

DONALD TRUMP'S REFUGEE POLICY

The "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" order imposes a 120-day suspension of the entire US Refugee Admissions Program.

It calls for a 90-day ban on the entry of immigrants and refugees from Muslim majority countries with "terrorism concerns", namely Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for at least 30 days.

The order also suspends the Syrian refugee program, until Trump determines that changes to the program ensure that admitting Syrian refugees won't compromise national security.

However, the government will continue to process refugee requests from minority religious groups fleeing persecution, primarily Syrian Christians fleeing the civil war in Syria.

Trump said he was establishing these "new vetting measures" to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US. He had promised the measures - called "extreme vetting" - during last year's election campaign.

Trump's order had been expected to include a directive about setting up "safe zones" for Syrian refugees inside the country, but no such provision was included.

The draft order, which the White House said was not official, would reverse former US President Barack Obama's efforts to close the military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, a place Trump said he wants to fill up "with bad dudes".

Obama had set the refugee limit for 2017 at 110,000. Trump, according to the draft of the executive action, plans to cut that to 50,000.

The order could affect traveling green card holders, students, people coming to the US for medical care and others.

The order also included a new policy that states and localities should have a say in determining whether refugees can resettle there.



US President Donald Trump signs an executive order alongside US Defense Secretary James Mattis and US Vice President Mike Pence at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, on Friday. Trump signed a sweeping new executive order Friday to suspend refugee arrivals and impose tough controls on travelers from seven Muslim countries.

'Don't build wall!' Berlin mayor urges Trump

AFP, Berlin
The mayor of Germany's long-divided capital Berlin, Michael Mueller, on Friday offered some advice to US President Donald Trump: "Don't build this wall!"
The billionaire-president, holding true to his campaign promise, this week ordered US officials to begin to design and construct a wall along the 2,000-mile US-Mexico border.
Berlin's mayor said his city -- which was split by the Berlin Wall during the Cold War from 1961-89 -- "cannot look on without comment when a country plans to build a new wall".
"We Berliners know best how much suffering was caused by the division of an entire continent with barbed wire and concrete," he said in a statement, referring to Europe's "Iron Curtain" division.
In the early 21st century, he said, "we can't just accept it if our historical experience is disregarded by those to whom we largely owe our freedom, the Americans."
Pointing to the ongoing division of the Korean peninsula and the island of Cyprus, the Social Democrat urged Trump "not to go down this wrong path of isolation and exclusion".
Mueller also recalled former US president Ronald Reagan's famous 1987 challenge to then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall!", and said in his message to Trump: "Dear Mr President, don't build this wall!"
On Friday, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Trump sought to tone down diplomatic tensions over the Republican's planned border wall, agreeing to seek a resolution to the thorny dispute.
One day after the spat boiled over, with Pena Nieto cancelling a trip to Washington next week in response to Trump's insistence that Mexico pay for the barrier, the two leaders held an hour-long phone conversation.

'Back US or we'll take names'
Trump's envoy warns UN over policy differences;
Trump orders 'great rebuilding' of US military

AFP, United Nations
Washington's new ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, vowed Friday to show US strength, bluntly warning those who oppose President Donald Trump's policies that she is "taking names" and will respond.
Meanwhile, Trump signed an order Friday to begin what he called a "great rebuilding" of the US armed services, promising new aircraft, naval ships and more resources for the military.
"Our military strength will be questioned by no one, but neither will our dedication to peace. We do want peace," Trump said in a ceremony at the Pentagon.
The former South Carolina governor served notice that the new US administration will push for an overhaul of the United Nations, in her first remarks at UN headquarters.
"Our goal with the administration is to show value at the UN, and the way that we will show value is to show our strength, show our voice, have the backs of our allies and make sure that our allies have our back as well," Haley said.

"For those who don't have our backs: we're taking names," she added. "We will make points to respond to that accordingly."
The 45-year-old daughter of Indian immigrants made clear that some cuts were in store at the world body, which critics describe as a bloated, ineffective bureaucracy.



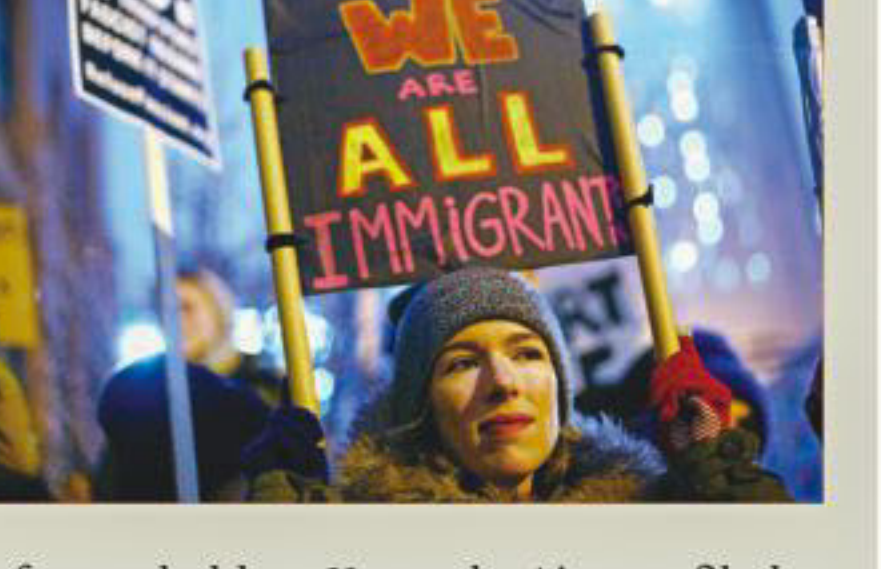
The United States is by far the UN's biggest financial contributor, providing 22 percent of its operating budget and funding 28 percent of peacekeeping missions, which currently cost \$7.8 billion annually.
The White House is reportedly preparing an executive order that could deprive the United Nations of billions

of dollars in US financial support.
In his pledge to pursue an "America First" foreign policy, Trump has dismissed the United Nations as "just a club for people to get together and have a good time."
Tough-talking Haley echoed that stance, promising "fresh eyes, new strength, new vision" as the US envoy.
The order Trump signed Friday was less specific, calling for a sweeping 30-day readiness review of the US military, with the aim of preparing new budget requests to improve readiness.
Trump made clear during last year's presidential campaign and in recent weeks that he wants to enlarge the ranks of the military services and expand its fleets of aircraft and ships.
For example, he said he envisioned a naval fleet of 350 vessels, up from the navy's current 274 and more than its 310 vessel target.
And Trump excluded the military from a hiring freeze across the rest of the government that he ordered just after being inaugurated president on January 20.

TRUMP'S MUSLIM IMMIGRATION BAN
Visa holders, refugees face detentions at US airports

AGENCIES
US authorities wasted no time implementing Donald Trump's order halting Muslim arrivals, detaining travelers arriving at American airports within hours of the US president signing the tough new measures, media reports said yesterday.
The New York Times reported that airport officials as early as Friday night began detaining travelers, some of whom already had been aboard their flights when Trump announced his executive order closing America's borders to refugees.
Trump's order, which suspends entry of all refugees to the United States for 120 days, created a legal limbo for individuals on the way to the United States and panic for families who were awaiting their arrival.
Refugees who were in the air on the way to the United States when the order was signed were stopped and detained at airports, reports said.
Green card and visa holders were also being blocked from boarding US-bound flights, according to reports compiled by Independent.
In Egypt, an Iraqi family was barred

from flying from Cairo to New York yesterday, airport officials said.
Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee warned against green card holders from the listed countries from travelling outside the US until the ban is lifted.
The detentions prompted legal challenges as lawyers representing two Iraqi



refugees held at Kennedy Airport filed a writ of habeas corpus early yesterday in the Eastern District of New York seeking to have their clients released. At the same time, they filed a motion for class certification, in an effort to represent all refugees and immigrants who they said were being unlawfully detained at ports of entry.

NEWS IN brief

UK Queen back on duty

AFP, Norwich
Queen Elizabeth II on Friday carried out her first visit since suffering a cold over Christmas, visiting an exhibition on Fijian art and culture. The 90-year-old sovereign missed the Christmas Day church service at her Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England, with a heavy cold that lasted around a fortnight.



Malala 'heartbroken'

AFP, New York
Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani student activist and Nobel Peace laureate, said Friday she was "heartbroken" by Donald Trump's order on refugees and urged the US president not to abandon the world's "most defenseless." "I am heartbroken that today President Trump is closing the door on children, mothers and fathers fleeing violence and war," said the 19-year-old.

Israeli cops grill PM

AFP, Jerusalem
Israeli police on Friday grilled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his Jerusalem residence in a third round of questioning over corruption suspicions, local media said. Public radio said he was questioned for about four hours which had been expected to focus on suspicions of unlawfully receiving gifts from a wealthy supporter and over an alleged bid to strike a deal with an Israeli press baron.

California moves to secede from US

AFP, Los Angeles
A campaign for California to secede from the rest of the country over Donald Trump's election is gaining momentum, with supporters allowed to start collecting signatures for the measure to be put to a vote.
California's Secretary of State Alex Padilla gave the green light on Thursday for proponents of "California Nationhood" -- also known as Calexit -- to start collecting the nearly 600,000 signatures needed for the measure to qualify on the November 2018 ballot.
The 585,407 signatures required by July 25 represent eight percent of registered voters in California -- the most populous state in the country with nearly 40 million residents and the world's sixth-largest economy.
Should the initiative make it on the ballot, a "Yes" vote would repeal clauses in the California Constitution "stating California is an inseparable part of the United States and that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land," a statement by Padilla's office said.
Voters would then need to decide in another referendum in 2019 whether California should become a separate country.
Padilla said the independence measure -- deemed highly unrealistic -- would have a deep impact on the state and would likely face legal challenges.
The idea of independence became very appealing to many Californians following Trump's shock election.



Chinese-Filipinos pray at the Seng Guan Temple to mark the start of the Lunar New Year in Manila's Chinatown, yesterday. Chinese-Filipinos are celebrating the Lunar New Year, the most important holiday for a number of countries in east and southeast Asia, as they mark the first day of the Year of the Rooster.

May seeks closer Turkey ties
Trump backs Brexit to seal special relationship with Britain

AGENCIES
British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Turkey yesterday for her first visit since becoming premier, hoping to expand ties and seal a new trading relationship before Britain leaves the EU.
Fresh from meeting new US President Donald Trump at the White House, May held talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim on a one-day visit to the Turkish capital Ankara.
As is traditional for any visiting leader, she started the visit by laying a wreath at the mausoleum of Turkey's modern founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.
May walked on tight rope to strike a delicate balance between showing Britain's keen interest in expanding trade with Turkey while echoing European alarm over the magnitude of the crack-down since the July 15 failed coup.
Turkey, which has sought to join



looking to bring a new dynamic to relations, with London seeking to firm up post-Brexit trade deals with non-EU states.
Symbolically, her visit to Turkey is the last leg of a trip which took her to

the White House as the first foreign leader to be hosted by Trump.
May's spokeswoman said increased security cooperation, especially on aviation, and a new trade relationship post-Brexit would top the agenda at the talks.
Countering criticism from MPs that Britain was cosying up to Turkey while turning a blind eye to its human rights record, May also pressed Turkey leaders ensure rights to the people after the failed coup to oust Erdogan last year.
In US, Trump on Friday used his first official press conference with a foreign leader to throw the full weight of the US Presidency behind Brexit.
Theresa May stood next to President Trump as he declared that a "free and independent" Britain outside the EU would be a "blessing" for the world.
May praised Trump's election win as a "stunning victory" and confirmed that he has accepted an invitation for a state visit during which he will meet the Queen.

Thousand migrants rescued from Med

AFP, Rome
Around one thousand people were rescued from unseaworthy vessels in the Mediterranean on Friday, while one dead body was recovered, the Italian coastguard said in a statement.
The migrants, who were found aboard six inflatable and three wooden boats, were rescued in operations throughout the day, notably by two coastguard ships.
The dead body was found on one of the inflatable boats.
According to the United Nations, more than 5,000 people died last year in attempts to cross the Mediterranean and reach Europe, most of them after embarking from the Libyan coast after paying people smugglers.
This was the highest annual toll on record.
Unlike previous years, winter has not brought an end to the migrant arrivals, just a reduction in the numbers.
Meanwhile, Turkey on Friday threatened to abandon a key pillar of a deal with the EU to reduce the migrant flow after Greece blocked the extradition of alleged coup suspects.
It followed Thursday's decision by the Greek Supreme Court not to hand over eight former military officers wanted in connection with last year's failed putsch in a move which angered Ankara.

UN cuts food aid to 1.4m displaced Iraqis

AL JAZEERA ONLINE
The World Food Programme (WFP) has slashed food rations distributed to 1.4 million displaced Iraqis by 50 percent because of delays in payments from donor states.
The sharp cutbacks come at a time when a growing number of Iraqis flee the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as IS) group.
At least 160,000 people have been displaced since October when the Iraqi military, backed by Kurdish forces and Shia militias, launched a military campaign to recapture Mosul from the armed group.
WFP spokeswoman Inger Marie Vennize said the UN agency was talking to the United States - its biggest donor, Germany, Japan and others to secure funds to restore full rations.
"We have had to reduce [the rations] as of this month," she was quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying.
"The 50 percent cuts in monthly rations affect over 1.4 million people across Iraq," she added.
The effect is already being felt in camps east of Mosul, IS's last major bastion in northern Iraq.
"They are giving an entire family the food supply of one person ... we want to go back home," said Omar Shukri Mahmoud at the Hassan Sham camp.
Safa Shaker, who fled with her extended family, said: "We are a big family and this ration is not going to be enough."
"We escaped from [ISIL] in order to have a chance to live and now they have cut the aid. How are we supposed to live?" she added.
Mosul is still home to nearly 1.5 million people, who are at risk of being caught up in brutal urban warfare.