

# Erdogan Says he Does not Believe Coup Attempt is over, Vows to Take Further Steps

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he does not believe that the July 15 coup attempt is over, vowing to take further steps in fight against the Fethullahist Terror Organization (FETO) which was blamed on the coup attempt.

"The superior mind is playing ruthlessly. I do not believe this thing [coup attempt] is over. We will not be overcome by languor," Erdogan said after a meeting with media representatives at the Huber Mansion in Istanbul. Erdogan also detailed how he managed to land at Istanbul's Atatürk Air-



port safely after he departed from the southern resort Marmaris where he was holidaying.

He said F-16 fighter jets flying over his plane did not have bombs, adding that they would drop bombs had they been loaded. The president also said the coup attempt failed when a total of 12 bombs were dropped to the Akinci Air Base in Ankara, which was used as the headquarters of the attempt by coup plotters. Meanwhile, President Erdogan also expressed his gratitude to media outlets for their determined stance on the night of the failed coup attempt. (Monitoring Desk)

## Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran to Discuss Expanding Cooperation: Putin

MOSCOW - The leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran will discuss cooperation between the three countries in various fields at a meeting in Azerbaijan's capital Baku on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday.

"Our talks will focus on a flagship project - the International North-South Transport Corridor," Putin said in an interview with Azerbaijani state news agency AZERTAC ahead of the tripartite meeting. The transport corridor



with a total length of 7,200 km aims to provide the best possible opportunities for transporting transit cargo from India, Iran and the Gulf States to Azerba-

jan, Russia and further to northern and western Europe, Putin said. According to Putin, in 2015, the overall cargo traffic along the transport corridor

amounted to 7.3 million tons, up 4.1 percent from 2014.

The president said that joint anti-terrorism would be another key topic for discussion, considering the vicinity of Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran to the "hotbeds of instability" in Afghanistan and in the Middle East.

Reiterating the importance of a joint anti-terror effort, Putin said there could be no double standards in treating terrorists, which could not be divided into "good" and "bad." (Xinhua)

## Rebels Capture Key IS Stronghold in Northern Syria

DAMASCUS - The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Saturday took control over a key stronghold of the Islamic State (IS) in northern Syria, near Turkey, a monitor group reported. The SDF, which is led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units, finally succeeded to capture the town of Manbij, following months of battles with the IS militants.

The SDF took Manbij, located in the northern countryside of the northern province of Aleppo, under heavy air support of the U.S.-led anti-terror

coalition.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor group said the SDF is "almost in full control" of the town. It added that the SDF is combing the town in search of remnants of IS militants, some of who are believed to be still hiding in the central part of the town.

A couple of months ago, the SDF with the help of the anti-terror coalition unleashed a wide-scale offensive to dislodge the IS from Manbij, the last IS stronghold on the ... (More on P4)... (24)

## Syrian Air Force Intensifies Airstrikes against Rebels

DAMASCUS - The Syrian Air Force intensified airstrikes on the rebels in the northern province of Aleppo on Saturday, cutting thus all routes the rebels could open into Aleppo city, the national Syrian TV reported.

The airstrikes destroyed tens of vehicles with their occupants on several routes that could lead the rebels into breaking the government siege on the eastern part of Aleppo.

The report said the airstrikes isolated the battle sites in the vicinity of the military colleges in southern Aleppo, supporting

the ground operations fought by the Syrian army against the sites infiltrated by the rebel groups in parts of the artillery college base.

"The airstrikes paralyzed the movement of the terrorist groups southwest of Aleppo, cutting by fire all routes into the city," said the TV.

Earlier in the day, an array of extremist groups, mainly the Fateh Army, succeeded to storm parts of the artillery college base in southern Aleppo, engaging in intense battles with the Syrian army in ... (More on P4)... (25)

## Putin-Erdogan Meeting to Pave Way for Restoring Bilateral Cooperation: Kremlin

MOSCOW - The meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Aug. 9 is expected to pave the way for restoring bilateral cooperation, Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said Friday.

Russia intends to gradually lift the special economic measures, introduced against Turkey earlier due to the downing of Russia's Su-24 aircraft by Turkish air forces last November, Ushakov said.

"The Turkish president is



coming to (Russia's) St. Petersburg despite the substantially difficult internal

political situation. And this is an indication that our Turkish partners are inter-

ested in restoring multi-dimensional cooperation with ... (More on P4)... (26)

## Brazilian FM Thanks Kerry for US Trust in Brazil's Institutions

BRASILIA - Brazil's Foreign Minister Jose Serra thanked U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday for the trust the United States has placed in Brazilian institutions. Speaking at a joint press conference in Brasilia, Serra said Brazil's political and judicial institutions have been examples of maturity during the impeachment process of suspended president Dilma Rousseff.

"I would like to extend our thanks, in the name of President (Michel) Temer, for the trust the U.S. government has placed in the solidarity of Brazilian ... institutions," he added. Kerry reaffirmed Washington's commitment to bilateral ties and praised Brazil's fight against corruption.

According to Kerry, ... (More on P4)... (27)

## UN Cranes Deliver Supplies across Syrian Border

UNITED NATIONS - The World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have been using huge cranes to deliver food, and hygiene kits from the Jordan to displaced persons in Syria - over a "berm" that separates the two countries, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday.

The "berm" means earthen embankments between Syria and Jordan. Jordan sealed the area following an attack in June on Jordanian military personnel. Before the border closure, UN agencies and partners regularly delivered supplies from the Jordanian side to the people stranded in a "no man's land." ... (More on P4)... (30)

## Portugal's Former Prime Minister Holds Lead in Race for Next UN Chief

UNITED NATIONS - Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres held the lead in the race for the post of the next UN secretary-general, winning 11 "encourage" votes in the second round of straw poll conducted by the Security Council, diplomats said on Friday.

Earlier, the Security Council held its second straw poll on 11 candidates vying to become the next UN secretary-general. 15 council members voted "encourage," "discourage" or "no opinion" for each



candidate. Guterres, also the former U.N. high commissioner for refugees, has garnered 11 "encourage" votes, 2 "discourage" votes, and 2

"no opinion," diplomats said. In the second place, Serbia's Former Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and ... (More on P4)... (28)

## UN Warns of Worsening Humanitarian Situation in Aleppo

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is concerned about the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation across Syria's Aleppo city, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday.

The UN relief agency is particularly concerned over the humanitarian situation of the estimated 250,000 to 275,000 people trapped in eastern Aleppo, Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here.

The UN and its partners had been providing assistance including regular food supplies from across the border in Turkey to some 144,000 people, as well as assistance to thousands of others, up until July 7, when the last available route into eastern Aleppo, the Castello Road, was cut by fighting, he said. "While the UN had pre-positioned basic assistance inside the city, reports are that with the lack of access and the ongoing fighting, the situation is deteriorating," Haq said ... (More on P4)... (31)

## Abbas Calls for Public Calm to Ensure Municipal Elections

RAMALLAH - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday called on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to ensure calm for holding the municipal elections in the Palestinian territories on October, local media said. According to the Palestinian official news agency Wafa, Abbas was quoted as saying in a meeting with Palestinian provincial governors in Ramallah that calm enables people to vote freely without any troubles.

"The aim of the elections is to elect leaders that are able to serve the Palestinian citizens," Abbas told the governor, according to (Wafa) report.

Earlier, Abbas aide Nabil Abu Rdnah said in an official statement that it is necessary to ensure calm and stability and create better atmospheres for holding free and ... (More on P4)... (29)

## President-Elect of UN General Assembly Names Two More Special Advisors

UNITED NATIONS - The president-elect of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji, on Friday announced two more key appointments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the 71st session, showing the president-elect's strong commitment to transparency, gender parity and North-South balance for the up-

coming session. Ambassador Sofia Borges, former permanent representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations, will become special adviser on strategic engagement and transparency and Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas, the deputy head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations, will act as ... (More on P4)... (32)

## Neighbor News

### Clinton, Trump No Different to Iran: Leader's Adviser

TEHRAN - A senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iran sees no difference between the US presidential candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties. Ali Akbar Valayati, who advises the Leader on international affairs, made the remarks in an interview with al-Mayadin, an Arabic-language TV based in Lebanon, which broadcast the interview on Saturday.

The presidential race in the US is being contested by Hillary Clinton on the Democratic front and bombastic real estate mogul Donald

Trump, who represents the Republican Party.

The former has, in the past, sounded combative on issues concerning the Islamic Republic, including a 2008 instance during which she said the United States could "totally obliterate" Iran in retaliation for what she called a nuclear strike against Israel. Iran has no nuclear weapons and is not pursuing one. Clinton also accuses Iran of backing "terrorism" in the region by questioning Tehran's support for the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah, which has been defending Lebanon against Israel. (Presstv)

### US Urges Pakistan to Target 'all Terrorist Groups'

WASHINGTON - A day after deducting \$300 million from military aid to Pakistan over action against the Afghan Haqqani network, the United States urged Islamabad on Friday to target all militant groups.

At a news briefing at the State Department, deputy spokesperson Mark Toner also encouraged closer cooperation between Pakistan and India in the fight against terrorists.

"We've been very clear with the highest levels of the government of Pakistan that they must target all militant

groups, and that includes those that target Pakistan's neighbours, and they must also close all safe havens," he said. "We encourage that kind of regional dialogue regarding counterterrorism efforts. We advocate for closer cooperation, certainly, between India and Pakistan to deal with terrorist threats in both their countries," said the US official while responding to a question about a home ministers meeting in Islamabad of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc). (Monitoring Desk)

### Tajikistan Mulls Prosecuting Rude Russian Reporter

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's General Prosecutor is considering prosecution for a Russian journalist for "inciting ethnic hatred" over an article that mocked the country and its president.

Sergei Ponomaryov's piece in Russian tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda about a visit to Tajikistan was published last month and featured numerous crude stereotypes. The article has already led to the shuttering of the local edition of the newspaper, which had a circulation of 5,000 in Tajikistan.

Likely most troubling for authorities in Dushanbe, however, was the fact that the article revealed among other things in ribald obser-

ventions about President Emomali Rahmon. A concerted exercise in personality cult building has made Rahmon, who is alluded to exclusively in state media as the "Leader of the Nation," off-limits to any critics. Asia-Plus website cites General Prosecutor Yusuf Rahmon as saying Ponomaryov's article, which was sarcastically titled "Tajikistan: Out of the Soviet Waste to a Bright Future," will be studied for evidence of incitement to interethnic hatred. The piece was certainly patronizing and insulting. Ponomaryov bases some of his caustic observations on a pair of Tajik characters from a popular Russian sketch show, Nasha Russia. (Agency)

### China, ASEAN Eye even Closer Economic Ties after over 2 Decades of Win-Win Cooperation

VIENTIANE - After 25 years of fruitful dialogue relationship, China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are looking forward to fostering stronger ties especially in economic and trade fields in a time of global economic uncertainties and instabilities.

As ASEAN economic ministers met in the Lao capital this week for the 48th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM) as well as talks with their partners, China and ASEAN took the opportunity to reiterate their will to further boost cooperation. The China-ASEAN relations have grown to a level that exceeds the

expectations 25 years ago, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng after meeting with his ASEAN counterparts.

"Our developments, from economic to social fields, are tightly bound to one another," he told reporters on the sidelines of the AEM meeting. Chinese leaders have vowed to build a community of common destiny with ASEAN as this year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN dialogue relationship. Bilateral trade reached 472 billion U.S. dollars last year, up from 7.96 billion U.S. dollars in 1991, with an annual growth rate of 18.5 percent. (Xinhua)