

# Australian PM's Conservative Coalition Claims Victory in Election

CANBERRA - The leader of Australia's Liberal-National Party (LNP) coalition, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, claimed victory in the federal election on Sunday eight days after polls closed.

Turnbull's victory speech came hours after the leader of the center-left opposition Labor Party Bill Shorten rang the premier to concede his party would not be able to form a government.

"This is a great day today," Turnbull told a press conference in Sydney. "We



have resolved this election and have done so peacefully. It's something we

should celebrate and not take for granted." The coalition is on track to win at

least 74 seats in the lower house of Australian parliament, the House of Rep-

resentatives, and remains confident that it can win at least two of the five seats

still in doubt to obtain the majority required to form a government.

If the LNP is unable to win at least two of the five seats then the party will be forced to negotiate with members of parliament from minor parties and independents in order to form a minority government. Turnbull emphasized the importance of Australia's two major political parties working together in parliament for the good of the country. "It's vital that this parliament ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Obama Pledges U.S. Long-Term Commitment to Europe Security

WARSAW - U.S. President Barack Obama on Saturday pledged the U.S. long-term commitment to ensuring Europe's security and defending allies, while participating in his last NATO Summit before his stepping down next January.

During his solo press conference after the closing of Warsaw NATO Summit, Obama said the Alliance was strengthening its deterrence and defense capabilities and it was sending a clear signal: it is going to protect any of its members.

"What will never change, is the unwavering commitment of the United States to the security and defense of Europe," Obama said. He reminded that the Alliance had agreed on reinforcement of its collective defense and on deploying forces in Poland and Baltic states. Obama also referred to the situation in Ukraine, saying that "Our 28 nations are united in our view that there can be no business as usual with Russia until it fully implements its Minsk obligations", and reminding that NATO confirmed



its support for Ukraine. On Britain's referendum to leave the EU, he expressed hopes that Britain's exit from the block could be as sensible as possible, causing possibly least damage

to economy. As a friend, ally and trading partner of Britain, Obama wished to see an orderly negotiating process and as close a relationship as possible in future. (Xinhua)

## Finland, Britain Sign Defense Protocol

HELSINKI - Finnish Defense Minister Jussi Niinisto and his British counterpart Michael Fallon signed on Saturday in Warsaw a protocol on defence cooperation between the two countries.

Finnish media quoted Niinisto as describing the document as "a declaratory expression of intent". The protocol does not bind Finland and Britain to give mutual assistance in the event of a crisis, but rather sets the framework for cooperation. The document was signed in connection with the NATO Summit. Contacts will be strength-

ened in training, maneuvers and in crisis management. Finnish national broadcaster Yle listed as key areas repelling chemical and biological arms, exchange of information and standardization.

Niinisto said the Finnish Defense Forces are totally compatible with NATO standards these days. He said that in fact the level of compatibility exceeds that of some "new" NATO member countries. Finland is not a NATO member, but is an enhanced companion of the military organization based on an ... (More on P4)...(24)

## NATO Decides to Strengthen Security in Eastern, Southern Flank

WARSAW - During the two-day Warsaw Summit, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) took a series of decisions aimed at increasing security both in its eastern and southern flank.

The second day of the Summit focused on the southern flank security, and included decision on support for EU anti-human trafficking mission, countering the Islamic State (IS) and terrorism.

NATO will provide more support for its partner countries in counteracting extremism, an example

of which is sending airborne warning and control AWACS planes to provide support for the anti-IS coalition and commencing military training for the soldiers in Iraq.

The AWACS planes will fly over international and Turkish airspace. Meanwhile, talks with Turkey are being conducted regarding the expansion of the Alliance activity in this region. NATO will also "increase its cooperation with Jordan to establish a stable island in this region and ensure efficient fight against the ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Japan Starts Upper House Election with Constitutional Review under Spotlight

TOKYO - Voting for the Japanese parliament's House of Councillors, or the upper house, kicked off on Sunday with the main focus on whether or not the constitution-amending forces could take an overwhelming majority in the 242-member chamber.

Half seats of the upper house are up to grab every three years. A total of 389 candidates will contest in the vote through a mix of constituencies and proportional representation.

Combined with their unchanged seats in the upper house, those parties



that support Constitution amendment, including the ruling bloc that groups Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic

Party (LDP) and its coalition partner of the Komeito Party, as well as two other small opposition parties, need to secure

78 positions in the contest on Sunday so as to take a two-thirds majority in the upper house. To ... (More on P4)...(26)

## G20 to Address Global Steel Glut: Statement

SHANGHAI - G20 steel-making economies vowed to take effective steps to address global excess capacity, said a statement released Sunday after the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting. These economies agreed to "discuss the feasibility of forming a Global Forum as a cooperative platform for dialogue and information sharing on global capacity developments and on policies and support measures taken by governments," said the statement. They also agreed to participate



in the OECD Steel Committee meeting scheduled from September 8 to 9. "We recognize that excess capacity in steel and other

industries is a global issue which requires collective responses," said the document, which is the first ever G20 trade ministers' state-

ment. The two-day meeting was chaired by Chinese Minister of Commerce GaoHucheng in Shanghai. (Xinhua)

## 29 Rebels Killed During Battles for Key Route in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - At least 29 rebel militants were killed during battles against the Syrian government forces near a key route in the northern Aleppo city, a monitor group reported on Sunday.

The slain Jihadi rebels, including those with the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, were killed during a failed overnight attempt to re-open their last remaining supply route in the northern countryside of Aleppo, after the Syrian army cut it off Thursday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Nusra Front announced on Saturday evening a battle for regaining the Castello road, the last route connecting rebel-held areas in the northern countryside of Aleppo with rebel-controlled areas in the eastern part of Aleppo city.

The announcement came after the army forces severed the road on Thursday, following a week-long offensive. Aleppo, strategically ... (More on P4)...(28)

## Russia Expels two US Diplomats



MOSCOW - Moscow on Saturday said it had expelled two US diplomats as a retaliatory move after Washington turned out two Russian officials over an attack on a US embassy worker last month. "After their unfriendly step two employees of the United States embassy had to leave Moscow," Russia's deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov said. "They were

declared persona non grata for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status." Ryabkov accused the two US diplomats of being CIA agents and said that one of them had been involved in a brawl with a policeman in Moscow that sparked the tit-for-tat expulsions. "We hope Washington recognizes all the ... (More on P4)...(29)

## 50,000 Gaza Children Join Hamas-Organized Summer Camps

GAZA - Around 50,000 children and teenagers joined summer camps organized and sponsored by Islamic Hamas movement, which rules the Gaza Strip, a senior Hamas official announced on Sunday.

Ismail Radwan, a senior Hamas leader, told a news briefing held at Gaza City's fishermen dock that the summer camps in which his movement sponsors and organizes "aim at raising a new Palestinian generation that loves resistance."

"We are here to prepare a new generation that loves armed resistance and loves the liberation of Palestine and al-Aqsa Mosque," Radwan said, adding "this generation will be the generation of liberty and triumph."

Hamas summer camps are called "Camps of the Intifada of al-Quds (Jerusalem)," in reference to the wave of tension that broke out in the West Bank and east Jerusalem in early October last year.

Official figures showed that ... (More on P4)...(27)

## Iraq Army Seizes Key Airbase from IS South of Mosul

BAGHDAD - Iraqi forces have captured a key airbase from the militant Islamic State group that can serve as a launchpad for retaking the jihadist-held city of Mosul, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Saturday.

The Qayyarah airbase in the Tigris valley 60 kilometers south of Mosul would be "an important base for the liberation of Mosul," Abadi said in a statement. He called for the people of Iraq's northwestern Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital, to "prepare for the liberation of their cities." Iraq's Joint

Operations Command said two army divisions and members of the country's counter-terrorism forces took the base with air support from a US-led international coalition. Security sources said militants had fled towards Mosul after the base was taken.

An officer taking part in the operation said bomb disposal teams were removing booby traps and mines left behind by IS fighters. No further details were immediately available on the scale of fighting for the base.

At ... (More on P4)...(30)

## Nieghbor News

### Egyptian-Chinese Ministerial Committee G20 Meeting to Be Held Monday

WARSAW - Egyptian and Chinese ministers of trade and industry met at the G20-Ministers of Trade meeting on Sunday to finalise the list of high priority projects to be executed.

These projects span the electricity, power, health, and transportation sectors, and approval will be granted tomorrow at the Egyptian-Chinese Ministerial Committee meeting in Beijing.

Gao Hucheng, China's minister of trade, confirmed his country's intentions to strengthen its strategic relationship with Egypt, as Egypt is considered one of the most important trade partners in the Middle East and Africa.

Egyptian Minister of Trade Tarek Qabil is preparing President Al-Sisi to participate in the G20 summit that will be held in September to hold

discussions with several countries' presidents who will be participating in the discussions.

Additionally, Qabil asked Hucheng to facilitate and improve the exportation of Egyptian products to the Chinese market, especially agriculture products.

Roberto Azevedo, director-general of the World Trade Organisation, and Qabil discussed the progress of the Doha Development Round and Qabil assured Azevedo of Egypt's commitment to the multilateral trade system.

Qabil also met with the managing director of Shanghai Electric, a Chinese firm that works in electricity generation and water desalination, and discussed plans to develop coal-powered stations in Al-Hamrawyn. The Egyptian government is willing to ... (More on P4)...(31)

### No One Deserves Nobel Peace Prize More Than Edhi: Malala

LONDON - Pakistan's teenage Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai said she had nominated the country's celebrated humanitarian and philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi for Nobel Peace Prize, BBC Urdu reported on Saturday.

"As a Nobel Peace Prize winner, I hold the right to nominate people for the prize and I have nominated Abdul Sattar Edhi," said Malala.

Edhi, who breathed his last on Friday in Karachi was Pakistan's greatest humanitarian, his Edhi foundation ran dozens of free hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages, nursing homes, kitchens, shelters for old people and rehabilitation centres for drug

addicts all over the country.

Malala, who received the peace prize in 2014, maintained that one must remember that even the coveted Nobel Prize can not be a befitting tribute to Edhi's services for humanity. "If we wish to pay tribute to Edhi, it is our responsibility to leave a legacy of service to humanity and if we want to pay tribute to him, it is our responsibility to follow his footsteps," said Malala. Malala added that she could never meet the great philanthropist but feels proud and honoured that she had the opportunity to talk to Edhi on phone a number of times. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran Urges Unity among Iraqis to Defeat Terrorism

TEHRAN - Iranian foreign minister urged solidarity among Iraqi political groups as the key factor to defeat terrorist groups in the Arab state, Press TV reported on Sunday.

Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran would stand by the Iraqi nation until the Arab nation is fully cleaned of terrorist groups. Zarif, who was meeting with the visiting chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Ammar Hakim in Tehran on Sunday, hailed the recent victories of Iraqi army and allied fighters against the Islamic state, saying that the ultimate defeat of the terrorists depends on a strong unity among different Iraqi po-

litical groups. He censured the recent wave of terrorist bomb attacks in the Iraqi cities against the innocent people, expressing sympathy with the Iraqi nation and government. Also, an Iranian security official reiterated on Sunday that the Islamic republic will not give up its military advisory support for Iraq and Syria until the full elimination of terrorism, Press TV reported. Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Ammar Hakim in Tehran on Sunday. (Xinhua)

### Japanese-Turkish Consortium Implements Chemical Project in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - A workshop for the production of 500,000 tons of sulfuric acid per year was commissioned at a chemical plant in Turkmenabat town, Lebap region, the Turkmen government's report said.

According to the report, the project was implemented by a consortium consisting of Japanese Mitsui company and Turkish Rönensans company.

"The design capacity of the workshop is not only to fully meet the country's domestic demand for high-quality sulfuric acid but also supply most of products for export,"

the report said. Sulfuric acid is an important component in the production of mineral phosphate fertilizers. This chemical is also used in the production of other acids and salts, medicaments and detergents, dyes, synthetic fibers.

Chemical industry is one of the most promising sectors of the Turkmen economy. The priority is to increase capacity for the production of various types of fertilizers. The main importers of sulfuric acid are China, Chile and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia and India. (Trend)