

# EU sets refugee quotas for states

France vows to take 24,000 migrants; Hollande warns of Schengen 'collapse'

AGENCIES

The EU executive has drawn up a new set of national quotas under which Germany will take in more than 40,000 and France 30,000 of a total of 160,000 asylum-seekers it says should be relocated from Italy, Greece and Hungary, an EU source said yesterday.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is due to unveil new proposals on Wednesday. EU officials have said he will propose adding 120,000 people to be relocated on top of a group of 40,000 the Commission previously proposed relocating.

The initial proposal to relocate refugees arriving in Italy and Greece would also be expanded to include refugees arriving in Hungary, reports Reuters.

As European leaders stepped up efforts to tackle the historic crisis, France also said it would take 24,000 more asylum-seekers under a European plan to relocate 120,000 refugees from hard-hit frontline countries.

Meanwhile, French President Francois Hollande said yesterday Europe's borderless Schengen zone would collapse without a united EU effort to share migrants among member states.

"If there is not a united policy, this mechanism will not work, it will collapse, and it will... undoubtedly be the end of Schengen, the return of national borders," he told a press conference in Paris.

Member states rejected binding national quotas in June but since their voluntary offers have fallen short of 40,000 while the numbers of people arriving in Europe has surged, the Commission, backed by Germany and France, is pushing for governments to accept allocations set for them in Brussels.

The refugees would be distributed under a formula, or "distribution key", based 40-percent on receiving countries' national income, 40-percent on population, 10-percent on the unemployment rate and 10-percent on how many refugees the country was already accommodating before this year's crisis.

Italy and Greece are the main entry points for refugees who reach the European Union by sea, while Hungary as the main entry point for those arriving by land across the Balkan peninsula, has more recently become a focus of the crisis.



(From top, anti-clockwise) Migrants look for clothes at a distribution centre with donated articles for daily use after their arrival with a train in Dortmund, Germany; people receive medical checks before boarding buses at the main railway station in Munich; refugees try to break through a cordon of Macedonian police forces to board a train near Macedonian-Greek border; firemen stand by a container residence for refugees in Rottenburg am Neckar, western Germany after they extinguished a fire that destroyed part of the temporary shelter and wounded five people yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

## MIGRANT CRISIS

### New Zealand opens door for 750 refugees

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand announced yesterday it will take 750 Syrian refugees over the next three years after coming under intense pressure to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Europe. Immigration Minister Michael Woodhouse said 150 places would be offered to Syrians under the government's existing quota, and an extra 600 people from the war-torn country would be accepted through a special emergency intake.

### Libya rescues 121 migrants adrift at sea

AFP, Tripoli

Libya's coastguard said it rescued more than 100 migrants yesterday after the engine on their rubber dinghy broke down as they tried to reach Europe across the Mediterranean. "We rescued 121 migrants on a rubber boat which broke down" off the town of Qarabulli, 60 kilometres east of Tripoli, Lieutenant Mohammed Dandi, a coastguard commander, told AFP.

### Greek ferry saves 61 migrants

AFP, Athens

A Greek passenger ferry yesterday sent its lifeboats to rescue 61 migrants whose boat was at risk of sinking off the island of Lesbos, port police said. The Blue Star 1 took 35 of the survivors aboard and carried them to safety on Lesbos, where they joined the rest of the group, who were picked up by the port police on speedboats.

# Aylan's father returns to ruined homes of Kobani

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The grieving father of Aylan Kurdi has been photographed on his return to life among the ruins of the Syrian city his family had hoped to escape.

Abdullah Kurdi's three-year-old son Aylan was washed up on a beach in Turkey

last week, sparking international outrage over the refugee crisis. His brother Galib and mother Rihaan also drowned in the attempt to reach the Greek island of Kos.

They were all buried during a ceremony in Kobani on Friday after their bodies were repatriated by the Turkish authorities.

And this weekend, Kurdi has been trying to adjust to a return to the home they left in hope of a better life.

Tima Kurdi, Abdullah's sister who has lived in Canada for the past 20 years and lent him the money to try and make the Mediterranean crossing, said she still

wanted to be united with the rest of her family in Vancouver. "One day, I will bring him here," she said. "He cannot be by himself there."

But speaking to the Sunday Telegraph, Kurdi said he had buried "his own soul" along with his family on Friday and that he no longer had any hopes for himself.

"Nothing can compensate me," he said. "If you gave me the entire world, it isn't worth a bit compared to the loss of my children. All I seek is that God gives me patience."

"I was dreaming for my family and they have gone, so the dream has gone as well. I have buried

my soul, feelings and mind in the grave."

Yesterday, David Cameron was prepared to set out details of the British government's response to the refugee crisis, after the Prime Minister bowed to pressure on Friday and said the UK would provide homes for "thousands" more Syrian asylum-seekers.



# US to overhaul rebel force fighting ISIS

AFP, Washington

The United States is planning a major overhaul of a troubled program to train moderate rebels to fight the Islamic State group in Syria, The New York Times reported yesterday.

The effort amounts to an admission that the fledgling force is failing to be effective, the paper said, quoting administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In July, many of the first 54 graduates of the training program taking place in Turkey and Jordan were attacked in Syria by an affiliate of al-Qaida.

And a day before that, two leaders of the US-backed unit and several of its fighters were captured, the paper said.

According to classified documents seen by the Times, the attack showed the program is plagued by many weaknesses.

The rebels were not properly prepared to fight off an enemy attack, and were sent to Syria in insufficient numbers, the Times said.

Also, among other problems, they had no support from local people and scant intelligence about enemy forces.

The Pentagon is now assessing options that include sending rebels back into Syria in larger numbers, changing where they are deployed so as to garner local support and providing the US-backed fighters with better intelligence, the Times said.

"As with any difficult endeavor, we expected setbacks and successes, and we must be realistic with those expectations," Captain Chris Connolly, a spokesman for the military task force training the Syrian rebels, said in an email to the Times.

# Merkel the bold

On refugees, Germany's chancellor is brave, decisive and right

Angela Merkel may be the most powerful politician in Europe, but she has rarely shown much inclination for bold leadership. Both in domestic politics and, especially, during the euro crisis, the German chancellor's style has been one of cautious incrementalism.

She has eschewed sweeping visions, put off decisions whenever possible and usually reflected, rather than shaped, public opinion. The European Union has paid a heavy price for her small-bore instincts, not least because they made the euro-zone crisis deeper and more protracted than it needed to be.

Against that background, Merkel's approach to Europe's migrant crisis is remarkable. As throngs of Africans and Arabs turn Italian and Greek islands, and eastern European railway stations, into refugee camps, the chancellor has taken a brave stand. She has denounced xenophobes, signalled Germany's readiness to take more Syrian refugees and set out a European solution to a politically explosive problem.

On August 31st Merkel issued a dramatic call to arms, warning that today's refugee misery will have graver consequences for the future of the EU than the euro mess. "If Europe fails on the question of refugees," she said, "it won't be the Europe we wished for." She is right.

Few other European politicians have had the courage to make such a clear link between Europe's values, its collective self-interest and bold action on refugees.

No doubt Merkel is driven, in part, by domestic concerns. But a desire to share the burden should not be mistaken for selfishness. In a crisis where Europe has little to be proud of, Merkel's leadership is a shining exception.

The Economist



## NEWS IN brief

### Pak armed-drone kills three in first attack

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's military said yesterday it had for the first time deployed a locally manufactured drone which killed three Islamist insurgents in its restive northwest, in what one analyst termed a "significant development" for the country's defence capabilities.

### Gulf states send more troops to Yemen

AFP, Dubai

Gulf Arab monarchies have sent thousands of heavily armed troops to reinforce loyalists in Yemen in the battle against Iran-backed rebels, media reported yesterday. The reinforcements come after a missile attack by the Shiite Huthi insurgents on Friday killed 60 Gulf soldiers -- 45 Emiratis, 10 Saudis and five Bahrainis.

### Turkey reels after deadly attack on army

AFP, Ankara

Turkey was in shock yesterday after reportedly the deadliest attack by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) against the army in years, with the military keeping a tight-lipped silence over the scale of the toll.



A local youth takes a selfie in front of Britain's Queen Elizabeth in St George's indoor market in Belfast, Northern Ireland June 24, 2014.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# A queen 'changing' with the times

REUTERS, London

Elizabeth, now 89, ascended to the throne in 1952 at the twilight of British empire, with Britain slowly emerging from the ravages of World War Two.

The monarchy was a distant institution that presided over a country where food rationing was still in place and social classes clearly distinct.

Over the next few decades, the royal family went from being something the public would only glimpse in newsreels and at official occasions to releasing family photos on Twitter, and even "photobombing" other people's "selfies".

A 1969 fly-on-the-wall TV documentary "Royal Family" was viewed by commentators at the time as damaging to the monarchy's mystique, and the queen's daughter, Princess

Anne, later said it was a "rotten idea".

But another innovation the following year, the royal "walkabout" with the crowds, became a regular occurrence.

The celebration of her silver jubilee in 1977 and the national joy at the wedding of son and heir Prince Charles to Diana Spencer, and the birth of their children in the 1980s, gave way to tribulations in the 1990s, when "the firm", as the royal family is nicknamed, was at its lowest ebb.

The marriages of three of her four children collapsed, most notably that of Charles and Diana, in the full glare of Britain's tabloid media, prompting changes aimed at showing the public that the royals were more than just a privileged, dysfunctional family.

They agreed to start paying taxes on their income and in 1997 Elizabeth

bade farewell to her much-loved royal yacht, Britannia, and the newly-elected Labour government refused to sanction paying for a replacement. She cried, the only time she has shed tears in public.

Buckingham Palace has been opened to visitors, some two million have attended garden parties hosted by the queen there, and there is greater visibility around financing and what the public pays for.

For those looking for modernity, the queen's photogenic and charismatic grandsons William and Harry look like princes at ease with ordinary Britons.

Biographer Lacey said the queen's great skill in changing the monarchy was knowing when to make concessions. "Even tragedies and mistakes like Diana have been turned to the advantage of the monarchy," he said.

# 'It will have to pay an unbearable cost'

Pakistan army chief warns India in case of war

PTI, Islamabad

Warning India of "unbearable damage" in case of a war, Pakistan's Army Chief General Raheel Sharif has said his troops are ready to tackle any long or short misadventure by the "enemy".

"Let me reiterate that our armed forces stand fully capable to defeat all sorts of external aggression. If the enemy ever resorts to any misadventure, regardless of its size and scale -- short or long -- it will have to pay an unbearable cost," he said in his address at a special event organised by army at its Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Sunday to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1965 war with India.

The remarks were a response to a statement by Indian Army chief Dalbir Singh Suhag who said last week that Indian Army was prepared for "swift, short nature of future wars".

"Armed forces of Pakistan are fully capable of dealing with all types of internal and external threats, may it be conventional or sub-conventional; whether it is cold start or hot start. We are ready," said Pakistan's Army Chief.

Terming Kashmir as an "unfinished agenda of partition", he said that it should be resolved according to UN resolution which calls for a plebiscite to decide its future.

He also warned that Kashmir cannot be out in the backburner. The remarks come against the backdrop of heightened tensions and cross-border firing between Indian and Pakistani troops along the LoC recently.

The Pakistan's Army Chief also promised to dismantle the entire networks of militants in the country.

"I reiterate the resolve that we shall not relent until all terrorists, their financiers, abettors, facilitators and sympathisers are brought to justice," he said.

He also assured Afghanistan of support in creating peace and said that Pakistan made "concerted and sincere efforts for bringing peace in Afghanistan but certain inimical forces are bent upon undermining our efforts."

BJP and Congress yesterday slammed Pakistan army chief General Raheel Sharif over his provocative remarks targeting India, saying it showed the neighbouring country's "immaturity" as it continues to "daydream" despite suffering defeats in the past.

# Hate crimes against Muslims soar in London

AFP, London

Islamophobic and anti-Semitic hate crimes in London have soared over the last year, official figures released yesterday showed, with global events apparently contributing to the rise.

Police recorded 816 Islamophobic offences in the 12 months to July, up more than 70 percent from 478 in the previous 12 months.

Anti-Semitic crime surged 93 percent over the same period, with 499 incidents recorded compared with 258 the previous year.

London's Metropolitan Police said "world events" may have contributed to the increase, while there was also a rise in incidents on holy days when Muslim and Jewish communities were more "visible".

A willingness by victims to report such crimes and improved ability of police to identify them were also factors, Scotland Yard said.

"In light of recent world events, we know communities in London are feeling anxious," a spokesman for the force said.

"Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams are providing a more targeted presence in key areas at key times, such as school routes, holy days and prayer times to give extra reassurance."

Fiyaz Mughal, from Tell Mama said around 60 percent of victims of such offences are women wearing a hijab or headscarf.

