

## TURKISH AID AGENCY DONATES X-RAY MACHINE IN MONTENEGRO



The Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) donated an x-ray machine to the dental faculty of Podgorica University in the Montenegrin capital Podgorica on Thursday, an agency official said. The agency's local coordinator, Mustafa Yazici, said the machine would contribute to the country's health sector and provide services to its citizens. Dentistry Department Dean Goran Nikolic expressed his gratitude to TIKA officials and hoped for further cooperation between the two institutions in the future. **>>>TURKEY**

## TURKEY BECOMES EU'S FIFTH-LARGEST TRADE PARTNER



Turkey became the European Union's fifth-largest trade partner in 2015 according to data released by Eurostat. According to new report on euro area international trade in goods surplus, the EU exported goods worth of €2.04 trillion [\$2.27 trillion] in 2015 while total imports stood at €1.79 trillion. In 2015, Turkey's exports to the EU rose to €79 billion from €75 billion, up six percent. Turkey's imports from the EU surged to €61.6 billion, rising 13 percent year on year. Advance in both export and import numbers push Turkey-EU bilateral trade volume to. **>>>ECONOMY**

## FOOTBALL: GALATASARAY DRAWS 1-1 WITH LAZIO IN EUROPA LEAGUE



Turkish football heavyweight Galatasaray drew 1-1 with Italian club Lazio late Thursday in Istanbul in UEFA Europa League. Sabri Sarioglu scored for Galatasaray at the 12th minute and just nine minutes after Lazio replied with Savic's goal for the Italian side. The first leg of the match, in Galatasaray's home ground Turk Telekom Arena, was refereed by Michael Oliver from the English Football Association. Having last played a Europa League match in August 2010, Galatasaray won the UEFA Cup on May 17, 2000, which is still considered as. **>>>SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA

Friday  
**CLOUDY**  
**20°C**

Saturday  
**CLOUDY**  
**21°C**



# ANADOLU POST

Friday February 19, 2016

## Int'l support for Turkey continues in wake of Ankara bomb

### Countries worldwide clamor to offer Turkey condolences day after car bomb kills at least 28 people in Turkish capital

One day after PKK-affiliated terrorists exploded a car bomb in the Turkish capital killing at least 28 people, the world has continued to voice its disapproval.

On Thursday, European Union leaders strongly condemned Wednesday's attack in a joint statement, extending their deepest condolences and expressing solidarity with the people of Turkey.

"Acts of terrorism, by whomever and wherever they take place, are always unacceptable. The European Union and its member states will step up all efforts to counter this scourge, in cooperation with partners," the statement added.

Earlier, Britain's ambassador to Turkey, Richard Moore, expressed his condolences to the families of those who died in Wednesday's attack.

"This is something where the U.K. feels strong affinity," Moore said during a two-day economic conference in Istanbul.

"We too have suffered and continue to suffer from the curse of terrorism and so I can assure you people of the U.K. feel a strong sense of solidarity with you after this event."

On Thursday, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan also added their voices to the interna-



tional condemnation. Malaysia's foreign ministry said in a statement that the government regards the attack "as a heinous act of terrorism and the perpetrators should be brought to justice", while Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the bombing. Sharif said in a statement that the government and people of Pakistan stood alongside Turkey and "condemned terrorism in its all forms and manifestations". Elsewhere, the Philippines and Indonesia offered prayers for those who perished. "Let us all strive harder to work for peace," Philippine Ambassador to Turkey Maria Rowena Sanchez underlined in a statement published Thursday on Facebook. An initial report from Ankara's

governor suggested that three military-owned vehicles and a private vehicle were targeted by the suicide bomber close to Turkish General Staff and parliament buildings. Sanchez underlined that the ensuing blast occurred just 30 minutes away from the Philippine's embassy. Meanwhile, in Africa leaders reacted with outrage. Djiboutian President Ismail Omar Guelleh described it as a blatant act of cowardice, adding that it would stand at Turkey's side. "The international community must join forces in the fight against terrorism," he said in a statement. The Burundian government also slammed the bombing while Chad condemned it as "despicable and unjustifiable". "The government of Chad is very touched by this barbaric act... that

hit the capital of this friendly country without any justification," Communications Minister Moustapha Ali Alifey said.

"We strongly condemn these terrorist maneuvers and we express our sympathy to the government and Turkish people."

On Thursday, Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that the bombing was carried out jointly by a YPG member infiltrating from Syria, and PKK members based in Turkey.

"The YPG is a pawn of the Syrian regime, and the regime is directly responsible for the Ankara attack," he said.

Davutoglu confirmed that 27 members of Turkish military were martyred, along with one civilian.

The blast affected a further 81 people, 59 of whom have now been discharged from hospital.

"22 people still remain at the hospital, including seven under treatment in the intensive care unit," said the health ministry in a statement Thursday afternoon.

No group has claimed responsibility for the car bomb, which comes amid a string of attacks in Turkey by Daesh, PKK and YPG terrorists.

**>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey does not see Russia as enemy: Deputy PM



Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek said Thursday having opposing views on the crisis in Syria did not make Russia and Turkey enemies.

"We want to enhance our neighboring, trade and investment relations with Russia," Simsek said during an opening speech at the Central Asian Investment Forum in Istanbul.

The downing of Russian jet on Nov. 24 has severely deteriorated relations between two countries. Following the incident, Moscow imposed

a range of unilateral economic sanctions against Turkey, including a ban on food imports.

Simsek said he had hoped that Russia would "calm down" after the crisis. In fact, relations appear to have worsened as Russia has bombed several civilian locations in Syria recently, resulting in mass migrations to the Turkish border. In addition, Simsek stressed that the Central Asian countries needed economic diversity: "They need to enhance the investment environment and attract those investments. In fact, those countries are in a good shape on education and human resources. What they need to enhance is entrepreneurship, investment environment and improving infrastructure." **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Southeast Turkey operations leave '870 terrorists dead'



The number of PKK terrorists killed in counter-terrorism operations in southeastern Turkey since Dec. 15 has shot up to 870, Turkish General Staff announced Thursday.

According to a statement on Turkish Armed Forces' official website, the majority of the casualties took place in Cizre district of Sirmak province.

Out of the more than 800 terrorists killed so far, 663 were in Cizre, while 207 others were killed in the central district of Sur in Diyarbakir province.

Meanwhile, Turkish security forces detained 11 suspected Daesh members Wednesday, the same statement said.

A group of eight foreign nationals including two minors was captured as they were attempting to cross illegally into Syria from the central district of Oguzeli in Turkey's Gaziantep province, while the remaining three suspects were detained in Kilis' Elbeyli district during a security check. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Six soldiers martyred in SE Turkey



Six soldiers were martyred and one is critically injured in a bomb attack perpetrated by PKK terrorists on an armored military vehicle in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir on Thursday, the Turkish General Staff has said in a statement. PKK terrorists detonated a bomb planted on a highway as a military vehicle was passing. The wounded soldier was transported to Diyarbakir Military Hospital in a helicopter. An operation has been launched to apprehend the terrorists. Parts of southeastern Turkey have been the focus of counter-terror operations and military curfews since December 2015. The PKK -- 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.

## Erdogan rejects PKK, PYD denials over Ankara bomb

### Turkish president says 20 people killed during attack were military personnel

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said even though the PKK and PYD refuse to claim responsibility for Wednesday's Ankara bombing, evidence provided by Turkey's Interior Ministry points to the terrorist organizations.

"The Ankara bomb indicates that Turkey's [military] operation yields serious results in face of recent terror," he said in a press briefing on Thursday.

"Fourteen people have been detained. I'm sure that the number

will be more than 14. It has been revealed that the extensions of this attack are both inside- and outside-linked," Erdogan said.

Erdogan also said that 20 of the people killed during the attack were military personnel.

The president was speaking a day after a terrorist attack hit military vehicles in central Ankara, killing at least 28 people and wounding 61.

**>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Turkish PM: Syrian regime responsible for Ankara attack



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said the Ankara car bomb attack was carried out jointly by a YPG member from Syria and PKK members based in Turkey. "The assailants have all been iden-

tified. It was Syrian national Salih Nekar who was born in the northern Syrian city Amuda in 1992," he said in a press briefing Thursday. The premier was speaking a day after a terrorist attack hit military vehicles in central Ankara on Wednesday evening, killing at least 28 people and wounding 61. Following Davutoglu's remarks, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said 20 of the 28 killed were members of the Turkish military. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## NATO backs Turkey after Ankara attack

NATO has said it strongly backs alliance-member Turkey following a terrorist attack in Ankara on Wednesday.

There are no plans for military action in Syria, it added.

"NATO stands in strong solidarity with Turkey. We have been augmenting Turkish air defenses for years," a NATO official told Anadolu Agency by email Thursday. The official added: "NATO military action in Syria is not on the agenda." A terrorist attack -- carried out jointly by a Syrian-nation-

al YPG member and PKK members based in Turkey -- hit military vehicles in central Ankara, killing at least 28 people and wounding 61. Turkey, Saudi Arabia and certain Western European countries want troops deployed on the ground in Syria, as Russian-backed advances have exacerbated tensions on the Turkey-Syria border. Earlier this month, NATO defense ministers decided to intensify intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance at the Turkish-Syrian border. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Health ministry: 81 affected by Ankara terror attack Turkish envoy



Some 81 people have been affected by the Ankara terror attacks, the Turkish Health Ministry has announced.

So far, 59 people have been discharged from the hospital. "Twenty-two people still remain at the hospital, including seven under treatment in the intensive care unit," said the ministry in a statement Thursday afternoon.

PKK-affiliated terrorists exploded a car bomb in the Turkish capital near military vehicles carrying personnel on Wednesday evening, killing at least 28 people, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announced earlier on Thursday.

Twenty of the dead are Turkish soldiers, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan confirmed later.

In remarks to press at the Turkish General Staff headquarters, Davutoglu revealed that the attack was carried out jointly by a Syrian-national YPG member and PKK members based in Turkey.

The deadly blast occurred during the evening rush hour on Merasim Street, which connects Dikmen Street to Inonu Boulevard, which is close to the Turkish General Staff and parliament buildings.

Turkish Interior Minister Ekan Ala announced later in the day that at least 14 people suspected to be linked to the attack had been apprehended in simultaneous operations

carried out in seven provinces (Istanbul, Adana, Bolu, Tekirdag, Izmir, Ankara and Diyarbakir), and some have been taken to Ankara.

"A multi-pronged investigation continues," added the interior minister.

As part of the ongoing probe, anti-terror police in Izmir province said they detained four suspects after finding out that the vehicle used in the car bomb attack was rented out in the western province. A fake driving license and a credit card bearing a false identity were used to obtain the car, which had false license plate at the time of the explosion.

Four detained people working for the rental company in Karabaglar district have been taken into custody.

The company officials told police that they had reported their car stolen -- a sport compact car -- on Jan. 11 after the renter did not return it. Another four suspects were apprehended in Istanbul later in the day. They reportedly told police that they sold the rental car -- after changing the license plates -- to another individual in Diyarbakir, according to Istanbul police. Meanwhile, Istanbul Governor Vasip Sahin told reporters Thursday that security measures had been amped up in the city. **>>>MORE DETAILS**