

Bavaria Threatens Merkel with Constitutional Challenge

BERLIN - The southern German state of Bavaria threatens German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the refugee crisis with a constitutional challenge, announced by the State Chancellery in Munich on Friday after a meeting of the cabinet.

"If the federal government does not soon take effective measures in order to limit the further influx of asylum seekers and thereby impair national legal capacity of states, Bavaria reserves the right to use legal procedures at Germany's Federal Constitutional Court," Bavarian State



Government announced in a press release. The Bavarian government also demanded to

reject refugees directly at the German border, if the other EU states failed to meet their European

commitments and to take over the incoming refugees. Furthermore, Horst

Seehofer, Prime Minister of Bavaria, announced Bavarian Integration Act, which has anchored the framework and objec-

tives of the Bavarian integration policy.

Seehofer stressed that this involves "a cannon" of the principles and common values of coexistence.

As German media reported, with refugee numbers rising, the German government comes under increasing pressure. The chancellor was probably never criticized for her decidedly positive attitude in the immigration debate to such an extent as currently. Several public opinion polls showed recently that Merkel has lost popularity. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Iran, Japan Set to Sign Investment Pact

TEHRAN - Iran and Japan are set to strike a basic agreement on an investment pact as Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida is visiting Tehran on Monday, Tokyo-based media reported on Friday. Japan aims to facilitate the return of its companies to Iran lest they fall behind European rivals which have been visiting the Middle Eastern country with an eye on the lifting of sanctions, The Nikkei daily said. Kishida will meet with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran to confirm the terms, the world's largest financial newspaper added. Japan is the latest major US ally aiming to resurrect trade

relations with Iran in the post-sanction era which could ironically keep American firms shut out of the massive market. Representatives of 15 Japanese firms are already in Tehran to participate in Iran's biggest trade fair. They are among more than 300 companies from around the world in their quest for new business opportunities in the country. Among them is Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal, whose wares include seamless pipe for the oil and gas industry. NEC, which did business with the Iranian telecom sector before the sanctions, is displaying its network equipment and other technology. (PressTV)

Resolving Energy Crisis by 2018 Top Priority: Nawaz

SHEIKHUPURA - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday said that he never promised to steer the country out of the severe energy crisis six months after assuming power but vowed the get rid of energy issues during his five year term. The premier was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of LNG powered Bhikki Power Plant in Sheikhpura district of Punjab. The premier claimed that he and his team are working day and night to overcome the energy shortage which has made life difficult for the business community and the populace of the country. "NEPRA had approved Rs95 billion for the project while the project was built in

Rs55 billion", claimed the PM and added that his government is working not only to raise overall power production but also reduce cost. He added that with cost reduction, the government can directly benefit commercial and domestic power consumers of the country. In an apparent jab at political rival, PTI's Imran Khan, the PM remarked that one cannot produce power by burning electricity bills on a container but has to build power projects. The premier reiterated that his 'hard working' team is making all efforts to overcome the energy shortage by 2018. The prime minister was accompanied by Punjab Governor Muhammad ... (More on P4)... (26)

China Completes Construction of two Large Lighthouses

BEIJING - The Chinese Ministry of Transport held a completion ceremony for the construction of Huayang and Chigua Lighthouses on Huayang Reef of China's Nansha Islands, marking the start of the operation of the two lighthouses. The two lighthouses, as the first civil aids to navigation in the Nansha waters, will greatly improve the navigational conditions and reduce navigational risks and accidents by providing route guidance, safety information and emergency rescue and other public services to passing vessels. It is learned that May 26th witnessed the ground-breaking of construction of the 50-meter-high cylindrical Huayang and cone-

cylindrical Chigua Lighthouses with reinforced concrete structures, a light range of 22 nautical miles and a glowing cycle of 8 seconds. The different parts of their 4.5-meter lanterns, according to different functional requirements, are made of bronze, steel and alloy steel respectively, and protected by zinc coating and anti-corrosion paint. Thanks to the AIS and VHF stations inside the lighthouses, efficient navigation services including positioning reference, route guidance and navigation safety information, etc. will be provided to ships, which can improve navigation management and emergency response. (Xinhua)

State Duty to be Collected in Tajikistan for Putting the Apostille Seal

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's lower house (Majlisi Namoyandagon) of parliament on Friday endorsed amendments proposed by the government to laws on state duty, public associations, other compulsory payments to the budget, registration of acts of civil status, and state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, as well as to the country's tax code. Speaking at the session, Deputy Foreign Minister, Parviz Davlatzoda, noted that the amendments had been made to the mentioned laws in connection with Tajikistan's accession to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, commonly known as Apostille Convention. State duty will be collected for putting the

apostille seal, the deputy foreign minister noted. We will recall that Tajikistan presented the document on accession to the Apostille Convention to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) on February 2015. The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, the Apostille Convention, or the Apostille Treaty is an international treaty drafted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. It specifies the modalities through which a document issued in one of the signatory countries can be certified for legal purposes in all the other signatory states. Such a certification is called an apostille (French: certification). It is an interna ... (More on P4)... (27)

IS Advances on Syria's Aleppo Despite Russia Air War

BEIRUT - Islamic State group fighters advanced Friday on Syria's second city Aleppo despite 10 days of Russian air strikes that Moscow says are aimed at routing the jihadists. The jihadist gains came as regime forces, backed by Russian bombing and fighters from the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, intensified an offensive against rebels in the northwest, where IS is absent. Western governments say the vast majority of Russian strikes have targeted rebel groups other than IS in a bid to defend President Bashar al-Assad's rule. IS militants reached their closest position yet to Aleppo in northern Syria at dawn on Friday after hours of ferocious fighting with rival opponents of Assad, a monitoring group reported. "Dozens of combatants were killed on both sides," said Rami Abdel Rahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. IS militants drove out rebels from the localities of Tall Qrah, Tall Soussin, Kafar Qares and the base of Madrasat al-Mushat, he said. The jihadists are now just over 10 kilometres (six miles) from the northern edges of Aleppo city, edging closer to the front line where pro-regime forces are positioned, including the Sheikh Najjar industrial zone. "IS has never been so close to the city of Aleppo, and this is its biggest advance towards" the country's pre-war commercial capital, said Abdel Rahman, whose Britain-based group relies on a network of sources on the ground across Syria. (AFP)

Up to 7,000 Migrants, Refugees Arriving Daily in Greece in Past Week : IOM



GENEVA - Up to some 7,000 migrants and refugees, up from 4,500 in September, have been arriving every day on Greek islands in the past week, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported Friday. IOM indicated that this sharp increase may be attributed to the expected deterioration of weather conditions in the Mediterranean, making boat crossings from neighboring Turkey particularly dangerous.

Figures show that 70 percent of migrants and refugees who arrived on Greek soil last week immediately crossed into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) at Greece's Idomeni border. According to IOM interviews, migrants and refugees have to finance their own transport in Greece and reports show that nationality has become an important factor in determining the speed at which new arrivals can leave the islands and reach the FYROM border.

Many Syrians are able to travel faster from the islands to the border as they can afford it, whereas Afghans either have to work to save enough money or ask friends and relatives to help fund their travel plans, meaning that they spend more time in transit. (Xinhua)

US to Send Heavy Weapons for Participation in Military Drills

SOFIA - U.S. land forces will deploy next week to Bulgaria 33 heavy weapons and some 200 servicemen to participate in a joint drill with the Balkan country, officials said Friday. The transportation of the troops and the weapons, including 10 tanks, 20 infantry fighting vehicles and three 155mm artillery systems, will begin in the "coming days" and they are expected to arrive in Bulgaria from next Thursday to Saturday, the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense said in a statement. Together with up to one Bulgarian battalion, the U.S. forces will participate in the drill, which will be held in three stages from Oct. 20 to Dec. 15 at Novo Selo Training Area, one of the four joint U.S.-



Bulgarian military bases in the Balkan country. Part of the U.S. equipment involved in the exercises will remain there to be used in joint trainings which will kick-off in early 2016, the ministry said. "The aim of all pre-planned exercises with the participation of military personnel and equipment from

the Bulgarian and allied armed forces, is to keep the Bulgarian army in good combat readiness and achieve higher compatibility with NATO allies and partners," the statement said. At the end of June, the U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said his country would ... (More on P4)... (23)

Guterres to Visit Greece for Humanitarian Assessment

GENEVA - UN High Commissioner for refugees Antonio Guterres is scheduled to begin a two and a half-day mission to Greece this Saturday to assess the humanitarian response to the Mediterranean crisis and determining how his office can further support those efforts. A UN refugee agency UNHCR spokesperson said on Friday morning during a press briefing here that Guterres will visit the island of Lesbos first, the main entry point for most of the more than 428,000 people who have made the sea crossing from Turkey to Greece so far this year. Then the UN refugee chief will get a first-



hand look at the arrival areas, visit reception sites and meet with local authorities, NGOs, volunteer groups and others involved in the relief effort, the spokesperson said. Guterres will be in Greece's capital of Athens on Sunday and Mon-

day, when he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and other members of his Cabinet, as well as foreign diplomatic missions and NGOs. According to the latest figure from the International ... (More on P4)... (24)

PKK Leader Says Ready for new Turkey Ceasefire

QANDIL - The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is ready for a new ceasefire with the Turkish authorities despite almost three months of deadly violence, one of its leaders told AFP in an interview at its stronghold in northern Iraq. The PKK, which since 1984 has waged an armed struggle for autonomy and greater rights for Kurds in Turkey, declared a ceasefire in March 2013. But it ripped up the truce in July this year, accusing the Turkish authorities of collaborating with Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria, allegations Ankara vehemently denies.

The Turkish authorities say over 140 members of the security forces have been killed in PKK attacks since and have hit back with a relentless bombing campaign against the group.

"We are ourselves ready for a ceasefire from right now," Cemil Bayik told AFP in an interview in the group's stronghold of the Qandil mountains of northern Iraq. But Bayik - who along with Murat Karayilan is considered the PKK's top commander on the ground in the absence of its jailed chief Abdullah Ocalan - warned of a drastic PKK response if Turkey continued its military campaign. "If the Turkish government continues with its logic of war, whether we want it or not, other cemeteries will fill up and the conflict will extend to all of Turkey, Syria and the Middle East," Bayik added. (AFP)

UN Chief welcomes Proposal for Libyan Unity Gov't

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday welcomed the proposal of nominees for the Presidency Council to form a national unity government in Libya. In a statement released by his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, Ban commended the dialogue participants on having reached a final text of a political agreement after comprehensive and broad consultations.

The United Nations on Thursday proposed to a national unity government to warring factions in Libya, a major oil producer in North Africa, which has been witnessing a frayed political process after former leader Muammar Gaddafi was toppled during the 2011 political turmoil.

According to UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the two main parties in the political dialogue, the General National Congress (GNC) and the



internationally recognized House of Representatives (HoR), are expected to agree on five names for the Council by the end of this week. The UN chief urged Libyan leaders "not to squander this opportunity" to put the country back on the path to building a state, said the statement. "Now is the time for the parties to the political dialogue to endorse this proposal and sign the Agreement without de-

lay," it added. The UN-brokered Libyan political agreement was initiated in July by the Tobruk-based HoR alongside representatives of political parties, municipalities and civil society groups, but the GNC did not join the accord. UNSMIL has sponsored several rounds of political dialogues between the country's political rivals for months in a bid to end the chaos. (Xinhua)