

# Turkey to drill in Mediterranean this year

*Turkey accelerates seismic research and drilling activities in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, says Minister Donmez*

By Murat Temizer

ANKARA - Turkey, with the aid of the country's first drilling vessel, Fatih, will drill its first well in the Mediterranean this year, Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister

Fatih Donmez said late Thursday. Donmez, speaking at the Belt and Road Investment and Financial Cooperation Summit in Turkish capital Ankara, said Turkey has accelerated seismic research and drilling... [MORE DETAILS](#)



## Ankara denies claims of 'deal with US'

By Tugcenur Yilmaz

ANKARA - A senior Turkish official on Friday denied reports of a deal between Ankara and Washington to secure the release of a Turkish citizen in Israel in exchange of a U.S. pastor in Turkey. Speaking to Anadolu Agency on the condition of

anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media, the official said: "We have seen media reports claiming that a deal was made between Turkey and the U.S. to secure the release of Ebru Ozkan, a Turkish citizen imprisoned in Israel on bogus terrorism charges, in return for the release of Andrew Brunson by a Turkish court." [MORE DETAILS](#)

## Turkey aims to enhance cooperation with BRICS



ANKARA - Turkey sees the 10th BRICS summit as an opportunity to develop cooperation in the field of economy, investment and development areas, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday.

"We wish to conclude membership negotiations between our Treasury and Finance Ministry and BRICS' new development bank in a short term. We can team up to establish [...] more objective credit rating agencies,"

Erdogan said at the summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Turkish president said that his country also aims to move forward the cooperation with BRICS in the field of energy. [MORE DETAILS](#)



## Greek fire victims blame authorities for devastation

By Magda Panoutsopoulou

ATHENS - An elderly man, standing outside his house, was using a garden hose to toss water on what was left from his house after

Monday's deadly wildfires in Greece. The wildfires, which is the deadliest in the country's recent history, left at least 85 people dead and several others injured. [MORE DETAILS](#)

## 44 terrorists 'neutralized' over past week in Turkey

ANKARA - A total of 44 terrorists were "neutralized" during counter-terrorism operations on Turkish soil and in northern Iraq over the past week, the military said on Friday. Turkish authorities often use the word "neutralized" in their statements to imply that the terrorists in question either surrendered or were killed or captured. In a weekly statement,

Turkish Armed Forces said the counter-terrorism raids were carried out in eastern Sirtak, Mardin, Erzurum and Bingol provinces as well as in northern Iraq regions from July 20-27. Some 24 infantry rifles, 12 RPG-7 rocket launchers, ammunitions and explosives were seized during the operations. It added the operations destroyed six... [MORE DETAILS](#)

## Israeli forces storm Aqsa, injuring worshipers



JERUSALEM - Dozens of Palestinians were injured on Friday when Israeli forces entered East Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque and began attacking Muslim worshipers, according to a Palestinian official. "At least 60 soldiers entered the mosque compound, where they used teargas and stun grenades to disperse worshipers after Friday prayers," Firas al-Dibs, a spokesman for Jerusalem's Jordan-run Religious Endowments Authority, said in a statement. "Fifteen Palestinians were reportedly injured, including three mosque guards," he added. According to al-Dibs... [MORE DETAILS](#)