

Europe Pressing Harder on Countries to Take Back Deported Migrants

BRUSSELS - As Europe reels from a historic rush of migrants, leaders are searching for new ways to reverse the flow by stepping up deportations.

The quest led to a deal with Afghanistan that envisions a whole new terminal at the Kabul airport to take deportees. It sent German Chancellor Angela Merkel this week on a whistle-stop tour of African capitals, where she promised an influx of euros in exchange for willingness to take back migrants. And it resulted in an agreement with Turkey that critics say means European nations are biting their



tongues about Ankara's human rights abuses to halt refugees from flowing to Greece. The efforts come amid a global backlash to immigrant flows, which have increased due to war and poverty. In the United States, Donald Trump has built his fiery candidacy on an anti-Mexican, anti-Muslim message. In Britain, the government floated a plan to force businesses to declare how many noncitizens they employ following the vote to sever ties with the European Union. And across Europe, populist anti-migrant parties are surging in the polls. With...*(More on P6)...*(15)

Exit Polls Show Anti-Nuclear Candidate Wins Local Election in Japan

TOKYO - Ryuichi Yoneyama, an anti-nuclear candidate, has won the gubernatorial election in Niigata Prefecture, home of the world's largest nuclear power plant, according to the exit polls of major media outlets here on Sunday.

The result was seen as a blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling administration who favors bringing the nation's nuclear power plants, idled in the wake of the Fukush-

ima disaster in 2011, back on line.

The Asahi newspaper, Nippon Television and Japan's public broadcaster NHK have all said that Yoneyama was assured victory in the gubernatorial election according to their exit polls.

Yoneyama, 49, have never held office before. "Let me clearly say that I cannot accept the restart of the (Kashiwazaki-Kariwa) plant under the current ...*(More on P6)...*(16)

Putin Hopes Relations with Washington can Recover after U.S. Presidential Elections

MOSCOW - Russia-U.S. relations may recover after the presidential elections in the United States, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a press conference in India's Goa on Sunday.

"I hope that when these elections, debates, this difficult period in the internal political situation in the United States ends, there will be chances to restore Russia-U.S. relations," Putin was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying. "Confrontation is not our

choice," he added.

Russia-U.S. relations have been deteriorating since the Ukrainian crisis and tensions began to escalate as a result of their disputes over the Syrian settlement and Washington's claim that Russia has interfered in the upcoming U.S. presidential elections by launching cyber attacks.

Earlier this week, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden in a televised interview hinted at a response to Russia with cyber attacks, which was



interpreted by Moscow as "threats against Russia." Putin denied that Russia has any intention to interfere in the U.S. presidential

election campaign, saying that this would not be in line with the norms of international communication. ...*(More on P6)...*(17)

N. Korea Warns it Would Use Nuclear Weapons First if Threatened

PYONGYANG, North Korea - North Korea has warned that it may carry out further nuclear tests and says it is prepared to launch a preemptive strike on the United States if U.S. nuclear forces mobilize against it.

"The U.S. has nuclear weapons off our coast, targeting our country, our capital and our Dear Leader, Kim Jong Un," a top North Korean official, Lee Yong Pil, said in an exclusive interview with NBC News.

"We will not step back

as long as there's a nuclear threat to us from the United States," added Lee, who is director of the Foreign Ministry's Institute for American Studies.

"A preemptive nuclear strike is not something the U.S. has a monopoly on," he said. "If we see that the U.S. would do it to us, we would do it first. ... We have the technology." Such threats have been a staple of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un since he took power after his father's death in 2011. U.S. ...*(More on P6)...*(18)

World Leaders Meet in Australia to Discuss Protection of Antarctic, Southern Oceans

MELBOURNE - A summit attended by leaders from 25 countries and aimed at conserving the Antarctic and Southern Oceans has begun in Tasmania.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is meeting this week in Hobart, Tasmania's capital, to discuss three proposed protected marine areas covering more than five million square kilometers of the Antarctic Ocean.

The 25 countries represented include China, Russia, USA, Japan, Korea and

Australia.

Mike Walker, Project Director of the Antarctic Ocean Alliance (AOA), said that the campaign for designated marine protected areas (MPAs) was gaining momentum.

"The time for action to safeguard the Antarctic's waters, the engine room of the ocean, is now," Walker said in a press release on Monday. "Commitments for almost



four million square kilometers of MPAs have been made in the past weeks. This is a clear indication to all the parties participating

in the meeting in Hobart that there is a growing momentum for greater ocean conservation, and Antarctic's ...*(More on P6)...*(19)

America Cannot Forget about its Most Important Ally

ISTANBUL - This week, American leaders watched as Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met in Istanbul for the third time since June, this time in bilateral talks on the sidelines of the 2016 World Energy Congress in Istanbul.

During Putin's visit, both leaders agreed to revive the Turkish Stream, a natural-gas pipeline project intended to replace a pipeline through Bulgaria that was previously planned, but subsequently blocked by the European Union at the outset of the Ukraine crisis. The agreement would allow Russian gas to reach Western markets without using Russia's existing export pipelines throughout the Eastern European region. While various European governments, as well as the United States, oppose the Turkish Stream pipeline, President Erdogan supports it, particularly as a means of propping Turkey up as gas hub for Europe and the region.

Turkey and Russia, brought together by their mutual interests, their geographic proximity, and, ...*(More on P6)...*(20)

Turkish President Vows to Join Mosul Operation

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday reiterated his country's resolve to join the operation launched earlier in the day to reclaim the Iraqi city of Mosul from the Islamic State (IS).

"Turkey has a 350-km long border line with Iraq and is under constant threat," Erdogan said in a televised speech at an international law conference in Istanbul. Despite Baghdad's strong opposition, the Turkish



leader vowed that Ankara "will involve in the operation and also we will be at the table" in the aftermath of the offensive. "It is not possible for Tur-

key to stay out of it," he said. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has vowed not to allow Ankara to participate in the ...*(More on P6)...*(21)

Iraqi Forces Begin Major Offensive to Retake Mosul from IS Group

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced early Monday the beginning of a major offensive to retake the second largest Iraqi city of Mosul from the Islamic State (IS) group, national TV channel Al Iraqiya reported.

"Today I declare the launch of the operation of liberating Nineveh province. The time of victory has come, and the moment of the great victory is approaching," Abadi said in his brief address broad-

cast by Al Iraqiya.

The channel showed Abadi, who is also the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi forces, was wearing military uniform and flanked by senior officers. Abadi pledged to rebuild Mosul and other towns and villages in Nineveh province after they were destroyed by the extremist IS militants, and vowed to bring stability to Mosul, which is located some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. ...*(More on P6)...*(22)

Merkel Bans Nigerians from Claiming Asylum Branding them Economic Migrants

BIRLIN - Angela Merkel has elected to boot Nigerian asylum seekers out of Germany as she assumes the majority came for economic reasons rather than fleeing war. The Chancellor, widely panned for her 'open-door' policy for migrants, has pulled up the drawbridge for Nigerians claiming officials will send back citizens of the African nation. So far this year more than 10,000 Nigerians have applied for asylum seeker status in Germany, and 13,000 have applied

from Eritrea. The country is the most sought-after destination for migrants, partly due to Mrs Merkel's policy to open the borders to them. But Mrs Merkel declared Germany is no longer able to grant Nigerians international protection. Speaking after her tour of Mali, Niger and Ethiopia, the politician declared that Nigerians were coming to Germany not because they were fleeing militant group Boko Haram but because they want an easier life. (The Independent)

Neighbor News

China Proposal Points Direction for Enhancing BRICS Cooperation

BEIJING - A five-point proposal laid out by President Xi Jinping during an annual BRICS summit in the western Indian state of Goa, which concluded Sunday, will help consolidate confidence and chart out the direction for future cooperation, observers said. The proposal included cooperative programs such as building an open world, mapping out a shared development vision, coping with the most pressing global challenges, safeguarding fairness and justice in the international community, and deepening partnerships within the emerging economy bloc.

"It is clear that China's proposal will inject new confidence and impetus into the BRICS partnership," said Zhu Jiejun, deputy director with the Center for BRICS Studies at Shanghai-based

Fudan University. China will host the ninth BRICS summit in the southeastern city of Xiamen in September 2017.

China expects to work with all parties concerned to implement the consensus reached at previous summits, deepen their partnerships, and write a new chapter for BRICS cooperation, Xi said.

"The summit in Xiamen is seen by many as a milestone for BRICS cooperation as its members strive for strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive global growth," Zhu said. The International Monetary Fund said earlier this month, in its latest issue of "World Economic Outlook," that in emerging market and developing economies, the growth posted for 2016 will accelerate for the first time in six years. (Xinhua)

The IMF's Mixed CPEC Ranking

ISLAMABAD - Amidst the domestic debate of a political nature over the route and benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the International Monetary Fund has come up with its analysis of the pros and cons of the landmark initiative, with a word of caution.

This is perhaps the first independent scrutiny of the \$51.5bn project launched by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif two years ago.

In a special chapter on the macro-economic impact of the CPEC, in its de-

parting note to Pakistan on the conclusion of the \$6.15bn three year programme, the IMF said the CPEC would boost investment and growth in the short run and entail risks of repayment obligations and profit repatriation in the medium to long term period. Therefore, it advised Pakistan

to manage the initiative carefully and negotiate power sector agreements transparently, to keep their outcomes favourable to the distribution system and affordable to consumers, because of their impact over a period of three decades. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Wants Broader Ties with Africa: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (L) is seen in a meeting with Ivory Coast's Foreign Minister Abdallah Toikeusse Mabri in Tehran on October 17, 2016. (Photo by IRNA)

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Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the expansion of relations with African countries is among the Islamic Republic's central policies.

In a Monday meeting with visiting Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri in Tehran, Rouhani expressed Iran's readiness to enhance cooperation

with Yamoussoukro in all fields, particularly in economic areas.

The Iranian chief executive said that the two countries should make use of their capacities to promote relations.

Rouhani highlighted the Islamic Republic's progress in the fields of technology and engineering, saying Tehran is prepared to help the West African nation advance its development projects.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian president called for collective efforts by all countries to counter terrorism.

He describe the terrorism as a "major scourge for the world," adding that the "terrorists have nothing to do with Islam, which is the religion of love, peace and peaceful coexistence." (Presstv)

Uzbekistan will Chair the OIC Foreign Minister's Council

ALMATY - The 43rd session of the council of Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Cooperation Organization will take place on October 18-19 in Tashkent, reports the Uzbekistan Telegraph Agency (UZTAG).

The agenda includes transfer of the chairmanship in the organization to Uzbekistan. "Kuwait, currently chairing the organization will pass the chair-

manship to Uzbekistan on October 18. Since this moment, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan will carry out the functions of current chairman of OIC CFM until the next session in 2017," the message reports.

The participation in the session has been confirmed by the Foreign Ministers of 26 OIC member states. (Monitoring Desk)