

Turks Voted for Stability: Erdogan

ANKARA - A jubilant Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Monday cast the return of Turkey's Islamist-rooted AK Party to single-party rule as a vote for stability that the world must respect, but opponents fear it heralds growing authoritarianism and deeper polarization. The AKP defied pollsters and even the expectations of its own strategists in a general election on Sunday, consolidating support from the right to claw back a parliamentary majority that will bolster Erdogan's grip on power.

It was a personal triumph for the combative leader, who despite



being constitutionally above party politics as head of state had shaped the AKP's executive committee and its parliamentary can-

didates in the run-up to the vote. The result handed the AKP 317 of the 550 seats in parliament, only 13 short of the number

Erdogan would need for a national referendum on constitutional changes he wants to forge a presidential system granting him full executive powers. "The national will manifested itself on Nov. 1 in favor of stability," Erdogan said in comments to reporters after praying at

a mosque in Istanbul. "Let's be as one, be brothers and all be Turkey together."

The vote came at a critical time for Turkey on the global stage, with the United States dependent on Turkish air bases in the fight against Islamic State in Syria, and the European Union desperate for Turkish help with its growing migration crisis. Erdogan's victory, two weeks ahead of a G20 leaders' summit in the Mediterranean city of Antalya, leaves Western allies dealing with an emboldened leader they may already know, but whose cooperation has not always been easy to secure. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Sharif Moving Pakistan Away from Terrorism: US Senator



WASHINGTON - Under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Pakistan is moving away from terrorism, says a key US senator. Senator Tim Kaine, who is a member of two powerful Senate committees on foreign relations and armed service, told reporters over the weekend that the directional change came after the 2013 general elections, which brought a new democratic set-up in the country. Senator Kaine, a top Democrat, met the prime minister last week, when he visited the US Congress and met members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"War against terrorism,

continued presence of terrorist safe havens was one of the major topics of discussion with the visiting Pakistani leader," Senator Kaine said at a meeting with Defence Writers Group in Washington. "My sense is that Pakistan is now really going after enclaves of terrorists in North Waziristan and other areas. They are sincerely doing it," he said. "Those organisations are feeling tough pressure. They are fighting back on the Pakistani government because they are feeling that the Pakistani government is cracking down on them," he added. (Agencies)

Chinese President meets Veteran U.S. Diplomats

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping met with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who is leading a U.S. delegation for the fifth meeting of the China-U.S. Track Two High-Level Dialogue in Beijing on Monday. The dialogue is a gathering for dozens of prominent retired diplomats and officials from both countries.

The line-up on the U.S. side is quite impressive, with former Secretary of State George Schultz, former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, former U.S. trade representative Carla Hills, former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, former U.S. Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Stephen Hadley and Thomas

Donilon on the mission. Xi recalled his visit to the United States in September, reiterating that it is in accordance with the common interest of the two countries and their people to jointly build a new model of major-country relationship that features non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. He called on China and the U.S. to deal with their relations from a strategic stance and have a correct understanding of each other's intention. The president briefed the U.S. delegation on the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which concluded on ... (More on P4)... (18)

Italian PM Adamant About Budget, Showdown with EU Unlikely

ROME - Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is taking a strong stand to defend his country's growth-oriented 2016 budget proposal against potential revisions mandated by the European Union (EU), but experts say that a showdown with Brussels is unlikely.

Italy submitted a 27-billion-euro (30.7-billion-U.S. dollar) proposal for its budget for next year to the European Commission on Oct. 15, which is in charge of assessing national budgets of EU member countries to see if they comply with EU fiscal rules.

The EU executive body might demand from Italy some changes in



the draft before it is approved by Italy's parliament.

Renzi has been using every opportunity to show he will resist taking orders from "eurocrats."

"Italy gives Europe a lot of money," Renzi said in one recent speech. "Every year, we give 20

billion euros (22.5 billion U.S. dollars) to the EU and we get 11 billion euros (12.4 billion U.S. dollars) back in benefits," he said.

In another speech, Renzi said "the EU can advise us, but it cannot tell us what taxes to cut." The Italian prime minister said that if the

EU sends the budget proposal back with requests for changes, he would ignore the requests and would re-submit the document "as it already is."

The 2016 budget must be approved by the Italian parliament by the end of this year. (Xinhua)

S. Korea, U.S. Agree on Joint Plan Against DPRK's Nuke, Missile Activities

SEOUL - Defense chiefs of South Korea and the United States agreed on Monday to a joint operation plan against nuclear and missile threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, who arrived in Seoul Sunday for a two-day visit, held the 47th round of the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), the annual defense ministers' meeting between Seoul and Washington, with his South Korean counterpart Han Min-Koo at Seoul's defense ministry headquarters. The talks



resulted in a 16-point joint statement, which approved the so-called "4D operation plan" to detect, track and destroy the DPRK's ballistic missiles mounted with nuclear or biochemical warheads. The 4D plan for joint mil-

itary operations and exercises, which stands for Detect, Disrupt, Destroy and Defense, will reportedly be reflected in the "Operation Plan 5015" of the U.S.-South Korea combined forces that will replace the former

"Operation Plan 5027" to defend South Korea from possible DPRK missile threats. The joint anti-missile strategy means a concept of closely watching moves in the DPRK's nuclear and missile bases ... (More on P4)... (19)

Modi, Facing Tight Election, Hits back at 'Intolerance' Criticism

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, battling to win power in the heartland state of Bihar and revive stalled economic reforms, hit back at critics on Monday for painting a picture of intolerance in the country.

Rivals say the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is whipping up religious tensions to win the election in Bihar, the country's third most populous state and critical to Modi's plans to improve his party's strength in the upper house of parliament.

Modi's administration has faced a rising tide of criticism for failing to rein in hardline Hindu groups that are campaigning for issues such as cow worship in a multi-faith country.

Modi, addressing a political rally in Pune, sidestepped the criticism and accused his long-time foe, the Congress party, of playing partisan politics.

Re-opening a sensitive chapter in recent history, Modi said hundreds of Sikhs were massacred in Delhi by supporters of the Congress ... (More on P4)... (20)

October's Migrant and Refugee flow to Europe Roughly Matched whole of 2014

GENEVA - The number of migrants and refugees entering Europe by sea last month was roughly the same as for the whole of 2014, United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said on Monday. The monthly record of 218,394 also outstripped September's 172,843, UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards said.

"That makes it the highest total for any month to date and roughly the same as the entire total for 2014," he said. The UNHCR puts 2014 arrivals by sea at about 219,000.

"It also shows the just astonishing amount of arrivals in just a few days during the course of the month. The month peaked at 10,006 (in Greece alone) on a single day on October 20." The vast majority of refugees and migrants to Europe have traveled via Turkey to Greece, a switch from the previously more popular African route via Libya to Italy.

The top nationality are Syrian, accounting for 53 percent of arrivals, as a result of the civil war that has driven hundreds of thousands from their homes. Afghans come second, making up 18 percent of the total.

The ... (More on P4)... (21)

ADMM Meeting-Plus, Related Meetings to Kick off in Malaysia



SUBANG - The ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat and the Third ADMM-Plus will kick off here from Nov. 2 to 5, with the attendance of delegates from 10 ASEAN member states, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries. Themed "Main-

taining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People," the ADMM-Plus is set to see around 320 delegates discussing global and regional security and defense issues. Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said here Monday in a press conference that the defense ministers of ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India,

Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States will attend the event. He said that the Malaysian Armed Forces will be conducting a special briefing on the Malacca Straits Patrol to the four ASEAN states, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand on the side-line of this series of meetings. (Xinhua)

Russian Aircraft Torn Apart in Midair, National Mourning Held

BEIJING - The Russian aircraft, which crashed over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Saturday, reportedly disintegrated in midair and Russia has held a se-

ries of mourning events for victims of the disaster. Egypt's state-run newspaper Ahram quoted an official with Russia's Interstate Aviation Committee as

saying the disintegration happened in the air and fragments are strewn over a large area. Russian Intergovernmental Aviation ... (More on P4)... (22)

AU Condemns Somalia Hotel Attack

MOGADISHU - The Africa Union peacekeeping mission (AMISOM) has condemned Sunday's attack on a hotel in the Somali capital Mogadishu, which killed at least 12 people and wounded dozens.

Two car bombs exploded at the main gate of the Sahafi Hotel in the early morning, after that attackers stormed the hotel, exchanging gunfire with security guards.

A suicide bomber detonated explosives inside the hotel.

The Somali troops and AU forces later arrived at the scene and took control of the situation.

The Islamist group Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. Those killed in the attack included former Army Chief of Staff Abdikarim Dhega-badan, parliamentarian Mohamed Abdi Abtidoon, the owner of the hotel Abdirashid Ilkayte and freelance photographer Mustaf Abdi. In a statement issued in Mogadishu on Monday, AMISOM commended the "fast and professional response" by the Somali security forces that "enabled timely control of the situation".

"AMISOM reiterates the need for continued cooperation and support ... (More on P4)... (23)

Senior Official meets Representatives of Non-Profit Organizations from Taiwan

BEIJING - Chinese Senior political advisor Du Qinglin on Monday met with an exchange group who are in Beijing representing Taiwan non-profit organizations. Du, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, urged the representatives to stick to the direction of the peaceful development of cross-strait relations.

He stressed that the skills and wisdom of both sides of the Taiwan Strait should be pooled to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Du, who is also

chair of China Economic and Social Council, said the role of social organizations should be improved to maximize their potential to improve civil exchanges across the Strait and consolidate the foundation of mutual trust.

Du also briefed the group on the objectives and tasks in the proposal for the 13th Five-year Plan for National Economic and Social Development (2016-2020), which was approved at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee last week. (Xinhua)