

US Receives Turkey's Formal Extradition Request for Cleric Gulen

WASHINGTON - The U.S. has received a formal extradition request from Turkey for U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday.

However, the extradition request is not related to the failed coup attempt last month in Turkey, State Department spokesperson Mark Toner said at a regular press briefing.

"Obviously, it's related to other reasons for which they want him extradited for," Toner said. "But I don't know the specifics on that."

The spokesperson said once the U.S. makes a full assessment of the documents, it will make a



determination on the extradition case.

A delegation of U.S. officials from the Justice and State Department arrived in Ankara on Monday to discuss developments following the failed coup.

The four U.S. officials are expected to discuss with their Turkish counterparts on Tuesday and Wednesday the extradition of Gulen, whom Ankara has blamed for masterminding the failed July 15 coup attempt. Tensions brewed after Ankara expressed its discontent over lack of support from Washington in the wake of the failed coup. (Xinhua)

S. Korea Slams DPRK's Test-Firing of Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile

SEOUL - South Korea on Wednesday slammed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for its test-firing of a ballistic missile from a submarine off its east coast into the sea. Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement that the country strongly denounces the DPRK's firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) once again following a series of provocations such as nuclear test and ballistic

missile launches, which are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, in defiance of repeated warnings from the international community.

The ministry urged Pyongyang to immediately stop nuclear and missile developments threatening peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the world, and to dismantle its nuclear program in a complete, verifiable and ... (More on P4)...(25)

Trump Repeats Tough Immigration Policy

HOUSTON - U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Tuesday night repeated his immigration policy of building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and speeding up deportations of illegal immigrants.

Speaking at a rally in the Texas capital city of Austin, Trump pledged to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, make Mexico pay for it, unleash federal border patrol officers and, first and foremost, adhere to the rule of law -- a clear and disapproving refer-

ence to U.S. President Barack Obama's executive orders protecting certain immigrants from deportation, according to local daily the Dallas Morning News.

In a Fox News taping in Austin, Trump said: "We are going to build a wall. Yeah, 100 percent. It's so simple."

"(Former U.S. President George W.) Bush and even Obama sent people back so we can be more aggressive with that, but we can follow the laws," he said.

The Republican presiden-



tial candidate, however, sounded more sympathetic to hard-working immigrants who entered the United States illegally but have been since law-

abiding and productive. Asked if he would accommodate those people if he is elected president, Trump said that he would try. (Xinhua)

Humanitarian Aid Delivered in Syria, UN Relief Agency Says

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced that an inter-agency humanitarian convoy is delivering humanitarian assistance on Tuesday for 35,000 people in Al Waer in the Homs area in western Syria, a UN spokesman told reporters here.

"It is comprised of food, health, nutrition and non-food items," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a dai-

ly news briefing here. "This is the first such inter-agency convoy to deliver life-saving assistance this month to any besieged or hard-to-reach area in Syria."

A second convoy is planned for later this week, he said. In the northeastern city of Hasakeh, the United Nations is extremely concerned, as some 40,000 people are reported to have been displaced from the city ... (More on P4)...(26)

Russia Might Use Iran's Hamadan Airbase Again: Defense Official

MOSCOW -- Russia might use Iran's Hamadan airbase again to carry out attacks on terror targets in Syria, a senior defense official said Wednesday.

Moscow and Tehran would conduct mutually beneficial cooperation and reach agreements on some specific issues soon, including the use of the Hamadan airbase by the Russian military to strike extremist groups in Syria, Vladimir Komoedov, chairman of the Defense Committee in the State Duma, said in an inter-



view with Izvestiya newspaper.

An agreement between the two countries over the

issue is "only a matter of time," he said.

Tehran has shown through concrete actions

in recent months that its partnership with Moscow is strong, he added.

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Russia Opens Criminal Case against Top Ukrainian Military Officials

MOSCOW - The Russian Investigative Committee said Wednesday that it has opened a criminal case against senior Ukrainian military officials, accusing them of using forbidden means and methods of war against civilians. "The National Guard of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Armed Forces have periodically carried out precision shelling of civilian infrastructure," the committee said in a statement. It said that highly destructive heavy weapons were used in such operations in eastern Ukraine since Feb. 15 when a cease-fire between the Ukrainian government and insurgents was announced.

The committee said it had collected sufficient proof that those actions against civilians were taken on the orders of Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak, Chief of the General Staff Viktor Muzhenko, and some other senior officials. The committee said the shelling partially or completely destroyed more than 183 civilian infrastructure objects, killed seven civilians and injured 74 others, including seven minors. (Xinhua)

Turkey's Cross Border Operation in Syria Targets IS Militants: Erdogan

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that a Turkish cross-border operation in northern Syria is a response to terror attacks carried out by Islamic State (IS) militants on southern Turkey in recent months, Anadolu Agency reported. Earlier in the day, Turkish military, backed by international coalition airstrikes, launched an operation involving fighter jets and tanks to drive IS militants out of the Syrian border town of Jarabulus.

As many as 46 IS militants have been killed so far in the operation, Dogan News agency reported. Accord-



ing to military sources, 81 targets were destroyed by artillery fire and tanks stationed on Turkish soil. "All the attacks which happened in Gaziantep and Kilis brought this issue to this point," Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara. Since

January, rocket attacks on the Turkish province of Kilis from IS-held territory in Syria have killed at least 21 people. Other attacks targeted Gaziantep, the latest of which was Saturday's suicide bombing of a wedding that killed 54. (Xinhua)

Damascus Condemns Turkish Military Intervention inside Syria

DAMASCUS - Syria's Foreign Ministry condemned the entry of Turkish forces into northern Syria on Wednesday, saying any anti-terror efforts should be coordinated with the Syrian government.

The ministry said Turkish tanks and armored vehicles crossed the Turkish-Syrian borders on Wednesday morning under the air cover of a U.S.-led coalition toward

the Syrian city of Jarabulus. It said the Turkish aim of entering Jarabulus was not to fight the Islamic State (IS) terrorists, and that the move was another manifestation of terrorism, as Turkey is substituting one terror group with another.

The ministry was apparently referring to Turkey-backed Syrian rebels who have crossed the borders under the Turkish forces. (Xinhua)

World Bank Starts Presidential Selection Process

WASHINGTON - The World Bank Group announced Tuesday that its board of executive directors have decided to kick off the process to select the group's president.

The decision was made following notification from the current World Bank President Jim Yong Kim that he would be interested in a second term. Kim's term expires on June 30, 2017.

The World Bank said it would follow the principles that were used for the selection in 2012, when

Kim was appointed.

Nominations for the position by the bank's executive directors will open on Aug. 25 and close on Sept. 14, said the World Bank.

Following the close of the nomination process, the executive directors will decide on a shortlist of up to three candidates and then conduct interviews with the candidates.

Local media reported that Kim received backing from several major shareholders, including the United States, for a second term. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China, Japan Should Make Differences Controllable: Chinese FM

TOKYO - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Wednesday that China and Japan should work together to make their differences controllable to develop bilateral ties.

Wang made the remarks when meeting with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida after the eighth trilateral foreign ministers' meeting between China, Japan and South Korea.

Trilateral cooperation cannot develop smoothly without good bilateral relations, said Wang.

At present, the Sino-Japanese relations are still facing difficulties and

are at an important juncture, with both opportunities and challenges, he said.

China is willing to make joint efforts with Japan to abide by the principles defined in the four political documents agreed between the two countries to consolidate the political basis for bilateral relations, Wang said.

China is ready to work with Japan to implement the four-point principled agreement reached between the two sides, and make differences between China and Japan controllable, he... (More on P4)...(28)

Sharif Directs to Expedite Pace of Implementation on NAP

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif expressing his satisfaction on the progress regarding implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) made by various provincial and federal agencies

so far has directed to further expedite the pace of implementation on NAP. The Premier stated this while chairing a meeting to review the progress on the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) held at Prime Minister House in Islamabad on Wednesday. National Security Advisor (NSA) and the Convener of Implementation and Review Committee of NAP, Lt. General (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua gave a presentation detailing implementation status as to various components of the NAP. The house resolved that eradication of the menace of terrorism was neither a choice

nor an option, but an imperative for our existence and survival. During the meeting, various laws governing the anti-terrorism efforts were also reviewed and ways and means to make these laws more effective were discussed. The report presented to the Prime Minister by the FATA Reforms Committee was also discussed and it was decided that the report shall be made public to elicit further debate and discussion towards developing a national consensus on the committee's recommendations. The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Shareef, Advisor to PM Mr. Sartaj Aziz, DG ISI Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar and other senior government officials. (INP)

Iran Renews NAM Call for Global Nuclear Disarmament

TEHRAN - Iran has renewed the call for the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) across the world, saying the international community must work to prevent terror groups from obtaining such banned arms.

Addressing the UN Security Council on Tuesday on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Iran's UN Ambassador Gholamali Khoshrou expressed concerns over the slow pace of denuclearization and a lack of progress in the dismantling of WMDs.

Khoshrou, whose country holds the rotating presidency of NAM, described nuclear disarmament as

the movement's "absolute priority," demanding that the concept of using nukes or threatening to use them be omitted from international military doctrines. The Iranian diplomat warned against the access of terror groups to internationally-banned weapons, calling for cooperation among world countries to prevent the terrorists from acquiring such arms. "NAM welcomes the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons across the world and calls on all countries that are in possession of such weapons to unconditionally" join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), said Khoshrou. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan, Malaysia to Expand Trade, Economic Co-Op

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan and Malaysia have exchanged views on expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, the Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a message on Wednesday.

The meeting with Ambassador of Malaysia took place in the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The spheres of energy and education were

noted among the priority areas of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the ambassador of Malaysia presented the two copies of his credentials. Activity of the Malaysian Petronas Carigali, which became the first foreign company to start developing the Turkmen shelf of the Caspian Sea, is an example of successful Turkmen-Malaysian cooperation. (Trend)