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TANAP to ramp up gas exports to Turkey

ANKARA - Turkey's gas imports via the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project (TANAP) will incrementally increase for the 1.25 billion cubic meters sent between June 30, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019 to 4 billion cubic meters by the end of this year, according to Saltuk Duzyol, TANAP's general manager on Tuesday. Duzyol explained that gas

imports via this "key project in contributing to Turkey's energy security", would incrementally increase and Turkey would receive 2 billion cubic meters of gas by the end of June 2019 and 4 billion cubic meters of gas by the year end.

He added that 190 employees are still operating on the project, whose calculated investment cost... MORE DETAILS

Turkey slams Israeli PM remarks against Erdogan

'Lies and pressure will not hide your crimes,' says Turkish presidential spokesman

Zuhal Demirci

ANKARA - A senior aide to the Turkish president lashed out Wednesday at remarks by Israel's prime minister targeting the Turkish leader. Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said Benjamin Netanyahu attacked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "for exposing the Israeli leader's racist remarks towards Arabs and Muslims".

"The apartheid state he leads occupies Palestinian lands, kills women, children, and imprisons Palestinians in their own land," Kalin said on Twitter.

"Lies and pressure will not hide your crimes," Kalin said. On Tuesday, Kalin condemned Netanyahu's affirmation of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people.

"I strongly condemn this blatant racism and discrimination. 1.6 million Arabs/Muslims live in Israel. Will the Western governments react or keep silent under pressure again?" Kalin said on Twitter.

On March 12, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is "a nation state not of all its citizens... MORE DETAILS





UK: Chaos looms two weeks before Brexit date

Ahmet Gurhan Kartal

LONDON - The uncertainty over Brexit looms once more in London critically than ever as the British Prime Minister Theresa May's "improved" deal was rejected by the House of Commons once again Tuesday. What next for Brexit and the

future relationship between the U.K. and the EU are still to be determined by the MPs in a series of votes in Westminster this week. The parliamentarians will vote on a motion put forward by the government after losing the vote on the deal, which will ask them whether the U.K. should... MORE DETAILS

Turkey to restore churches damaged by PKK



DIYARBAKIR - Turkey will restore two historical churches that were damaged in PKK attacks four years ago.

Annan Ertem, director-general of the Foundations department, told Anadolu Agency 15 million Turkish liras (\$2.75 million) will be spent on the restoration of Surp Giragos and Mar Petyun churches in the southeastern Diyarbakir province.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization will provide the funds, he added.

"All historical buildings in the area will be restored," Ertem said. MORE DETAILS

More countries bar Boeing 737 MAX from flying

ANKARA - Hong Kong and Kazakhstan on Wednesday joined the growing list of nations barring Boeing 737 MAX from flying over their airspace with immediate effect in the wake of a deadly plane crash in Ethiopia last Sunday.

The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) of Hong Kong -- a semi-autonomous Chinese region -- said that it has imposed a temporary suspension from 6 p.m.

local time (1000GMT) on Wednesday until further notice on "operation of Boeing B737 MAX aircraft into, out of and over Hong Kong", Press Trust of India reported.

AKI Press News Agency said that Civil Aviation Committee of Kazakhstan also decided to suspend commercial operation of Boeing 737 Max plane.

However, it added that there was only one plane... MORE DETAILS



Pyongyang 'almost' restores rocket launch site

ANKARA - North Korea has "apparently almost completed" physical restoration of a rocket launch site, Seoul claimed on Wednesday. According to a report in Korean news agency Yonhap, South Korea's Defense Ministry in a report said that it was "unclear" whether the Dongchang-ri test site is functionally back

to normal". "It is understood that the restoration of external facilities at the site has been almost completed, but their functional recovery has yet to be confirmed," Yonhap quoted the Defense Ministry report.

Earlier this month, reports had emerged that North Korea was... MORE DETAILS