

Half Mln Children Resort to Smugglers to Reach European Destinations: UNICEF

GENEVA - The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned Friday that some 500,000 migrant children have resorted to smugglers to reach their European destinations since January 2015 as a result of delays and desperation. Though the influx of migrants into Europe has slowed down this year, criminal groups have used established drugs and arms smuggling routes to bypass tightened migration policies, UNICEF explained. "Closing official borders was like locking the doors but leaving the



windows open, which just pushes children, especially the unaccompanied, to take greater risks," UNICEF Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant crisis in Europe Marie-Pierre Poirier said in a statement. "States should be building up stronger protection systems for children, not building higher walls," she added. This trends also means big business for smugglers, with many migrants paying as much as 3,000 Euros for a single leg of their journey. (Xinhua)

2016 Deadliest Year on Record for Migrants Crossing Central Mediterranean: UNHCR

GENEVA - One in every 42 migrants who crossed the Central Mediterranean route separating North Africa and Italy has died this year, up from one in every 52 in 2015, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported Friday. "This makes 2016 to date the deadliest year on record in the Central Mediterranean," the agency said in a statement. "The chances of dying on the Libya to Italy route are ten times higher than when crossing from Turkey to Greece," it added. According to latest International Organisation for Migration (IOM) figures,

278,327 migrants and refugees have reached European shores by sea through the first eight months of 2016. IOM's fatality count shows that 2,731 migrants have perished on the central Mediterranean passage, compared to 386 on the Eastern Mediterranean route separating Turkey and Greece. A further 54 individuals have drowned on the Western Mediterranean and Western African routes. All these figures are substantially higher than 2015's death toll over the same period. (Xinhua)

Turkey Sacks 8,000 Security Personnel over Coup Attempt Links

ANKARA - Turkey has sacked more than 8,000 security personnel over suspected links to Gulen's movement that is blamed for a July coup attempt, according to a Turkish statutory decree issued on Friday. The dismissed security personnel include 7,669 police officers, 323 gendarmie members, 24 central governors and two coast guard command personnel, Anadolu Agency reported. Gulen, who heads the Fet-

ullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) according to the Turkish government, has been residing in U.S. since 1999. The Turkish government has repeatedly said the July 15 coup attempt was organized by followers of Gulen. Under the decree, released as part of measures against Gulen's movement during a state of emergency, as many as 519 personnel from the Presidency of Religious Affairs have also been dismissed. In



addition, the certificates of those who graduated from the Gulenist universities in foreign countries have been abolished. The decree also enabled judges and prosecutors who voluntarily retired from their positions in the past to return to work. (Xinhua)

China Pushes Green Finance onto G20 Agenda

HANGZHOU - For the first time, green finance is included on the Group of 20 summit agenda thanks to the efforts, mainly from China, to make the financial sector contribute more to environmentally friendly economic growth around the globe. After China took over the G20 presidency last year, it quickly moved to make green finance one of the major topics at the summit, which is scheduled for Sept. 4-5 in the eastern city of Hangzhou. China proposed the setup

of a G20 Green Finance Study Group led by the central banks of China and Britain, which has developed a synthesis report on green finance for deliberation at the Hangzhou summit. The report clarifies the definition and scope of green finance, identifies challenges faced by green finance and provides voluntary options for countries to support the



transition into a green and low-carbon growth model, said Yi Gang, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC). Green finance aims to make financing activities more environmentally friendly, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and raise the efficiency of energy use, Yi said. (Xinhua)

Over 1,000 Foreign Journalists to Cover ASEAN Summits

VIENTIANE - Over 1,000 foreign media personnel from 256 media organizations around the world have registered to cover the ASEAN Summits next week held in Lao capital Vientiane, officials in charge said on Friday. Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Press Department reported that the online register for foreign media opened on August 10 and closed at the end of last

month with the total number of registered foreign media personnel jumping to 1,030. The highest registered number of foreign media was from Japan (184 personnel), followed by South Korea (152), China (144), the United States (92) and Thailand (60). ASEAN member nations including Vietnam (42), the Philippines (42), Singapore (31), Myanmar (28), ... (More on P4)... (18)

Russian Export Center Start Work in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The representation of the Russian export center (REC) was officially registered in Tajikistan. As it was reported in the representation of REC in the RT, among the main services, which will provide the firm, there are: finding potential partners, organization of negotiations, support of the presentations of Russian companies for potential partners from the Tajik side and etc. "Russia is one of the main suppliers in the market of Tajikistan and we are planning to do everything in order not only to consolidate this position but to bring our bilateral cooperation to a qualitatively new level", - said the representative of REC in the Republic of Tajikistan Dmitry Prokhorenko. According to him, Tajikistan was selected for opening foreign representative offices of REC, because it is one of the strategic priorities of trade and economic relations of Russia with other countries. Chemical, machinery and technical products, foodstuffs, wood and etc. come from Russia to Tajikistan. ... (More on P4)... (19)

Trump Says There's "Softening" on Immigration Plans

WASHINGTON - Hours after reviving his hardline rhetoric on immigration, U.S. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said on Thursday there was "softening" in his immigration plans. "Oh, there's softening. Look, we do it in a very humane way, and we're going to see with the people that are in the country," said Trump in a radio interview hours after he outlined a 10-point immigration proposals at a rally in Phoenix, Arizona on Wednesday night. "Obviously I want to get the gang members out, the drug peddlers out, I want to get the drug deal-



ers out," said Trump. "We've got a lot of people in this country that you can't have, and those people we'll get out." During his speech on Wednesday, Trump again resorted to incendiary language after days of flirtation with amnesty for undocumented immigrants in the country, proclaiming that there would not be amnesty for illegal immigrants under his presidency. "Our message to the world will ... (More on P4)... (20)

WFP to Spend \$60 Mln to Feed Food-Insecure Kenyans in 2016

NAIROBI - The UN humanitarian agency said on Friday it plans to spend 60 million U.S. dollars in 2016 in order to feed food-insecure people in Kenya. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) Senior Deputy Country Director Thomas Hansson told Xinhua in Nairobi that there are currently 800,000 people, mostly in the arid and semi-arid areas, who are food insecure. "We will provide food and cash assistance for vulnerable households so that they can create assets that will enable them to overcome drought conditions," said Hansson on the sidelines of the launch of the single registry

for Kenya's Cash Transfer Program. Most of Kenya's agriculturists and pastoralists depend on rainfall for crops harvests as well as fodder for their livestock. As a result, when the rain falls, it leads to poor harvests, and in some cases, famine if no interventions are undertaken. WFP helps communities build productive assets such as irrigation and fish ponds in order to build their resilience in a long run. "Our aim is for vulnerable communities to be able to conduct their economic activities even during prolonged periods of drought," Hansson said. (Xinhua)

IS Retreat in Syria, Iraq Increases Terror Attacks Risk: Prosecutor

PARIS - A retreat of the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria would increase risks of terrorist attacks, Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins warned on Friday. "Paradoxically, the weakening of the Islamic State in Iraq, Syria area is a factor that increases the risk of attack," Molins said. "We can see in the history of terrorism when terrorist organizations are struggling in their own zone, they seek the opportunity to attack abroad," he told Le Monde newspaper. IS weakening could trigger a return to France of a large number of French jihadists and their families which, according to Molins, was "a worrying factor." About 700 French youth have already joined Islamist fighters in Iraq and Syria, according to official data. France remains at high terror risk a month and a half after a man drove his truck into crowds of people celebrating Bastille Day in the southern city of Nice. A ... (More on P4)... (21)

UN Chief Tells Sri Lanka to Release Civilian Land Held by Military

COLOMBO - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday urged Sri Lanka to release civilian land held by the military. Ban Ki-moon, who is on the final leg of his visit to Sri Lanka, urged Sri Lanka to speed up the return of land so that the remaining communities of displaced people can return home. In parallel, he said, the size of the military force in the North and East could be reduced, helping to build trust and reduce tensions. He made the remarks at an event in Sri Lanka on sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development goals. The UN chief said that following the end of the war in Sri Lanka in 2009, much has been done but yet more remains. "This is my first visit to Sri Lanka since 2009, when I saw great suffering and hardship. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced and in need of ... (More on P4)... (22)

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Xi Meets Singaporean Prime Minister on Bilateral Ties

HANGZHOU - Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday, calling for mutual understanding and respect on issues related to the two countries' core interests and major concerns. China and Singapore forged a partnership of all-round cooperation keeping with the times last year during Xi's state visit to the Southeast Asian city-state. Noting the importance of top-level exchange of bilateral ties, Xi proposed that high-level exchanges be maintained and communication with Singapore strengthened. China pays great

attention to Singapore's interest in the Belt and Road Initiative, said Xi, adding China is ready to build the China-Singapore Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity in south-west China's Chongqing Municipality into a highlight of bilateral ties. The Chinese president also called for the advancement of two flagship government-to-government cooperative projects, namely the Suzhou Industrial Park established in 1994 in China's eastern province of Jiangsu, and the Tianjin Eco-city inaugurated in 2008 in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin. (Xinhua)

Pakistan, Turkey to Remove Duty on 85pc Tariff Lines

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to eliminate duty on 85 per cent of tariff lines on both sides. The understanding was reached at the conclusion of 4th Round of Pakistan-Turkey FTA negotiations held in Islamabad from Aug 29-31. The Pakistani delegation was led by Additional Secretary, Robina Ather while Deputy Under Secretary Husnu Dilemre led the Turkish delegation. A senior official told Dawn on Thursday that changes in duty structure will be made in

Pakistan's 7,000 tariff lines while in the case of Turkey 12,000 lines will be changed. Both sides agreed to reduce duty on 40 per cent tariff to zero per cent immediately at the time of implementation of the FTA while 15pc tariff will be placed in the 'no concession list' on which duty will remain unchanged to protect domestic industries in both countries. As part of the remaining 45pc tariff, two to three different categories will be discussed. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Urges 'Swift Pullout' of Turkish Forces from Syria

TEHRAN - Iran has once again expressed concern over the continuation of Turkey's military incursion into Syria, urging all countries to respect the Arab country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Although the fight against terrorism and efforts to maintain regional stability and security are an unchangeable and important principle in the foreign policy of peace-seeking countries in the region, this issue cannot and should not be used as a justification for violating the territorial integrity of another country by conducting military operations against that country without coordination with its central government, and by overlook-

ing its national sovereignty," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Friday. In the campaign against terrorism, it is "unacceptable to resort to approaches that shadow" the sovereignty of another country, he added. The Iranian spokesperson warned that the continuation of Turkey's military presence in Syria would further complicate the situation in the Middle East. Qassemi emphasized that an escalation of clashes in the north of the Arab country Syria would "lead to the killing of more innocent civilians, and it is necessary that the Turkish army swiftly end the military operations in Syria." (Presstv)

Ashgabat, Tokyo Discuss Energy, Transport Projects

ASHGABAT - Energy sector, oil, gas and chemical sphere, as well as transport have been defined among the topical areas of cooperation between Japan and Turkmenistan, said the message of the country's government on Thursday. This was noted at the meeting of Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with newly appointed Ambassador of Japan Takahiko Katsumata, who handed over his credentials. "Turkmenistan pays great attention to increasing fruitful cooperation with the Land of the Rising Sun, in which it sees a good

friend and one of the leading strategic partners," Berdimuhamedov said. Japanese companies are taking part in implementation of large investment projects in different spheres of the Turkmen economy. "Having taken the course to comprehensive innovation development, industrialization and radical modernization of industrial infrastructure, Turkmenistan has chosen high technology segments, which opens new possibilities for effective interaction with Japanese partners," the Turkmen State News Service wrote in its commentary. (Trend)