

The longest night for the Turks

40 terrorists arrested; interior minister | Iran rises to 12th place among world's top steelmakers: WSA | 11 Iran has potential to win gold medal at Olympics: Mohammad Mousavi | "Tenant" to go to Paris

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran seeking \$60b from Total to for petrochemicals

Iran is in talks with and Total SA as part of its push to attract 350 billion in foreign investment to more than double the country's capacity to produce petrochemicals over the next decade. State-run National Petrochemical Co. plans to increase output capacity to 150 million metric tons per year by 2026. Managing Director Marziyeh Shayan said in an interview at her office in Tehran. That means completing 55 unfinished projects and 28 new production facilities, said Shayan, who also serves as deputy oil minister.

PSA strikes deal with Saipa to build Citroen cars in Iran 1st new model to be introduced in 2018

Rouhani: Iranian athletes' message in Rio is 'peace, coexistence'



PERSPECTIVE

The longest night for the Turks

Turkish nation had their longest night as Turkey experienced a failed coup d'état attempt on July 15, 2016. Turkish citizens flooded down to the streets after President Erdogan addressed the nation as the Commander of Chief via Face Time on CNN Turk and called them to the streets following an illegal coup notice announced by an anchorwoman on TRT (Turkish official state television channel). Thanks to our people acting as one body, this ugly attempt was thwarted, yet, this was a bitter-sweet happiness considering the terrifying repercussions that came to light the second day.

A failed coup attempt on July 15

The result of the coup is that hundreds of our people have been martyred and many injured. For the first time in our history, the Turkish Parliament was bombed as well as the new presidential complex. In this respect it was an incident we did not experience even during our Independence War or when Allies occupied our country during the Ottoman times. Low-flying military jets were all over the skies of the capital and Istanbul until dawn and blasts followed one another. I feel it is important to note that it was not the TAF that attempted this coup, but a small fraction implanted within the Army. Also for the first time, some soldiers, who belong to this fraction either consciously or not drove tanks through civilian areas. I am deliberately saying "consciously or not" because some of the young privates were called to execute their regular duty on the pretext of a military exercise. However, some of them who were carrying arms that were purchased by the taxes of Turkish citizens, crushed people with those tanks, while some shot many others from helicopters.

Erdogan will probably 'reduce tensions' with neighbors: Shireen Hunter

INTERVIEW By Jovoda Helronika

TEHRAN — Shireen Hunter, a professor of political science at Georgetown University, believes that the coup attempt in Turkey would most likely induce President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to normalize relations with neighbors. "In all likelihood, he will try to reduce tensions with Turkey's neighbors and avert Turkey from regional conflicts," Hunter tells the Tehran Times. Hunter also says after the attempted coup "Erdogan will have to focus on stabilizing Turkey domestically and consolidating his own power position."

What were the reasons behind the coup attempt in Turkey?

It is still not quite clear who were the principal instigators of the coup. The government is accusing the followers of Fethullah Gulen. This is quite possible because relations between Erdogan and Gulen have seriously deteriorated in the last several years, and Erdogan has cracked down on various press and news outlets associated with the Gulen movement. The two men are both of a dictatorial tendency and therefore have personality clashes as well. On some issues, such as relations with Israel, too, they differ. Gulen supports good Turkish-Israeli relations. However, there is no certainty that Gulen and his movement were behind the coup. The fact is that Erdogan has antagonized too many people in Turkey and abroad through his domestic and foreign policies. What seems clear is that unlike previous coups this was not

Some speculate that U.S. was behind the coup attempt in Turkey. What do you think?

As it is unlikely that the U.S. was behind the coup, the U.S. wants stability in Turkey and although at some junctures it had problems with some of Erdogan's policies, it would not risk plunging Turkey in turmoil. Moreover, Turkey is a NATO member and plays an important role in America's regional strategy.

The reaction of various political parties demonstrated people in Turkey want to continue with the democratic process and no longer favor resolving these problems through military coups.

Iran Khodro returns to Azerbaijan

Iran Khodro, the Iranian top auto manufacturer which once assembled automobile Samand in Sheikha Capital city of Azeri district of Shamakhi, is likely to return to Azerbaijan.

The Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan informed that in collaboration with Iran Khodro a project on manufacturing of motor vehicles & spare parts has been launched on the territory of the Neftchala Industrial Town.

According to the Ministry, eight modular units with an area of 7,800 square meters and also 1,200 square meters of administrative and technical buildings, have been already constructed in the town since September 2015. (Source: az2)

Hamed Morteza-Alavi tops at Izmir cartoon contest

TEHRAN — Iranian artist Hamed Morteza-Alavi won the first prize at the Izmir Cartoon Competition on the theme of "Let's Remove the Barriers", the organizers announced on Friday during the closing ceremony of the event in the Turkish coastal city.

According to the Ministry, eight modular units with an area of 7,800 square meters and also 1,200 square meters of administrative and technical buildings, have been already constructed in the town since September 2015. (Source: az2)

Local Police Oriented towards the Participation of Disabled in Social Life" is the theme of the conference that plans to bring together global academics and scholars to explore ways to expand the role of disabled people in urban life.

Comedy show brightens day for children with cancer in Tehran

TEHRAN — On Thursday, the Khodkane Asemari, a theatrical group performed a show for children with cancer at the Mahak charity hospital and rehabilitation center in Tehran.

The Mahak hospital, itself has an interesting story of how it all came about. But today, it is equipped to accommodate up to 120 children, each accompanied by a family member.

Children at Mahak normally have lunch at noon and an hour later they hit the playground, a dreamland fairy room filled with all sorts of toys, games and adventure, for three hours.

PSA Group unveiled a second Iranian manufacturing deal on Thursday as the French carmaker seeks to reclaim the leading position it once enjoyed in the Middle East's biggest auto market, and U.S.-led sanctions forced its withdrawal. The Paris-based PSA aims to create a framework deal with Iranian counterpart Saipa to invest 300 million euros (\$330 million) in the development and production of three Citroen models through a new joint venture. Under the agreement, to be finalized by the end of 2016, Citroen and its Iranian partner will introduce the first of three planned new models for the French brand in 2018. PSA, which pulled out in 2011 under U.S. pressure, now faces stiffer competition from Chinese rivals that have grabbed more business in the intervening years - as well as western peers such as Renault. Rivaling back with newer models. This agreement opens up a new chapter in our history. PSA Chief Executive Carlos Tavares said: "Citroen is proud to offer Iranian customers with modern vehicles that meet the highest comfort, safety and technology standards." Iranian car registrations approached 1.6 million cars at their 2011 peak, with PSA claiming almost 30 percent of the market, before collapsing under the weight of sanctions. The deal with Saipa, Citroen's partner since 1966, follows a joint venture deal inked last month between Peugeot and state-owned Iran Khodro. (Source: Reuters)

ARTICLE

From Iran to Nice, we must confront all terrorism to end terrorism

France has unfortunately been the epicenter for two terrorism-related events in recent weeks. The tragic truck attack in Nice, which resulted in international attention, and a rally recently held in Paris by a notorious Iranian opposition group - the "Mujahedeen Khalq" or MEK, which for years has committed acts of terrorism against Iran. While it might not be immediately evident, there is a connection between the events: the groups behind them have been accused of atrocities and have historical ties to Saudi Arabia.

MEK's terrorism in Iran

While the group no longer has the distinction of a terrorist group in the United States and is not related to or as widely destructive as ISIS, in Iran the MEK is still very much a perpetrator of terror. Since its founding in the late 1960s, the MEK's favored tactic has been terrorism, which for years it directed towards Americans. An MEK leader by the name of Massoud Rajavi stated in 1972 that the groups "main goal" was to "free Iran of U.S. imperialism." As I documented in my 2014 book, "Iran and the United States" the MEK's assassination campaigns in the 1970s claimed the lives of several high-profile Americans.

Turkish nation had their longest night as Turkey experienced a failed *coup d'état* attempt on July 15, 2016. Turkish citizens flooded down to the streets after President Erdogan addressed the nation as the Commander of Chief via Face Time on CNN Turk and called them to the streets following an illegal *coup* notice announced by an anchorwoman on TRT (Turkish official state television channel). Thanks to our people acting as one body, this ugly attempt was thwarted.

A failed coup attempt on July 15

The result of the coup is that hundreds of our people have been martyred and many injured. For the first time in our history, the Turkish Parliament Building was bombed as well as the new Presidential complex. In this respect it was an incident we did not experience even during our Independence War or when Allies occupied our country during the Ottoman times. Low-flying military jets were all over the skies of the capital and Istanbul until dawn and blasts followed one another. I feel it is important to note that it was not the TAF that attempted this coup, but a small fraction implanted within the Army. Also for the first time, some soldiers, who belong to this fraction either consciously or not drove tanks through civilian areas. I am deliberately

saying “consciously or not” because some of the young privates were called to execute their regular duty on the pretext of a military exercise. However, some of them who were carrying arms that were purchased by the taxes of Turkish citizens, crushed people with those tanks, while some shot many others from helicopters.

The scenes were terrifying. I am unable to bring myself to call those who pointed guns at our civilians as human beings; they are simply inhumane, cold, and callous creatures that were oppressing their own people. They committed a very serious crime and it is hard to imagine what people with such a monstrous mindset would do if they come to power.

Coups always cause tribulation

Being a citizen of a country, which has experienced many coups, it is fair to say that coups are always doomed to fail and never bring any development or positive change to a country. Coups have always paralyzed our country in the past and taken it backwards. Coups always cause tribulation (*fitna*) and “*Fitna is worse than killing*” (Qur’an 2/191). We will never allow our country fall into the hands of plotters. We are a country with a Muslim identity and we are living with a spirit of integrity, cohesion, love, and brotherhood. Our people are balanced and have always opposed fragmentation and conflict. We have always been side by side with our soldiers, police officers, nation and the state. However, such attempts may occur in any part of the world and since we are aware of their hazards, our people acted as one to thwart it and thanks to God succeeded. I called the people to be calm and act in sanity from the moment things started to progress in the evening time during my live TV program that continued all through the night and the next day.

Our nation made history

Some circles acted superficially and believed that carrying out a coup would solve everything without thinking of its consequences. No good will come out through imposition. In many parts of the world, human life is considered valueless and the moment they see a threat, they spray the people with bullets without resorting to any other methods. Turkey would never accept a transformation into becoming such a country. Turkish people have pride and they love their nation. This was the victory of the people and if our nation had not acted as well-built walls, the coup plotters would have succeeded even if they had half of their power, may God forbid. Our citizens showed their love for and devotion to their country together with their grandfathers holding their walking sticks, grandmothers, with young men taking back the arms from the coup plotting soldiers by using force courageously. Turkey will never forget the heroic men lying on the ground or parking their cars in front of the tanks to stop them going forward. The night started like a nightmare marking as a black stain but the next day our lionhearted people made history by protecting their country as best as they could. May God have mercy on our precious martyrs and bestow them with His paradise.

All the political parties are hand in hand against the coup

People were hand in hand and shoulder-to-shoulder, so were the non-governmental organizations, the politicians and the political parties to stand against this coup attempt. MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli made a very important statement right at the beginning of the coup attempt by saying that coups were unacceptable and they were with the government. Similar declaration came from the main opposition party (CHP) leader Kilicdaroglu a few moments later. These were priceless moments Turkish history has experienced and showed the entire world the strength of the unitary power of Turkey. They held joint meetings to denounce this attempt within the ruined walls of the Assembly Building. None of the MPs from both the party in power and

parties in opposition left the Assembly even at the time it was kept bombing. Regrettably, it was not very common to see them standing side by side lately but thanks to this unwanted incident, they supported one another for the sake of our country's well-being.

Conclusion

It is important to be on alert for a while and not to fall into slumber, as things seem settled. The government should take very comprehensive and attentive precautions and all the citizens should do everything to collaborate with them. People should act in compliance with the measures taken by the government to prevent a similar attempt to partake. May God forbid, we never want any of our civilians, or our officers or our soldiers to lose their lives. It is for everyone's benefit to solve everything with a sane and rational perspective otherwise acting irrationally and emotionally would drag the country into a disaster. We should constantly sustain the spirit of brotherhood while carrying out these duties. Above all else, we should always keep in mind God controls everything and creates everything with wisdom. I pray God to turn our country back to stability and give serenity to our people.

Adnan Oktar's piece in Tehran Times:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/404548/The-longest-night-for-the-Turks>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/the-longest-night-for-the-turks>