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‘Trump reaffirms Syria pullout, safe zone’

President Erdogan says 32-km safe zone in northern Syria will be established by Turkey

By Satuk Bugra Kutlugun

ANKARA - In a phone call this week, the U.S. president reaffirmed the American troop pullout from Syria, as well as a 32-kilometer (20-mile) safe zone in Syria to be established by Turkey, said Turkey’s president on Tuesday. Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the remarks in an address to lawmakers of his Justice and Development (AK) Party

at parliament in the capital Ankara. On Monday Erdogan held a phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump, discussing the idea of a terror-free safe zone in northern Syria. Erdogan said he told Trump that Turkey embraces all people in Syria without any discrimination. “We also told him that the PKK/YPG tortures the groups in Syria that do not depend on them. MORE DETAILS



Turkey achieves 2018 budget deficit target

By Tuba Sahin

ANKARA - Turkey’s budget deficit stood at 72.6 billion Turkish liras (\$14.8 billion) in 2018, meeting a year-end target under the country’s new economic program, the treasury and finance minister said Tuesday. “We reached the target of a 1.9 percent budget-deficit-to-

gross-domestic-product ratio under the new economic program,” Berat Albayrak wrote on Twitter. The country’s budget revenues rose 20.2 percent to reach 757.8 billion liras (\$154.6 billion) in January-December 2018, while tax incomes climbed 15.8 percent to 621.3 billion liras... MORE DETAILS

Daesh still threatens Iraq’s Kirkuk: Governor

By Ali Mukarrem Garip

KIRKUK - The number of Daesh terrorists has increased significantly in and around Iraq’s northern city of Kirkuk, an Iraqi official said Tuesday. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Kirkuk Governor Rakan Saeed al-Jabouri said

the number of Daesh members now holed up in areas south of the city had reached “serious levels”. “Numerous terrorists are hiding out in the Hamrin Mountains and in rural parts of the Zegheton and Abu Hanajer valleys,” he said, going on to assert that the alleged terrorist cadres “pose... MORE DETAILS



Turkish coast guard rescues 40 migrants

AYDIN - Turkish Coast Guard has rescued 40 irregular migrants in the Aegean Sea while recovering one body, security sources said on Tuesday. Coast guard squads

rescued the migrants off Kusadasi district of southwestern Aydin province after they were informed that an inflatable boat carrying the migrants including children started... MORE DETAILS

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Greek officers ‘tried to kill us’: Migrant in Turkey

AYDIN - An Iraqi irregular migrant who was rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard along with 45 others in the Aegean Sea on Tuesday said Greek naval officers “tried to kill” them. Coast Guard teams

saved the migrants off Kusadasi district of Aydin province after a semi-submerged boat carrying the migrants including children started taking in water. Iraqi migrant Mohammed Fadil, whose 4-year-old... MORE DETAILS