

SOUTH KOREA

Park calls for future leaders to serve two terms

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Seoul

South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Monday called for constitutional reforms that could allow future presidents to serve two terms — as she struggles with plunging popularity ratings and a widening corruption scandal.

While its Constitution grants enormous power to the executive, South Korea is one of the only economically advanced liberal democracies to restrict the presidency to a single five-year term, with no possibility of re-election.

The limit was set back in 1987 as decades of military rule ended, and South Korea sought to preempt any return to extended periods of authoritarian control.

Critics said the cap has outlived its use and rendered the executive office perpetually unstable, allowing little time or motivation for consensus building as presidents push hard on legacy issues with no concern about re-election.

During a televised parliamentary address on Monday, Park called the current Constitution outdated and said the government should begin discussion to lay the groundwork for its reform.

Legal straight-jacket

"The constitutional five-year single term presidency may have been appropriate in the past during democratization," Park told lawmakers. "But now it has turned into a jacket that does not fit."

Without mentioning a specific agenda, Park said she would set up a government committee to push through a constitutional revision before the end of her term in early 2018.

Her presidential office stressed that there was no possibility of Park herself running for a second term.

"Under the current constitution, the revision will not apply to the current president," presidential spokesman Kim Dong-Jo said.

The proposal was something of an about-turn for Park, who had previously labeled opposition calls for constitutional reform as a "black hole" that would paralyze the government.

Opposition lawmakers questioned whether the president was looking for a high-profile issue that would deflect attention away from an ongoing corruption probe that threatens to taint the final year of her administration.

South Korean prosecutors are currently investigating two of Park's close aides over allegations that they leveraged their relationship with the president to strong-arm conglomerates into multi-million dollar donations to two nonprofit foundations.

Media reports have suggested the foundations were set up to finance Park's activities after she leaves office.

Park has denied any wrongdoing and ordered a thorough probe and "stern" punishment for anyone involved in illegal activity.



Park Geun-hye, South Korean president

MIGRANT CRISIS



Migrants with their belongings queue near buses at the start of the dismantlement of the camp called the "Jungle" in Calais, France, on Monday. PASCAL ROSSIGNOL / REUTERS

France starts clearing 'Jungle' refugee camp

Weeklong operation will see about 6,500 people transferred to reception centers

By AGENCIES in Calais, France

Lines of migrants with their belongings in small bags walked to a registration center in the French port city of Calais on Monday, the first day of the mass evacuation and destruction of the filthy camp they called home.

French authorities are beginning a complex, major operation to shut down the makeshift camp, uprooting thousands who made treacherous journeys to escape wars, dictators or grinding poverty and dreamed of making a life in United Kingdom.

Under the eye of more than 1,200 police, the first of hundreds of buses arrived to begin transferring migrants to reception centers around France where they can apply for asylum. The camp will then be leveled in a weeklong operation. Hotels and even castles are among the hundreds of centers officials have been converting to migrant housing.

Authorities said the camp, known as the "Jungle", holds nearly 6,500 migrants who are seeking to get to Britain. Aid groups said there are more than 8,300.

"We have yet to convince some people to accept accommodation and give up their

Children making British clothes

Syrian refugee children have been working in factories in Turkey making clothes for British high street retailer Marks & Spencer and online store ASOS, an investigation by BBC Panorama found.

The investigation found Syrian refugees as young as 15 working long hours for little pay, making and ironing clothes to be shipped off to Britain.

BBC journalists took photographs of Marks & Spencer labels in the factories. Some Syrian refugees worked 12-hour days in a factory dressing jeans for fashion brands Mango and Zara, using chemicals with inadequate protection, the BBC said.

An M&S spokesperson said: "We had previously found no evidence of Syrian workers employed in factories that supply us, so we were very disappointed by these findings,

which are extremely serious and are unacceptable to M&S."

An ASOS spokeswoman said: "It's a subject we take incredibly seriously. But it would be wrong for us to comment on reporting we haven't seen."

M&S said it was working with the Turkish supplier to offer permanent legal employment to any Syrian daily workers employed in the factory.

Turkey has been a main entrypoint for refugees from the ongoing conflict in Syria, with three million estimated to be living there. Ankara in March signed a deal with the EU to stem the flow of refugees into the bloc.

A Reuters investigation this year also found evidence of Syrian refugee children in Turkey working in clothes factories in illegal conditions.

REUTERS

dream of Britain. That's the hardest part," said Didier Leschi, head of the French immigration office OFII.

Harsh reality

The harsh reality of the move hit migrants on Monday. Some were happy to leave, others were confused or in shock.

Afghan Imran Khan, 35, risks expulsion if he accepts

The French plan to move him to a reception center, because his fingerprints were taken in another European country. Under European rules, he must be sent back to the country where he first registered. "I will decide tomorrow (what to do)," he said.

Khan lives in a filthy tent, one of hundreds that are expected to be destroyed by the

Briefly

MALTA
Plane crashes after takeoff, 5 people die

A light aircraft crashed after taking off from Malta's main airport on Monday, killing all five French citizens on board, officials there said, in the island nation's worst peacetime air accident. The French defense ministry said the victims three defense ministry officials and two private contractors had been conducting a surveillance operation.

MALAYSIA
Unofficial talks held between US, DPRK

A group of former US diplomats held closed door talks at the weekend with senior Pyongyang officials. The two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur was the latest in a series of unofficial talks commonly referred to as Track 2 that are closely monitored in the absence of any official contact between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Track 2 talks have been taking place sporadically for years.

UNITED STATES
Tom Hayden, famed activist, dies at 76

Famed '60s anti-war activist Tom Hayden, whose name became forever linked with the celebrated Chicago 7 trial, Vietnam War protests and his ex-wife actress Jane Fonda, has died. He was 76. He died on Sunday after a long illness, said his wife, Barbara Williams, noting that he suffered a stroke in 2015. In 1968, he helped organize anti-war demonstrations during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago that turned violent and resulted in the notorious Chicago 7 trial.

MIDDLE EAST
Israel hits Gaza after rocket launch

Israel's air force hit a Hamas post in the Gaza Strip on Monday after a rocket was fired from the Palestinian enclave toward Israel, the military said. There were no initial reports of any casualties. "A rocket was fired at southern Israel from the Gaza Strip," an army statement said, but "no rockets hit Israeli territory."

SOUTH KOREA
527 to sue Samsung on Note 7 recall

Hundreds of South Korean Galaxy Note 7 smartphone owners plan to sue Samsung Electronics over the fire-prone device. Attorney Peter Young-yeol Ko said on Monday that 527 consumers want Samsung to compensate them for the costs to visit shops to exchange their phones, for the hours they had to wait while transferring data and for psychological harm from using a hazardous product.

AFP-AP-XINHUA-REUTERS



13 killed in bus crash

Workers cut away debris from the front of a bus involved in a mass casualty crash on the westbound Interstate 10 freeway near Palm Springs, California, on Sunday. The jaunt ended in one of the deadliest wrecks in California history, with 13 people killed and 31 others injured. SAM MIRCOVICH / REUTERS

HAITI

Authorities recapture some of 172 escaped inmates

By AGENCIES in Arcahaie, Haiti

Police officers were searching cars and boats for escaped prisoners on Sunday after recapturing at least a dozen of the 172 inmates who overpowered guards and escaped from a lockup in central Haiti, the prison's director said.

The prison break occurred on Saturday in Arcahaie, a coastal town about 50 kilometers north of Haiti's capital. The community is far from the southwest area that was slammed by Hurricane Matthew's eye earlier this month.

One guard was reported killed and others were injured. An inmate reportedly died following a bad fall while trying to scale a prison wall.

Haitian National Police officers set up numerous checkpoints along roads to search vehicles. Small boats in fishing towns around Arcahaie were also being checked.

Heurtelou Paul Colson, director of the Arcahaie Prison, said the lockup housed 266 inmates.

Justice Minister Camille Edward Junior told Haiti's biggest newspaper, *Le Nouvelliste*, that the alleged

266 inmates

were housed in the lockup, said Heurtelou Paul Colson, director of the Arcahaie Prison

mastermind of the escape, convicted kidnapper Yvener Carelus, was among the men captured after the prison break.

"He planned the escape from the inside with a few accomplices," the minister said.

Prime Minister Enx Jean-Charles said the interim government has given clear instructions to the justice min-

ister to "take all necessary measures to remedy this unacceptable situation."

Judge Henry Claude Louis-Jean said on Saturday that the escapees stole an unknown number of weapons and some exchanged gunfire with police during the chaotic breakout.

The inmates attacked after they were released from a cramped holding pen to bathe, according to provincial authorities.

After the escape, the body of the dead corrections officer was sprawled on the ground and bullet holes marked the prison's main door. Inside, the

wrought iron cell doors had been thrown open and sandals and clothing were scattered about. Authorities held a prisoner who tried to flee.

Haitian prisons are overcrowded and many inmates spend years in pretrial detention. It wasn't immediately clear how many of the escaped inmates in Arcahaie were convicted of serious crimes and how many were awaiting trial.

Police asked jittery residents of the coastal area to follow authorities' instructions during the manhunt.

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