

THE SCAM ARTIST WHO 'SOLD' ISTANBUL'S GALATA TOWER



Every day we check our phones or email only to be warned about online scams and tricks. Hackers and scammers are using ever-more sophisticated means to part unsuspecting members of the public with their hard-earned money. And big cities offer a fertile ground for con-men. Istanbul police say that, last year, over 1,000 citizens in Turkey's largest city were conned out of 48 million Turkish liras (around \$15.8 million), an average of four million liras (\$1.3 million) per month. **TURKEY**

TWITTER CLOSES 125K DAESH ACCOUNTS IN PAST YEAR



Twitter said Friday that it was taking a stronger stance against violent extremism and announced it had deleted more than 125,000 accounts linked to Daesh members or supporters. The microblogging platform claimed in a statement that it had begun since the middle of last year a more engaged campaign against accounts that threaten or support violent extremism with a primary focus on curbing Daesh's ability to recruit online. "We condemn the use of Twitter to promote violent terrorism," the company noted in the statement. "This type of behavior, or any violent threats, is not permitted on our service." **>> SCIENCE**

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: DENVER BRONCOS WIN SUPER BOWL 50



Denver Broncos have defeated the Carolina Panthers 24 to 10 to win the 50th Super Bowl. Dubbed the most-watched televised and sporting event in the U.S., the final game of the National Football League (NFL) showcased this season's top-rated defensive team, the Broncos, against the best offensive side, the Panthers, in Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Making a strong start to the game, Broncos led the first quarter 10 to nothing. Despite the effective offense of the Panthers, Denver closed the first half 13 to 7. **>> SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Monday
CLOUDY
6°C

Tuesday
CLOUDY
4°C



ANADOLU POST

Monday February 8, 2016

Turkey had to take in 3 million migrants: Deputy PM

Kurtulmus says Turkey did not have option to say 'no' to migrants fleeing from bombardments in Syria and Iraq

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said on Sunday that Turkey had no choice but to take in 3 million migrants of Syria and Iraq so far.

Speaking during a live program on a TV channel in Istanbul, Kurtulmus also accused the western world of watching the migrant crisis silently. "We have taken in 3 million migrants of Syria and Iraq [so far], but there is no other place for these people to go to," he said. "[The alternative is that] they will die under



the bombardments and Turkey will contribute to this oppression by just watching like the western world does."

Stating that Turkey could not say "no" to the war victims, Kurtulmus added: "We do not have such an option. Or else, we would leave nearly all of those people to death."

Syria's devastating civil war, now in its fifth year, has left at least 250,000 people dead, according to the UN. Turkey, which has taken in around 2.5 million Syrians since the war started in 2011, hosts the world's largest refugee population.

>> MORE DETAILS

Turkey, Kazakhstan to be central in Eurasia: Davutoglu

Turkish PM pays two-day visit to Kazakhstan to discuss transportation, energy and trade issues



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Saturday that Turkey and Kazakhstan would be two central countries of Eurasia in the fields of energy, trade and transportation.

Davutoglu met Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev during a two-day official visit to Kazakhstan to further develop relations in the fields of transportation, energy and

trade. Speaking during a press conference in Astana, Davutoglu said that Turkey constituted an entrance to the European Union (EU) for Kazakhstan while the latter was an entrance to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) for Turkey. Kazakhstan is a member of the Russia-led EEU. "As soon as the Middle Corridor -- a transportation

network extending from the Caspian Sea through Turkey and Azerbaijan to Central Asia and China -- becomes active, Turkey and Kazakhstan will be two central countries of Eurasia," Davutoglu said.

Davutoglu's visit to Kazakhstan is the first since the Ankara-Moscow jet crisis.

Tension between Moscow and Ankara has been high since Turkish F-16s shot down a Russian fighter jet late November after it violated Turkey's airspace.

Russia imposed a series of economic sanctions after the incident, including restrictions on Turkish exports and limits on activity of Turkish companies operating in Russia. **>> MORE DETAILS**

Hundreds of Syrian Turkmens enter Turkey

Displaced Turkmens flee Russian and Syrian attacks in northwestern Bayirbucak region



Some 2,000 Turkmens have crossed into Turkey Saturday after fleeing attacks from Russian and Syrian regime forces in northwestern Syria, according to the Turkish disaster agency.

The displaced were fleeing Russian and Syrian attacks of Turkmen Mountain in Syria Bayirbucak. According to the Turkish Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD),

nearly 600 families have taken refuge in Guvecci camp near Yayladagi, a border town in the Hatay province of southern Turkey.

The officials said the more migrants would be allowed into Turkey in the coming days.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Thursday that more than 5,000 Turkmens and Arab refugees had been accepted into Turkey in the last week alone,

following the airstrikes.

Predominantly Turkmen areas of northwestern Syria have been under attack by regime forces -- backed by Russian air power -- since November of last year.

Recent attacks in these areas have displaced thousands of Turkmens, a Turkic ethnic group concentrated mainly in Syria and Iraq, prompting many to seek refuge in southern Turkey. **>> MORE DETAILS**

YPG has western countries' weapons: Turkish president

Erdogan says western powers 'ignore' terrorist actions perpetrated by armed wing of PKK's Syrian affiliate



The Turkish president said that the targets of the PYD -- and its armed wing the YPG -- include everyone who did not think like them and join their group.

In an October report, Amnesty International stated that the YPG had committed several war crimes while fighting Daesh militants. The rights watchdog went on to assert that thousands of local residents had recently been forced to leave their homes -- while entire villages had been razed to the ground -- by YPG fighters.

"Their goal is not to lead our Kurdish brothers. On the contrary, they are trouble for our Kurdish brothers," Erdogan said.

He said that organizations such as the PKK, PYD, and the YPG as well as Daesh cannot reach success with their bloody attacks.

"We continue to struggle hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder with the Turkish army, Turkish police and our village guards, and will continue to do so," Erdogan added. **>> MORE DETAILS**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized Saturday western countries for supplying the armed wing of the PKK's Syrian affiliate with weapons.

In the closing speech of the World Tourism Forum in Istanbul, Erdogan said that certain terrorist groups' actions in Iraq and in Syria, such as the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), were being ignored. "The PYD, controlled by the Qandil Mountain [where the PKK has established its headquarters since it retreated from Turkey] is supported and defended [by western powers that] ignore the YPG's ethnic cleansing activities in the region, terrorist actions, [and] cooperation with the current regime," said Erdogan.

Merkel plans Ankara visit to discuss Syria, refugee crisis

Germany voices concern over Russian airstrikes in Aleppo, urges Moscow and Damascus not to risk future of diplomatic talks



German Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced concern on Friday over the worsening humanitarian crisis in Syria, criticizing the recent military offensive by the Assad regime and Russia.

"Everyone must understand, and particularly the Assad regime and Russia, that the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria diminishes once again the possibility of bringing the political talks to a successful conclusion," she said in Berlin, at a joint news conference with visiting Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa.

Merkel said she will visit Ankara on

Monday for talks with the Turkish government on Syria and the refugee crisis triggered by the conflict. "Turkey is concerned these days about a possible new refugee influx," she said referring to the Syrian people fleeing Aleppo amid new airstrikes by Russia and regime forces.

Merkel expressed hope that with further progress in the implementation of an EU-Turkey action plan, the situation of refugees in Turkey will be improved and illegal crossings via the Aegean Sea will be reduced.

It will be Merkel's second visit to Turkey in five months, as she is facing growing pressure at home due to the record number of refugees which have arrived in Germany, mostly from Syria and Iraq.

>> MORE DETAILS

Turkey, US 'indispensable allies', says PM aide



The Turkish-American partnership provides the only force that can bring forth sustainable solutions for the broader region, a senior aide to the Turkish prime minister said Friday. Ali Sarikaya, who is also the chairman of the Turkey-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, wrote in an opinion piece published by The Hill news website that the region was at a "critical juncture" shaped with "a toxic blend of state failure and human insecurity" and "only

Washington and Ankara have the means and capabilities, coupled with the requisite political will, to bring forward sustainable solutions".

"The global challenges we face today represent a significant threat to our values, institutions and to human life throughout the world", he said. These challenges are "fueled by the desperate survival strategies of autocratic regimes, compounded by a mix of regional rivalries, sectarianism and trans-regional intrusions".

The Syrian regime and Daesh are the two main factions that derive most advantage from this instability, Sarikaya said, adding that some regional powers joined "these dark forces to punish the Syrian

people, paying lip service to the idea of peace and diplomacy in the process."

Syria's civil war, which began in March 2011 when the regime of President Bashar al-Assad responded to anti-government protests with a violent crackdown, has left more than 250,000 people dead, according to UN figures, and created conditions that have allowed Daesh to gain a foothold in the region.

The increasingly complicated conflict also pitted world and regional powers supporting opposite sides against each other, with Russia and Iran actively backing the regime while Turkey, U.S., Saudi Arabia and others insisting that Assad must leave office.

>> MORE DETAILS

Turkey will keep 'constructive' approach to Russia

Turkey will maintain goodwill and a constructive approach to Russia despite Moscow ignoring its efforts to de-escalate tensions, Turkey's presidential spokesperson said on Friday.

Ibrahim Kalin said Russia had ignored Turkey's efforts to solve the issues and had left phone calls from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unanswered. Kalin said that Erdogan asked for a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin following the latest violation of Turkish airspace by a Russian warplane on Jan. 29.

"But the Russian side again failed to reveal an affirmative attitude," Kalin said in a state-

ment Friday. He said it was "telling" that Russia -- which had previously admonished Turkey for calling NATO allies before Moscow -- was now avoiding talking to Erdogan.

Diplomatic relations between Ankara and Moscow soured after a Russian SU-24 violating Turkish airspace was intercepted and shot down on Nov. 24 by Turkish F-16 fighters. Kalin said it was Russian airstrikes that led to the suspension of the Geneva peace talks. "Hundreds of innocent Syrians, women and children, lost their lives in these attacks that have been..."

>> MORE DETAILS

Turkey condemns North Korea's long-range rocket launch

Turkey has condemned the launch of a long-range rocket by North Korea, calling it a violation of international obligations, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday in a statement.

"As with the fourth nuclear test by North Korea on 6th of January, this launch constitutes once again a total disregard to regional and international security and stability," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Turkey's reaction came after North Korea said it successfully blasted a satellite into orbit. **>> MORE DETAILS**