

Turkish PM Compares Erdogan to Ottoman Sultan
ANKARA (Press TV) – Turkey's prime minister has compared President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the Ottoman sultan who conquered Constantinople - modern-day Istanbul - centuries ago.
Prime Minister Binali Yildirim made the comparison during the opening of a new bridge over the Bosphorus Strait between Europe and Asia in Istanbul.
Erdogan has "made cars pass beneath sea" as Mehmet the Conqueror carried ships over land, Yildirim said.

There is enough light for one who wants to see. It is wiser to abstain than to repent.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Turkish Warplanes Pound Kurdish Positions in Syria



Smoke rises from the Syrian border town of Jarablus as it is pictured from the Turkish town of Karkamis, in the southeastern Gaziantep province, Turkey.

DAMASCUS (FNA) – Turkish warplanes conducted air strikes against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northern Syria on Saturday, as Ankara claims that it has started its military operation, 'Euphrates Shield', to cleanse ISIL terrorists from its border with Syria.

Turkish fighter jets pounded civilian homes and positions of a group allied to the Syrian Democratic Forces in the village of al-Amarna, south of Jarablus, in Aleppo Province.

The Jarablus Military Council group said in a statement that the attack caused civilian casu-

alties, and called it "a dangerous escalation that threatens the fate of the region".

The council asked Ankara to stop the attacks against the Kurdish forces, warning that "they know how to protect themselves".

The Turkish Army with the air support of the U.S.-led coalition started a military operation on Wednesday to allegedly drive ISIL out of Jarablus town. Turkish special forces entered Syrian territory as Ankara began cross-border "Euphrates Shield" military operation against the ISIL group early on Wednesday. The YPG

Kurdish forces and the Free Syrian Army were both racing towards Jarablus to take the city after ISIL started withdrawing from the northern Aleppo city.

According to CNN Turk broadcaster, about 200 service personnel from armored forces and 150 special forces troops were involved in the Euphrates Shield military operation in Syria. At least 13 Turkish F-16 fighters, two rescue aircraft, one tanker aircraft and a plane equipped with airborne warning and control systems (AWACS) provided air support for the Turkish military.

A senior Turkish official also said Thursday that there were more than 20 Turkish tanks inside Syria and that additional tanks and construction machinery would be sent in as required.

The Syrian foreign ministry condemned Ankara's cross-border military operation and entry of Turkish special forces and tanks into northern Syria.

"Damascus condemns the entry of Turkish army's tanks into Northern Syria as a blatant violation of its sovereignty," a Syrian foreign ministry official said on Wednesday.

The Syrian government also reacted to the Turkish officials' claims that the Turkish troops have entered northern Syria to fight the ISIL terrorists, and said, "Fighting the ISIL will not be realized by only running the ISIL from northern Syria and replacing it with other terrorist groups supported by Turkey."

U.S. Drone Attack Kills 22 Afghan Soldiers



File photo of a U.S. drone flying over Afghanistan

KABUL (Press TV) – A U.S. drone attack has killed 22 Afghan soldiers held by Taliban militants in the southern Helmand Province, while the Taliban have overrun a strategic district elsewhere.

Provincial officials announced the fatalities on Saturday. Taliban also confirmed the death toll, saying the airstrike had killed three of the group's members in the Nad-e-Ali district on Thursday.

Helmand is a strategically important province for both the Afghan government and Taliban militants, who control or contest 10 of the 14 districts in the opium-rich province.

On Saturday, Taliban militants seized a strategic district in the eastern province of Paktia, from which they can surge towards several other provinces.

Officials said dozens of police and soldiers were killed as the militants captured the Jani Khel district after five days of siege.

Local governor Abdul Rahman Solamal said hundreds of militants attacked police check posts overnight, prompting security forces to flee the district.

Jani Khel sits at an intersection linking eight districts. It also connects Paktia with neighboring Khost province and Pakistan.

"If we do not retake it (Jani

Khel) soon then Taliban can easily move from one province to another and can undermine security in at least three provinces," Solamal warned.

More than 20 soldiers and police were killed and another 20 wounded in the fighting overnight, while some 200 Taliban insurgents were killed, he said.

In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said large amounts of equipment had been captured, including armored vehicles, light and heavy weapons and ammunition.

Taliban have regrouped since the death of former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour earlier in the year and are reported to be currently in control of more than 65 percent of the country.

Fierce fighting is currently ongoing against the militants across the country, notably in Helmand and around the northern city of Kunduz, which they briefly seized last year.

Late last month, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said it had recorded 1,601 civilian deaths and 3,565 injuries in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2016.

The mission warned that civilian casualties had hit a record high this year, describing them as "alarming and shameful."

Air Raids, Blasts Leave 55 ISIL Terrorists Dead in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least 55 ISIL terrorists have been killed in Iraq as the army and allied fighters advance against the Takfiri terrorists throughout the Middle Eastern country.

Aerial assaults conducted by the U.S.-led coalition claimed the lives of 12 ISIL elements in the Khidr district of the Nineveh Province, Iraqi sources say.

Meanwhile, 10 more terrorists were killed as a vehicle packed with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) exploded in a village on the way connecting the towns of Qayyarah and Makhmur in southern Mosul.

Commander of al-Jazeera Operations Major General Qassim al-Mohamadi said that 30 ISIL extremists were killed during the Iraqi army offensives.

He further noted that three

other terrorists lost their lives in airstrikes carried out by the Iraqi army against the Takfiri terrorists in the city of Hit situated in the Anbar province.

The developments come as the Iraqi army is gearing up for a major offensive in late September to purge ISIL from Mosul, the country's second city. Iraqi forces have managed to wrest control of several areas in the southern parts of the strategic city.

Earlier this week, the Iraqi forces liberated the town of Qayyarah, which is expected to be used as a launchpad for the Mosul operation.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been plagued by gruesome violence ever since ISIL terrorists mounted an offensive in June 2014.



People celebrate as Iraqi security forces patrol Qayyarah, near Mosul.

The Iraqi army and fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units have been engaged in joint operations to retake terrorist-held areas.

Since August 2014, the U.S.,

along with some of its allies, has been conducting air raids against purported ISIL positions in Iraq. The aerial assaults, however, have failed to disband the extremists.

Zionist Troops Fire Tear Gas at Palestinians Watching Football Match

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Dozens of Palestinian football players and soccer fans have suffered tear gas inhalation after Zionist troops raided a stadium northeast of al-Quds.

Palestinian sources said some 1,200 people were watching a match between two clubs, when Zionist troops stormed the Faisal al-Husseini stadium in the town of al-Ram.

The Zionist troops fired tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd, leaving dozen of people in need of medical attention. The motive behind the Zionist attack was not immediately clear.

Separately, five young Palestinian men were shot and injured in the town of Silwad northeast of Ramallah after clashes erupted at the funeral of the 38-year-old Iyad Zakariya Hamed.

The Zionist regime's military said they shot dead the man at the entrance to Silwad after they suspected him of running towards an army post.

Israeli media outlets initially said the slain Palestinian had opened fire from inside a car, and



Zionist troops fire tear gas during clashes with Palestinian students from Birzeit University outside the Ofer prison run by the Zionist regime in the occupied West Bank village of Betunia.

that a woman might have accompanied him.

They further alleged that the man was shot and critically injured inside his vehicle, and later succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

It was later revealed that the Palestinian man, who is survived by three children, was unarmed.

Meanwhile, three Palestinian youths suffered injuries from live fire during skirmishes with Zionist troops in the eastern Shuja'iyya neighborhood of the Gaza City.

Gaza's Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said the trio sustained moderate gunshot wounds, and were transferred to hospital.

Zionist troops also clashed with Palestinian youths in the Ras al-Ein village in northern parts of the occupied territories, the Baita village near Nablus as well as Jalazone refugee camp north of Ramallah late on Friday, with no immediate word on casualties.

The occupied territories have witnessed a fresh bout of tensions ever since Zionist troops restricted the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem al-Quds in August 2015.

At least 236 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Zionist troops in the tensions since the beginning of last October

Yemeni Army, Popular Forces Win Back Key Heights in Assir

SANAA (FNA) – The Yemeni army and popular forces continued their advances in the southern parts of Saudi Arabia, and managed to seize back strategic heights in Assir province after killing over half a dozen of the kingdom's military men, including officers.

The Yemeni forces are now in full control of al-Sheibani heights in Assir Province.

At least 9 Saudi officers were killed in fierce clashes with the Yemeni army and popular forces. Several military vehicles of the Saudi forces were also destroyed in the Yemeni attacks.

Yemeni forces fired ballistic missiles at the facilities belonging to the Saudi state oil gi-

ant Aramco in the kingdom's southwest, in a retaliatory attack launched after Saudi fighter jets targeted civilians.

The retaliatory attack hit targets in Saudi Arabia's Jizan region and causing considerable damage to the Aramco facilities there.

The Saudi military has been pounding Yemen since March last year to undermine Yemen's Ansarullah movement and to restore power to former fugitive President Mansour Hadi.

Nearly 10,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in Riyadh's military aggression which lacks any international mandate.