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Reform for UN 'inevitable'

UN Security Council unable to end violence as people die in international conflicts, PM Binali Yildirim says in Baku

By Merve Aydoğan

BAKU - Reform for a UN powerless to end global conflicts is a "necessity", Turkey's prime minister argued on Thursday. Speaking at the Sixth Global Baku Forum in Azerbaijan, Binali Yildirim said a UN based on problem-solving, not rivalries, was "an inevitable necessity". "The UN Security Council is unable to give the necessary response to [international] rivalries while humanity is dying and chemical gas [weapons] are being used, and is unable to end this

violence." He urged the UN to establish a more "confidence building" structure and added: "Global peace and solidarity can only be established if everyone does not preserve double standards to conflicts and produce results based on humanity and human values." Yildirim asserted that Turkey is a "reliable" country for its allies and friends but also "an actor for peace and prosperity" for the region not only in the Middle East but also in the Balkan and Caucasus regions as well as in many parts around the world.

He cited as an example the fact that Turkey hosts over 3.5 million Syrian refugees. "If we hadn't done this, the instability in the region was going to escalate and perhaps it would be impossible to control the ongoing terror events," he said. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has also criticized the Security Council, blasting its ineffectual Syrian cease-fire resolution, and calling its composition unrepresentative. Calling on the international community to increase global cooperation in... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Anadolu Agency Infographics



Cavusoglu postpones US visit

By Ercan Canpolat

ANKARA Turkey's foreign minister has postponed a previously scheduled trip to Washington as the torch is passed at the U.S. State Department, Turkish diplomatic sources said on Thursday. Mevlüt Cavusoglu's trip scheduled for March 19 has been postponed in the wake of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's firing, said the sources, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump named CIA Director Mike Pompeo the next U.S. secretary of state, ousting Rex Tillerson.

On Wednesday, Cavusoglu said: "We would like to work with new secretary of state in the same vein."

Turkey and the U.S. have been trying to iron out a number of issues, principally concerning the terrorist YPG/PKK in Syria, a group the U.S. has worked with, calling it a... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Unemployment falls to 10.4 percent



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ANKARA - Turkey's unemployment rate stood at 10.4 percent in December 2017, falling 2.3 percentage points on a yearly basis, the country's statistical authority said on Thursday. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the number of unemployed people aged 15 and over was 3.291 million last December, a fall of 581,000, year-on-year.

"The number of unemployed persons aged 15-years-old and over decreased by 581,000 to 3.29 million persons in the period of December 2017 in Turkey compared with the same period of the previous year," it said in a statement. In the same period, the non-agricultural unemployment rate was 12.3 percent, down 2.6 percentage points.

While the youth unemployment rate, covering ages 15-24, was 19.2 percent, down 4.8 percentage points, the unemployment rate for the 15-64 age group was also down 2.3 percentage points to 10.6 percent, it added. The number of people employed rose by nearly 1.619 million in the same period, bringing the employment rate to 46.9 percent... [MORE DETAILS](#)

'Over 70 pct of Afrin secured'

By Nilay Kar Onum

ANKARA - Over 70 percent of Syria's Afrin region has been secured during the Turkish-led Operation Olive Branch, Turkey's presidential spokesman said on Thursday.

Speaking to news channel TRT Haber in the capital Ankara, Ibrahim Kalin said:

"Geographically, over 70 percent of it [Afrin] has been secured right now.

"The circle has been completely tightened around the terrorists. We predict that the center of Afrin will be completely cleared of terrorists within a short period of time. "They wanted to make Afrin a new Qandil. This [desire] has been eliminated through Operation Olive Branch."

Iraq's Qandil Mountains have served as a headquarters for the terror group PKK. Kalin also addressed continued U.S. support, including weapons... [MORE DETAILS](#)