

FACEBOOK DOUBLES FOURTH-QUARTER PROFIT



Facebook's fourth quarter profit doubled, surprising analysts at \$1.56 billion. The figure represents a 52 percent increase from the same period of 2014. The company pulled in \$5.4 billion in revenue during the quarter that spanned September to December. Approximately 80 percent of the company's advertising revenue last quarter came from ads on mobile devices. The announcement came after markets closed Wednesday, but Facebook shares leapt more than 12 percent in after-hours trading. >>ECONOMY

TURKISH DOG-HANDLER RECALLS A LIFE ON THE FRONTLINE



Goktan Eker is a man with a mission. One of Turkey's most experienced dog-handlers, the Istanbul-based expert says that the country needs to establish a national standard for canine trainers. Given the Turkey's recent experiences with mass-casualty bombings in public places, the need for the edge given by specially trained dogs (often referred to as K9 units) has never been greater. Eker was speaking to Anadolu Agency recently at his cold and snow-bound training facility outside Istanbul. >>TURKEY-LIFE

US TO MAKE 'CONCERTED' EFFORT TO RAISE ZIKA AWARENESS



The U.S. announced Wednesday that it will begin to step up awareness efforts following the first confirmed cases of Zika virus in the country. "I would anticipate in the days ahead that you'll see more of a conspicuous, concerted effort on the part of the U.S. government to communicate with the American people about the risks of this virus," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, but added that there are no current plans to create a "Zika Czar" to lead the efforts. Obama convened a meeting of his health and national security teams one day earlier to discuss the spread of Zika in the Americas. >>HEALTHY

WEATHER / ANKARA

Thursday
CLOUDY
1°C

Friday
CLOUDY
6°C



ANADOLU POST

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Turkey wants calls for restraint to be addressed at PKK

President Erdogan's spokesman says calls for Ankara to stop anti-terror ops in southeast are misdirected, demands PKK lay down arms



to the terrorist organization, to lay down their arms," he told a press briefing in Ankara on Wednesday. Turkish security forces have been conducting counter-terrorism efforts against the PKK, mainly in the provinces of Diyarbakir and Sirtak amid ongoing curfews, with more than 700 terrorists killed since early Dec. 2015 according to the military. Kalin was referring to international calls and a manifesto by a group of Turkish academics calling for the Turkish government to cease operations in the southeast. "We also have a call for them: Call upon the terrorist organization and

its affiliates to disarm rather than making calls to us regarding our efforts to maintain the public order," he said. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman also assured that the anti-terror fight was not waged against the country's Kurdish citizens, as he stressed that the terrorist PKK was not their "representative." "Any counter claim is far from the truth as it obviously means equating the terrorist organization to the Kurdish people if you say it represents the Kurds," he said. "It can be nothing but propaganda by the terrorist organization to showcase itself as the protector and representative of our Kurdish citizens," he added. Kalin emphasized that Turkey will never give credit to "terror eulogies like 'Daesh terror is an atrocity but PKK terror is a resistance'." "Terror is terror, it has no ethnic, religious or ideological basis. We

must refuse all kinds of terror with the same perspective," he said. He further stated that the future of the solution process regarding the Kurdish issue, was bound to the PKK laying down arms "completely and unconditionally." What is commonly known in Turkey as the solution process began in 2013 and aimed to end the 30-year conflict between Turkey and the PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the EU and U.S. It stalled after renewed violence broke out last year. Kalin also touched upon Ankara's objection to the inclusion of PKK's Syrian extension, the Democratic Union Party (PYD) in the UN-sponsored Syria peace negotiations in Geneva scheduled for Friday. "It is unacceptable for a group that has not sided with the Syrian opposition, but kept shady and dirty ties with the [Assad] regime and the PKK up to now, to be

there to represent Syrian Kurds," he said. Kalin highlighted that Ankara has no problem with the Syrian Kurds. He added that Turkey will be represented at the talks at the highest level. He noted that the opposition groups to attend the Geneva negotiations were already determined during the Syrian opposition meeting in Riyadh in December, and that all related parties have been announced and invited. "But it is against the essence of the negotiations and all the efforts until now to try to include the PYD in the Geneva talks with a last minute move," he added. During an interview to CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Monday, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu described Syrian Kurds' attendance at the negotiation table as a "necessity," but said those treating the PYD as a legitimate partner "do not live in the reality of the region's" >>MORE DETAILS

President Erdogan to visit South America

Turkish President travels to Chile, Peru, and Ecuador to strengthen economic ties with countries in the region

governor Basci says

With the upcoming visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey seeks to strengthen economic relations with the region, according to an official statement made by the President Press Office on Wednesday. The Turkish president will visit Chile, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5. Erdogan's three-nation Latin America tour will be very important for the development of our bilateral relations with these countries, according to Turkish officials. The president will first head to Chile on Jan. 31 and will stay there until Feb. 2, when he will go to Peru. On Feb. 3, he will go to Ecuador. "On the visit, bilateral political and economic issues

will be discussed as well as regional and international developments," the statement said. Erdogan's trip to Chile will be the second visit to the country in nearly 20 years. It will be the first visit to Peru and Ecuador by a Turkish president, the statement added. The President will preside over the signing of a series of important agreements which are expected to cover areas such as economic and technical assistance, industrial investment, infrastructure development and technical and scientific exchanges among the countries. The President is also expected to address Turkish and South American business



people on the visit. The trade volume between Turkey and Chile was \$417 million in the first 11 months of last year, a decrease from \$921 million in the same period of 2014. Chile's former President Sebastian Pinera visited Turkey in 2012, when he signed a number of agreements as part of a strategic partnership framework. Chile was the first Latin American country with which Turkey signed a free trade agreement. >>MORE DETAILS

Turkey to look for cheaper natural gas price solutions

Natural gas prices are likely to fall in short term, Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister says



Turkey has started to look for solutions to reduce natural gas prices in the short term, Turkey's energy and natural resources minister said on Wednesday. Berat Albayrak, Turkey's energy and natural resources minister stated that Turkey had previously subsidized natural gas prices to make it affordable for consumers. "Due to very high prices in the previous years, the Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) made financial losses. Now, we see that energy prices are decreasing and we have started to work to reduce natural gas prices over a short time period," >>MORE DETAILS

Albayrak announced. Natural gas prices are mainly indexed to crude oil prices, which have fallen to \$26 per barrel levels last week from \$115 per barrel in June, 2014. This dive in oil prices has also impacted natural gas prices over this six month period and will continue to do so in 2016 given oil prices' downward trend. "Thus, we will see the impact of this situation on natural gas prices in Turkey," he stated. Albayrak also shared that Turkey will invest 17.8 billion Turkish Lira in electricity infrastructure in the next five years. "There have been some improvements in electricity infrastructure, at around the 10-15 percent level after the privatization of electricity distribution in the country. With this new investment, this percentage will raise up to 70-80 percent," Albayrak added. >>MORE DETAILS

Turkish ceremony remembers Holocaust victims

Turkey's Chief Rabbi, foreign ambassadors and state officials mark Holocaust Memorial Day in Ankara

Millions of people murdered, tortured and persecuted by the Nazi regime and its collaborators during World War II were commemorated on Wednesday in Turkey. Turkey's EU Minister Volkan Bozkir, the rector of Ankara University Prof. Erkan Ibis, the head of the Turkish delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Tunc Ugdul and Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva participated in the event at Ankara University in the Turkish capital. Bozkir said that despite decades having passed since the Holocaust,

today it is not possible to say that xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism were buried in the annals of history. "We observe with regret the large increase in racist attacks in several European countries in recent years," Bozkir said. He said that the "rise of extreme-right parties raises concerns for the future regarding the continuation of the tradition of co-existence and of a multicultural society." Jan. 27, which marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, serves each year as Holocaust Memorial

Day to commemorate the millions who died and honor those who survived. The rector of Ankara University Prof. Ibis said that "if we want our next generations not to experience similar pains, we need to stick heart and soul to education in the four corners of the world." To Ambassador Ugdul, the Holocaust is "the most painful example" of people persecuting others "because of religion, race or sexual preference." Chief Rabbi Haleva said that the Holocaust represented a challenge to God's purpose in creating men. >>MORE DETAILS



A short film called The Liberation of Auschwitz was screened and candles were lit at the event, which was also attended by U.S. ambassador to Turkey John Bass and Romanian ambassador Radu Onofrei. >>MORE DETAILS

Three soldiers martyred in SE Turkey

Twenty PKK terrorists were also killed in major military operation, which has been ongoing since Dec. 15



Three Turkish soldiers were martyred in an operation against the terrorist PKK organization in southeastern Turkey, according to the military Wednesday. The Turkish General Staff also said in a statement that at least 20 PKK

terrorists have been killed in counter-terrorism operations in Turkey's southeastern provinces. Three soldiers, who were heavily wounded in an armed attack by the members of the separatist terrorist organization in the central

Sur district in Diyarbakir province, died at the hospital. Three others were also wounded and hospitalized, the statement said. Meanwhile, 11 PKK militants were "neutralized" in a security operation in the Cizre district of Sirtak province Tuesday. The statement added that six improvised explosive devices were destroyed, while 11 hunting rifles and a sniper rifle were seized. According to the General Staff, nine other PKK terrorists were killed on Tuesday in the Sur district of Diyarbakir province, which brought the total number of

PKK deaths to 134 in that area. The army also said that 465 PKK terrorists had been "neutralized" since Dec. 15 in the Cizre operations. The southeast has been the scenes of a significant military operation since mid-December. The PKK - designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU - renewed its armed campaign against the Turkish state in late-July 2015. Since then more than 240 members of the security forces have been martyred. >>MORE DETAILS

PYD will not participate in Syria peace talks: US



The U.S. said Wednesday that the PKK's Syrian affiliate, PYD, is not expected to participate in Syria peace talks Friday in Geneva. "The UN hasn't announced its list of invitees or those extended in an advisory role, but our understanding is that the PYD won't be participating in this week's talks," said State Department spokesman Mark Toner. He said the U.S. stands by the Syrian High Negotiations Committee (HNC), its current composition and the decision by UN Special Envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura to invite additional representatives to participate in this process. "The exclusion of the PYD, at least in this initial round of talks, was a decision taken by de Mistura and his people, and it was partly a reflection of these meetings to define the Syrian opposition and basically, you know, choose who among the Syrian opposition would represent them going forward into these talks," he said. "We respect that process." >>MORE DETAILS

UN chief blasts Netanyahu for cherry-picking from speech



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday sharply rejected Israel's prime minister's accusation that he encouraged terror by saying it was human nature for oppressed people to react to occupation. "The Secretary-General stands by every word that he used in the Security Council", UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York.

Anti-Semitism on the rise: Obama



President Barack Obama said Wednesday that anti-Semitism is on rise and an attack on any faith is an attack on all faiths. "So here tonight we must confront the reality that around the world anti-Semitism is on the rise. We cannot deny it," Obama said during his speech at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., as part of International Holocaust Remembrance Day marking the liberation of Jews from Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp during World War II.