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Turkey seeks to end 'arm wrestling' in Syria



Turkey is very uncomfortable with some countries that have turned Syria into arm wrestling arena, President Erdogan says

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - Turkey is "very uncomfortable" with some countries that have turned Syria into an "arm wrestling arena," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday. "We are very uncomfortable that some countries, which rely on their military power, are turning Syria into an arm wrestling arena," Erdogan said at opening ceremony of 36-kilometer (22 miles) long Baskentray rail in the capital Ankara. Erdogan's remarks came a day after U.S. President

Donald Trump warned Russia on Twitter to brace for U.S. military engagement in Syria following a suspected chemical attack in Douma, Eastern Ghouta on April 8 that killed dozens of people. Trump also blamed Moscow for being partners with "a gas killing animal", referring to Syria's Bashar al-Assad. Trump's posts on Twitter followed a warning from Moscow that the risk of a direct military clash between Russia and the U.S. in Syria "is higher than before", with a Russian envoy saying that U.S. missiles... **MORE DETAILS**



Ankara gets revamped rail line

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday inaugurated a renovated suburban rail line in the capital Ankara. During the opening ceremony, Erdogan said Ankara had taken remarkable steps in modernizing the urban setting over the past 15 years. He said the renovated line, "Baskentray", will be free of

charge until 24 April. The 36-kilometer long (22 miles) rail line will operate on 15 tracks and 23 stations between the eastern suburb of Kayas, the city center, and Sincan suburb to the west of the capital, according to the Turkish State Railways. Also speaking at the ceremony, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said the project had cost around 1.22 billion Turkish... **MORE DETAILS**

6K civilians of E. Ghouta placed in safe areas



193,723 Syrians have been placed in camps in Euphrates Shield area, says Turkish aid agency's head

By Izzet Mazi

KILIS - Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD) head on Thursday said over 6,089 civilians who fled Eastern Ghouta were placed in the Euphrates Shield area. Nearly 1,080,000 Syrians are currently living in the Euphrates Shield area and 193,723 of them are in camps, Mehmet Gulluoglu told Anadolu Agency.

Turkey's Operation Euphrates Shield, launched in late 2016, liberated northern Syria's Al-Bab city from the Daesh terrorist group. The operation, which ended in March of last year, largely succeeded in purging the Turkish-Syrian border area of terrorists. Gulluoglu said that at least 130,000 civilians have been evacuated from Eastern Ghouta since the evacuation process began on March 22 and AFAD

has been doing its best to host the displaced people. "Teams from the health ministry have conducted health screenings of those placed in the camps, while various non-governmental organizations provide food, hot meals, and basic equipment," Gulluoglu said. He added: "To meet their needs, so far 3,142 truckloads of humanitarian aid has been shipped from AFAD's logistics warehouse in Cobanbey." **MORE DETAILS**



Azerbaijan reelects Aliyev as president

By Jeyhun Aliyev

ANKARA - Ilham Aliyev has been reelected as Azerbaijani president for the fourth time, according to the preliminary results. In a news conference on late Wednesday, Mazahir Panahov, the head of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Azerbaijan, announced that Aliyev received 86.09 percent votes

in the elections. Panahov noted that the voter turnout in the election was 74.51 percent. Addressing the nation, Aliyev said: "In this election, the people of Azerbaijan voted for stability, security, development, prosperity, and highly appreciated what has been done over the past 15 years. We have achieved this success together with you." "There is not... **MORE DETAILS**