

## GRAMMYS 2016: TAYLOR SWIFT WINS ALBUM OF THE YEAR



Three most coveted prizes at the 58th Grammy Awards went to three different names on Monday night, with Taylor Swift's 1989 winning album of the year. "Uptown Funk", a song by Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars, was named record of the year, while "Thinking Out Loud", co-written by Ed Sheeran and Amy Wadge, won song of the year. Sheeran also took home best pop solo performance prize with the song. >> **CULTURE-ART**

## TURKEY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SLIGHTLY DOWN IN NOVEMBER 2015



The Turkish unemployment rate dropped slightly in November 2015 compared to October 2015, the Turkish Statistical Authority reported Monday. Unemployment rate was month-on-month at 10.5 percent and down 0.2 percentage point year-on-year. This indicated that the employment rate was witnessing an improvement, TurkStat said. The unemployment rate has seen an upward trend since May last year, starting its move from 9.3 percent in May to pause at 10.5 percent in October and November. >> **TURKEY**

## FOOTBALL: CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST 16 STAGE KICKS OFF TUESDAY



Russell Westbrook has led the West to another victory on Sunday with a 196-173 win over the East in the NBA's 65th All-Star game. Both teams started the game fast with a combination of slam dunks, alley oops and three-point shots as the West closed the first half 92 to 90 over the East, and marked the most points ever scored in a half of an All-Star game. The combined 182 points was also the most on record in a half for the competition. The West also made 41 field goals to ink another record, and had 28 assists to tie the existing record, in a single half. **SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Tuesday  
**CLOUDY**  
6°C

Wednesday  
**CLOUDY**  
4°C



# ANADOLU POST

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## Turkish PM vows not to allow the fall of Azaz in Syria Turkish prime minister also says Russian airstrikes in Azaz region are still on going

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said Turkey will not allow the fall of Azaz district in northern Syria near the Turkish border. Azaz, which is part of Syria's Aleppo province, serves as a critical corridor that connects with Turkey. "We will not allow the fall of Azaz. This must be clear to all in the world," Davutoglu told reporters Monday while en route to the Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

"For the moment, YPG elements have been driven out from Azaz's surroundings," he said, adding that a severe response will be made if the military wing of the terrorist PYD group tried to approach the Syrian district. He also said that PKK and YPG terrorist organizations were being used as tools by Russia to put Turkey under pressure. "Today PKK in Turkey [and] YPG in Syria are open instruments of Russia." He called the two groups "pawns of [Russia's] expansionist policy", adding: "Therefore, our position has the



most legitimate basis". Turkish premier also noted the attempts being made to destroy the moderate opposition in Syria and close the corridor between Aleppo and Turkey through YPG forces. Davutoglu said that Turkey's position towards the issue has been clear to all for a long time. "YPG will not cross to the west of Euphrates," he said, adding that the group will not be allowed pass to Azaz. He said Turkey is taking every measure to protect its own security. "No country has been affected by

developments in Syria like Turkey," he said. "Therefore, we will not hesitate to take security measures," he added. Turkish troops have shelled PYD positions around Azaz in northern Syria since Saturday in response to artillery strikes on Turkey. Later, at a joint press conference with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Davutoglu said that Russian airstrikes in Azaz region were continuing. "Even while we continued talks [with Ukrainian premier], Russia attacked a school and a hospital in Azaz with ballistic missiles believed

to have been fired from the Caspian; many civilians and children have lost their lives," Davutoglu later told reporters in a joint press meeting with the Ukrainian prime minister in Kiev. Turkish prime minister said that the Syrian regime, Russia and YPG were committing crimes against humanity in Syria like other terrorist organizations. "They are openly violating international law in order to advance on the ground before solution [is achieved]," Davutoglu said.

The PYD is the Syrian affiliate of the PKK, which is listed as a terrorist group also by the U.S. and the EU. The PKK has targeted Turkish security forces and civilians since 1984. It resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish state in late July 2015. Since then, more than 260 members of the security forces have been martyred and thousands of PKK terrorists killed in operations across Turkey and northern Iraq. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey 'strongly' condemns Russian attacks on civilians Russian warplanes kill more than 30 civilians after hitting schools and hospitals in Syria

Turkey on Monday "strongly" condemned Russian attacks on civilians in Syria and called them war crime. The Foreign Ministry issued a statement and recalled the cessation of hostilities agreed in German city of Munich on Feb. 11.

"It is deplorably observed that instead of halting their airstrikes, Russians especially have escalated these attacks in Syria and targeted civilians, hospitals, schools," said the statement.

In the last 24 hours, Russian warplanes targeted two

schools and one hospital in Azaz and another hospital in Idlib managed by Geneva-based medical charity Doctors Without Border Idlib. The ministry said more than 30 people including women and children were killed, adding: "Over 100 others are estimated to have been wounded." - "War crime" "These attacks that we strongly condemn are unconscionable and obvious war crime under international law," read the statement. "With such crimes, Russian Federation is causing the Syr-



ian civil war to get deepened and a dangerous escalation in the region." "If Russian Federation does not end those attacks immediately - which remove peace and stability - it is inevitable that Russia will face bigger and more serious results," the statement added. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey's Davutoglu meets Ukrainian president



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called Ukraine a "strategic ally" on Monday during his visit in the Eastern European country. The Turkish prime minister met Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kiev. "Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has highlighted the strategic character of partnership be-

tween our two states, called Ukraine a 'strategic ally,' according to a statement issued by the Media Office of Ukrainian presidency. The Ukrainian president expressed gratitude for the decision to allocate a \$50 million loan to finance the fund of Ukraine's state budget and provide an equipped modular

field hospital tent to the armed forces of Ukraine. Earlier, Davutoglu met with his Ukrainian counterpart Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Vladimir Groysman, the Ukrainian parliament speaker. Groysman condemned Moscow's provocations in the Crimean peninsula, which was annexed to Russia in 2014 by referendum, and said residents were being exposed to aggression by Russian forces. "We are always expecting Turkey's continued support. What is important is that this support be both political and legal," said the parliament speaker. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey dismisses '100 troops enter Syria' claims

### Turkish Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz says Turkish troops have no intention of entering Syria



Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz has refuted Syrian regime claims that about a 100 Turkish troops have entered Syria. "It is not true,"

Yilmaz told members of the Turkish parliament in Ankara during a parliamentary budget meeting Sunday night. The Syrian regime

made the claims Sunday. According to the media reports, Syrian Foreign Ministry also sent a letter of protest to the United Nations Security Council over the alleged move. However, the Turkish minister dispelled the claims and clarified that Turkish troops have no intention of entering Syria. Tensions have increased along the Turkish-Syrian border in the last few days; Turkish army and the PYD terrorists continue to trade fire along the border. A mortar fired from Syria hit a Turkish border post Sunday, Yilmaz said. According to

the minister, the bombardment was carried out by PYD forces that hit a post in Kilis province to which the Turkish military responded with shelling. About claims that Saudi warplanes have arrived in Turkey, the minister said: "At the moment they [aircraft] haven't arrived, but they [Saudi] have come for exploration." Yilmaz said that "four [Saudi] F-16s will come, the decision has been taken". He clarified that the Saudi jets have not arrived "today, but they can come tomorrow". He said that Turkey has allowed Saudi authorities to send their warplanes. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkish 'astonishment' at US' Syria statement



Turkey has received a U.S. State Department announcement on Syrian Kurdish forces with "astonishment", a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday. Tanju Bilgic's remarks came after U.S. spokesman John Kirby urged

Turkey to halt its cross-border artillery fire and called on the terrorist PYD group and its affiliated forces "not to take advantage of a confused situation by seizing new territory". "We have received Kirby's statements -- that put its ally Turkey and a terrorist organization in the same equation -- with astonishment," Bilgic told a news conference in Ankara. Bilgic said that Turkey had protested Kirby's statements harshly and conveyed these thoughts to U.S. officials. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey continues to shell PYD positions in Syria

Turkish Armed Forces have continued to shell PYD/ PKK positions for the third consecutive day in Syria's northern part on Monday, security sources said. According to Turkish security sources, artillery shelling has periodically hit Azaz, in the northern countryside of Aleppo. The shelling began Saturday night. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that the army returned artillery fire after having

come under attack from PYD forces based around Azaz in northern Syria. Davutoglu had said that the response was done within Turkey's rules of engagement. According to the Turkish military, the Akcabaclar base in Turkey's border province of Kilis was shelled Saturday by PYD/PKK forces. A Turkish border post was hit by mortar fire from Syria on Sunday, Turkey's defense minister Ismet Yilmaz said. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## US urges Turkey-Russia de-escalation after PYD shelling



The U.S. on Monday urged Turkey and Russia to avoid escalating tensions as Turkey confirmed its troops shelled terrorist PYD's positions in Azaz in northern Syria, the site of Russian airstrikes. "As we have stated before, it is important that the Russians and Turks speak directly, and take measures to prevent escalation," a State Department spokeswoman told Anadolu Agency. The statement follows remarks by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu who said earlier Monday that Turkey would not allow the fall of the Azaz district near the Turkish border. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Since Saturday, Turkish troops have shelled PYD positions around Azaz in response to artillery strikes against Turkey. The YPG, the armed wing of the PYD, crossing west of the Firat (Euphrates) River, where Azaz lies is a red line for Turkey. YPG "elements" have been driven from Azaz's surroundings, but a severe response will be made if the military wing of the terrorist PYD group tried to approach the Syrian district, according to Davutoglu. The European Union weighed in saying increased fighting in was not what the it expected for Syria after an agreement was signed to work toward a "cessation of hostilities". "Having on-the-ground trains that go in the opposite directions is obviously not what we expect," said Federica Mogherini, the EU foreign policy chief. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## ANALYSIS-Russia militarizing Crimea



Russian military exercises in Crimea last week have raised concerns that Moscow is trying to militarize the peninsula, which it annexed from Ukraine nearly two years ago. According to Anatoly Oksiyuk, a senior analyst at the International Centre for Policy Studies, the Kremlin aims to turn Crimea, already the long-standing home to Russia's Black Sea fleet, into a military outpost. "For Russia the priority is military targets, not people," Oksiyuk told Ukraine's Apostrophe News Agency. "And as for us, besides that Crimea is an occupied territory, we see military potential building up on the territory. >> **MORE DETAILS**