

Turkey PM Proposes 3-Step Roadmap on Syria Crisis

ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has proposed a three-step roadmap to solve a five-year-old war in Syria, local media reported on Monday.

In an interview with daily Karar, Yildirim said that the time has come for Turkey to mend relations with Syria after Ankara took steps for rapprochement with Israel and Russia.

In his roadmap, Yildirim called for excluding the Democratic Union Party (PYD) in Syria from the political process.



"A state structure like the Democratic Union Party (PYD) in Syria will be out of the question," he said.

Turkey considers the PYD and its military wing, the People's Protection Unit (YPG) as offshoots of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S., and the EU.

But the U.S. sees the PYD and YPG as reliable partners in the fight against the Islamic State (IS). (Xinhua)

Trump Must Disclose Russia Ties: Clinton Team

NEW YORK - The campaign team of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is under pressure to disclose possible links to Russia, following new allegations in the New York Times.

As Trump prepares to deliver a major foreign policy speech on Monday, the Times revealed new details about his campaign manager's dealings in Ukraine. The report said that Paul Manafort's name appeared 22 times in handwritten ledgers that listed a total of \$12.7 million in undisclosed cash payments from

a pro-Russia political party in Ukraine between 2007 and 2012.

It is not known whether Manafort ever received the payments, but investigators from Ukraine's new National Anti-Corruption Bureau believe they were part of "an illegal off-the-books system whose recipients also included election officials." Manafort's attorney said his client had not received any such payments and called the allegations "suspicions, and probably heavily politically tinged ones." The... (More on P4)... (20)

G20 Needs Structural Upgrade to Take Global Economy out of Low-Growth Trap

BEIJING - With successes achieved in its efforts to counter the global financial tsunami that broke out eight years ago, the Group of 20 (G20) now needs to structurally upgrade itself in order to take the global economy out of a low-growth trap.

Around the globe, many are fretting that the global growth is sliding into the snare of a persistent "new mediocre."

Against such a challenging backdrop, China is to host the 11th G20 summit



in the eastern city of Hangzhou next month. Hopes are running high that the world's second largest economy will help draw a... (More on P4)... (21)

Iraqi Parliament Approves 5 New Ministers under Cabinet Reshuffle

BAGHDAD - Iraq's parliament approved on Monday five cabinet members under a reshuffle presented by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, as part of his reforms aimed at fighting corruption, state TV reported.

The lawmakers voted in the ministers of oil, water resources, construction and housing, higher education, and transport, but they failed to vote in a candidate for the ministry of trade, the state-run channel of Iraqiya said.

The five new ministers

were sworn in at the session that was attended by 210 legislators out of the 328-seat parliament, according to the channel.

Abadi's move came after the Iraqi federal court on June 28 invalidated an earlier reshuffle following disagreement among the parliament's political blocs.

Observers see the court's verdict as a serious blow to Abadi's efforts for presenting comprehensive reforms, including a cabinet reshuffle to replace ministers, who were chosen to... (More on P4)... (22)

G20 Summit Aims to Spur New Economic Growth

BEIJING - China hopes the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Hangzhou in September will spur new global economic growth, a Chinese official said Monday.

China will put forward a blueprint for innovation-driven growth at this year's summit in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, to find new drivers of global growth, Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong said at a press briefing.

Innovation, introduced on the G20 agenda for the first time, is "the key for boost-



ing global economic potential," said Yao Zhizhong, a professor with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. China also hopes to promote structural reform, improve global economic and... (More on P4)... (23)

Europe's Biggest Hot Air Balloon Festival Concludes in Bristol

LONDON - Almost 160 hot air balloons from across the world have taken part in Europe's biggest balloon festival which ended in Bristol, Britain on Sunday night with a mass ascent.

Perfect weather conditions saw a dazzling display of balloons in all shapes and sizes take to the skies above the city, with tens of thousands of spectators watching the spectacle.

Improved weather conditions saw a number of mass ascents at this year's Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, the 38th to be organized in the city.

One team travelled from Thailand, with most heading to the festival from mainland European countries. Organisers said that in all, 267 balloon flights took place during the event, putting on a great show for the thousands of Fiesta visitors in Bristol and the surrounding areas.

The first mass ascent took place on what turned out to be a beautiful Saturday evening, when the balloons took off to a cheering crowd. Flights on the two previous days had to be cancelled because of weather conditions. (Xinhua)

US Plans Shipment of Weapons-Grade Uranium to Belgium

BRUSSELS - The US considers sending long-term shipments of weapons-grade uranium to a medical research reactor in Belgium.

The Belgian Nuclear Research Center is attempting to get approval for 317 pounds (144 kilos) of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The delivery would be long term, in a series of shipments over 10 years.

According to its website, the Belgian Nuclear Research Center, "conducts groundbreaking research into nuclear energy and ionising radiation for civilian use, and develops



nuclear technologies for socially valuable purposes."

The United States has supplied the reactor, which produces radioisotopes for fighting cancer, with HEU for decades. However, the long-term nature of this latest request

is unheard of, as previous agreements have been for shorter periods of time of one to three years.

The Belgian center says the reactor supplies about 25 percent of the world's radioisotopes used in detecting and treating cancers... (More on P4)... (24)

Iran, Russia Diplomats Discuss Syria, other Regional Issues

TEHRAN - High-ranking Iranian and Russian diplomats have exchanged viewpoints about the latest developments in the Middle East region and explored avenues for the resolution of the Syrian crisis.

Hossein Jaber Ansari, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs, met with visiting Russian Deputy FM Mikhail Bogdanov in Tehran on Monday, discussing with him the advancement of Tehran-Moscow cooperation in the fight against international terrorism besides the ongoing Syrian conflict.

Iran and Russia have both been assisting the government... (More on P4)... (25)

National Australia Bank's Earnings Hit by Bad Debts

SYDNEY - Melbourne-based National Australia Bank's third-quarter cash profit dipped by 3 percent, owing to a 21 percent jump in bad and doubtful debts.

The lender said on Monday that its cash profit for the three months to June 30 was 1.6 billion Australian dollars (1.22 billion U.S. dollar), with bad debt rising at 21 percent to 228 million Australian dollars (174 million U.S. dollar).

The rise in bad debts mirrors those at NAB's rivals such as Westpac, ANZ and Commonwealth Bank all announcing a rise in bad or doubtful... (More on P4)... (26)

30 Syrian Rebels Killed in Blast near Turkish Borders

DAMASCUS - At least 30 rebels were killed and tens of others wounded on Sunday, when a blast rocked a rebel-held border crossing between Syria and Turkey, activists reported.

A suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt at the border crossing in the northern countryside of Idlib, one activist group said.

Another activist group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, also confirmed the explosion, saying the suicide bomber detonated himself inside a bus carrying rebel fighters from the Turkish territories into Syria.

The UK-based watchdog group said some Turkish border guards were killed as a result of the explosion, which indicates that the blast rocked at the Turkish side of the border crossing. Several explosions rocked near the Turkish borders throughout the Syrian crisis, as part of the rebel-on-rebel tension. The Syrian government has for long accused Turkey of facilitating the flow of rebel fighters from its territories into Syria. (Xinhua)

Jordan, Sweden Say Creating Palestinian State Key to Mideast Peace

AMMAN - Jordan and Sweden said here on Sunday that establishing an independent Palestinian state is the key to Mideast peace, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

Jordanian Prime Minister Hani al-Mulki and his Swedish counterpart Stefan Lofven made the remarks during a talk on ways to cement bilateral ties and a host of Middle East issues, namely the Palestinian issue and the Syrian crisis. They stressed that the establishment of a viable Palestinian

Nieghbor News

Iran, Turkey will Continue Talks about Syria: Deputy FM

TEHRAN - Iran and Turkey have agreed to exchange delegations and proceed with negotiations on ways to solve Syria's five-year crisis, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari says.

"The continuation of consultations between influential players in the Syrian crisis can prepare the necessary grounds for the settlement of the crisis," Jaber Ansari told reporters in Tehran on Monday.

He said Turkey is an important and influential country in the Middle East and added that

he would pay a visit to Ankara to hold detailed talks with Turkish officials about key regional issues.

The Iranian diplomat noted that Tehran and Ankara have always held close consultation on the Syrian crisis since its outbreak some five years ago.

Jaber Ansari said maintaining Syria's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, forming a national and all-inclusive government and ensuring that the Arab country's fate by is decided by its own people are the general principles sought by both Iran and Turkey. (Presstv)

71st Anniversary of WWII Marked Across China

BEIJING - The 71st anniversary of the end of World War II was marked across China on Monday, with war victims remembered nationwide.

People from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the annual peace assembly in Nanjing, commemorating China's victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

At the Nanjing Massacre Victims' Memorial Hall representatives

from the three countries recited a declaration of peace.

On Dec. 13, 1937, Japanese troops began six weeks of destruction, pillage, rape and slaughter after capturing Nanjing. More than 300,000 Chinese, including unarmed soldiers and innocent civilians, were murdered.

On Aug. 15 every year, NGOs from across the world gather in the city to pay their respects to the victims. (Xinhua)

Speech against Armed Forces: ECP Seeks Response from Achakzai

ISLAMABAD - The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday asked Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party's (PkMAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai to submit a reply in response to an application seeking his disqualification as member of Parliament for speaking against the armed forces and security agencies.

Waheed Kamal, a social activist, had filed the application with ECP seeking Achakzai's disqualification. An ECP bench, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Justice (ret'd) Sardar Raza Khan, heard the petition and issued a notice to Achakzai. The chief of PkMAP has been asked to SUBMIT a

reply by September 1.

The election commission also sought comments from the National Assembly's Speaker Office with reference to Achakzai's speech. Comments sought are to gauge whether the words of PkMAP leader were within the parliamentary and Constitutional parameters or not. The applicant was of the view that under article 19 of the Constitution, armed forces cannot be criticised.

The petition stated Achakzai had tried to malign the armed forces and security agencies of the country and also harmed the unity of the state by terming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) as part of Afghanistan, the applicant held. (Monitoring Desk)

New World Bank Country Director for Central Asia Visits Tajikistan

BISHKEK - The new World Bank Director for Central Asia, made an introductory visit to Tajikistan on August 11-12, 2016.

Ms. Burunciuc brings a wide range of development experience to the job. A Moldovan national, she first joined the World Bank in 1996 and has held a number of leadership positions in different countries and regions of the world. Prior to taking her current assignment, Ms. Burunciuc served as the Manager in the Operations Policy and Country Services department of the World Bank in Washington DC.

During her first visit to Tajikistan, Ms. Burunciuc met with the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon,

and other senior government officials. She also visited the Nurek Hydropower Plant, which is currently being supported by the World Bank through two studies on dam rehabilitation and safety, and attended a donor conference on the rehabilitation of the Nurek Hydropower Plant.

"The World Bank is a long-standing partner of Tajikistan. Our goal is to make a real impact on improving people's lives in Tajikistan. I look forward to continue to work with the government on private sector development and job creation, strengthening the energy sector, improving regional connectivity, and investing in people," said Lilia Burunciuc. (AKIpress)