

Turkey Must Meet all Benchmarks to Get Visa Liberalization: EU

BRUSSELS - The European Commission on Monday reiterated that Turkey must fulfill all benchmarks in order to secure visa-free travel to the European Union (EU) for Turkish citizens.

At a daily press briefing, European Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said the EU remains fully committed to ensure "continued and full implementation of the EU-Turkey statement," but if Turkey wants visa liberalization from the EU side, the benchmarks must be met.

"Turkey has committed to fulfill the benchmarks



in order to enable the EU to lift visa requirements for Turkish citizens," she stressed. The spokeswoman said that the final timing for any visa free travel will depend on both when Turkey will complete work on remaining benchmarks, and when the EU member states ultimately take a decision. "On fulfilling the remaining benchmarks of the visa liberalization roadmap, the Commission continues to provide support and expertise to the Turkish authorities to accelerate the reforms needed to fulfill the remaining requirements," she added.

The ... (More on P4)... (24)

Nieghbor News

Turkmenistan Speeds Up TAPI, Eyes EU

ASHGABAT - Building work on the pipeline will be 1,814 km, of which 774 km cross Afghanistan, 826 km cross Pakistan. The 214-km corridor in Turkmenistan is being laid, and has reached 23 km, about 13 km more than mid-July. "More than 7,500 meters of large-diameter pipes have been laid and welded in this corridor," said the agency. "Over 40 units of special equipment and construction machinery have been used in preparatory work." (Agencies)

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Pakistan Assures Action Against Institutions Linked to "Coup Plotters": Turkish FM

ISLAMABAD - The visiting Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, said on Tuesday Pakistan has assured him to take action against the institutions linked to Fethullah Gulen, whom Turkey suspects the main character behind the last month's failed coup.

Pakistan was among the countries which had condemned the attempted coup and announced support for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. At least 246 people were killed in clashes during the attempt. The Turkish Foreign Minister thanked Pakistan's support and hailed resolutions passed by both houses of the parliament in support of the Turkish government. (Xinhua)

the Turkish schools. Cavusoglu, who arrived in Islamabad early Tuesday for talks with Pakistani leaders on the post-coup situation, told a news conference that Pakistan is the first country he is visiting after the July 15 failed coup.

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Over 700 People Killed in Violence, Armed Conflict in Iraq in July: UN

BAGHDAD - The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) said Monday that 759 Iraqis were killed and 1,207 others wounded in terrorism, violence and armed conflicts in July across Iraq.

The figures included 629 civilians killed and 1,061 wounded, while 130 security members were killed and 146 wounded, the UNAMI said in a statement.

The UNAMI figures excluded the casualties in



Iraq's western province of Anbar, as it has not been able to obtain the civilian casualty figures from the provincial health department for the month, the

statement said. The statement said the UN envoy to Iraq and the UNAMI chief Jan Kubis "reiterated his call on the parties to undertake every

effort to protect the lives of civilians."

"The number of casualties as a result of terrorism, violence and conflict in Iraq continues to remain high. We continue to deplore this unacceptable situation and look forward to the day, hopefully soon, when peace and tranquility will return to Iraq," Kubis said. Iraq has witnessed intense violence since the IS took control of parts of its northern and western regions in June 2014. (Xinhua)

British Treasury Minister Likely to Quit over China

LONDON - British Treasury Minister Jim O'Neill has expressed the possibility to quit the government after Prime Minister Theresa May's new move on China, according to a Sunday report by the Financial Times.

After May last week delayed the project of a partly-Chinese funded nuclear power plant, O'Neill told his friends that he will leave the government in September unless May can give a reason for him to stay.

"He's considering why he has been asked to stay,"

the FT report quoted an anonymous friend of O'Neill as saying.

The treasury minister, a former Goldman Sachs chief economist, is an advocate for the "Golden Era" of relations between Britain and China and has promoted the China-involved project of the Hinkley Point C nuclear plant.

If the Hinkley Point C project went as former Prime Minister David Cameron's government has planned, Chinese companies and French ... (More on P4)... (25)

US Launches Airstrikes Against IS Targets in Libya's Sirte

TRIPOLI - The U.S. launched the first airstrikes against the Islamic State (IS) targets in the Libyan city of Sirte, at the request of Libya's UN-brokered government, the prime minister said in a televised speech.

"The first airstrikes were carried out on precise positions of the IS in Sirte, causing heavy losses," Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj said.

He said the airstrikes would be limited to Sirte and its surroundings. In Washington, Pentagon

confirmed the operation in a statement, saying "additional U.S. strikes will continue to target IS in Sirte in order to enable the Government of National Accord (GNA) to make a decisive, strategic advance."

"The U.S. stands with the international community in supporting the GNA as it strives to restore stability and security to Libya," the statement said.

It said the strikes were authorized by U.S. President Barack Obama. Since... (More on P4)... (26)

Japan's Cabinet Approves 28.1 Trillion Yen Stimulus Package

TOKYO - The Japanese cabinet approved an economic stimulus package worth 28.1 trillion yen (274 billion U.S. dollars) on Tuesday to support Japan's sluggish economy in the wake of Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

The package was approved at an extraordinary cabinet meeting Tuesday after the Bank of Japan decided to take additional monetary easing at a policy meeting last week.

The package includes additional expenditure by



the state and local governments totaling 7.5 trillion yen, among which 1.7 trillion yen will be allocated to building infrastructure to

boost tourism and agriculture, and 2.5 trillion yen to enhancing welfare such as nursing care and childcare. The government will also

allocate 2.7 trillion yen to rebuilding areas hit by massive earthquakes in 2011 as well as in April. ... (More on P4)... (27)

Iran May Launch Advanced Enrichment Program: MP

TEHRAN - An Iranian lawmaker says the country may launch an advanced enrichment program in case Washington continues to ignore its commitments under last year's nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, including the United States.

Spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's Presiding Board Behrouz Nematollahi told IRIB on Tuesday that the US reneging on its promises under the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), runs counter to the deal.

"The JCPOA is a comprehensive collection and if the US does not fully implement it, we will respond in kind," he added. He said US officials ... (More on P4)... (28)

All Goes Well for S. African Local Elections: IEC

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) said on Monday that all went well for the local government elections with the start of special voting across the country, except for a few protests.

A total of 719,222 voters successfully applied for special votes, and were expected to cast their votes on Monday and Tuesday. "I am so happy, I've managed to vote today," one special voter in Alberton told Xinhua after casting her ballot. The elderly woman looked tired and exhausted but happy.

A few people were on the special voting list in Alberton, but IEC officials kept their doors open for the entire day. IEC Chairperson Glen Mashinini was one of the first people to cast his vote in Johannesburg. He said the commission ... (More on P4)... (30)

Turkey Hardens Stance to Press US for Gulen Extradition

ANKARA - Turkey has sent a second request to the U.S. for the extradition of Fetullah Gulen, who is blamed for a recent coup attempt, Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan said on Tuesday. Bozdogan warned that the relations between Washington and Ankara would be negatively affected if Gulen is not extradited, according to local Hurriyet.

Turkey had initially sent four dossiers to Washington on July 19 demanding Gulen's extradition. The minister also said at



the parliament that Gulen could not go abroad without a U.S. permit. Gulen, who heads the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) according to the Turkish govern-

ment, has been residing in Pennsylvania since 1999. Turkey's government has repeatedly said the July 15 coup attempt was organized by followers of Gulen. (Xinhua)

Vietnam's Central Bank Raises Alarm after Hackers' Attacks

HANOI - Vietnamese central bank has warned banks, credit institutions and financial organizations against hacker attacks after websites of Vietnam Airlines and IT systems at airports were hacked. Specifically, the State Bank of Vietnam has instructed the agencies to review their network safety, especially online customer service, and take necessary steps to secure their IT system, protect and recover databases if needed, reported local Vietnam News on Tuesday.

The central bank also ordered technicians to monitor IT systems constantly and improve oversight to discover attacks immediately.

Vu Ngoc Son, deputy chairman in charge of anti-malware at Vietnam's BKAV Technology Group, admitted that the recent attacks on the website of Vietnam Airlines ... (More on P4)... (29)

THAAD Deployment Damages Beijing-Seoul Mutual Trust, Cooperation

BEIJING - The joint decision of Washington and Seoul to deploy the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea damages the mutual trust and cooperation developed with China by threatening China's strategic security interests.

The move, regardless of China's repeated opposition, undermines the foundation of their strategic cooperative partnership at a time when it actually should be deepening. The decision to deploy THAAD breaks the regional strategic bal-

ance by tying South Korea to the U.S. chariot of Asia-Pacific re-balancing.

With the system's X-band radar commanding surveillance of an area that extends over 1,200 miles (about 1,900 km) from the Korean Peninsula, the United States can spy on almost half of China's territory and the southern part of Russia's Far East, endangering the two countries' national security. Such a system challenges Seoul's argument that it is only directed at missile and nuclear threats alleged from the ... (More on P4)... (31)

Iraqi PM Orders Probe into Graft Allegations Revealed by Defense Minister

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Monday ordered an investigation into allegations of corruption revealed by the defense minister who accused politicians, including the parliament speaker, of graft.

Abadi's move came after the parliament summoned the Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi to response to allegations

of graft in his ministry, which led to the waste of billions of dollars in the ministry's deals and weakening the armed forces. However, Obeidi revealed, during a closed parliament session, details of blackmail by politicians and officials, including the speaker Salim al-Jubouri and other lawmakers, relating to weapons ... (More on P4)... (32)

Iran Warns Reaction in Case of US Breach of Deal Promise

TEHRAN - Iran may launch an advanced uranium enrichment program in case the United States fails to fulfill its commitments under a nuclear deal reached last year between Iran and the world powers, Press TV reported on Tuesday.

The United States reneging on its promises under the nuclear agreement runs counter to the nuclear deal, the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's presiding board Behrouz Nematollahi told Iranian state TV. "The deal is a comprehensive collection and if the United States does not fully implement it, we will respond," he said without detailing the U.S. "failures" to meet its

obligations. Nearly six months after the implementation of the nuclear deal, big banks refrain from implementing the agreement and only small ones are conducting limited transactions with Iran, he added.

The lawmaker's words echoed Monday's remarks of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who said that the experience of Iranians about the failure of the United States in fulfilling its obligations pertaining to a nuclear deal showed that it can never be trusted. "The United States has violated its obligations over the nuclear deal and is busy destroying Iran's economic ties with other countries," Khamenei said. (Xinhua)