

# EU, Africa leaders agree migration crisis plan

After Slovenia, Sweden introduces border checks

AFP, Valletta

European Union and African leaders yesterday approved a 1.8-billion-euro action plan they hope will help stem an unprecedented and politically explosive flow of migrants across the Mediterranean.

The plan, which immediately came under fire from Senegal President Macky Sall, includes vague provisions on speeding up the repatriation of failed asylum-seekers as well as a limited expansion of opportunities for legal migration, principally for students and academic staff.

It is to be underpinned by 1.8 billion euros of initial EU funding for an 'Emergency Trust Fund' which will provide finance for development projects designed to address the root causes of migratory pressures including poverty, conflict, repressive governance and the unsafe conditions endured by the millions of people displaced across Africa.

The money is coming from the EU's collective budget and the bloc's 28 member states have been asked to match it with contributions of their own.

The national pledges to date however have totalled just 78.2 million euros in an underwhelming response that officials in Brussels partly blame on populist pressures on governments to be seen to acting and talking tough on migrants.



The joint plan was approved at the end of a two-day summit in Malta despite misgivings among some African governments over what they see as a trend towards "fortress Europe" seeking to pull up its drawbridge and a tendency to exaggerate the scale of the problem posed by new arrivals.

Africans have accounted for some 140,000 of the roughly 800,000 migrants who have arrived in the EU by sea so far this year with far large numbers now coming from Syria and other parts of the Middle East via Turkey and Greece.

Efforts to slow the rate of arrivals on that front will dominate a separate meeting of EU leaders in Valletta yesterday afternoon, at which steps to improve cooperation with Turkey over the migrant issue will be reviewed.

Recent months have repeatedly seen national governments resort to unilateral action that undermines efforts to forge a united EU approach to the migrant question.

This week has already seen Slovenia erect a razor-wire fence along its border with Croatia and Sweden decide to temporarily reimpose passport checks for people arriving from other countries in the border-free Schengen area.

With the Schengen system now feared to be on the brink of collapse, the Swedish move was seen as particularly significant in light of the country's long and generous tradition of welcoming more refugees in relation to its

CM's OATH TAKING  
Anti-BJP leaders to attend Bihar ceremony

IANS, Patna

A number of leaders, including Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, will attend Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar oath-taking ceremony being described as "a new beginning of opposition unity in the country".

Rahul Gandhi will also take part in the ceremony on November 20.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav will also be there along with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his Assam counterpart Tarun Gogoi.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad and JD-U president Sharad Yadav will be the main guests at the function.

JD-U general secretary KC Tayagi said that all the big leaders opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) brand of politics will come-together to express their show of unity during the oath taking ceremony.

"It will be a new beginning of opposition unity in the country," he said.



Protesters demonstrating against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold placards and chant outside Downing Street in central London, yesterday. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: AFP

## Who is Amit Shah?

Angry Bihar BJP MP attacks party Chief  
NDTV ONLINE

Bhola Singh, a BJP parliamentarian from Bihar, has slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah for the party's massive defeat in the assembly elections in the state, saying Shah must explain or step down.

"The top leadership alone, which took all the decisions, has to take responsibility for defeat," Singh, the lawmaker from Begusarai, told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

"They must explain the reasons for the defeat to the party and if it's not accepted, they must go," the 76-year-old said.

Amit Shah is due for a second term as party president later this year. "Who is Amit Shah? He and the PM are who they are because we entrusted them with all our power," said Singh.

He listed several reasons for the Bihar loss, but singled out Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement on caste reservations in the run-up to the elections.

He also did not spare the PM, saying he "came down to the level of local leaders in the Bihar campaign."

Singh's remarks follow a joint statement by BJP veterans, including LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Shanta Kumar and Yashwant Sinha have hit out at the leadership. They blamed the BJP's current leadership for the losses.

"The consensual character of the party has been destroyed because the party is being kow tow to a few," they said in a statement.

In allowing his critics to say "I told you so" Modi has lost a golden opportunity in the form of a rare parliamentary majority. In two consecutive state elections, India's electorate—always smarter than it is given credit for—has given Modi a clear message that he needs to listen and change.

Despite his recent missteps, Modi remains the country's most popular politician. Modi, the rock star needs to change his tune.



A Palestinian doctor looks at blood stains on the floor at al-Ahli hospital in Hebron after a man was shot dead during a raid by Israeli undercover agents. Inset, CCTV footage captures Israeli forces during the operation.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP



12/11/2015 03:54:38

## Now, Palestinian killed in hospital

REUTERS, Hebron



'Fifth Beatle' dies

CNN ONLINE

The man who played drums on the US-released version of the Beatles' song "Love Me Do" died this week, his wife told CNN.

Andy White, 85, had a stroke last Thursday and died on Monday, Thea White said.

Andy White, originally from Scotland, played drums when the Beatles recorded "Love Me Do" for a third time in 1962.

Ringo Starr played the tambourine but had been the drummer for the single that later was released in Europe.

The song was originally recorded during the Beatles audition for record label EMI with Pete Best on drums.

According to Rolling Stone, White was paid £5 for three hours of work and received no royalties.

"Love Me Do" was the Beatles first single. The song went to No. 1 when it was released in the United States in 1964. The B side was "P.S. I Love You."

White is one of the musicians referred to as a "Fifth Beatle." The list includes White, Best, Jimmie Nicol, Stuart Sutcliffe, Billy Preston and others.



Riot policeman reacts after fire bombs were thrown at them by youths during a 24-hour general strike in central Athens, Greece, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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