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# UN expresses concern over Idlib attacks

*Aerial bombardment causes civilian casualties, severe damage to medical facilities in Syria's Idlib, says UN official*



Bayram Altug

GENEVA - The UN's humanitarian adviser on Thursday condemned attacks on civilians and health facilities in Syria's

Idlib de-escalation zone. Speaking at a news conference after a meeting of an international Humanitarian Task Force (HTF) for Syria, UN Senior Humanitarian Advisor Najat

Rochdi said at least 100 civilians lost their lives or were injured in recent attacks in the northwestern Idlib province. "The recent uptick in violence has caused death and... [MORE DETAILS](#)

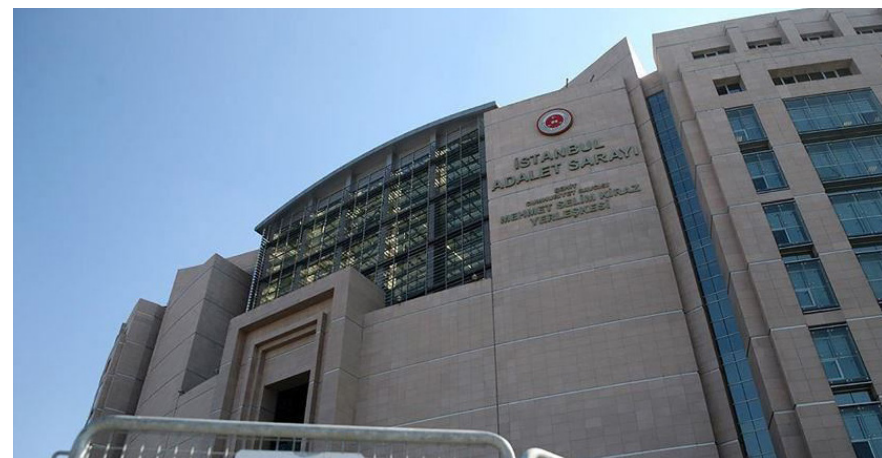


## Trump cuts tariffs on Turkish steel by half

Michael Hernandez

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump reduced tariffs on Turkish steel imports Thursday from 50% to 25%, citing what he said were necessary import reductions. That will put tariffs at the level they were at before the president decided to double

them last August amid tensions over a since-freed American pastor who was detained in Turkey. During that time, the U.S. and Turkey imposed reciprocal tariffs on a number of goods, including Turkish steel and aluminum. Trump said in his proclamation that... [MORE DETAILS](#)



## Dozens of suspects sought for FETO links

ISTANBUL / BURSA - Turkish prosecutors have issued arrest warrants for 97 people with suspected links to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the group behind the 2016 defeated coup, security sources said Friday. An Istanbul prosecutor issued warrants for 48 suspects

as part of a probe into the organization's clandestine network in the Turkish Armed Forces, according to sources who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media. Separately, a Bursa prosecutor issued arrest warrants for 49 suspects, including 25 active soldiers... [MORE DETAILS](#)

## Over 87% complete in TAP construction

ANKARA - The Trans Adriatic Pipeline, the last section of the \$400-billion, 3,500-kilometer-long Southern Gas Corridor, is now over 87% complete on the third anniversary of its construction start, a statement from the TAP AG company said on Friday. The construction of the

project started on May 17, 2016, and first deliveries to Europe are planned for 2020. One of the pipeline's construction milestones was its connection to the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) on the Maritza River in the Balkans in November 2018. TANAP is... [MORE DETAILS](#)



## Short-term foreign debt at nearly \$120B

ANKARA - The Central Bank of Turkey (CBRT) announced Friday the country's short-term external debt stock amounted to \$119.4 billion as of the end of the first quarter of 2019. Compared to the end of 2018, Turkey's external debt stock -- maturing within one year or less -- surged 2.4% in March.

According to the official figures, the currency breakdown of the debt stock composed of 50.4% U.S. dollars, 29.6% euro, 14.7% Turkish lira and 5.3% other currencies. "Specifically, in this period, banks' short-term external debt stock recorded \$57.1 billion and other sectors' short-term external

debt stock increased by 5.2% to \$56.3 billion," the bank said. The rest of the amount -- some \$5.9 billion -- belonged to the CBRT. "From the borrowers side, the short-term debt of public sector, which consists of public banks, increased by 8.7% to \$24.4 billion. "And the short-term... [MORE DETAILS](#)

## Turkey, Tatarstan eye \$1B trade volume

ISTANBUL - Turkey and Tatarstan can raise their bilateral trade to over \$1 billion, Ruhsar Pekcan, the Turkish trade minister said Thursday. Their bilateral trade was \$920 million in 2012, which dropped to \$314 million in 2018, the minister told the Turkey... [MORE DETAILS](#)

