PALESTINIAN TEACHER AMONG **WORLD'S TOP 10**



Hanan al-Hroub, 43, was shortlisted for the Global Teacher Prize A teaching method that focuses on promoting non-violence has turned a Palestinian educator into a finalist at a

Hanan al-Hroub, 43, was shortlisted for the Global Teacher Prize, which is set up by the U.K.-based Varkey Foundation. "My teaching method focuses on promoting non-violence by teaching through playing," al-Hroub told Anadolu Agency

FACEBOOK LAUNCHES REVAMPED LIKE BUTTON WORLDWIDE



New Reactions include sad, angry and amazed options, but no 'Dislike' button Facebook announced Wednesday the global release of "Reactions", a series of buttons based on emotions that go beyond the iconic "Like" button after more than a year of development. The new options appear when a user presses the Like button for an extended time on mobile devices or on a Web browser. Alongside Like, users will get to choose from a series of emoji-like Reactions named "Love," "Haha", "Wow", "Sad" and "Angry". There is no "Dislike" option, a feature some users have requested for years. **SCIENCE-TECNOLOGY**

IMF REVISES TURKEY'S GROWTH **FORECAST FOR 2016**



New report upgrades Turkish economic growth forecast by 0.3 points The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded its 2016 growth forecast for Turkey by 0.3 points in a report released late Wednesday.

In its 'Global Prospects and Policy Challenges' - released ahead of a G20 Finance Ministers' summit on Friday, the IMF forecasted Turkey to grow by 3.2 percent in 2016, up 0.3 points compared to a previous forecast Growth in Turkey is also predicted to speed up to 3.6 percent in 2017 according to the report. >>ECONOMY

WEATHER / ANKARA



Thursday **CLOUDY** 12°C



Friday **CLOUDY** 16°C

ANADOLUPOST

'PYD terror group committing war crimes in Syria'

Terrorist group supports Assad regime in attempt to benefit from Syrian civil war, says think tank



ate PYD has been committing war Foundation for Political, Economcrimes in the areas it captured in Syr- ic and Social Research (SETA) on ia by forcing people to migrate, said Tuesday. According to the report,

The terrorist PKK's Syrian affili- a report issued by the Turkey-based

the PYD terrorist group has been supporting the Bashar al-Assad regime in an attempt to benefit from the Syrian civil war that started in 2011. Drawing attention to the oilrich northeastern Syrian areas mostly populated by Kurds, the report said the Assad regime saw the Kurdish population as a threat.

"The PYD, unlike other Kurdish groups in northern Syria, led a pro-Assad policy and started supporting Muhaberat, the Syrian secret intelligence service and pro-Assad Shabiha forces. The regime-affili-

ated forces then left captured areas to the PYD and its armed wing the YPG," said the report.

non-state actor having controlled areas in northern Syria", the report said the PYD terrorist group was trying to be "the only authority" in the region without allowing other regional communities "a right to live". The report also said the PYD was benefitting from Daesh's presence in Syria to present itself as "a useful actor" in U.S. counter-terrorism operations.>>MORE DETAILS

Describing the PYD as "an armed

'Russian attacks killed 600 civilians in Syria'

New report from Amnesty International rejects Russian denials that airstrikes targeted non-military targets



The Russian air campaign in Syr- annual report for 2015, released ia has killed 600 civilians so far, on Wednesday. Since beginning Amnesty International said on its air campaign in Syria last Sep-Wednesday. "The Russian attacks tember, Russia has come under reportedly killed at least 600 civil- mounting international criticism ians and struck at least 12 medical amid reports that it has been tarfacilities in areas controlled or contested by non-state armed groups," the human-rights group said in its -- in an effort to prop up the re-

geting civilian areas -- and the opposition groups that control them gime of Bashar al-Assad.

planes are targeting Daesh positions in Syria, some members of the western NATO alliance say Russia is targeting moderate opposition groups opposed to Syria's Assad regime. In recent months, ongoing airstrikes by Russian warplanes have forced more than half a million Syrians to leave their homes, with many fleeing to Turkey or other neighboring states. "In fact, Russia has faced grave accusations," Amnesty's Turkey Campaigns and Advocacy Director Ruhat Sena Aksener told Anadolu Agency in Istanbul.

changed its course of action de-But while Moscow says its war- spite the accusations.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev claimed on Feb. 13 during the Munich Security Conference that there was "no evidence of our bombing civilians".

However, in its previous report dated Dec. 23, Amnesty called on Russia to stop its "indiscriminate and other unlawful attacks" in Syria.

The U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Jan. 21 that Russian warplanes had caused 1,015 civilian deaths in Syria. Amnesty also accused the PYD of displacing people in Aksener added that Russia has not northern Syria.>>MORE DETAILS

Istanbul's new airport, bridge on track



A section of Istanbul's third airport will open in February 2018, while the port city's third bridge is all set to open in August, Turkish transport minister said Wednesday.

In remarks made during Anadolu Agency Editors' Desk in Ankara, Turkish Transport, Maritime and Communication Minister Binali Yildirim said: "The section of the new airport will cost €10.3 billion and have the capacity to host 90 million passengers annually." The Cengiz-Kolin-Limak-Mapa-Kalyon consortium, a joint venture of Turkish companies, won a tender to build the third airport in Istanbul in 2013, which promises to pay the government €22.1 billion for 25 years starting from 2017. Boasting a 150-million passenger annual capacity, the airport is expected to become one of the biggest in the world and the biggest air transfer hub in Europe. The airport will also act as a focal point for Turkey's flag carrier Turkish Airlines, which

is one of the fastest g rowing airline companies in the world, flying currently to over more than 200 international destinations.

tanbul's third bridge is all set to open in August. "The bridge's silhouette will appear in five to 10 days and it will be ready along with link roads by August," Yildirim announced. About access to finance in Turkey becoming more difficult lately compared with developed countries, Yildirim said: "I do not think the country's mega projects would be affected negatively. On external financing, the public-private partnership continues to be

attractive in the country." About the Syrian conflict, the minister said: "Unfortunately, it is obvious Russia [and] the U.S. tacitly agreed on some subjects in Syria. "If you were going to agree, [then] why did you watch 450,000 civilians die? The world asks why 450,000 civilians died in Syria and why millions were displaced," Yildirim said. "Turkey is showing the best example of to the world [by hosting and taking care of nearly three million refugees," the minister added.

>>MORE DETAILS

PKK attack on oil pipeline cost KRG \$100mn on track

Terrorist PKK organization cost \$100 million by sabotaging Kirkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline on Feb. 17



PKK terrorist organization exports to Turkey. Sanliurfa on Feb. 17, causing salaries. >>MORE DETAILS a weeklong suspension of oil

cost Kurdish Regional Gov- "This has happened several ernment (KRG) in north of times before," Dizayi said, Iraq some \$100 million by adding that the PKK's acsabotaging the Kirkuk-Yu- tions threatened to undermurtalik oil pipeline on mine an agreement between Feb. 17, according to a KRG Turkey and the KRG on the spokesman. In a written export of oil from the Kurdstatement published on the ish region. The KRG earns ruling Kurdistan Demo- some \$380 million from oil cratic Party (KDP)'s official revenue each month, Dizayi website on Wednesday, KRG noted, going on to assert spokesman Sefin Dizayi held that the Kurdish region was the PKK responsible for currently facing an economdamaging the pipeline in- ic crisis that has affected its side the Turkish province of ability to pay civil servants'

Erdogan urges parliament to remove **HDP** deputies' immunity



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on MPs to remove the parliamentary immunity of the Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) deputies, who he said were "mouthpieces" for the separatist terrorist organization PKK.

Erdogan's remarks came Wednesday in the Turkish capital as he addressed a large group of mukhtars (local administrators) from 11 provinces.

The president slammed an HDP deputy in particular who recently visited the family of a suicide bomber -- who killed 29 people in last week's terrorist attack in Ankara -- to offer their condolences.>>MORE DETAILS

Refugee influx brings mixed fortunes for **Kilis** residents



Turkey's southern province of Kilis is currently hosting a record number of Syrian refugees, with calls being made for the region to be nominated for a Nobel peace prize. Kilis is also the capital of the small province with the same name.

However, while residents agree on opening their border to their southern neighbors there are concerns that the huge refugee influx into the city has brought about mixed fortunes for themselves, with some small businesses seeing a spike in their trade while others talk about an increase in rents. >>MORE DETAILS

Experts pessimistic on prospects for Libya reconciliation

Libya's Tobruk-based parliament on Tuesday postponed a planned vote-of-confidence on a proposed cabinet lineup for a new unity government after failing to achieve an 89-member quorum needed to hold the vote.

30,000 troops needed for Syria safe zone, Kerry says

US secretary of state says established safe zone more complicated than many expect



Up to 30,000 troops will be needed in Syria to protect any safe zone in northern Syria, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said late Wednesday. Citing Pentagon estimates, Kerry told a Senate committee that protecting a safe zone was more complicated than many anticipated.

"All this talk about safe zones does not go through the process of what it really means," he said. "Our Pentagon estimates that to have a

true safe zone in the north of the country you may have upwards of fifteen to thirty thousand troops. Now are we ready to authorize that? Are we ready to put them on the ground?"

He said personnel and equipment would be needed to protect against airstrikes as well as ground attacks. Turkey has long advocated a zone in northern Syria to protect refugees and allow the safe distribution of aid. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has also pledged support for a no-fly zone in Syria as a way of dealing with refugee crisis in Europe. Kerry's comments came a day after he told the Senate's foreign relations committee the U.S. is considering a "Plan B" should the cessation of hostilities deal agreed with Russia and announced earlier this week fail. >>MORE DETAILS

Obama's real geopolitics in Syria

How did the Obama administration's position on Syria and Turkey evolve since 2011?



One perception prevalent in Turkey, but also in many Arab countries, is that the Obama administration has, since the onset of the Syrian conflict, not been clear on its strategic goals, on its alliances and on its plans to resolve that conflict. One particular crisis now escalating between Ankara and Washington is the U.S. position on the escalating clashes across the Syrian Turkish borders involving one particular organization known as the YPJ. While Turkey has list-

administration has been extending military and political support to the group, generating harsh criticism from Turkey. But this particular tension is part of a larger and more complex crisis which involves Russia, the Assad regime, Iran, and the entire web of the Syrian armed opposition to Damascus. The two crises, the narrower issue of the YPJ and the larger context of Russian and Iranian involvement and the U.S. response in Syria, seem to spiral into deeper military conflicts on the ground, risking a regional war with grave humanitarian consequences. So how did the Obama administration's position on Syria and Turkey evolve since 2011, and what is really behind the YPJ impasse? Is there a set of "real geopolitics" >>MORE DETAILS

ed it on its terror list, the Obama