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Erdogan names 14 more mayoral candidates

By Aynur Ekiz

ANKARA - Turkey's president and ruling party leader on Thursday named 14 more mayoral candidates for local elections next March, but kept the candidate for Istanbul -- which holds nearly one-fifth of Turkey's population -- under wraps. Candidates for one large metropolitan municipality and 13 provincial municipalities were announced by Recep Tayyip Erdogan, head of the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party, at party headquarters in the

capital Ankara. Erdogan nominated Necdet Takva, head of the chamber of industry and commerce for the eastern province of Van, for the mayor of metropolitan Van, the province's capital. Other candidates are as follows: for the city of Agri - Savci Sayan; Aksaray - Enver Dincer; Bilecik - Nihat Can; Erzincan - Cemalettin Bassoy; Edirne - Koray Uymaz; Igdır - Adil Asirim; Isparta - Sukru Basdegirmen; Kars - Ensar Erdogan; Kırşehir - Yasar Bahceci; Kütahya - Ahmet Sami Kutlu; Siirt - Ali Ilbas;... **MORE DETAILS**

Largest heroin bust in Turkish history

Interior minister says heroin seized in anti-drug operation in eastern Erzincan province



ANKARA - Turkey's interior minister said on Thursday that Wednesday's heroin bust of over 1 ton was the largest in Turkish history. Speaking at an international drug conference in the Mediterranean city of Antalya, Suleyman Soyly said that anti-drug teams seized 1.27 tons of heroin Wednesday in the eastern Erzincan province. The confiscation came during a search on the back of a truck after it was stopped at a security checkpoint -- set up upon intelligence reports, he said. According to a police data, Turkish security forces have caught a total of 17.3 tons of heroin in 2018, arresting more than 1,500 suspects. Underlining the PKK's... **MORE DETAILS**

France cancels fuel tax hikes amid protests



'Government showing it is ready for dialogue because tax increase has been dropped from 2019 budget bill,' says PMA

PARIS - France has abandoned an increase in fuel taxes following weeks of violent demonstrations. "The government is ready for dialogue and is showing it because this tax increase has been dropped

from the 2019 budget bill," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said Wednesday in a speech at the National Assembly, or lower house of parliament. The move follows an announcement

by Philippe the previous day that tax hikes would be delayed for six months and that the suspension would also apply to increases in gas and electricity prices. Thousands of protesters... **MORE DETAILS**



'Israel continues to invade Palestinian territory'

STOCKHOLM - Israel continues to invade Palestinian territory in violation of international law, a co-winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry said Wednesday. George P. Smith, professor emeritus of biological

sciences at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the U.S., was in Stockholm to attend the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony. He was invited to speak at a conference organized by the Association of Palestinians... **MORE DETAILS**

Carbon emissions to hit record levels in 2018

By Gulbin Yildirim

WASHINGTON - Global emissions of carbon dioxide have risen substantially and are expected to hit record levels this year, scientists projected in a new report

released Wednesday. After three years of almost no growth, carbon emissions from fossil fuels and industry are projected to increase by 2.7 percent in 2018, according to an annual report by the Global Carbon Project... **MORE DETAILS**