

Turkey's New Interim Gov't Formed Amid Partisanship Criticisms

ANKARA - Turkey's interim government formed by caretaker Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu brought independents, nationalists and Kurdish politicians to the cabinet amid mounting criticism of partisanship from the opposition. Davutoglu announced the new interim cabinet on Friday after the collapse of the coalition talks that led to the call by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for snap election on Nov. 1. He kept roughly half of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) ministers in the new cabinet while bringing two nationalists and two pro-Kurdish



politicians to the cabinet. The rest was appointed from independents that

are former politicians or bureaucrats. "This cabinet has no function other than

serving to the president," Mustafa Balbay, the lawmaker from the opposition

Republican Peoples' Party (CHP), said. President Erdogan, who still wields

serious clout within the AKP, has come under fire for being partisan since he became a president a year ago. He is said to favor a snap election with a hope that the AKP will regain its lost strength and preside a single-party government after early election. Turkish analysts also see the footprints of Erdogan on the formation of the new cabinet. Omer Sahin, long-time observer of Turkish politics in Ankara, said the interim government was clearly shaped by Erdogan who rewarded his loyalist bureaucrats by making them ministers. (Xinhua)

JCPOA Impacting Region, World: Iran Official

TEHRAN - The agreement clinched between Iran and six world powers over Tehran's nuclear program has had numerous regional and international impacts, says the country's nuclear chief. The agreement has influenced Iran and Western countries as well as the Middle East and the international community, said Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi in an interview with the Chinese Central Television

(CCTV). On July 14, Iran and the P5+1 countries - the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany - finalized the text of a nuclear agreement dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in the Austrian capital Vienna. Under the JCPOA, limits will be put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all economic and financial bans against the Islamic Republic. (PressTV)

India to Allow Land Acquisition Bill to Lapse: PM

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said his government would allow the controversial land acquisition bill to lapse because of the opposition it faced. The land acquisition bill was passed by the Indian government through an ordinance. But it will lapse Monday as it has not been approved by the Parliament because of stiff opposition from other political parties. "Tomorrow (Monday) the land bill will lapse and I have agreed to it. Due to the problems, the ordinance also has been affected," Modi said in his monthly radio address

to the nation. He added: "The government will not promulgate the land ordinance, but will include 13 points to reform the land acquisition law to benefit farmers." "These 13 points, which were meant to provide direct financial benefit to the farmers, are being brought under the rules effective from today (Sunday) so that the farmers do not face financial losses," the Prime Minister said. He also slammed the main opposition Congress party for misleading the farmers about the land acquisition bill. "Rumors have ... (More on P4)... (17)

Iraq Bombs IS Target Responsible for Death of 2 Senior Military Officials



BAGHDAD - Iraqi aircraft carried out an air strike targeting a hideout of Islamic State (IS) militants said to be responsible for the killing of two senior army commanders in an earlier suicide car bomb attacks in the country's western province of Anbar, a military statement said on Sunday. Iraqi warplanes struck a house in 7th Nisan district in the IS-held town of Qaim near the Iraqi-Syrian border, destroying the house and killing a number of IS militants, including five of the extremist group leaders, the joint operations command said in a statement without saying when exactly the strike occurred. The statement said that an intelligence service

cell in coordination with the joint operations command started on Friday to follow the IS leaders who planned for Thursday suicide attacks that targeted the security forces in north of Anbar's provincial capital city of Ramadi and killed two army commanders in addition to a number of officers and soldiers. The intelligence service managed to spot the safe house in Qaim, which located some 330 km northwest of Baghdad, while the warplanes attacked and flattened the target with guided missiles, according to the statement. It said that five of the cell leaders were among the killed, including Abu ... (More on P4)... (18)

Berlin, Paris, London Seek Urgent EU Meeting on Migrant Crisis

PARIS - Germany, France and Britain made a joint call Sunday for an urgent meeting of EU interior and justice ministers to find concrete measures to cope with the escalating migration crisis. The interior ministers of the three countries "have asked the Luxembourg presidency to organise a special meeting of justice and interior ministers within the next two weeks, so as to find concrete steps" on the crisis, they said in a statement. The call came after Germany's Thomas de Maiziere,

Britain's Theresa May and France's Bernard Cazeneuve spoke Saturday on the sidelines of a meeting in Paris on transport security. The trio "underlined the necessity to take immediate action to deal with the challenge from the migrant influx". They also called for reception centres to be set up urgently in Italy and Greece in order to register new arrivals, and for a common EU list of "safe countries of origin" to be established. Berlin, which is expecting



to receive 800,000 asylum-seekers this year, has been pushing for such a list, arguing that it would free up resources to help those fleeing war and persecution. The number of migrants reaching the EU's borders reached nearly 340,000 during the first seven months of the year, up from 123,500 during the same period in 2014, according to the bloc's border agency Frontex. (AFP)

Libya's Anarchy Might Deepen Migrant Crisis in Europe

TRIPOLI - As a civil war raging throughout Libya, the now anarchic North African country has become a focal transit point for illegal immigrants eyeing for Europe, and that might deepen the current migrant crisis, analysts warned on Sunday, after a series of shipwrecks claiming hundreds of lives. Nearly 200 illegal immigrants are feared dead off Libya's western Zu-

wara coast Thursday after a boat overcrowded with 400 people sank en route to Italy. 82 bodies have washed ashore, while around 100 people are missing as Libyan coast guards still searching for bodies and potential survivors. UN envoy to Libya Bernardino Leon on Friday urged Libyan authorities to take every possible means to curb the migrant crisis. "So many lives, so many



young people, so much hope lost at sea." Leon said. Despite the great global concern, such life-sucking shipwrecks are seen as daily occurrences off Libya's coastal cities. Libyan official news ... (More on P4)... (19)

Italy's Renzi Brushes off Concerns over Senate Reform Drive



ROME - Italy's government has sufficient backing in parliament to force through its contested reform of the Senate, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said on Sunday, dismissing suggestions he might have to seek early elections. The reform, which would turn Italy's second chamber into a non-elected assembly with only a limited say on legislation, is due to be debated in the Senate next month, where the opposition has lined up more than 500,000 amendments. A vocal minority within Renzi's own Democratic Party (PD) have also raised objections, leading some politicians to predict that the legislation will fail, prompting a return to the polls more than two years ahead of schedule. Asked if this was a possibility, Renzi told Corriere della Sera newspaper: "I don't see any risk." The prime minister has said in the past that the fate of his coalition government is linked to the reform, arguing that it will make Italian politics more efficient by eliminating the need for all laws to be approved by both houses of parliament. The difficulty of maintaining viable majorities in the two chambers has helped perpetuate political instability in Italy. Opponents say the reform, which has already passed the lower house, will end up placing too much power in the hands of the prime minister. (Reuters)

Malaysia's Mahathir Calls for 'People Power' Movement to Topple PM

KUALA LUMPUR - Former Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad, joining anti-government protesters for a second day on Sunday, called for a "people's power" movement to topple Prime Minister Najib Razak over a financial scandal. "The only way for the people to get back to the old system is for them to remove this prime minister," said Mahathir, a deeply respected 90-year-old who was once Najib's patron and is now his fiercest critic. "And to remove him, the people must show people's power. The people as a whole do not want this kind of corrupt... (More on P4)... (20)

JCPOA Prelude to Iran's Enhanced International Ties: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the nuclear agreement with the P5+1 group of countries has paved the way for the expansion of Iran's relations with other countries. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will have more appropriate conditions after the nuclear agreement and the lifting of illegal sanctions to establish and improve trade and economic relations with other countries," Rouhani said in a meeting with Singapore's new non-resident Ambassador to Tehran Ong Keng Yong on Sunday. On July 14, Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, Britain,

Neighbour News

Iran Says Negotiating WZ with Russia for Sukhoi Fighter Jets

TEHRAN - Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan says Tehran is in talks with Moscow for the purchase of Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets. "We are discussing the purchase of Sukhoi fighter planes" from Russia, Dehqan said in an interview with Lebanon-based Arabic-language al-Mayadeen news network on Sunday. Earlier this week, Tehran and Moscow held negotiations about the Russian-made Sukhoi 30 fighter jets, a twin-engine, two-seat supermaneuverable fighter aircraft. The talks were held on Tuesday on the sidelines of the MAKS 2015 air show in the town of Zhukovskiy near Moscow during which Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian Vice President for Science and Technology

Affairs Sorena Sattari were present, Fars News Agency reported. In response to a question about the purchase of Russia's Sukhoi 30, Sattari said, "We spoke about it but we didn't discuss purchasing them and talks were mostly focused on the technological issues." Elsewhere in the interview, the Iranian defense minister said Russia has agreed to start delivering of S-300 surface-to-air missile defense system to Iran by the end of the current year. Moscow had banned the delivery of the missile defense system to Tehran in 2010 under the pretext that the agreement it signed with Iran in 2007 was subject to the fourth round of the UN Security Council sanctions against the country over its nuclear program. (PressTV)

China's Important Contribution to WWII Victory Little Known to Europeans

BERLIN - China made a very important contribution to the victory in the World War II (WWII), which was little known to Europeans, former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has said. Schroeder is among dozens of foreign statesmen invited to witness the military parade of China to celebrate the WWII victory. The event is due to take place on Sept. 3 at Beijing's Tian'anmen Square. In a written interview with Xinhua, Schroeder said that when people in Europe talk about WWII, the main focus is usually on their own continent. It is little known to the public here that WWII also raged in Asia and the fascism also brought terrible suffering to the Asian people. "Especially in China, people have suffered from the consequences of the Japanese aggression," said

Schroeder. "The successful resistance put by the Chinese people at great sacrifice was a very important contribution to ending the Second World War." "Therefore, I will come to China to express my sympathy to the victims and their descendants, and to pay my respects to the country," he added. In 2004, Schroeder became the first German chancellor who took part in the D-Day festivities in Normandy, France, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Allied landing in Normandy. Commenting on his participation in the D-Day festivities, he said he views it a special responsibility of Germany to remember the suffering and horrors of war, which was perpetrated by Nazi Germany. Speaking of Germany's efforts to atone for its wartime crimes. (Xinhua)

Tajikistan Accuses Islamic Party of IS Ties

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan accused the country's beleaguered Islamic party of ties with the Islamic State group based mainly in Iraq and Syria. Members of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) have been "in active contact with militants in Syria" and have responded to the militants request to "raise the black flag of IS," an interior ministry spokesman said. "Activists and members of the IRPT directly engaged in the propaganda of IS's extremist ideas, destabilising the peaceful situation in dif-

ferent parts of Tajikistan by raising the black flag of IS," the spokesman told AFP. He said "around 20" people had been arrested in connection with flag-raising incidents in the southern provincial towns of Shaartuz and Nurek but did not say how many were members of IRPT. An IRPT spokesperson in Nurek confirmed one of its members had been arrested but said the party lacked enough information to comment further. Party representatives in Shaartuz could not be reached for comment. (Agencies)

U.S. Security Adviser Lauds Pakistan's Anti-Terror Sacrifices

ISLAMABAD - U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice lauded Pakistan's role against terrorism and violent extremism in her meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad on Sunday. Dr. Rice arrived in Islamabad to discuss a wide-range of issues that will focus on the growing Pakistan-India tension and the stalled Afghan peace process, officials said. She opened her talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and "underscored the importance of strong Pakistan-US relations," the PM house said. "Dr. Rice expressed deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the efforts to root out ter-

rorism and extremism and the success achieved so far," a statement from the PM office said. She also expressed appreciation for the Prime Minister's vision of a peaceful neighborhood. The U.S. security adviser noted the positive direction of ongoing cooperation between the two countries especially in the areas of defense, economy and energy sectors. She was accompanied by the Senior Director for South Asian Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council Dr. Peter Lavoy and Ambassador Richard Olson. The meeting focused on matters of bilateral interest and the future of Pakistan-US relations. (Xinhua)