

ISTANBUL EXPO BRINGS THOUSANDS OF GAMERS TO TURKEY



Turkey's largest digital entertainment and game expo, 'Gaming Istanbul' opened Thursday bringing together thousands of developers, gamers and investors. Over 300 software companies, game developers and leading businesses from the digital world gathered at Istanbul Congress Center. Bartosz Skwarczek, CEO and co-founder of G2A.com, the world's fastest-growing online video game distribution marketplace, spoke to Anadolu Agency. **TURKEY**

FACEBOOK CELEBRATES 12 YEARS OF MAKING WORLD SMALLER



Facebook turned 12 years old Wednesday, an anniversary the company deemed "Friends Day", and announced that its massive community is growing closer than ever before. The company said last week that 1.6 billion people around the world log in to the service every month, a number that dwarfs any other social media platform. The amount of users has doubled in size since 2011 and Facebook claims the separation between any random pair of users is just 3.57 degrees, a decrease from 3.74 degrees five years ago. **>>> SCIENCE**

FOOTBALL: LEAGUE LEADERS FENERBAHCE TARGET ANTALYASPOR



Turkish Super Lig leaders Fenerbahce face Antalyaspor in the domestic league on Friday evening. The Istanbul club's Danish center-back Simon Kjær will miss the match as the 26-year-old regular is suspended. In addition Fenerbahce veteran, Gokhan Gonul, 31, is expected to miss the game. Antalyaspor's biggest threat against Fenerbahce will be Cameroonian star forward Samuel Eto'o. The former Barcelona forward has scored 13 goals in 19 league matches this season. **>>> SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Friday
CLOUDY
12°C

Saturday
CLOUDY
4°C



ANADOLU POST

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Turkish president urges end to airstrikes in Syria

Erdogan says Syrians will continue to flee country unless Russian and regime airstrikes cease

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called for an end to Syrian regime and Russian airstrikes. Erdogan's remarks came Thursday during a joint press conference with his Ecuadorian counterpart Rafael Correa in capital Quito. "When Russia, and the regime are heavily bombarding these [Syrian] people, can there be any other solution for them other than flee [the country]? Where will these people go?" Erdogan asked, adding that the airstrikes must be stopped so that the suspended peace talks can produce a result. U.N.-sponsored talks in Geneva



aimed at ending the Syrian civil war were suspended Wednesday due to intensified fighting in the country. "As you know, the Geneva talks were postponed yesterday [Wednesday] to Feb. 25. Airstrikes and of-

fensives against the Syrian people were ongoing during these talks," Erdogan said, adding that following the recent airstrikes in Aleppo, thousands of civilians started fleeing towards Turkey.

"Our European friends want us to end the refugee flow. How can this flow be stopped as long as the strikes continue?" Erdogan said. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu earlier said that some 10,000 Syrian migrants were waiting outside the Turkish border early Thursday morning after fleeing airstrikes in Aleppo. Turkey is currently hosting more than 2.7 million Syrian refugees, and is regarded as a gateway to Europe, with dozens of Syrians risking their lives every day to attempt to migrate to neighboring Greece.

>>> MORE DETAILS

Russia observation flights over Turkey fail to go ahead

Russian surveillance aircraft did not conduct flights over Turkey this week due to lack of agreement on mission plan, says Turkish Foreign Ministry

Observation flights by Russian aircraft over Turkey on Feb. 2-5 did not take place, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Tanju Bilgic said on Thursday. "Observation flights are performed when the observing party and the observed party reach agreement on the mission plan. In the case of the observation flight requested by the Russian Federation for 2-5 Feb. agreement could not be reached on the mission plan and the flight has thus not been conducted," said Bilgic in a written statement. Bilgic said the 1992 Treaty on Open Skies establishes a regime that permits nation



state parties to conduct aerial observation flights over the territories of other states parties in accordance with distributed quotas. Turkey became one of the 34 state parties to the treaty after signing it in 1994. In another written statement Thursday, Bilgic reiterated a call on the Russian govern-

ment to relieve tensions following the downing of a Russian fighter jet by Turkish Air Force on Nov. 24 after it breached Turkish airspace. Bilgic said Ankara has preserved its calm stance despite a smear campaign and provocations carried out by Moscow in the wake of the incident. **>>> MORE DETAILS**

Turkish PM calls on US to act more 'determined' against Russia

Leaders of governments, NGOs and members of civil society met in London on Thursday to raise funds for those affected by crisis in Syria



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called on the U.S. to act more "determined" against Russia, in a press briefing at the Syria Donors conference in London on

Thursday. "We invite our U.S. ally to act more determined and clearly against Russia," he said. "It is our right to expect an explanation. If we host millions of Syrians in our country, we have the right to ask this question and expect for an answer." The Turkish PM said that Russian attacks were responsible for cutting off a humanitarian corridor between Turkey and the Syrian city of Aleppo. "Ten thousand civilians are at the Turkish border. Russia is bombarding schools, hospitals -- not Daesh positions but only moderate opposition and ci-

vilians. If this continues, there will be no meaning to any conference like what we have today today or what was in Geneva. All these are becoming like a diplomatic game." The UN on Wednesday suspended Geneva peace talks concerning Syria. "We have nothing to expect from the talks between the U.S. and Russia. Moreover, these talks worry us. Because whenever there is a meeting between Russia and the U.S., the next day there are more attacks in Syria by Russians." The Turkish prime minister mentioned the Syrian city of Madaya which he said was besieged by

"pro-regime forces". "When I say pro-regime I mean, Russia, Iran and some other militias on the ground," he said. The prime minister said that Turkey would offer help to Syrian people under any circumstances. He said that Turkey's decision to allow Syrians to work was not an "economic decision" but a "humanitarian" one. Leaders of governments, NGOs and the members of civil society met in London on Thursday to raise funds for those affected by the crisis in Syria.

>>> MORE DETAILS

Iran accepts court's ruling in gas dispute with Turkey



The International Court of Arbitration has ruled against Tehran in the gas dispute between Ankara, said Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh on Thursday. Iran's Tasnim news agency stated that the court has informed Turkey of its financial decision, adding that the result is different from what Ankara is expecting.

The Minister said that Turkey won't be allowed to ask for price reduction or change for the coming years. Zanganeh didn't announce the exact price but noted that the amount won't be much. "The amount of the penalty is still negotiable," Zanganeh said. Turkey applied to International Court of Arbitration for the gas price of Iran in 2012. The decision of court was announced on Tuesday. "This is a limited process that will take around two or three months," Turkey's Energy Minister Berat Albayrak said on Tuesday. "Within this pe-

riod, parties will try to decide on a certain percentage. If they cannot, the court will decide the percentage of the discount between 13.3 and 15.8 percentage." Any decision on a discount would be applied retrospectively to July 1, 2011. Turkey, which imported 10 billion cubic meters of Iranian natural gas last year, and Iran took their dispute on gas prices to the court in 2012. Turkey imported 10 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas from Iran last year. The country consumes around 45-48 bcm of gas per year. **>>> MORE DETAILS**

Turkish parliament launches new constitution talks

MPs from all parties meet to reform Turkey's military-era constitution



A committee of Turkish lawmakers has gathered for initial talks to review the country's 1982 coup-era constitution.

The Constitution Conciliation Committee of 12 deputies -- three from each of Turkey's four parliamentary parties -- chaired by Parliamentary Speaker Ismail Kahraman began deliberations on Thursday. Kahraman told the opening session at the Turkish parliament: "Our goal is to build a modern and human-based system for Turkey's future which conforms with the principles of plu-

ralistic democracy, respects human rights and freedoms and one that will present a law state structure that is unitary and organized so as to serve the people.

"Turkey needs a new constitution that is simple and permanent but not imported or imitated, does not require frequent amendments and is capable of answering the current circumstances so as to build the great Turkey of the future," Kahraman added.

Kahraman said the MPs wanted to draft legislation which would not "cast away any part of the Turkish community". Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who previously called for the committee to produce a report within six months, said he believed the cross-party body would "make appropriate, constructive, inclusive and serious contributions in according with a spirit of conciliation". **>>> MORE DETAILS**

'PKK must remain on terror list': EP rapporteur Piri

European Parliament rapporteur for Turkey, Kati Piri condemns return to violence by terrorist organization



European Parliament rapporteur for Turkey, Kati Piri, has said the PKK must remain on the list of terrorist organizations.

"At this point, the priority should be the immediate laying down of arms," Piri told Anadolu Agency on Thursday. "The PKK is in the terrorist list of the EU, and I do not believe that their removal from the list at a time when they are engaged in deadly attacks would be correct."

Piri's comments come following of the collapse of the "solution process" as a result of recent PKK killings of police officers and soldiers in Turkey.

"I condemn the return to violence by the PKK, and the attacks on security forces and civilians. The barricades and the trenches are unacceptable," Piri said.

What is commonly known in Turkey as the "solution process" aimed to end the 30-year conflict between Turkey and the PKK, considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the EU and the U.S.

It began in 2013 but stalled after renewed violence broke out last year.

>>> MORE DETAILS

Five arrested in anti-Daesh operation in Istanbul

Turkish police seize 99,800 Turkish liras on a suspect

Five people who were allegedly working as cash mules for terrorist group Daesh have been arrested, Turkish police said on Thursday. Anti-terror police began monitoring the group when it received information alleging the cell was financially supporting Daesh, police sources said. On Tuesday, Istanbul police arrested the leader, who is suspected of having met Daesh members in Iraq and Syria. Turkish officials also said they seized 99,800 Turkish liras (\$34,396) on the suspect. On Thursday, Turkish police raided an Istanbul textile

workplace which he allegedly visited often and arrested four Syrian men. All five people are suspected of carrying cash to Daesh members in Iraq and Syria. In a separate incident, police said they noticed that Daesh members were using a cell-phone line previously owned by a Turkish citizen who died last year in Syria fighting with Daesh. Turkish police raided an address in Istanbul's Esenyurt district after receiving a signal from the phone. Three Syrians were arrested during the operation, police said. **>>> MORE DETAILS**

Assad regime and Daesh 'enemies of humanity': Turkish PM

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has defined Daesh and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime as "two enemies of humanity" in his address to the Syrian Donors Conference in London on Thursday.

Davutoglu said that the refugees in Turkey escaped from air bombardment by regime or by "pro-regime foreign forces".

He said ten thousand new refugees were waiting on the border near Kilis province due to airstrikes on Aleppo, and "60 to 70 thousand people in the camps in North Aleppo are moving towards Turkey." **>>> MORE DETAILS**