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Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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Turkey's dealings with IMF thing of the past

Turkey cut its ties with IMF back in 2013 and will never borrow from it again, says President Erdogan

By Muhammet Emin Avundukluoglu

ANKARA - The era of Turkey taking out loans from the IMF is long since gone, said the Turkish president on Tuesday. "Turkey closed its IMF chapter in May 2013 and, God willing, it will not be reopened," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the parliamentary group of his ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party. Erdogan slammed claims by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) that Turkey would seek to negotiate with the IMF after the local elections set for March 31. "It is clear who has gone to the IMF. Those that have the CHP mentality, they have

gone to the IMF," he said. Some six years ago Turkey paid off the entirety of its debt to the international lending institution. Erdogan also said the CHP shares in Turkish private lender Isbank would be transferred to the state Treasury. "This parliament will take that decision [soon]," he added. After the death in 1938 of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic, his 28.1 percent stake in Isbank was transferred to the CHP. The CHP does not take any share of profits from Isbank, but has four seats on its administrative board. Turning to terrorism and foreign policy, Erdogan... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Turkey puts \$12.8M bounty on FETO fugitives

ANKARA - Turkey on Tuesday put a \$12.8 million bounty on dozens of Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) fugitives, the group behind the 2016 defeated coup. Seventy-four fugitive FETO ex-soldiers were added to the Interior Ministry's wanted list on Tuesday -- with 12 in the top category. One putschist was included in the orange and 61 others were added to the gray category in the wanted list. The wanted list is divided into five color-coded categories, with red as the

most wanted, followed by blue, green, orange and gray. Suspect Ali Kalyoncu, an ex-Turkish brigadier general, was placed in the red category of the wanted list with a 4-million-Turkish-lira bounty (approx. \$770,560). Regarded as a senior figure, Kalyoncu was in capital Ankara on July 15, 2016 to command armed tanks and armored vehicles to occupy many critical spots including the headquarters of the Turkish General Staff. Another fugitive former military officer is among the top wanted... [MORE DETAILS](#)



'India violating human rights in Kashmir'

By Ahmet Gurhan Kartal

LONDON - India is "committing grave human rights violations in occupied Kashmir," Pakistan's foreign minister has said. "Human blood is being spilled in occupied Kashmir," Shah Mahmood Qureshi said at an event hosted by the House of Commons in London, adding that the "right to self-determination was a basic right of the Kashmiri people." "The Kashmir valley is burning as the people are scared," he said. "Everyday reports of rape and killings come from held Kashmir." Qureshi added that Pakistan

would "continue to lend every kind of diplomatic and moral support and will stand by them [the Kashmiris] every step of the way". Held Monday evening, the event was organized by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pakistan chaired by Conservative MP Rehman Chishti. Qureshi's comments coincided with Kashmir Solidarity Day, which is marked on Feb. 5 of each year. "India is using different tactics to change the demography of the held Valley," Qureshi told the audience. Calling on the... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Italy divided over Venezuela political crisis



By Beyza Binnur Donmez

ANKARA - Italy is resisting the adoption of a joint position with the EU recognizing Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president amid sharp differences within Italy's ruling coalition government, diplomatic sources said Monday. According to the sources, Venezuela's ongoing political crisis has apparently led to a fissure between Italian President Sergio Mattarella and the coalition government. "We must show responsibility and clarity [by adopting] a common line taken by all our EU partners and allies," Mattarella said Monday. Deputy Prime Minister... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Pope holds first-ever papal Mass in Gulf



ABU DHABI - Pope Francis held a Mass in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday, the first-ever papal Mass in the Gulf region. Thousands of people attended the Mass at Abu Dhabi's Zayed Sports City Stadium, according to the official WAM news agency. On Sunday, the pope arrived in Abu Dhabi on a three-day visit, the first of its kind by the head of the Catholic Church in

the Gulf. On Monday, the Catholic pope signed a document aimed at promoting fraternity with Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Egypt-based Al-Azhar, the highest seat of learning in the Sunni Muslim world. The pope's visit reportedly comes at an invitation from Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed and the Catholic Church...

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