



(From Left, anti-clockwise) A woman hugs a man as he cries near the flag-draped coffin of a relative as they mourn in Istanbul yesterday, during the funeral of seven victims of the July 15 coup attempt; Turkey President Erdogan along with PM carries a coffin during the funeral; and Turkish coup plotters, who fled country, are being escorted by Greek police officers after a court hearing in Greece.

# Allies turned bitter foes

AGENCIES

What was once a marriage of convenience has become a bitter and damaging fight between two men that threatens to damage Turkish democracy and change its face forever.

When a group within Turkey's military launched a coup on Friday night, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wasted little time in blaming Fethullah Gulen and his followers, which he describes as a terrorist organisation. Gulen has firmly denied any involvement.

His soft power in Turkey with thousands of followers, often called Gulenists by their opponents, offered Erdogan a base of supporters during the early years of his premiership from 2003.

According to Anthony Skinner, head of political risk at Verisk Maplecroft consultancy, the two men's friendship was based on challenging the control by the then secular establishment.

The two groups wanted to weaken the military which had prior to Friday conducted three successful coups and forced the then-government out of office in 1997. Once in charge of the country, Skinner said there was a greater struggle for power, with the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) having the upper hand.

Gulenists became antagonised when AKP began to taste greater success in elections, said the analyst, especially over Erdogan's rule and efforts towards forging a peace deal with the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party). Critics say they had concerns over the threat to their network and influence in the Kurdish southeast.

The alliance unravelled in 2013 as Erdogan closed dershanes, network of schools run by Gulen. The authorities

## WHO IS GULEN?



Gulen does not actually live in Turkey and resides in Pennsylvania in the US under a self-imposed exile. He has lived in the US since 1999. The 75-year-old was a preacher for many years and has been described as one of the world's most important Muslim figures. Born in Ezurum, Turkey, in 1941, he studied and then began speaking in mosques and conference halls around the country. He became very well-known in Turkey and opened a legion of schools in the country before expanding them into central Asian countries and Africa.

# US, Turkey spar after coup

### Ankara blames Washington for plotting; Kerry says claim harmful for ties

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Tensions between Turkey and the US have escalated following the attempted coup against the Erdogan administration, with the country's leader demanding the extradition of a US-based cleric accused of orchestrating the violence. Another senior official has directly blamed the United States.

The Obama administration has strongly denied any involvement or responsibility in recent events in the country. In a phone call to his counterpart in Turkey, US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "Public insinuations or claims about any role by the United States in the failed coup attempt are utterly false and harmful to our bilateral relations."

The warning came after Turkey closed its airspace, thereby effectively grounding US warplanes which have been targeting IS forces in neighbouring Syria and Iraq. It reopened yesterday.

Earlier today, Turkey's justice minister Bekir Bozdogan announced that some 6,000 people have now been detained in a government crackdown on suspected opponents and dissenters following the coup.

In a television interview Minister Bozdogan said: "The cleansing [operation] is still continuing. Some 6,000 detentions have taken place. The number could surpass 6,000."

At the centre of the controversy stands

Fethullah Gulen, who lives in exile in Pennsylvania and promotes a philosophy that blends a mystical form of Islam with staunch advocacy of democracy, education, science and interfaith dialogue.

In a televised speech on Saturday, President Erdogan said Turkey had never rejected a US

## COUP BID COULD HAVE BEEN STAGED: GULEN

Fethullah Gulen said on Saturday the attempted overthrow may have been staged, and he urged the Turkish people not to view military intervention in a positive light. "There is a slight chance, there is a possibility that it could be a staged coup," Gulen told reporters through a translator in Pennsylvania. "It could be meant for court accusations and associations." He also criticized the President Tayyip Erdogan's government. "It appears that they have no tolerance for any movement, any group, any organization that is not under their total control," he said.

extradition request for "terrorists." Addressing Washington, he requested the handover of Gulen and said, "If we are strategic partners, then you should bring about our request."

Addressing Barack Obama on Saturday, the Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said: "Any country that stands behind him is no friend of

Turkey, is engaged in a serious war with Turkey. Today, after this coup attempt, I'm once again calling on you, I'm saying: Extradite this man in Pennsylvania to Turkey now."

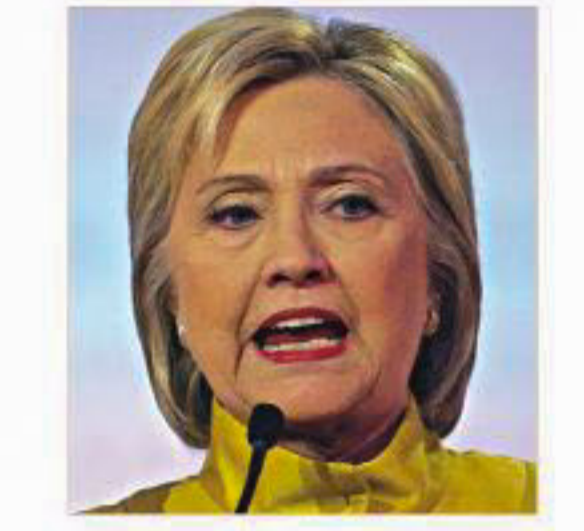
Suleyman Soylu, Turkey's labor minister, went further than Erdogan, suggesting the US was behind the coup. "The US is behind the coup attempt. A few journals that are published there [in the US] have been conducting activities for several months. For many months we have sent requests to the US concerning Fethullah Gulen. The US must extradite him," he said.

Gulen has condemned Friday night's coup attempt by military officers that resulted in a night of explosions, air battles and gunfire that left dozens dead.

Kerry reiterated US support for Turkey's democratically elected government, according to the State Department readout, and urged authorities to respect the rule of law and safeguard civilian life as they respond to the coup attempt. Kerry also said Turkey needed to respect due process as it investigates those it believes were involved in the plot.

Earlier, on a visit to Luxembourg, Kerry told reporters the US would entertain an extradition request for Gulen if the Turks provided evidence of wrongdoing.

"If you're planning a coup, you don't exactly advertise to your partners in Nato," Kerry said. "So it surprised everyone. It does not appear to be a very brilliantly planned or executed event."



## Clinton is the reason 'world spin apart'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Donald Trump has laid into Hillary Clinton, as well as Barack Obama, saying they carry direct responsibility for chaos and tragedy in the world, including the massacre in Nice and the attempted military overthrow in Turkey, because of timid and misbegotten foreign policies.

At a sometimes awkward and disjointed roll-out of his running mate, Governor Mike Pence of Indiana, in New York yesterday, Trump said together they would deliver a new "law and order" era for voters in November both at home and internationally.

He laid out the case that events such as the attempted coup in Turkey are a direct consequence of the leadership of Clinton when she served President Obama as Secretary of State. "Now we are seeing unrest in Turkey, a further demonstration of the failure of Obama-Clinton. Every single thing they touched has turned to horrible, horrible death-defying problems," he offered.

"The Middle East is more unstable than ever before, it's never been like this, out of control," he went on.

Pence similarly blamed American leadership for the recent instabilities.

"History teaches us that weakness arouses evil," he declared. "Hillary Clinton's and Barack Obama's foreign policy of leading from behind, moving red lines, feigning resets with a resurgent Russia, and the rise of Isis is all a testament to this truth in history and we must bring change."

## Syrian regime besiege rebel parts of Aleppo

AFP, Aleppo

Syrian government forces yesterday besieged rebel-held parts of the northern city of Aleppo after severing the last supply route into eastern areas, sparking concern for tens of thousands of civilians.

The United Nations says an estimated 300,000 people live in the rebel-controlled neighbourhoods of Syria's second city, and fears are mounting that they could face starvation.

After weeks of fierce fighting, government forces seized the strategic Castello Road, said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"The eastern neighbourhoods are now completely besieged," he told AFP.

The Observatory said regime air strikes on rebel-held areas killed six civilians, including a child, while 16 rebel fighters died in the advance on Aleppo.

The city is divided roughly between government control in the west and rebel control in the east.

Castello Road had been used by rebels but also by shopkeepers bringing in produce for residents and by villagers visiting relatives in the city.

The UN says nearly 600,000 people are living under siege in Syria, most of them surrounded by government forces.

More than 280,000 people have been killed and millions have been forced to flee their homes since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011.



Syrian civil defence workers look for survivors under the rubble of a collapsed building following reported air strikes yesterday in the rebel-controlled neighbourhood of Karm Homad in the northern city of Aleppo; Inset, A man reacts after the strike. PHOTO: AFP

## NEWSIN brief

### Suu Kyi holds talks with rebels

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's de facto premier Aung San Suu Kyi held landmark talks yesterday with senior rebel leaders, as she strives to seal a ceasefire with a patchwork of ethnic minority militias that have battled the national army for decades. Suu Kyi has made peace a flagship policy of her newly installed civilian-led government which replaced decades of brutal junta rule earlier this year.

### Gunman kills two in Florida hospital

AFP, Miami

A gunman fatally shot an elderly patient and a hospital employee in an apparently random attack inside a Florida hospital early yesterday, police said. "Victims are an elderly female patient, & female hospital employee. Motive unknown," the Titusville Police Department said on Twitter. The shooting took place on the third floor of the Parrish Medical Center in Titusville -- 40 miles east of Orlando.

### Pema Khandu becomes youngest CM of India

PTI, Itanagar

From assisting his father Dorjee Khandu in politics to working for social transformation, Pema Khandu has travelled a long way to sit in the coveted post of chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh. The 37-year-old Pema was elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party on Saturday in a dramatic turn of events for the beleaguered party fighting to save its government.

## Killer sent 'huge cash to family'

### Text from France terror attacker reveals he may not have been acting alone

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The man who killed at least 84 people after driving a lorry into crowds celebrating Bastille Day reportedly sent £84,000 to his family in Tunisia just days before the attack.

IS have claimed responsibility for the attack and French interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve stated on Saturday that Bouhlel must have been "radicalised very quickly".

A final text message sent by the killer minutes before he carried out the deadly attack on Nice suggests he may not have been acting alone.

The message from Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, which was sent to an unidentified recipient at 10.27pm on Thursday evening, appears to be asking an accomplice to provide more weapons ahead of his assault.

"Bring more weapons" read the text from Bouhlel, according to Nice Matin.

An earlier text read: "It's good. I have the equipment."

Bouhlel, a French Tunisian, sent the message moments before he ploughed his lorry into crowds on the seafront Promenade des Anglaises. He was later shot dead by police.

Bouhlel's brother in Tunisia has described receiving a "fortune" in cash days before the massacre, after Bouhlel allegedly persuaded friends to smuggle bundles of money to his hometown of Msaken.

Jaber Bouhlel, told the Mail Online he did not believe his brother was a terrorist, but added he had not seen Bouhlel for several years and the money had come as a complete surprise.

"Mohamed sent us all of his savings, all of his worth in France. He had worked for eight years and this was the money he saved in France," he said.

The killer's father, Monthir Bouhlel, claimed his son suffered from psychological problems and was sometimes unstable. He also revealed that he was an alcoholic.

Bouhlel was a petty criminal who had many brushes with the law, but was "totally unknown to intelligence services...and was never flagged for signs of radicalisation", prosecutor Francois Molins said on Friday.

Seven people have now been detained over the killings as authorities attempt to determine whether Bouhlel was acting alone.



## KASHMIR VIOLENCE Newspapers, cable TV shut down

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir seized newspapers and shut down cable television on Saturday, aiming to quell a flare up of tensions in the region which has seen violent protests over the killing of a separatist leader by security forces.

Around 36 people have been killed, most of them by police fire, in the worst outbreak of violence in six years in the disputed territory. The state of Jammu and Kashmir has already imposed a curfew and blocked mobile phone services to stop more protests.

## 'Not embarrassed' Says brother who killed Pak star

AFP, Multan

The brother of a murdered Pakistani celebrity yesterday said he is "not embarrassed" to have killed her, as Qandeel Baloch's death reignited polarising calls for action against the "epidemic" of honour killings.

The strangling of Baloch, judged by many in deeply conservative Muslim Pakistan as infamous for selfies and videos that by Western standards would appear tame, has prompted shock and revulsion.

"Yes of course, I strangled her," Baloch's brother Muhammad Wasim told reporters at a defiant press conference organised by police in the city of Multan early yesterday.

"She was on the ground floor while our parents were asleep on the roof top," he continued. "It was around 10.45 pm when I gave her a tablet... and then killed her."

"I am not embarrassed at all over what I did," he said. "Whatever was the case, it (his sister's behaviour) was completely intolerable."

Baloch, believed to be in her twenties and whose real name was Fauzia Azeem, was killed on Friday night at her family's home near Multan.

Her brother, arrested a day later after her father filed a police complaint against him for the killing.

Hundreds of women are murdered for "honour" every year in Pakistan.