

# UN Official Warns of Various Threats to Global Asylum Environment

GENEVA - A high-ranking UN refugee official on Thursday warned of threats to global asylum environment, saying that violations of international refugee law, such as attacks by troops and families being driven back across borders are jeopardizing the safety of people fleeing for their lives. In a key address to the UN Refugee Agency's annual Executive Committee meeting in Geneva, UN Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Turk said such breaches are "widespread and occur in all parts of the world". "Terrified families have been deported in the mid-



dle of the night, often with the connivance of security agents from the countries of origin," he told an audience of representatives of 151 states that make up the Executive Committee. "In particular, they have included killings of refugees by the military," he stressed. According to him, some in power are disregarding the tradition that asylum is a humanitarian, non-political act, and some politicians have cast aside humanity in favor of short-term political gains, arguing that they were acting in defense of the liberty, security, and safety of their citizenry. (Xinhua)

## 14th India-EU Summit to Begin in New Delhi

NEW DELHI - The 14th India and European Union summit is set to begin here on Friday, officials said. According to officials, the summit is expected to discuss a slew of key issues, including ways to remove hurdles for long-pending free trade agreement. Donald Franciszek Tusk, president of European Council, and Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission have arrived in India for the summit. "The visiting dignitaries are accompanied by a high-level delegation including EU's High Representative for For-

eign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini," a government official said. Officials said a India-EU business event will also be organized on the sidelines of the summit. India and the EU have been strategic partners since 2004. The 13th India-EU Summit was held in Brussels on March 30 last year during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. The EU is India's largest regional trading partner with bilateral trade reaching 88 billion U.S. dollars in 2016. (Xinhua)

## Trump Expected to Decertify Iran Nuclear Deal Soon: Report

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump has planned to announce next week that he will "decertify" the landmark Iran nuclear deal, a move that could lead to the potential collapse of the agreement, according to media reports citing U.S. officials on Thursday. Trump was expected to roll out a broader U.S. strategy on Iran, in which his decision on the nuclear deal was an important part, said officials on condition of anonymity. On Oct. 15, Trump is

due to testify to Congress whether Tehran is complying with the deal and whether it remains in the U.S. interests in sticking to it. If he decides it is not, it could open the way for U.S. lawmakers to reimpose sanctions, leading to the potential collapse of the agreement. Trump has long criticized the Iran nuclear pact, a signature deal reached between Iran and the world six powers of Britain, China,



France, Russia and the United States plus Germany in July 2015. In his speech delivered at UN General Assembly last month, Trump called the agreement "an embarrassment" for the United States and indicated that he may not recertify the deal at its mid-October deadline. (Xinhua)

## May in Fight to Stay as UK Lawmakers Back Plot to Force her out



LONDON - Britain's under-fire Prime Minister Theresa May was facing a fight for her political life Friday with a growing number of her own MPs said to favor a challenge to her leadership. A former

chairman of May's governing Conservative Party has emerged as a ring-leader in the call for a new occupant at 10 Downing Street. The MP and former minister, Grant Shapps, said in media interviews

Friday he had the support of about 30 Conservative MPs, including five former cabinet ministers. Although May's closest ministers in her governing cabinet have pledged their support for her, Shapps claimed some of her cabinet ministers privately agreed with his call. In her first reaction to the day's developments Theresa May said she has the "full support of her cabinet". The BBC quoted May as saying the country needed "calm leadership" adding: "That's what I'm providing." The party's

poor showing in the June snap election when May lost her overall majority in the House of Commons had already weakened her position. But the fiasco of her disastrous speech at this week's party conference has placed a great threat to her continued leadership. May's coughing fits which continually interrupted her speech, a prankster breaching security to approach her on the conference platform with the conference backdrop falling apart making it a triple disaster played out live on television. (Xinhua)

## Turkish PM to Visit Baghdad after Iraqi Kurdish Referendum

ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim will visit Baghdad soon for talks on joint stance against the Iraqi Kurds' independence referendum and enhancing bilateral cooperation, Iraq's Ambassador to Ankara Hisham al-Allawi said on Friday. "We are looking for a win-win position," Ambassador Hisham al-Allawi told reporters at a news conference in Ankara. Two draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) texts were prepared for cooperation on energy field and they will be finalized during the visit

by Turkish prime minister to Baghdad soon, he said, adding that the date of the visit has yet to schedule. The ambassador also said Iraq wants to open a new border gate with Turkey in Fiskhabur crossing which will bypass Iraqi Kurdish region and will enable transfer from Turkey to Iraq through Mosul province. Touching further military cooperation possibilities between two countries, he stressed needs for withdrawal of Turkish troops from the Bashiqa camp in northern Iraq, an issue which has caused tension between Ankara and Baghdad. (Xinhua)

## Syria Forces Enter IS-Held Mayadeen: Monitor

BEIRUT - Russian-backed Syrian forces on Friday broke into the eastern town of Mayadeen, one of the Islamic State group's last bastions in the country, a monitor said. "With support from Russian aviation, regime forces entered Mayadeen and took control of several buildings in the west of the town," Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told AFP. IS jihadists have controlled Mayadeen in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor since 2014. President Bashar al-Assad's forces have been advancing rapidly in a bid to expel the jihadists from the province. (AFP)

## EU Braces for Brexit Talks Collapse as May Falter

BRUSSELS - As in-fighting consumes the British government, Europeans have stepped up quiet preparations for a possible collapse of Brexit talks that could see Britain crash out of the EU without a deal 18 months from now. Prime Minister Theresa May's EU counterparts still see the "no-deal scenario" she threatened them with as most unlikely, as they think it would hurt Britain much more than the continent. German officials say that in recent months they have been spending just as much energy on how to handle that as on preparing for a negotiated solution. The BDI industry federation in the biggest EU economy warned German firms on Thursday that it would be "naive" not to be ready for a "a very hard exit". Like May, who on Friday rejected calls from some lawmakers to resign, Michel Barnier, the European Union negotiator, says his aim is an orderly exit. (Reuters)

## "Ready to Mediate to End Iraq, Kurds Crisis": Macron

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday offered mediation to help ending the political crisis between Baghdad and Erbil, urging both parts to start talks soon. "France has always been extremely sensitive and concerned about Kurds' situation, but we want the stability of Iraq, the territorial integrity of Iraq and a strong state in Iraq," Macron said. "It is vital in the coming weeks and months that a dialogue begins that respects the unity, integrity and sovereignty of Iraq within



the framework of the constitution and recognizing Kurdish rights," he added. Macron said: "France is ready - if Iraqi authorities wish - to actively contribute to mediation launched by the UN." At a joint press meeting with visiting Iraqi Prime Min-

ister Haidar al-Abadi, the French president called on officials in Baghdad to press through "national reconciliation to establish inclusive governance that meets the aspirations of all the components of Iraqi society, including the Kurds of Iraq." (Xinhua)

## Qatar, U.S. Hold Workshop on Fighting Terrorism Financing

DOHA - Qatar and the United States are holding a workshop on fighting terror financing as part of their joint efforts to combat terrorism, local media reported Thursday. The two-day technical exchange workshop on Domestic Designation opened on Wednesday, in line with the efforts by Qatar to establish an integrated and operational system for domestic designation, the reports said. The opening session was chaired by Chairman of Qatar's National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Fi-

nancing Committee Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal Al Thani, and attended by legal experts, law enforcement officials and technicians at all levels. U.S. officials from the Justice and State departments would exchange technical information and expertise with Qatari counterparts on anti-money laundering and combating terror funding, the reports said. Sheikh Fahad mentioned that the workshop aimed at providing technical assistance and exchanging experiences between Qatar and the U.S. in the Domestic Designation system. (Xinhua)

## EU Split on Carbon Market Reform Ahead of U.N. Climate Talks

BRUSSELS - Splits among European Union policymakers over carbon market reforms could foil attempts next week to reach a deal ahead of United Nations climate talks in November, EU sources said. Negotiators for EU nations and the European Parliament meet on Oct. 12 after months of talks to try to finalize a legal text on reforms to the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) post-2020. The cap-and-trade system to regulate pollution and help the 28-nation bloc meet its climate goals has suffered from an oversupply of permits, adding political urgency to the reforms.

EU nations on Friday agreed a draft compromise proposal by the bloc's Estonian presidency, which is pushing hard for progress during its six-month chairmanship. U.N. climate talks in Bonn next month "are a big motivator" for concluding negotiations, one EU source said. "Everyone wants to go there with this in their pocket." The text shows negotiators are still striving to bridge divisions over how to balance environmental ambitions with protection for energy-intensive industries. A copy of the draft text, reviewed by Reuters, says: "The most sensitive political points remain to be resolved." However, legislators are close to reaching a compromise on how to strengthen the ETS, agreeing to double the rate at which the Market Stability Reserve (MSR) - a measure designed to remove from the market surplus permits which have depressed prices - soaks up excess allowances. (Reuters)

## Neighbor News

### UK And China Agree Renewable Energy Deal

LONDON - UK and Chinese researchers will work together on five projects to develop the next generation of offshore renewable-energy (ORE) technologies. The UK's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) (www.nerc.ac.uk) said that the three-year projects will use environmental science, engineering and technology to tackle "key challenges affecting the development of ORE systems, such as offshore wind, wave and tide facilities." The projects - which have been funded as part of the Joint UK-China Offshore Renewable Energy programme - will also look to maximise the environmental and socio-economic benefits of ORE systems. In addition, the NERC said that they will demonstrate the potential of ORE technologies to provide a stable power sup-

ply for island and coastal communities. The projects are supported with nearly £4 million in funding from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council and the NERC. The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) (www.nsf.gov.cn) is also providing support. Richard Harrington, the UK's minister for energy and industry, said in a statement: "The UK is a world leader in offshore wind. "This £4 million investment will support collaborative research into the next generation of offshore technologies with one of our largest global trading partners, unlocking further opportunities for projects across the UK and the rest of the world." The NSFC's president, Yang Wei, said that further advancing China's renewable-energy sector is a crucial part of its 13th five-year plan. (Agencies)

### Pakistan Achieved Unprecedented Success in War Against Terror: Baligh

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Minister for Education Baligh-ur-Rehman Thursday said Pakistan had achieved unprecedented success in war against terrorism. Talking to a private news channel, he said armed forces and civilians had rendered matchless sacrifices in on-going war and international community was also acknowledging it.

He said there was visible decline in terror related incidents in the country due to consolidated efforts of civil and armed

institutions. National Action Plan (NAP) was launched to eliminate terrorism and steps were being taken under NAP, he added. Baligh-ur-Rehman strongly condemned terrorism incident in Jhal Magsi, Balochistan and expressed grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives there. To a question, he said role of all the institutions and government was defined in the constitution and they should work in their domain. (Monitoring Desk)

### EU Will Not Renege on Iran Deal Commitments Even if US Does: EU Official

TEHRAN - The European Union (EU) will not follow the United States if Washington decides to trample on its obligations under a multilateral nuclear deal with Iran, says a European official.

The administration of US President Donald Trump has long despised the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Trump has previously threatened to "rip up" the deal, has called it "the worst deal ever," and, most recently, called it an "embarrassment" to the US.

Since taking office a year after the deal took effect, Trump has twice certified Iranian compliance to the Congress under an American law, but those certifications were offered only half-heartedly, and all indications are that a third one - due shortly - may not be forthcoming. Administration officials have said Trump is expected to

"decertify" the deal next week.

In case Trump refuses to certify Iranian compliance, Congress will have 60 days to decide whether to restore the sanctions against Iran that the US has agreed to waive under the JCPOA. The re-imposition of nuclear-related sanctions would be a major breach of the deal by the US. If that happens, the EU will not follow suit and will not be breaching the JCPOA, The Washington Post on Thursday cited a European official as saying, without naming him. "We will not follow the United States in renegeing on our international obligations with this deal," said the official. "Not the E-3, nor the rest of the 28" members of the EU, he added, referring to France, the United Kingdom, and Germany, the three European parties to the deal with Iran. (Presstv)

### Turkmenistan Preparing to Hold Council of Elders Meeting

ASHGABAT - A meeting of the Council of Elders of Turkmenistan will take place on October 9 in the Ak Bugday district of the country's Ahal region, the Watan newspaper reported on Friday. The Council functions as an advisory body. "On Oct. 9, we will hold the next meeting of the Council of Elders, where

we'll discuss the most important issues of further development of the state in the short term and mull a number of domestic and foreign policy issues, therefore, all heads should thoroughly prepare for this national forum," Watan cited Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. (Trend)