

TURKEY'S MOSQUE PROJECT IN ALBANIA ON SCHEDULE: ENGINEER



Construction of the Namazgah Mosque in the Albanian capital of Tirana, which when completed with Turkey's assistance, will be one of the biggest mosques in the Balkans, is gathering pace, an engineer associated with the project recently told Anadolu Agency. Turkiye Diyanet Foundation is behind the project. Huseyin Senturk, an engineer involved in the mosque's construction, said Friday: "People come and tell us how happy they are with the [construction of the] mosque." >> **TURKEY**

TURKISH AGENCY PROVIDES FOOD AID TO NIGERIAN REFUGEES



The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has provided food to 168 refugee families fleeing Boko Haram violence in northern Nigeria, the agency said in a statement Monday. TIKA is helping refugees in the Durumi camp outside capital Abuja. Turkey's ambassador to Abuja, Hakan Cakil, was present when the food was delivered. "The Turkish and Nigerian peoples are brothers," he said. "Turkey will provide all necessary assistance to improve the conditions of displaced persons." **TURKEY**

FOOTBALL: FENERBAHCE BEAT BESIKTAS IN DERBY GAMEE



Fenerbahce reclaimed the top spot in Turkey's Super Lig (League) after a 2-0 victory over their fellow Istanbul-based club Besiktas at Ulker Stadium Monday night. Volkan Sen scored the first goal of the title game in the third minute, while Portuguese midfielder Luis Nani struck the second goal towards the end of the second half in the 82nd minute. Fenerbahce now lead the table with 53 points, two points above local rivals Besiktas. Third-placed Torku Konyaspor has 40 points. Medipol Basaksehir and Galatasaray round up the top five with 39 and 37 points each. >> **SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA

Tuesday
CLOUDY
22°C

Wednesday
CLOUDY
12°C



ANADOLU POST

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Syria war threat to regional stability: Turkish deputy PM

Turkish deputy PM Elvan says terror organizations continue to threaten 'order and well-being of our societies'



The ongoing civil war in Syria threatens the entire region's peace and stability, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Lutfi Elvan said Monday.

Addressing the 31st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Elvan said: "Syria has become a broken country and the conflict in Syria continues to pose a threat to the entire region's peace and stability."

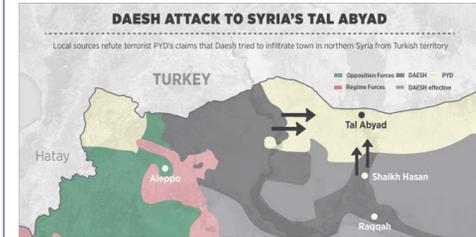
"Turkey itself is doing its utmost to shoulder a large part of the humanitarian catastrophe," he said. Turkey hosts around 2.7 million Syrian refugees, making it the country with one of the world's largest refugee populations.

About Turkey's call for action on the refugee crisis, Elvan said: "It is obvious that taking solely security measures is not the right approach to address the challenge."

However, Elvan noted that terrorist organizations were continuing to threaten the "order and well-being of our societies".

"Terrorism is a shared and complex threat that requires joint as well as mutually reinforcing action on the part of the international community," he said. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Daesh didn't attack Syria's Tal Abyad from Turkey: Sources



Local sources denied Monday reports that Daesh terrorists last week had briefly entered the town of Tal Abyad in Syria's northern city of Raqqah from Turkish territory.

Last week, Daesh terrorists launched a brazen attack on Tal Abyad, which is controlled by the PYD terrorist group.

The PYD is the Syrian affiliate of the terrorist PKK organization. According to local sources, around 50 Daesh terrorists were killed in clashes with the PYD when they tried to enter the town.

Afterward, the PYD alleged that Daesh had attempted to infiltrate Tal Abyad from Turkish territory.

The local sources, however, denied the claims, saying Daesh terrorists had briefly managed to enter the town, but stressed

that they had come from areas west of the Euphrates River to the south of Tal Abyad -- not from Turkish territory.

"Daesh militants [temporarily] infiltrated the town in phases," one local source said, going on to assert that Daesh had used some of its Kurdish members to facilitate the process.

" Sleeper cells [in Tal Abyad] are likely to have played a role in this," the source said.

Backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, the PYD seized control of Tal Abyad from Daesh in June of last year, prompting Arab and Turkmen residents of the area to flee.

Last October, Amnesty International accused the PYD of committing war crimes in predominantly Arab and Turkmen areas of northern Syria.

>> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey condemns Baghdad terror attacks



Turkey has condemned Sunday's terror attacks in Baghdad that left at least 65 people dead. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement published Monday: "Turkey, which rejects terror no matter the reason and source are, and which has lost many citizens in various organizations' terror attacks, shares Iraqi people's pain".

The ministry conveyed condolences to the relatives of those who lost their lives and to the Iraqi people, and wished a speedy recovery to the wounded. The statement said: "Turkey will continue to stand by Iraq in the fight against all forms of terrorism".

On Sunday, Daesh claimed the responsibility for twin bombings in Baghdad's Sadr City, which killed at least 65 people and injured dozens. >> **MORE DETAILS**

All invited to draft Turkey's new constitution: Kurtulmus

Turkish deputy PM Kurtulmus reiterates 'necessity' of drafting a new 'civilian, democratic and participatory' constitution



Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus has invited all political parties to contribute in the process of writing the country's new constitution. The Turkish parliamentary committee tasked with planning the new constitution broke up on Feb.

17 after opposition party members walked out of it amid disagreement over the presidential system, which was proposed by the governing Justice and Development (AK) Party. Addressing a news conference following a Cabinet meeting chaired

by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Ankara on Monday, Kurtulmus said: "We want everyone to sincerely contribute to the process of writing a new constitution. As AK Party, we will be contributing to the process till the end." Noting the necessity of writing a new constitution that is "civilian, democratic and participatory", the minister said that discussions on the subject were not new, and actually went back to "the days following the adoption of the 82 Constitution after the 1980 coup".

"It is not okay to act as if this is the

first time Turkey is discussing a new constitution. If this parliament does not make a new constitution, then it will have done nothing no matter what legislative activities it is engaged in," Kurtulmus said. "Let me be very clear. Whoever runs away from this process will be called a truant. Therefore, we sincerely request and wish that all parties sincerely contribute to the process of drafting a new constitution." The Constitution Conciliation Committee of 12 deputies -- three from each of Turkey's four parliamentary parties -- had first met on Feb. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey backs Southern Gas Corridor project: Energy Min.

Turkey will support Southern Gas Corridor project politically, financially and technically: Turkey's Energy Minister



Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister declared the country's support for the Southern Gas Corridor on Monday to carry Caucasian natural gas to Europe via Turkey. During his visit to the second Southern Gas Corridor Advisory Council Meeting, which started in Baku on Feb. 29, Berat Albayrak said that Turkey will support the Southern Gas Corridor concept financially, technically and politically to ensure the

country's supply security. The Southern Gas Corridor Pipeline project, which includes the TAP project, is estimated to cost around \$45 billion and will include three major pipeline projects: the expansion of the South Caucasus Pipeline through Azerbaijan and Georgia, the construction of TANAP across Turkey and the construction of the TAP through Greece, Albania and into Italy. Through these interrelated projects, Turkey aims to boost both the country and the region's supply security and enhance Turkey's position geopolitically as a gas hub. Albayrak explained that the Southern Gas Corridor project was announced ten years ago as a European Commission initiative for the transfer of gas supplies from the Caspian and the Middle East to Europe. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Erdogan says Turkey, Ivory Coast willing to boost ties

Turkey aims to increase trade volume with Ivory Coast to billion dollars by 2020, Turkish president says



Turkey aims to increase its trade volume with Ivory Coast to a billion dollars by 2020, Turkish president said during his first visit to the West African country. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the announcement alongside his Ivorian counterpart Alassane Ouattara at a joint news conference Monday after bilateral meetings in the country's capital, Abidjan. Erdogan began his speech by congratulating Ouattara's re-election last October. "This is a victory for

democracy," the Turkish president said. Ouattara, a candidate of the Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP), got elected for a second and final term with 83.66 percent votes in the Oct. 25 election.

The Turkish president hoped that the trade volume between the two countries would increase over the years. "Trade volume between Turkey and Ivory Coast was \$330 million last year. It will reach \$390 million in 2016. Our goal is to increase it up to \$1 billion by 2020," he said. He noted that bilateral ties began in 1964, while the Turkish embassy in Abidjan opened in November 2009. Turkey continues its humanitarian aid to the Ivory Coast through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and Turkish Red Crescent. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkish military hits Daesh targets in northern Syria



Turkish military struck a number of Daesh targets in northern Syria on Sunday, a Turkish military source said Monday. Around 40 Howitzer rounds were fired on 10 Daesh targets north of Aleppo, the source said, adding that targets included bases, weaponry and

truck-mounted rocket launchers. The shots were fired between 2 p.m. [1200GMT] and 3 p.m. [1300GMT] Sunday, it said. The international anti-Daesh coalition was informed about the strikes in advance, it added. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Suspected suicide bomber arrested in eastern Turkey

A suspected suicide bomber has been arrested in Van, eastern Turkey, a prosecution source said Monday.

Van is the home province of the family of Abdulbaki Somer, who killed himself in the Feb. 17 car bomb attack in Ankara that killed 29 people. The suspect, identified as N.O., was arrested Sunday after being identified by three terror suspects arrested earlier, a source in the Van chief public prosecutor's office said on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media. N.O. was identified through

photographs and an arrest warrant issued. The suspect, whose gender was not disclosed, was arrested and found to be carrying a passport in someone else's name. Neither the source nor officials have clarified which organization the suspect may belong to or the intended target.

On Sunday, Interior Minister Efkan Ala said 18 terror attacks had been prevented in Turkey since the start of the year. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Istanbul hosts Turkey-Bahrain investment summit



Trade between Turkey and the Gulf state of Bahrain has reached \$300 million annually -- a nine-fold increase over the last 13 years.

Now the two countries are trying to strengthen this mutual investment.

Leading trade companies from both Bahrain and Turkey met on Monday in Istanbul, stressing the Gulf nation's tax-free regime and Turkey's proximity to 70 percent of the world's oil and gas reserves..

Turkish businessman highlighted that Turkey has dynamic economy, a young population, good geographical location and customs deals with the European Union.

Mehmet Buyukeksi, president of Turkish Exporters' Union told the Turkey-Bahrain Joint Business Council that Bahrain was a leading country in the Gulf Region, which has free-tax regime on business, a free-trade agreement with U.S., prospering investment and encouragement policies. >> **MORE DETAILS**