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Deal to ease trade ban



Russia will remove visa, work permit sanctions against Turkey as soon as possible, Putin says

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin agreed Friday to remove visa and work permit sanctions against Turkish nationals and businesses.

"We expect Russia to completely remove [economic] restrictions," Erdogan said at a news conference with Putin in

Moscow. "Only in this way will it be possible for us to reach our previously announced target of \$100 billion trade volume." Putin, for his part, said that Russia would "very soon" remove visa and work permit sanctions against Turkey.

"The ban on Turkish firms will be removed as soon as possible. A political decision was taken in this regard. It will be implemented very soon," he added.

The last meeting between Erdogan and Putin was held last August after Turkey and Russia patched up the fallout from the downing of a Russian jet over the Turkish-Syrian border in November 2015. After the Nov. 24, 2015 jet crisis, Moscow took several

measures against Turkey, including restriction of visafree travel to a ban on imports of certain foodstuffs and a ban on the sale of Turkish holiday packages by tourist agencies to Russians. Russia had also called on its nationals to boycott Turkey as a tourist destination following the crisis. Since last summer, Russia has relaxed the sanctions imposed on Turkey in response to the jet incident and the countries have worked together to bring a

to Syria. Relations were tested in December when the Russian ambassador in Ankara, Andrey Karlov, was killed in the capital. However, Putin declared the shooting a "provocation"

designed to... MORE DETAILS

cease-fire and political solution

No burial for those in Israel's 'Cemeteries of Numbers'



JERUSALEM - A simple visiting slip, scrawled in Arabic on a faded piece of Red Crossbranded stationary, would eventually become key in proving where Anis Dawleh was when he died in 1980. The slip was issued to Dawleh's mother, allowing her the rare opportunity to visit her son in an Israeli prison, just two days before his death. It would also confirm that he died in prison and had not yet been released, as the Israeli authorities would later suggest.

Dawleh's body is one of an estimated nine that cannot be

located in Israel's "Cemeteries of Numbers" -- the military cemeteries in which anonymous numbers on grave-side stakes are used to identify Palestinians interred after being killed during alleged attacks on Israelis or while in detention.

In a region where the warring parties attach exceptional cultural and religious importance to burying their dead, the fact that some bodies have gone missing from these cemeteries has challenged just how far that respect extends between enemies. "[Our] mother died in 2011 wishing she could have touched his face with her hand, that she could... MORE DETAILS



Children are the most affected among people who leave their homes with their belongings where fighting is intensified. Fears of famine and diseases increase.

Helicopter crashes in Istanbul suburb



Friday, an official said. Hasan Akgun, the mayor of Buyukcekmece, told CNN Turk TV that he had seen five bodies from the crash, adding that seven people had been aboard the private aircraft. Provincial Governor Vasip Sahin confirmed the number of casualties. The Sikorsky helicopter had earlier taken off from Ataturk Airport, to the east of Buyukcekmece, and was headed for Bilecik province in northwest Anatolia. Buyukcekmece is situated on the northwestern side of the city and contains an industrial area and

residential... MORE DETAILS

crashed in an Istanbul suburb on

Ground rules dictate conflict in Thailand's south

OPINION

By Don Pathan

YALA, Thailand - The recent killing of a family-of-four, including an 8-year-old boy, by suspected insurgents in Thailand's southern -- their vehicle was shot Narathiwat province has generated a great deal of condemnation from community leaders and rights organizations.

Police have not ruled out

personal dispute as a motive in the March 2 slaying of the Buddhist family but the method of attack up as they drove to school -- suggests the involvement of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), a longstanding separatist movement that controls most... MORE DETAILS