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Thursday, April 19, 2018

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Erdogan announces early elections

Syria operation and situation in both Syria and Iraq obliged Turkey to overcome uncertainties, says Erdogan

By Sena Guler

ANKARA - President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday announced early presidential and parliamentary elections on June 24. Speaking at a news conference at the presidential complex following a meeting with opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) head Devlet Bahçeli, Erdogan said: "Turkey's cross border operation in Syria, and the situation in both

Syria and Iraq obliged Turkey to overcome uncertainties as soon as possible. "For this reason at the end of talks with Mr. Bahçeli, we decided to hold elections on June 24, 2018 on Sunday." He also added that transition to the new system of governance gained urgency in order to take and implement decisions "more strongly" regarding the future of the country. "In a period, when developments in... [MORE DETAILS](#)



President of Turkey and the leader of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) Recep Tayyip Erdogan



Anadolu Agency Photo

Istanbul rolls out first self-driving electric vehicle

ISTANBUL - Istanbulites will soon enjoy the city's first self-driving electric vehicle built by its public transport authority. The Istanbul Electric Tram and Tunnel Company

(IETT) introduced its innovative shuttle at World Cities Congress on Tuesday, the first of the three-day event. Science, Industry, and Technology... [MORE DETAILS](#)

'EU painting terror group as NGO is very wrong'

By Sibel Ugurlu



ANKARA - Turkey blasted the EU on Wednesday for painting the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) -- the group behind a defeated July 2016 coup -- as an "innocent NGO."

"It's extremely wrong to mention FETO as an innocent non-governmental organization," Omer Celik, Turkey's EU minister, told a news conference in the capital Ankara. His remarks come a day after the European Commission released a report on the state of Turkey's EU accession bid, after a one-and-a-half-year hiatus since the last report. While calling the July 2016 defeated coup attempt, which martyred 250 people and injured some 2,200, "a traumatic period in Turkey," the report's description of FETO is unchanged from the November 2016 report, with both calling the terrorist group the... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Strike on Assad and Israel's side-war

By Dr. Makram Rabah



ANALYSIS

LEBANON - As the world anxiously watched the unfolding of the Western punitive strike against Bashar al-Assad, much speculation has risen about the repercussions of such a move and to what extent this military action would trigger a wider regional conflict involving Israel and Iran. Shortly after the recent chemical attack on Douma, four Israeli fighter jets used Lebanon's airspace to launch an attack against the T4 Syrian air force base near Homs, killing 14, including seven members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRG). This somewhat anticipated sortie might have gone... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Arrest warrants out for 35 FETO-linked suspects

ANKARA - Turkish prosecutors on Wednesday issued arrest warrants for 35 people over their suspected links to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the terror group behind the 2016 defeated coup in Turkey. The 10 of the wanted suspects are allegedly FETO's "covert imams" in Turkish Naval Forces Command, according to a statement issued by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Ankara. Police have so far arrested nine suspects

during the simultaneous raids across the city, the statement said, adding the operations are continuing to nab the remaining suspect. Meanwhile, Ankara prosecutors also issued arrest warrants for 25 more people, including 16 colonels and nine lieutenant colonels, as part of its probe into FETO-linked soldiers in Air Forces Commands. Later, the police arrested 18 suspects in eight different provinces, including the capital, the office said in another statement. [MORE DETAILS](#)