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Tuesday, July 31, 2018

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Tuesday, Partly Cloudy 30°C

Turkish banking sector's net profit at \$6 billion

From January to June, country's banking sector's net profit saw 13.8 percent year-on-year hike

By **Muhammed Ali Gurtas**

ANKARA - The total net profit of the Turkish banking sector hit 28.9 billion Turkish liras (\$6.34 billion) in the first half of 2018, according to the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK) on Monday.

In the six-month period, the banking sector's net profit saw an annual hike of 13.8 percent, up from net profit of 25.4 billion Turkish liras (\$7.24 billion) in January-June last year. As of June 2018, the total assets of the sector stood at 3.67 trillion Turkish liras (\$804.3 billion), with a 23.5 percent

year-on-year increase, the banking watchdog said. Marking a yearly rise of 22.6 percent, loans given by the sector -- the biggest sub-category of assets -- amounted to 2.35 trillion Turkish liras (\$515.6 billion) at the end of June. On the liabilities side... **MORE DETAILS**



Ahed al-Tamimi... icon of Palestinian resistance

By **Ali Abo Rezeg**

ANKARA - Palestinian protest icon Ahed al-Tamimi has been released from Israeli prison after serving an 8-month sentence for slapping an Israeli soldier. The 17-year-old girl was detained by Israeli forces in December after she was filmed while slapping the soldier during a raid on her home to arrest her brother. In March, an Israeli court gave the Palestinian girl with an 8-month prison sentence for "attacking" Israeli forces. Born on January 31, 2001 in the town of Nabi Saleh, west of the West Bank city of Ramallah, al-Tamimi hails from a family known for their struggle against the decades-

long Israeli occupation. Several of her family members, including parents and brothers, have been repeatedly arrested by Israeli forces for their opposition to Israel's invasion of Palestinian lands. Her uncle, Rushdie al-Tamimi, was shot dead by Israeli forces in the town of Nabi Saleh in 2012. Her aunt Bassima al-Tamimi died in 1993 after being beaten to death by an Israeli policeman while attending her son's trial session at the time, according to family sources. Since her early years, al-Tamimi, a high school student, has attended weekly protests in her... **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey, Russia, Iran meet ahead of Astana

By **Selen Temizer**

SOCHI - Officials from Turkey, Russia and Iran were holding technical talks Monday in Sochi, Russia, ahead of a 10th round of Syria peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, slated for July 31st. The Astana talks will address the latest situation in de-escalation zones in Syria's Idlib, the return of the refugees, the release of prisoners and the formation of a committee that will rewrite Syria's constitution. UN officials and Jordan are taking part in Monday's talks as observers while the U.S. again opted not to send... **MORE DETAILS**



36 terrorists 'neutralized' over past week

ANKARA - At least 36 PKK terrorists have been "neutralized" as part of anti-terror operations across Turkey over the past week, the Interior Ministry said in a statement Monday. Turkish authorities often

use the word "neutralized" in their statements to imply that the terrorists in question either surrendered or were killed or captured. The ministry said the Turkish Armed Forces carried out 1,994 counter-terror... **MORE DETAILS**

Half of Britain wants new referendum on Brexit

By **Ahmet Gurhan Kartal**

LONDON - Half of the British population would like to see a referendum on the deal the government suggests, no deal, or staying

in the European Union, according to a data poll published Monday. The Sky Data snap poll showed 50 percent of Brits want to have a say on the final Brexit path... **MORE DETAILS**

Turkey leads UNESCO tentative list



KAHRAMANMARAS - Turkey has the largest number of sites -- 77 -- on UNESCO's tentative list of cultural and natural sites, according to the head of Turkey's commission for UNESCO. In an interview to Anadolu Agency in

southeastern Kahramanmaras province, Ocal Oguz said the country has 18 sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as of 2018. Gobekli-tepe, the world's oldest temple, was added to the UNESCO

World Heritage list on July 1. It was discovered in 1963 when researchers from Istanbul and Chicago universities were working at the site. Oguz said public awareness in Turkey about UNESCO has... **MORE DETAILS**