

3,000 migrants killed in Med this year: IOM

Nearly 3,000 migrants and refugees have perished in the Mediterranean Sea already this year while almost 250,000 have reached Europe, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said yesterday.

Karadzic appeals genocide sentence

War-time Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic yesterday lodged an appeal against his 40-year jail sentence for genocide, accusing UN judges of "subjecting him to a political trial".

Hope fades as search to be suspended



The hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 will be suspended if the aircraft is not found in an area now being searched, Malaysia, China and Australia said in a statement on Friday.

GERMANY MALL SHOOTING

Police evacuates people from a shopping mall in Munich yesterday following shootings that killed at least 8 people and wounding several.

PHOTO: AFP, MAIL ONLINE



'Increase intel sharing' Kerry calls on coalition partners as IS focuses beyond Iraq, Syria

US officials on Thursday called on partners in the coalition against Islamic State to increase intelligence sharing as the militant group morphs to focus on attacks beyond its shrinking self-declared caliphate in Iraq and Syria.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said after a meeting of defense and foreign affairs chiefs from about 40 nations in the US-led coalition. "We talked about the importance of real-time communication between countries, information sharing about militant suspects, he said."

Kerry said that issue dominated the afternoon's discussions, which for the first time included the international police organization Interpol. The goal, he said, is "that a border guard in southern Europe has the same data about a terrorist suspect as an airport security officer in Manila."

He and other officials suggested that wresting control of Islamic State's major remaining strongholds in Mosul, Iraq and Raqqa, Syria is only a matter of time. Brett McGurk, the United States' envoy to the coalition, told the meeting that the liberation of Mosul "is now in sight."

The meetings were meant as a show of unity in the coalition, whose members have sometimes differed on strategy.

Turkey's foreign and defense ministers did not attend the sessions, but Kerry said a top official from Ankara assured the group that Turkey's commitment to the fight against Islamic State would not be affected.

In the wake of deadly attacks in Paris and Brussels, in particular, the United States has pushed allies to share more information on suspected militants, some of whom have easily crossed intra-European borders.

Kerry said breaking down bureaucratic barriers was crucial to allow more sharing of information about threats as Islamic State seeks to boost recruitment by adopting new languages and moving into new territories. Meanwhile, President Francois Hollande said yesterday France will supply weapons to Iraq to support its fight against the Islamic State group, but ruled out any troop deployment in the country.

"This morning at the defence council, I took the decision as part of the anti-Daesh coalition to make weapons available to Iraqi forces," Hollande said, using another name for IS. An aide to the president said the weaponry would include artillery batteries and that France would also send military advisors to train Iraqi forces in using them.

RUSSIA BOMBED US, UK OUTPOSTS: WSJ

Russian warplanes bombed a remote outpost in Syria used by elite US and British forces last month as well as another site linked to the CIA, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday. The Journal, which cited US officials as its source, said the previously unreported air strikes on June 16 and July 12 were part of a bid by Moscow to pressure Washington to cooperate more closely with it in the skies over Syria.

cooperating with the Russians. But the White House and the State Department, seeking to avoid a military escalation, decided to pursue a compromise, it said. Last week, US Secretary of State John Kerry reached a provisional agreement with the Russians to join forces in strikes on Al-Nusra, the al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria. Under the agreement, the Russians would halt air strikes against US-backed rebels and restrain the Syrian air force in return for Washington easing Moscow's international isolation, the Journal said.

'Come save me' Syrian kids hold Pokemon pics urging world to help them

Photos of Syrian children holding pictures of Pokemon characters and asking the world to save them have been circulating the internet.

The images, published on Facebook, show young Syrians looking dejectedly into the camera holding images of Pokemon characters with the words: "I am here, come save me."

The signs also state the location of each child. They are all in different Syrian towns. One of the children's sign reads: "I am in Kafr Nabl on the outskirts of Idlib, come and save me," and another: "I am in Kafr Zeta, save me."

Hundreds of people commented on the Facebook post expressing sympathy and sharing prayers for the children.

Since Pokemon Go became an international craze, people have expressed frustration that more attention is not being paid to the suffering in Syria, where a war has raged since 2011 - leaving hundreds of thousands dead and forcing millions to flee their homes. Some Syrians see it as a chance to redirect attention to the conflict that began in March 2011, which has often fallen out of the headlines despite a spiralling death toll and the displacement of more than half the Syrian population.



TRUMP'S SPEECH KEY QUOTES

The following are key quotes from New York billionaire Donald Trump's speech on Thursday accepting the nomination to be the Republican Party candidate in November's US presidential election.

TIME OF CRISIS "Our Convention occurs at a moment of crisis for our nation. The attacks on our police, and the terrorism in our cities, threaten our very way of life. Any politician who does not grasp this danger is not fit to lead our country."

HILLARY'S LEGACY "America is far less safe -- and the world is far less stable -- than when Obama made the decision to put Hillary Clinton in charge of America's foreign policy... After 15 years of wars in the Middle East, after trillions of dollars spent and thousands of lives lost, the situation is worse than it has ever been before. This is the legacy of Hillary Clinton: death, destruction, terrorism and weakness."

I AM YOUR VOICE "Every day I wake up determined to deliver a better life for the people all across this nation that have been ignored, neglected and abandoned. I have visited the laid-off factory workers, and the communities crushed by our horrible and unfair trade deals. These are the forgotten men and women of our country. People who work hard but no longer have a voice. I AM YOUR VOICE."

BLAME OBAMA "The irresponsible rhetoric of our President, who has used the pulpit of the presidency to divide us by race and color, has made America a more dangerous environment for everyone."

MIGRANT BAN FROM 'TERROR' NATIONS "We must immediately suspend immigration from any nation that has been compromised by terrorism until such time as proven vetting mechanisms have been put in place."

BUILD THE WALL "We are going to build a great border wall to stop illegal immigration, to stop the gangs and the violence, and to stop the drugs from pouring into our communities."

One of Trump's five children, Ivanka



Ivanka Trump for president? Trump's daughter makes big impact on GOP convention

At times, the speech was drowned out by the cheering crowds in the arena of the Republican National Convention. Social media crowned a new political star. Some Republicans said they were seeing the US president they longed for.

It was Ivanka Trump's night. The eldest daughter of New York businessman-turned-presidential nominee Donald Trump almost stole the show on Thursday night with a speech about her father that roused a packed Cleveland convention hall, broadcast to millions.

On Google, there were more searches for Ivanka Trump than for her father. The 34-year old business-woman and former model talked about her father's yearning to improve America, childcare, equal pay for women and other issues close to her heart, with a poise some found befitting of the White House.

"Okay, why isn't @IvankaTrump running for President?" a television actor Anson Mount said in a Twitter post. "One of the best speeches - if not the best speech - tonight," said Chris Herrod, a 50-year-old delegate from Utah who had worked for Trump's vanquished rival Ted Cruz, the U.S. senator from Texas.

of selling her father's softer side. When she is not involved in the campaign, she helps to run the family's sprawling business empire from its New York City headquarters. This week in Cleveland she has been everywhere, lobbying for her father with delegates and donors, appearing in television interviews and leaving a

US ELECTION: REMAINING DATES

- JULY 25-28: Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Hillary Clinton will accept the nomination as the Democratic presidential candidate.
SEPTEMBER 26: First presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York.
OCTOBER 4: Vice presidential debate at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia.
OCTOBER 9: Second presidential debate at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri.
OCTOBER 19: Third and final presidential debate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
NOVEMBER 8: Election day, established by law as the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
2017 JANUARY 20: Barack Obama leaves the White House. Inauguration of 45th president of the United States.

by a ratio of 3 to 1, according to analytics firm Zoomph. "She gave us enormous insight into him and the kind of man he is," said retiree Fernando C. deBaca, a 78-year-old New Mexico delegate. "She's (an) enormously capable young lady, as is her brother. We're going to see the beginning of a dynasty here."

ATTEMPTED COUP IN TURKEY

Erdogan vows 'new blood' in army

Turkey rebuffed the European Union on Friday over the death penalty, while President Tayyip Erdogan vowed to restructure the military and give it "fresh blood", signalling the scope of a shake-up yet to come under a state of emergency.

There is growing worry in the West about Turkey's widening crackdown against thousands of members of the security forces, judiciary, civil service and academia after last week's failed military coup. On Wednesday Erdogan announced a state of emergency, a move he said would allow the government to take swift action against coup plotters.

In the latest swoop, Turkey detained 283 members of the presidential guard, an official said. There are at least 2,500 members of the guard, according to local media.

In the most significant institutional changes since the coup, powerful Interior Minister Ertan Ala said the gendarmerie would in future be part of the interior ministry and not the army. The gendarmerie, which looks after domestic security, had always been part of the military and its removal is a blow to the armed forces' clout after the coup.

The possibility of Turkey bringing back capital punishment for the plotters of the attempted coup that killed more than 246 people and wounded more than 2,100 has put further strain on Ankara's relationship with the EU, which it seeks to join. Erdogan accuses Fethullah Gulen, a charismatic US-based cleric, of masterminding the plot against him, which crumbled early on Saturday. In a crackdown on Gulen's suspected followers, more than 60,000 soldiers, police, judges, civil servants and teachers have been suspended, detained or placed under investigation.

Erdogan told Reuters late on Thursday he would restructure the military and give it "fresh blood", citing the threat of the Gulen movement, which he likened to a cancer. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States for years, has denied any role in the attempted putsch, and accused Erdogan of orchestrating the coup himself. Opposition parties which stood with the authorities against the coup expressed concern that the state of emergency could concentrate too much power in the hands of Erdogan, whose rivals have long accused him of suppressing free speech.

Erdogan, an Islamist, has led Turkey as prime minister or president since 2003. Around a third of Turkey's roughly 360 serving generals have been detained since the coup attempt, a senior official said, with 99 charged pending trial and 14 more being held.



IMF boss to stand trial

IMF chief Christine Lagarde was ordered yesterday to stand trial in France over a massive state payout to a controversial tycoon when she was French economy minister, dealing a setback to her stellar career.

France's highest appeals court dismissed Lagarde's challenge against the decision to try her for negligence in her handling of a dispute between a state-owned bank and businessman Bernard Tapie.

Tapie walked away with a staggering 404 million euros (\$445 million) in compensation in 2008 after Lagarde ordered the long-running row over the sale of sports gear giant Adidas to be resolved by arbitration.

The ruling means the 60-year-old IMF chief will go before a special tribunal that hears cases against government ministers accused of wrongdoing in the discharge of their duties.

The ruling is a blow to the IMF boss, who insists she acted in France's best interests in the case.

She will be the third successive head of the Washington-based lender to face trial. Her predecessor, compatriot Dominique Strauss-Kahn, was acquitted of pimping by a French court last year, four years after he resigned his IMF post to fight separate sexual assault allegations.