

TURKISH AID AGENCY DIGS 6,000 WATER WELLS ACROSS AFRICA



Turkey's Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) has built more than 6,000 wells in Africa since 1992, the foundation's deputy chairman said Monday. Hasan Aynaci said the wells were providing water in 19 drought-hit countries across the continent. "We have built 6,000 water wells in rural Africa in 24 years," he said in an interview with Anadolu Agency. In Somalia, 36 well drilling projects had provided water for 150,000 people, Aynaci said. The country has been hard-hit by drought since 2011. >> **TURKEY**

ISTANBUL'S PRICELESS WOMEN'S ARCHIVE GOES DIGITAL



It is a quiet Friday afternoon in Turkey's only women's library and Fatmagül Berktaş – a renowned feminist academic and activist – is, as usual, hunched over a pile of books. However, she is not grading papers or doing research; she is signing books from her personal archive to donate to this unique and venerable institution. Berktaş – a professor of political science at Istanbul University and the writer of many books on women's issues in Turkey – is chair of the executive board of Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi ve Bilgi Merkezi Vakfı... **CULTURE AND ART**

TURKISH AIR FORCE GETS NEW ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEM



Turkey's leading defense system producer ASELSAN has handed over its newly developed and locally produced land based radar electronic attack system called KORAL to the Turkish Air Force. A handing over ceremony was held at the defense company's Gölbaşı facility in capital Ankara, which was attended by Abidin Ünal, commander of Turkish Air Force. The transportable attack system has the capability to jam, deceive and paralyze hostile radars. It also "analyses multi-target signals and automatically or manually generates an appropriate response..." >> **TURKEY**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Tuesday
CLOUDY
12°C



Wednesday
CLOUDY
16°C



ANADOLU POST

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PKK planned, YPG gave assailants for Ankara bomb attack

Turkish officials say Ankara blast carried out jointly by terrorist PKK and YPG groups



The PKK terrorist organization planned last week's deadly Ankara blast, while the YPG, which is the military wing of Syrian terror group PYD, provided assailants for the at-

tack, official security sources told Anadolu Agency Monday. Speaking on condition of anonymity, Turkish officials said the attack was carried out jointly by the PKK

and the YPG, both of which are seen as terrorist organizations by Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also said earlier this week that the attack was carried out by a YPG member. A total of 28 people were killed and 81 others injured Wednesday when a bomb hit military-owned vehicles in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Feb. 17. According to security officials, the vehicle used in the attack was hired by a car theft ring from a rental company based in western Turkey's Izmir province. They added that the vehicle was also

taken to Istanbul and southeastern Diyarbakir provinces before the attack, while explosives were strapped to the car in Ankara. According to the Turkish government, Syrian national Salih Nekar was the suicide attacker involved in the blast; the bomber worked as a construction worker in Ankara and stayed with two members of the terrorist organization before the attack, officials added. Turkey has held 21 suspects so far across the country in connection with the attack. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey's FM says reliance on Syrian PYD a 'weakness'



Turkey's foreign minister on Monday criticized the international anti-Daesh coalition's reliance on the PYD to provide ground forces against Daesh in Syria. Mevlut Cavusoglu said it showed "weakness and desperation to count on another terror group in the fight against Daesh". The PYD and its armed wing the YPG is seen as a terrorist organization by Turkey, which has accused the group of siding with the regime of President Bashar al-Assad as well as being behind last week's car bomb attack in Ankara that killed 28 people. >> **MORE DETAILS**

However, while Turkey has shelled PYD positions, the U.S.-led alliance has supported the group in Syria, with the U.S. describing it as a "reliable partner" in the fight against Daesh. "It is indeed a huge mistake," Cavusoglu said in a news conference in Ankara. "A drowning man should not clutch at a straw because that straw would only drown him. If all these countries are depending on another terrorist group to fight a terrorist organization, this is just an indicator of the situation in Syria. We must promptly put an end to this mistake." Last week, Cavusoglu indicated the U.S. position on the PYD was shifting. He said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had referred to the group as "untrustworthy" in a recent telephone call. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkish NGOs lay flowers at site of Ankara blast



A Turkish group representing 14 NGOs visited the site of last week's deadly terrorist attack in the capital Ankara Monday to lay floral tributes to the 28 victims. "There are no words left to speak. We condemn terror," said the president of the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TURK-IS) Ergun Atalay, speaking on behalf of the group of organizations, which included workers' and civil servant unions, as well as business associations. Following the short speech, representatives of the NGOs said prayers for the victims, and laid carnations at the blast site. Last Wednesday's attack on buses carrying military personnel in the heart of the Turkish capital also injured dozens. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey welcomes US-Russia cease-fire deal over Syria

'Announcement of cease-fire and starting of cease-fire process is positive for us also,' Turkish Deputy PM Kurtulmus says



Turkey will respond positively to the cease-fire agreement reached between the U.S. and Russia over the Syria conflict, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday.

Addressing a news conference following a Cabinet meeting chaired by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Monday, Kurtulmus said: "The announcement of the cease-fire and starting

of the cease-fire process is positive for us also". A halt to ongoing hostilities in Syria is scheduled to go into effect Saturday, the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russia announced Monday. Daesh and al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate, the Nusra Front, are excluded from the cease-fire as well as other unspecified UN Security Council-designated terrorist organizations. Meanwhile, Turkey expressed its determination to continue its counter terrorism efforts during the Cabinet meeting. "During the Cabinet meeting, we discussed once again continuing

the fight against terrorism decisively, and at the same time, making all necessary arrangements in our action plan without compromising our unity, peace and democracy," Kurtulmus said. He said that terrorism in Turkey and developments within the scope of counter terrorism and the developments around Turkey were discussed during the meeting. "Besides, cross border sources of terrorism and threats of these sources on Turkey were also talked about," he said. Kurtulmus added that the preparations were being made to deal with those threats. >> **MORE DETAILS**

PYD is 'PKK's Syrian affiliate', US document reveals

US gov't agency's online profile on PKK terror group -- dated 2014 -- unveils the subtle change in Washington's approach to PYD within course of a year

The PKK's "Syrian affiliate" -- that's how the PYD, a terrorist group trying to carve out territory near the Turkey-Syria border with the support of Russia and the Syrian regime, is referred to in an official U.S. counter-terrorism document. On the profile page for the PKK -- listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. -- found on the National Counterterrorism Center's (NCTC) website, the Democratic Union Party (PYD) is mentioned as a cause for a "heightened threat to Turkey and increased tensions along the border". The PYD "has increased its presence in northern Syria along the border with Turkey by establishing control in Kurdish areas," the document says. In the 2015 edition of the Counterterrorism Calendar issued by the NCTC, this particular reference to the group has been edited out, while careful readers will pick it up in the previous edition of 2014, as well as on the dedicated webpage still online as of Sunday, Feb. 21. The dynamics of the links between Turkey, the U.S. and the PYD has caused a strain in the ties between Ankara and Washington. U.S. officials have been ada-



ment in recent weeks in refusing to recognize the PYD -- or its armed wing YPG -- as a terrorist organization, instead calling the YPG a "reliable partner" in the fight against Daesh, supporting the group with weapons and training. Ankara considers all three -- the PYD, YPG and the PKK -- as terrorist outfits, and has frequently pointed to the link between these groups active in Turkey and Syria. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has dubbed the YPG "a pawn of the Syrian regime" over the Feb. 17 Ankara attack that left 28 people dead and 81 injured. Turkish officials have revealed that the attack was carried out jointly by a Syrian-national YPG member and PKK terrorists based in Turkey. A day before the attack, Syria's envoy to the UN said the PYD enjoys the support of not only the U.S. but also the Assad regime. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Fourteen terrorists killed in SE Turkey



Fourteen terrorists were killed Sunday in ongoing operations against the PKK terrorist organization in Turkey's southeastern provinces, the military said. The Turkish General Staff said Monday in a statement that 10 terrorists had been "neutralized" in Sirnak's Idil district as well as four in Diyarbakir's Sur district. The military also said that security forces discovered five dead terrorists in Sirnak's Cizre district. The bodies were found in three separate houses. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey reveals plan to boost tourism sector

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Monday announced a financial support package for the tourism sector, which has been shaken by geopolitical tension in the region. In the press conference held to announce a "2016 Tourism Action Plan", Davutoglu said that there would be numerous advantages and support schemes ranging from... >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkish Min. accuses EP rapporteur of "losing neutrality"

Bozkir's statement comes after EP rapporteur for Turkey's visit in southeastern Turkish province last week



A Turkish minister accused Monday the European Parliament's rapporteur for Turkey of losing "neutrality about Turkey's issues", days after she visited southeastern Turkey and met with PKK supporters. In a statement published Monday, Turkey's EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkir said An-

kara "cannot accept or tolerate any understanding that describes the terrorist attacks in Turkey, which claim lives of our citizens on a daily basis, as civil war, while condemning terrorism [...] only when it takes place in an EU country". Bozkir added that it was "obvious that Rapporteur [Kati] Piri [...] cannot comprehend the most vital issue of Turkey and also lost her neutrality about Turkey's issues". Bozkir's statement comes days after the European Parliament's (EP) rapporteur for Turkey, Kati Piri, and a delegation of other MEPs visited the southeastern Turkish province Diyarbakir last week. >> **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey keen to enhance investments in Somalia

Turkish deputy PM says Turkey will encourage businessmen to invest in fishing, agriculture and construction in Somalia



Turkey's minister of customs and trade has accused European states of committing an "injustice" against Turkey by calling on the country to do more while they struggle to cope with a fraction of what Ankara has shouldered in refugee response. "We thought it a source of richness to welcome our Syrian brothers and sisters to Turkey. But in a few of those Europe-

an states, all hell broke loose when Syrians arrived," Bulent Tufenkci told a local AK Party audience in Kilis province on Saturday. "Those who can't say 'stop' to Russia's atrocities at the United Nations are asking us, 'why are you closing the door?' We are not, the doors of our hearts are always open. We are already fully taking care of accommodation needs," Tufenkci said. With 2.62 million Syrian war survivors and 26 different camps, Turkey has become the country hosting the biggest number of refugees in the world. With Russia- and regime-backed military pressure on Aleppo, the numbers are expected to rise. >> **MORE DETAILS**