

104 Coup Plotters Killed, 1,563 Soldiers Detained: Gen. Dundar

ANKARA/ISTANBUL - Turkey's acting army chief Gen. Umit Dundar said Saturday that 104 coup plotters have been killed and 1,563 soldiers detained.

"We're determined to cleanse the army of a parallel structure," the chief said in a televised speech soon after he was promoted from the rank of 1st Army Commander to replace Gen. Hulusi Akar, who was taken hostage in the coup attempt that swept the country on



Friday night but was later rescued. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had earlier blamed the coup on the movement led by Turkey's Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen now living in the

U.S. state of Pennsylvania. Ankara has been accusing the movement of running a parallel state and trying to topple the Turkish government. Earlier on Saturday, the state-run news agency Anadolu reported the death toll in the military coup attempt has risen to 90, including 41 police, with 1,154 wounded. At least 700 unarmed soldiers at the Turkish military headquarters have surrendered, the report said. (Xinhua)

Modi Urges States to Work together with Central Gov't

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spelt out the need for all states to work together with the central government for the country's development.

"India's development is possible only when states and the central government work together," Modi said, addressing Chief Ministers of all Indian states in the national capital. He added "The Inter-State Council will not just enshrine the values



of cooperative federalism, but will ensure a better future for our citizens." The council was set up in 1990 for better coordination among

states and the central government, and it met for the first time in the past 10 years. The meeting was attended by Delhi's Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal, known as Prime Minister's outspoken critic, and Chief Ministers of some opposition Congress-ruled states. (Xinhua)

Aerial Bombardment Kills 19 in Syria's Aleppo: Activists

DAMASCUS - At least 19 people were killed on Saturday by aerial bombardment on rebel-held areas in the country's northern city of Aleppo, a monitor group reported.

Aircrafts dropped several barrel bombs on a number of rebel-held areas in Aleppo, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

It said half of those killed were women and children amid ongoing battles at the city's outskirts.

The violence in Aleppo has largely spiked recently

with intense battles between the Syrian army and the rebels, including the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, amid ongoing shelling on residential areas in rebel-held areas and government-controlled districts by both parties. The Nusra Front and like-minded groups unleashed several offensives recently to retaliate against the government troops' advance and control over the last supply route the rebels use to smuggle in arms and fighters from the ... (More on P4)...(21)

Japanese Spokesperson Bombarded with Questions Doubting Japan's Role on S. China Sea Issue

ULAN BATOR - spokesperson of the Japanese foreign ministry was bombarded with questions on Japan's role in the South China Sea disputes between China and Philippines and avoided any direct answers to these questions at a press briefing on Friday.

Yasuhisa Kawamura, spokesperson of the Japanese foreign ministry, held a press briefing, attended by journalists from Xinhua, Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP, Montsame and some Japanese media Friday night on the sideline of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulan Bator. During the Q&A session, he appeared uneasy with the questions

related to the South China Sea issue.

A Bloomberg journalist asked "in these meetings, what was said about the allegation that Japan manipulated The Hague's ruling on the South China sea," referring to the meetings between Chinese and Japanese leaders.

The Japanese spokesperson shun the questions by saying "your question is unrelated to today's meeting."

Reuters journalist asked "if Japan is pushing to have the South China Sea mentioned in the closing remarks of the communique and was that discussed with China?"

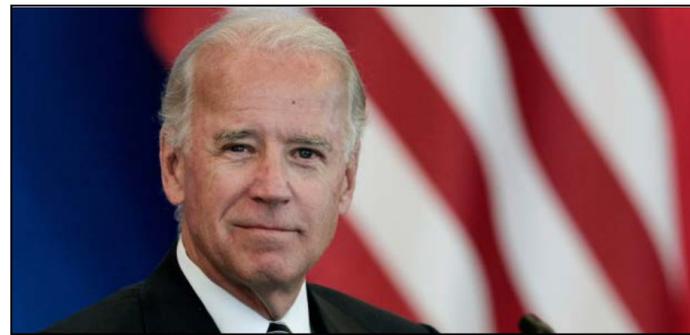
A Xinhua journalist asked the ... (More on P4)...(22)

US Vice President Biden Visits Aust'n City of Melbourne

MELBOURNE - U.S. Vice President Joe Biden landed in Melbourne late Saturday night for a three-day visit to the second largest city in Australia before heading to Sydney to meet with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

In Melbourne, Biden will attend the official opening of Victoria's Comprehensive Cancer Centre - the state's new 760-million-U.S. dollar facility - to promote the U.S.-Australia collaboration on cancer research.

The vice president has been working closely with several global cancer research projects after his 46-year-old son, Beau, died of brain cancer in May last



year. Prior to Biden's visit, Victoria's acting Premier James Merlino said, "Victoria has a long and close relationship with the United States and I know all Victorians will warmly welcome the vice president here in Mel-

bourne." Merlino said, "Victoria is a world leader in medical research, so it's fantastic that the vice president will be able to see the extraordinary work going on at the new Victorian Comprehensive Cancer

Centre. "Victoria and the United States collaborate strongly across aerospace, medical research and information technology and this visit will help strengthen those ties for the years ahead." (Xinhua)

Greece Supports "Constitutional Order" in Turkey: FM

ATHENS - Greece supports a "constitutional order" in Turkey, Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias said on Saturday following a military coup attempt on Friday in the Middle Eastern country.

The remarks were made by Kotzias during a phone call with his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, after a sweeping coup in Turkey, which has reportedly killed at least 194 people and wounded over 1,100 others so far.

"Greece condemns any coup attempt and supports Turkish people's

struggle for democracy and the safeguarding of constitutional order," said the Greek official, according to a foreign ministry press release.

Greek national news agency AMNA quoted government sources as saying that Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras are expected to contact their Turkish counterparts, respectively, later on Saturday.

"The government and people of Greece are following the ongoing situation in Turkey and support de-



mocracy and constitutional order," Tsipras tweeted on Saturday.

Athens has been closely following the situation in Turkey since the attempted coup broke

out on Friday evening. Greece's cabinet ministers and high-ranking military officials held emergency meetings to assess the development in Turkey. ... (More on P4)...(23)

Iran, Turkey FM Discuss Coup Attempt in 3 Calls

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has spoken three times on the telephone with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu about an attempted military coup in Turkey.

After the coup attempt on Friday night, Zarif and Cavusoglu exchanged views on the latest developments in three separate phone calls.

The Turkish foreign minister briefed his Ira-

nian counterpart on the situation in Turkey.

The coup attempt, launched late on Friday, plunged Turkey into hours of chaos unseen in decades during which soldiers and tanks took to the streets and multiple explosions rang out throughout the night in Ankara and Istanbul.

It all began when a faction of the Turkish military declared that it had fully seized control of the country and that ... (More on P4)...(24)

Israel Says it Expects to Continue Reconciliation with Turkey

JERUSALEM - Israel said Saturday it "respects" Turkey's democracy and expects to proceed with its recently launched reconciliation process with Turkey, in a first comment after Friday's failed military coup attempt.

"Israel respects the democratic process in Turkey," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The ministry added that the failed coup is not

forecasted to affect the bilateral relations. "Israel expects the reconciliation process between the two countries will continue," the statement read.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday morning that his government is in charge and he is in power after the country is smarting from the coup attempt overnight. ... (More on P4)...(25)

Neighbor News

Chinese Premier Urges Joint Actions against Terrorism



ULAN BATOR - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Saturday called for joint actions against terrorism to root out the global scourge following a deadly truck attack that claimed more than 80 lives in Nice, France, on Thursday.

Speaking in an informal meeting during the 11th Asian-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulan Bator, Li said Asia and Europe are enjoying peace and stability in general terms, but outstanding security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional ones, remain on the two continents. In particular, he said, terrorism poses a common threat for all countries in the region.

Li's remarks came two days after a truck rammed into a crowd marking the national day of France in Nice on Thursday evening, leaving at least 84 people dead.

The driver of the truck, identified as a 31-year-old French citizen of Tunisian origin, was shot dead by French police and arms and grenades were found inside the vehicle. French authorities have yet to determine whether he acted alone. "Countries must join hands to counter terrorism and build a truly open, inclusive society, in order to wipe out the hotbed for terrorism," said the Chinese premier. (Xinhua)

Pakistani PM Praises Turkish People for Resisting Military Takeover



ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday praised the people of Turkey for backing their elected government and resisting a military takeover.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said at least 161 people were killed and 1,440 wounded in the coup attempt that swept the country on Friday night but was foiled by Saturday morning.

Turkey's acting Army Chief Gen. Umit Dundar has said that 104 coup plotters were among the dead.

"I strongly condemn the attempt to undermine democracy by a failed coup in the brotherly country of Turkey," the Pakistani prime minister said.

"We deeply admire the resolve of the brave and resilient Turkish people, who stood up against the forces of darkness and anarchy to express their support and commitment to democracy," Nawaz Sharif said in a

statement. He expressed complete support and solidarity with President Erdogan, the democratically elected government of Turkey and the democratic institutions of Turkey.

"Pakistan reaffirms its abiding interest in a democratic, peaceful and stable Turkey. We wish to convey our prayers and good wishes for President Erdogan's well-being and welfare of the people of Turkey as well as the unity of the Islamic Ummah (nations)," he further said.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan deeply appreciates President Erdogan's steadfast support and the support of the people of Turkey to Pakistan on all occasions, whenever the need arose. "I wish to reaffirm full support of the government and people of Pakistan to the elected leadership and government and the people of Turkey," the prime minister said. (Xinhua)

Turkmenistan Abolishes Agencies Managing Key Gas Industry

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan, which holds the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves that are the base of its economy, has abolished two of the primary government agencies responsible for the sector.

The government newspaper Neutral Turkmenistan on Saturday said President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov had ordered the disbanding of the Ministry of Oil and Gas and the State Agency

For Managing Hydrocarbon Resources. The report said the move is aimed at improving management of the sector. But it could also reflect budget concerns amid low world prices for gas. Turkmenistan depends on gas exports for about one-third of its GDP. Turkmenistan is the prime mover in the effort to build a gas pipeline that will serve Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. (Agencies)

Germany Condemns Military Coup Attempt in Turkey

BERLIN - The German government on Saturday condemned a military coup attempt in Turkey overnight, expressing support for Turkey's elected government.

"The democratic order in Turkey must be respected. Everything must be done to protect human lives," said German

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in a statement: "I condemned in the strongest terms any attempt to change the democratic order in Turkey by force." "I call on all parties to respect the democratic institutions in Turkey

and to respect the constitutional order," he said. "All those responsible must adhere to the democratic and constitutional rules and ensure that further bloodshed is avoided." The German Foreign Ministry has updated its travel advises to Turkey, asking travelers to "exercise extreme caution" and

not to leave homes and hotels in case of unclear situation. At least 161 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in an attempted military coup overnight in Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday morning that his government was in control. (Xinhua)