

## SYRIAN REFUGEE: WE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SO BAD



A Syrian family who waited years for the war to end seeks their future in their 'second homeland', Bosnia-Herzegovina. The five-year war in Syria has killed nearly half a million people and displaced more than 10 million from their homes, and now a family who waited years for the war to end is seeking their future in the small western Balkans country of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Adil Abdullah and his family always thought that the war would soon end and all the horror they have been through would be left behind. >>>EUROPE

## US SCIENTISTS LISTEN TO DEEPEST PART OF OCEAN



Researchers used waterproof microphones to eavesdrop on the deepest parts of the Pacific Ocean and announced Wednesday that they were surprised to hear a cacophony of noise -- natural and man-made. For three weeks, a team of researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Oregon State University and the U.S. Coast Guard used a waterproof microphone to listen to the ocean 11 kilometers (7 miles) under the surface. The research was conducted in an area known as Challenger Deep, the deepest known point of any ocean on the planet. >>>SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY

## FBI: CRITICAL 'MISTAKE' IN HANDLING TERROR SUSPECT PHONE



Changing Apple ID of San Bernardino attacker made it 'impossible' for device to back up to cloud, says FBI chief. The FBI made "a mistake" when it asked a U.S. county to change the password on a work-issued iPhone of a suspect in a deadly terror attack, the bureau's chief said Tuesday. Testifying in the House Judiciary committee, James Comey admitted that the password tied to the device was reset after San Bernardino County changed the password on the iPhone. >>>AMERICANS

WEATHER / ANKARA



Thursday  
CLOUDY  
12°C



Friday  
CLOUDY  
11°C



# ANADOLU POST

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## GCC designates Lebanon's Hezbollah 'terrorist' group

### Gulf Cooperation Council secretary-general attributes move to 'continued acts of aggression' by Lebanese militant group



The six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) designated Wednesday Lebanon's Shia Hezbollah a "terrorist organization".

The council took the move against Hezbollah "because of hostile actions by the militia, which recruits young people for terrorist acts," GCC Secretary-General Abdul-Latif al-Zayani said in a statement. He said the GCC countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman -- see Hezbollah's actions in Syria, Yemen and Iraq as "a threat to Arab national security." "As the militia continues its terrorist practices, the GCC

states have decided to designate it a terrorist organization and will take the necessary measures to implement its decision in this regard based on anti-terrorism laws applied in the GCC and corresponding international laws," the statement read. In 2013, the GCC imposed sanctions on Hezbollah members in response to the group's involvement in Syria's ongoing civil war, in which it supports the Assad regime.

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## Syria regime, allies breached truce 52 times on Tuesday

### Assad regime, allies commit 52 truce violations Tuesday



The Assad regime and its allies carried out 52 truce violations on Tuesday, four days after a cessation of hostilities agreement went into effect in war-torn Syria, the Syrian Network for Human Rights said in a report. In its report, issued on Wednesday, the U.K.-based NGO

said that the 52 violations had included "19 armed clashes [with enemy forces] and 32 detentions by regime forces". According to the report, regime forces prevented a humanitarian aid convoy from entering the town of Muadamiyat al-Sham in the Rif Dimashq

province and engaged in 15 incidents of ground fighting. "The total number of truce violations now stands at 145 since the truce went into effect on Feb. 27," the NGO asserted. According to the report, the violations were committed in Syria's Hama, Homs, Idlib, Rif Dimashq and Daraa provinces. The State Department expressed concerns over the report, saying the U.S. was looking into each of the allegations "very closely," and shared them among other members of the International Syria Support Group, including Russia and Iran. Regarding similar reports that the Syrian government has

used chemical weapons in various attacks after the truce went into effect, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the agency was aware of the allegations but could not confirm them. "The OPCW's [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons] fact-finding mission will investigate any -- all credible allegation of C.W. [chemical weapon] use in Syria," he said. To help monitor the truce, Toner said the U.S. set up an around the clock hotline staffed by State Department officials

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## Obama urged to investigate 'war crimes' of Assad regime



A House committee on Wednesday marked up a resolution urging the Obama administration to establish a UN tribunal to investigate war crimes by the Syrian government. Condemning "gross violations of international law amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity by the government of Syria, its allies, and other parties to the conflict in Syria," the concurrent resolution by the Foreign Affairs committee proceeded without objection one day after being introduced by Re-

### Foreign Affairs committee urges protection of civilians, access to humanitarian aid in Syria

publican lawmaker Christopher Smith. The resolution urges the Obama administration to establish additional mechanisms to protect civilians and to ensure consistent access to humanitarian aid in Syria. The House also marked up another concurrent resolution to express Congress' rejection of Daesh's targeting of Christians, Yazidis, Turkmen, Kurds and other ethnic minorities in the region that lawmakers said constitutes "war crimes", "crimes against humanity" and "genocide". >>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkey ready to help Nigeria fight terrorism: Erdogan

### As a country combating terrorism itself for a long time, any terror in Nigeria deeply hurts our hearts,' Turkish president says



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkey is ready to help Nigeria in its fight against terrorism. Addressing a joint news conference alongside his Nigerian counterpart Muhammadu Buhari at the State House in the Nigerian capital of Abuja on Wednesday, Erdogan said Turkey will help Nigeria bring peace to the region. "As a country combating terrorism itself for a long time, any terror in Nigeria deeply hurts our hearts,"

the Turkish president said. Erdogan also extended his condolences to the victims of terrorism in Nigeria.

"There is evidence that terrorism is the same all over the world," Erdogan said, adding: "Terrorism has no religion or nationality".

"We are ready to combat terrorism with Nigeria. We would like you to enjoy our experience in the field of defense," he added.

There is no "distinction between terror organizations," Erdogan said. Buhari welcomed the Turkish president saying: "I thank you for supporting us in these difficult times that we have been through," Buhari said.

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## Turkey's ruling party ready to pursue new constitution



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has pledged his ruling and Justice and Development (AK) Party will continue efforts to draft a new constitution as long as there are no preconditions. The Constitution Conciliation Committee, which had been seeking to overhaul a charter that dates in parts to a period of military rule in the early 1980s, was dissolved last month amid arguments over replacing the parliamentary system with a presidential model. In a letter to committee Chairman Ismail Kahraman, released by the prime minister's office Wednesday, Davutoglu said: "I would like to express that we are ready to pursue committee talks in the event that the attending political parties do not limit the

working methods and principles with any precondition or imposition." The committee broke up on Feb. 17 after members from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) walked out. In his letter, Davutoglu criticized the CHP for its "conditional negotiations" that contradicted democratic methods. Before the talks, the CHP had insisted on protecting the parliamentary system. "By leading the committee to a stalemate with such excuses, the CHP has become solely responsible for the delay to our nation's demand for a new constitution," he said. The committee of 12 deputies from each of Turkey's four parliamentary parties first met on Feb. 3 in a bid to redraw the constitution.

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## Demirtas plotting against Turkey: Davutoglu

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Wednesday said an opposition party leader was plotting against the country and collaborating with terrorists to "drag Turkey into chaos". "Their business is in no way the country's peace and tranquility, but on the contrary, dragging Turkey into chaos (and) collaborating with terrorists," Davutoglu said in Ankara, when asked about the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) leader's call for a march in Diyarbakir province. "We do not allow [this]. I'm

saying it again," Davutoglu told a joint news conference alongside Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Omer Soyser Kalyoncu. HDP co-chair, Selahattin Demirtas, called on Monday for residents of Diyarbakir to march to Sur to protest a curfew imposed on the district amid security force operations against the terrorist PKK organization. Davutoglu insisted that "the necessary work [in the region] will be carried out until there are no more armed individuals."

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## US warns PYD not to support PKK in Turkey

The U.S. on Wednesday called on its PYD ally in Syria not to support PKK terrorists in Turkey. Addressing Turkish concerns about links between the PYD and its armed wing and the PKK, Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said: "Turkey is one of our closest allies. Its collaboration in dealing with the crisis in Syria is absolutely vital and we are indeed working very closely together with Turkey. "It is also not a secret that Turkey has expressed concerns about some of the Syrian Kurdish groups in northern Syria,

including the PYD." Speaking at a news conference at the UN in Geneva, he added: "We also made it very clear to the PYD that any actions it takes to either support the PKK or to engage the other opposition groups are profoundly problematic and we look to the PYD to act responsibly and to focus its efforts on the fight against Daesh." The PKK, which resumed its 32-year armed campaign against the Turkish state, is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and EU. >>>MORE DETAILS

## Israel mulls expelling families of Palestinian 'attackers'



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday renewed efforts to expel families of suspected Palestinian attackers to the blockaded Gaza Strip by asking for the attorney general's support. A statement from Netanyahu's office said he asked Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit to check the legality of the controversial option. "Expelling family members of Palestinian terrorists who aided attacks to Gaza will lead to a significant decrease in terrorist attacks," Netanyahu said. A State Department spokesman said the U.S. is concerned about the proposal. "In our view, this kind of step would raise, I guess, similar concerns to those we have about punitive home demolition, which we believe only exacerbate tensions on the ground, and are counterproductive," he said. >>>MORE DETAILS

## UN envoy warns against military intervention in Libya



Foreign military intervention in Libya will only exacerbate the war-torn country's already dire humanitarian crisis, according to UN deputy envoy to Libya Ali al-Zaatari. In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency, Zaatari said that the Libyan crisis appeared to be worsening. "Any military intervention or internal fighting inside Libyan territory will exacerbate the humanitarian situation there; this means more displacement and more destruction," he said. Zaatari, who is the UN's humanitarian coordinator, said that more than two million people were in a dire need of food in the war-ravaged country. "There are 435,000 displaced [people] inside Libya and 250,000 mostly immigrants or refugees from surrounding countries, along with more than 2,400,000 people who need food and health care," he asserted. The UN official went on to say that between 650,000 and 850,000 Libyans are in need of drinking water and sanitation services.

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