



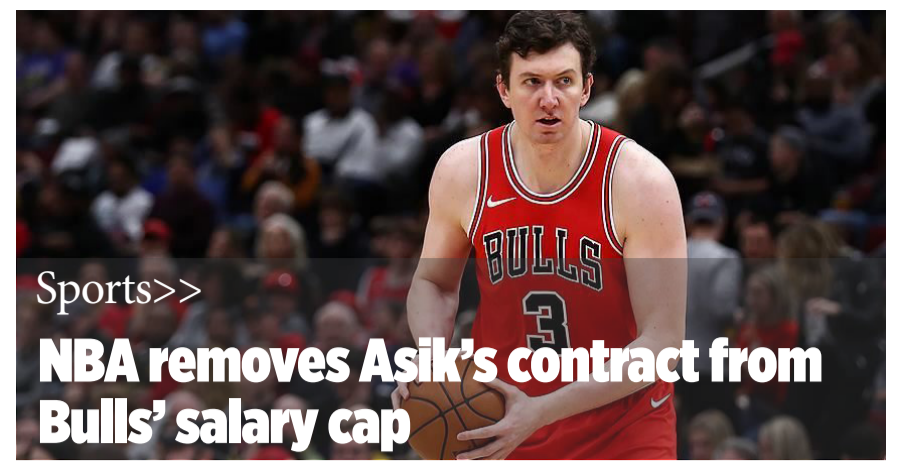
Turkey

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Friday, June 28, 2019

WEATHER / ANKARA
Friday Partly Cloudy 31°C

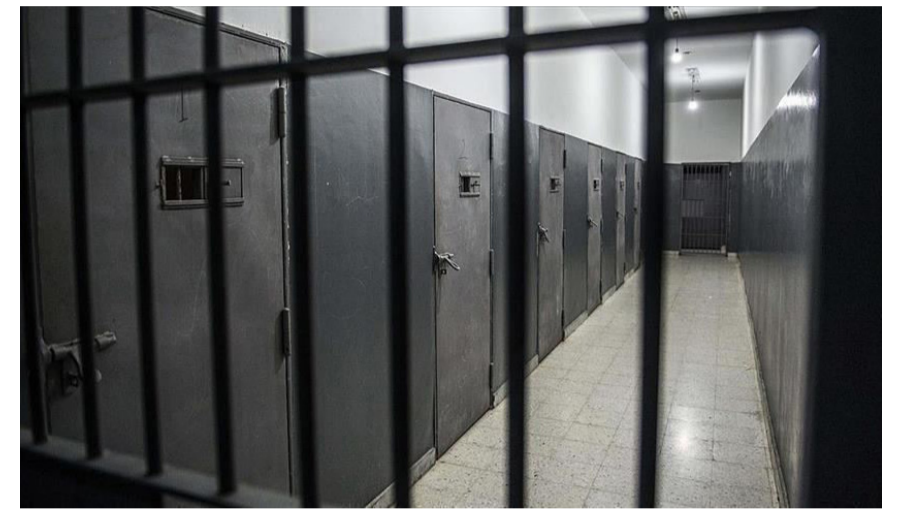
'Depriving Turkey of F-35s to jeopardize deterrence of NATO'

Turkish defense minister, US special Syria envoy meet at NATO headquarters in Brussels

Sarp Ozer

ANKARA - Turkey's defense minister and the U.S. special envoy for Syria discussed the situation in the northern Syrian town of Manbij and the east of Euphrates River on Thursday, according to a statement from Turkish Defense Ministry. During their meeting at

the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Hulusi Akar and James Jeffrey also discussed latest developments in Syria, the statement said. Akar told Jeffrey that Turkey expected the U.S. to keep its promises on Manbij. Last year, Ankara and Washington reached a deal stipulating the withdrawal of... [MORE DETAILS](#)



I thought I was dead: Syrian man tortured in Assad jail

Mohamad Misio and Adham Kako

ISTANBUL - "I thought I was dead when they pulled out my toe nails and put my feet in iced water," said a Syrian man, recounting the excruciating torture he endured imprisoned by the Syrian regime for over three years after completing his military service. Muhammad Ahmad Ammar, 29, surrendered to regime forces in 2010 to serve his compulsory military service, but was not given his discharge papers when he reached the end of his service in October 2011, a few months after the start of civil war.

Thinking of desertion, Ammar asked his family for help, he told Anadolu Agency. "In April 2012, someone from my village called me. 'We'll take you from there and bring back to your village,' [he said]," Ammar remembered, noting that he accepted the offer, even though he thought it was impossible. "Because the area I served in, Jabal al-Sheikh, was near Israeli border, it was almost impossible to escape there," he added. Ammar said he was brought to the colonel's room within 12 hours of the phone call, adding that he... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Trump knows Turkey's concerns on Russian S-400

ANKARA - The U.S. president knows Turkey's security concerns, and why it needs Russian S-400 air defense system, the Turkish president said in an interview with Japanese media. "I believe my meeting with U.S. President Trump during the G-20 summit will be important for eliminating the deadlock

in our bilateral relations and strengthening our cooperation," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Nikkei Asian Review, a Tokyo-based publication, in an interview published Wednesday, ahead of G-20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on June 28-29. "Regarding the S-400s, Trump knows Turkey's concerns... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Confidence climbs in Turkey's economy

Tuba Sahin

ANKARA - Confidence in Turkey's economy improved on a monthly basis in June, the Turkish Statistical Institute said on Thursday. The country's economic confidence index reached 83.4 this month, rising 7.6% from May, TurkStat said in a statement. The rise stemmed from improvements in the consumer, services, retail trade, construction, real sector and real sector manufacturing industry confidence indexes. "Consumer, real sector, services, retail trade and construction confidence

indices increased to 57.6, 99.6, 85.4, 93.2 and 50.4 respectively in June," TurkStat said. The services confidence index posted the highest rise among other sub-indices, rising 7.5% month-on-month in June. This was followed by the real sector and consumer confidence indices with 5.2% and 4.3%, respectively. During the same period, the retail trade confidence index increased 3.7% and the construction confidence went up 1.3%. "The economic confidence index is a composite... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Pakistan ex-spy chief: US dictate on S-400 'difficult'

Ifthikhar Gilani

TASHKENT - Gen. Ehsan ul Haq retired as chairman joint chiefs of staff committee of the Pakistan military in October 2007. He was chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the premier Pakistan intelligence agency, between October 2001 and 2004, the crucial period that saw American

intervention in Afghanistan. He is also one of the key persons to have negotiated the ceasefire enforced in 2003 along the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border which divides the Himalayan state of Kashmir between India and Pakistan, with his Indian counterparts. Speaking exclusively with Anadolu Agency in Tashkent recently, Haq... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Turkey refurbishes historic S.African mosque

