

# Turkish New Gov't Wins Vote of Confidence

ANKARA - The newly-formed Turkish government headed by Prime Minister Binali Yildirim won a parliament vote of confidence on Sunday. During the voting, 315 of the 453 participated deputies voted for "yes," while 138 voted against the new government. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has 317 deputies in the 550-seat parliament.

His government would be "government of all" of the country, Yildirim said in his speech after



Sunday's vote. Announcing the new cabinet last week, Yildirim said priority of Turkey's new government will be new constitution including change of administrative system to

executive presidency sought by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The prime minister, a loyalist and close confidant to Erdogan, has replaced Ahmet Davutoglu who resigned only after six months he won the national elections in a landslide in November polls. Yildirim, former minister of transport, maritime and communications in the government, was picked by the party as the only candidate to contest the chairmanship in the extraordinary party congress on May 22. (Xinhua)

## 700 Migrants Feared Dead in Mediterranean Crossing: UNCHR

ROME - Some 700 migrants and refugees are feared to have died in three shipwrecks that occurred in the southern Mediterranean this week, the United Nations refugee agency UNCHR and charities assisting survivors in Italy said on Sunday. A major incident took place off the Libyan coasts on Thursday, and would have claimed the highest death toll.

"We will never know the exact number and their identity, but survivors tell that over 500 human

beings died," UNHCR spokesperson Carlotta Sami said on Twitter referring to this shipwreck. The migrants and refugees had sailed aboard two fishing boats and an inflatable craft from the Libyan port of Sabratha the day before, according to what survivors told Save the Children charity in Pozzallo, Sicily. "They said the first fishing boat carried some 500 people, and was towing the second, with over 400 on board," Giovanna Di Benedetto, spokesperson for Save the Children in



Sicily, told Xinhua. The third craft, a dinghy, had at least 100 people on board.

"On Thursday morning, the second fishing boat began to sink, and few

dozens people were able to leave this craft and find safety onto the first boat by swimming or holding the rope linking the vessels," she added. Then, the ... (More on P4)... (13)

## Trump Criticizes Obama for Not Mentioning Pearl Harbor Attack

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, on Saturday criticized U.S. President Barack Obama for visiting Hiroshima while neglecting to mention the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "Does President Obama ever discuss the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor while he's in Japan? Thousands of American lives lost," Trump said on his Twitter. Obama on Friday became the first incumbent U.S. president to visit Hiroshima since his country

dropped an atomic bomb on the city 71 years ago in order to accelerate the end of World War Two (WWII), which was partially waged by Japan. However, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he had no specific plans to visit Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which was attacked by the Japanese military on Dec. 7, 1941, killing more than 2,400 people and leading Washington's entry into WWII. As many observers and U.S. local media have ... (More on P4)... (14)

## Hollande and Merkel Mark Centenary of Battle of Verdun

VERDUN - French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel stood shoulder to shoulder Sunday to mark the centenary of Verdun, one of the bloodiest battles of World War I. The battle in northeast France was the longest of World War I, lasting 300 days, and claimed more than 300,000 lives before France emerged victorious.

"The name Verdun is a symbol of the unimaginable atrocity and the ab-

surdity of war, but also of Franco-German reconciliation," Merkel said in the speech at Verdun's town hall, a first for a German leader.

The chancellor said she recognized it was not "easy" for the people of the town that is forever marked by the fighting to give her such a "warm welcome".

Hollande said: "Verdun is a town which represents both the worst -- where Europe lost its way 100 years ago -- and the best, ... (More on P4)... (15)

## 6,000 People Flee IS Attacks in Northern Syria

DAMASCUS - Over 6,000 people have fled areas in northern Syria as a result of the attacks by the Islamic State (IS) militants, a monitor group reported on Sunday.

The mass exodus was witnessed in the towns of Sheikh Issa, Mare' and other towns in the northern province of Aleppo, as a result of the IS attacks on these areas that are under the control of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The Islamic State has recently unleashed a wide-scale offensive on the

SDF controlled areas in the northern countryside of Aleppo, in retaliation to the SDF attacks on the terror group's positions in the northern countryside of the northern province of al-Raqqa, the de facto capital of the IS.

The SDF managed to repel the IS attacks on Mare', which is considered as the "capital of revolution" by the Syrian rebels, as the town was the first to witness armed insurgency that spread to the city of Aleppo in the early years of Syria's five-year-old conflict.



The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the people fled to other areas under the SDF control, adding that tough humanitarian situation is prevailing in such towns as a result of the military showdown there. The SDF, which has recently been formed from Kurdish and Arab fighters, unleashed an offen ... (More on P4)... (16)

## Trade Ties with Kazakhstan Strong: UAE Official

DUBAI - A senior economic official of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Sunday the Gulf Arab state has maintained strong ties with Kazakhstan on economic and trade matters. The two countries' growing ties are reflected in their annual trade growth as bilateral trade has exceeded 270 million U.S. dollars in 2015, UAE state news agency WAM quoted Humaid bin Butti Al-Muhairi, Assistant Under-Secretary for Commercial Affairs and Consumer Protection of the Ministry of Economy, as saying in a statement on Sunday. Al-Muhairi made the statement following the UAE's participation in the 9th Session of the annual Astana Economic Forum, AEF, a platform for international dialogue which was held recently in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The official noted that the forum plays a significant role in enhancing communication ties between the business communities of the UAE and Kazakhstan, as well as with other participating countries. In May 2015, the Dubai banking free zone DIFC signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Bank of Kazakhstan, the country's central bank. Both sides expressed the willingness to cooperate in the field of Islamic finance. Earlier this year, Kairat Lama Sharif, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UAE, said at the Annual Investment Meeting congress in Dubai that the UAE investments in Kazakhstan crossed two billion dollars, according to the Kazakhstani Ministry of Investment and Development. (Xinhua)

## UN Peacekeeping Operations Need Improvement in Face of Challenges: UN Peacekeeping Chief

UNITED NATIONS - UN peacekeeping operations are faced with multiple challenges and are in need of improvement to better fulfill their mandate, said Herve Ladsous, UN under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations. One of the main challenges is the problem of indiscipline among some UN peacekeepers, in particular those involved in sexual abuse and exploitation cases, Ladsous told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"We have to bring to



light all these cases," said Ladsous, stressing that those who committed such crimes must be brought to justice.

Last year, sexual abuse allegations against some peacekeepers who were

sent to protect civilians but instead traded sex for money and sexually abused minors made headlines. According to UN recent update on the issue, so ... (More on P4)... (17)

## Syrian Migrant Wins Appeal in Greece Against Deportation to Turkey: Lawyer

MYTILENE - A 26-year-old Syrian migrant who arrived on the Greek island of Lesbos this spring has just won an appeal against a decision that would lead to his return to Turkey.

One of his lawyers told Xinhua about this complicated process in a recent interview. The Service Asylum committee examining refugee appeals in Greece on second

degree, ruled against sending him back to Turkey, said Stratis Skountianellis, a member of the Legal Service of the Greek Council for the Refugees, a Greek ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Kurdish Forces Launch Offensive to Free Villages from IS Near Iraq

BAGHDAD - Kurdish security forces, known as Peshmerga, carried out an offensive to free villages from Islamic State (IS) militants in east of the IS-held

city of Mosul in northern Iraq, while security forces repel IS attack in western the country, security sources said. In Iraq's northern prov-

ince of Nineveh, Kurdish forces, covered by U.S.-led coalition aircraft, attacked at dawn IS positions at cluster of villages scattered ... (More on P4)... (20)

## Peace in East Europe Important to Iran: Rouhani

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani has told Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin that peace and stability in eastern Europe is important to Iran.

"Dialog, political negotiations and peaceful solutions are the only way to guarantee lasting security and resolve regional problems," Rouhani said in Tehran on Sunday.

Ukraine is locked in a confrontation with Russia over unrest in the country's east which has been the scene of heavy fighting between Kiev forces and pro-independence militants since 2014.

According to the United Nations, more than 9,000 people have lost their lives and some 20,000 have been injured in the conflict since April 2014.

On Sunday, five Ukrainian soldiers were killed and four others injured in fresh clashes with pro-Russians in the east, the second biggest casualty toll in a single day this year.

Eastern Europe is ... (More on P4)... (18)

## Intense Fighting Kills 28 in Southeastern Yemen

ADEN - At least 18 soldiers loyal to Yemen's government and 20 fighters of the Shiite Houthi group during intense fighting in the country's southeastern province of Shabwa on Sunday, a military official told Xinhua.

He said that the intense fighting erupted after hundreds of pro-government soldiers launched an all-out offensive to recapture Bayhan district from the Houthi rebels who were preparing to make more ground advances in Shabwa province. "About two key checkpoints were recaptured from the Houthi rebels in Bayhan district. The Houthi rebels suffered huge losses and withdrew from some positions," the Yemeni military source said on condition of anonymity. The Yemeni military source added that the pro-government army commanders in Shabwa are determined to liberate all the areas controlled by Houthis in Shabwa. However, tribal sources told Xinhua that heavy ... (More on P4)... (21)

## Neighbor News

### Helped By Aides, Sharif Running Govt. from UK



ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is scheduled to undergo an open-heart surgery in a UK hospital on Tuesday, is overseeing the affairs of his government from London, the media wing of prime minister House assured the nation on Saturday.

"The prime minister is being informed regularly about the overall situation of the country and in this regard both the military and principal secretaries are ... regularly providing assistance

to the prime minister who is also in direct contact with his cabinet colleagues and issuing necessary orders," it said. The spokesperson for PM House, however, conceded that the prime minister being the chief executive of the country had to relinquish his duties during the period when he would be undergoing the surgery. A senior government official said, "It may take a little over a week for the prime minister to recover and travel back to Pakistan." (Agencies)

### Larijani Elected Iran's New Parliament Speaker



TEHRAN - Lawmakers have voted Ali Larijani as the temporary speaker of Iran's new parliament following February elections.

Larijani, a Principlist, won the post on Sunday with 173 votes in a race against Mohammad Reza Aref who had been fielded by the Reformist camp and secured only 103 votes.

Independent members were apparently crucial in electing Larijani because no single party holds an overall majority in the new Majlis.

He was also the speaker of the previous parliament dominated by Principlists.

The vote served as the bellwether of the 290-member chamber's direction as several lawmakers from the Reformist camp broke

ranks to vote against the head of their own List of Hope.

The election is the second victory for Principlists over the past week after the Assembly of Experts - a body tasked with appointing or dismissing Iran's Leader - voted Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati as its new chairman.

A vote for a permanent speaker is due to be held in the next few days, after the full house approves the credentials of individual MPs, as required by Iran's constitution.

The Fars news agency quoted Reformist MP Mohammad Ali Vakil as saying that Aref will not run again for the post, meaning Larijani is almost certain to secure the position. (PressTV)

### China, Bangladesh Vow to Boost Military Exchange, Cooperation

DHAKA - China and Bangladesh vowed here Sunday to further boost exchange and cooperation between the two militaries.

The pledge came after Chang Wanquan, China's defense minister, met with Bangladesh's Chief of Army Staff General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Hug, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Nizamuddin Ahmed and Chief of Air Staff Marshal Abu Esrar respectively.

The visiting Chinese defense minister said the cooperation in the sectors of politics, economy and trade, and culture between the two sides have scored great achievements since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975. Cultivated and pushed by the leaders of the two countries, the development of the military ties between the two countries has maintained good mo-

mentum with cooperation in all fields further deepening, Chang said. The Chinese military is willing to work together with the Bangladesh military to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Bangladesh Prime minister Sheikh Hasina, boost strategic exchange and mutual support, broaden personnel training and cooperation in equipment technology, promote exchanges between the young military officers of the two countries and push forward the comprehensive development of bilateral ties, the Chinese minister added. Calling China a trust-worthy strategic partner, the Bangladeshi military leaders said the two countries have developed high-level political mutual trust and conducted fruitful economic and trade cooperation. (Xinhua)