



Munich pulls together after mall shooting

## CLASHES ROCK MANBIJ AS IS IGNORES ULTIMATUM

# TURKEY EXTENDS POLICE POWERS AFTER COUP

ISTANBUL: Turkey pushed yesterday with a sweeping crackdown against suspects accused of taking part in the failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, extending police powers to hold people in detention and shuttering over 1,000 private schools. A week after renegade soldiers tried to oust him with guns, tanks and F16s, Erdogan's government has rounded up or sacked tens of thousands of perceived state enemies, including almost 300 officers of the guard shielding his Ankara palace. But in its first major release of suspects amid global criticism of the crackdown, Turkey set free 1,200 low ranking soldiers in Ankara.

Under heightened police powers, suspects can now be held without charge for one month, up from four days, the official gazette announced on the third day of what Erdogan has said would be a three-month state of emergency. Fears that the strongman will seek to further cement his rule and muzzle dissent through repression have strained ties with Western NATO allies and cast a darkening shadow over Turkey's long-standing bid to join the European Union.

After Brussels issued stinging criticism and warned Erdogan that bringing back the death penalty would end the membership bid for good, Erdogan fired back that the EU had taken a "biased and prejudiced" stance on Turkey. He added bitterly that "for the past 53 years Europe has been making us wait" and that no EU candidate country "has had to suffer like we have had to suffer." "They are making statements that are contradictory," he told France 24 television. "They are biased, they are prejudiced and will continue to act in this prejudiced manner towards Turkey."

### Cleansing the state

Strains have also grown with the United States, which relies on Turkish bases to launch airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. The man Erdogan accuses of orchestrating the plot against him, the reclusive 75-year-old Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, has long lived in a secluded compound in Pennsylvania, and Ankara is pushing for his extradition. President Barack Obama said Friday the US would take seriously any "evidence" of wrongdoing by the preacher, whose followers, including alumni of his foundation's schools, have long had a strong presence in Turkey's police and civil service.

Obama also flatly rejected claims that the US had prior intelligence of the July 15 putsch attempt, calling such suggestions "unequivocally false". Erdogan has insisted that, despite the new emergency powers and the mass purges, Turkey will not "compromise on democracy", as Ankara has said its measures are no different to those France has taken since a series of bloody jihadist attacks. Prosecutors said Turkey had set free 1,200 soldiers, all privates, detained in Ankara after the military coup, as authorities were seeking to swiftly sort out those who had fired on the people from those who did not.

### Plotters and martyrs

To root out what Erdogan labels the "virus" of Gulen's clandestine "terrorists" and their sympathizers, his government has sacked thousands of state teachers and university lecturers, who have also been barred from overseas travel. In the latest move targeting the education sector, 1,043 private schools and 1,229 associations and foundations will be shut down, said yesterday's Gazette statement.

The steps were just some of the seismic changes that

have rocked Turkey since the shock of the July 15 coup attempt that claimed 246 lives. The night of violence left 24 rebel soldiers dead and killed 179 civilians, 62 police and five soldiers who opposed them and have been hailed as "martyrs". Since the coup, massive crowds of flag-waving Erdogan supporters have taken to the streets night after night to celebrate their leader. But rights activists and opposition groups, including from Turkey's Kurdish minority, fear a widening witchhunt of government critics.

According to the authorities, 10,410 people have been detained—mainly soldiers, including 283 Presidential Guard officers, but also police, judges and civil servants. Of these, 4,500 have been formally placed under arrest. The Turkish government has also cancelled over 10,000 passports, mainly of state officials, "due to flight risk with the holders either in custody or on the run".

Aside from the detentions, more than 50,000 other civil servants, down to the family and sports ministries, have been sacked or suspended—in a purge whose speed and scale suggested to many observers that their names were on pre-existing lists. The government also plans more far-reaching institutional changes, said the interior minister, Efkan Ala. Crucially, he said, control of the gendarmerie, in charge of domestic security, will be wrested from the army and placed under the interior ministry. — AFP



ANKARA: In this Friday, July 22, 2016 photo, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, acknowledges the crowd as he arrives at the parliament. — AP

## OFFICIALS ASK NICE TO DELETE ATTACK IMAGES

PARIS: Authorities in Nice are protesting against a request from French anti-terror police to delete surveillance camera images of last week's deadly truck attack, amid growing questions over the scale of the police presence at the time. The city received a letter this week from the SDAT anti-terrorism agency, obtained by The Associated Press, saying images of the July 14 attack should be destroyed.

An official with the national police said the request was motivated by concern that the images could leak and be used for jihadi propaganda. The official was not authorized to be publicly named. A lawyer for the city submitted a protest letter Friday saying Nice officials would not comply for legal, administrative and technical reasons. But the lawyer also notes that the images are scheduled to be automatically deleted anyway today, according to Nice City Hall practice of deleting CCTV images after 10 days. Investigators will keep copies of the images.

The dispute comes as the government faces growing criticism over security measures the night of the attack, and the cameras could show where and how police were deployed. Top regional official Christian Estrosi, of the conservative opposition Republicans party, had argued for tougher security for Nice's Bastille Day fireworks celebrations. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve acknowledged Thursday that only lightly armed local police were guarding the entrance to a pedestrian zone on the Nice beachfront when driver Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel sped past a barricade and ran over people, killing 84. Cazeneuve had previously said national police were guarding the closed-off boulevard.

An internal police investigation into the security measures has been launched, and President Francois Hollande is holding a special security meeting Friday. Five people were handed preliminary terrorism charges late Thursday night in the case. The Paris prosecutor says Bouhlel had accomplices and appears to have been plotting his attack for months, citing text messages, more than 1,000 phone calls and video of the attack scene on the phone of one of the suspects. Nice City Hall has put up the names of all 84 people killed in the attack on two black banners. The victims were of several nationalities, as were the more than 300 people wounded in the attack. — AP

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

## COROLLA, MADE FOR ALL WITH A SELECT, COMPLIMENTARY PACKAGE

For 50 years the Corolla has been providing the finest driving experience in its class. Quality, durability and reliability have always been a given but the new 2016 Corolla takes the experience to another level. The innovative (MultiDrive 7S) technology, complete exterior design and improved interior spaciousness means you'll experience a more assured drive on each and every journey. **LIVE EVERY MILE.**

**(MultiDrive 7S) Advantages:**

- Much smoother than an automatic transmission
- No shift clunk
- Engine torque always in optimum condition
- Economical and efficient fuel consumption

**HURRY NOW! LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE**

**MULTI DRIVE 7S**

500 Liters Fuel

Power Bank

Canon Camera IXUS 170

Caribou Coffee Voucher

Plus Additional Gifts

FLEET OFFER GIFTS: PERFUME BOX + 500 LITRES FUEL

COROLLA

- 5 Years Warranty Unlimited Mileage
- 3rd Party Insurance
- Car Registration
- T-connect service for one year
- MUSAADA roadside assistance

5 YEARS MUSAADA

2016

Tel: 1803803  
toyota.com.kw  
toyotakw

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.  
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

AL-RAB 4th Ring Road - AL-AHMADI Eastern Area - AL-JABRA Industrial Area - SHUWAIKH Al-Tal Showroom FLEET SALES - AL-RAB Est. 2102/5/4/6/9