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 Friday, Sunny 27°C

'Altay tanks to be produced quickly, within Turkey'



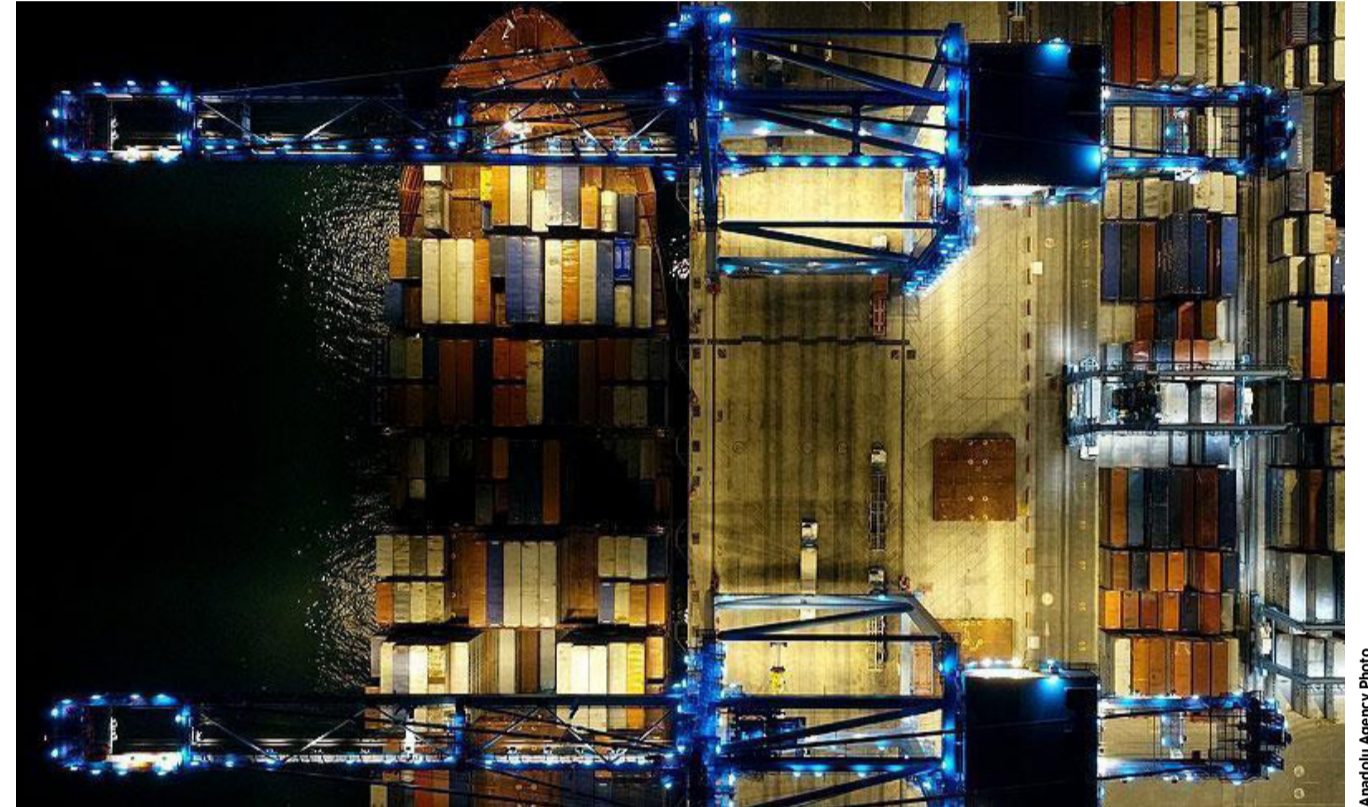
Main battle tank Altay to be delivered within 18 months, says head of Defense Industries Undersecretariat

By Goksel Yildirim

ANTALYA - Turkey's new Altay main battle tanks, whose manufacturer was just decided in a bid, will be produced very quickly and mostly within Turkey, said the head of the Defense Industries Secretariat on Thursday. Ismail Demir spoke exclusively to Anadolu Agency at the Eurasia Airshow in Antalya, the Turkish Mediterranean

-- held under the auspices of the Turkish Presidency -- where the agency is the Global Communication Partner. Demir stated they target delivery of the tank within 18 months, with mass production to start with 250 units, adding that the production will be very fast. He said the decision was made to start contract negotiations for Altay's engine development project

with Istanbul-based armored vehicle manufacturer BMC. "The project will play an important role in the armored vehicle sector and will make significant contributions to companies and subsidiary industries," he added. He also stressed the number of industries and companies to be involved in the tanks' production, in electronics and software, fire control and stabilization... **MORE DETAILS**



Turkish economy to grow over 7pct in Q1

Turkish economy minister says growth will 'most likely' surpass 7 percent in first quarter of 2018

By Tuba Sahin

IZMIR - Turkish economic growth for the first quarter in 2018 will surpass 7 percent, Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said on Thursday.

"The point to which the economic growth has come is very healthy. In the first quarter most likely it will be well over 7 percent, we will catch again a growth rate close to 7.5 percent,"

Zeybekci said at the opening ceremony of the Exporters and Investors Summit, organized jointly by the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) and Turk Eximbank... **MORE DETAILS**

Turkish, Russian, Iranian FMs to meet in Moscow

ANKARA - Foreign ministers of Turkey, Russia and Iran will gather in Moscow on Saturday to discuss the cooperation within the framework of the Astana mechanism.

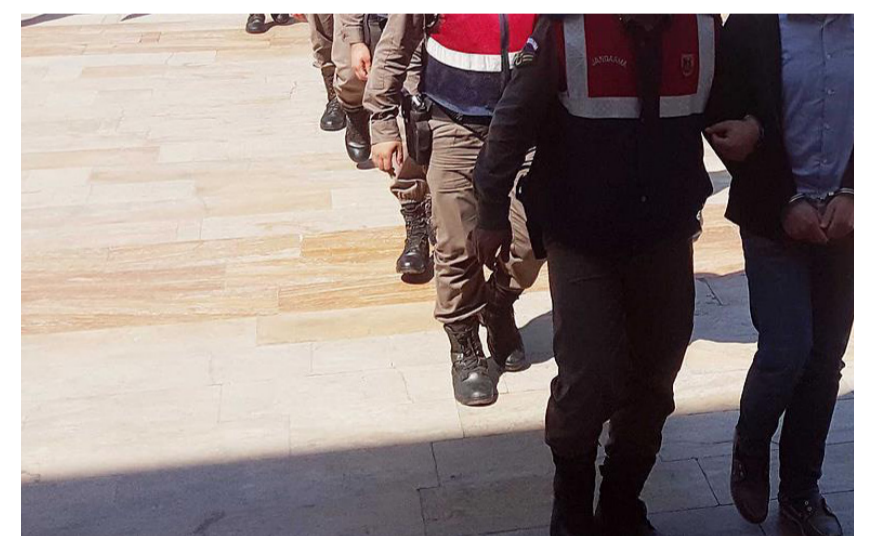
According to a statement issued by the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Foreign

Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov and Iran's Javad Zarif will meet in Moscow on April 28.

"The meeting will focus on all aspects of the cooperation carried out within the framework of the Astana mechanism and

elaborate on the steps that could be taken from now on."

The Astana peace talks were launched on Jan. 23-24, 2017, with the aim of putting an end to violence and improving the humanitarian situation in war-torn Syria. Kazakhstan hosted eight... **MORE DETAILS**



100 FETO suspects arrested across Turkey

KASTAMONU - Ninety-one suspects were arrested in operations Thursday targeting FETO, the terror group behind the 2016 defeated coup in Turkey, according to police sources. Twenty-two suspects were arrested in operations centered in the Black Sea province of Kastamonu, including businesspeople and former staffers of Bank Asya, which has been linked to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), said the sources, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media. In a separate operation, five other FETO suspects

were arrested by police in the central province of Kayseri, based on their use of encrypted cellphone apps such as ByLock, Eagle, and Kakao. A former staffer of shuttered FETO-linked Zaman daily based in the Mediterranean province of Antalya was also arrested for using ByLock. The suspect was arrested in the western province of Manisa. Another suspect believed to have FETO contacts was arrested in the northwestern province of Tekirdag. Separately, 20 suspects -- including 16 active officers -- were arrested... **MORE DETAILS**



Israel staring at Iran finds itself before Russia

By Ozgur Dikmen

ISTANBUL - They say, if you do not follow the Middle East for three days you miss the whole story, but if you do not look at anything for ten years, you would not lose anything. The same thing might be told of Israel's Syrian affairs.

Israel is alarmed at the increasing Iranian presence in Syria once more, especially after the trilateral summit between Russia, Turkey, and Iran, and it seems to be turning to the self-help option at a time the U.S. announced its intentions to leave Syria. Despite the strikes... **MORE DETAILS**

Iraqi PM visits Erbil for first time since poll

Citing country's recent victory over Daesh, Haidar al-Abadi eyes fresh term as prime minister



ERBIL - Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi on Thursday arrived in Erbil, capital of northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, for the first time since last year's ill-fated referendum on regional independence. Al-Abadi arrived in Erbil from Sulaymaniyah, the Kurdish region's second largest city, which he visited Wednesday. He was received at Erbil's international airport on

Thursday by Nechirvan Barzani, prime minister of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). Al-Abadi is hoping to secure another term as prime minister at the head of the Victory Alliance (Tahaaluf al-Nasr), a Shia political bloc, in May parliamentary polls. In his electoral campaign, al-Abadi has noted his leading role in Iraq's recent... **MORE DETAILS**