

## PALESTINIAN AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY VISITS ANADOLU AGENCY



During a friendly visit to Anadolu Agency headquarters in Ankara Tuesday, Palestinian Ambassador to Turkey Faed Mustafa said that representatives of both Hamas and Fatah would meet in Qatar early next month with a view to kick-starting reconciliation efforts. At Tuesday's meeting, Metin Mutanoglu, Anadolu Agency deputy director-general and editor-in-chief, briefed Mustafa on the agency's international operations. - Palestinian reconciliation As for the planned Palestinian meeting in Qatar, Mustafa explained: "Its first aim ...-> TURKEY

## TURKEY'S CENTRAL BANK LEAVES KEY INTEREST RATES ON HOLD



Turkey's Central Bank decided to leave its key interest rates unchanged during its meeting Tuesday, the bank announced. The bank left its benchmark interest rate or one-week repo rate at 7.50 percent as forecast by markets and economists. Also, the upper and lower limits of interest rate corridor, which the bank utilizes for borrowing and lending money to commercial banks, remained unchanged. The upper limit of the interest rate was left at 10.75 percent, while the lower limit was at 7.25 percent. **ECONOMY**

## TENNIS: TURKISH PLAYER ADVANCES TO QATAR OPEN ROUND 3



Turkey's Çağla Büyükakçay advanced to the third round of the Qatar Total Open Tuesday defeating last year's champion and number 12 seed Lucie Šafářová from the Czech Republic. Büyükakçay defeated 2015 French Open finalist 7-6, 7-5, becoming the first Turkish tennis player to advance to the third round of a tennis tournament at the professional level. The Turkish female athlete, who is currently ranked 162, is set to play Italian Roberta Vinci in the third round. **>>>SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA

Wednesday  
**CLOUDY**  
**12°C**

Thursday  
**CLOUDY**  
**16°C**



# ANADOLU POST

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## Turkey to not allow terror zone near border with Syria

### Turkish PM says Turkey will foil designs of Russia, Assad regime, Daesh and YPG group to install terror structure in northern Syria close to its borders



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**

## Traffickers of migrants risk terror charge in Turkey



Turkish deputy prime minister has warned that those behind human trafficking of asylum seekers risked facing terrorism charges in Turkey. Addressing a gathering of foreign journalists in the Turkish capital Ankara Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said the Council of Ministers has been working on a law that will consider organizing (trafficking of) illegal migrants (into Europe from Turkey) as a terror crime. "These actions are going to be considered under [Turkey's] penal code," Kurtulmus said.

Kurtulmus said approximately 4,800 such traffickers had been caught in 2015, half of whom were behind bars pending trial. "We know these [traffickers] organizers' access points, very detailed security measures have been taken [to deal with them]," he said. "We also dug deep on illegal productions [of items used to traffic people] like life vests and boats," he added. The deputy premier also said that approximately 156,000 asylum seekers had been caught in Turkey in 2015, out of which 91,000 were rescued from the sea. He said the world did not realize the seriousness of the refugee crisis until people saw the body of three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi, who drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while fleeing the Syrian war. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey, Germany sign deal to fight migrant smuggling



Turkey and Germany signed Tuesday joint declarations of intent on bilateral cooperation regarding the fight against migrant smuggling and against terror. The deputy undersecretary of the Turkish Interior Ministry Mehmet Tekinarslan and the German ambassador in Turkey Martin Erdmann signed the joint declarations of intent on Tuesday. The move comes about two weeks after German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Ankara and discussed the refugee crisis with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. "We believe that the cooperation will provide important contributions for the two countries," Tekinarslan said. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## PYD terror group committing war crimes in Syria: Report

### PYD terrorist group supports Assad regime in attempt to benefit from Syrian civil war, says Turkey-based think tank



The terrorist PKK's Syrian affiliate PYD has been committing war crimes in the areas it captured in Syria by forcing people to migrate,

said a report issued by the Turkey-based Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) on Tuesday.

According to the report, the PYD terrorist group has been supporting the Bashar al-Assad regime in an attempt to benefit from the Syrian civil war that started in 2011. Drawing attention to the oil-rich northeastern Syrian areas mostly populated by Kurds, the report said the Assad regime saw the Kurdish population as a threat. "The PYD, unlike other Kurdish groups in northern Syria, led a pro-Assad policy and started supporting Muhaberat, the Syrian secret intelligence service and pro-Assad Shabiha forces. The

regime-affiliated forces then left captured areas to the PYD and its armed wing the YPG," said the report. Describing the PYD as "an armed non-state actor having controlled areas in northern Syria", the report said the PYD terrorist group was trying to be "the only authority" in the region without allowing other regional communities "a right to live". The report also said the PYD was benefitting from Daesh's presence in Syria to present itself as "a useful actor" in U.S. counter-terrorism operations. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey always backs Somalia: Turkish presidency

### Ibrahim Kalin issues statement underlining importance of Istanbul business forum as part of Turkey's engagement in Africa



The Turkey-Somalia Business Forum held in Istanbul establishes new and strong ties among the peoples of Turkey and Somalia and Africa, the Turkish presidency spokesman said Tuesday. Ibrahim Kalin issued a statement underlining the importance of the business forum as part of Turkey's engagement in Africa, which was adopted in 1998. Turkey started providing humanitarian assistance to Somalia in 2011. Kalin stressed that the sixth Turkey-Somalia Business Forum is Ankara's latest in comprehensive aid activities towards Somalia. He added that the visit by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, when he was prime minister in 2011, to Somalia as drought and high insecurity were plaguing the country "was a milestone in modern Somalia's history". "Since 2011, Turkey has made a concentrated effort to provide the Somali people's basic needs" security, educa-

tion, health, institutional capacity building, the building of state institutions, roads, ports, airports, fisheries and energy," Kalin said. "Compared with 2011, today, Somalia is in much better position," he added. Kalin also mentioned Turkish doctors' charity programs in Somalia. "Turkish doctors have offered health services to half a million Somalis, so far," Kalin said. According to Kalin's statement, the total amount of Turkish aid for Somalia thus far has reached \$500 million. However Kalin added that 40 percent of the Somalia's population needs still humanitarian aid. The UN has said an estimated 857,000 people inside Somalia are currently "in crisis and emergency conditions", while almost 2 million Somalis suffer from food insecurity. Another 1 million are refugees in neighboring countries. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## NATO urges 'calm' on Turkey-Syria border



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has called for calm and de-escalation on the Turkish-Syrian border following a terrorist attack in Ankara that killed 29 people last week. "Nothing can justify the kind of terrorist attack we saw in Ankara a few days ago," Stoltenberg said at the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday. "The obvious challenges we see in Syria and also [the] spilling over into Turkey underlines the importance of calm [and] de-escalation and that Turkish response is proportionate," Stoltenberg said. "Turkey is the ally most affected by turmoil [and] violence." **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Turkish development minister meets UN development chief

## Suicide bomber behind Ankara attack identified

### DNA test designates Abdulkaki Somer as suicide bomber in last week's terrorist attack in Turkish capital, which killed 29 people



The suicide bomber behind last week's deadly Ankara blast was identified as Abdulkaki Somer, according to prosecution sources Tuesday. The terrorist attack in the Turkish capital on February 17 had claimed 29 lives. The attack also left 60 others wounded. The identity of the bomber was revealed by a DNA test, the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed, adding that the

DNA samples provided by Somer's father matched the assailant's DNA. Somer's father, who lives in the eastern province of Van, had informed the police that his son was behind the attack. Abdulkaki Somer, born in 1989, reportedly joined the terrorist PKK organization at the age of 16 in 2005, and was based in the Qandil mountains - the PKK base in northern Iraq - until 2014. Meanwhile, the media ban on the blast was lifted upon request by the chief prosecutor's office, the same sources said. Currently, 14 suspects are in custody in relation to the attack. Currently, 14 suspects are in custody in relation to the attack. **>>>MORE DETAILS**

## Turkey to continue humanitarian activities in Somalia

### Turkish president also called on international community to make investments in Somalia



Turkey will continue its humanitarian activities in Somalia until it knows peace and stability, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday. The Turkish leader and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud held a joint press conference after they attended the Turkey-Somalia Business Forum in Istanbul. "Somalia became a symbol for Turkey's perspective on the African continent and our wish to establish brotherhood with other

African countries," Erdogan said. The Turkish president also called on the international community to make investments in Somalia. President Erdogan referred his Somalia visit held in 2011 saying: "Somalia, which was on the verge of devastation and had lost all hope in 2011, stood up again with Turkish and international joint efforts." Regarding the upcoming Somali parliamentary elections to be held this year, Erdogan described them as "the most important step" in the country's transition period. "Of course, Somalia's problems and troubles are not yet over," Erdogan added. "Many critical issues particularly the fight against terrorism and the reconstruction of the government are waiting to be resolved." **>>>MORE DETAILS**