

ISTANBUL PHOTO AWARDS WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY

ISTANBUL PHOTO AWARDS

A jury of international professionals gathered this weekend to select the winning photographs of Anadolu Agency's second Istanbul Photo Awards sponsored by Turkish Airlines. The jury members, who came from all over the world, spent hours selecting the winners, who are to be announced on Wednesday. Around 13,000 photographs were sent in from all around the world were assessed in various categories: News Single and News Story for an individual news photo or a collection around a story, as well as Sports Single and Sports Story. >>**CULTURE and ART**

TURKEY HITS HISTORIC GAS CONSUMPTION RECORD IN JAN.



Turkey's monthly natural gas consumption reached historic high at 5.78 bcm in Jan. 2016, Turkish Energy Watchdog says. Turkey's monthly natural gas consumption reached a historic record high at 5.78 billion cubic meters (bcm) in January 2016, according to data from Turkish Energy Watchdog. In January 2016, 5.78 bcm of natural gas was consumed, Turkish Energy Market Regulatory Authority, EMRA, announced on Tuesday in its monthly natural gas report for January. >>**ECONOMY**

TURKISH AIRLINES CANCELS FLIGHTS TO BRUSSELS AFTER BLASTS



Reciprocal flights by Turkish Airlines between Istanbul's 2 airports and Brussels' Zaventem Airport are cancelled after explosions. Turkey's national flagship carrier on Tuesday cancelled two scheduled flights to Brussels after the city's main airport was rocked by two explosions. Reciprocal flights between Istanbul's two airports - Sabiha Gokcen and Ataturk - and Brussels' Zaventem Airport have been cancelled, Turkish Airlines (THY) announced. Further announcements will come for the other scheduled flights during the day. >>**TURKEY**

WEATHER / ANKARA



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Multiple blasts in Brussels kill 34

14 people killed this morning at brussels airport, 20 killed in maelbeek metro attack, Belgian public broadcaster VRT report

At least 34 people were killed and more than 100 others were injured in multiple explosions at an airport and metro station in Brussels on Tuesday morning, Belgian public broadcaster VRT reported. The first two blasts were reported at Zaventem airport, where at least 14 people were killed and dozens of others were injured at around 8 a.m.

local time (07.00GMT), according to VRT. More than an hour later, an explosion hit Maelbeek metro, located near European Union institutions, killing 20 people, VRT reported. Initial reports say the Brussels airport attack was carried out by a suicide bomber. Belgium's public prosecutor urged the press to refrain from sharing information that could

jeopardize investigation of the explosions. The attacks occurred during rush hour in the city, when thousands of people use public transportation. The terror alert in Brussels has been raised to the highest level, local media said. All metro stations have been closed and flights to Zaventem airport have been diverted.

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Turkish PM condemns Brussels terror attacks

'I curse this morning's attacks ... and wish to share feelings of solidarity on behalf of our nation,' says Davutoglu



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu condemned Tuesday's terror attacks in Brussels that left at least 26 dead. "I curse the attacks that took place this morning in Brussels, which once again show the global face of terrorism; I express condolences to the Belgian government and people, and wish to share feelings of solidarity on behalf of our nation," he said. Davutoglu was speaking in a meeting of the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party in parliament in capi-

tal Ankara. At least 26 people were killed and dozens injured Tuesday morning in the Belgian capital Brussels in three blasts. Twin blasts hit Zaventem Airport in Brussels at around 8 a.m. local time (0700GMT). An hour later, another blast hit Maelbeek metro station, located close to European Union institutions in Brussels, according to Belgian broadcaster VTM. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters in Ankara on Tuesday that Turkey "is truly sor-

ry" to hear about the Brussels terror attacks and expressed "condolences to the Belgian people." "We need to be more determined in the fight against terrorism," he said. Cavusoglu called for European countries not to release those suspected of being international fighters, as they do not deserve the freedom to travel. "Those who carried out the Paris attacks, essentially, were people that we had caught and handed over to Belgium," he said. >>**MORE DETAILS**

Turkey's EU minister 'shocked' by Brussels blasts



Reacting to the multiple blasts in Brussels Tuesday, Turkey's EU Minister Volkan Bozkir expressed his shock, also stressing that Europe must oppose all terrorist or-

ganizations without discrimination. "Shocked by the explosions at Brussels airport. All forms of terrorism and its supporters must be fought against without any discrimination," he tweeted in English. Speaking minutes later to Turkish news channel A Haber, Bozkir commented that the blasts in Brussels might have been committed by Daesh, seeking revenge. He stated that it is militants from Europe "who made Daesh the [threat] that it is", as the terrorist organization finds its resources in European countries. >>**MORE DETAILS**

Turkey faces biggest terror wave in history

'As long as our nation keeps strong our unity, togetherness and solidarity, [we can prevail over terrorism],' Turkish president says



Turkey is facing one of its biggest and bloodiest terrorism waves in its history, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said. Addressing a Forestry Ministry conference in Istanbul Monday to mark the World Forestry, Water and Meteorology Day, Erdogan said Turkey was facing attacks from the PKK terrorist group and its affiliates as well as Daesh since July last year. About the best way to deal with the menace of terrorism, the Turkish president said "As long as our nation keeps strong our unity, togetherness and solidarity, [we can prevail over terrorism]."

This is the greatest antidote to terrorism". He also called on the need for developing new ways to fight terrorism. "I believe we will reach a result as soon as possible by developing new fighting methods against new terror techniques," he said. The PKK - also seen as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the EU - resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish state since July 2015. Since then, over 300 members of the security forces have been martyred and thousands of PKK terrorists killed in operations across Turkey and northern Iraq.

>>**MORE DETAILS**

Europe tightens security after Brussels bomb blasts



European politicians responded with condemnations to Tuesday morning's bomb blasts in Brussels. At least 26 people were killed and dozens injured Tuesday morning in three explosions in the Belgian capi-

tal of Brussels. France raised its terror threat to the highest level and deployed extra police to key locations in response to events in the Belgian capital. Following an emergency meeting with President Francois Hollande, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said Europe was in a "state of war". His interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve said 1,600 extra security forces would be deployed to French airports, train stations and seaports, with 400 in Paris alone. >>**MORE DETAILS**

UK PM: Turkey 'not safe for refugees' claim insulting

Cameron says Turkey deserves praise for hosting Syrian refugees. It is insulting to suggest Turkey is not a safe country for Syrian refugees, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron has said. Cameron was addressing lawmakers in the House of Commons on last week's refugee deal between Turkey and the European Union and replying to a question from opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn: "I don't think it's right to say Turkey is an unsafe country for Syrian refugees." "In fact, I think that's slightly insulting to the Turks who are cur-

rently hosting 2.6 million people who have fled Syria." He continued: "So what is going to happen is those people who don't apply for asylum will be returned to Turkey immediately. Those who do will go through a rapid process but with all the proper procedures in place, and as the agreement says all irregular migrants will be returned to Turkey because it is a safe country for those refugees." He later added Turkey deserved praise for hosting the millions of people fleeing the Syrian civil war.

>>**MORE DETAILS**

ANALYSIS - Obama's 'inconsistent' Syria policy

As he approaches the end of his time at the White House, analysts believe U.S. President Barack Obama has failed in his policies towards the war-torn Syria for many reasons, including lack of an "action-based" and "consistent" plan. The absence of such a strategy to combat Daesh and President Bashar al-Assad's regime has left attempts to resolve the conflict largely in the hands of the UN and its envoy Staffan de Mistura. At the start of Obama's first term, Syria was high on the foreign policy agenda, according to Kilic Bugra Kanat, research



director at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, or SETA. When the Arab Spring took hold across North Africa and the Middle East, Obama looked to Assad as the one to undertake political transformation in Syria and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry.

>>**MORE DETAILS**

Rohingya: Myanmar's ethnic timebomb

Country's new government up against years of ingrained prejudice in solving situation of one of the most persecuted people in the world. Myanmar's newly-elected president has proposed the creation of a ministry aimed at solving the country's long-standing ethnic issues, but on a list of the country's 135 official ethnicities one minority is nowhere to be seen. For years, the country's Muslim Rohingya community has been branded one of the most persecuted in the world, but Aung San Suu Kyi's election win-

ning National League for Democracy (NLD) rarely dares to breath its name. "If we talk about Rohingya Muslims, people won't listen to us," a Western diplomat who did not wish to be named as he was not authorized to talk to media told Anadolu Agency this weekend. He added that even politicians who appear open-minded would say the ethnic minority -- that most citizens refer to as Bengali -- is not one of the country's various ethnicities, just illegal migrants from a neighboring country. >>**MORE DETAILS**