

# Erdogan to Revive Bid for Executive President: Turkey

ANKARA - Turkey could hold a referendum on constitutional changes for a new political system, reviving a highly contentious push to increase the powers of the president, an aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday. The ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, which Erdogan founded and continues to lead from behind the scenes, scored a stunning victory in a parliamentary election Sunday, gaining back the majority it lost in a previous election just five months ago. The surprise win marked a



turnaround for Erdogan, allowing him to move ahead with plans to consolidate his grip on Turk-

ish politics. The president has limited constitutional powers and Erdogan has long been pushing for

constitutional changes that would give him the ability to govern. The prospect has irked op-

ponents who are already troubled by his ever-increasing authoritarian tendencies and often-po-

larizing rhetoric. Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told reporters that Erdogan believes a presidential system giving the head of state sweeping powers would make Turkey "jump up a league." "What is the best model for us? Taking into consideration the results of the Nov. 1 election, this is something that will be settled by asking the people," Kalin said. "This debate cannot be considered independently from the people. If the mechanism is a referendum then a referendum can take ... (More on P4)...(23)

## EU Plans to Tackle throw-Away Economy

BRUSSELS - EU regulators plan to make it easier to repair or re-use anything from electrical appliances to buildings, saying in a draft document that instruction manuals need to explain how to mend, rather than just throw away goods. The European Commission has said it is "a passionate believer" in the business argument to move from a throw-away economy to a circular one based on more recycling and less waste. It is expected to outline a strategy to make the European Union's economy more sustainable in December. Taking up an idea that some in the building industry have suggested, it

says builders should provide demolition guidelines to ensure the recovery of useful resources at the end of a building's life. Guidelines would also seek to ensure management of hazardous waste and "voluntary industry-wide recycling protocols" for the building sector. A draft version of the Commission's plan, seen by Reuters, said it could improve data and quality control of recycled raw materials such as plastics and metals, known as "secondary raw materials". The Commission is seeking to increase recycling levels and reduce the amounts of metals, plastic, food ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Sissi Visits Britain to Discuss Terror and Trade

LONDON - Egypt's president defended counter-terror legislation that has sparked human rights concerns, arguing his country needs stability and time to achieve a democratic future and should not be judged by Western standards. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi batted away questions on prisoners and restricted freedoms in a BBC interview aired before his first official visit to Britain on Wednesday. He said his goal was to carry out the will of the people. "Over the past five years, we have experienced turbulence and revolution. We want some stability," he said. "We don't

want to do this by force or suppression. We want to regulate and organize society." El-Sissi led the July 2013 military ouster of former Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. Since then, the government has waged a sweeping crackdown on Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood. Thousands of political detainees are behind bars, and human rights activists say the measures enshrine a permanent state of emergency in Egypt. "You talk about human rights in Egypt, but what about the millions of Egyptians who face hardship every day? What about their hu-



man rights," he said. "Our friends in the West should know that we face monumental problems. ... It's not just a matter of human rights from the Western perspective." The visit is meant to focus on advancing political and economic cooperation. Britain is Egypt's

single largest investor and the trip will include meetings with representatives from British companies to discuss enhanced cooperation in transportation, energy and infrastructure. Cameron and El-Sissi will also discuss ter... (More on P4)...(25)

## US Approves Italy's Request to Arm its Drones

WASHINGTON - The U.S. State Department has approved a long-standing request from Italy to arm its two MQ-9 Reaper drones with Hellfire missiles, laser-guided bombs and other munitions, two U.S. officials said Wednesday. This would be the first sale of armed drones approved since the U.S. government established a policy in February for exports of the new type of weapons that have played a key role in U.S. military actions in

Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. Italy would be only the second country to be approved to buy armed drones after Britain, which has been using them since 2007, according to the officials who declined to be identified because they were not authorized to speak publicly ahead of a formal announcement later Wednesday. The Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified U.S. lawmakers late Tuesday



about the possible sale, which is valued at \$129.6 million, with privately held General Atomics to serve as the prime contractor, the officials said. Italy has been asking the

United States since 2012 to add weapons to two unarmed MQ-9 Reapers, whose sale was first approved in 2009. Turkey has also requested to ... (More on P4)...(26)

## German, French Raids Against Human Smuggling Operations

BERLIN - Germany and French authorities raided two unconnected human smuggling operations, saying Wednesday that they were bringing refugees into Germany by plane and sneaking others across the English Channel by boat. German federal police said nearly 600 officers searched 24 homes in three states as part of an investigation into a smuggling ring accused of bringing primarily Lebanese and Syrian asylum seekers into Germany. Hundreds of

thousands of refugees and other migrants have flooded to Germany in recent months seeking to escape war and poverty and start a new life. Many of them pay human smugglers to take them across borders. The alleged head of the group of 17 suspects, who was only identified as a 24-year-old man, was arrested in the western city of Essen. Police also confiscated weapons and smuggled goods in the raids. Federal police said the network oper... (More on P4)...(27)

## Operations Against PKK Militants in SE Turkey Kill 17

ANKARA - During operations between Turkish security forces and the outlawed Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK) on Wednesday, two Turkish soldiers and 15 Kurdish militants were killed, according to a Turkish military statement.

In clashes near the southeastern town of Yuksekova in the Hakkari province, 15 PKK members were killed, in addition to two Turkish soldiers, the statement said. The military operations in fight against the Kurdish rebels, which started on Tuesday, are still continuing in the region, added the statement.

Following elections which reinstated the Justice and Development Party (AKP) back in power, Turkey vowed to continue its operations against the PKK. Turkish warplanes pounded PKK targets in the southeastern part of the country in addition to northern Iraq, said the military statement Wednesday. "The air strikes destroyed 16 targets," said the statement following the operations Tuesday.

Four PKK militants were killed on Tuesday after clashes with the Turkish security forces in southeastern Turkey. Since the government launched major military operations against PKK militants, tensions have soared in Turkey, with PKK militants retaliating ever since a ceasefire fell through in July. The PKK is designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the European Union and the United States. (Xinhua)

## Sweden Wants EU Help to Relocate Refugees

STOCKHOLM - Sweden will ask the European Commission to arrange for migrants to be moved from the Nordic state to other EU countries, joining Greece and Italy among others in seeking help to cope with record asylum numbers. An official request to be part of the European Union's refugee redistribution system is part of an agreement to tighten immigration rules that Sweden's center-left Prime Minister Stefan Lofven made with center-right opposition parties a fortnight ago. The deal also included the introduction of three-year temporary residence permits, with exceptions for some groups including families with children and unaccompanied minors. Almost everyone granted asylum in Sweden in the past has been given permanent residency. "Tomorrow my government will decide to request the relocation of migrants from Sweden to other states," Lofven, who leads a minority government, said at a press conference. "It is clear that all member states need to take their responsibility." The Swedish Migration Agency has said 190,000 refugees could arrive this year, smashing the previous record of 84,000 set during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The agency has requested an extra 70 billion Swedish crowns (\$8.2 billion) to cope with the situation, forcing Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson to outline across-the-board spending cuts and raised borrowing. (Reuters)

## First Refugees Officially Relocated from Greece to Luxembourg

ATHENS - The first batch of 30 refugees, who had recently arrived in Greece from Turkey, were officially relocated from Greece to Luxembourg on Wednesday under a recent two-year plan agreed among European Union (EU) partners. The refugees from four families from Syria and two from Iraq, including several children, left Athens as European Parliament President Martin Schulz, who was starting a two-day visit to Athens, and other European officials saw them off at Athens airport. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was



also at Athens airport to see the 30 refugees off, repeating a call for stronger cooperation between the EU and Turkey so that the "Aegean Sea stops washing up bodies." "The precondition for a most effective solution that does not risk human lives is the EU's cooperation with

Turkey so that the identification and relocation process can start on Turkish shores and not the Greek islands," Tsipras told the press. Tsipras said he will discuss the issue in an upcoming visit to Turkey later in November. The officials attending the small ... (More on P4)...(28)

## NATO Tests its Capabilities, and Wants Russia to take Note

ZARAGOZA - NATO is putting on its most fearsome display of military might in over a decade, a choreographed large-scale movement of soldiers, ships and planes meant to hone its capabilities as well as transmit an unmistakable signal to Russia and other possible foes. The U.S.-led alliance's aim is to train and exercise, but it is also "sending a very clear message to our nations and to any potential adversary," NATO Jen Stoltenberg told a news

conference Wednesday. "NATO does not seek confrontation," Stoltenberg said. "But we stand ready to defend all allies." For three weeks starting Oct. 21, more than 36,000 personnel from all 28 NATO allies and eight partner nations, as well as more than 160 aircraft and 60 warships, are taking part in exercises across a broad swath of southern Europe stretching from Portugal to Italy. The No. 1 objective of the maneuvers... (More on P4)...(29)

## Nieghbor News

### Turkish Firms to Visit Iran on 'Bridge of Steel' Mission

TEHRAN - The delegation will comprise representatives from 22 steel companies. They will arrive in capital Tehran on 15 November for a two-day visit during which they will meet with industrialists and officials to discuss issues of mutual interest. The trip has been arranged by the Turkish Steel Exporters' Association (CIB) that has described the mission as a "bridge of steel" meant to promote Iran-Turkey industrial cooperation, based on an announcement by the Turkey Embassy in Tehran. "Iran is both a close friend

and an important trade partner for Turkey," the statement has quoted CIB Chairman Namik Ekinci as saying. "Iran is expected to enter a period of significant investment as the sanctions against the country are lifted, and for the country, Turkish steel industry presents a major opportunity," he added. Ekinci has further underscored the "great importance" of Iran's natural resources, stressing that the two countries can benefit from each other's experience and know-how in the area of steel industry. (PressTV)

### Saudi King Meets Gen Raheel, Vows to Help Eliminate Terrorism

ISLAMABAD - Army Chief General Raheel Sharif called on Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Wednesday and both leaders re-emphasised on the need to join hands to eliminate the menace of terrorism and reinvigorate the mechanism to roll back extremism, an ISPR statement said. Details of the meeting revealed through a series of tweets by Lt Gen Asim

Bajwa, General Raheel held meetings with the Saudi king, crown prince and the kingdom's defence minister to discuss matters related to mutual interests and bilateral security cooperation. The Saudi dignitaries reassured to the army chief that the kingdom considers any threat to Pakistan as unacceptable and would support peace and stability in the country. (Agencies)

### China, India Should Learn from each other to Seek Common Development

AURANGABAD, India - Visiting Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao on Wednesday called on China and India to learn from each other to seek common development. During a meeting with mayor of the Indian city of Aurangabad, Trimbak Tupe, Li said Aurangabad is a historic city whose Ajanta Caves are world famous and demonstration of a perfect marriage of ancient civilization and modern wisdom. As two great ancient civilizations as well as two most dynamic emerging economies, China and India should strengthen mutual exchanges and learn from each other, the vice president said. Li said during the visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to China in May, Aurangabad and China's Dunhuang city

established a sister city relationship. He expressed hope that the Indian city would further expand its exchanges with China and the two sides enhance cooperation in protecting Buddhist cultural heritage and ancient cultural relics. Tupe expressed warm welcome to Li for visiting his city. He said India and China have a very long history of friendly exchanges. He said that Modi made a successful visit to China in May and all walks of life in India welcome the strengthening of cooperation with China in all fields. The mayor said after establishing sister city relationship with Dunhuang, Aurangabad will continuously work for building ties in culture, education and tourism between the two sides. (Xinhua)

### European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Central Asia Visits Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The European Parliament delegation for relations with Central Asia, led by Ms. Iveta Grigule, is arriving in Dushanbe today on a three-day visit, an official source in Tajik government told Asia-Plus on Wednesday. According to him, the delegation is expected to hold talks with representatives of both houses of Tajikistan's parliament, senior representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon to discuss issues related to state and prospects of further expansion of cooperation between the European Union and Tajikistan. Ms. Iveta Grigule (born September 30, 1964) is a Latvian politician for the Latvian Farmers' Union. She was elected to the European Parliament in 2014 as the sole representative for the Union

of Greens and Farmers. The delegation evolved from the previous delegation for relations with member nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which established a working group for Central Asia in 1993. In 1994, a delegation for relations with Central Asia and Mongolia was constituted. Parliamentary Cooperation Committees (PCCs) have taken place on a regular basis with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan since 2000 and with Tajikistan since 2010. The PCCs are a key element of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) which came into force on July 1, 1999 and with Tajikistan on January 1, 2010 and provide the framework for the relationship between the EU and the four countries. (Asia-Plus)