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WHO reports toxic chemicals in Douma

Over 70 people killed, 43 deaths due to exposure to toxic chemicals, says global health body



Anadolu Agency Photo

By Fatih Erel

GENEVA - Some 500 patients show symptoms of exposure to toxic chemicals following Saturday's attacks in Douma, Syria, the World

Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday. "According to reports from Health Cluster partners, during the shelling of Douma on Saturday, an estimated 500 patients [were] presented to health

facilities exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with exposure to toxic chemicals. "In particular, there were signs of severe irritation of mucous membranes, respiratory failure and... **MORE DETAILS**



Anadolu Agency Photo

'Over 160,000 Syrians return to terror-free regions'

Deputy director general of Migration Management says Syrians rapidly returning to their home after Turkish operations

ANKARA - More than 162,000 Syrians have returned to terror-free regions in Syria following Turkish military-led Operation Euphrates Shield and Operation Olive Branch, said Turkey's deputy director general of Migration Management. "Following the Operation Euphrates Shield and Operation Olive Branch, more than 162,000 Syrians have returned to regions cleared of terrorists. We are seeing a rapidly increasing trend in Syrians returning to their former lands after these operations," Abdullah Ayaz said. Ayaz told Anadolu Agency

that there are currently 3,567,000 Syrians residing in Turkey. He said the return of Syrians to terror-free regions in Syria is continuing and that further increase in the trend is expected in the coming period. He said that all units of Turkish Interior Ministry are working to make Afrin a "livable place again" after the Operation Olive Branch and efforts to provide safe return of the Syrian families. Turkey on Jan. 20 launched Operation Olive Branch to remove YPG/PKK and Daesh terrorists from Afrin. On March 18, Turkish troops and... **MORE DETAILS**



Anadolu Agency Photo

'European law should include Islamophobia'

ANKARA - The Turkish foreign minister on Wednesday urged European countries to include Islamophobia as a crime in their constitution, without waiting for a Holocaust-like situation to unfold. "We should ensure that Islamophobia is included in [European] constitution as a crime clearly," Mevlut

Cavusoglu said during an event at capital Ankara marked to unveil the latest European Islamophobia Report (EIR). "There is no need to relive Auschwitz or wait for Muslims to be burned in gas chambers like Jewish people," he said, referring to the Nazi concentration camp in Poland and... **MORE DETAILS**

15 Daesh-linked terror suspects arrested



ISTANBUL - At least 15 foreigners were arrested in Istanbul for their alleged links with the Daesh terrorist group on Wednesday, according to police sources. The anti-terrorism police teams conducted raids simultaneously in eight districts after they were tipped off about the presence of Daesh suspects planning terrorist attacks, said the sources, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on

talking to the media. Numerous documents and digital materials linked with the terrorist group were also seized during the operations. Turkish security forces have been involved in a long-running campaign to clear Daesh from Turkey. More than 300 people lost their lives in Daesh-claimed attacks in Turkey, where the terror organization has targeted civilians in suicide bomb, rocket... **MORE DETAILS**

257 dead as Algerian aircraft crashes near capital

By Abdul Razzaq bin Abdullah

ALGIERS - At least 257 people were killed when an Algerian military aircraft crashed on Wednesday near the capital Algiers, according to Algeria's Defense Ministry. In a statement, the ministry said the aircraft crashed in a field near the Boufarik military base in Bilda province, less than 20 miles from Algiers. It said the military aircraft was heading for Bechar in southwestern Algeria when it went down.

A total of 247 people and 10 crew members were killed in the crash, the ministry said, adding that most of the victims were military personnel and some of their families. It remains unclear whether there were any survivors in the crash. The Defense Ministry said Algerian army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ahmed Gaïd Salah, has ordered an investigation into the crash. According to local media, the Iliouchine-type plane had been transporting dozens of troops and equipment... **MORE DETAILS**