

# Erdogan Approves New Cabinet List Drafted By Upcoming PM

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has approved a cabinet list to form the 65th government drafted by the upcoming Prime Minister Binali Yildirim on Tuesday, two days after the Justice and Development Party (AKP) elected him as new chairman. AKP's new leader Yildirim has announced the new cabinet after he was given the mandate to form a new government by the President on Sunday. Tugrul Turkes, Nurretin Canikli, Mehmet



Simsek, Numan Kurtulmus have resumed their posts as deputy prime ministers while Veysi Kaynak joined the deputy prime ministers in the new cabinet. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Berat Albayrak, Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag and Interior Minister Efkan Ala kept their positions. AKP's spokesperson Omer Celik becomes

EU Affairs Minister and Chief Negotiator. Nihat Zeybekci has been appointed as the new economy minister. Former Science Minister Fikri Isik is appointed as minister of defense. Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya named as new family and social policies minister, while former minister of defense Ismet Yilmaz became minister of education. There are nine new names in the cabinet. Faruk Ozlu named as minister for science, industry and technology. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Robust Measures Needed to Curb Air Pollution: UNEP

NAIROBI - The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) has said there is need for governments to refashion policy and regulatory interventions aimed at reducing air pollution. A UNEP report launched in Nairobi on Tuesday says global efforts to curb air pollution have fallen short of agreed targets due to rapid urbanization, consumption of fossil fuels and haphazard burning of waste. It blames air pollution for a rising toll of respiratory infections globally. Speaking during the

launch of the report, UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, decried the menace of air pollution, terming it a threat to low carbon future, human health and prosperity. "Many people around the world are suffering from adverse health effects linked to air pollution. Regrettably, the current global response to pervasive poor air quality is inadequate," Steiner said. He commended robust interventions in a number of countries that have led to a significant improvement in air quality in spite



of rapid industrial growth. "Several countries are coming up with cost effective measures to improve air quality. These best practices should be replicated globally to ensure there is clean air," he said. The UNEP report notes the adoption of cleaner cooking stoves, renewable energy and sulphur free gasoline in public transport could reduce air pollution by a wide margin. *(Xinhua)*

## U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership At Early Stage: Obama

HANOI - United States President Barack Obama on Tuesday said the U.S.-Vietnam comprehensive partnership is still in early stage, urging further cooperation between the two sides. "Today Vietnam and America are partnership - The comprehensive partnership is still in its early stage. Let's work together to create real opportunity and prosperity for all of our people," said Obama. The U.S. president made the remarks while delivering a speech on bilateral ties in Vietnam's capital

Hanoi during his ongoing visit to the country. Obama said that with the announcement on fully lifting ban on defense sales, "the United States is demonstrating our commitment to fully normalize our relationship with Vietnam." The U.S. president is in Vietnam for a three-day visit starting Monday at the invitation of Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang. Vietnam and the United States normalized ties in 1995, two decades after the end of their 19-year war. *(Xinhua)*

## U.S.-Backed Syria Rebels Unleash Offensive Against IS Capital

DAMASCUS - The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and allied militant groups unleashed a military campaign against the de facto capital of the Islamic State (IS) in al-Raqqah province in northern Syria on Tuesday, just days after the U.S. and the SDF put forward a plan for capturing al-Raqqah, a monitor group reported. Citing what it described as "trusted sources," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the SDF, which is a newly formed Kurdish-led group sup-

ported by the U.S., along with fighters from Arab tribes unleashed an offensive on Tuesday morning against IS positions in the northern countryside of al-Raqqah province, which fell to the IS in late 2013 and later declared by the group as their capital in Syria. The fighters started moving toward northern al-Raqqah from the southern countryside of the border city of Tal Abyyad and the countryside of Ein Issa in the northwestern rim ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## EU Releases \$28 Mln in Funding to Support Greece in Handling Refugee Crisis

BRUSSELS - The European Commission has awarded 25 million euros (\$28 million) in emergency funding to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to enhance its capacity to further support the Greek authorities, a Commission press release announced here on Tuesday. According to the press release, these additional resources will be used to support the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and the EU emergency relocation scheme. The latest



funding announced on Tuesday was part of the emergency response plan developed together by the Commission, the Greek authorities and relevant stakeholders to address the ongoing humanitarian situation on the ground and implement the EU-Turkey Statement reached on March 18. The funding is provided under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and will allow for the deployment of additional Member State experts and interpreters, and the set-up of mobile EASO ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## DPRK Renews Call for Talks with South Korean Military

PYONGYANG - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday asked South Korea once again to hold working-level talks between militaries of the two sides after the latter rejected its previous offer over the weekend. The DPRK said it hoped to discuss issues such as the possibility of military clashes along the Military Demarcation Line and in the West Sea (the Yellow Sea), the official KCNA news agency reported. "Nothing can be a prerequisite or excuse for denying dialogue and shunning negotiations, the best



way of settling all issues," the DPRK said in the notice it sent to South Korea. The DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces on Saturday sent a notice to its South Korean counterpart proposing to hold working-level talks between the militaries of the two sides in late May or early June. Pyongyang stressed that the talks

would be aimed at defusing military tensions and creating a confidence-building atmosphere on the Korean Peninsula. But the offer was immediately rejected by Seoul. The South Korean Defense Ministry said in a brief statement that Pyongyang must first take steps to denuclearize before any talks could be held. *(Xinhua)*

## China to Form Nuclear Emergency Rescue Team Before End of 2018

BEIJING - China plans to have assembled a national nuclear emergency response team of around 320 members before the end of 2018, an official said Tuesday. The team is being put together with the backing of the military and the nuclear industry and will operate both domestically and internationally as required, Yao Bin, head of the nuclear emergency and security division under the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND) told a meeting of the National Nuclear Accident Emergency Coordination Committee. The team will comprise six units - command, coordination and technical ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## UN Envoy Urge Urgent Actions to Ensure Education for Displaced Children

ISTANBUL - Urgent actions need to be carried out to guarantee education for millions of displaced children, a UN envoy said Tuesday in the ongoing World Humanitarian Summit. Gordon Brown, the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, also the former Britain Prime Minister, made the remarks at a press briefing during the ongoing World Humanitarian Summit, noting some 20 million of children are of school age and as refugees or displaced persons are being denied any education. "These young people are missing out schooling and this is becoming a 'full-blown global crisis' that will haunt the world for three generations," he said. Therefore, over 100 countries and many companies and philanthropists are to join forces to create a "major breakthrough" in the fight to provide education for the children displaced by conflicts and natural disasters. Brown highlighted ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## UK Expats Lose Case on Right to Vote in EU Referendum

LONDON - British expats who have lived abroad for more than 15 years will not be able to vote in next month's EU referendum, the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday. A case was brought by Harry Shindler, a 95-year-old Briton who has lived in Italy for 35 years, and Jacquelyn MacLennan, 54, a resident of Belgium since 1987. They argued that the ban on people who have lived abroad for more than 15 years from voting in the June 23 referendum was unlawful. The 15-year limit applies to all elections in Britain. But their case was rejected by five judges at the Supreme Court after a lengthy legal battle which took their bid up through the English legal system over recent months. "It is not arguable that there is an interference with the right to free movement," said Brenda Hale, one of the ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

## World Leaders Join Calls for Improving Global Humanitarian Situation

ISTANBUL - World leaders have joined calls by UN chief Ban Ki-moon for improving the global humanitarian situation through conflict prevention and resolution in the ongoing world humanitarian summit held here on May 23-24. The calls also urge better financing, improvement of the conditions of the vulnerable and reduction of the need for humanitarian assistance. During the first day of the world humanitarian summit which opened here Monday, world leaders discussed conflict ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## France Ready to Host Direct Talks Between Palestinians, Israel: French PM

RAMALLAH - Visiting French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Tuesday that his country is willing to host direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis within the framework of an international peace conference. Valls' statements came in a joint press conference with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Al-Hamdallah in Ramallah, in which he said "we support all that would

enhance a direct, genuine and constructive dialogue that goes in the right direction." He added that France is "willing to host any direct bilateral talks backed by the Arab states," pointing that his country will "make use of all possible efforts to resume talks, but within the framework and principles set by the conference." The top French diplomat said "we already have the support of the Pales-

tinian side for the French initiative (to hold an international peace conference) and therefore, the conference will take place in the coming days to deliberate on the frame under which negotiations would take place." He stressed the importance of holding direct talks without preconditions, but said that the current talks have reached an impasse, and that the international ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Neighbor News

### China Opposes Politicization of Humanitarian Issues

ISTANBUL - A Chinese official, while addressing the first World Humanitarian Summit here on Tuesday, called for a full respect of conditions and needs of the recipient countries in the process of delivering humanitarian assistance, voicing opposition to politicizing humanitarian issues. Qian Keming, China's vice minister of commerce, appealed for more funding and technological support to developing countries while respecting their basic rights. He called for principles to be upheld for international cooperation, including abiding by the tenets of the UN Charter, respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of the countries concerned, preventing "the politicization of humanitarian issues" and sticking to "non-militarization of humanitarian assistance," and ensuring the

recipient countries play a "leading role" in the process. Other principles are tackling causes as well as symptoms with a view to addressing problems at the root of humanitarian crises, and increasing input into the capacity and resilience-building of developing countries. Qian referred to the fact that the world is experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II, with natural disasters and conflicts hitting more frequently and the international and regional situations getting increasingly complicated. "We must make use of this opportunity to reaffirm the principles and forge consensus, while implementing the follow-ups on the summit's deliverables based on negotiated agreement among member governments," said Qian. *(Xinhua)*

### Zarif to Make Official Visit to Finland Next Week

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will make an official visit to Finland next week to hold talks with senior officials of the country. Zarif is scheduled to hold talks with Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Timo Soini on 31 May, the Finnish government announced on its website on Tuesday. It added that the two ministers' discussions will focus on Tehran-Helsinki relations, regional developments in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, ties between the European Union and Iran, and other topical international issues.

The Iranian foreign minister will also sit down with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and Speaker of Parliament Maria Lohela. A large business delegation will accompany Zarif in his trip to Finland. In January, on the sidelines of the 46th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, the Iranian foreign minister and Finland's president held a meeting. Both Niinisto and Zarif commended last July's nuclear agreement reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). *(PressTV)*

### Sadiq Approves 12-Member Panamagate Inquiry Committee

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday approved a 12-member parliamentary committee that will draft the terms of reference (ToRs) for the proposed Panamagate inquiry commission. The committee's first meeting will be on Wednesday. The speaker may replace any member of the committee on the request of the leader of the parliamentary party concerned, a notification issued by the NA Secretariat says. The commit-

tee will consider options for inquiring into issues raised by the Panama Papers including offshore companies, transfer from Pakistan of funds originating from corruption, commission or kick-backs, and written-off bank loans. It will also determine the priority level of each of the above. The formulation of ToRs and a timeline for submission will be decided by the committee, which must submit a report to Parliament within two weeks. *(Agencies)*

### WB Reportedly Shows Interest in Implementation of Regional Transport Projects in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - Tajik First Deputy Minister of Finance, Jamshed Karimzoda, today received a World Bank's mission led by Cordula Rastogi, Senior Transport Specialist at the World Bank. According to the Finance Ministry Secretariat, the meeting focused on implementation of regional transport projects. During the meeting, Tajik deputy finance minister reportedly pointed out the

key role that Tajikistan plays in development of communication lines in Central Asia. "Implementation of the regional transport projects and programs will promote further expansion of the regional cooperation in Central Asia," Karimzoda said. Special attention was paid to issues related to supporting passenger and cargo traffics and further development of them, the Secretariat said. *(Asia-Plus)*