



Central Bank’s ‘hands not tied’

By Tuba Sahin

ANKARA - A Turkish deputy prime minister said Friday the country’s Central Bank is capable of taking action against speculative attacks amid recent volatility in foreign exchange rates. “Its hands are not tied [...] It will do what is necessary,” Mehmet Simsek told a

televised interview on private news channel NTV.

He also said the bank had the full support of the government, adding that the bank’s decision to hike interest rates on Wednesday to support Turkish lira had shown its independence. “Turkish Central Bank has taken a strong step that had

immediate effects [on the market],” Simsek. On Wednesday, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) hiked late liquidity window interest rates, as the borrowing rate was kept at 0 percent while the lending rate was raised from 13.50 to 16.50 percent. In recent months the Turkish lira has been... **MORE DETAILS**



Pakistan to buy 30 gunship helicopters from Turkey

By Goksel Yildirim

ANKARA - Ankara and Islamabad have signed a deal for the sale of 30 Turkish attack helicopters, according to an election manifesto the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party announced Thursday. In a November 2017 interview with the Anadolu Agency, Pakistani Minister for Defense Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said his country planned to procure 30 attack helicopters and four

naval ships from Turkey. Hussain revealed that Pakistan was interested in the T129 ATAK helicopter, developed by the Turkish Aerospace Industries and the Italy-based AgustaWestland. The gunship helicopter was added to the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces in 2014. On March 23, T129 ATAK helicopters from Turkey participated in a fly-past ceremony in the Pakistani capital... **MORE DETAILS**



Central Bank takes another step to strengthen lira

ANKARA - The Turkish Central Bank fixed foreign exchange rates for rediscount credit repayments for export, the bank announced on Friday. “It has been decided that the repayments of rediscount credits for export and foreign exchange earning services that have been extended before 25 May 2018, which will be due by 31 July 2018 (included), can be made in Turkish liras at an exchange rate of 4.20 for the dollar, 4.90 for the euro, and 5.60 for the sterling, provided that they are paid at maturity,” the bank said in a statement. It added that the exchange rate on the date of credit extension will be applicable in credit repayment, if the rate on the date of credit extension is higher than those rates. Following the bank’s decision, the dollar/lira rate fell steeply... **MORE DETAILS**

Kirkuk’s Turkmen continue to protest Iraq poll results



Turkmen, Arabs in oil-rich Kirkuk say results of May 12 parliamentary poll were manipulated, demand recount

By Mohamed Qasim

BAGHDAD - Turkmen in Iraq’s northern city of Kirkuk have continued to stage demonstrations against the results of the country’s May 12 parliamentary polls. Each day this week, Turkmen have gathered in downtown Kirkuk and chanted slogans denouncing the “fraud” and “vote-rigging” which they say marred the recent elections. At a Thursday press conference held

on the sidelines of the protest, Kasim Kazanci, Kirkuk resident and member of the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF), said: “The main demand of the Turkmen is for a manual vote recount.” “[Iraq’s] Independent High Electoral Commission is the only thing standing in the way of a manual recount,” Kazanci said. “The ITF intends to pursue its rights through the Iraqi judicial system,” he added. **MORE DETAILS**



US delegation in Turkey to discuss Syria’s Manbij

Turkish FM spokesman says Turkey hosts second meeting of working group on Syria, with Manbij as top agenda

ANKARA - A U.S. delegation began negotiations with Turkish officials on Manbij, northern Syria on Friday, Turkey’s Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Turkey and the U.S. have established a mechanism to address separate issues in working groups, including stabilization of Manbij and

to prevent any undesirable clashes, following the visit of former U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to capital Ankara in February. “The second part of this meeting is being held today. We are hosting the U.S. delegation,” Hami Aksoy told reporters in Ankara during a news conference. The first meeting of the working group on Syria was held on March 8-9 in Washington. Manbij will remain the key focus of Friday’s meeting, said Aksoy and added the minutes of Friday’s meeting will be released after a meeting between... **MORE DETAILS**



Over 115 FETO convicts sentenced to life in Turkey

ISTANBUL - A criminal high court in Istanbul handed down aggravated life sentences to 119 Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) convicts, including high ranking former Turkish military officers on Friday, according to a judicial source. The convicts were charged over incidents that took place in Istanbul’s Sultanbeyli district and at the Turkish Mehmetcik Foundation on the night of the defeated coup of July 2016, the source, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to the media, said. The 28th High Criminal Court in Istanbul’s Silivri district gave its verdict in the case involving three high ranking military officers and 116 former students of Air Force Academy on the charge of violating the country’s constitution. FETO and its U.S.-based leader Fetullah Gulen orchestrated... **MORE DETAILS**