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President's candidacy filed with election board



Premier Binali Yildirim, MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli file paperwork for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to seek 2nd term

By Satuk Bugra Kutlugun

ANKARA - Top Turkish political leaders on Friday filed paperwork for Recep Tayyip Erdogan to seek another term as president. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli filed the candidacy with the Supreme Board of Elections at 11.00 a.m. Speaking afterwards, Yildirim touted the election alliance

between the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party and the MHP, calling it the "strongest" partnership for the June 24 elections. "Our alliance is with our nation. When we chose our candidate, we only thought about the future of our nation's prosperity and happiness," Yildirim said. Erdogan has served as president since 2014 -- Turkey's first popularly elected president. Before that, he served as prime minister,

from 2003 to 2014. Should he win the June election, Erdogan would be Turkey's first leader under the presidential system, doing away with the prime minister's post, among other changes. Last month, parliament passed a bill calling for early elections on June 24, cementing Turkey's move to a presidential system. In an April 2017 referendum, Turkish voters approved the switch from... **MORE DETAILS**



Iraqi FM looks to boost ties in Ankara

ANKARA - Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday met his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari in capital Ankara as part of his official visit to Turkey. Speaking to reporters ahead of a bilateral meeting at the Foreign Ministry residence, Cavusoglu said al-Jaafari

is in Turkey to attend the joint economic commission meeting. Cavusoglu and al-Jaafari spoke frequently over the phone and met at many international meetings, the Turkish foreign minister said. Bilateral issues... **MORE DETAILS**

Voting for early Turkish polls to begin June 9 in US

WASHINGTON - Turkish citizens living in the U.S. will be able to cast their ballots for Turkey's early presidential and parliamentary elections between June 9-17. Last month, the parliament passed a bill calling for early elections on June 24, cementing Turkey's move to a presidential system. In an April 2017 referendum, Turkish voters had approved the switch from a parliamentary system to a presidential one. According to a statement by the Turkish Embassy in

Washington, Turkish expats in the U.S. will be able to vote for nine days from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. local time at the Turkish embassy in Washington and in consulate generals in Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Chicago. If no presidential candidate can obtain an absolute majority of votes, a second round will be held on July 8. Turkish expats in the U.S. will also be able to vote for the second round between June 30-July 4. Over 100,000 Turks are eligible to vote... **MORE DETAILS**



Turkish defense giant's orders reach \$7.5B

By Goksel Yildirim

ANKARA - A Turkish defense giant had received orders worth \$7.5 billion from its customers as of this March, according to data compiled by Anadolu Agency.

The value of Aselsan's long-term projects -- to be completed by 2025 -- totaled \$6.8 billion as of the end of 2017. In the first three months of this year, the company's consolidated net sales climbed 27.1... **MORE DETAILS**

Gaza violence exacerbates suffering of children



5 children have been killed, hundreds injured during protests in Gaza over past 5 weeks, UNICEF regional director says

By Fatih Erel

GENEVA - Israeli security forces have killed five Palestinian children and injured hundreds others during protests in Gaza over the past five weeks, UN

Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday. "Over the past five weeks, five children were killed and hundreds were injured in largely peaceful protests in Gaza," UNICEF Regional Director for the

Middle East and North Africa Geert Cappelaere said in a statement on Friday. Noting that children have been showing signs of severe distress and trauma, Cappelaere said: **MORE DETAILS**