

## Turkey Sees Political Tension after Erdogan's Opposition Wins in Istanbul

ISTANBUL - A tense political situation may be brewing in Turkey after the opposition candidate for mayor of Istanbul won Sunday, breaking the long hold President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party had on leading Turkey's largest city. "Thank you, Istanbul," Ekrem Imamoglu, 49, said to the tens of thousands of people who gathered to mark his victory after unofficial results showed he won a clear majority of the vote in a closely watched repeat election that ended weeks of political tension.

The governing party's candidate, former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, conceded moments after returns showed him



trailing well behind Imamoglu, 54 percent to 45 percent. Imamoglu increased his lead from a March may-

oral election by hundreds of thousands of votes. Analysts noted the president, who is grappling with an economic downturn and several interna-

tional crises, could limit the mayor's power or undermine Imamoglu's authority in other ways.

Lisel Hintz, an assistant international relations professor at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, said Imamoglu withstood a divisive campaign and prevailed with a positive message.

The significance of his win "cannot be understated," Hintz said. "We now have to wait and see whether Imamoglu's tenure as mayor will be interfered with in any way, whether by cutting off funding and hampering his office's ability to provide services or by removing him under some legal pretext," Hintz said. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

### Death Toll in Indian Encephalitis Outbreak Rises to 152

PATNA, India - India's Supreme Court on Monday directed state and national authorities to file reports to the court on an encephalitis outbreak in the eastern state of Bihar this month in which 152 children have died.

A senior health department official in Bihar, Sanjay Kumar, said the epidemic is showing signs of slowing with no new deaths on Monday. The fatalities have occurred in 20 of the state's 38 districts. The outbreak has been

exacerbated by a heatwave, with temperatures in Patna, Bihar's capital, reaching a high of 45.8 Celsius (114.5 Fahrenheit).

"We're hoping with the onset of the monsoon, the epidemic will ease further," Kumar said.

More than 700 cases of encephalitis have been registered since the outbreak began June 1, officials said. Young children are particularly vulnerable to the illness, which can cause swelling of the brain, fever and vomiting. (AP)

### Billionaire Arkady Rotenberg Discusses Putin Friendship & Western Sanctions Fight in Rare Interview

MOSCOW - Russia can't rely on the West or China if it wants to become a world-leading economy, construction tycoon Arkady Rotenberg - often described as one of Vladimir Putin's closest confidantes - told RT's Sophie Shevardnadze. "In the past, we could afford to be idle and put things off or not do them at all, but now we need to do them - and fast. If we start falling behind, if we slow down, we'll fall behind thoroughly and completely, so we have to be proactive all the

time," he said during a 30-minute interview on SophieCo. "Of course, it would be easier without sanctions, no question about it."

"We've pulled through before, even though no one in the West thought we would actually do it," Rotenberg said, in reference to Russia's ability to stay competitive in the arms industry.

Rotenberg, 67, whose net worth is estimated at \$2.6 billion by Forbes, was among the first wave of officials targeted



by US and EU sanctions after Crimea rejoined Russia in 2014, due to his links to Vladimir Putin. The two men have

known each other since they were children at the same judo club in what was then Leningrad. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

### 2 Eurofighter Jets Crash into Each Other over Germany



BERLIN - Two German Eurofighter jets have crashed in the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the Interior

Ministry has confirmed. The planes have fallen in a residential area, according to the German media. The two German Air

Force warplanes collided in the air over the small town of Malchow, located some 80km away from the German city of Schwerin.

"The Eurofighter [jets] collided in the air and then crashed," a military spokesman told Der Spiegel magazine. According to the Defense Ministry, one of the jets crashed in a wooded area near the village of Jabel, while the other one fell 10km away, south of the village of Nossentiner Huette.

The wreckage of the destroyed aircraft has fallen in a nearby forest, where it apparently caused a fire. A video posted on social media by ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### Russia Threatens More Economic Pain in Standoff with Georgia

TBILISI/MOSCOW - Russia on Monday served notice to ex-Soviet Georgia it faces painful consequences if anti-Russian protests are not brought under control, saying it was tightening controls on wine imports that bring Georgia millions of dollars in revenue each year.

Violent protests broke out in front of Georgia's parliament building last week after Russian lawmaker Sergei Gavrilov addressed the Georgian parliament from the

speaker's chair, speaking in Russian.

That unleashed simmering resentment among many Georgians, who feel angry and humiliated that they have to maintain friendly ties with Moscow even though Russia briefly invaded their country in 2008 and still backs two breakaway regions of Georgia.

Georgia's president, French-born Salome Zurbishvili, blamed a "fifth column" loyal to ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### O'Rourke Proposes New 'War Tax' to Fund Veteran Health Care

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Democratic presidential candidate Beto (BET'-oh) O'Rourke is pledging to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and help create a federal health care fund to cover the costs of caring for those who serve in future wars by taxing those who don't. The former Texas congressman unveiled his proposal Monday before attending a veterans' roundtable in Tampa, Florida, ahead of the first Democratic presidential debate in Miami on Wednesday. The new health care fund would be paid for using a "war tax," ensuring Americans not serving share "some of the cost of going to war according to their means." (AP)

### Trump Suggests Other Countries Pay US for Protecting Tankers

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump is suggesting the United States should not protect ships in the strategic Strait of Hormuz without compensation from other countries. The U.S. blamed Iran for attacks on two oil tankers this month near the Strait of Hormuz, denouncing what it called a campaign of "escalating tensions" in a region crucial to global energy supplies.

Trump says most of the oil China and Japan import goes through "the Strait," adding, "All of these countries should be protecting their own ships on what has always been a dangerous journey."

Trump said Monday the U.S. doesn't "even need to be there" because of its vast oil supply. He tweets the U.S. request for Iran is simple: "No Nuclear Weapons and No Further Sponsoring of Terror!" (AP)

### Europe Cool on Iran Coalition Talk, Seeks De-Escalation

BERLIN - European officials appear cool toward U.S. talk of building a global coalition against Iran, saying that their top priority is to de-escalate tensions in the region as they cling to hopes of salvaging the nuclear deal with Tehran.

The split over Iran comes amid deepening divisions between the United States and its European allies over foreign policy and trade, with the allies appearing to talk past each other on a matter that both view as a crucial security issue.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday as he headed for a visit to Middle Eastern



allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that he would discuss "how we can build out a global coalition" against Tehran that also includes Asia and Europe, describing Iran as "the world's largest state sponsor of terror." German Foreign Ministry spokesman Christopher Burger said Mon-

day that Berlin had "taken note via the media" of Pompeo's comments on a coalition, a formulation that indicated Berlin had yet to be asked to join directly. He added that "our top aim is and remains a de-escalation of the serious situation," pointing to contacts at various ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

### Iraq Appoints Ministers but Govt Still Incomplete

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi parliament approved three new ministers on Monday, but the post of education minister remains unfilled eight months after Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi was appointed.

The legislature gave its backing to Abdel Mahdi's picks to head the defence, interior and justice ministries. President Barham Saleh handed Ab-

del Mahdi the task of forming a new government last year, following the country's hard-fought victory over the Islamic State group, as several coalitions were jockeying for preeminence.

A veteran of Iraqi politics and an economist by training, Abdel Mahdi, 76, was regarded as sufficiently independent ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### Pompeo Meets Saudi Rulers on Iran Crisis

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia) - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Monday with Saudi Arabia's rulers as he sought to coordinate with allies over soaring tensions with Iran.

On a day trip scheduled after Iran shot down a US drone, Pompeo flew into the Red Sea city of Jeddah and met with King Salman at his palace. "You are a dear friend," the king told Pompeo as he shook hands with the top US diplomat and his aides.

Pompeo later opened talks with the powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. The top US diplomat was due to fly later Monday to the United Arab Emirates.

Both Saudi and Emirati leaders advocate a tough US approach against regional rival Iran, whose downing of the unmanned drone prompted President Donald Trump to order a military strike before changing his mind.

Pompeo, speaking to reporters as he left Washington, called Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates "two great allies in the challenge that Iran presents".

"We'll be talking with them about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned and how we can build out a global coalition," Pompeo said.

He said the United States sought a coalition "not only throughout the Gulf states but in Asia and in Europe that understands this challenge and that is prepared to push back against the world's largest state sponsor of terror".

But the ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Neighbor News

### Railways Planning to Lay Track from Peshawar to Jalalabad:

#### Sheikh Rashid

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Monday said that Pakistan Railways was planning to lay track from Peshawar to Jalalabad but it would not go through Torkham due to some problems.

Talking to media persons outside the Parliament House, the minister said that Pakistan Railways was also planning to lay railway track from Chaman to Kandahar which would connect Pakistan and Afghanistan and boost business activities.

He said that the present government was committed to bring Pa-

kistan Railways out of deficit and more concrete measures would be taken in this regard, adding that the department had created 8000 vacancies which would be filled soon.

The minister said that the department had oil reserve for eight days, however it should keep reserves for 20 days. He said that Pakistan Railways would issue report about its financial position.

Sheikh Rashid said that Pakistan Railways was going to rehire retired train drivers so that the burden on present drivers could be reduced. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran Eyes \$32bn Worth of Export to 15 Nearby Countries

TEHRAN - A senior official at Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade has said that the country is seeking to export some \$32 billion worth of goods and services to nearby countries in the current Iranian calendar year, which ends in March.

"We have projected a \$32-billion export target for goods and services to 15 neighboring and nearby countries in our plan this year," said Sadeq Najafi, a senior advisor in the ministry, on Sunday. The official, who was meeting members of the Iranian parliament re-

sponsible for special economic zones (SEZ), said that the ministry had special plans for empowering small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in those areas.

He said the ministry will provide the SMEs with access to export consortium programs while manufacturers will no longer be required to place special orders for importing their raw materials. Iran exported some \$24.06 billion worth of non-oil commodities to 15 neighboring and nearby countries last year ending March 20, 2019. (Press TV)

### UN Experts on Enforced Disappearances to Visit

#### Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

GENEVA - The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances will visit Kyrgyzstan between 25-30 June and Tajikistan between 30 June - 5 July.

The experts will gather information on the situation of enforced disappearance in the two States and study measures adopted to prevent and eradicate it, including issues related to legislation, practice and public policies in the areas of truth, justice and reparation.

The Working Group will meet State officials, relatives of people who may have disappeared, representatives of civil society organizations, relevant UN agencies, and other stakeholders. The delegation - com-

prising of the Chair Mr. Bernard Duhaime and Mr. Henrikas Mickevicius - will visit Bishkek and Dushanbe with field visits to other parts of the countries.

At the end of each visit, the delegation will hold a news conference in Bishkek - on 28 June, at 14:00 local time at the AKI Press Information Agency, located at Moskovskaya Street 189 - and in Dushanbe on 5 July, at 11:30 local time at the 2nd United National premises located in 5/1 Lohuti Street. Access to the news conferences is strictly limited to journalists. A final report on the visits will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September 2020. (Agencies)

### Youth Consultative Forum in Turkmenistan Paves Way for Establishing Youth Advisory Group on Child Rights

ASHGABAT - We, the children, are experts in matters concerning us and ready to help the Government to develop child and youth focused programmes, said Diyar Lomanov, young delegate at the Youth Consultative Forum organized by the Parliament of Turkmenistan and UNICEF, Trend reports with reference to the Fund.

The Forum on the occasion of the first anniversary of the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) aimed at advocating for child and youth participation in implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the National Plan itself.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the right of every child to express views,

taking into account the age and maturity of the child. The right of the child to be heard is a right in itself, but it is also important for the realization of all other rights. The NPAC also stipulates that children have a right for freedom of expression in all issues related to their interests and have a right to actively participate in social, cultural, economic and public life.

Through an interactive session, young people had an opportunity to voice recommendations to the larger audience of policy makers on six goals of the NPAC, primarily, on CRC implementation, health, education, economic wellbeing, protection from violence and child participation and how children can play a role in implementation of the NPAC. (Trend)