

TURKISH AIRLINES' SUCCESS BECOMES CASE STUDY AT HARVARD



Europe's leading carrier Turkish Airlines' success has become a case study at one of the world's most prestigious collegial institutions -- Harvard Business School (HBS) on Tuesday. The case study called "Turkish Airlines: Widen Your World" explored the company's transformation from a regional actor to a global powerhouse in the international aviation industry, and discussed its fast and profitable growth in the sector. "Forecasts for the sector predict approximately 7 percent passenger and capacity growth in 2016. Turkish Airlines plans to achieve 21... **NEWYORK**

TURKISH AID AGENCY CARRIES OUT 140 PROJECTS IN SERBIA



The Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has carried out about 140 projects in Serbia since 2009, the agency's local coordinator, Mehmet Bayrak, has told Anadolu Agency. Bayrak told that there are a variety of areas that they carry projects such as health, education, infrastructure and so on. TIKA has been present in Serbia since 2009. The agency deals with technical development assistance and has offices in more than 140 countries worldwide. So far, TIKA in Serbia carried out various programs and projects, through which it helps the economic development of the... **>> TURKEY**

NASA PROGRESSING ON MANNED MARS MISSION



The head of NASA gave his annual "State of NASA" speech Tuesday, the same day President Barack Obama requested \$19 billion to fund the space agency in his federal budget plan. Charles Bolden pointed out that the agency was making progress in sending manned missions to Mars, inventing the next generation of aircraft and developing solutions to fight global climate change. He also championed on-going successes, like the agency's partnerships with private spaceflight companies such as SpaceX and the continuous presence of... **>>SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY**

WEATHER / ANKARA

Wednesday
CLOUDY
6°C

Thursday
CLOUDY
4°C



ANADOLU POST

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Turkey is 'last castle of oppressed nations', says PM

Ahmet Davutoglu tells party faithful in Ankara that Turkey has become a shelter for Syrians

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has described Turkey as "the last castle of oppressed nations" for its hosting of millions of people fleeing the civil war in Syria.

Speaking at his Justice and Development (AK) Party's weekly group meeting, Davutoglu said Turkey had become a shelter for Turkmen, Arabs and Kurds that faced oppression in Syria.

Davutoglu said: "Bayirbucak Turkmen found Turkey behind them when they sought a shelter... Kurds from Haseke, Kobani made their way to Turkey when they sought a place to shelter in the face of Daesh oppression."

"Our 197,000 Kurdish brothers entered in Turkey in three days. Now, Aleppo residents, Idlib Arabs have



walked towards [southern] Hatay," added the prime minister.

In his remarks, Davutoglu touched upon Russian airstrikes in and around Aleppo and said millions of others were on the edge of a huge and new humanitarian tragedy.

Since Sept. 30, Russia -- a close ally of Bashar al-Assad -- has targeted a

number of civilian areas in Syria, according to U.S. officials.

Davutoglu pledged to take side with "oppressed people without discriminating [between] Turkmen, Arabs or Kurds" and said Turkey would never close its gates to those who are in trouble. Turkey currently hosts 2.7 million Syrians -- the world's

largest refugee population. Ankara has spent \$9 billion caring for those fleeing the five-year war in Syria and last week, the EU approved a €3 billion (\$3.33 billion) aid package to help care for refugees. - 'Russia knots Syrian issue'

The prime minister said there was no longer much time for a fair and permanent solution in Syria and those who said they were in Syria for a solution were further knotting the issue.

"Russia continues to bomb civilian positions that have nothing to do with terror," Davutoglu said and added that 90 percent of more than 6,000 Russian airstrikes had targeted civilians and the moderate opposition. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Merkel's ally: EU should honor deal with Turkey

Bavarian conservatives urge EU member states to rapidly provide Turkey with 3 billion euros for Syrian refugees

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Bavarian ally has urged EU member states on Tuesday to take rapid steps to share the burden of the refugee crisis with Turkey.

"The big refugee flow from Aleppo is also a test case for Europeans ahead of EU's Feb. 18 summit," conservative EU lawmaker Manfred Weber, told Der Tagesspiegel daily. "We must quickly provide the immediate aid of 3 billion euros [€3.4 billion] which was promised to Turkey for the refugee camps. And EU states should also begin taking refugees based on quotas," Weber, whose Christian Social Union (CSU) is a junior partner in Merkel's coalition government, said.

The senior conservative lawmaker, who leads the center-right of the European People's Party group in the



European Parliament, expressed support for Merkel's call to EU member states, to take in asylum seekers from refugee camps in Turkey, according to quotas.

During her visit to Ankara on Monday, Chancellor Merkel defended her open-door policy for refugees who flee civil war in Syria, but also urged for stronger measures against smugglers to stop illegal migration through the Aegean Sea. Merkel said a solution to the refugee crisis can only be achieved with closer coop-

eration between the EU and Turkey, and by EU member states agreeing to accept some of the refugees.

The visit was Merkel's second bilateral visit to Turkey in five months, amid growing discontent at home, due to record number of refugees coming to Germany.

The EU's largest economy has taken in a record 1.1 million refugees in 2015, but the refugee influx has strained municipalities and local authorities. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Turkey summons US envoy over Washington's PYD remarks

State Dept. maintains US does not consider Syrian PYD a terrorist group



The U.S. ambassador in Ankara John Bass was summoned to the Turkish Foreign Ministry on Tuesday over a "support" remarks by the State Department concerning the terrorist organization PKK's Syrian affiliate, the Democratic Union Party (PYD). According to Turkish diplomatic sources, Foreign Ministry deputy undersecretary Umit

Yalcin expressed Ankara's uneasiness regarding Monday's press briefing in which spokesman John Kirby said: "We don't, as you know, recognize the PYD as a terrorist organization." Turkey, a NATO ally of the U.S., designates the group a terrorist entity as it does the PKK. The Turkish government had also recently announced its opposition

to seeing the PYD participate in the Geneva peace talks. State Department spokesman John Kirby confirmed that Bass met with senior Turkish officials. "Obviously, there's plenty to talk about, given the complexity of the fight against ISIL in Syria," he said but refused to give further details on the conversation. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Turkish presidential model to 'improve decision-making'



A key adviser to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday called for Turkey to embrace a presidential system to improve decision-making. "The rapid change in the world is incapacitating the legal frame of parliamentarism," Ihsan Sener told Anadolu Agency. "The executive should take quick and flexible decisions and this is possible with the presidency system."

He said previous Turkish leaders had backed a presidential system to protect against political instability, citing former prime ministers such as Turgut Ozal, Suleyman Demirel, Alparslan Turkes and Necmettin Erbakan as proponents of a presidential model.

Turkey has been a parliamentary democracy since the republic was founded in 1923. In recent months, Erdogan and the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party have proposed switching to a presidential system.

The office of president, which is traditionally a figurehead role free of party politics, was made subject to a popular

vote for the first time in August 2014, when Erdogan was elected. The post had previously been allocated by lawmakers in the Grand National Assembly. Sener, a former civil servant and AK Party deputy, added: "The direct election of the president by public legitimizes him and his policies. It removes governmental instability, which appears often in the parliamentary system."

Turkey underwent two general elections last year as a June poll failed to produce a majority for any party. After coalition talks failed, a renewed vote held in November saw the AK Party returned to power. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Allies need to decide on terror groups says Turkish FM

Mevlut Cavusoglu's remarks come after Washington's description of PYD as a 'reliable partner' in the fight against Daesh



Turkey, the U.S. and Europe, adding: "Both it [Daesh] and that [PYD] are terrorist organizations. You cannot say one is much better." The U.S. considers the PKK affiliate, PYD, "a reliable partner" in the fight against Daesh.

- Russian airstrikes in Syria Cavusoglu said thousands of Syrians had fled to Turkey's border due to the Russian airstrikes in Syria. "If these attacks continue, this figure will pass into the hundreds of thousands, even one million," he added.

"Russia should end these attacks as soon as possible. It [Russia] further deepens the problem in the region," Cavusoglu said.

Russia's air campaign in Syria first began on Sep. 30 last year.

Moscow claims the campaign is aimed primarily at the Daesh militant group but Russia has been accused of sending warplanes to target civilian areas and moderate anti-regime opposition groups. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Turkey's foreign minister has said allied and friendly nations should distinguish terrorist organizations from states in their fight against Daesh in Syria. The remarks from Mevlut Cavusoglu came during a joint news conference with his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto in Budapest on Tuesday. When Cavusoglu was asked why the U.S. did not recognize the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) as a terrorist organization, he said: "The U.S. needs to make a decision: Does it choose us [Turkey] as a partner or terrorist organizations?" Cavusoglu reiterated that Daesh was a terrorist organization for

Refugees: NATO takes Turkish request for help 'seriously'

NATO Secretary General says refugee and migrant crisis 'is a concern' for all 28 NATO allies



NATO will take a request by Turkey and Germany in seeking help to control migrant flow "very seriously" when defense ministers gather for a meeting in Brussels on Wednesday, the alliance's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said. "We will take very seriously a request from Turkey to look what NATO can do to help them deal with this crisis and all the challenges they face," Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels on Tuesday. "[NATO defense] ministers will address these issues because the refugee and migrant crisis is of great concern

for all of us," Stoltenberg added.

Turkey and Germany are planning to seek help from their NATO allies to stem the flow of refugees and migrants coming from Syria and into Europe via Turkey.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday visited Turkey, which had agreed with the EU to stem the flow of refugees coming into Europe in exchange for an acceleration of its accession talks.

Stoltenberg reiterated that Russian airstrikes in Syria were undermining the peace talks in Geneva.

"NATO strongly supports all efforts to end the suffering, to reach a cease-fire and start a political transition," Stoltenberg said.

"In Syria, the intense Russian airstrikes mainly against [the] opposition forces are undermining these efforts." **>>MORE DETAILS**

Cambodia: Tribunal hears extent of Cham Muslim slaughter



A witness at Cambodia's Khmer Rouge tribunal has underlined the problems the country's Cham Muslim community has faced following the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of its people by the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s. Ysa Osman, a Cham Muslim researcher, analyst and author, said Wednesday that those who bore witness to the killings of their families and neighbors "were [left] under

severe trauma and depression and this feeling remains with them today." "There are no longer any educated leaders. After they were exterminated... there were no religious teachers, and the children became illiterate in the Islamic religion and study, and that remains," he said, after taking the stand during questioning by the prosecution in Phnom Penh. During his testimony, Osman built upon the recollections of several Cham witnesses who have already testified in Case 002/02, in which former Khmer Rouge head of state Khieu Samphan and "brother number two" Nuon Chea are charged with genocide. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Police officer, soldier martyred in southeastern Turkey

A Turkish police officer and one soldier were martyred Tuesday in an operation against the terrorist PKK organization in southeastern Sirtak's Cizre district, police sources said.

The Cizre district has been the focus of counter-terror operations and military curfews since December 2015.

The PKK -- also considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU -- resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish state in late July 2015.