



ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Migrants in Budapest early Saturday before leaving by bus to cross into Austria. More than 40 buses were sent to the border.

Critics Blame A Passive West As Syrians Flee

Europe Took Few Steps to Head Off Crisis

By ANNE BARNARD

BEIRUT, Lebanon — 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.

"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. 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 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

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MIGRANTS CROSS AUSTRIA BORDER FROM HUNGARY

GERMANY OFFERS ENTRY

Cheering and Clapping After Trek Through Eastern Europe

This article is by Rick Lyman, Anemona Hartocollis and Alison Smaile.

NICKELSDORF, Austria — Thousands of migrants who have been bottled up in Hungary, demanding passage to the West, will be allowed into Austria and Germany, the Austrian chancellor said late Friday. Early Saturday, the first buses carrying them arrived at the Hungary-Austria border.

In a chaotic scene here at the main border crossing on the road to Vienna, local volunteers handed out water and bananas to the first busloads of exhausted but happy migrants. As they began passing from Hungarian territory through the border checkpoint, a few shouted, "Thank you, Austria!"

Earlier, after several days of chaos and civil disobedience by the migrants, Hungarian officials threw in the towel and allowed the people living in a squalid encampment in a below-ground plaza outside the city's main train station onto more than 40 buses headed for the Austrian border, as they had been demanding.

"On the basis of the current situation of need, Austria and Germany agree to allow in this case the onward journey of these refugees into their countries," Chancellor Werner Faymann of Austria wrote on his Facebook page.

Austrian officials promised to do what they could to receive the migrants safely and seamlessly.

Late into a confusing night, during which the police warned that soccer hooligans were planning to attack the encampment, the promised buses finally began arriving around 1 a.m. Saturday, to cheering and clapping from the weary migrants.

The people in the encampment had hoped to travel by train to Austria and Germany, and the Hungarian authorities had let six trainloads of them through on Monday before closing off the station to them and eventually shutting down all international rail traffic to the West.

Officials said that more than a thousand other migrants who had begun walking Friday down the M1 motorway, the country's main road to the West, severely disrupting traffic, would also be picked up and driven to the border. But migrants allowed only one bus to leave, saying they would wait to see if it actually

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UNSETTLING IMAGES The treatment of migrants in Hungary and the Czech Republic has evoked memories of Europe's darkest hour. PAGE A9

U.S. LIMITS Regulations and a lack of political will have complicated the United States' response to the migrant crisis. PAGE A9

New Jobs Data Clarifies Little In Fed Debate

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ and BINYAMIN APPELBAUM

Despite disappointing job growth last month, the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since early 2008, sharpening the debate within the Federal Reserve over whether to raise interest rates when policy makers meet in two weeks.

Friday's report from the Labor Department — which found that employers added a weaker-than-expected 173,000 jobs in August while the official jobless rate dipped to 5.1 percent — provided fodder for both camps to make their cases.

The slowdown in job growth and the absence of any significant wage pressure could strengthen the arguments of those who see little risk in keeping borrowing costs exceptionally low and waiting not just for more encouraging data but also for unruly markets to settle down. [Page B1.]

On the other side, there were enough positive indicators to keep a September tightening in play, even as Wall Street looks more seriously at the possibility

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Russian Moves in Syria Pose Concerns for U.S.

By MICHAEL R. GORDON and ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON — Russia has sent a military advance team to Syria and is taking other steps the United States fears may signal that President Vladimir V. Putin is planning to vastly expand his military support for President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, administration officials said Friday.

The Russian moves, including the recent transport of prefabricated housing units for hundreds of people to a Syrian airfield and the delivery of a portable air traffic control station there, are another complicating factor in Secretary of State John Kerry's repeated efforts to enlist Mr. Putin's support for a diplomatic solution to the bloody conflict in Syria.

The Russians have also filed military overflight requests with neighboring countries through September.

American officials acknowledge that they are not certain of Russia's intentions, but some say the temporary housing suggests that Russia could deploy as many as 1,000 advisers or other military personnel to the airfield near the Assad family's ancestral home. The airfield serves Latakia, Syria's principal port city.

Military Advance Unit Sent by Putin Hints at Help for Assad

Other American officials say they see no indication that Russia intends to deploy significant numbers of ground forces, but they say the housing would enable Russia to use the airfield as a major hub for ferrying in military supplies for the Syrian government, or possibly as a launching pad for Russian airstrikes in support of Mr. Assad's forces.

American intelligence analysts are also looking at ship loadings in Russia to determine what might be bound for Syria, and one official speculated that the Russian deployment might eventually grow to 2,000 to 3,000 personnel.

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"There are some worrisome movements — logistical, preparatory types of things," said an administration official, who added that there was no confirmation that large numbers of Russian soldiers, aircraft or heavy weapons had yet arrived. Officials asked for anonymity because they were discussing classified intelligence reports.

Syria is one of Russia's major arms clients, and is also host to a

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Slice of Iowa Where Hard Line On Immigrants Doesn't Apply

By JULIE BOSMAN

MUSCATINE, Iowa — Like many voters in Iowa, Ben Hoopes has been listening closely to all the tough talk about illegal immigration coming from the Republican presidential candidates who have crisscrossed his state every week.

There was Donald J. Trump's plan to build an impenetrable wall across the border and force Mexico to share the cost. Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana said that immigrants who do not fully integrate and learn English are guilty of "invasion." Chris Christie, the New Jersey governor, last weekend suggested tracking new immigrants like human FedEx packages.

Mr. Hoopes, 33, a salesman and Republican voter in Muscatine,

believes something needs to be done about unauthorized workers in Iowa, so he welcomes the attention to the issue. But he worries: Are the candidates telling the crowds only what they want to hear? Is a complicated issue becoming oversimplified?

"It's just a show right now," Mr. Hoopes said, pausing from his job at a carpet store downtown. "I heard today that Scott Walker might want to build a wall on the Canadian border. I didn't realize illegal Canadian immigration was such a big problem."

Perhaps more than in many parts of this region, residents in Muscatine County, in eastern Iowa, have developed a nuanced view of the immigration issue, in-

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CAITLIN OCHS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Night of Peking Opera

Xu Chang in "The Legend of the White Snake" at Lincoln Center. A review. Page C6.

At West Point, Cadets' Annual Pillow Fight Becomes Weaponized

By DAVE PHILIPPUS

For generations, freshmen cadets at the United States Military Academy have marked the end of a grueling summer of training with a huge nighttime pillow fight that is billed as a harmless way to blow off steam and build class spirit.

But this year the fight on the

West Point, N.Y., campus turned bloody as some cadets swung pillowcases packed with hard objects, thought to be helmets, that split lips, broke at least one bone, dislocated shoulders and knocked cadets unconscious. The brawl at the publicly funded academy, where many of the Army's top leaders are trained, left 30 cadets injured, including 24 with concussions, according to

West Point. In interviews, cadets who asked that their names not be used for fear of repercussions in West Point's strictly controlled culture, said the fight had left one cadet with a broken leg and dislocated shoulders in others. One cadet was knocked unconscious and taken away in an ambulance and had not returned to school, they said. But a spokesman for

the academy, Lt. Col. Christopher Kasker, said all cadets had returned to duty.

Though talk about the brawl on Aug. 20 had circulated on social media, West Point did not confirm it to The New York Times until Thursday.

Colonel Kasker said the annual fight is organized by first-year

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NATIONAL A12-15

Marriage Licenses at Last

Six gay and lesbian couples became the first in Rowan County, Ky., to be issued marriage licenses by a deputy clerk after the county clerk was jailed for refusing to do so. PAGE A12



Talk of Trying to Stop Trump

Some wealthy Republican Party donors and normally competing factions have begun quietly discussing how to derail Donald Trump's campaign. PAGE A13

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Saudi King Endorses Iran Deal

After meeting with President Obama at the White House, King Salman of Saudi Arabia said that he supported the nuclear accord with Iran. PAGE A7

'Kill Decisions' in Afghanistan

Germany and Sweden are said to be participating in decisions on airstrikes against Afghan insurgents. PAGE A4

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Jail Workers Charged in Attack

A Rikers Island captain and a correction officer assaulted a teenage inmate and covered it up, officials said. PAGE A16

ARTS C1-6

'I Was Sick of the Truth'

In a Q. and A., Salman Rushdie speaks of his new novel, his love of science fiction, being on Al Qaeda's hit list and his falling out with his fellow novelist Peter Carey. PAGE C1



Misery First, Then Champagne

The suffering in movies like "Black Mass" and "Everest" provides an odd counterpoint to the Venice Film Festival's luxurious setting. PAGE C1

BUSINESS DAY B1-7

Lowest Gas Prices in 11 Years

The average price of gasoline is about a dollar lower than it was last year, and in a few filling stations around the country it's selling for under \$2. PAGE B3

SPORTSATURDAY D1-7

Venus Williams Wins Another

While her sister Serena has been the talk of the tournament, Venus Williams has quietly advanced to the round of 16 at the United States Open. PAGE D5

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Joe Nocera

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THIS WEEKEND

