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Wednesday, September 19, 2018

WEATHER / ANKARA
Wednesday, Partly Cloudy 24°C

European court slams Belgium on headscarf

European Human Rights Court rules that excluding woman from courtroom for refusing to remove headscarf is a violation



By Hajer M'tiri

PARIS - The European Court of Human Rights on Tuesday convicted Belgian authorities for violating the EU Convention on Human Rights by excluding a Muslim woman from a courtroom for refusing to remove her headscarf. In 2007, the applicant, referred to by the EU court as "Mrs Lachiri", was attending a court hearing in a case concerning the death of her

brother. The presiding judge of the court told Lachiri "that she could not enter the hearing room unless she removed her headscarf". She refused to comply and did not attend the hearing. Lachiri challenged the decision in local courts before lodging a complain at the top EU court in December 2008. The ECHR ruled by a majority of six votes to one "that there had been: a violation of Article... MORE DETAILS



Civilians to remain in Syria's Idlib

Mevlut Cavusoglu says there would be no change in status of Syria's Idlib after deal signed by Turkey, Russia

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - Civilians will continue to remain in Syria's northwestern Idlib province following a deal signed by Ankara and Moscow that seals a demilitarized zone in the area, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Tuesday. "The borders of Idlib will be protected under the memorandum of understanding signed in Sochi. There would be no change in the status of Idlib," Cavusoglu said at the quadruple ministerial meeting in the capital Ankara. Cavusoglu's remarks came a day after Turkey and Russia agreed to turn Idlib into a demilitarized zone between

the opposition and the regime-controlled areas after a meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his counterpart Vladimir Putin in Russia's coastal city of Sochi. Ankara and Moscow on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding calling for the stabilization of the situation in Idlib's de-escalation zone. Cavusoglu said heavy weapons will be removed from demilitarized zone in Idlib, adding: "Civilians will stay, only terrorist groups will be removed." He added heavy weapons will be removed from demilitarized zone in Idlib by Oct. 15. Cavusoglu added the region would be cleared... MORE DETAILS

Russia blames Israel in downing of aircraft

By Elena Teslova

MOSCOW - Russian Defense Ministry blamed Israel in the downing of its military aircraft Tuesday, saying Syrian air defenses accidentally hit the plane while trying to repel an Israeli attack. A Russian Il-20 military aircraft with 15 servicemen on board has disappeared over the Mediterranean Sea, Russia's Foreign Ministry said early Tuesday.

Russian Defense Ministry later announced that it was downed accidentally by Syrian S-200 air defense system, which is made by Russia. Russian Defense Ministry Spokesperson Igor Konashenkov said the Syria air defense was trying to repel an Israeli F-16 warplane which was carrying out an airstrike in the Syrian province of Latakia. Konashenkov said the Israeli pilots used the Russian plane as a cover to make it a target for the Syrian air defense... MORE DETAILS

Genocidal intent present against Rohingya



UN urges 'for a competent prosecutorial body and court of law to investigate' those responsible for Rohingya mass killings

By Merve Aydogan

ANKARA - The United Nations Independent International Fact-finding Mission On Myanmar on Tuesday said "genocidal intent" against the Rohingya people were present.

The report defined the Rohingya people from Myanmar's Rakhine State as "protected group," and that the treatment against them by Myanmar security forces "includes conduct that amounts to four of the five defined prohibited acts. The reports cited the four prohibited

acts of killing; causing serious bodily or mental harm; inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part, and imposing measures intending to prevent births. UN Mission further urged... MORE DETAILS



Opening Pandora's box in Idlib

By Dr Can Kasapoglu

ISTANBUL - Let's put it bluntly. The Baath regime, and its military arm, the Syrian Arab Armed Forces, are not preparing for a fight to clear Idlib from armed non-state actors, including terrorist organizations. This objective if there is such an objective in the first place, remains secondary to the

primary goal of forcing the Sunni inhabitants out and depopulating the province. This notorious depopulation concept stems from the regime's operational and strategic calculus. At the operational level, the regime strives to compensate for its personnel shortcomings. Statistical studies in military sciences show that stability operations... MORE DETAILS