

LAST WEEK IN TÜRKİYE



- 1. 833 delegates submit signatures demanding CHP congress**
- 2. İmamoğlu files new diploma case at the top court, Danıştay**
- 3. İstanbul's female municipal official alleges cavity search**
- 4. EU Parliament's sanctions on Turkish Justice Minister**
- 5. İstanbul district mayor dismissed as CHP probes widen**
- 6. Türkiye blocks access to queer dating app Hornet**
- 7. Private school teachers launch hunger strike in Ankara**
- 8. Unpaid miners lock themselves up 1,200 meters down**
- 9. At least 212 workers killed on the job in May**
- 10. Gümüşel convicted of abusing 6-year-old, released**
- 11. Türkiye's EU plastic waste imports hit a record in 2025**
- 12. Hezbollah-linked foundation holds mass girl's veiling event**
- 13. Turkish Central Bank reserve at its lowest in a year**



833 CHP DELEGATES SUBMIT SIGNATURES DEMANDING EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS



A total of 833 CHP delegates submitted notarized signatures demanding an extraordinary party congress after a court annulled the party's 2023 congress, putting pressure on court-appointed party leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu to call a new vote. If Kılıçdaroğlu does not act within the next 10 days, delegates and party officials aligned with Özgür Özel say they will seek a court order to convene the congress and appoint a committee to oversee it.



June 18, 2026

MEDYASCOPE

İMAMOĞLU FILES NEW LAWSUIT AGAINST DIPLOMA CANCELLATION AT TOP COURT, DANIŞTAY



İstanbul Mayor and CHP presidential candidate Ekrem İmamoğlu filed a new lawsuit against the cancellation of his university diploma at the top court, the Council of State (Danıştay), after lower court appeals were rejected. His lawyers also requested that the ruling be suspended. The appeal argues that the annulment of the diploma is baseless, unlawful, and politically motivated, and that the court decisions ignored key evidence, violated due process, and undermined legal certainty. >>>

June 18, 2026

BIANET

İSTANBUL'S FEMALE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL ALLEGES CAVITY SEARCH DURING DETENTION



Fatoş Pinar Türker, a detained executive of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality's media company, alleged that she was stripped and subjected to a cavity search and degrading treatment while in police custody, prompting condemnation from human rights groups, women's organizations, and EU officials. İstanbul police denied the allegations, insisting that all detention procedures were conducted lawfully and in accordance with human rights standards.



JUNE 18, 2026

BIANET

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR SANCTIONS ON TÜRKİYE'S JUSTICE MINISTER



The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for sanctions (the first ever on a person) against Türkiye's new Justice Minister, Akin Gurlek, over concerns about violations of judicial independence and political interference through the legal system. The measure reflects growing criticism of democratic backsliding and the mistreatment of opposition figures, journalists, and civil society in Türkiye.



June 18, 2026

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İSTANBUL DISTRICT MAYOR SUSPENDED AS OPERATIONS TARGET CHP MUNICIPALITIES



Authorities arrested Silivri Mayor Bora Balcioğlu and suspended him from office as part of a corruption investigation, while he and the opposition CHP described the case as politically motivated. Separate operations in İzmir and Antalya led to the detention of 25 people on allegations including bribery, bid rigging, and public contract irregularities, amid a broader crackdown targeting dozens of CHP-run municipalities across Türkiye.



June 18, 2026

BIANET

TÜRKİYE BLOCKS ACCESS TO QUEER DATING APP HORNET



Türkiye has again blocked access to Hornet, a queer social networking and dating app with more than 100 million users globally and over 3 million users in the country, following a court order issued on Jun. 5. The move comes despite a 2023 Constitutional Court ruling that a previous ban on the platform violated freedom of expression and communication, leading to the restoration of access at that time.



PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS LAUNCH HUNGER STRIKE



Private school teachers in Türkiye launched a hunger strike in Ankara after police dispersed protests for a second consecutive day, detaining dozens of demonstrators, including union leaders. The teachers are demanding better pay, job security, and working conditions, arguing that they face exploitation and significantly fewer rights than their counterparts in public schools.



June 18, 2026

BIANET

UNPAID EDİRNE MINERS LOCK THEMSELVES UP 1,200 METERS UNDERGROUND FOR HUNGER STRIKE



Miners in Edirne began an underground strike on Jun 13, demanding unpaid wages after over three weeks of protest. Today, gunshots were fired above ground while union members and workers' families approached the company building, though no casualties were reported. The Independent Mine Workers Union reported the incident and called for arrests, while police summoned a union executive following a complaint from the company owner. The miners have locked themselves up 1200 meters underground and started a hunger strike.



AT LEAST 212 WORKERS KILLED ON THE JOB IN MAY



At least 212 workers were killed in workplace incidents in Türkiye in May, bringing the total number of work-related deaths in the first five months of 2026 to at least 835, according to the Health and Safety Labor Watch (İSiG). Seven child workers were among the dead, including a 15-year-old intern in the MESEM vocational education program, which İSiG criticized as a system that enables low-cost child labor under the guise of training.



YUSUF ZIYA GÜMÜŞEL RELEASED AFTER COURT OVERTURNS CONVICTION IN CHILD ABUSE CASE



Yusuf Ziya Gümüşel, founder of the Hiranur Foundation linked to the İsmailağa community, has been released under judicial control after a court overturned his conviction in a case involving the sexual abuse of his 6-year-old daughter in Türkiye. The decision followed a higher court ruling citing an incomplete examination of evidence, while public reactions were divided, with some religious figures welcoming the release and rights advocates condemning it.



TÜRKIYE'S PLASTIC WASTE IMPORTS FROM EU COUNTRIES HIT RECORD HIGH IN 2025



Türkiye remained the largest importer of plastic waste from the European Union, receiving over 503,000 tons in 2025, a 19% increase and a record high, according to Greenpeace. The report criticizes the gap between Türkiye's "zero waste" policy goals and reality, calling for a ban on waste imports and stronger limits on plastic production and petrochemical expansion.



HEZBOLLAH-LINKED FOUNDATION, WITH EDUCATION MINISTRY PROTOCOL, HOLDS MASS GIRLS' VEILING EVENT



A foundation linked to Hizbullah that has a cooperation protocol with Türkiye's Education Ministry organized a mass veiling ceremony in Batman for hundreds of girls aged 8 to 15, presenting headscarves as a religious milestone and distributing gifts. The event drew attention because of the foundation's alleged ties to Hizbullah-linked organizations and its efforts to expand similar programs across Türkiye.



CENTRAL BANK RESERVE AT ITS LOWEST SINCE JUNE 2025



According to Central Bank data, Türkiye's total reserves fell by \$7.3 billion in the week ending June 12, dropping to \$152.1 billion, the lowest level since June 2025. The decline was driven by decreases in both foreign currency reserves and gold reserves, with gold holdings accounting for most of the weekly drop.



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