

TURKISH AIRLINES TO PARTNER WITH WARNER BROS. PICTURES



Turkish Airlines announced on Monday its partnership with Warner Bros. Pictures offering fans a "flight" into the world of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice." In the highly anticipated action adventure film, a pivotal scene unfolds aboard a 777 Turkish Airlines plane. A real 777 Turkish Airlines plane will be wrapped in imagery from the film. Ilker Ayçi, Turkish Airlines' Board chairman, said: "We're extremely excited to partner with Warner Bros. Pictures on the most anticipated movie of the year. The excitement around... >>>WORLD-CULTURE&ART

ABOUT 6.3 MILLION TOURISTS GET TURKISH VISA IN 3 MINS



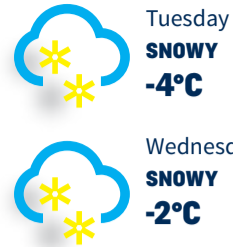
More than 6.3 million foreigners obtained a Turkish visa in three minutes in 2015 using the Electronic Visa System, according to data obtained by an Anadolu Agency correspondent from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday. The electronic visa system (e-Visa) eliminates queues in border gates and airports. About 7,232,322 people made applications via the e-Visa system in 2015, and 87 percent of applications (6,343,581) were accepted. >>>TURKEY

SOUTH SUDAN: HIGH FOOD PRICES CAUSE SUFFERING



Since South Sudan devalued its pound by 84 percent to the dollar on Dec. 15, prices have risen to new heights in the country, making it difficult for vast parts of the population to buy food. Behind the devaluation is the country's drop in oil production, which has limited what is virtually its only hard currency export. A 50 kilogram (110 pound) sack of wheat flour sells at SSP1000, up from SSP300 in December of last year, according to Taban Chuil, a shopkeeper in Juba. A kilogram of meat now sells for SSP150, up from SSP50 two months ago, he added. >>>ECONOMY

WEATHER / ANKARA



Tuesday
SNOWY
-4°C

Wednesday
SNOWY
-2°C



ANADOLU POST

Tuesday January 26, 2016

Turkey against PYD, not Syrian Kurds, says PM

Those who recognize PYD as legitimate partner 'do not live in the reality of the region,' says PM

Syrian Kurds need to be a part of the peace process to end the civil war, but those treating the PYD terrorist group as a legitimate partner "do not live in the reality of the region," Turkey's prime minister said Monday. "Without Syrian Kurds, the table cannot be complete. What we are against is YPG", Ahmet Davutoglu told CNN's Christiane Amanpour, referring to the armed wing of PYD. The Syrian Kurdish group is an extension of the PKK, a terrorist-designated organization by Turkey, the U.S. and EU.

"Those who are recognizing them as a legitimate partner, they do not live in the reality of the region," said Davutoglu. "Nobody can convince us that [PYD] is for peace".

The prime minister's remarks came ahead of new Syria peace talks set to begin Friday in Geneva.

The talks were initially scheduled to start Monday but were delayed by disagreements about which opposition factions would participate. Davutoglu held firm that the Syrian crisis would not be resolved with President Bashar al-Assad in power, adding that regime forces



are "not winning". On Russia's role in the conflict, Davutoglu said Russia was inter-

vening "in a very negative manner, in fact occupying Syria".

As one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia "like others can contribute to the peace process", he said, "but we expect Russia to respect Syrian civilians and ... not to push Syrian civilians

and moderate opposition groups, as well as schools and hospitals. "We know these, because all those who were injured by Russian bombardment are escaping to Turkey", he said. "Only 10 percent of Russian airstrikes are against Daesh."

More than 1,000 civilians have been killed by Russian airstrikes that began Sept. 30 to prop up the regime forces, according to the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory of Human Rights. The civil war, which will enter its sixth year in March, has left more than 250,000 victims dead and made the country the world's single largest source of refugees and displaced persons, according to UN figures.

Neighboring Turkey, which is now the largest refugee-hosting country in the world, has spent nearly \$8 billion caring for more than 2.5 million Syrian refugees on its soil. >>>MORE DETAILS

towards Turkish border." He said 90 percent of Russian airstrikes in Syria had so far targeted civilians

Most arms supplied to KRG from Germany: Kurdish official

Majority of weapons, military equipment supplied to Kurdish Regional Government have come from Germany, KRG official tells Anadolu Agency

Most of the weapons and military vehicles recently supplied to the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG)'s Peshmerga forces have come from Germany, a KRG official said Monday.

"It is Germany that has sent most of the arms to Peshmerga forces and continues to do so," Anwar Haji Osman, the KRG's deputy minister for Peshmerga affairs, told Anadolu Agency. "German weapons are very effective in thwarting terrorists that target Peshmerga positions," he said.



According to Osman, the German government has recently supplied the KRG with thousands of assault rifles and pistols and ammunition; 20 Milan anti-tank missile launchers; 100 bazookas; 5,000 hand grenades; and 50 armored

vehicles. Germany stepped up cooperation with Erbil, the KRG's administrative capital, after the Daesh militant group overran Mosul -- Iraq's second largest city -- in mid-2014. Within the past 18 months,

>>>MORE DETAILS

EU wants implementation of Turkey action plan

Senior EU officials met Turkish ministers in Ankara



Senior European Union officials visiting Ankara have said they want to see the full implementation of a joint action plan with Turkey agreed last November. High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn were speaking at a joint news conference with Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and EU Minister Volkan Bozkir at Ankara Palace on Monday. "We wish the full implementation of the action plan. For the EU, implementation of it means giving support to Turkey," said Mogherini. On Nov. 29, the EU promised €3 billion (\$3.28 billion) in aid to Turkey to support projects that would

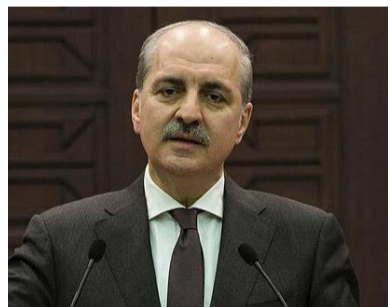
improve the living conditions of refugees in the country and address the problems of unchecked refugee movements into Europe.

"I believe that the allocated money will arrive within a reasonable time. We are doing preparatory work to spend this money," Mogherini said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Cavusoglu said: "This is not money that we take personally. The delay in money affects the quality of life of refugees in Turkey." Turkey currently hosts 2.5 million Syrian and 300,000 Iraqi refugees. Commissioner Hahn said the initiative that Turkey took had a "vital importance". "We do not have time to lose. It is important to give Turkey significant support," added Hahn. Mogherini said the meeting was important to accelerate strategic cooperation with Turkey, adding that the country was a "global player". She added that a "comprehensive transition" should be achieved in Syria, where the war will enter its sixth year in March, leaving more than 250,000 people dead. >>>MORE DETAILS

Turkey opposes inclusion of PYD in Syria talks

Deputy PM says opposition to take part in Syria talks in Geneva should consist of groups truly against Assad regime



Turkey will not accept the participation of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) in the upcoming Syria talks in Geneva on the opposition side of the table, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said. The PYD is affiliated to the PKK, listed as a terror organization by

Turkey, the EU and U.S. due to the armed campaign it has been fighting against Turkey since 1984.

"Nobody will agree [that] the PYD, Daesh and similar organizations take part in the national coalition in Syria [on the side of the opposition]," Kurtulmus told press members in Ankara.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu had previously said that the PYD should attend the Syria talks alongside the representatives of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The PYD has however been heavily involved in fighting Daesh on the ground in Syria with the support of the U.S.-led air campaign. "As you know, we side with the

fact that the Syrian opposition [to take part in Geneva talks] consist of forces that completely oppose to the regime," Kurtulmus noted. "We have been sharing such a view with all the international community insistently."

"Elements, who cooperate with the [Assad] regime, should never behave as if they represent the opposition in this talks," he added. Syrian peace talks will begin in Geneva on Friday, Staffan de Mistura, the UN envoy, said Monday. Which opposition groups should be allowed to attend the talks has been a contentious point in the run-up. Invitations would be issued Tuesday, de Mistura added

without specifying the groups that would be asked to take part.

The priorities would be establishing a cease-fire, supplying humanitarian aid and tackling Daesh, he added.

The conflict in Syria has been raging since early 2011 and has led to the deaths of more than 250,000 people and driven more than 10 million from their homes, according to the UN.

It also led to the rise of Daesh, which now controls large parts of Syria and Iraq, and the subsequent formation of a U.S.-led coalition to tackle the group in both countries.. >>>MORE DETAILS

Turkey: Seven PKK terrorists killed in army operation

Security forces also seize firearms and ammunition in Cizre and Sur districts



A operation in southeastern Turkish districts killed seven PKK terrorists on Sunday, the military has

said. Turkish General Staff said in a Monday statement that six terrorists were killed in the Cizre district

of southeastern Sirnak province and one more in the Sur district of Diyarbakir province on Sunday.

According to the statement, a total of 452 PKK terrorists were "neutralized" in Cizre and 121 in Sur, where clashes have been going on with PKK members after local governors declared a curfew to maintain peace in early Dec. 2015. Security forces also defused 16 improvised explosive devices in Cizre, seized nine shotguns and 155 cartridges, 13 Kalashnikov rifles

and two radios, said the army.

In Sur, one shotgun and one pistol were seized.

The PKK - also considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the EU - resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish state in late July 2015. Since then, more than 200 members of the security forces have been martyred and thousands of PKK terrorists killed in operations across Turkey and northern Iraq. >>>MORE DETAILS

Turkish central bank: 2016 is year to fight inflation

Turkey will gradually reduce its inflation rate within the next three years, the head of Turkish Central Bank told Anadolu Agency in an interview on Friday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum conference. "Now, we will solve the problem," Erdem Basci said. "2016 will be the year to fight inflation and the fight will be continued in 2017 and 2018." In 2015, the annual inflation rate rose to 8.81 percent in December, far higher than the bank's target, the Turkish Sta-



tistical Institute reported on Jan. 4. "There is also need to make everyone believe that the inflation rate projected at 5 percent at the end of 2018 in the government's Medium-term Economic Program will be reached," Basci said. >>>MORE DETAILS

Egypt's failed revolution: A 5-year timeline



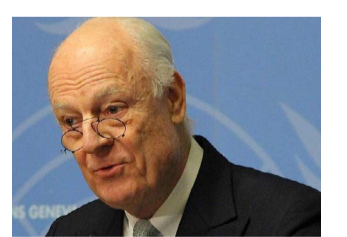
In December of 2010, a Tunisian street vendor set himself on fire to protest humiliation and harassment he suffered at the hands of a policeman.

The incident sparked the anti-regime protests later known as the "Arab Spring," which exploded onto the streets of Egypt on Jan. 25 of 2011.

The aftermath could hardly be foreseen by the main actors in Egypt, the Arab World's most populous nation.

The ensuing demonstrations ended the 30-year rule of autocratic President Hosni Mubarak and triggered a series of events that would profoundly impact the future of Egypt.

Syria peace talks to start Friday in Geneva



Syrian peace talks will begin in Geneva on Friday, the UN envoy to the country said Monday.

"We are going to aim at proximity talks starting on the 29th and going on for six months," Staffan de Mistura told a news conference in the Swiss city. The talks had been due to start Monday but have been delayed by disagreement over the parties to be invited, de Mistura said.