

ZIKA VIRUS A GLOBAL EMERGENCY, SAYS UN HEALTH BODY



The Zika virus outbreak in the Americas was declared an international public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday. Citing its Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan, the WHO posted a Twitter message describing the Zika virus and microcephaly situation as a "Public Health Emergency of Intl concern". Microcephaly is a birth defect affecting brain development in fetuses that has been linked to, but not proven to be caused by, the virus. >>HEALTH

WOMEN WORLDWIDE EMBRACE THE HIJAB



Muslims and non-Muslims gathered in cities around the world on Monday to mark World Hijab Day. Initiated in 2013 to promote religious tolerance, the event was followed in Bosnia and Nigeria -- two very different parts of the Islamic world -- by Anadolu Agency. In Bosnia, marches in Tuzla, Mostar, Gorazde and further afield focused on a decision to ban the hijab, or headscarf, in law courts, while in cities and towns across Nigeria, where covered women have come under pressure following militant group Boko Haram's use of headscarf-wearing suicide bombers, protesters called for tolerance and understanding. >>CULTURE-ART

BARCELONA'S MESSI TO MEET 5-YEAR-OLD AFGHAN FAN



The Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) has announced that international football sensation Lionel Messi would meet Murtaza Ahmadi, a five-year-old Afghan fan whose photo wearing a homemade Messi jersey recently went viral on social media. The jersey, which was fashioned by the boy's 15-year-old brother Homayoun from a blue-and-white striped plastic bag, bears the word "MESSI" and the number "10" written in marker. "The AFF has contacted Lionel Messi, the world football star, and it will soon arrange Messi's meeting with Murtaza," read a statement issued by the federation. >>TURKEY

WEATHER / ANKARA

Tuesday
CLOUDY
3°C

Wednesday
CLOUDY
6°C



ANADOLU POST

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Turkish president pushes 'positive' relations with Chile

Recep Tayyip Erdogan tells Santiago audience that natural resources trade will rise amid Turkish commodities demand growth

Turkish industry's commodity demand is constantly growing, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said, adding that the trade volume between his country and Chile will increase.

Speaking at a Turkey-Chile Business Forum in Santiago, Erdogan's visit is part of a Latin American tour which opened an important strategic door into the region Monday. Erdogan said the two countries were growing rapidly and their profile in the international arena was rising. "These positive developments should be reflected in bilateral relations," Erdogan added.

Erdogan stressed that Chile was an important partner for Turkey. "In that respect, we see this visit as a step at the right time. We can see



that the people of two countries, which live far away from each other, meet along common cultural themes. In this respect, the acceptance of Turkish [TV] series in Chile pleased us."

Most of the world's most lithium, an important ingredient in rechargeable batteries and is used in electric cars, is produced in Chile. The

country is also major copper producer.

Erdogan noted that the number of tourists per year from Chile to Turkey was about 17,000.

"We will see some improvements in the near future on that with the opening of a non-stop flight between Istanbul and Santiago by Turkish Airlines which holds the ti-

tle for the airline flying to the most destinations," Erdogan said.

The trade volume between Turkey and Chile, the first nation in Latin America to sign a free-trade deal with Turkey in 2011, amounted to around \$417 million last year, a decrease from \$562 million in 2014.

Erdogan said the trade volume could be increased to \$1 billion in the short term. "All that matters is to believe and trust in each other," he said.

The two countries also signed a deal on more cooperation between their government aid agencies.

Erdogan will head to Peru on Tuesday -- becoming the first Turkish president to visit the country. He will travel to Ecuador on Wednesday. >>MORE DETAILS

Turkey reveals airspace violation by Russian jet

Senior minister refutes German media claim Ankara demanded extra 2 billion euros to tackle refugee crisis

Ankara would never bargain over refugees, a senior minister said Monday following German media reports that Turkey asked for 5 billion euros (\$5.45 billion) to tackle the

"Turkey has not opened its doors to the Syrian refugees who were fleeing the savagery in Syria... in a calculation of any aid from anyone," Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus told reporters in Ankara following a Cabinet meeting.

He reiterated that Turkey had



spent more than \$8 billion on hosting Syrian refugees. "We would never bargain on refugees with the EU or anybody else," Kurtulmus said.

German reports at the weekend said Turkey was asking for 5 billion euros to cope with Syrian refugees instead of the 3 billion euros agreed earlier with the EU.

Deutsche Welle, Germany's state-run broadcaster, cited newspaper Die Welt as quoting a high-ranking EU diplomat as saying: "Ankara now wants 5 billion euros but we are prepared only to give the promised 3 billion euros."

The financial package to support Turkey in hosting 2.5 million refugees and to stem the flow of migrants to the EU was agreed in November but has been blocked by Italy. The deal is strongly supported by Germany. >>MORE DETAILS

Turkey and Russia will perform observation flights over each other's skies

'Open Skies' surveillance flights come amid tension over Turkish airspace violation by Russia



Despite tensions over a Russian warplane which violated Turkish airspace on Friday, an agreed program of observation flights by Russian surveillance aircraft will take place over Turkey this week. Turkey's military confirmed on Monday that Russia is due to conduct unarmed observation flights

over Turkish territory from Monday to Friday.

The surveillance will be performed under the terms of the 1992 Treaty on Open Skies which facilitates flights by unarmed surveillance craft over foreign states, according to a statement published on the Turkish General Staff's website.

Turkey performs on average four surveillance flights over Russian territory every year, while Russian inspectors conduct two flights in Turkey, the statement added.

A team of Turkish specialists will be on board to monitor the flights. Turkey signed the Open Skies treaty in 1994.

Monday's announcement comes on the heels of a recent airspace violation by Russia.

Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Saturday that a Russian fighter jet -- a SU-34 fighter-bomber -- violated Turkish airspace on Friday at midday despite repeated warnings by Turkish air radar units in Russian and Eng-

lish. Following Friday's breach, Turkish Air Force declared an 'orange alert' in key bases around the country, military sources said on Saturday.

In late November, two Turkish F-16 fighter jets on an aerial patrol had intercepted a Russian military plane within the rules of engagement when it intruded into Turkish airspace on the Turkey-Syria border. The intruding jet was warned about the violation 10 times within five minutes before it was shot down. After the incident Russia imposed a range of unilateral economic sanctions against Turkey including a ban on food imports. >>MORE DETAILS

1,600 Syrians flee to Turkey following regime attacks

Fresh flow of refugees come as Syrian regime forces continued to pound Turkmen Mountain area in Latakia province

In the past two days, at least 1,635 Syrians crossed into Turkey to flee attacks by regime forces in war-torn Syria.

The fresh flow of refugees came as the Assad regime continued to pound the Turkmen Mountain region. Predominantly-Turkmen areas of Latakia's Bayirbucak region have recently been targeted by Russian airstrikes. Thousands of Turkmen civilians, meanwhile, have been forced to flee their



homes in Aleppo and Hama due to the ongoing violence. Syria has remained locked in a vicious civil war since early 2011 when the Assad regime cracked down on pro-democracy protests with unex-

pected ferocity. Since then, more than 250,000 people have been killed and more than 10 million displaced, according to figures released by the UN. >>MORE DETAILS

Three Turkish soldiers martyred in PKK attack

A Turkish soldier critically wounded in a PKK ambush in southeastern Turkey has succumbed to his injuries, an Anadolu Agency correspondent reports.

Earlier, Turkey's military said that two other soldiers had been martyred in the PKK attack which took place in the Sur district of the southeastern province of Diyarbakir. The deadly incident occurred during an ongoing military operation to fill trenches and to remove barricades set up by PKK terrorists to keep security forces out of the district.

"Despite all interventions [in hospital], our two hero comrades [died] at 09:07 local

time [07:07GMT]," said the military in a statement. The third soldier died at Diyarbakir Military Hospital.

Two police officers were also "critically wounded" the army said.

Sur, along with Cizre district of southeastern Sirk province, are among areas that have been the focus of counter-terror operations and military curfews since early Dec. 2015. Turkish security forces have killed more than 600 PKK terrorists in total in the two districts since counter-terror operations began, according to a Turkish General Staff statement issued Saturday. >>MORE DETAILS

Turkish security forces free policeman abducted by PKK

Officer had been kidnapped in mid-December in Turkey's southeastern province of Sirk



A Turkish police officer kidnapped by the PKK terrorist organization has been freed in a rescue operation on Monday. The operation was led by Sirk province's directorate of intelligence.

Officer Ayhan Kaya had been driving to Cizre Public Hospital in Turkey's southeastern province of Sirk when he was abducted on Dec. 10.

Cizre is among southeastern areas of Turkey which have been the focus of counter-terror operations and military

curfews since early Dec. 2015. Turkish security forces have killed more than 600 PKK terrorists in total in the two districts since counter-terror operations began, according to a Turkish General Staff statement issued on Saturday. The PKK -- considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU -- resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish state in late July last year. >>MORE DETAILS

Turkey presses Canada on free trade deal



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants a free trade deal with Canada, and the sooner the better, Canadian media reported Monday. Selcuk Unal, Turkey's ambassador to Canada, said Erdogan and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu broached the subject of free trade with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the G20 Summit in Antalya in November.

Myanmar welcomes first democratic gov't in 50 years



Almost three months after the National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory in Myanmar's national elections, its members finally took their seats in parliament Monday -- row upon row clad in its trademark rich ochre. Of the 491 elected seats in the two national parliaments, the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) now fills just 41 while the NLD has 390 --