

Turkey's Erdogan Stages Mass Rally in Show of Strength after Coup Attempt

ISTANBUL - More than a million Turks gathered in Istanbul on Sunday for a rally called by President Tayyip Erdogan to denounce a failed coup - a show of strength staged in the face of Western criticism of widespread purges and detentions.

The "Democracy and Martyrs' Rally" at the Yenikapi parade ground, built into the sea on the southern edge of Istanbul's peninsula, marks the climax of three weeks of nightly demonstrations by Erdogan's supporters, many wrapped in the red Turkish flag, in squares



around the country. Banners read "You are a gift from God, Erdogan" or "Order us to die and we

will do it". But it was also the first time in decades that major opposition parties joined a rally in sup-

port of the government in the nation of almost 80 million. "We're here to show that

these flags won't come down, the call to prayer won't be silenced, and our country won't be di-

vided," said Hacı Mehmet Haliloglu, 46, a civil servant who traveled from the Black Sea town of Ordu for the rally.

"This is something way beyond politics, this is either our freedom or death," he said, a large Turkish flag over his shoulder and a matching baseball cap on his head.

The parade ground, built to hold at least a million people, was overflowing, with access roads clogged by crowds. The events were broadcast live on public screens at demonstrations across Turkey's 81 provinces. (Reuters)

Syrian Army Recaptures Falling Military Positions in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army recaptured military positions the rebels had stormed earlier on Saturday in southern Aleppo province in northern Syria, according to pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV and a military source. A military source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity that the Syrian army restored positions the rebels stormed earlier in the day at the Artillery College base in the southern countryside of Aleppo. He added that large num-

bers of the rebels were killed, while the rest were from positions they stormed an adjacent military college near the artillery base. The source said the Syrian forces and allied fighters are targeting the withdrawing rebels with heavy artillery. Meanwhile, pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV cited its reporter in Aleppo as confirming that the rebel were no longer in control of any part of the military colleges. (More on P4)...(21)

Entire Russian Team Banned from Competing in Rio Paralympics

RIO, Brazil - The entire Russia team has been banned from competing in the Paralympic Games in September as punishment for the country's systematic doping programme. The International Paralympic Committee's blanket ban on Russia is in sharp contrast to the earlier decision by the IOC to allow individual sports to decide whether Russians can compete in the Olympics. The IPC has strongly con-



demned Russia's years of doping deception, including the 2014 Paralympics in Sochi, that

were exposed by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren last month.

Mr McLaren reported that Russia's state-backed doping led to... (More on P4)...(22)

US Releases Redacted Drone Strike 'Playbook'

WASHINGTON - The US government has released a once-secret policy document once dubbed "the playbook" that shows how officials select drone targets in areas outside war zones and the key role the president has in the process. The 18-page Presidential Policy Guidance (PPG), published Saturday by the American Civil Liberties Union, provides more details than the government had previously revealed on how drone strikes are approved. "Actions, including lethal action against designated terrorist targets, shall be as

discriminating and precise as reasonably possible," the PPG states. President Barack Obama typically must personally sign off on plans to strike terror suspects who are located outside war zones in which America is officially fighting. Such zones include Pakistan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. Strikes in combat theaters such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan are controlled by the military. Each case for action is subjected to legal review before it goes to the National Security Council and then the president. The... (More on P4)...(23)

Peace Talks Between Yemen's Warring Parties End in Kuwait

ADEN, Yemen - The UN Yemen envoy officially declared on Saturday the end of the peace talks in Kuwait without making any breakthroughs to stop a 16-month civil war in Yemen. The envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed also said during a press conference that the peace negotiations between the Saudi-backed Yemeni government and the Shiite Houthi group and their allies will resume within a month. "We are leaving Kuwait today but the Yemeni peace consultations will



continue," he said, adding that "we received guarantees from the Yemeni warring parties about their commitment to resume the talks again in a month,

and the location will be decided later." Ould Cheikh also expressed his gratitude for the Kuwaiti government and denied the reports

that Kuwait will host another round of the Yemeni peace talks. According to the UN envoy, the two Yemeni peace delegations will... (More on P4)...(24)

One Turkish Soldier Killed, 4 Wounded in PKK Attack

ANKARA - One Turkish soldier was killed and four others were wounded in an attack by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants in southeastern Turkish province of Siirt early on Sunday, Hurriyet News reported. Clashes erupted between PKK militants and soldiers during a security operation in the Erub district of Siirt. The wounded soldiers were taken to Siirt State Hospital by the soldiers sent as reinforcements. Meanwhile, two village guards were killed and one other was wounded when PKK militants detonated a roadside bomb in the southeastern province of Sirmak on July 6.

Over 500 members of Turkish security forces and thousands of PKK members have been killed in confrontations inside Turkey and in northern Iraq since last July. More than 40,000 people have lost their lives in clashes with the PKK since 1984, when the group first started anti-government attacks. (Xinhua)

Chinese, U.S. Top Diplomats Due in Kenya in August

NAIROBI - Chinese and United States top diplomats are due in Kenya on separate dates this month as the East African nation intensifies her foreign engagements, a Kenyan official said on Sunday. State House Spokesman Manoah Espispu told journalists in Nairobi that China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit Kenya from Tuesday, noting that Wang's visit will focus on trade and investment. He said Beijing is a big trade partner, and has supported a number of significant initiatives in the country's infrastructure sector. Espispu said that U.S. Secretary



of State John Kerry is expected in the country within the month. He said the exact dates of Kerry's visit, which is expected to focus on regional issues, will be confirmed in due course. "Matters we expect to be discussed at his meetings

with our president and foreign affairs minister Amina Mohammed will include security, regional and international relations, and especially the recent upheaval in South Sudan as well as the developments in Somalia," he said. (Xinhua)

AU, Somali Troops Map out New Strategies to Fight Al-Shabaab

MOGADISHU - Top military commanders from Somalia and Africa Union peacekeeping forces (AMISOM) have mapped out new strategies aimed at defeating Al-Shabaab terrorists. The commanders, who wrapped up a five-day conference in Mogadishu on Saturday, agreed on key resolutions aimed at enhancing cooperation and efficiency in military operations targeting Al-Shabaab militants. "The commanders proposed... (More on P4)...(25)

10 Security Members Killed in IS Suicide Attacks in Iraq

TIKRIT, Iraq - Ten security members were killed and seven others injured Sunday as three Islamic State (IS) suicide bombers attacked the troops' posts in a northern Iraqi village, a security source told Xinhua. The three suicide bombers opened fire against security forces in a village close to the militant-controlled town of Qayyara, 50 km north of the IS major stronghold in Mosul, sparking heavy armed clashes with troops before... (More on P4)...(26)

S. Arabia to Help Germany Investigate Attacks

BERLIN - Saudi Arabia has offered to help German investigators find those behind Islamist bomb and axe attacks in July, news magazine Der Spiegel reported on Saturday, citing a senior member of the Saudi government. Saudi authorities are in contact with their German colleagues, responding to new findings that show both attackers were in close contact via a chat conversation with possible IS backers from Saudi Arabia, Spiegel said. Traces of the chat, which investigators have been able to reconstruct, indicate that both men were not only influenced by but also took

instructions from people, as yet unidentified, up until the attacks, the report said. The IS has claimed responsibility for an attack on July 18 near Wuerzburg in Bavaria in which a 17-year-old refugee believed to be from Pakistan or Afghanistan wounded five people with an axe before police shot him dead. A 27-year-old Syrian who blew himself up in Ansbach, southern Germany on July 24 had pledged allegiance to the IS on a video found on his mobile phone, investigators said. The IS claimed responsibility for the bombing, which wounded 15 people. (Monitoring Desk)

Azerbaijan, China Pledge to Expand Export, Investment Opportunities

BAKU - China and Azerbaijan have pledged to expand joint export and investment opportunities in a memorandum signed between the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO) and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) on Saturday, according to local Azertac News Agency. A memorandum of under-

standing which provides the expansion of joint export and investment opportunities between Azerbaijan and China, as well as exchanging experience in the export and foreign investment promotion of understanding, was signed here in Baku by AZPROMO and CCPIT officials. Azerbaijan and China opened a new page in their relations after President Ilham... (More on P4)...(27)

Nieghbor News

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong Meets with IOC Chief Bach



RIO DE JANEIRO - Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong met with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach here on Saturday on the sidelines of the Olympic shooting competitions. Liu, who attended Friday night's opening ceremony at Maracana Stadium as the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, congratulated Bach on the grand opening of the Rio Games and reiterated China's commitment to the Olympic Movement. Liu said that sport can make a contribution to

the economic and social development. "The Chinese government has always attached great importance to the role that sport plays," said Liu. "We will continue to contribute to the Olympic Movement by advancing the Fitness for All campaign in the build-up to the 2022 Winter Olympics." Bach spoke highly of China's active role in the Olympic Movement and the contribution China has made, saying that the IOC is willing to provide necessary assistance for China in the lead-up to the 2022 Winter Games. (Xinhua)

Iran Hangs Nuclear Scientist on Espionage Charges

TEHRAN - Iran's Judiciary on Sunday confirmed the execution of Iranian nuclear scientist Shahram Amiri on espionage charges, state IRIB TV reported. "This person had access to the classified information of the establishment and had availed them to the enemy," Iran's Judiciary Spokesman Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei told reporters. "He was tried in the competent courts and was sentenced to death," Mohseni Ejei was quoted as saying. Mohseni Ejei said the

U.S. authorities were deceived by Iranians over Shahram Amiri, adding that Iran's intelligence service was cognizant of what is happening between Amiri and the U.S. agents and was monitoring the process of transferring him to Saudi Arabia. In June 2009, Amiri went missing during pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. One year later, he emerged in the Pakistani Embassy in Washington where he was taking refuge, and demanded immediately return to Iran. (Xinhua)

Pakistan, Iran Agree to Cooperate Against IS

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Iran agreed on Saturday to forge close counterterrorism cooperation to deal with the militant Islamic State (IS) group and other security threats. This was agreed at the ninth round of bilateral political consultations held in Tehran. Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry led the Pakistani delegation, whereas the Iranian side was headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific, Ebrahim Rahimpour. This was the second senior-level engagement between the two countries

in a fortnight. National Security Adviser retired Lt Gen Nasser Khan Janjua visited Iran for a meeting with his counterpart in the last week of July, during which both sides emphasised the importance of addressing security issues, particularly problems with border security. "It was agreed that close cooperation was needed in countering extremism and terrorism, especially the threat" posed by organisations such as the IS, a statement issued by the Foreign Office after the political consultations said. (Dawn)

Uzbekistan Buys MTS Share in UMS Mobile Operator

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's Center of Radio Communication, Radio Broadcasting and Television state unitary enterprise, which is the co-founder of the Universal Mobile Systems (UMS) mobile operator, has announced the purchase of the share of Russian MTS company in the operator's authorized capital. The Center of Radio Communication, Radio Broadcasting and Television has purchased 50.01-percent share of MTS in the authorized capital of UMS, said the message from Uzbekistan's state unitary enterprise. The transaction cost hasn't been specified by

the company. Uzbek Agency for Communication and Information revoked the license of Uzdurobita, subsidiary of MTS in Uzbekistan in 2012. The operator was demanded to pay \$600 million worth fine and a criminal case was initiated against the company's management. Uzdurobita was declared bankrupt and its assets were transferred to Uzbektelecom. UMS started to render services across Uzbekistan on Dec.1, 2014, after the government of Uzbekistan and MTS signed an amicable agreement in late July 2014. (Trend)