

# Some US Republicans Reject Party's Refugee Fears

ANKARA - The latest news as hundreds of thousands make their way across Europe in search of safety and a better life. All times local. Some Republicans are pushing back against their party's opposition to Syrian refugees resettling in the U.S. — a rift that threatens to complicate the party's outreach to minorities heading into the 2016 presidential vote. These Republicans have joined Democrats, who liken the refugee backlash to the U.S. government turning away Jews fleeing Nazi Germany and placing Japanese in internment camps



during World War II. While conservatives cite security concerns following the Paris attacks, others in the party fear refugees reeks of xenophobia... (More on P4)... (11)

## Indian PM Advocates for Choking of Terror Funding

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday advocated for the choking of terror funding through "targeted economic sanctions." Modi said that disruption in funding will in a big way affect the abilities of terror groups to carry out attacks. "The dastardly acts committed in Paris a few days ago are a grim reminder that terrorists have shown remarkable flexibility and adaptability in meeting their funding requirements," Modi said. He added: "Disrupting fund flow constrains the capabilities of terrorists and reduces their ability to execute attacks." The... (More on P4)... (12)

## Nieghbor News

### Iran Urges Scrapping of All IAEA Resolutions after Amano Report

TEHRAN - The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations (UN) has called for the scrapping of all anti-Iran resolutions by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in mid-December. Gholam Ali Khoshrou made the comment at the 17th regular session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday. Khoshrou added that Iran has complied with a roadmap it signed with the IAEA in mid-July and therefore its nuclear case should be closed down at the IAEA Board of Governors after the agency's chief, Yukiya Amano, releases his final report on the country in December. "Iran has implemented all voluntary measures agreed upon in the road map... and expects that after the release of the director general's final report, the case of all issues related to the past and present [nuclear activities of Iran] be closed at the IAEA Board of Governors in December once and for all," the envoy noted. (PressTV)

### Okinawa Residents Mark 500 Days of Sit-In Protest Against U.S. Base Relocation

TOKYO - Some 1,000 people gathered in front of the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Schwab in Nago, Okinawa on Wednesday to mark the 500th day of the sit-in protest against the central government's plan of relocating a U.S. Air base within the prefecture. The rally came a day after the central government filed a lawsuit with the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court, demanding that Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga officially retract his decision to revoke a permit granted for landfill work for the relocation of the U.S. air base. The protesters

sat in front of the main gate of the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Schwab to block construction vehicles, and some protesters shouted "stop the relocation work" and waved signs that read "New Henoko base, no" and "Marines out", according to local media report. The sit-in protest started on July 7, 2014 just before the government launched an offshore boring survey for the landfill work, and soon became a vigil. Participants included not only local residents, but also students, scholars, artists and politicians from... (More on P4)... (13)

## Suspected Paris Attacks Leader Boasted of Crossing Borders

BRUSSELS - Abdelhamid Abaaoud, suspected planner of the Paris attacks, mocked European frontier controls and boasted of the ease with which he could move between Syria to his Belgian homeland and the rest of Europe. As police piece together how militants mounted Friday's assaults, evidence that some involved had fought in Syria and were on wanted lists, yet slipped back to kill 129 people, will raise a host of questions on how Europe tracks local Islamists and controls the borders it has opened to half a million Syrian refugees. Abaaoud, a 28-year-old

of Moroccan origin, was the best known of more than 350 Belgians to fight in Syria -- proportionately the biggest contingent from Europe -- and in particular of dozens of young men from the poor Molenbeek district of Brussels to take up arms for Islamic State. His notoriety was based on videos on social media and, for the past year, his boasts of mounting attacks in Europe. In a slick online English-language magazine produced by Islamic State in February, Abaaoud, now known as Abu Omar al-Baljiki -- the Belgian -- said he had been in his homeland the previous



month planning attacks with two others who had fought in Syria and who died in a Belgian police raid in January. He had, he said, returned to Syria, despite his face

having been well known to police thanks to a much-posted video of him driving a pick-up truck towing the bloodied bodies of prisoners. (Reuters)

### Tajikistan's Lower House of Parliament Passes Budget for 2016

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's lower house (Majlisi Namoyandagon) has approved the state budget for 2016. Tajik finance minister said the state budget for 2016 stood at 18.306 billion, nearly 3.3 billion somoni or 19.8 percent more compared to this year. A regular sitting of the second session of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the fifth convocation, presided over by its head, Shukurjon Zuhurov, was held on November 18. Finance Minister Abdulomqurboniyon said state budget indicators reflect the economic and social development of the country. Social spending will account for 44% (more than 8 billion somoni) of budget allocations. The budget reportedly projects expenditure of 3.1 billion somoni for enhancement of the education sector and 1.3 billion somoni are expected to be spent on the health sector. The budget also earmarks 3.1 billion somoni for payment of the pensions and allowances as well as social protection of the population. The minister noted that a special attention would be given to financing of the priority sectors, including construction, energy and transportation sectors. The 2016 state budget reportedly earmarks 6.2 billion somoni for these sectors. (Asia-Plus)

## Putin, Sisi Agree on Cooperation in Fight Against Terrorism

CAIRO - Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin agreed Wednesday on the need to enhance international cooperation to fight terrorism and extremism targeting the whole world, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported. In a telephone conversation between the two leaders, Sisi said Egypt understands the pain of the Russian people after the Russian plane crashed over Sinai last

month, MENA quoted Eguption presidential spokesman Alaa Youssef as saying. Sisi also highlighted cooperation of the Egyptian authorities with Moscow to unveil the circumstances behind the crash. Meanwhile, the two presidents stressed strong and historical relations between their countries, the spokesman said. Sisi and Putin also agreed that restoring security and stability in Middle East countries would effectively contribute to



eliminating terrorism and would help create a more peaceful climate for cooperation, particularly at the economic level, the spokesman added. On Oct. 31, a Russian airplane crashed over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula shortly after taking off from Sharm el-Sheikh airport. All 224 passengers and crew on board were killed. On Tuesday, Moscow said that the airliner crashed due to a terrorist bomb attack. (Xinhua)

### Obama Ups Pressure on China at Asia-Pacific Summit

MANILA - US President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded China end artificial island building in the hotly contested South China Sea, upping the pressure on Beijing at a regional leaders' summit. The annual Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) gathering is meant to forge unity on trade among 21 Pacific rim economies encompassing three billion people. But the territorial row over the strategically vital South China Sea, as well as terrorism

concerns following last week's deadly Paris rampage, have dominated the build-up to this year's meeting in the Philippines. China has repeatedly insisted its disputes with its Asian neighbours over the sea, home to some of the world's most important shipping routes, should not be on the APEC agenda. But just hours before the two-day summit started, Obama voiced concerns over giant land reclamation works by China that have created... (More on P4)... (14)

### Defence Cooperation Dominates Gen Raheel's Meetings with Top US Officials

WASHINGTON - Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Gen. Raheel Sharif held meetings with top US defence officials at the Pentagon Tuesday, with defence cooperation between the two countries dominating the discussion. According to a series of tweets posted by Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt-Gen Asim Bajwa, Gen Raheel on Tuesday met US Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter and Deputy Secretary of Defence Robert O. Work, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Gen Joseph

Dunford, Army Chief of Staff Gen Mark Milley and Centcom (Central Command) chief Gen Lloyd Austin. During the meetings, Gen Raheel and American officials discussed defence cooperation between US and Pakistan and the need for enhanced defence coordination, said Lt-Gen Bajwa. The measures to strengthen military-to-military relations and regional security were part of the discourse. An increase in Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG) exchanges was also discussed. (Agencies)

### Davutoglu Says Sees Window of Opportunity to Act on Cyprus

ANKARA - Turkey and Greece have a window of opportunity to act on the partition of Cyprus, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Wednesday, adding he believed Athens would increase support for Ankara's bid to join the European Union. "There is a window of opportunity right now over the Cyprus issue. The negotiations are going on. We have a common approach with Greece to contribute positively to the talks," Davutoglu said at a joint press conference with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who is visiting Turkey. Cyprus has been split along ethnic lines since a Turkish invasion in 1974 triggered by a brief, Greek-inspired coup. The EU considers the Greek Cypriot government in Nicosia to represent the whole island, while Ankara recognizes a breakaway Turkish Cypriot administration in the north of the island. (Reuters)

### 200 Syrian Refugees Enter S. Korea by Plane: Intelligence Agency

SEOUL - A total of 200 Syrian refugees have entered South Korea by plane, with some under investigation for continued stay and others on the standby at the airport, South Korea's intelligence agency said Wednesday. Among the 200 Syrians, 135 have won a semi-refugee status allowing a temporary stay for... (More on P4)... (15)

### Poland to Help Fight Terrorism, Reserved on Migrants: New PM

WARSAW - Poland's new prime minister, Beata Szydlo, vowed Wednesday the country will cooperate with the European Union in fighting extremism, but was reserved on accepting refugees. Szydlo opened her policy speech with a condemnation of last week's attacks in Paris and said that her government's priority will be to ensure the security of Poles and to contribute to the EU's security. She did not specify the means. She also vowed solidarity with other EU members in "sharing what is good" and a readiness to "bring help in extraordinary situations like natural disasters, terror or even war



threats." "But you cannot call it solidarity when some countries try to, in a way, export problems that they have brought on themselves without the participation of other nations, who are now to be burdened with them," Szydlo said in an apparent reference to Germany. Following the Paris attacks, members of the

### Indonesia Intensifies Monitoring Against Nationals Returning from Syria

JAKARTA - Indonesia has intensified monitoring measures against its nationals already returned from Syria and the network of radical groups allegedly linked to Islamic States (IS), a senior police officer said on Wednesday. The measure was implemented as part of Indonesia's precaution efforts and security improvement following the recent dead-

ly attacks in Paris conducted by IS operatives that killed more than 130 people. "We would tighten the monitoring activities on their networks. Our personnel on the field have been aware of the existence of such a network," Jakarta Police Chief Inspector General Tito Karnavian said, adding that the monitoring would be focused... (More on P4)... (16)

### UN Team Identifies Torture Center on Sri Lankan Navy Base

COLOMBO - A U.N. team of experts says it saw a secret torture center inside a Sri Lankan navy base where many post-civil war detainees were believed to have been kept. Three experts from a U.N. working group on enforced disappearances are visiting Sri Lanka. Team member Ariel Dulitzk said Wednesday that "interrogation and torture took place" inside underground cells at the center in eastern Sri Lanka. "We believe it's an important discovery and it should be properly investigated," he added. Navy chief vice admiral Ravi Wijegunaratne said there was no torture center in the base. The war ended in 2009 when the government defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels. The U.N. team says writing on the walls of the cells suggests people may have been detained there secretly until 2010. (AP)

### UN, DPRK Deliver Contradictory Messages on Ban's Visit to Pyongyang

PYONGYANG - The official KCNA news agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) disclosed that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will visit Pyongyang next Monday, which was denied by the UN Tuesday night. The KCNA told Xinhua on Wednesday that Ban will start a four-day visit in Pyongyang next... (More on P4)... (17)

### Top Political Advisor Highlights Targeted Poverty Relief in Ethnic Regions

CHANGSHA - China's top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng has called for "precise" poverty relief measures as the country plans to lift all its people out of poverty by 2020. In a three day trip to Tujia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture in Xiangxi in central China's Hunan Province, Yu urged local authorities to sharpen their competitive edge by focusing on industries with local characteristics and seek innovation-driven development. In the meantime, they must also protect the environment and pay attention to local infrastructure, medicare, pension and vocational education, so that people of all ethnic groups could "enjoy the fruits of reform and development." China has vowed to lift over 10 million rural people out of poverty this year and all people out of poverty by 2020. At the end of

last year, there were still 70.17 million people in the countryside living under the country's poverty line of 2,300 yuan (376 U.S. dollars) in annual income, data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows. Earlier this year, China floated the idea of a "precision" plan; a targeted approach to poverty alleviation rather than the previous "one size fits all." This plan was confirmed following the creation of a database last year that recorded the basic information of 88 million people -- all those living under the poverty line across in China. Yu said local governments must step up precision measures to improve efficiency, adding that local Communist Party organs should be strengthened so that they could lead the people out of poverty. (Xinhua)