

Britain has 'too many' low-skilled migrants — new interior minister

LONDON — Britain has too many low-skilled migrant workers and very high numbers of international students, who often brought dependents with them, the country's new interior minister Suella Braverman said in an interview with *The Sun* on Sunday newspaper.

Ms. Braverman said new Prime Minister Liz Truss's government

aimed to stick to a 2019 election pledge to lower net migration in an interview ahead of the ruling Conservative Party's annual conference.

Finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng said on Sept. 23 that the government was looking to review immigration policy as part of an attempt to boost growth, following complaints from business groups that post-Brexit rules

were too restrictive, especially for low-paid jobs.

However, Ms. Braverman said reducing migration was an aim shared by all of Truss's senior ministers.

"What we've got is too many low skilled workers coming into this country," she said. "We've also got a very high number of students coming into this country

and we've got a really high number of dependents."

"Those people are coming here, they're not necessarily working or they're working in low-skilled jobs, and they're not contributing to growing our economy," she added.

Since January 2021, most workers must be paid at least 25,600 pounds (\$28,570) a year

for an employer to sponsor a visa, causing problems for employers in sectors such as agriculture, hospitality and some manufacturing, where lower wages are common.

Numbers of European Union (EU) workers have fallen, but this has been offset by an increase in the number of non-EU workers, especially from India. Net migration

to Britain totaled 239,000 in the year to June 2021, according to the most recent figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Ms. Braverman also said she wanted to restrict the ability of migrants to challenge deportation on the basis that they had been subjected to forced labor or human trafficking, known in Britain as "modern slavery". — *Reuters*

Ukraine's recapture of Lyman deals Moscow major setback

KYIV — Ukrainian troops said they had taken the key bastion of Lyman in occupied eastern Ukraine, a stinging defeat that prompted a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin to call for the possible use of low-grade nuclear weapons.

The capture on Saturday came just a day after Mr. Putin proclaimed the annexation of nearly a fifth of Ukraine — including Donetsk, where Lyman is located — and placed the regions under Russia's nuclear umbrella. Kyiv and the West condemned the ornate ceremony as an illegitimate farce.

Ukrainian soldiers announced the capture in a video recorded outside the town council building in the center of Lyman and posted on social media by Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of President Volodymyr Zelensky's office.

"Dear Ukrainians — today the armed forces of Ukraine ... liberated and took control of the settlement of Lyman, Donetsk region," one of the soldiers says. At the end of the video, a group of soldiers throw Russian flags down from the building's roof and raise a Ukrainian flag in their place.

Hours earlier, Russia's defense ministry had announced it was pulling troops out of the area "in connection with the creation of a threat of encirclement".

Russia had used Lyman as a logistics and transport hub for its operations in the north of the Donetsk region. Its capture is Ukraine's biggest battlefield gain since the lightning counteroffensive in the north-eastern Kharkiv region last month.

Seeking to capitalize on Ukraine's recent gains, Zelensky promised more quick successes in the Donbas, which covers the Donetsk and Luhansk regions that are largely under Russian control.

"Over the past week, the number of Ukrainian flags in Donbas has increased. There will be even more a week's time," the president said in an evening video address.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin cheered Lyman's capture, saying it would create new problems for Russia's military. "We're very encouraged by what we're seeing right now," Mr. Austin told a news conference on Saturday.

Mr. Austin noted that Lyman was positioned across supply lines that Russia has used to push its troops and materiel down to the south and to the west, as the Kremlin presses its more than seven-month-long invasion of Ukraine.

"Without those routes, it will be more difficult. So, it presents a sort of a dilemma for the Russians going forward."

Mr. Austin did not say whether he thought Ukraine's capture of Lyman might prompt Russian escalation, although US officials have widely denounced Russia's nuclear rhetoric in recent days and President Joseph R. Biden has publicly urged Mr. Putin not to use nuclear weapons.

Ukraine's successes have infuriated Putin allies such as Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of Russia's southern Chechnya region.

"In my personal opinion, more drastic measures should be taken, right up to the declaration of martial law in the border areas and the use of low-yield nuclear weapons," Mr. Kadyrov wrote on Telegram before Mr. Zelensky spoke.

Other top officials, including former President Dmitry Medvedev, have suggested Russia may need to resort to nuclear weapons, but Mr. Kadyrov's call was the most urgent and explicit.

Mr. Putin said last week that he was not bluffing when he said he was prepared to defend Russia's "territorial integrity" with all available means, and on Friday made clear this extended to the new regions claimed by Moscow.

Washington says it would respond decisively to any use of nuclear weapons.

Serhii Cherevatyi, spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern forces, said before the capture that Russia had 5,000 to 5,500 troops at Lyman but the number encircled could be lower.

Reuters could not verify either side's battlefield assertions.

Ukraine says taking Lyman will allow it to advance into the Luhansk region, whose full capture Moscow announced in early July after weeks of grinding advances.

"Lyman is important because it is the next step towards the liberation of the Ukrainian Donbas," Cherevatyi said. "It is an opportunity to go further to Kremynna and Sievierodonetsk, and it is psychologically very important."

The Donbas has been a major focus for Russia since soon it launched the invasion on Feb. 24 that Mr. Putin calls a "special military operation" to demilitarize and "denazify" its smaller neighbor. The areas Mr. Putin claimed as Russian — the Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk and the southern regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia — form a swath of territory equal to about 18% of Ukraine's total surface land area. Kyiv vowed to continue liberating its land of Russian forces.

Retired US Army General Ben Hodges said a Russian defeat in Lyman represented a major political and military embarrassment for Mr. Putin. — *Reuters*

Stampede, riot at Indonesia soccer match kill at least 174

MALANG — At least 174 people were killed and 180 injured in a stampede and riot at a soccer match in Indonesia, officials said on Sunday, in one of the world's worst stadium disasters.

When frustrated supporters of the losing home team invaded the pitch in Malang in the province of East Java late on Saturday, officers fired tear gas in an attempt to control the situation, triggering the stampede and cases of suffocation, East Java police chief Nico Afinta told reporters.

"It had gotten anarchic. They started attacking officers, they damaged cars," Mr. Nico said, adding that the crush occurred when fans fled for an exit gate.

Video footage from local news channels showed fans streaming onto the pitch after Arema FC lost 3-2 to Persebaya Surabaya around 10 p.m. (1500 GMT). Scuffles can be seen, with what appeared to be tear gas in the air.

Images showed people who appeared to have lost consciousness being carried away by other fans.

The head of one of the hospitals in the area treating patients told Metro TV that some of the victims had sus-

tained brain injuries and that the fatalities included a five-year-old child.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said authorities must thoroughly evaluate security at matches, adding that he hoped this would be "the last soccer tragedy in the nation."

Jokowi, as the president is known, ordered the Football Association of Indonesia to suspend all games in the Indonesian top league BRI Liga 1 until an investigation had been completed.

TEAR GAS RULES, OVERCAPACITY

World soccer's governing body FIFA specifies in its safety regulations that no firearms or "crowd control gas" should be carried or used by stewards or police.

East Java police did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether they were aware of such regulations.

FIFA has requested a report on the incident from Indonesia's PSSI football association, and a PSSI team has been sent to Malang to inves-

tigate, PSSI secretary general Yunus Nusi told reporters.

Indonesia's human rights commission also plans to investigate security at the ground, including the use of tear gas, its commissioner told Reuters.

"Many of our friends lost their lives because of the officers who dehumanized us," said Muhammad Rian Dwicahyono, 22, crying, as he nursed a broken arm at the local Kanjuruhan hospital. "Many lives have been wasted."

On Sunday mourners gathered outside the gates of the stadium to lay flowers for the victims.

Amnesty International Indonesia slammed the security measures, saying the "use of excessive force by the state ... to contain or control such crowds cannot be justified at all".

The country's chief security minister, Mahfud MD, said in an Instagram post that the stadium had been filled beyond its capacity. He said 42,000 tickets had been issued for a stadium that is only supposed to hold 38,000 people. — *Reuters*

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link bit.ly/Soccer100322

'French Spiderman' climbs first skyscraper with son in Barcelona

BARCELONA — Alain Robert, the free climber dubbed the "French Spiderman", scaled one of Barcelona's highest skyscrapers on Saturday without a harness. And for the first time ever, the famous daredevil was joined by his son.

"This time is different. My son is not a climber so I feel responsible somehow," Mr. Robert told Reuters while preparing for the climb. "I know he's a big boy, 34. It's his own decision, but at the end of the day I am his dad."

Bystanders and Spanish police watched as the 60-year-old and his son, Julien, climbed the 144-meter Torre Glories, formerly the Torre Agbar, a glass-covered office building designed by architect Jean Nouvel and famed for its night-time illuminations.

"I feel very stressed. I've never been so scared in my life," Julien told Reuters just before they started.

"I've done scary things in life, but this is... I've never been so afraid for my life.

Fortunately, I have my father who will talk to me, will guide me."

The pair completed the climb in less than an hour and were met at the top by police, who escorted them down the more traditional way — inside the building — and did not arrest them.

Julien, who spent eight years in the army and is a keen sportsman, prepared for his first climb by watching videos of his father's previous ascents.

Alain Robert began climbing in 1975, training on the cliffs near his hometown of Valence in southern France.

He took up solo climbing in 1977, since when he has climbed more than 150 buildings, including Dubai's Burj Khalifa — the world's tallest building — the Eiffel Tower, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Mr. Robert rarely gets permission and climbs without a harness, using only his bare hands, a pair of climbing shoes, and a bag of powdered chalk. — *Reuters*

Sangley, from SI/1

The Philippine companies leading the consortium are Cavite Holdings, Inc. (CHD); the Yuchengos' publicly listed House of Investments, Inc.; and Lucio C. Tan-led MacroAsia Corp., a provider of aviation-related support services.

Samsung C&T Corp., the construction unit of South Korean tech giant Samsung, will also be involved in the project, together with Munich Airport International GmbH, and Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.

"This new airport is the future of the country. This airport is the hope of the country. The province is just a small player. But if we work together, we can do this for our people," Mr. Remulla had said in a statement.

CHI Chief Executive Officer Leonides Juan Mariano C. Virata said the group aims to meet the requirements of airlines to make the airport an international hub that will "satisfy the needs of the future."

The first phase of the project, which includes the first of four runways, is expected to be operational by 2028. The second phase will result in a two-runway system with airport facilities capable of handling at least 75 million passengers every year.

As demand for air travel is expected to increase in the next 30 to 40 years, the province of Cavite has been pushing for the development of the Sangley Point International Airport Project as an alternative to the overcrowded NAIA in Pasay City.

Inflation, from SI/1

the overall rate went up by P0.3907 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P9.9365 from P9.5458 per kWh in August. This is after the combined reduction of P0.9154 per kWh in the past two months.

Prices of food have gone up in recent weeks, reflecting the impact of Super Typhoon Karding (international name: Noru) and the weaker peso against the dollar.

"(Higher inflation) could be offset in part by the decline in local fuel prices and lower meat prices," the BSP said, reiterating that it will continue to closely monitor developments in accordance with its price stability mandate.

In September alone, oil companies cut pump prices for gasoline by P4.8 per liter, diesel by P9.95 per liter, and kerosene by P9.1 per liter.

"In terms of proportion to the headline reading, the food basket may have contributed approximately 2.8%, utilities by around 1.5%, and transportation by 1.3%, and core (consumer price index) is also projected to have continued its upward trend," Robert Dan J. Roces, chief economist at Security Bank Corp., said in an e-mail.

"This means a mix of supply and demand side pressures are driving the inflation narrative as the peso's depreciation bites into prices," Mr. Roces added.

The peso finished trading at P58.625 per dollar on Friday, gaining 34.5 centavos from its P58.97 close on Thursday, Bankers Association of the Philippines data showed. In September alone, the peso has weakened by P2.48 or 4.4% from its Aug. 31 close of P56.145.

"Several events could have affected inflation in September: continuous weakening of the peso against the dollar, several typhoons that have devastated our agricultural sector especially palay farmers," De La Salle University economist Mitzie Irene P. Conchada said in an e-mail.

The damage caused by Typhoon Karding to the agriculture industry is now estimated at P3.1 billion, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

PEAK INFLATION?

Inflation may have peaked in September, UnionBank of the Philippines, Inc. Chief Economist Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion said.

"We think that this may be the peak of headline inflation and the rest of 2022 may see inflation print above 6% (end-2022 at 6.1%)," Mr. Asuncion said, adding that he now sees average inflation at 5.4% this year and 3.6% for 2023.

"Looking further ahead, Q4 should see a more marked and sustained drop in headline inflation, thanks in large part to a broad-based moderation in non-core (i.e. food and energy) price pressures, as signaled increasingly clearly by global trends," Pantheon Chief Emerging Asia Economist Miguel Chanco said in an e-mail.

On the other hand, ING Bank N.V. Manila Senior Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said inflation has not peaked yet, which will prompt further tightening from the Philippine central bank.

"Inflation has not peaked and will remain above 7% for at least the next 3 months, prompting at least 100-bp (basis point) worth of rate hikes by the BSP," Mr. Mapa said.

The Philippine central bank on Sept. 22 raised its benchmark policy rate by 50 bps to 4.25%. Rates on the overnight deposit and lending facilities also rose by 50 bps to 3.75% and 4.75%.

The Monetary Board has raised rates by 225 bps so far since May.

The central bank also revised its 2022 average inflation forecast to 5.6%. The estimate for next year had also increased to 4.1%. Inflation would likely ease to 3% in 2024.

The Monetary Board will have its next policy-setting meeting on Nov. 17.

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