

# 73,000 Rohingyas Flee to Bangladesh from Myanmar: UNHCR

DHAKA - The United Nations refugee agency said here Monday 73,000 Rohingya people have come to Bangladesh after violence killed hundreds of people in Myanmar's restive Rakhine state since late last month. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Vivian Tan told Xinhua Monday from the country's southeastern Cox's Bazaar district bordering Myanmar that "Aid agencies estimate 73,000 people entered Bangladesh from Myanmar as of Sunday since Aug. 25." Vivian Tan said they are providing shelter material and basic aid to the newly arrived



Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar, some 292 km southeast of Bangladesh capital Dhaka. Thousands of Rohingya people are still crossing border into Bangladesh, she added. Sources said hundreds of people have still been reportedly stranded in a no man's land at the countries' border after being attacked by armed men in Myanmar. "We don't know the exact situation on the other side of the border (in Myanmar)," Vivian Tan said. Myanmar's military said Friday that almost 400 people died in the recent violence in Rakhine triggered by Aug. 25 attacks on security forces. (Xinhua)

## Erdogan Accuses Germany of Seeking to End Turkey's EU Accession Talks

ANKARA - Turkey on Monday accused Germany of indulging in populism after it said to seek an end to Ankara's EU membership talks, Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin tweeted. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Monday accused German politicians of indulging in populism after Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would seek an end to Ankara's European Union membership talks, but added that he hoped strained relations

would improve. "We hope that the problematic atmosphere that made Turkish-German relations the victim of this narrow political horizon will end," Erdogan's spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, tweeted. Merkel made her comments, which signalled an apparent change in her stance on Turkey's EU accession bid, during a televised debate on Sunday ahead of Germany's Sept. 24 national election. (Xinhua)

## Pentagon Chief Warns of "Massive Military Response" to DPRK Threat

WASHINGTON - Any threat to the U.S. and or its allies from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be met with a "massive military response," U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis warned Sunday. "We made clear that we have the ability to defend ourselves and our allies, South Korea and Japan, from any attack," Mattis told reporters after a national security meeting at the White House, reaffirming that U.S. commitment among the allies is "ironclad." The remark

came after DPRK's official media announced on Sunday that the country has successfully detonated a hydrogen bomb capable of being carried by an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Mattis also urged the DPRK to take heed of the international community's call for the de-nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, adding that the U.S. is not looking to the "total annihilation" of the DPRK but has "many op-



tions to do so." In a tweet on Sunday morning, U.S. President Donald Trump called the words and actions of the DPRK "very hostile and dangerous" to the U.S.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Sunday condemned the underground nuclear test announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). (Xinhua)

## UN Security Council Sets Emergency Meeting on N. Korea Blast



NEW YORK - The U.N. Security Council is holding its second emergency meeting in a week about North Korea on Monday after a powerful nuclear test explosion added an-

other layer of urgency for diplomats wrestling with what to do about the North's persistent weapons programs. Scheduled after North Korea said it detonated

a hydrogen bomb underground Sunday, the emergency session comes six days after the council strongly condemned Pyongyang's "outrageous" launch of a ballistic missile over Japan. Less than a month ago, the council imposed its stiffest sanctions so far on the recalcitrant nation. North Korea is "deliberately undermining regional peace and stability," the council said Tuesday when it rebuked the missile test, reiterating demands for the country to halt its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons pro-

grams. The North trumpeted "perfect success" Sunday in its sixth nuclear test blast since 2006. Requested by the United States, Japan, France, Britain and South Korea, the Security Council meeting Monday could bring additional condemnation and discussion of other potential steps. British Prime Minister Theresa May called in a statement Sunday for speeding the implementation of existing sanctions and "looking urgently" at new measures in the council. (AP)

## Merkel Defends Refugee Policy as Schulz Attacks in TV Debate

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Sunday night that although "radical Islamists" are perpetrating acts of terror in Europe, she still believed that "Islam belongs to Germany." Merkel made the remarks at the TV duel with Martin Schulz, chancellor candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), her major rival in the upcoming federal elections, as refugee and immigration issues is one of the focuses in the debate. Both Merkel and Schulz see no issue with Mus-

lim immigration to Germany, but Merkel said the 2015 refugee crisis has left Germany with a "difficult task" of integrating new arrivals into society, making sure they find places in educational institutions and the labor market. "People who don't have the right to be in our country should leave it - people have already been deported," said Merkel, defending her open-door immigration policy, calling for fighting the causes of such crises, like the violence in Syria. (Xinhua)

## Global Stocks Down on Concern over North Korean Nuclear Test

TOKYO - Global stocks mostly fell on Monday after a nuclear test by North Korea over the weekend raised fears about regional instability and as trading volumes remained thin due to a U.S. holiday. KEEPING SCORE: France's CAC 40 slipped 0.3 percent to 5,110.29 and Germany's DAX lost 0.2 percent to 12,119.21. Britain's FTSE 100 edged down 0.3 percent to 7,415. U.S. markets were closed for Labor Day. NORTH KOREA: North Korea said it successfully tested a hydrogen bomb. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis responded by saying that the U.S. will answer any threat from the North with a "massive military response - a response both effective and overwhelming." President Donald Trump threatened to halt all trade with countries doing business with North Korea, a warning to China, and faulted South Korea for its "talk of appeasement." THE QUOTE: "Korean tensions are elevated again," said Chang Wei Liang from the Singapore Treasury Division at Mizuho Bank. "While U.S. Defense Secretary Mattis warned of a 'massive military response' if the U.S. or its allies are threatened, risk-off sentiment this morning is not unduly excessive, largely because markets still do not expect any military escalation in the near-term."

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 edged down 0.9 percent to finish at 19,508.25, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.4 percent to 5,702.00. South Korea's Kospi dipped 1.2 percent to 2,329.65. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.9 percent to 27,703.67, but the Shanghai Composite rose 0.4 percent to 3,379.58. (AP)

## Turkey's Erdogan Presses World Leaders to Help Myanmar's Rohingyas

ISTANBUL - Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday he was pressing world leaders to do more to help Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, who face what he has described as genocide. Nearly 400 people have been killed in northwest Myanmar over the past week in insurgent attacks on security posts and an army crackdown. Aid agencies estimate that 73,000 Rohingyas have fled to neighboring Bangladesh from Myanmar since violence erupted. "You watched the situ-



ation that Myanmar and Muslims are in," Erdogan said in Istanbul, where he was attending the funeral of a Turkish soldier. "You saw how villages have been burnt... Humanity remained silent to the massacre in Myanmar". He said Turkey would

raise the issue at the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month. As current head of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation, Erdogan had discussed the violence with around 20 world leaders. (Reuters)

## Russia Urges U.S. to Return Diplomatic Properties

MOSCOW - Russia on Sunday demanded that U.S. authorities "come to their senses" and immediately return Russian diplomatic facilities seized in the United States. "Otherwise, the United States will bear the total blame for the ongoing degradation of relations between our countries, on which the current condition of global stability and international security largely depends," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. On Saturday, U.S. authorities shut down the Russian Consulate General in San Francisco and the Trade Repre-

sentation in Washington. Russian representatives are also denied access to the rented premises of the Trade Representation in New York. In December 2016, two retreats in New York and Maryland used by Russian diplomats were closed by the Obama administration over accusations of alleged Russian hacking during the presidential election. "We treat these developments as a blatantly hostile act, a grave violation by Washington of international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," said the Russian statement. (Xinhua)

## Putin Pledges to Develop All-Round Russia-Egypt Ties

CAIRO - Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed on Monday the importance of developing close relations with Egypt in all fields, Egyptian presidency spokesman said. Putin also lauded the increase in the trade exchange between the two countries by 14 percent, spokesman Ambassador Alaa Youssef said in a statement.

Putin and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi met Monday on the sidelines of the 9th BRICS summit being held in China's Xiamen City. Both leaders discussed a set of bilateral issues along with resumption of Russian flights to Egypt, the spokesman said.

The Russian president praised the efforts exerted by the Egyptian authorities to secure airports, voicing hope over resuming Russian flights to Egypt soon, he added. In October 2015, a Russian plane crashed in Egypt's Sinai, killing over 200, mostly Russians. The security concerns led many foreign countries, including Russia and Britain, to ban their citizens from visiting the country. Earlier in the day, Russian Transport Minister Maksim Sokolov said he will report to the two presidents during their meeting that the Egyptian side has gone to considerable lengths to intensify aviation and transport security measures in airports, particularly in the Cairo International Airport. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Summit on China-ASEAN Tourism Cooperation to be Held in Guangxi

NANNING - A three-day business and investment summit between China and ASEAN countries is scheduled to open Sept. 12 in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the regional government said Monday. The 14th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, to be held in the regional capital of Nanning, will focus on building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and promoting regional economic integration via tourism. Government officials, industry representatives and business leaders will

participate in various events regarding cross-border e-commerce, business and legal cooperation, investment conferences and Belt and Road construction. As of July, the China-ASEAN cross-border e-commerce platform had closed 824,000 deals involving 909 types of goods. Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia ranked the top three in terms of trade volume. A roundtable will also be held between state leaders of Brunei and CEOs of Chinese companies during the summit. The summit was first held in 2004. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan Made Tremendous Sacrifices in Fight Against Terrorism: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD - Chairman Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Senator Mushahid Hussain Monday said Pakistan has rendered tremendous sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and now is pursuing building of CPEC, the biggest bilateral development project between any two countries. Mushahid, who was a keynote speaker at International Conference on Silk Road, Belt & Road Initiative, addressed on the role of Pakistan, as the pivotal player as bridge between Southeast Asia & Central Asia in the regional economic cooperation driven by economy, energy, with

new ports & pipelines, roads and railways, according to a press release issued here. He said Pakistan, as the best friend and reliable partner of China, is the only country among 65 countries of the Silk Road initiative where the sea and land route meet through Gwadar Port. Pakistan has made tremendous sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and now Pakistan is pursuing building of CPEC, the biggest bilateral development project between any two countries in the history of international relations, which is worth over \$ 50 billion, spanning over 15 years, he said. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran, Turkey FMs Discuss Violence Against Rohingya Muslims

TEHRAN - The foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey have exchanged views about the ongoing bloody crackdown on the persecuted Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's troubled Rakhine State. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu discussed the issue in a phone conversation on Monday. The two top diplomats talked about possible measures to help the persecuted Rohingya Muslims. Myanmar's military intensified attacks on Rohingya Muslims on August 25, after dozens of police and border outposts in the western state

of Rakhine came under attack by an armed group, which is said to be defending the rights of the Rohingyas. The Muslim community had already been under a military siege in Rakhine since October 2016. The government used a militant attack on border guards back then as the pretext to enforce the lockdown. The Rohingyas had already been subject to communal violence by extremist Buddhists for years. Myanmar's military is accused of committing atrocities and crimes against Rohingya people, who are considered by the UN as the "most persecuted minority group in the world." (Presstv)

### China, Tajikistan Vow to Boost Strategic Partnership

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon on Thursday, agreeing to establish comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, Xinhua reported. Applauding Tajikistan's support for the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi said both sides should synergize the Belt and Road Initiative with Tajikistan's national development strategy for the period up to 2030. The two countries should cooperate more in transportation, energy, ports and network infrastructure development to improve all-round connectivity, Xi said. The Chinese president suggested both sides break new ground in

agriculture, industrial capacity cooperation and scientific innovation. Xi encouraged Tajikistan to establish links with Chinese financial institutions, the Silk Road Fund and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, saying China is willing to work with Tajikistan to facilitate trade and investment. As countries with great ancient civilization, China and Tajikistan can have more exchanges in culture, education and youth, according to Xi. As rotating chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China will work with Tajikistan for SCO progress in politics, the economy, security, culture cooperation and external exchanges, Xi said. (AKI)