

## THOUSANDS EXPECTED AT ARABIC BOOK FAIR IN ISTANBUL



Turkey's second Arabic Book Fair opened its doors on Friday in Istanbul's Fatih district. The Writers' Union of Turkey and the Hasimi Publishing House organized the event which will run until Feb. 21. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mahmut Biyikli, president of Istanbul office of the Writers' Union, said that the cultural needs of Arabic-speaking people living in Turkey needed to be provided for beside housing needs as Turkey hosts millions of refugees.

CULTURE-ART

## EBRD PRESIDENT TO VISIT TURKEY



The head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will visit Turkey on Feb. 16-18 to discuss the government's reform agenda. Suma Chakrabarti will travel to Gaziantep province, in the country's southeast, one of the regions most affected by the refugee crisis, to assess better how the bank can respond to the needs of refugee-hosting communities, the EBRD said written statement on Friday. Chakrabarti will hold talks with top Turkish officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek who is... >> **ECONOMY**

## FOOTBALL: GALATASARAY HOPING TO KEEP TITLE IN SIGHT



Turkey's defending champions Galatasaray are hoping to boost their slim chances of retaining the title this season with an away victory against Mersin on Saturday. Third-placed Besiktas, who are ten points adrift of second-placed Galatasaray, have not enjoyed a win away from home since early October. Currently, the title seems to be a two-way race between the Lions' Istanbul archrivals Fenerbahce and Besiktas, with Fenerbahce leading the league on 46 points and Besiktas two points behind but with two games in hand. **SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Saturday  
**CLOUDY**  
**6°C**

Sunday  
**CLOUDY**  
**4°C**



# ANADOLU POST

Saturday February 13, 2016

## Russia carries on bombing despite Syria truce deal

### Turkish foreign minister says Russian bombs killed 16 civilians morning after Munich agreement

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday spoke out against continued Russian bombing in Syria despite a truce agreed the night before.

Diplomats agreed Thursday night to work towards a temporary "cessation of hostilities" in a week's time. Foreign ministers from the International Syria Support Group meeting in Munich made the deal to secure deliveries of humanitarian aid to besieged Syrian towns and villages.

However, Russia has continued airstrikes in Syria. "Despite the agreement we made last night, Russia continued bombing the civilians," Cavusoglu said in a panel discussion on the EU and the refugee crisis at the Munich confer-



ence. "They killed 16 civilians this morning."

The minister described how the Russian attacks and a ground offensive by government troops had created a new wave of tens of thousands of refugees headed towards Turkey. "They have been targeting schools and hospitals as well," he said.

"Therefore these people flee from these Russian bombings."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had said his country would continue airstrikes against groups designated as terrorist organizations by the UN.

Cavusoglu said Turkey had not closed its doors to the refugees, with

10,000 arriving in Turkey. However, he said border controls were in place to control the flow of refugees. "We did not close the borders... We received 10,000 of them. But due to the security reasons, as Turkey is the first target for Daesh and terrorist organizations in the region, we need to have controlled migration to Turkey."

Tents have been set up for refugees currently waiting on the Syrian side of the border and Turkey has been supplying aid in the run-up to resettling the refugees in new camps. He reiterated that Turkey has taken in 2.5 million Syrians and 200,000 Iraqis escaping conflict in their home countries.

>> **MORE DETAILS**

## Activists meet in Istanbul to mark Yemeni revolution

### Attendees included Nobel peace prize winner Tawakkol Karman, prominent Egyptian opposition leader Ayman Nour and Turkey-based Syrian interim government PM Ahmad Touma

Prominent Arab activists met in Istanbul on Thursday to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Yemen's revolution, as a brutal conflict continues to rage in the Middle Eastern country between Yemeni government forces and the Shia Houthi militia. Speakers at the event, which was organized by the Peaceful Revolution Youth Council, included Nobel peace prize winner Tawakkol Karman, prominent Egyptian

opposition leader Ayman Nour and Turkey-based Syrian interim government PM Ahmad Touma. The event also featured a recorded video message by former Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki, who was the first democratically elected president in the Arab world. Marzouki said he was proud of the Yemeni people for their continued resistance following the revolution. "Victory of the Yemeni revolution is



also a victory for the Arab people," he said. Meanwhile, Karman said that the revolution and democracy "cannot be achieved at the same time." >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Istanbul newspaper office attackers identified



Four of the assailants who launched petrol bomb and gun attacks on the offices of two Turkish newspapers have been identified, a police source said Friday. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on talking to the media, said anti-terror police had identified the attackers as members of the United Freedom Forces, a group reportedly formed in December 2014 by Turkish far-left groups fighting in Syria. The source said the

group, based in Kobani, Syria, cooperates with the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) and Turkey's Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP). Both groups are considered terror organizations by Turkey. The Istanbul offices of the Yeni Safak and Yeni Akit newspapers were simultaneously attacked in the early hours of Thursday morning by masked assailants who threw Molotov cocktails and fired pump-action shotguns.

There were no casualties in either attack.

Istanbul police's Anti-Terrorism and Intelligence Branch identified the suspects through security camera footage in the areas surrounding the newspapers' offices and are working to identify others who took part, the source said.

The attacks were strongly condemned by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, media groups and foreign ambassadors.

Later Friday, the U.S. State Department said violence against journalists is "always unacceptable" and said the U.S. defended the right of these newspapers "to print and report without fear of reprisal, which is the right of every journalist." >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkish FM: Russian airstrikes rule out Syria cease-fire

### Mevlut Cavusoglu strikes note of caution amid reports of proposed cessation of hostilities in Syria



Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday said peace could not be maintained in Syria unless Russia halts its airstrikes. Speaking to the media ahead of the 52nd Munich Security Conference in Germany, Cavusoglu also said fighting against terrorist organizations like Daesh and the al-Nusra Front should continue.

"If Russia continues its attacks in these regions and the gun battles are not stopped, the cease-fire cannot be maintained. Humanitarian aid cannot be effectively reached," Cavusoglu added.

The minister said he held a nine-hour meeting with the Syrian Support Group on Thursday evening, which he said was aimed at resum-

ing negotiations in Geneva that were suspended on Feb. 3 "due to Russian airstrikes".

"It was not possible for talks to continue while the [Russian] attacks are under way. Again, the other cause of the halt of talks on Feb. 3 was that the obstacles before the humanitarian aid were not removed," said the minister. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey denies crowds are massing on southern border

### Speaking at southern border crossing Deputy PM Akdogan says all 35,000 Syrian refugees accepted into Turkey are being cared for



Turkey's Oncupinar Border Gate. He was referring to a UN call that Turkey and EU states take in tens of thousands of civilians trying to escape a Russian-backed air offensive on Aleppo in northern Syria. Akdogan reiterated that the latest announced figure of 35,000 Syrian refugees have all been provided shelter in refugee camps in Turkey near the border.

"Turkey's open-border policy remains in place. We are opening our gates and embracing all those who flee death and fear of their lives," he said.

The minister said that there has been a great humanitarian crisis and Turkey is always left alone.

"Turkey is the only country that does not remain indifferent to the human tragedy. It has embraced them but left alone." >> **MORE DETAILS**

Deputy Prime Minister Yalcin Akdogan has dismissed media criticism that there has been an accumulation of refugees at the Syria-Turkish border due to Ankara's alleged unwillingness to open crossing point. "We have been hearing criticism like 'Turkey must open its borders; why does it not accept them?' A piling up at the border is out of question for now." "There are no huge crowds reaching at the border and trying to enter," he told reporters in the southern border province of Kilis, near

## Turkish aid body releases new Syrian data

### AFAD figures suggest Turkish aid to Syrian refugees dwarfs that of international organizations



Data released today by Turkey's emergency agency reveal that over 13 million Syrian people have benefited from humanitarian aid since the start of the war there in 2011. According to Prime Ministry Disaster & Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), 13.5 million people in Syria out of the 23-million-strong population have been in need of humanitarian aid since 2011 when the Syrian civil war started. Among six million displaced people, 4.3 million have had

to flee to neighboring countries, including Turkey.

Contributing nearly \$9 billion to humanitarian aid during the Syria crisis process, Turkey's aid for Syrian refugees has been 20 times more than aid received from international organizations, AFAD says.

With 2.6 million Syrian war survivors and 26 different camps, Turkey has become the country hosting the most refugees in the world.. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Iran to pay Turkey in gas or cash from arbitration case



natural gas prices applied to the country during the four-year period between 2011 and 2015. In 2012, Turkey applied to the International Court of Arbitration over the overpriced gas.

The International Court of Arbitration ruled against Tehran in the gas dispute, officials from Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Ministry told Anadolu Agency on Feb. 2.

Turkey and Iran must agree on the level of discount Turkey will receive on Iranian gas within three months, Turkey's Energy Minister Berat Albayrak said the same day.

According to Rahimpur, Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zangeneh will come to Turkey and Iran's and Turkey's experts will meet to discuss the issue. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Iran, in compliance with the arbitration ruling on overcharges of natural gas prices to Turkey between 2011 and 2015, will pay either through more natural gas supplies or in cash, according to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ibrahim Rahimpur Wednesday. "Rest assured, we will pay it back, and the problem will be solved soon," Rahimpur told Anadolu Agency during Iran's National Day celebrations in Ankara. Turkey brought the case to court because of Iran's high

## Injured Turkish soldier dies in hospital



A Turkish soldier who was injured in a terrorist organization PKK attack late January has died in hospital. The Turkish General Staff issued a statement on Friday which read: "Our hero comrade, injured at the end of an armed attack by members of a terrorist [PKK] organization during ongoing operations in the Cizre district of Sirtak on Jan. 31, 2016 [...] became a martyr at 0930 local time [0730GMT]". The army said the martyred soldier's treatment had been taking place at the GATA military hospital in the capital, Ankara.