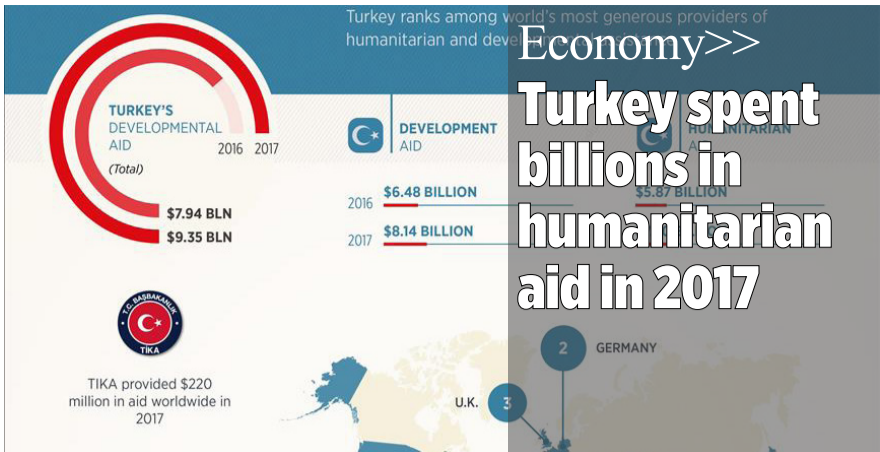




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Anadolu Agency Photo

18 FETO jailed for martyring Turkish hero Halisdemir

ANKARA - The 14th High Criminal Court in capital Ankara handed down aggravated life sentences to 18 Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) convicts for their roles in the murder of Turkish officer Omer Halisdemir during the 2016 defeated coup in Turkey, according

to a judicial source said on Thursday. The convicts were sentenced on charges of intentional killing and attempting to overthrow the constitutional order, the source, who asked not be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media, said. Later, sentences... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Deputy Premier Bekir Bozdag says Turkey to open 'new period' through planned early elections on June 24

By Meryem Goktas and Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag on Thursday said the planned early elections in Turkey is a step to foil "dirty calculations". Speaking to the Anadolu Agency's Editors' Desk in capital Ankara, Bozdag said: "To move the elections to an earlier time foils the step of those who have made dirty calculations against Turkey. "The new system of government will be implemented through the will of people on June 24."

The deputy premier said Turks will open a "new period" on June 24 through the planned early elections. "We decided to move the elections to an earlier date to prevent Turkey from getting harmed," he said, adding that this would also end debates about the elections in the country. "The scenario in Turkey will be written by Turkish people, not by others anymore; everyone will be liable to the scenario written by the people." Bozdag also said President Recep Tayyip... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag



Anadolu Agency Photo

Turkey continues delivering aid to Rohingya

TIKA delivered aid packages including personal care products, food items to at least 2,000 Rohingya families

ANKARA - The Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency (TIKA) continues to provide humanitarian aid for the Muslim Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the agency said Thursday. TIKA said in a statement that aid packages including personal care products and food items have been delivered to 2,000 Rohingya families in cooperation with Kazakhstan. The agency is planning to distribute aid

to 20,000 families during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, it said. The Rohingya, described by the UN as the world's most persecuted people, have faced heightened fears of attack since dozens were killed in communal violence in 2012. Since Aug. 25, 2017, some 750,000 refugees, mostly children and women, fled Myanmar when Myanmar forces launched a crackdown on the minority

Muslim community, according to the UN. Local media reports suggest at least 6,000 Rohingya have been living in the no man's land -- a small strip of land along the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. At least 9,000 Rohingya were killed in Rakhine state from Aug. 25 to Sept. 24, according to Doctors Without Borders. In a report published on... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Greek court releases Turkish coup plotter

By Furkan Naci Top

ATHENS - A Greek court on Thursday set free a Turkish coup plotter under judicial control. The asylum request of Suleyman Ozkaynakci, the coup plotter, had been accepted in Dec. 2017 by Independent Asylum Commission, but later the Greek government raised objection over it. He was released briefly after being granted asylum but arrested again after the government raised objection over the granting of asylum. The Greek Council of State,

the country's supreme administrative court, evaluated the government's objection on Thursday and ordered release of Ozkaymakci under strict control until the results of asylum applications of all eight Turkish coup plotters come out. The Council of State is expected to make a final decision over the asylum requests of all the eight ex-Turkish soldiers on May 4. According to Greek law, maximum detention period is 18 months, which will expire at the end of May for the all the coup plotters. [MORE DETAILS](#)

New Afrin border gate named 'Kumlu'

By Orhan Onur Gemici

ANKARA - A new border crossing to northwestern Syria's Afrin region, which is expected to accelerate humanitarian aid delivery, will be named the "Kumlu Border Crossing", according to an official source. The border crossing is part of Turkey's efforts to develop

the region, the source, who requested anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media, said. The source also said construction of the gate had already begun, adding that necessary approvals were made for the setup of the border crossing, which would become operational within a short time. [MORE DETAILS](#)