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Slowdown puts strain on Xi's ties with Putin

BEIJING

In tough times, business is business, even between friends and political allies

BY JANE PERLEZ AND NEIL MACFAROUHAR

They have met more than a dozen times and stood shoulder to shoulder during the military parade here. But the oncevaunted relationship between the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, and Russia's leader, Vladimir V. Putin, has come under strain as the economies of their countries have faltered.

Two landmark energy deals signed last year for Russian natural gas to flow to China have made little progress and were barely mentioned when the two men met for talks after watching the show of weapons on Thursday in Tiananmen Square. The bilateral trade that was predicted to amount to more than \$100 billion this year instead reached only about \$30 billion in the first six months, largely because of a reduced Chinese demand for Russian oil.

Mr. Putin has enjoyed basking in the stature of Mr. Xi, who leads one of the world's largest economies. But with the recent stock market turmoil in China and the slowest economic growth in a quarter-century, Beijing will be unable to provide the ballast that Mr. Putin has sought against economic sanctions imposed on Russia by Europe and the United States after its annexation of Crimea, not to mention plummeting oil prices worldwide.

Exodus highlights the West's failings

BEIRUT. LEBANON

Little was done to blunt the slow-motion disaster befalling Syria's residents

BY ANNE BARNARD

Arresting images of desperation on the West's doorstep have brought Syria, for the moment, back to worldwide attention: refugees cramming into train stations and climbing border fences; drowned Syrian toddlers washing up on beaches, a girl in polka dots, a boy in tiny shoes.

It was never any secret that a rising tide of Syrian refugees would sooner or later burst the seams of the Middle East and head for Europe. Yet little was done in Western capitals to stop or mitigate the slow-motion disaster that was befalling Syrian civilians and sending them on the run.

"The migrant crisis in Europe is essentially self-inflicted," said Lina Khatib, a research associate at the University of London and until recently the head of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. "Had European countries sought serious solutions to political conflicts like the one in Syria, and dedicated enough time and resources to humanitarian assistance abroad, Europe would not be in this position today.'

The causes of the current crisis are plain enough. Neighboring countries like Lebanon and Jordan became overwhelmed with refugees and closed their borders to many, while international humanitarian funding fell further and further short of the need. Then, Syrian government losses and other battlefield shifts sent new waves of people fleeing the country.

Some of these people had initially thought they would stick it out in Syria, and they are different from earlier refugees, who tended to be poor and vulnerable, or wanted by the government, or from areas hard-hit early in the civil war. Now those departing include more middle-class or wealthy people, more supporters of the government, and more residents of areas that were initially safe.

One of those, Rawad, 25, a pro-government university graduate, left for Germany with his younger brother Iyad, 13, who as a minor could help his whole family obtain asylum.

They walked from Greece to save money, Rawad reported via text message, sleeping in forests and train stations alongside families from northern Syria who opposed President Bashar al-Assad.

People like Rawad and Iyad have been joined by growing numbers of refugees who had for a time found shelter in neighboring countries. Lebanon - where one in three people is now a Syrian refugee — and Jordan have cracked down on entry and residency policies for Syrians. Even in Turkey, a larger country more willing and able to absorb them, new domestic political tensions make their fate uncertain.

As the numbers of displaced Syrians mounted to 11 million today from a trickle in 2011, efforts to reach a political solution gained little traction. The United States and Russia bickered in SYRIA. PAGE 4

Image of small, still Syrian boy

was dependent on China growing and driving the demand for its commodities: oil, gas and minerals," said Fiona Hill, a Russia specialist at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "China was an alternative to Europe."

The linchpin of the relationship between Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin was a May 2014 accord on a 30-year deal for China to buy natural gas from fields in Eastern Siberia, for a reported \$400 billion, with first delivery between 2019 and 2021. During the signing in Shanghai, Mr. Putin bragged that the deal was an "epochal event" and expressed relief that Russia, under pressure from European sanctions, would be able to diversify its gas sales.

But the price was never formally announced, and it is possible that with plunging energy prices, the deal will have to be renegotiated, said Jonathan Stern, chairman of the natural gas research program at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies in Britain. The Chinese wanted the gas for its depressed northeast region, and the Russians had started to prepare for its de-CHINA, PAGE 5



AURICIO LIMA FOR THE NEW YORK TIME

A Syrian family waiting in Budapest. Few refugees have been accepted by the regional and global players that have helped fuel the conflict.

NUMBERING ON MIGRANTS BRINGS OUTCRY Czech officers have used felt pens to mark migrants, angering activists who see parallels to the Nazi era. PAGE 4

HUMAN SMUGGLING WORTH 'BILLIONS' The business of migrant trafficking in Europe is now larger than the illicit trade in drugs and weapons. PAGE 5

ONLINE: EUROPE'S RIVER OF MIGRATION A team of New York Times journalists is documenting the journey north of migrants and refugees. nytimes.com/migrants

ONLINE AT INYT.COM

Eyes on American jobs

The American economy added 173,000 jobs in August, fewer than expected, as the Fed tries to decide whether it will feel comfortable enough to raise interest rates this month. nytimes.com/business

Enjoying whisky, in space

A Scotch distiller is unveiling a glass that works in zero-gravity, no straw required. nytimes.com/science

India cracks down on Greenp

After having its ability to receive foreign donations revoked, the gr Indian arm said it would continue environmental work in the countr nytimes.com/asia

1991 case played into Brady ruling Bill Belichick was a rookie head coach

when he disciplined Reggie Langhorne for not hustling. The penalty's reduction set a precedent invoked in Tom Brady's case. nytimes.com/football

STOCK INDEXES FRIDAY

5			
)	▼ The Dow 11:00am	16,140.46	-1.43%
	▼ FTSE 100 4pm	6,062.42	-2.13%
	 Nikkei 225 close 	17,792.16	-2.15%
)	OIL NEW YORK ERIDAY 11:0	DAM	

▼ Light sweet crude \$46.66 -\$1.17

brings migrant crisis into focus

ISTANBUL

BY ANNE BARNARD AND KARAM SHOUMALI

The smugglers had promised Abdullah Kurdi a motorboat for the trip from Turkey to Greece, a step on the way to a new life in Canada. Instead, they showed up with a 15-foot rubber raft that flipped in high waves, dumping Mr. Kurdi, his wife and their two small sons into the sea.

Mr. Kurdi tried to keep the boys, Aylan and Ghalib, afloat, but one died as he pushed the other to his wife, Rehan, pleading, "Just keep his head above the water!'

Only Mr. Kurdi, 40, survived.

"Now I don't want anything," he said a day later, on Thursday, from Mugla, Turkey, after filling out forms at a morgue to claim the bodies of his family. "Even if you give me all the countries in

Abdullah Kurdi, whose sons, Aylan, 3, and Ghalib, 5, drowned trying to flee Syria.

the world, I don't want them. What was precious is gone."

It is an image of his youngest son, a lifeless child in a red shirt and dark shorts face down on a Turkish beach, that appears to have galvanized public attention to a crisis that has been build-BOY, PAGE 4

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER



JUBILATION IN GUATEMALA Celebrating in Guatemala City after the country's president stepped down. Hours after resigning, he was sent to jail to await the conclusion of a hearing examining his role in a multimillion-dollar customs fraud case. WORLD NEWS, 3

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Kentucky county lets gays wed The marriage came a day after the county clerk, Kim Davis, was jailed for

contempt of court after defying a federal order to issue licenses to samesex couples. WORLD NEWS, 3

Playing catch-up, tech courts blacks

Grass-roots efforts are springing up to address one of Silicon Valley's most acute diversity problems: a scarcity of African-Americans. BUSINESS, 12

Indian automaker pushes Jaguar

With models intended to appeal to younger drivers, the Indian automaker Tata hopes to revive the cachet of the brand it bought in 2008. BUSINESS, 12

Refugee drama stirs the French

It took the photo of a Syrian child washed up on a Turkish beach to move President François Hollande to act, Sylvie Kauffmann writes. REVIEW, 8

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				PREVIOUS
	▼ Euro	€1=	\$1.1100	\$1.1120
	Pound	£1=	\$1.5180	\$1.5260
	▲ Yen	\$1=	¥119.310	¥120.060
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