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Thursday, January 10, 2019

WEATHER / ANKARA
Thursday, Cloudy 2°C

PYD terror ties make US leaving Syria harder: FM



Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu rejects US assertion it will not leave Syria unless Turkey pledges not to attack 'Kurds'

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - As it tries to end its involvement with the terrorist PKK/PYD in Syria, the U.S. is having problems withdrawing its forces, said Turkey's foreign minister on Wednesday. "We see that the U.S. has some difficulties while withdrawing [from Syria]," Mevlut Cavusoglu told parliament's Foreign Affairs

Committee. "After being so intertwined and engaged with a terrorist organization, it is not that easy to leave that terrorist organization," he added, referring to the terrorist PKK/PYD. Ankara has long criticized the U.S. working with the terrorist PKK/PYD to fight Daesh in Syria, saying that using one terror group to fight another makes no sense.

In its 30-year terrorist campaign, the PKK has taken some 40,000 lives, including women and children. The PKK/PYD is its Syrian branch. Cavusoglu reiterated that Turkey has repeatedly rejected U.S. claims that Washington will not withdraw its troops from northeastern Syria without a guarantee from Ankara that it will not attack "Kurds." Turkey's leadership... [MORE DETAILS](#)

UK debates May's deal before key Brexit vote

By Ahmet Gurhan Karal

LONDON - Wednesday began five of the most crucial days ever for Britain's parliament as the debate on Prime Minister Theresa May's EU withdrawal agreement resumed. Coming to the end of a road almost two-and-a-half years after British voters narrowly decided in 2016 to leave the EU, the Brexit deal reached with the union will face a vote on Tuesday, Jan. 15, bringing the wrenching political saga to the brink of climax. The vote was originally planned for Dec. 11, but May postponed it for more than a month as she

foresaw a heavy defeat in the House. MPs now have five days of fiery debate on the deal, which the prime minister has underlined as the only deal possible. She said the alternative to her deal would be leaving the EU without a deal. The debate will be followed by one of the most critical votes in the history of the U.K. May needs the support of 320 MPs to have her deal voted through the House of Commons. The total number of seats in the House is 650. However, there are only 639 eligible votes, as Speaker John Bercow and his three deputies, as well as seven Sinn... [MORE DETAILS](#)



End of FETO terrorists 'near'



Recep Tayyip Erdogan says US-based FETO leader Gulen will come to Turkey 'sooner or later'

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - The end of the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) members in Turkey and abroad is "near", Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday. "I call on all FETO members inside and outside of our country. Your end is near. You have nowhere to go, no step to take," Erdogan said at a symposium on the new presidential system. Erdogan said U.S.-based

ringleader of the terror group Fetullah Gulen will come to Turkey "sooner or later". "I don't know until when those who stood behind FETO [leader Gulen] will continue supporting him, but he will sooner or later come here [to Turkey]," he said. FETO and Gulen orchestrated the defeated coup of July 15, 2016 in Turkey, which left 251 people martyred and nearly 2,200 injured. Ankara also accuses FETO of being behind a long-running... [MORE DETAILS](#)

EU imposes sanctions on Iran over 'foiled attacks'

ANKARA - The European Council on Wednesday announced sanctions on two Iranian individuals and one Iranian entity for "foiled attacks" on European soil. The council said in a statement that it added two Iranian individuals and the Directorate for Internal Security of

the Iranian Ministry for Intelligence and Security to the EU terrorist list. It added the sanctions are effective as of Wednesday. "The Council also renewed the restrictive measures on those previously listed, following the six-monthly... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Turkey's doctors provide health services to Syrians



By Omer Koparan and Adham Kako

AZAZ/ANKARA - A group of volunteer doctors associated with a Turkish aid group provided health services and humanitarian assistance to civilians in Syrian towns cleared of the terror group. Istanbul-based Yeryuzu Doktorlari Association (YDD) has helped thousands of people in

2018, according to a report by the agency. The YDD opened two clinics to provide health services to people in Syria's Azaz and Afrin towns, which were liberated from terrorists during Turkey's Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch operations in northwestern Syria. The agency conducted medical... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Ancient Turkish cities await holidaymakers

DIYARBAKIR - Turkey's southeastern cities of Diyarbakir and Mardin, home to ancient civilizations, offer a rich cultural and historical experience for travelers.

Basking in its historical glory, Diyarbakir boasts more than 4.82 kilometers (three miles) of spectacular stone walls that were probably first erected... [MORE DETAILS](#)