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Wednesday, March 13, 2019

WEATHER / ANKARA
Wednesday Rainy 13°C

Israel to construct 23,000 buildings in E. Jerusalem

Netanyahu says 23,000 housing units will be part of newly-signed agreement

Afra Aksoy and Hamdi Yildiz

JERUSALEM - Israel will construct more than 20,000 new houses in occupied East Jerusalem in the next five years, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday. "We signed an agreement in the framework of construction of 23,000 new housing units in Jerusalem with an investment of one billion shekel (\$276 million)," Netanyahu announced on social media accounts. He claimed Jerusalem was not an accommodation unit, but Israel's "capital". Israeli Channel 7 reported the agreement was inked... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Oil prices up as Iran, Venezuela yield due to fall

ANKARA - Crude oil prices were up at trading start on Wednesday as U.S. sanctions on Iran and Venezuela are set to lead to production declines, which in turn will remove supply from the global oil market. International benchmark

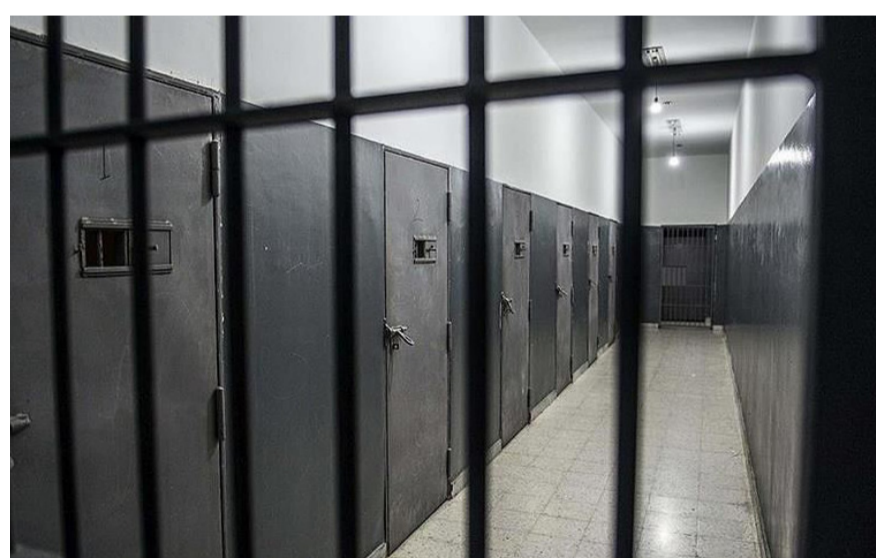
Brent crude was trading at \$66.83 per barrel at 0620 GMT with a 0.3 percent gain after it closed Monday at \$66.65 a barrel. American benchmark West Texas Intermediate was priced at \$57.05 a barrel at the same time... [MORE DETAILS](#)

128,000 still held in Syrian prisons

By Mohamed Sheikh Yusuf

ISTANBUL - Almost 14,000 people have died in the prisons of the Syrian regime since March of 2011, while about 128,000 others still remain in detention, the U.K.-based Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) said in a report released Monday. According to the report, a total of 127,916 people are currently in detention -- or have been forcibly disappeared -- over the same

period. The report also asserts that the PYD/PKK terrorist group has carried out "arbitrary arrests and forced disappearances in areas of Syria under its control". It also notes that at least 2,705 people have been arbitrarily arrested or forcibly disappeared by the so-called "Syrian Democratic Forces", which is led by the Syrian branch of PKK terrorist organization. The SNHR further... [MORE DETAILS](#)



ANALYSIS

Rebuilding of Syria and conflicting interests

ISTANBUL - The writer is a DPhil candidate in International Relations at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. He is also a journalist who

contributes regularly to The Washington Post and The Diplomat. On Feb. 14, Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted his Iranian and Turkish... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Turkish charity aids 2,000 families in Afrin

HATAY - A Turkish charity group provided humanitarian aid to 2,000 families in Afrin, northwestern Syria, the agency said on Tuesday. Istanbul-based Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) distributed food, coal, carpet, bed, blanket and baby staff to the needy families across Afrin, IHH's

Syria Coordinator Zeki Tahiroglu said in a written statement. IHH's humanitarian aid works will continue in Afrin, which was cleared of terrorists following Turkey's Operation Olive Branch, Tahiroglu said. "The materials loaded in the 12-vehicle... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Ancient manuscript from smugglers seized



KIRSEHIR - Turkish police recovered an ancient leather manuscript from suspected antiquities traffickers in a central province, security sources said on Tuesday.

The manuscript -- thought to be stolen from a Syrian museum -- were seized in Kirsehir. Acting on a tip, police squads stopped a suspected car with an Istanbul license

plate on Ankara-Kayseri highway near Kaman district of Kirsehir. They found the manuscript hidden in a rug near the car seat, said the sources, who asked not to be named... [MORE DETAILS](#)