

TURKISH GROUP LAUNCHES PROPHET MUHAMMAD FILM CONTEST



An Istanbul-based foundation has launched an international short film competition on the Prophet Muhammad -- a sensitive issue given the Islamic belief that any visual depiction of the Prophet is offensive. The competition organizers say this year will be the first time the contest will run internationally. "The films will be evaluated very carefully to ensure that they comply with the criteria of Islamic ethics," said Muhammed Emin Yildirim, an executive of the Al-Sira Foundation (Siyer Vakfi in Turkish).

>>>CULTURE and ART

TURKEY: AUTO PRODUCTION EXPORTS UP 17 PERCENT IN FEB



Turkey's automotive exports increased to nearly \$2 billion in Feb. 2016 compared to 1.7 billion in the same month of 2015. Exports of automobiles from Turkey increased by 17 percent in February, the country's Automotive Industry Exporters' Union said on Monday. Turkey's automotive exports increased to nearly \$2 billion in February compared to \$1.7 billion in the same month of 2015. The union said that the export value in the month was the highest since 2008. >>>ECONOMY

NIGERIAN MINISTRY REJECTS DIVISIVE SOCIAL MEDIA BILL



Turkey's automotive exports increased to nearly \$2 billion in Feb. 2016 compared to 1.7 billion in the same month of 2015. A controversial social media bill before the Nigerian parliament that calls for punishing those who criticize public officials in cyberspace has been opposed not just by free speech activists, but even Nigeria's own Justice Ministry. Nigeria's Justice Ministry objected to the Frivolous Petition Prohibition Bill Monday, saying it runs afoul of the country's constitution and international treaties. >>>WORLD

WEATHER / ANKARA

Tuesday
PARTLY SUNNY
19°C
Wednesday
SUNNY
20°C



ANADOLU POST

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Kurtulmus: 'No world peace without Middle East peace'

Providing the Palestinians with their own land is a must to achieving world peace, Turkey's deputy prime minister says at OIC meet



Turkey's deputy prime minister has underlined the need to support the rights of the Palestinian people, saying at a summit of Muslim nations in Indonesia's capital Monday that without it there will be no peace in the Middle East. Answering journalists' questions on the sidelines of the last day of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) 5th Ex-

traordinary Summit in Jakarta, Numan Kurtulmus said that delegates needed to underline that the failure to achieve world peace is due to an inability to achieve peace in the Middle East. "Without providing the rights of Palestinian people, who are the real owners of Palestinian land, it is impossible to achieve peace in the Middle East," Kurtulmus

said. "Without peace in the Middle East, the world cannot be left without terrorism." Indonesia -- which does not recognize Israel -- hosted the two-day summit of the world's largest intra-Islamic body in Jakarta, which focused on Palestine and Al-Quds. The summit took place at a time of increased tensions in the Middle Eastern region. >>>MORE DETAILS

Turkey, EU 'can only solve refugee crisis together'

Turkey, EU 'can only solve refugee crisis together'



The challenges facing Europe in terms of the refugee crisis can be solved through cooperation among the 28 member states and Turkey, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said. Speaking at the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday, Davutoglu said: "We have many challenges in front of us. The only way to respond to these challenges is solidarity. At the end of the day our continent is all together."

Davutoglu is set to meet with the 28 EU heads of government in Brussels on Monday to discuss ways to solve the worst refugee and migrant crisis facing the Europe since World War II. The EU has pledged to provide 3 billion euros [\$3.2 billion] in aid for refugees hosted in Turkey, visa liberalization for Turkish citizens and speeding up of the candidate country's EU accession process. >>>MORE DETAILS

Erdogan criticizes delay in EU refugee aid for Turkey

Turkish president says Turkey has saved 100,000 refugees attempting sea crossing to Greece



Turkey's president on Monday criticized delays in the payment of a 3 billion-euro (\$3.3 billion) EU support package for refugees. Under a deal signed in November, Turkey agreed to step up efforts to stem the flow of refugees to Europe while the EU promised a financial aid package for the

near-3 million refugees living in Turkey, as well as the revival of Turkey's bid to join the EU and visa-free travel for Turkish nationals. "They pledged that they would give us 3 billion euros," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a union meeting to mark Women's Day in Ankara. "It's been four

months and they have yet to give it." His comments came as Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu was in Brussels to meet EU leaders about the refugee crisis. "Our prime minister is in Brussels now," Erdogan said. "Hopefully, he will return with this promised money." >>>MORE DETAILS

Istanbul prosecutor: Trustees' access to Zaman HQ blocked



An Istanbul chief public prosecutor said on Monday that the trustees who were appointed to take over the management of Feza Media Group were prevented from entering the Zaman newspaper offices. "When the trustees took the decision notice to take over operations at Feza Gazetecilik A.S., elderly people and especially women wearing headscarf were gathered by company management," Hadi Salihoglu said in a statement. "The entry of the trustees [into the building] was blocked because the entrance doors were chained shut," he added. Last Friday, a Turkish court decided to appoint trustees for the Zaman

newspaper, a daily linked to the U.S.-based preacher Fetullah Gulen. Trustees entered the Zaman headquarters under police protection on Friday. The company is accused of supporting what is called the Gulenist Terror Organization, headed by Gulen, which is said to have infiltrated Turkey's state apparatus with thousands of followers in an effort to overthrow the government. Known also by the initials FETO/PDY, the parallel state designates a clandestine group of Turkish bureaucrats and senior officials, allegedly embedded in the country's institutions, including the judiciary and the police. >>>MORE DETAILS

Female Turkish diplomats driving Africa policy



Turkey's links to African nations form an important part of its foreign policy. Now, ahead of International Women's Day on March 8, four of Ankara's female diplomats to African states have spoken Anadolu Agency about their work for Turkey overseas. Aylin Tashan was appointed as Turkey's ambassador to Mozambique in 2011, making her the first

female Turkish ambassador to an African country. "Although living in Africa [has] some risks, such as security and health, I forgot about all the difficulties that I had faced after seeing the rapidly developing relations between two countries," Tashan said. Mozambique has 40 percent of female representation and women head five out of 22 ministries, including health, labor and state administration. "Despite the great distance, I do not feel so far away from my family and friends in the south of Africa," she adds. >>>MORE DETAILS

Russia 'attempting to topple Merkel' - NATO expert

Russia is attempting to stir up anti-migrant sentiment in Germany in an attempt to topple Angela Merkel, a senior NATO director has claimed. Janis Sarts, who leads the Latvia-based NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence, said they had detected attempts to undercut the German chancellor, who is a staunch supporter of sanctions against Russia, by waging an information war. "[Russia] is establishing a network that can be

controlled. You can use it as they have tried to do in Germany, combined with the legitimate issue of refugees, to undercut political processes in a very serious way," Sarts said in comments to the U.K.'s Observer newspaper. He continued: "If it was just punishment, that would be OK - but it is testing whether they can build on pre-existing problems and create a momentum where there is political change in Germany." >>>MORE DETAILS

Seize opportunity and leave the EU, London mayor urges



Britain should not miss its "golden opportunity" to leave the regulatory and legislative burdens imposed by the European Union, London Mayor Boris Johnson said on Sunday. Johnson, the most senior U.K. politician to support an exit from the EU, said in a television interview that withdrawal was the only way for his country to throw off the "anti-democratic" regulations imposed by Brussels. "We now have a golden opportunity to throw off a regulatory, legislative burden that is profoundly anti-democratic," he told the BBC. He continued: "I want to campaign for free trade with the EU. That is what we need and what we will get." >>>MORE DETAILS

Rubio, Sanders make inroads in US primary, caucus polls

Sens. Bernie Sanders and Marco Rubio won separate primary races on Sunday, adding weight to their cases that they can compete with their party's front-runners for the U.S. presidential nomination. Sunday's victory is the eighth for Sanders and second for Rubio who won his first contest on Super Tuesday. The Florida Senator was completely shut out during four polls on the previous day. Rubio cleared the 50 percent threshold to collect all 23 delegates in Puerto Rico -- an important victory as his campaign continues to struggle to gain momentum nationally. So far, billionaire Donald Trump has the most victories amongst Republicans with 12. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is second with six, and Ohio Gov. John Kasich has yet to win a primary. Cruz is progressively being seen as Trump's main challenger, but with Sunday's victory, Rubio's campaign proved that it still has life. That is critical ahead of March 15's Florida primary where 99 delegates are up for grabs in the winner-take-all contest. It is a must-win for Rubio in order to remain viable. For Sanders, his victory in Maine marked his third of the weekend, having won Nebraska and Kansas on Saturday. >>>MORE DETAILS