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WEATHER / ANKARA
Friday Partly Cloudy 27°C

US to retake PKK/PYD's arms after Daesh defeat

US defense secretary reassures Turkey transparency of tactical relationship US has with terrorist group

ANKARA - Weapons delivered to the PKK/PYD will be taken back after Daesh is defeated, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said in a letter sent to his Turkish counterpart on Thursday. According to a Turkish translation of the letter supplied to journalists by the National Defense Ministry, Mattis told Fikri Isik the U.S. had taken measures to address Turkey's concerns. Ankara views the PKK/PYD,

which is the Syrian branch of the PKK, as a terrorist group and fears weapons supplied to the PKK/PYD for the operation to oust Daesh from Syria's Raqqa will end up in the hands of PKK terrorists fighting Turkish security forces. The PKK/PYD is part of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) involved in the plan to capture Raqqa and who have been supplied with U.S. arms. In the letter, Mattis pledged the U.S. would provide a monthly

list of weapons and equipment supplied to the PKK/PYD. Such a list was handed over to Turkey earlier this month, he said. He also described the ties between the U.S. and the SDF, which Washington views as its main ally on the ground in Syria, as a tactical partnership and reiterated comments apparently made previously to Isik about the U.S.'s wish to maintain transparency. It said the U.S.-Turkey relationship was more... **MORE DETAILS**



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu speaks during a session titled: 'Recent Developments in the Middle East and Turkey's Role' following his meeting with the honorary chairman of The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Yohei Sasakawa during his official visit in Tokyo

FETO 'big in Japan,' Turkish FM says

Group behind last July's attempted putsch in Turkey also poses danger to Japan, Mevlut Cavusoglu says

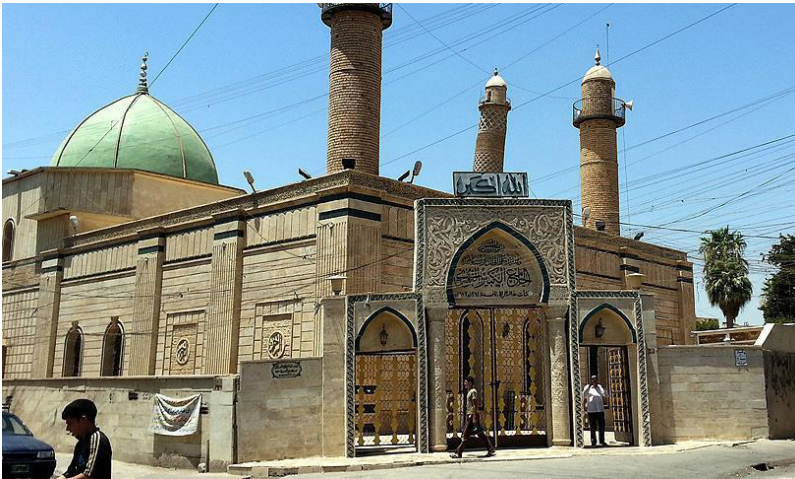
By Teyfik Durul

TOKYO - The group said to have orchestrated last year's coup attempt in Turkey poses a major threat to Japan, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Wednesday. "FETO is also very active in Japan and poses a big threat here," he said, referring to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization in a speech on Middle East developments at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Cavusoglu said some FETO members were tied to foreign intelligence agencies. "We had to remove 25 percent of our diplomats, who were not affiliated with the state but with FETO," he told the audience in Tokyo. Turkey blames FETO, led by U.S.-based Fetullah Gulen, of arranging last July's coup attempt, which left 250 dead. Since the coup, Turkey has arrested tens of thousands of suspected FETO supporters and dismissed more than 100,000 public servants from across the government. Turning to the conflict in Syria, Cavusoglu said the war had "become a global problem by overflowing from the Middle East." Two Japanese journalists were murdered by Daesh... **MORE DETAILS**



UN: More than 1,000 children killed in Iraq in 3 years



Daesh destroys historic mosque in Mosul

MOSUL - Daesh has blown up the iconic Grand al-Nuri Mosque in Mosul, the Iraqi army said Wednesday. The terror group destroyed the building "and its minarets while our forces were 50 meters [164 feet] away", Lt. Gen. Abdulmir Yarullah of Operations Command in Mosul said in a statement. Responding to the destruction, coalition

commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin said Daesh "destroyed one of Mosul and Iraq's great treasures. "This is a crime against the people of Mosul and all of Iraq, and is an example of why this brutal organization must be annihilated," he said. "The responsibility of this devastation is laid firmly at the doorstep of ISIS, and we continue to... **MORE DETAILS**

3 Rohingya men killed by security forces in Myanmar



By Kyaw Ye Lynn

YANGON, Myanmar - Security forces have killed three Rohingya men during a raid on "terrorist training camps" in western Rakhine state, state media reported Thursday. Global New Light of Myanmar daily said soldiers and police discovered evidence over the past two days of a tunnel in the Mayu Mountains being allegedly

used by Rohingya militants in the Maungdaw area near Myanmar's western border with Bangladesh. One man was killed on Tuesday, while the other two were killed on Wednesday during a two-day area clearance operation, the daily said, citing a statement from the Office of State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. Also on Tuesday, security forces raided the village of Kyungaung at around 1 a.m... **MORE DETAILS**



First ship carrying food departs Turkey for Qatar

Beleaguered Gulf state to receive 4,000 tons of food amid ongoing embargo by Arab countries

By Yusuf Sahbaz

IZMIR, Turkey - A ship carrying 4,000 tons of food for beleaguered Qatar left Turkey early on Thursday, marking a change in how essential supplies are being sent to the tiny Gulf state. The vessel, carrying dry food, fruits and vegetables, departed Izmir in western Turkey.

Qatar, a small peninsular Gulf state, cannot maintain food supplies across its now-closed land border with Saudi Arabia because of the "embargo crisis", the chief executive of the logistics company behind the shipment told Anadolu Agency. Ipek Demirci said a sea route had been opened because air transport was insufficient to meet the needs of the Qatari population. She also said her firm was preparing to send a second ship in the coming days. So far, 105 cargo planes from Turkey have carried aid to Qatar, Ankara's economy minister, Nihat Zeybekci, said on Wednesday. On June 5, Saudi Arabia, Egypt... **MORE DETAILS**