

PIANIST ANGELA HEWITT TO PLAY IN ISTANBUL



Canadian pianist, who is mostly known for playing Bach, will be performing at Istanbul's Sakıp Sabancı Museum's Seed on Feb. 12. The 58-year-old pianist will play for Turkish music-lovers as part of concert series "Istanbul Recitals". Apart from Bach, Hewitt will be playing works by Schubert, Haydn and Beethoven, according to a press release from the Seed. Last year, she was promoted to the highest honor in her home country by receiving the Companion of the Order of Canada. **CULTURE-ART**

TURKEY ADDS RECORD HIGH INSTALLED WIND CAPACITY IN 2015



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." **>> ENERGY**

FOOTBALL: TURKEY TO MEET AUSTRIA IN FRIENDLY MATCH



The Turkish national football team will meet Austria in a friendly match on March 29 in Vienna, announced the Turkish Football Federation on its website on Monday. The match at Ernst-Happel Stadium will kick off at 8.30 p.m. local time (1930GMT). Both teams will compete in the Euro 2016 competition to be held in France from June 10 to July 10. Turkey last met Austria in a friendly match in 2012 at Ernst-Happel Stadium. Austria won 2-0. **>>SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA



Tuesday
CLOUDY
6°C

Wednesday
CLOUDY
4°C



ANADOLU POST

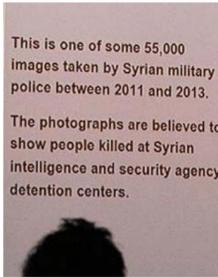
Tuesday February 9, 2016

UN: Syria killing detainees amounts to 'extermination'

UN investigators accuse Syrian regime of killing thousands of detainees

The UN on Monday accused the Syrian regime of killing thousands of detainees as an "extermination" policy which amount to crimes against humanity.

Speaking in a press conference in Geneva about a report on deaths in detention in Syria, Paulo Pinheiro, chairman of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, called for a referral of these cases against the suspected war criminals to the International Criminal Court (ICC). "The massive and systematized violence in Syria including the killing of thousands of detainees in official and makeshift detention



This is one of some 55,000 images taken by Syrian military police between 2011 and 2013.

The photographs are believed to show people killed at Syrian intelligence and security agency detention centers.

centres, has taken place out of sight, far from the battlefield," the UN report said on Monday.

A new report from the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, "Out of sight, out of mind:



Deaths in detention in the Syrian Arab Republic", is based on 621 interviews and "examines the killing of detainees occurring between 10 March 2011 and 30 November 2015 in Syria". "Detainees held by

the Government were beaten to death, or died as a result of injuries sustained due to torture. Others perished as a consequence of inhuman living conditions," the report said.

"The Government has committed the crimes against humanity of extermination, murder, rape or other forms of sexual violence, torture, imprisonment, enforced disappearance and other inhuman acts. Based on the same conduct, war crimes have also been committed," the report indicated.

"Both the terrorist group Jabhat Al-Nusra and some anti-Government armed groups have commit-

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Turkey: '150,000 troops to enter Syria' reports not true

Several media organs reported that 150,000 troops from Saudi Arabia would soon be dispatched to Syria through Turkish borders



Recent media reports saying 150,000 troops from Saudi Arabia are to enter Syria via Turkish borders in order to aid in anti-Daesh operations are not true, Turkish Prime Minister sources said on Monday.

Turkey's bases are open for the coalition forces as part of the fight against Daesh and Ankara is ready for every type of cooperation in

this sense, said the sources, who were not named according to Turkish Prime Ministry policy.

Several media organs have circulated reports recently saying that "150,000 ground troops stationed in Saudi Arabia will soon be dispatched to Syria through Turkish borders in order to aid the U.S. led anti-Daesh coalition", 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**

Deputy PM: 600,000 refugees may arrive at Turkish border

A wave of 600,000 refugees may come to the Turkish border soon in a worst case scenario, says Kurtulmus



Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday there was a possibility that 600,000 refugees would soon arrive at the Turkish border. Kurtulmus's remarks came during a press conference following a cabinet meeting. "It is estimated that a wave of 600,000 refugees may come to the Turkish border soon in a worst case scenario," he said. "Our first goal is to host these refugees outside of Turkey." The deputy prime minister said that Turkey was always on alert and cautious regarding the possibility of attacks that target its sovereignty and had carried out all required preparations.

"Every single development in Syria concerns Turkey," he added. "We have a border of 911 km. Some people that come from 10,000 km, 4,000 km or 6,000 km away have a close interest in Syria. Moreover, they actively take part in the conflict in Syria. Furthermore, they participate, through proxies, to the crumbling of Syria." An attack by Russia and the Syrian regime in northwestern Syria has seen supply routes from Turkey to rebel-controlled areas cut, leaving towns and villages without vital aid. Earlier Monday, the Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Germany and Turkey had taken in most refugees from the Syrian crisis, with Turkey now hosting more than 2.5 million Syrians. Germany took in 1.1 million refugees last year, the most of any EU nation. Last week, the EU approved a 3 billion euro (\$3.33 billion) aid package for Turkey to help care for the world's largest refugee population..

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Turkish PM refutes HDP claims regarding Cizre operation

On Sunday, certain Turkish dailies reported on claims that 60 people had died during counter-terrorism operations



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu responded Monday to opposition claims regarding a military operation in southeastern Turkey against a building which reportedly housed injured people.

In a joint press conference in Ankara with German chancellor Angela Merkel, Davutoglu refuted Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) claims that security forces had conducted an operation in a building in Cizre, in which wounded were located, saying operations in the area were conducted with the utmost care to cause no civilian casualties.

"Regarding yesterday's stories, anything that is not issued officially by us or confirmed should

not be trusted. A picture is painted as if there were many injured in the building and many deaths occurred because of the operation that was conducted in there. Today, a statement was issued by our Sirmak governorate. Only that should be trusted. Neither the said situation nor the existence of the injured were confirmed."

The Turkish premier also said ambulances sent to the zone were blocked by terrorists.

"Many of these injured are terrorists. Despite this, all efforts were made [for their care]. Yet, as you know, the ambulances' access to the injured were blocked," said Davutoglu. "Every struggle in Turkey was carried out transparently within the rules of democracy."

On Sunday, certain Turkish dailies, including Radikal, reported on claims that 60 people in the building had died during the counter-terrorism operations.

>>MORE DETAILS

Russian airstrikes cause fresh wave of Syrian refugees

Turkish prime minister condemns attacks on civilians amid peace talks

Turkey's prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu warned on Monday of Russian airstrikes setting off fresh waves of Syrian refugees as he met German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Speaking at a news conference in Ankara following a meeting at which the two leaders discussed cooperative measures to tackle the refugee crisis caused by the five-year Syrian war, Davutoglu said Russia and the Syrian government were waging war on civilians.

"While Syrian sides met in Geneva for peace, Russian jets have been conducting military operations causing civilian deaths along with the regime forces backed by foreign fighters, cutting off [the] Aleppo-Turkey corridor so as to block the flow of humanitarian aid," he told reporters. A renewed offensive by the government, Ira-



nian and Hezbollah ground troops, backed by Russian air power, has seen tens of thousands of people stream towards the Turkish border in recent days.

The attack in northwest Syria has seen supply routes from Turkey to opposition-controlled areas cut, leaving towns and villages without vital aid. "They are trying to take Aleppo under de facto siege, so we are at the doorstep of a new and great humanitarian tragedy. The inhumane assault on Aleppo must come to an end right

away, it must be our mutual effort and goal," Davutoglu said. The premier stated that the recent attacks in Syria indicate how insincere Russian and Syrian regime forces are acting, and how they are far from peace. "Nobody can excuse, justify or tolerate the Russian airstrikes, ongoing so as to cause an open ethnic cleansing, by saying that 'Turkey anyhow accepts Syrian refugees', or expect Turkey to take all the burden of the refugee issue on its shoulders alone," he added.

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Pro-PKK protest targets Turkish consulate in France



Supporters of the PKK terror group on Monday targeted Turkey's consulate in Bordeaux, southwest France.

A diplomatic source told Anadolu Agency that 50 pro-

testers with pro-PKK placards gathered in front of the consulate. One demonstrator climbed the front of the building and raised a PKK flag. French police dispersed the crowd at around 11 a.m. local time (1000GMT) after the protest turned violent.

The source, who did not want to be named for security reasons, said French and Turkish authorities were trying to identify the perpetrators.

The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization also by the EU and the U.S. The group resumed its terror campaign against the Turkish state last July following a two-and-a-half year lull in the 30-year conflict.

Since then, more than 250 members of the security forces have been martyred and thousands of PKK terrorists killed in operations across Turkey and northern Iraq. **>>MORE DETAILS**

Refugee boat sinks off Turkey's Aegean coast, 24 dead



At least 24 people have died after a boat carrying refugees sank in the Aegean Sea off Turkey's western Balikesir province.

The Turkish Coast Guard said they rescued three survivors Monday morning, while another was rescued by a fishing boat following the incident near Edremit district, which is kilometers away from the Greek island of Lesbos.

A search-and-rescue operation is underway to find the missing refugees following survivors' statements that there were around 40 people on board.

Turkey's Aegean provinces --

Canakkale, Balikesir, Izmir, Mugla and Aydin -- are prime spots for refugees leaving for the EU, with many Greek islands lying within sight of the Turkish coast.

Over the past year, hundreds of thousands have made short-but-perilous journeys in a bid to reach northern and western Europe in search for a better life.

Of the more than 1.1 million refugees who arrived in the EU last year, more than 850,000 arrived by sea to Greece from Turkey, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Over the course of the year, 805 people died in the Aegean. In the first month of 2016, more than 52,000 people arrived by sea in Greece, according to the IOM; more than 200 have died off the Turkish coast. **>>MORE DETAILS**

16 PKK terrorists killed in southeast Turkey



Turkish security forces have killed 16 PKK terrorists in the southeastern Turkish towns of Cizre and Sur since early Sunday, the military said. In a statement issued Monday, the Turkish General Staff said 10 terrorists had been killed in Cizre, Sirmak province, and six in Diyarbakir's Sur district during operations that resulted in a number of weapons being seized.

The total number of terrorists killed in Cizre and Sur since counter-terrorism operations started in mid-December has reached 749, the military said.