

Turkey expels 4,000 civil servants, bans TV dating programmes

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Istanbul: Turkey has passed two new decrees, one that expelled more than 4,000 civil servants and another that banned television dating programmes.

The country's Official Gazette published the decrees this evening. The first named thousands of civil servants to be dismissed, including nearly 500 academics and more than 1,000 Turkish military personnel. The decree also reinstated 236 people to their jobs.

The second decree, among other things, bans radio and television programmes for "finding friends and spouses".

The state of emergency that followed last summer's coup attempt has allowed the Turkish government to rule by decrees.

Since then, more than 47,000 people have been arrested and 1,00,000 have been purged for alleged connections to terror organisations.

Turkey says US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen orchestrated the coup attempt. He denies the allegations.

- AP