

EFE News Briefs for Monday, Oct. 14 (End of the Day); NEWS BRIEFS

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Body

Trump: Kurds might be freeing ISIS prisoners

Washington, Oct 14 (EFE).- President Donald Trump suggested Monday that Kurds could be freeing Islamic State (ISIS) prisoners amid the offensive launched by the Turkish army in northeast Syria in order to compel the United States to get involved in the situation, and warned that big sanctions were about to be imposed on Ankara.

"Kurds may be releasing some to get us involved," Trump posted on Twitter, adding that the former war prisoners can be "easily recaptured by Turkey or European Nations from where many came," but warned that to be able to do so, "they should move quickly."

"Big sanctions on Turkey coming! Do people really think we should go to war with NATO Member Turkey? Never ending wars will end!" he tweeted.

Trump noted that the United States will not get involved in "another war between people who have been fighting with each other for 200 years."

With regard to the jihadist prisoners, he said that Europe had the chance to get them back but "didn't want the cost" and left it up to the United States to pay the bill.

Rouhani: I'm ready to meet with 5+1, including US, to discuss nuclear deal

Tehran, Oct 14 (EFE).- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Monday that he is willing to meet with the leaders of the six great world powers, including the United States, but only to discuss the nuclear pact and not to benefit US President Donald Trump's election campaign.

"I have clearly said to the leaders of the European countries that if we can assure ourselves that it's a meeting with the 5+1 group and is not an electoral meeting for Mr. Trump, I will meet," Rouhani told reporters at a press conference.

"Insofar as I can assure myself that benefits to ... Iran will come from a meeting and the weight of the pressure on the (Iranian) people can be eliminated, I will accept with honor," said Rouhani, "although I may be a victim," he

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added referring to the expected opposition to such a meeting he will face in Iran for attending a meeting that the US also attends.

The Iranian leader added that "on the issue of the nuclear accord, the US government, due to the pressure from extremist Americans, the Zionist regime (referring to Israel) and Saudi Arabia, made a big mistake and withdrew."

Trump announces 50 pct. tariff hike on Turkish steel

Washington, Oct 14 (EFE).- US President Donald Trump announced Monday that he will raise tariffs on Turkish steel up to 50 percent, the same rate as before the reduction of those duties last May, and dismissed reaching a trade agreement with Ankara because of its destabilizing offensive in Syria.

"Steel tariffs will be increased back up to 50 percent, the level prior to reduction in May. The United States will also immediately stop negotiations, being led by the Department of Commerce, with respect to a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey," Trump said in a statement.

Trump also warned that he will "soon" issue an executive order "authorizing the imposition of sanctions against current and former officials of the Government of Turkey and any persons contributing to Turkey's destabilizing actions in northeast Syria."

EU top diplomats condemn Turkish offensive, fall short of weapon sales ban

Luxembourg, Oct 14 (EFE).- The European Union's foreign ministers on Monday unanimously condemned Turkey's military action in northern Syria but fell short of adopting an arms embargo, something that is made more difficult by Turkey's NATO membership.

The EU's top diplomats were gathered in Brussels for a meeting that centered on the Turkish incursion into northern Syria, which came after the United States withdrew troops from the region, where they had been offering support to Kurdish militias in the fight against the Islamic State terror organization.

"The EU condemns Turkey's military action which seriously undermines the stability and the security of the whole region, resulting in more civilians suffering and further displacement and severely hindering access to humanitarian assistance," a statement said.

"It makes the prospects for the UN-led political process to achieve peace in Syria far more difficult. It also significantly undermines the progress achieved so far by the Global Coalition to defeat Da'esh (the IS), stressing that Da'esh remains a threat to European security as well as Turkey's, regional and international security."

Ecuador getting back to normal after 11 days of protests

Quito, Oct 14 (EFE).- Ecuador on Monday is getting back to normal after 11 days of sometimes violent protests that ended Sunday night when the Lenin Moreno government and indigenous leaders came to an agreement about the presidential decree that had eliminated fuel subsidies, the move that had originally sparked the demonstrations.

In the Ecuadorian capital, urban and metro transportation services suffered operational problems and on the weekend there was practically no way to get around the city by public transport.

Meanwhile, taxis plied the streets relatively normally and early Monday morning shopkeepers were opening up their stores and people were moving about and commuting to work virtually without hindrance.

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The city seems to be getting back to normal after a complicated weekend that included a government curfew decree in Quito and its neighboring valleys in an attempt to ensure public safety and avoid chaos amid the increasing protests, vandalism and other criminal activities.

14 Cops slain by cartel gunmen in western Mexico

Mexico City, Oct 14 (EFE).- Fourteen police officers died Monday in an attack by drug-cartel gunmen in the western town of Aguililla, the Mexican government said.

The federal Secretariat of Security and Citizen Protection said on Twitter that it will put at the disposal of authorities in Michoacan state "all of our human and technological resources to apprehend the aggressors and bring them to justice."

The Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion claimed responsibility for the attack in Aguililla, Michoacan, a town roughly 80km (50mi) from the boundary with neighboring Jalisco state.

Besides killing the officers, the assailants set police vehicles on fire and made off with weapons and ammunition.

The Nueva Generacion outfit is now seen by authorities as Mexico's most powerful criminal organization following the weakening of the Sinaloa cartel, whose founder, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, is serving a life sentence in the United States on multiple drug trafficking and murder charges.

Ronaldo augments his soccer icon status by scoring 700th goal

Lisbon, Oct 14 (EFE).- Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo augmented his status as a worldwide soccer icon on Monday by scoring the 700th goal of his professional career, this one against Ukraine.

So far, Ronaldo has played for Sporting, Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus, but this goal came on his outing with the Portuguese national team.

The much-anticipated tally came on a penalty kick in the 72nd minute during the match in Kiev in the qualification phase for the Euro Cup 2020.

Ronaldo is just the sixth pro soccer player in history to hit the milestone achievement and this was his 95th goal scored with the Portuguese national team.

The other footballers who have gotten to this level in their careers are Josef Bican (Austria/Czech Republic) with 805 goals; Romario (Brazil) with 772; Pele (Brazil) with 767; Ferenc Puskas (Hungary) with 746 and Gerd Muller (Germany) with 735.

Leonel Messi, Ronaldo's long-time rival, currently has 672 tallies, and will, in all likelihood, be the next player to reach the 700-mark, provided he stays healthy.

Margaret Atwood, Bernardine Evaristo win Booker Prize

London, Oct 14 (EFE).- The judging panel for the Booker Prize on Monday in London named Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo as the winners of the prestigious literary award.

Despite the fact that the rules of the competition say that the award may only be bestowed on a single individual each year, the judging panel decided to make an exception on this occasion and declare a tie after more than five hours of deliberations.

Atwood, the author of "The Testaments," and Evaristo, who earlier this year released "Girl, Woman, Other," will share the cash award of 50,000 pounds sterling (57,200 euros or \$63,051) that comes with the recognition.

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