

Western Europe & The United States

Paris (France). France is ready for a serious discussion with the UK on the migrant crisis but will not be [“held hostage”](#) by Britain’s domestic politics, the country’s Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin has said. It comes after relations between Paris and London reached a historic low after 27 people drowned off the UK coast while attempting to cross the English Channel at the end of the month.

Frankfurt (Germany). Taha Al-Jumailly, 29, was found [guilty](#) of genocide, crimes against humanity resulting in death, war crimes, aiding and abetting war crimes and bodily harm resulting in death after joining the so-called Islamic State group in 2013. In August 2014 Isis attacked Sinjar -the Yazidis’ homeland in northern Iraq - killing thousands and abducting and enslaving more than 6,000 women and children. The group took over the Yazidi homeland in the Sinjar region of northern Iraq and embarked on a campaign of genocide against the ancient religious minority. It killed more than 3,000 and captured 6,000, sexually enslaving many of the women and girls. While about half of the captured Yazidis either escaped or were rescued, almost 3,000 more are still missing, according to Iraq’s Kurdistan regional government.

Russia & South-Eastern Europe

Warsaw (Poland). Several thousand remain stranded along the border between Poland and Belarus. Most of them have fled war-torn areas of Iraq and Syria, though a small number have come from Africa. EU officials have called this crisis a [“hybrid war”](#) orchestrated by long-time Belarusian President Lukashenko to punish the West for introducing sanctions after he claimed victory in last year’s contested election. Belarus insists it is a humanitarian drama created by Europe’s refusal to respect international law and give those seeking refuge from war the right to apply for asylum.

Moscow (Russia). [Nord Stream 2](#), a gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, running through the Baltic Sea, has been completed and is ready for a start. It will double Moscow’s annual gas export capacity in the Baltic Sea to 110 billion cubic meters. Former President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, [called](#) the pipeline former German



Chancellor Angela Merkel's biggest mistake. The project has also faced criticism from the United States, which fears the natural-gas pipeline will strengthen Russia's hand in Europe.

Middle East

Cairo (Egypt). Ethiopia has announced that it will soon finish construction work on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), while Egypt has warned of the consequences of not reaching an agreement in the latest escalation between the two countries. GERD, which is set to be Africa's largest hydroelectric project when completed, is the source of an almost decade-long diplomatic standoff between Ethiopia and downstream nations Egypt and Sudan. Egyptian Minister of Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Aty said that any shortage of water will affect workers in the agricultural sector, causing security and social instability in the region, while also increasing illegal immigration. Ethiopia, on the other side, has repeatedly failed to deliver on its promises to start generating electricity from the GERD.

Deir al-Zour (Syria). There are fears that IS is strengthening its presence in Syria. Elham Ahmad, the executive president of the Syrian Democratic Council, [told reporters](#) that the terror group had established cells in key cities such as Raqqa and Deir al-Zour. At the beginning of the month, local security forces affiliated with the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces said they had thwarted a plot by a suspected Islamic State group cell to carry out an attack on a prison holding IS fighters in the region. [A recent report](#) from the Lead Inspector General for Operation states that the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) will continue to depend on US for training, intelligence and overall operational support.

Africa

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). After a year of war, the Ethiopian conflict is at an incredibly dangerous point, with no side showing signs of backing down. Fighting continues in the country where rebel groups are advancing on the capital Addis Ababa. While much has been said about the northern front, where the army is at war with the Tigray Defense Forces (TDF), another armed group – allied to Tigrayans – is fighting from the south and west of the country. The Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) now controls a large swathe of territory. Together, the TDF and OLA plan to topple the government and take over the capital. According to a [joint investigation](#) by the UN and the country's human rights commission, all sides in the conflict have violated international human rights, some of which may amount to crimes against humanity.