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's request. (Xinhua)

China Again Calls for Political Solution to Syrian Crisis

BEIJING - China again called for a political solution to the crisis in Syria as Russia, the United States and the United Nations hastened diplomatic efforts to bring peace to the war-torn country. "China noticed the initiatives pushed forward by the parties involved. We are open to all the initiatives as long as they are conducive to a political settlement on the Syrian

crisis," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said on Wednesday. UN envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura visited Syria earlier this month for talks with top Syrian officials to find a political solution to the Syria crisis. "China stresses five points in resolving the Syrian issue," Hong said. First, the Syrian crisis must be resolved through political means, with no option for mili-



tary use, and all the parties should express their expectations through dialogue and negotiation. Second, the Syrian people

have the say in the future of their nation and political transition in the country can only be led by its people. (Xinhua)

Kurdish Forces free more Villages from IS in N. Iraq

KIRKUK - Kurdish fighters on Wednesday recaptured more than seven villages from the Islamic State (IS) group in the oil-rich province of Kirkuk, a Kurdish security source told Xinhua.

Bolstered by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, the Kurdish forces, known as Peshmerga, at dawn launched an offensive to regain areas from IS militants in south and west of the provincial capital city of Kirkuk, which is lo-

cated some 250 km north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity. The troops so far fought fierce clashes with the extremist militants and managed to regain control of 12 villages, and are moving closer to the IS-held town of Hawijah, about 60 km west of the city of Kirkuk, the source said. There was no immediate reports about casualties among the two sides, while the bat ... (More on P4)...(24)

Turkish Army Destroys 24 PKK Targets in Operations

ANKARA - The Turkish military has destroyed 24 targets belonging to the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), said a Turkish military statement Wednesday. Tensions have soared in Turkey as the government launched a major military operation against PKK militants, while the latter has retaliated since the ceasefire dissolved in July. The PKK is designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the European Union and the United States. Two Turkish security soldiers were

killed and three others injured when a group of PKK rebels attacked a military convoy, on its way to detonate an explosive device placed by the PKK, in the town of Yuksekova in the Hakkari province Tuesday, according to the statement issued by the Turkish General Staff. Military operations persist in the region, said the statement, noting that one PKK militant died, while another surrendered. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday that the military killed over 30 PKK members in a cross-border operation into northern Iraq. (Xinhua)

UN has Key Role to Play in Solving Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

JERUSALEM - The United Nations should play a more active role in reviving the long-stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Dr. Alon Liel, former director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told Xinhua in an interview. The 193-state world body, celebrating this week its 70th anniversary, has all along made hard and unremitting efforts in resolving the turmoil and various conflicts in war-torn and poverty-stricken ar-

reas around the globe. But Dr. Liel, who was also former Israeli ambassador to South Africa and is now a lecturer on international relations at the Tel Aviv University, has high hopes for the multilateral institutions' role in resolving the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict, widely believed to be the core issue in the Middle East. "The UN could be the most influential player in resolving the conflict," said Dr. Liel, a frequent commentator in Israeli media on the issue and a staunch supporter of... (More on P4)...(25)

Iranian Leader Criticizes Saudi "Inaction" over Injured Pilgrims

TEHRAN - Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Wednesday lashed out at the Saudi Arabian officials' "inaction" in relation to injured people during the latest Hajj ceremony in the Arab state, which led to the mass death of the pilgrims. "Saudi Arabia did not implement its obligations in relation to the desperate injured pilgrims in the (Hajj) incident," Khamenei was quoted as saying by the state IRIB TV. As for the transfer of the dead bodies of the Iranian pilgrims back to the country, "Saudi authorities do not stick to their obligations either and in some cases they do the opposite," he said.

Khamenei further criticized Saudi authorities for what he called their failure in providing security for pilgrims, saying that they turned the festival of Eid al-Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice, which is a major religious festival celebrated by Muslims worldwide each year, into mourning.

A "fact-finding committee" should be set up and representatives from the Islamic world and Iran should carry out investigations over the incident, Khamenei concluded. The Hajj stampede in Mina near Mecca on Thursday, claimed lives of at least 239 Iranian pilgrims and injured 28 others. In the incident, over 200 other Iranian pilgrims are also missing. According to Saudi officials, over 760 Muslim pilgrims have died during the stampede at the annual Hajj pilgrimage on Thursday. Saudi interior ministry said the crush appears to have been caused by two waves of pilgrims meeting at an intersection. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

Energy a Priority in Ties with Iran : China

TEHRAN - Chinese President Xi Jinping says China's priority is to expand energy and financial cooperation with Iran when US-led sanctions are removed on the energy-rich country. China has become Iran's biggest oil client since the sanctions were intensified and Chinese companies have used the vacuum left by other foreign firms to expand trade involvement in the Islamic Republic. The July conclusion of nuclear talks with Tehran has generated a wave of interest among world countries in Iran, with European and Asian governments in a race to grab business opportunities

in the last remaining untouched emerging market.

In his meeting with President Hassan Rouhani on the UN General Assembly sidelines in New York, Xi said, "Iran will have ever more opportunity for foreign cooperation, and Sino-Iran ties will face a new development opportunity."

Xi said China wants to increase cooperation with Iran in the fields of railways, roads, iron and steel, auto manufacturing, electricity and high-technology.

"We must prioritize energy and financial cooperation," China's Foreign Ministry quoted him as saying. (PressTV)

Pakistan's KSE Bucks three-Day Bearish Rally

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) returned to bullish ways on Wednesday thereby bucking a three-day bearish run after the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) put an end to rumors regarding a crackdown against top brokers as part of the anti-corruption drive.

The benchmark KSE 100-Index gained 0.23 percent or 72.83 points to 32,287.41 points on Wednesday when compared with 32,214.58 points reported on Tuesday.

The KSE All Share Index increased by 0.43 percent or 97.48 points to 22,708.70 points, the KSE 30-Index

swelled by 0.11 percent or 20.52 points to 19,289.44 points, whereas the KMI 30-Index moved up by 0.55 percent or 297.49 points to 54,084.96 points. During Wednesday's trading session, the key index moved in a band of 509.65 points as it hit an intraday high of 32,560.52 points as against an intraday low of 32,050.87 points.

Market volumes improved by 17.21 percent or 30.762 million shares to 209.502 million shares on Wednesday when compared with 178.739 million shares posted on Tuesday. Market capitalization ballooned by 0.42 percent or 28.924 billion rupees (278.120 million U.S. dol-

EU Trains 360 Top Health Workers in Tajikistan

AVESTA - The project "Technical Assistance to Support the Strengthening of the Health Information System in Tajikistan", funded by the European Union, conducted nationwide training on data quality and utilization and evidence decision making for 360 health specialists from primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities, including: top managers, decision makers, and health statisticians.

According to the Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan, the training has been conducted in collaboration with the Tajik State Medical University named after Abu Ali ibn Sino and Republican Center for Medical Statistics and Information, Tajikistan's Ministry of Health and Social Pro-

tection of Population in July-September 2015.

The main project goal is to strengthen the health management system, used by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population, the Ministry of Justice and the Directorate of Acts of Civil State.

The DHIS 2 system has been fully adapted to perform the functions of data entry, analysis, and reporting. It has been tested and is being used nationwide for online data entry from January 1 2015. The health statistical reports for the year 2014 were successfully completed with use of the health information system DHIS2. The civil registration acts, registered in 2015, have been entered by the Civil Registration Offices into DHIS2 in on-line regime. (Agencies)

Chinese FM Calls for Efforts to Ensure Success of Xi's Visit to Britain

UNITED NATIONS - China and Britain should make concerted efforts to ensure Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to Britain is successful, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Tuesday. Xi will pay a state visit to Britain next month at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II, Wang said during a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond.

During the visit, China and Britain will chart the course for the future development of bilateral ties and work out a long-term plan for the two sides' coopera-

tion in various fields, he added. He said China and Britain have recently exchanged frequent high-level visits and held a series of meetings and dialogues, paving the way for the Chinese president's visit.

Hammond said Britain is looking forward to Xi's visit and will speed up efforts to make good preparations. He expressed the hope that the visit will boost the two countries' relationship as well as their cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, finance, investment, infrastructure, and international and regional affairs. (Xinhua)

British Labour Ready to Support Syria Air Strikes, with Conditions



BRIGHTON - The Labour Party on Wednesday said it was open to the possibility of Britain joining air strikes against the Islamic State group in Syria on condition of clear approval by the United Nations. The party's annual conference approved, by a near unanimous show of hands, a motion on British participation in the air campaign. The move threatens embarrassment for Labour's new radical leftist leader Jeremy Corbyn, who is a co-founder of the Stop the War coalition, which campaigned against the Afghanistan and Iraq wars and has opposed any British participation in Syria. Prime Minister David Cameron wants to ask parliament to vote on Britain joining air strikes on Syria in the coming weeks but the conference vote does not compel Labour MPs to support such action.

The conference motion said that military action "can secure the assent of the British people" as long as there was "clear and unambiguous authorisation for such a bombing campaign from the United Nations". It also said there should be a Europe-wide plan to assist an expected increase in refugees from air strikes, that strikes should be against IS targets and that diplomatic efforts should take priority. In his first speech as leader, Corbyn had on Tuesday told the conference: "The answer to this complex and tragic conflict can't simply be found in a few more bombs." (AFP)