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Make Today Different

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Turkey's Erdogan says to challenge 'games' on the economy

ANKARA (Reuters) - A day after two major ratings agencies downgraded Turkey closer to junk status amid a currency crisis, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he would challenge those playing "games" on the economy.

People withdraw money from a bank ATM in Izmir, Turkey August 18, 2018. REUTERS/Osman Orsal
Both Moody's and Standard & Poor's ratings agencies cut Turkey's sovereign credit ratings deeper into "junk" territory late on Friday.

China's top diplomat says supports Turkey's efforts to safeguard stability
China's top diplomat says supports Turkey's efforts to safeguard stability

Standard & Poor's cited extreme lira volatility and forecasted a recession next year. The rating agency downgraded the rating by one notch to B+ from BB- and kept Turkey's outlook at stable in a move which came after the lira lost some 40 percent of its value against the dollar this year.

"Today some people are trying to threaten us through the economy, through interest rates, foreign exchange, investment and inflation," Erdogan told the congress of his ruling AK Party.

"We are telling them: we've seen your games, and we are challenging you."

The lira has plunged as investors fret about Erdogan's influence over monetary policy.

Heavy selling in recent weeks has spread to other emerging market currencies and global stocks and deepened concerns about the economy, particularly Turkey's dependence on energy imports and whether foreign-currency debt poses a risk to banks.

On Friday, Turkey's battered lira weakened 3 percent after a Turkish court rejected an American pastor's appeal for release, drawing a stiff rebuke from President Donald Trump, who said the United States would not take the detention "sitting down".

The case of Andrew Brunson, an evangelical Christian missionary from North Carolina who has lived in Turkey for two decades, has become a flashpoint between Washington and Ankara and accelerated a widening currency crisis.

"We did not and will not surrender to those who act like a strategic partner but make us a strategic target," Erdogan said, in a reference to the United States.

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S&P lowers Turkey's credit rating deeper into junk territory
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Moody's downgrades Turkey to Ba3, assigns negative outlook
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Borrowing costs may rise further after both Moody's and



Supporters of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan shout slogans during the sixth Congress of the ruling AK Party in Ankara

Standard & Poor's ratings agencies cut Turkey's sovereign credit ratings deeper into "junk" territory late on Friday.

"They should have given him back a long time ago, and Turkey has in my opinion acted very, very badly," Trump told reporters at the White House, referring to Brunson. "So, we haven't seen the last of that. We are not going to take it sitting down. They can't take our people."

Trump's comments came after a court in Izmir province rejected an appeal to release Brunson from house arrest, saying evidence was still being collected and the pastor posed a flight risk, according to a copy of the court ruling seen by Reuters.

Brunson is being held on terrorism charges, which he denies. Trump, who counts evangelical Christians among his core supporters, has increasingly championed the pastor's case.

It was not immediately clear what additional measures, if any, Trump could be considering. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Trump on Thursday that more sanctions were ready if Brunson were not freed.

The United States and Turkey have imposed tit-for-tat tariffs in an escalating attempt by Trump to induce Erdogan into giving up the pastor. Erdogan has cast the tariffs, and the lira's sell-off, as an "economic war" against Turkey.

As the row deepens, Turkey has sought to improve strained ties with European allies. In a telephone call on Friday, Finance Minister Berat Albayrak and his French counterpart Bruno Le Maire discussed U.S. sanctions

against Turkey and cooperation between their countries, Albayrak's ministry said.

"Diplomatic negotiations hit speed-bumps and that's not unusual in these kinds of situations," said Jay Sekulow, a personal attorney for Trump who is also representing Brunson's family. "We remain hopeful there will be a prompt resolution. Having said that, we fully support the president's approach."

Whatever action the United States takes looks likely to cause more pain for Turkish assets.

"There has been no improvement in relations with the U.S. and additional sanctions may be on the horizon," said William Jackson of Capital Economics in a note to clients, adding that the lira could see a downward trend in 2019 and beyond.

Turkey's banking watchdog has taken steps to stabilize the currency, limiting futures transactions for offshore investors and lowering limits on swap transactions. On Friday, it further broadened those caps.

But some economists have called for more decisive moves.

Turkey and its firms face repayments of nearly \$3.8 billion on foreign currency bonds in October, Societe Generale has calculated. It estimates Turkey's short-term external debt at \$180 billion and total external debt at \$460 billion - the highest in emerging markets.

Companies that for years have borrowed abroad at low interest rates have seen their cost of servicing foreign debt rise by a quarter in lira terms in two months.

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Experience the Bayou City like never before with this Houston Bucket List

By Daniela Sternitzky-Di

Blistering heat, traffic jams, and boring routines consume most of our time, especially in a huge spread-out city like Houston. However, along our routes are different historic landmarks, museums, or scenic locations that — if just give them a chance — will offer both locals and non-locals a look into Houston's unique culture.

For example, the Glenwood Cemetery was developed in 1871 and is the city's first professionally designed cemetery. People can take a tour and see where some Bayou City notables like Howard Huges, George Herman, and Gene Tierney and laid to rest.

Along Munger Street near I-45 and Telephone road is the Orange Show Monument, a whimsical building restored in 1980 that is now home to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, a hub for folk art activity.

that is now home to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, a hub for folk art activity.

Hidden in Houston's nook and crannies are some of the best restaurants, outdoor adventures, art installations, and other activities that everyone should experience at least once.



Explore the Orange Show, Houston's hub for folk art activity...

Controversial 'lady' & 'gentleman' sign removed from locker room at Houston's PK-5 Education Center

A controversial sign on the wall of a Houston ISD middle school was removed late Friday after it landed the state's largest district in the middle of controversy a week before the new school year even began.

The sign, which read "The more you act like a lady, the more he'll act like a gentleman," previously was displayed above a bank of lockers inside a girls' locker room at Gregory Lincoln, a K-8 school at 1101 Taft St.

The quote sparked a controversy this week, before school had even begun in Texas' largest school district, after Twitter user Stephanie Wittels Wachs posted a now-viral photo of the sign on social media, labeling it "victim-blaming" against

women for "sexual violence against them."

"This outrageous victim-blaming message is painted on the wall of a MIDDLE SCHOOL in @HoustonISD, blatantly perpetuating the horrific myth that girls are to blame for sexual violence against them. Absolutely disgusting. Paint over it now," Wachs tweeted.

In a statement to the Houston Chronicle on Friday, district officials wrote, "The quote does not align with HISD values, and it will be taken down."



蔡英文

妳 分裂台灣,製造各個階層的對立
 妳 耗損公帑,衰退經貿,無視小市民的痛苦和吶喊
 妳 毀憲亂政,假改革真鬥爭
 妳 錯誤、粗糙、刻薄、高傲的政策,不是改革
 妳 冰封兩岸,把台灣推向戰爭
 妳 灑錢外交,換到的是流失邦交國
 妳 在野時批台電藏電,執政後卻無法提供穩定電源
 妳 踐踏政府基石,把軍警消公教勞玩弄於股掌之上
 妳 酬庸選舉,任用不適任的部長、國策顧問、經理
 妳 「一例一休」亂修法,讓各行各業困擾,年輕人絕望
 妳!施政無能!民粹治國!我們不歡迎妳!

休士頓泛藍支持中華民國九合一選舉後援會
 休士頓中山學術研究會
 國民黨華府中山分部

Editor's Choice



Merkel and Putin speak at Meseberg Palace in Gransee



FILE PHOTO: A vendor inspects Iranian rials at a currency exchange shop in Baghdad



Gold Medalists Christian Sandlie Sørum (NOR) and Anders Berntsen Mol (NOR)



Health workers from the Alliance For International Medical Action are seen as they prepare the facility for Ebola patients at the Ebola Treatment Center in the town of Beni



FILE PHOTO - U.N.-Arab League mediator Annan addresses a news conference in Geneva



Diamond League - Birmingham Grand Prix



The Wider Image: Venezuelans rush to shops before monetary overhaul



Supporters of Imran Khan, chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, gesture to celebrate after Khan was elected as Prime Minister, in Peshawar

For the second consecutive year, the Houston Community College (HCC) Procurement Department has been honored with a prestigious award from the National Procurement Institute (NPI), Inc.

HCC is one of only four institutions of higher education in Texas to receive this award in 2017. Nationwide, only 25 colleges and universities have been so honored.

The award recognizes organizations that demonstrate excellence in public procurement through best purchasing practices with client departments and vendors.



Achievement of Excellence in Procurement

Dr. Cesar Maldonado, HCC Chancellor, said the college's procurement team earned the award through hard work. "I congratulate the team members on their dedication to best practices," Maldonado remarked.

For Rogelio Anasagasti, Executive Director of Procurement, the award shows the HCC team has a high level of innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership.

To learn more about the HCC Procurement Department and its mission, visit, www.hccs.edu/procurement.

Related

HCC STEM Campers Receive Encouragement From Industry Professional



"You can do it!" resonated throughout the large lecture hall as students, camp counselor, special guests and Apple executives sat captivated by speaker Priscilla Rodriguez.

During the Houston Community College (HCC) Summer STEM Camp, Rodriguez, a full-stack software engineer, offered words of encouragement through sharing her own stories of challenges and triumphs.

"Imagine your high school counselors, after you've been accepted to one of the top universities in the country like University of Southern California-Berkeley, telling you that you shouldn't be going there, it's too competitive for you, you won't be able to handle it, and you should try another local university," Rodriguez said.

Now a graduate of the University of Southern California-Viterbi School of Engineering, Rodriguez went on to



HCC Honored Again With National Procurement Award

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

achieve her personal and professional goals and is a member of the National Center for Women and Information Technology.



Like Rodriguez, ninth-grade camper Thomas Cortez from Stephen F. Austin High School made the decision to follow his passion.

"My parents told me to follow something other than gaming, but since it's what I like and where my passion is, I decided to actually mold what my parents said and my passion," Cortez said.

HCC Summer STEM Camp is designed to introduce middle school and high school students to STEM careers. This year, the camp introduced girls to Swift Playgrounds, a programming language application for iPad that makes learning interactive and fun.

HCC's iOS Coding and Design School (iCDS). The program will give students cutting-edge skills and training on de-

veloping iOS Apple apps and coding in the iOS Apple platform.

For information on Swift Curriculum, visit: hccs.edu/coders.

About HCC

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society.

Advertisement for Houston Global Trade Conference & Expo 2018, September 25-26. Organized by Houston International Trade Development Council, Inc.

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Hundreds Lining Up for Gushing West Texas Oil Jobs

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

ODESSA, TEXAS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Job fairs are stocked with people hungry for better opportunities, but inside the MCM Grande Hotel in Odessa, Texas, oil services giant Halliburton is the one doing the wooing.

"We need to hire you is our message," said Chris Redman, a field services manager with Summit ESP, which Halliburton acquired last year.

More than 500 men and women flocked to the hotel in Odessa, Texas, on a Thursday last month to be courted by Halliburton, which needs people to handle everything from oilfield technicians to truck drivers, as oil production booms and qualified workers become more scarce.

The U.S. unemployment rate is 3.9 percent, just off an 18-year low, but job growth has slowed more recently - notably because companies are having trouble finding people.



Job seekers line up at a job fair of an oil services giant Halliburton at the MCM Grande Fundome hotel in Odessa Texas, July 19, 2018. Photo/REUTERS

That is particularly true in the oilfields of West Texas, where workers from local towns like Midland and Odessa have flocked to the oil industry for higher pay. According to a June Dallas Federal Reserve Bank survey of 60 oil executives operating in West Texas, more than half cited difficulty finding workers as a potential drag on growth.

Halliburton, the second largest provider of oilfield services after Schlumberger, is adding more than 175 jobs a month, hiring executives say. Redman said people with commercial drivers' licenses are in particular demand, but numerous attendees at



Job fairs are stocked with people hungry for better opportunities, but inside an Odessa hotel, oil services giant Halliburton is the one doing the wooing.

the jobs fair do not have that license.



Janice Venables, 57, drove out to West Texas from Mississippi a month ago, after being laid off from Mississippi Power last year. She is applying for two jobs with Halliburton, but says she has applied for as many as 26 other oilfield jobs.

"I don't care where I go. I just need a job, and I've heard the wages are good," said Venables. She lives in a recreational vehicle with her dog and cat, does not have a commercial driver's license, but has started the process to enroll in a commercial driving class this fall.

Kenneth McGowan, 21, drove 12 hours from Mississippi with five friends, some

just above the legal age to work for Halliburton, to apply for oilfield jobs.

Like many in attendance, they heard about the fair through a Facebook advertisement. McGowan, who works as a stocker at a Walmart, hopes to find a job providing cementing services for wells.



"I'm not worried about the long hours," said McGowan, who is supporting a 3-year-old daughter. He does not have a commercial driver's license, but said he is prepared to get one if needed.

McGowan and his friends are not the only job hopefuls to make the trek from Mississippi, where employment in June was 4.7 percent, one of the highest levels in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The rush to apply for commercial drivers' licenses comes as demand for truck drivers, in the oil industry and elsewhere,

has driven up wages for anyone with the license.



Frank Hardin of Tennessee, who previously drove trucks delivering sand with Amerifield Inc, said he recently landed a job as a driver CIG Logistics. (Courtesy yahoo.com/news) "That's what everyone wants. It's a cakewalk for guys who've been on the road for years," he said. (Courtesy reuters.com) (Courtesy reuters.com)

Related

New Mexico, Texas oil boom sparks electricity demand surge

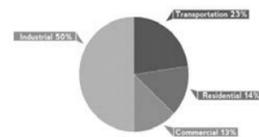
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Electricity demand on Xcel Energy's grid is reaching all-time records thanks to the oil and gas boom in southeastern New Mexico and West Texas.

Xcel Energy New Mexico and Texas president David Hudson says oil and gas production in the Permian Basin is driving accelerated load growth on the grid, The Albuquerque Journal reports.

The regional transmission network delivered 6.15 gigawatts of electricity to customers on July 19. That's about 350 megawatts more than the company had predicted in peak demand on any given day for this year, and the highest amount ever managed by the network.

Hudson told the Journal that a heat wave in July contributed to the surge, but the Minneapolis-based company is seeing extreme strength in load growth in New Mexico's Eddy and Lea counties.

TEXAS ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY END-USE SECTOR, 2011 (PERCENT)



Source: EIA, Energy Data

IER

"We're now projecting to connect at least another 286 megawatts of load growth this year to the system, and that wasn't even in our forecast for this year," Hudson said.

Most of the growth is coming from the Delaware Basin, an oval shaped shale rock formation that protrudes from southwest Texas northward into Eddy and Lea counties. Modern drilling technologies have turned that zone into one of the most-productive oil and gas plays in the world. That's particularly true in Eddy County, where companies are also setting up new large-scale gas-processing facilities.

Excel is investing heavily in new infrastructure to meet demand. Last week, it inaugurated an 86-mile (138-kilometer), 345 kilowatt transmission line from Hobbs to the newly built China Draw Substation southeast of Carlsbad.

The \$140 million project is the first of several segments of a \$400 million transmission improvement project that by 2020 will connect to the TUCO substation north of Lubbock, Texas, said Xcel spokesman Wes Reeves.



Since 2011, the company has invested in more than 800 miles (1,287 kilometers) of transmission lines and more than 30 new substations, plus upgrades to another 40 substations. Counting new projects now planned or underway, the company will have invested about \$3 billion in regional infrastructure by 2021, Reeves said. (Courtesy https://www.mysanantonio.com)

全球晨間直播上線

早安，休士頓

主播高白

畢業於浙江傳媒學院新聞系播音與主持專業，中國國家級普通話測評員、中國國家級主任播音員。
1986年至2009年任浙江衛視首席新聞主播，2010年至2015年任浙江衛視駐美國首席記者兼新華社駐休士頓記者（2016年卸任）。

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休士頓Anya Tish Gallery和舊金山The Secondbedroom Gallery 代理畫家，休士頓大學（美國）繪畫系碩士，首都師範大學（中國）油畫、影視技術雙學士。曾任教休士頓大學繪畫基礎部，Art League Houston美術中心。作品曾多次展覽於美國休士頓、達拉斯、洛杉磯等城市，中國北京、江蘇、上海、廣州等城市以及韓國。

美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響；為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。