

# UNHCR Calls for "Robust, Coherent" Europe Response to Refugee Crisis

GENEVA - The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) on Tuesday said a robust and coherent Europe response to refugee crisis is still urgently needed after Monday's meeting of European Union interior ministers in Brussels saw the formal adoption of an earlier relocation proposal involving 40,000 people. The UN refugee agency expressed disappointment that although a majority of member states were in agreement with a wider relocation proposal involving 120,000 people, a final consensus on this could not be reached. A decisive agreement is needed with-



out further delay to address the needs, as is bold action based on solidarity from all member states, UNHCR said. Relocation of increased numbers beyond the 40,000 could start to be implemented with countries that have expressed support. To succeed, relocation has then to be accompanied by large-

scale emergency reception, assistance and registration efforts in the countries most impacted by arrivals, particularly Greece, Hungary and Italy, the UN agency said. However, UNHCR said it is pleased to see the inclusion of support for affected countries in the Western Balkans to implement their obligations in relation to people in need of international protection. Special support is needed for Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to support efforts to assist refugees. UNHCR welcomed the announcement of in... (More on P4)...(21)

## Putin Pledges to Keep up Military Support for Syria's Assad

DUSHANBE - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday pledged to continue military support for Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad after Washington sounded the alarm over an alleged military build-up by Moscow in the war-torn country. "We support the government of Syria in its fight against terrorist aggression, we provide and will go on providing it with all necessary military assistance," Putin said at a regional security conference in ex-Soviet Tajikistan. A US military official told AFP on Monday that Russia has sent artillery units and seven tanks

to a Syrian air base as part of moves to boost its military presence there. The alleged increase of Russian hardware in Syria has caused concerns in the West about the implications of Moscow militarily helping its long-time ally Assad. Russia has denied it is expanding its military presence in Syria but has pledged to continue support for Assad. US officials have expressed fears that Russia may strike Western-backed rebel groups battling Assad and ultimately risk a confrontation with forces fighting the Islamic State (IS)



group. Moscow has been pushing for a broader coalition of forces to take on IS, but key regional players such as Saudi Arabia have ruled out fighting alongside Assad. Putin said that Assad was willing to work with Syria's "healthy" opposition

to find a political solution to the four-and-a-half year civil war but insisted that tackling IS was the priority. "Undoubtedly the need to unite forces in the fight against terror comes to the forefront today," Putin said. (AFP)

## Anti-Corruption Protesters Rally Outside Lebanon Ministry

BEIRUT - Dozens of Lebanese activists held a protest on Tuesday outside a Finance Ministry building in the country's capital, after failing to storm it - part of a recent series of anti-government rallies stemming from a trash collection crisis. The protesters attempted to enter the building earlier in the day, as employees were arriving. But security forces quickly prevented them, closing the doors to the protesters and other arriving staffers. The protesters chanted against corruption in state institutions. They said they are tak-

ing their protests to the Finance Ministry, asking that it stop paying salaries for lawmakers who have been unable to convene. The protesters complain the parliament, elected in 2009, is illegitimate. Members of parliament have illegally extended their term twice and the legislature remains deadlocked over an election law and choosing a president. Lebanon has been without a president for over a year. "There are 182 lawmakers and they have not been doing their job," Neamat Bad... (More on P4)...(22)

## Turkish Security Forces Stop Hundreds of Migrants Near Greek Border

EDIRNE - Turkish security forces stopped hundreds of people, mainly Syrians, from marching towards western Turkey's border with Greece on Tuesday in a bid to reach Europe, potentially opening up a new front in the escalating migrant crisis. Turkey is sheltering 2 million people - the largest refugee population in the world - but difficult conditions and a lack of work have seen a growing tide of migrants trying to smuggle themselves into EU-member Greece, most taking to perilous boats. Turkey's gendarmerie threw up

barricades on Tuesday near the city of Edirne, around 30 km (20 miles) from the Greek border, as hundreds of people thronged the road and others took to surrounding hills in a bid to reach the frontier. The mainly Syrian refugees - some with umbrellas to shade their children from the sun and one woman in a wheelchair, told Reuters they wanted to reach Greece where they believed conditions would be better than Turkey, and had decided to cross by land due to the high death toll on sea-routes. (Reuters)

## Australia's Gaffe-Prone Abbott in his own Words

SYDNEY - Deposed Australian prime minister Tony Abbott's two years in power and four years as opposition leader were marked by numerous gaffes which provoked uproar. "It's pretty obvious that, well, sometimes shit happens, doesn't it?" - Abbott in October 2010 overheard discussing the death of an Australian soldier in Afghanistan during a trip "None, however smart, however well-educated, however experienced, is the suppository of all wisdom" - Abbott in August 2013 mistakenly used the word "suppository" rather than "repository" to contrast his campaign before the September election to then-Labor prime minister Kevin Rudd "They're young, they're feisty, I think I can probably say have a bit of sex appeal, and they're just very, very connected with the local area" - Abbott in August

2013 touting the appeal of an election candidate "I guess our country owes its existence to a form of foreign investment by the British government in the then unsettled or, um, scarcely settled, Great South Land" - Abbott in July 2014 says Australia was "unsettled" before British colonisation, even though Aborigines have lived on the island continent for more than 40,000 years "I'm going to shirtfront Mr. Putin - you bet I am" - Abbott in October 2014 vows to confront Russian President Vladimir Putin at an upcoming G20 meeting over the loss of Australian lives in the Malaysia Airlines MH17 crash "As many of us know, women are particularly focused on the household budget and the repeal of the carbon tax means a Aus\$550 (US\$390) a year benefit for the average family" (AFP)

## Germany, Austria Call for Special EU Summit on Refugee Crisis

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel and visiting Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann said on Tuesday they had proposed a special EU summit to discuss the current refugee crisis. Speaking at a press conference after their talks here, the two leaders said they had called for a refugee summit in the coming week during a joint telephone conversation with

European Council President Donald Tusk. The special meeting of heads of state and government of the 28 European Union member states, according to Merkel, should focus on issues including better support for the countries of origin, a more intensive dialogue with Turkey as well as rapid establishment of so-called "hot-spots" for registration and distribution of refugees.

Merkel stressed Europe did not have much time left to make decisions in light of the surging flow of refugees. Faced with a swell in migrant numbers, Germany took the drastic measure of reinstating border controls on Sunday to slow the influx. Austria also announced it would strengthen border checks following Germany's decision. Faymann said on Monday that his

country would send 2,200 troops to its borders to help police control the situation. "We were in a situation that registration was no longer possible given the large numbers of refugees. And I believe, also for safety reasons, it is understandable that we must again return to an orderly regime and mechanism," Merkel told reporters on Tuesday when... (More on P4)...(23)

## Li Calls for Concerted Efforts to Implement Iran Nuclear Deal

BEIJING - Chinese Premier called for concerted efforts to implement the nuclear deal reached between Iran and world powers in July as he met with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif on Tuesday. The deal on the Iranian nuclear issue is significant for peace and stability in the Middle East as well as for the resolution of other international and regional problems, Li said during the meeting at the Great Hall of the People. "[I] hope all sides will make concerted efforts to implement the deal," Li said. The P5+1 group -- the U.S.,

Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany -- reached a comprehensive nuclear deal with Iran in July. The accord will provide sanctions relief for Iran in exchange for limits on its controversial nuclear program. China, as a responsible major power, will play a constructive role in appropriately resolving the Iranian nuclear issue, said the premier. Li said that China attached importance to the relationship with Iran and will handle bilateral ties from a strategic perspective. He pledged that China would work with Iran to maintain... (More on P4)...(24)

## Berlin Denies Nuclear Operators Face 30bln Euro Shortfall

BERLIN - Germany's Economy Ministry denied a media report that the country's four nuclear operators faced a shortfall of 30 billion euros (\$34 billion) in provisioning for atomic waste disposal. "We deny the numbers cited in the press today," the ministry said in a statement, adding that a result of the stress tests for the utilities was expected only later in the autumn. "The ministry does not recognize any of the figures

named." Spiegel Online had reported provisional findings of a law firm appointed by the ministry that said E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall [VATN.UL] were short of funds for the final disposal of nuclear waste. Shares in E.ON and RWE, which had fallen as much as 13 percent on Tuesday morning, recovered slightly to trade down 8.2 and 7.8 percent respectively by 0925 GMT after the statement from the ministry. (Reuters)

## UN Urges Somali Leaders to Resolve Impeachment Issues Calmly

MOGADISHU - The United Nations envoy to Somalia on Tuesday called on warring parties to resolve the impeachment motion issues through dialogue. Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia (SRSG) Nicholas Kay also lauded the constructive manner in which all sides have engaged in the process to resolve the impeachment motion crisis and commended their dedication and commitment to peace and stability. "I welcome the efforts of the Speaker of the Federal Parliament and the Sponsoring Committee on the Impeachment Motion to work constructively to resolve the issues raised in the impeachment motion crisis through dialogue and consultations," Kay said in a statement issued in Mogadishu. The impeachment motion which was filed mid August has seen some 95 lawmakers sign the petition, accusing the president of having not lived up to the expectation of the Somali people. They accused President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of contravening the constitution, adding that he was involved in corruption. The lawmakers who have earlier ruled out talks to end the political bickering have urged the president to resign the way former Somali president Abdullahi Yusuf did. Yusuf resigned after parliament tried to impeach him in 2008. Mohamud has warned the on against the campaign, calling the legislators to reflect on the country's interests and avoid creating a political mayhem which he said could derail "progressive" political and security gains in Somalia. The UN envoy urged all stakeholders to move forward quickly to find a solution to the current crisis which allows Somalia's political progress to continue without further interruption. (Xinhua)

## Neighbour News

### Chinese VP Eyes Further Technology Cooperation With Belgium

BRUSSELS - Visiting Chinese Vice Premier (VP) Liu Yandong on Monday expressed China's willingness to enhance technology and innovation cooperation with Belgium. Liu arrived in Belgium Monday morning to kick off a multi-day Europe tour and her first stop was some major research centers. She visited Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), which is dedicated to research in areas of sustainable chemistry, energy, health, materials management and land use. "The five research areas of the center actually coincide with China's research areas," said Liu, adding that China wants to enhance cooperation with VITO, particularly in remote sensing, energy efficiency, environmental protection and new materials. After visiting a geo-

thermal project at VITO, Liu said it was important for both countries to cooperate on geothermal energy, which is also a clean and sustainable source. Liu said she learned that the north China region and Belgium's Flemish region share similar geological conditions. The cities of Beijing and Tianjin and the Hebei Province in north China are now focusing their attention on the development of green energy and treatment of air-pollution. However, in those areas, there was no sufficient sources of wind or solar energy. Liu said the proposed cooperation between VITO and an institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences on jointly implementing the concept report of the CropWatch science satellite constellation mission serves an example to... (More on P4)...(25)

### Rouhani's Nuclear Dividend to Feature in Iranian Elections

TEHRAN - Iran's nuclear deal may be eroding its isolation overseas, but at home it is deepening political infighting within the country's complex power structure before two important elections, officials and analysts say. The agreement - welcomed by Iranians eager for a lifting of sanctions and improved living standards - has increased the popularity of pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani, alarming headline allies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. They fear Rouhani could challenge Khamenei's power if Iranians, grateful for a deal that may bring jobs and prosperity, reward the president in the votes early next year to parliament and the Assembly of Experts, a clerical body with nominal power over the supreme leader. "The president's popularity has already in-

creased since 2013 (when Rouhani won elections) because of the deal. People see him as a hero," said a senior Iranian official who asked not to be named. "Rouhani's allies have a very high chance to win a majority in the February elections." That would upset a delicate political balance in the Islamic Republic's factionalized leadership. The outcome of the votes will not affect Iran's foreign or nuclear policies, in which Khamenei has the final say, but a pro-reform parliament could help Rouhani to carry out a political agenda aimed at expanding social and economic liberties. Parliament is dominated by conservatives and many analysts say Khamenei will not want Rouhani's allies to win a majority, as this would give the president too much power and influence. (Reuters)

### Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Discuss Cooperation Prospect

AVESTA - Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and visiting Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev met here a day before a summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) that is kicking off Tuesday. According to the Tajik presidential press service, Rahmon and Atambayev discussed issues related to prospects of further expansion of bilateral cooperation between their countries. Rahmon said that Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan ought to use effectively their natural and climatic conditions and similar economic struc-

tures. Atambayev, for his part, highly appraised Tajikistan's rotational presidency in CSTO. The two presidents stressed that energy, agriculture and trade are priorities of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. They also paid a special attention to the border problems and development of cross-border trade between their countries, discussed expansion of transportation ties and transit opportunities of the two countries, as well as construction of transit railway and highways, gas pipelines and power transition lines. (Agencies)

### Pakistani, Chinese Troops Hold Exercise to Combat Terrorism

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's military says Chinese and Pakistani troops have conducted a joint field exercise to improve their ability to combat terrorism. In a statement released to the media on Tuesday, the military said the seven-week long exercise was held in the district of Attock in the eastern province of Punjab. It said Pakistani army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif and senior Chinese army officer Gen.

Li Fayi witnessed the concluding session of the exercise. Sharif, in his remarks, vowed that Pakistan and China will continue to work to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, according to the statement. The Pakistan army is currently conducting a major offensive against militants in the former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban along the border with Afghanistan. (AP)