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Friday, May 18, 2018

WEATHER / ANKARA  
Friday, Partly Cloudy 28°C



## US court used 'forged evidence' to jail banker

*Former deputy CEO of Turkish lender Halkbank was sentenced to prison on basis of forged evidence, says Turkey*

### US trial of Turkish banker political

ANKARA - The U.S. prison sentence given to a Turkish banker lacks any legal foundation, said Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag on Thursday, blasting it as a politically motivated decision. The District Court for the Southern District of

New York on Wednesday sentenced former Halkbank Deputy CEO Mehmet Hakan Atilla to 32 months in prison for violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. "This trial was not legal but political," Bozdag, a government spokesman, said in a series of tweets... [MORE DETAILS](#)

ANKARA - The U.S. prison sentence given to the former deputy CEO of a Turkish state bank came despite his absence of guilt, and with the use of forged evidence and false statements, said Turkey on Wednesday. The 32-month sentence for Halkbank's Mehmet Hakan Atilla by the District Court for the Southern District of New York was "inconsistent with the principle of a fair trial," said Turkey's Foreign Ministry in a statement. "By convicting a foreign government official, this court made an unprecedented decision regarding the implementation of U.S. sanctions

legislation" regarding Iran, it said. It went on to say that the court relied on "forged evidence and false statements" of Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) members -- the group behind the 2016 failed coup in Turkey -- which it said "eradicating the legitimacy of the trial". "The credibility of the legal proceedings has vanished completely," it added. On Wednesday, Atilla, convicted of violating U.S. sanctions on Iran, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard Berman to 32 months in prison. Under the sentencing, Atilla's total incarceration is 32 months... [MORE DETAILS](#)



### Istanbul to host Muslim summit on Palestine



*Organization of Islamic Cooperation expected to give strong message against recent Israeli violence*

By Zuhair Demirci and Tugcenur Yilmaz

ANKARA - Turkey, the rotating president of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), is set to host an emergency meeting on Friday to discuss a joint action against Israel in the wake of the recent Gaza killings. The Istanbul summit meeting -- called by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan -- is expected to give a strong

message against the Israeli violence that martyred at least 62 Palestinians -- the youngest being 8 months old -- during mass rallies Monday along Gaza's eastern border. A large number of heads of state and government including Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Afghan President Ashraf Gani... [MORE DETAILS](#)

### Canada calls for 'immediate' probe into Gaza violence

By Seyit Aydogan

OTTAWA - The Canadian prime minister has called for an "immediate" independent investigation into the violence along the Gaza border that took place on Monday. In a statement Wednesday, Justin Trudeau said his

government was "appalled" that a Canadian doctor Tarek Loubani, who was treating wounded Palestinians, had been injured. "Canada deplores and is gravely concerned by the violence in the Gaza Strip that has led to a tragic loss of life and injured countless people," ... [MORE DETAILS](#)



### Over 100 air officers wanted for FETO links

ANKARA - The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in the capital Ankara on Friday issued arrest warrants for 101 Turkish military personnel, including one brigadier and several colonels, over suspected links to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the group behind the 2016 defeated coup. As part of a probe into

FETO's Air Force Command structure, the suspects are being sought over suspected contacts with "covert imams", a term used to refer to other suspected senior members within the terrorist organization, said judicial sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Seventy eight of the suspects had previously been suspended from... [MORE DETAILS](#)

### 9 Daesh-linked suspects arrested in S. Turkey

ADANA - Turkish security forces arrested nine suspected terrorist Daesh members in southern Turkey on Thursday, according to a police source. Counterterrorism police launched simultaneous raids on several locations in the southern Adana province, said the source, who asked not to be named due to

restrictions on talking to the media. The suspects, including two Syrian nationals, were arrested during the raids. Security forces have been involved in a long-running campaign to clear Daesh terrorists from Turkey. More than 300 people lost their lives in Daesh-claimed attacks in Turkey... [MORE DETAILS](#)