

7,543 Detained Following Failed Coup Attempt in Turkey

ANKARA/ISTANBUL - A total of 7,543 people - 6,038 soldiers, 755 judges and prosecutors, 100 police officers and 650 civilians - have been detained following a failed coup attempt in Turkey, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told a press conference on Monday. A total of 103 generals and admirals have been rounded up in investigations as the crackdown continues across Turkey, state-run Anadolu Agency reported Monday.



The highest-ranking officer among the 103 is former Air Force Commander Gen. Akin Ozturk, Anadolu reported. On Sunday, 7,850 police officers, including high-ranking officials, were suspended, Hurriyet Daily News reported on Monday. The massive crackdown came in the wake of a failed coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that began last Friday and was crushed the next day. A total of 208 people were killed by coup attempting soldiers, including 60 police officers, Yildirim said, adding three of the 208 were soldiers and 145 were civilians. Erdogan's government is trying hard to ... (More on P4)...(19)

Kerry Reiterates Support for Strong EU During His Brussels Visit

BRUSSELS - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with European Union (EU) foreign affairs ministers here on Monday morning wherein he reiterated the need for strong unity with the bloc, saying on Twitter, it was "critical we stand together." "Our cooperation is essential to promoting international peace, stability, security and prosperity," said Kerry at a joint press conference with EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini following the meeting. "The fullness of our agen-



da is absolutely extraordinary. We are all united in fighting back against terror and we were united today in expressing our grief in the wake of last week's horrific attack in Nice," said Kerry. Kerry said the act of savagery in Nice only served to strengthen the shared resolve to combat the forces of violent extremism around the world. "With a new government taking shape in the UK and the negotiations upcoming ... (More on P4)...(20)

Vietnam to Host 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference

HANOI - Vietnam will host the 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference in its capital Hanoi on April 18-21, 2017, according to Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) on Monday. The conference will be held under the theme of Vision toward 2020: Enhancing further cooperation between governments and cooperatives, local Nhan Dan (People) online newspaper quoted the VCA as saying. At the conference, representatives will focus their

discussions on issues including food security, new approach to cooperatives with renovation and innovation and engagement of cooperatives in the region and the world, among others. The event provides a chance to share experiences to contribute to developing sustainable cooperatives' economy, reported Nhan Dan. The previous Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was hosted by Thailand on February 27-29 in 2012. (Xinhua)

Security Forces Repel Two IS Attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces on Monday repelled two attacks by Islamic State (IS) militants targeting a town and an oilfield in the provinces of Anbar and Salahudin respectively, provincial security sources said. In the western province of Anbar, security forces and allied Sunni tribal units fought back an IS attack on the town of Rutba, some 370 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, a provincial source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Rutba, on the Baghdad-Amman international road, taken by the IS in 2014, was recaptured but the security forces on May 16. The attack began in the

early morning, when dozens of IS militants with two suicide car bombs and three suicide bombers wearing explosive vests attacked the town from four directions. They were repelled by the troops, leaving at least nine militants killed, in addition to the three suicide bombers. The two suicide car bombs were destroyed before reaching their targets, the source said without giving further details about the casualties among the security forces and allied tribal fighters. Also in Anbar province, security forces and allied ... (More on P4)...(21)

Death Penalty in Turkey Would End EU Accession Talks: German Gov't

BERLIN - The introduction of the death penalty in Turkey would consequently end the European Union (EU) accession negotiations, said German government spokesman Steffen Seibert on Monday in Berlin. "Germany and the EU have a clear stance: we fundamentally reject the death penalty," he said, adding a country which had the death penalty could not be a member of bloc. Meanwhile, he called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's considerations of a return to the death penalty as "concerning." After the failed



couple attempt on Friday, Erdogan said Sunday that Turkey would now consider reinstating the death penalty. Turkey abolished the practice in 2002 as part of its pursuit

of EU membership. Parts of the Turkish military had launched a coup on Friday night which was struck down a few hours later. Thousands of people were arrested, among them top army commanders, judges, and prosecutors. The Turkish government has already announced severe penalties for the insurgents. (Xinhua)

S.Korea Warns of DPRK's Readiness for Nuke Test Amid Activity in Test Site

SEOUL - South Korea on Monday warned of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s readiness for its fifth nuclear test amid worries about increased activity in its main nuclear test site. Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee told a press briefing that the DPRK appeared to have been in a state of conducting another nuclear test at any time, saying the government is maintaining a full readiness and closely monitoring situations based on a close alliance between

South Korea and the United States. His comments came after Japan's Kyodo news agency reported on Sunday that increased activity has been detected in the DPRK's main Punggye-ri nuclear test site where the country carried out four underground nuclear tests since 2006. The latest came in January this year when the DPRK claimed it detonated its first hydrogen bomb, causing the toughest-ever UN Security Council resolutions in response to the nuclear detonation as well



as the launch in February of a long-range rocket, which was condemned as a disguised test of ballistic missile technology. Quoting government sources in Seoul and Tokyo, the Japanese media outlet said the installation of an observatory facility was seen in the test site, raising a possibility for the fifth nuclear test as early as this month. (Xinhua)

Excavation Begins to Prove Ancient Maritime Silk Road's Starting Point

SHIJIAZHUANG - Researchers on Monday started excavation of an ancient port in north China's Hebei Province to help determine where the maritime silk road began. The excavation, which will last at least six months, is expected to provide more evidence to support the idea that the ancient port of Haifeng

was a starting port for porcelain to be transported abroad by ship, said Feng Enxue, an archaeologist at Jilin University. Located in the port city of Huanghua, the ruins of Haifeng Township cover an area of 2.28 million square meters. In the past three excavations since 2000, archaeologists found the ruins were composed of an ancient

port, a cargo collection and distribution zone and a trade zone -- a typical layout for port trading. "The excavation will help us better figure out the details of the different zones' functions and provide more evidence for the hypothesis that the Haifeng ruins were the northern starting point of the maritime silk road," he said. Feng proposed in 2014 that Haifeng was the northern starting point of the route during the Song and Jin era (from 960 through 1276) after large amounts of porcelain featuring both southern and northern Chinese styles were unearthed. These artifacts resembled other porcelain discovered in Northeast Asia. (Xinhua)

UN Chief Calls for Collective Action on South Sudan

KIGALI - The people of South Sudan need to hear the region and the world speak with one voice to end this mindless violence, the UN chief Ban Ki-moon said. In a speech to an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on the sidelines of Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Summit in Kigali on Saturday, Ban said now is the time for 'decisive and collective action.' Renewed fighting in South Sudan past week left at least 300 dead and more than 42,000 displaced. In attendance at the IGAD meeting were Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, Ismail Omar of Djibouti, Sheikh Hassan of Somalia and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. Others were Chad President Idriss Deby, the AU chairperson, Rwanda's Paul Kagame, South Africa's Jacob Zuma and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, ... (More on P4)...(22)

India's Ruling Party Leader Resigns from Parliament

NEW DELHI - A leader from India's ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) resigned on Monday from the parliament, officials said. Navjot Singh Sidhu was nominated to the Upper House of the parliament locally known as Rajya Sabha in April. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha P.J. Kurien announced in the House that Sidhu's resignation was accepted. The 20-day "monsoon session" of the parliament began Monday in New Delhi. Sidhu's resignation came amid speculation that he was likely to join India's newly Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) or common man's party ahead of next year's local elections in northern Indian state of Punjab. AAP is aggressively campaigning for the upcoming elections in Punjab and has won four parliamentary seats in the state during the 2014 general elections. Sidhu joined politics after retiring from international ... (More on P4)...(23)

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US Gets Low Grade in JCPOA Implementation: Iran FM

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the United States will likely receive a low grade for its commitment to implementation of last July's nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries. Zarif made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Iran's IRIB News Agency on the occasion of the first anniversary of the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia - plus Germany on July 14, 2015. "If we want to give a

grade to the JCPOA, it will definitely get a very good score considering the time frame and international circumstances, but if we want to give a grade to the way that the Americans implemented [the agreement], they will probably receive a low score," said Zarif, who headed Iran's nuclear negotiating team in talks with the six countries. He added that the JCPOA is a "very important achievement" for the Islamic Republic as it safeguarded the Iranian nation's dignity on the international scale, recognized its rights, scrapped the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and prevented new sanctions against the country. (Presstv)

Senate Passes Resolution to Observe Edhi Day

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani Senate on Monday unanimously adopted resolution to observe July 08 as Edhi Day, paying rich tributes to renowned philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi, Pakistani private news channel reported. It described him as national hero and said his death was a loss not only for Pakistan but the entire humanity. The resolution presented by leader of the House Raja Zafarul Haq said services of Edhi for welfare of the humanity would always be remembered. Senators representing different political parties suggested devotion of special chapters on Edhi in syllabus of educational institutions, construction of a national monument after his name and recommendation of his name for Nobel Prize. The Senate has also formed a committee to get Nobel Prize on his name. Chairman Senate Raza Rabbani said it has been decided during meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee that every Senator would contribute Rs20, 000 to help Edhi Foundation purchase four ambulances at provincial headquarters. "Edhi's services for the humanity are spread on six decades," he said. The House also offered Fateh for Abdul Sattar Edhi and all those martyred by Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir. Another resolution passed by the House recommended to the government to take effective steps to promote religious harmony, unity and brotherhood in the country. The resolution was moved by Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhedi. (Monitoring Desk)

Chinese Premier to Meet Int'l Finance Chiefs

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will have a round-table meeting on Friday with the chiefs of the main international economic and financial institutions, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Monday. They will discuss economic growth, structural reform, employment, finance and trade, Lu Kang said. The financial leaders include World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, World Trade Organization Director General Roberto Azevedo, International Labor Organization Director General Guy Ryder, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Secretary-general Angel Gurría, and Financial Stability Board Chairman Mark Carney. (Xinhua)

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Reportedly Discuss the Possibility of Exchange of Disputed Border Areas

DUSHANBE - The proposal on exchange of disputed border areas between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is currently under consideration, Iftikhor Jumazoda, an official with the State Committee for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, told reporters in Dushanbe on July 18. "Currently, a joint inter-governmental commission is working on this issue," said Jumazoda. "To-date, the commission has completed work on delimitation and demarcation of a 519.9-kilometer stretch of a 971-kilometer border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan." The work on delineation of the disputed areas along the Tajik-Kyrgyz border is under way, Tajik official added. We will recall that Kyrgyzstan had previously suggested using the maps of the periods of 1955-1959 for demarcation and delimitation of the disputable stretches of the border while Tajikistan had suggested working with documents and maps of the period of 1924-1927. The maps of the early 1920s show the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic as incorporating Vorukh within its borders while the maps of the 1950s show Vorukh as an enclave within the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic. The latest skirmishes sparked by a territorial dispute between residents along the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border ... (More on P4)...(24)