Turks Voted for Stability: Erdogan

ANKARA – A jubilant Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Monday cast the return of Turkey’s Islamist-rooted AK Party to single-party rule as a vote for stability that the world must respect, but opponents fear it heralds growing populism and deeper polarization. Erdogan also cast his vote on Monday, 39 years after his first mayor’s election, and the AK Party won a majority of the seats and even the executive presidency, consolidating support from the right to clan-based left that has held power in Turkey for decades.

It is a personal triumph for the conservative leader, despite last year’s failed attempt to overthrow him, resulting in him losing his head as state head of the AK Party’s executive committee and its parliamentary candidates in the run-up to a presidential vote.

The result handed the AKP 350 of the 550-seat parliament, only 15 short of the number Erdogan would need to impose his own executive powers. The AKP re-formed the parliament for the first time in November on its favor of stability, saying it wants to be granted full executive powers. "This project is an image of our country's third most powerful nation," he said in comments to reporters after praying at a mosque in Istanbul.

Erdogan and his allies, among them Ali Babacan, the prime minister last week, said the AKP has not always been able to see decisive progress.

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ing. Our organisations are feeling the pinch," he said. The Taliban are fighting back on the operational front. "They are using their feelers that the Pakistani government is cracking down on them," he added. (Agency)

Iran Starts Taking Nuclear-Centripital Office

DUBAI (Reuters) - Tehran has begun shifting down the content of enrichment facilities under the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal, calling it a "comprehensive test" of the regime's "serious political will" and its "hearty" response to the US withdrawal from the deal.

"The US is directly responsible for dropping out of a nuclear deal that was reached through its approval and ratification, and the US is carrying out deliberate and sophisticated measures to disrupt the stability and security of the region. We have not always been able to see decisive progress on this matter," Salehi told public broadcaster Press TV.

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