

TURKEY'S POPULATION TOPS 78 MILLION IN 2015



Turkey's population increased in 2015 by 1,045,149, according to a report by the Turkish Statistics Institute (TurkStat) released Thursday. According to the report, Turkey's official population was at 78,741,053 at the end of 2015. The study was conducted through the Address-Based Central Population Registration System (ABPRS), which uses the National Address Database to track the number of people living at registered addresses. The population increased by 1.34 percent from the previous year, and was up by 1.33 percent in 2014. >>>**TURKEY-ECONOMY**

LEADING INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FAIR KICKS OFF IN ISTANBUL



Istanbul is playing host to a leading international tourism fair, the East Mediterranean International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (EMITT). The 20th iteration of the tourism fair, considered the world's fifth biggest according to its website, started Thursday and will run until the end of the month. The EMITT will host over 4,500 companies servicing 70 destinations from all around the world. Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism Mahir Unal emphasized the importance of the fair, saying...>>>**TURKEY**

WHO ESTIMATES '3 TO 4 MILLION' ZIKA CASES OVER 12 MONTHS



The World Health Organization will convene an emergency committee in Geneva on the international response to the Zika virus outbreak on Monday, February 1 as up to 4 million Zika cases in Americas are estimated in next 12 months. "Last year, the virus was detected in the Americas, where it is now spreading explosively. As of today, cases have been reported in 23 countries and territories in the region. The level of alarm is extremely high," WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said in a conference on Zika virus at WHO headquarters on Thursday. >>>**HEALTHY**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Friday
CLOUDY
1°C



Saturday
CLOUDY
6°C



ANADOLU POST

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New constitution needed to create 'new Turkey'

President says proposals, including change to presidential system, are gathering support

A new constitution with a presidential system is needed to create a "new Turkey", President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Thursday. Turkey's constitution, parts of which date back to military rule in the early 1980s, is to be reformed following last November's general election that saw the Justice and Development (AK) Party returned to office with a parliamentary majority. The administration has made constitutional change - including a switch from the parliamentary sys-

tem to a presidential model - a key plank of its program. Although favoring reform, opposition parties are against a presidential system and the AK Party does not have sufficient parliamentary deputies to force through any change. "A new constitution and presidential system are needed to build a new Turkey," Erdogan said at a meeting of civil society groups dedicated to pushing through constitutional change. He added: "Almost 300 NGOs are



supporting the call for the new constitution. I believe this figure will increase in a short while." >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Turkey condemns new Israeli settlements

Foreign Ministry says house building in West Bank, East Jerusalem 'unacceptable'



Turkey condemned on Thursday fresh settlement building in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said: "We fiercely condemn Israel's confirmation of 153 new housing constructions in several illegal settlements in West Bank

and East Jerusalem, which Israel has been occupying since 1967." "Israel's steps against the international law harm efforts for permanent peace. These steps are also unacceptable." Under international law, Israeli building in the occupied territories is illegal.

Around 500,000 settlers currently live in more than 100 communities built since Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967. The Palestinians want these areas and the Gaza Strip to form a future Palestinian state. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

UN Security Council renews Cyprus peacekeeping mandate

Council welcomes progress in talks to reunite divided island



The UN Security Council voted Thursday to continue the organization's peacekeeping mission in Cyprus for another six months. Through the unanimous adoption of a new resolution, the 15-member body welcomed the "progress of the leaders-led negotiations so

far and the ongoing efforts of the leaders and their negotiators to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement". Encouraging "the sides to grasp the current opportunity with determination to secure a comprehensive settlement", the resolu-

tion extended the mandate of UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus until July 31 and increased the force to 888 from the existing 860 troops. The council also stressed "the importance, both political and financial, of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of all parties concerned in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to exploit fully the current opportunity". The eastern Mediterranean island was divided into a Turkish Cypriot state in the north and a Greek Cypriot administration in the south after a 1974 military coup by Greece was followed by

the intervention of Turkey as a guarantor power. Long-stalled negotiations to settle the conflict resumed last year following Mustafa Akinci's election in April. The talks that restarted last May are focused on establishing a federal model. "This adoption sends a positive message at a hopeful time for Cyprus," said Britain's UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft. He added that "the road ahead will be tough" and "the leaders will need to show continued courage to take difficult decisions." "We have a real opportunity ahead to bring this long-running issue to an overdue conclusion," Rycroft said. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Turkey hosting more than 2.5 million Syrians

Senior minister reports that just small proportion living in temporary camps



More than 2.5 million Syrian refugees are currently living in Turkey, a senior minister said Thursday. Yalcin Akdogan, one of Turkey's deputy prime ministers, said around 2,541,000 refugees had undergone a biometric registration system and were living in Turkey. Addressing parliament's budget committee, he said that "as of to-

day" \$8 billion had been spent on Syrian refugees by Turkey. The minister said the vast majority -- 2.3 million -- were living outside temporary accommodation centers established around Turkey. More than 67,000 Syrian children had been born in Turkey since the conflict in Syria ignited in 2011. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Turkey: Assad, Daesh, PYD have 'no role' in Syria

National Security Council meeting discusses Syrian crisis ahead of peace talks scheduled for later this week

A meeting of Turkey's National Security Council has said that neither the regime of Bashar al-Assad nor any terror groups should have a role in the future of Syria. A statement from the security body came late Wednesday after a meeting in Ankara to discuss the effect of the Syrian crisis on the security and stability of Turkey and the region. Following the council's meeting, a statement read: "It has been pointed out that



the existing regime, Daesh, and the [Syrian Kurdish] PYD-YPG, as well as any other terror groups, have no role in the future of Syria." It also confirmed Turkey's

support for Syrian Turks and other opposition groups. The meeting came just ahead of Syria peace talks scheduled for Friday in Geneva. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Turkish police detain hundreds of illegal migrants

In Balikesir and Aydin at least 650 people were held by police while preparing to illegally journey to neighboring countries



Over 650 illegal migrants have been detained in the past 10 days in Turkey's western Balikesir and Aydin provinces as they were preparing to illegally make their way to neighboring countries. Police detained at least 624 individuals in Balikesir in an ongoing operation against human smuggling, a writ-

ten statement from V Balikesir Governor's office said. The illegal migrants were mostly from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Algeria. In Aydin's resort town of Kusadasi, at least 35 illegal migrants were detained, police said. They were reported to be trying to illegally reach neighboring Greek islands. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Twenty-three were from Pakistan while the rest were from Afghanistan, police said. Turkey's five Aegean provinces - Canakkale, Balikesir, Izmir, Mugla and Aydin - are prime spots for refugees leaving Turkey for the EU, with Greek islands lying within sight of the Turkish coast.

Over the past year, hundreds of thousands have made short but perilous journeys across the Aegean in a bid to reach northern and western Europe in search for a better life. Hundreds of people have died at sea as a number of boats carrying refugees sank or capsized. The Turkish Coast Guard has rescued thousands of others. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Moldovan instability affecting ties with Turkey

Turkey's relations with Moldova are hampered by instability within the former Soviet republic, the Turkish ambassador said Thursday. "The instability in Moldova is the obstacle to improved relations between the two countries," Mehmet Selim Kartal, Turkey's envoy to Chisinau, told an Anadolu Agency reporter in the capital. "The country is going through a long and difficult period in terms of economic and political crisis." Turkey and Moldova have a strategic partnership and in June 2014 lifted visa require-

ments between the two countries and implemented a free trade agreement three months later. "Turkey and Moldova have a common policy towards integration with Europe," Kartal said. "The new prime minister of Moldova, Pavel Filip, wants to strengthen the relations with Turkey." Hundreds of people have died at sea as a number of boats carrying refugees sank or capsized. The Turkish Coast Guard has rescued thousands of others. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Renewable energy investments in Turkey set to grow



The number of banks choosing to finance renewable energy projects is on the rise, which is an important sign that the sector will further develop and improve in the coming period, said the deputy managing director of Turkey's Sekerbank on Thursday. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Gokhan Erturk underlined that an awareness of renewable energy ...