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President Erdoğan: Turkey Becomes One of the Main Actors of Peace Diplomacy

Following the Presidential Cabinet Meeting, President Erdoğan said, "Turkey is emerging as one of the key hubs of peace diplomacy. As a result of our efforts, the delegations of Russia and Ukraine came together in our country. After a three-year break, the second meeting was held today, following the first one last week, which resulted in the exchange of a thousand prisoners of war."

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SOURCE: VEDAT KURT

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President Erdogan: Turkey Becomes One of the Main Actors of Peace Diplomacy

Following the Presidential Cabinet Meeting, President Erdoğan said, "Turkey is emerging as one of the key hubs of peace diplomacy. As a result of our efforts, the delegations of Russia and Ukraine came together in our country. After a three-year break, the second meeting was held today, following the first one last week, which resulted in the exchange of a thousand prisoners of war."

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made a press statement after the Presidential Cabinet Meeting held at the Presidential Complex. Making statements on the issues discussed at the meeting, President Erdoğan said the following: "We have just concluded the 41st meeting of our Cabinet. In our meeting, we discussed critical issues on Turkey's agenda, especially agriculture, transportation, economy and security. Before moving on to the nature of our consultations, I would like to express our debt of gratitude to our nation on one issue.

"HOW TURKEY CAME BACK FROM THE EDGE OF A DEEP ABYSS IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD TODAY"

The elections of May 14-28, 2023 have gone down in history as one of the turning points of our political life. Our nation made very important decisions about its future in both elections. Instead of a structure with inconsistency problems, internal strife and a tendency to constantly produce crises, they preferred the People's Alliance in the Parliament and our person in the Presidency. Today, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of my 28 million 835 thousand citizens who once again deemed me worthy of the Presidency with 52.18 percent of the vote.

I would like to express my gratitude to all my citizens who went to the polls and protected our democracy, even if their preferences were different. When we look back today, we see more clearly how vital the choices made on May 14th and May 28th were. Today, it is better understood how Turkey came back from the edge of a deep abyss. When I think about the developments, debates and divisions in the last two years, I think that this saintly nation with a prayerful tongue has a lot to give. Even the battle we have witnessed in the last week alone is more than enough to see this. Can you imagine, just two years ago, those who wore white shirts and made videos praising each other, are now gracing the headlines every day as the main actors of a fight at each other's throats. They show our young people under the age of 30, who have not experienced coalition periods, why the old Turkey is constantly skidding.... Look, I would also like to express this with all sincerity: The magnitude of the danger that our country has overcome will be better understood in time.

"OUR GOAL IS TO DISMANTLE THE RUSTY CHAINS THAT ARE ATTACHED TO THE ETERNAL BROTHERHOOD OF OUR NATION ONE BY ONE"

Inshallah, our Cabinet will complete its second year in office tomorrow. As the Presidential Cabinet, we have been serving our country and nation with love for two years in complete harmony. In the remaining three years, our aim is to develop our country, raise the welfare level of our people, strengthen our democracy, and remove the rusty chains that have been struck against the eternal and eternal brotherhood of our nation one by one. It is a fact that Turkey has the power, will and democratic maturity to solve all its problems, especially the problem of terrorism. Our Turkey without terrorism process will, God willing, be the anchor and helmet of this. With each stage that is passed smoothly, our society relaxes and the fusion between the state and the nation increases even more. I always say this, and I would like to emphasize it again today: There is no problem Turkey faces that cannot be resolved, no matter how complex. The most solid ground for discussing our issues is undoubtedly politics. Thanks to 23 years of achievements, our democracy has gained the competence to discuss all kinds of problems within the framework of mutual respect, and moreover, to find solutions to them with common sense. No one doubts this. It is only natural that those who have been feeding on pain and tears for years are worried about the growing possibility of Turkey being freed from its burdens. We have not paid attention to them and we will not pay attention to them. We refer those who insist on being part of the problem instead of the solution to the vast wisdom of our nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my heartfelt gratitude to all our friends, members of the government and cabinet who have shouldered our struggle to serve the nation and the country during our tenure as Prime Minister and President. May God grant us many more years of service to our nation with determination, enthusiasm and excitement. Since our last meeting, we have attended very important meetings, openings and visits both inside and outside the country. On May 13, we discussed our defense

projects at the Defense Industry Executive Committee Meeting. We took important decisions at the 4th Agriculture Council held on May 14th. The online meeting between Turkey, the US, Saudi Arabia and Syria ushered in a new era in terms of lifting sanctions and investments in neighboring Syria. On May 15, we presented certificates and plaques to 98 brothers and sisters who have completed 10 years, 20 years and 30 years as delegates of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey.

"RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN DELEGATIONS MET IN ISTANBUL TODAY"

On the same day, we hosted the President of Ukraine, Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskiy and his delegation in Ankara. On this occasion, we reaffirmed our principled policy to end the Russian-Ukrainian War with a just peace. Today, as you know, the Russian-Ukrainian delegations came together in Istanbul under the chairmanship of Mr. Hakan, and it was a really, really great meeting. As a result of this meeting, this time these prisoner exchanges exceeded a thousand, whereas before there were a thousand prisoner exchanges. Beyond the exchange of over a thousand prisoners, there was also the return of some bodies to each other on both the Russian and Ukrainian sides. And these figures are really huge. Both Russia and Ukraine have given these figures, and my Foreign Minister and the media have announced these figures to the world public through a press release in Istanbul. This, of course, is very important in terms of showing how important these meetings in Istanbul are. We are indeed proud of this, thank God, Turkey has become a turning point for this issue with Istanbul. My greatest desire is to bring together the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and the President of Ukraine, Mr. Zelenskiy, in Istanbul or Ankara — and even the President of the United States, should he agree. If they agree, I would like to meet with them at this meeting and thus turn Istanbul into a center of peace. We will take steps for this after this last meeting. We were also in Tirana on May 16th to attend the 6th Summit of the European Political Community hosted by Albania. On the evening of the same day, we came together with thousands of our young brothers and sisters at the Young Fest program organized by the youth

branches of our party. I would like to congratulate once again our artists who performed at the festival and everyone who contributed to the program. We celebrated May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day with a pleasant conversation with young people and national athletes from 81 provinces in our national library. On May 21, we went to Budapest to attend the Informal Summit of the Organization of Turkic States at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Viktor Orban. Upon our proposal, it was decided to celebrate March 21 as the Organization of Turkic States Nowruz Commemoration and Celebration Day from now on. I wish this decision to be beneficial for the Turkic world.

"WE WILL CONTINUE OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE POLICIES OF SEXUALIZATION THAT HAVE TURNED INTO GLOBAL TYRANNY"

As you know, we declared 2025 as the Year of the Family in our country. We are trying to realize the Year of the Family in accordance with its meaning and importance with different events, programs and projects. At the International Family Forum, where ministers from 26 countries were present, we came together with many valuable names. We will evaluate not only this year but also the next 10 years to implement policies that prioritize the family. In the face of increasing threats, we will take steps to strengthen the institution of the family, to make it easier for our young people to settle down, and to bring our population growth rate, which has been alarm bells ringing, back to the level it should be. Our struggle against the policies of de-sexification that have turned into global tyranny will continue with determination. On May 24th, we were at the opening of Necip Fazıl Kısakürek Culture and Research Foundation's 'A Poem, A Life, My Dear Istanbul Exhibition'. On the 42nd anniversary of his death, we once again commemorated with mercy and respect the great litigator and idea man Master Necip Fazıl, who has a distinguished place in Turkish literature with the title of Sultanu's Shuara. "AS SYRIA ACHIEVES STABILITY, ALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WILL BENEFIT" On the same day, the President of Syria, my dear brother Mr. Ahmed Shara and



his delegation were our guests in Istanbul. After the December 8 revolution, we observe that Syria is rapidly recovering with the support of all brotherly countries in the region, especially Qatar and Saudi Arabia. We are very pleased that European countries have also decided to lift sanctions against Syria following the landmark statements of US President Mr. Trump. As their neighbors and brothers, we will support the Syrian people and government with all our means, God willing.

In today's cabinet meeting, we discussed this issue as well as our measures for the Eid. We will have good news on energy very soon. Syrian Airlines will soon start flights to Turkey. Our AJet company will hopefully organize regular flights to Syria. Apart from these, we will stand by the Syrian people in different fields. As Syria attains stability and peace, we believe that all its neighbors and all countries in the region will benefit from this. I sincerely congratulate the Syrian government for their patient efforts for the unity, stability and integrity of their country despite all kinds of obstruction attempts. May God help and assist them.

On May 25th, we hosted the Prime Minister of another brotherly country in our country. The visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif and his delegation to our country was meaningful in every respect. The prudence of the Pakistani government in the recent tensions with India prevented the conflict from turning into a catastrophe. Our suggestions have also been in favor of dialogue, calm and negotiated resolution of the problems. We concluded Ethics Week by signing a Cooperation Protocol on Ethics Education and Ethics Trainer Training signed between our Ethics Committee and the Ministry of Family Affairs.

"WE HAVE CLOSED THE COUP BOOK, NEVER TO BE OPENED AGAIN"

On May 27th, we first participated in the 163rd Anniversary Program of the Court of Accounts and then held the Expanded Provincial Chairs Meeting of our party. On this day, which also marks the 65th anniversary of the May 27th coup, we underlined our determination to protect our democracy. Once again, we remember with mercy the martyred Prime Minister Adnan Menderes and his friends who paid with their lives for their unique services to the nation, the country and democracy.

On the night of July 15th, with the epic of national will we wrote together with our nation against the FETO traitors, we have hopefully closed the coup book in

this country, never to be opened again. We will continue to take all necessary measures to prevent our nation from experiencing the same pain again.

"A DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE MOBILIZATION IS TAKING PLACE IN EVERY PART OF KARABAKH IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD"

On May 28th, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Azerbaijan, we were in the city of Lachin in Karabakh. Together with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Sharif, we commemorated this important day in a manner befitting the eternal brotherhood of the three countries. During our visit, we also opened the Lachin Airport. I would like to say here with great pleasure: Thanks to the efforts of the victorious leader, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, a development and infrastructure mobilization is taking place literally all over Karabakh after 30 years of occupation. With roads, bridges, tunnels, residential areas and agricultural regions, Karabakh is rapidly healing the wounds of occupation. As Turkey, we are providing all kinds of support to these efforts.

"20 OF OUR STATE GARDENS, WHICH TURN INTO GATHERING AREAS DURING EARTHQUAKES, ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION"

On May 29th, we celebrated the 572nd anniversary of the Conquest of Istanbul with great enthusiasm and pride. First, we sent off the Osman Gazi Floating Production Platform to the Black Sea. We sent off a giant platform 300 meters long, 56 meters wide, mashallah, such a platform to the Black Sea. Now it will be drilling there for 20 years, God willing. Then we inaugurated Beykoz, Arnavutköy, Kâğıthane and Sultangazi, Cebeci National Gardens. As we always say, keep going, keep going. I wish that our four new nation gardens, with a total area of more than 428 thousand square meters, will be auspicious and auspicious to our Istanbul.

The construction of 20 of our nation gardens, which have turned into gathering areas in times of earthquakes, is still ongoing, and God willing, we will complete them and put them into the service of our nation. We will continue to follow in the footsteps of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror, who said, 'Even their dreams cannot reach the places where my power reaches'. Once again, I say may Allah be pleased with that great sultan and his heroic army.

On May 30th, we opened the 2nd Istanbul World Islamic Economy Summit. The next day, we reunited with our non-governmental organizations and successful young people at the 4th Turkey Youth Summit.

Prior to our cabinet meeting, we sent off our new aircrafts that joined our forest fleet to their duty stations today. Apart from these programs, we continued our struggle to serve Turkey uninterruptedly

by making many phone calls, receptions and meetings.

"WE BELIEVE THAT PEACE HAS NO LOSERS"

Turkey is emerging as one of the key hubs of peace diplomacy. As I mentioned earlier, as a result of our efforts, the delegations of Russia and Ukraine came together in our country. After a three-year hiatus, the second meeting was held today, following the first one last week, which resulted in the exchange of a thousand war artifacts. The fact that the meeting took place despite yesterday's incident is an important achievement in itself.

Turkey's stance has been clear since the first day of the war. We never want to see conflict, fighting, war and oppression in our region. We believe that peace has no losers. We are making a sincere effort to establish a sustainable peace that both sides can accept.

"TURKEY IS A COUNTRY THAT HAS EARNED THE TRUST OF EVERYONE WITH ITS FAIRNESS"

I would like to bring this important point to the attention of all of you: Turkey is a country that has gained the trust of everyone with its fairness. Turkey is a state whose words, stance and behavior are closely followed. While many countries, including our rivals, speak highly of Turkey's growing influence, the former CHP chairman's vassal comparison of our country is an extremely ugly and insulting approach or rapprochement. His characterization of Turkey as a proxy actor of some powers is a new manifestation of his distorted view of his own country that has never been corrected. Turkey is neither a vassal, nor a pariah, nor a proxy actor of anyone, and this should be known as such.

"WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ADDING NEW STARS TO OUR SUCCESS IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD"

Turkey is rapidly moving towards full independence in every field, not towards vassalage as the former CHP chairman claims. We well remember the unsoundness of his foreign policy forecasts from his assessments of Syria, where he pontificated that there is neither a bypass nor a parish left. In the run-up to the May 14-28 elections, it was none other than him who went door-to-door in Western capitals and even boasted of importing economists. Unfortunately, as we condemn him to perdition, he continues his quest to earn a premium by slandering his own state through us. As far as we can see, his column writing, just like his politicking, is not progressing very brightly. While there is plenty of time, I recommend him to improve himself a bit instead of penning marginal theses that no one respects.

We are after big goals, not small calculations like these. Not only in

diplomacy, but also in almost every field from transportation to agriculture, education to health, economy to trade, tourism to defense and security, we seek to add new stars to our table of success.

"A HISTORIC WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY HAS OPENED BEFORE TURKEY"

A historic window of opportunity has opened in front of Turkey, God willing. There is no reason to think negatively, to be pessimistic, or to listen to the doomsayers who spread fear day and night. Turkey is safe under the leadership of confident and competent cadres.

In May 2025, our exports increased by 2.7 percent compared to the same month of the previous year and amounted to 24.8 billion dollars. In the first five months of this year, our exports increased by 3.5 percent compared to the same period of the previous year, reaching a total of 111 billion dollars.

"WE WILL WALK TOGETHER WITH FIRM STEPS TOWARDS OUR GOALS"

Another positive development is that our annualized exports of goods rose to 265.5 billion dollars, the highest level in the history of the Republic. Despite all the negativities in the last year, we achieved a net increase of 1.9 percent, i.e. 5 billion dollars, in exports of goods. We estimate that our annualized exports of services will rise to 116.4 billion dollars in May. I congratulate all my brothers and sisters who contributed to this important success, especially our exporters.

Hopefully, we will continue to see the positive results of the economic program we have been implementing for the last two years in different headings in the future. Our nation can rest assured. We will overcome our periodic problems together. We will overcome the obstacles together, and we will take firm steps towards our goals together. I say, may God keep our path and our good fortune open.

I congratulate you in advance on the blessed Eid al-Adha, which we will celebrate on Friday.

Our highways and police units are taking the necessary measures to ensure that our citizens can travel safely, peacefully and comfortably. I expect our citizens to obey the traffic rules and prevent the tragedies that bring fire to our hearts.

As you know, we started to pay our pensioners' 4,000 lira Eid bonuses as of Friday, May 31. In this context, we will make a total of 57.4 billion liras of payments to 15.9 million pensioners until June 4. We are also making the payments of elderly pensions and disability pensions tomorrow. Thus, we will pay a total of 6 billion 300 million liras to 1 million 350 thousand brothers and sisters before the feast. I wish our payments to be auspicious and good luck to our pensioners, disabled and elderly people."

Chingiz Aitmatov’s Legacy Honored in Bishkek: Turkic World Forum Held

In the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, the forum titled "Chingiz Aitmatov and the Future of the Turkic World" was held in commemoration of the 17th anniversary of the renowned writer’s passing.

Hosted by the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan, the forum was supported by the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TÜRKSOY), the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute of Language and Literature of the Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences, and the Ankara-based Chingiz Aitmatov Institute.

The event began with a recitation from the Epic of Manas by manaschi Rysbay Isakov and was attended by Aitmatov’s admirers, scholars, statesmen, academy staff, and university students.

Prof. Dr. Kanatbek Abdрахmatov, President of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan and moderator of the forum, expressed his pleasure in hosting the "Chingiz Aitmatov and the Future of the Turkic World" forum.

“Turkey has supported us in every field as a strategic partner”



Speaking at the forum, Kyrgyz State Secretary Marat Imankulov outlined plans made by the government for the upcoming 100th anniversary of Aitmatov’s birth.

“Aitmatov is one of the geniuses of the 20th century. In his works, he offered remarkable insights into today’s world. He showed what steps should be taken to avoid modern-day crises, the level of attention we should give to the environment, and how human relations should evolve,” he said.

Imankulov noted that Turkey was the first country to recognize the newly independent Kyrgyz Republic and emphasized the strategic partnership between the two nations.

He also expressed satisfaction with the attention shown to Kyrgyzstan by the member states of the Organization of

Turkic States (OTS), and underscored the need to revive the Chingiz Aitmatov International Issyk-Kul Forum, first held by Aitmatov in 1986, with the support of international institutions.

Thanks to MHP Leader Devlet Bahçeli TÜRKSOY Secretary General Sultan Raev stated that the newly established Chingiz Aitmatov Institute in Turkey had launched its first activity in Aitmatov’s homeland, Kyrgyzstan.

Explaining the mission and vision of the Institute, Raev said, “We wish the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute success and prosperity.”

Raev extended his sincere gratitude and respect to MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli, who spearheaded the founding of the Institute, and to his close colleague Prof. Dr. İlyas Topsakal, a Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

Perspectives on Aitmatov from Türkiye shared

Starting his speech with thanks to MHP Chairman Bahçeli, Chingiz Aitmatov Institute President and MHP Deputy Chairman Prof. Dr. İlyas Topsakal expressed his appreciation to the institutions and individuals who contributed to the forum and shared how Aitmatov is perceived in Türkiye.

Topsakal emphasized that understanding the strength of the Turkic world requires familiarity with its tribes, stating, “The best way to learn this is undoubtedly by getting to know the poets, writers, and thinkers who give voice to our nation’s soul and wisdom.”

Praising Aitmatov’s literary strength, Topsakal said:



“He is a great figure who described the modern Turkic world village by village, town by town, and city by city. He sought our glorious past and great states in animals, seas and lakes, and the vast, boundless steppes of the Turkic people.”

Topsakal drew attention to Aitmatov’s accounts of the life cycle of Turkic tribes—birth, marriage, and death—and referenced his famous line “If a dog has an owner, then a wolf has God,” as a metaphorical narration of Ergenekon.

Highlighting the themes in Aitmatov’s literary works and his vision for the future through his novels and poems, Topsakal said:

“Aitmatov emphasized that the best resistance to mankurtism and sadism—just like the inhumane ideology of gladiators in the West—is to know our own history, culture, and ancestry.”

Kazakh, Uzbek, and Azerbaijani peoples also see themselves in Aitmatov’s works

President of the Writers’ Union of Kazakhstan, Mereke Kulkenov, stressed that organizing the first activity of the Aitmatov Institute in Bishkek reflects the unity of Turkic peoples.

Kulkenov added that Aitmatov did not only narrate the history of the Kyrgyz people but also that of the Kazakhs, Uzbeks, and Azerbaijanis, noting that Turkic readers who engage with his works experience shared emotions and thoughts.

Akmal Saidov, a Member of Parliament from Uzbekistan who has conducted extensive research on Aitmatov’s works, emphasized the importance of organizing forums, congresses, and other events to promote the author’s recognition and readership.

Prof. Dr. Abdildacan Akmatallyev, President of the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute of Language and Literature of the Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences, stated that over the past 10 years they have organized numerous symposiums on Aitmatov and regularly published his books.

Honorary academic title for Prof. Dr. Topsakal

During the forum, the decision of the Chingiz Aitmatov Academy Association in Kyrgyzstan was announced:

Prof. Dr. İlyas Topsakal, President of the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute and MHP Deputy Chairman, was awarded the title of Honorary Academician.

The award and several books were presented to Topsakal by Prof. Dr. Akmatallyev on behalf of the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute of Language and Literature.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute and the Chingiz Aitmatov Institute of Language and Literature under the Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences during the forum.



The 2nd Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Family and Social Policy of the Organization of Turkic States Held in Baku

The 2nd Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Family and Social Policy of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Hosted by Bahar Muradova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan, the meeting was attended by Türkiye’s Minister of Family and Social Services Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, Chairman of the Committee on Family and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan Kayrat Kambarov, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration of Kyrgyzstan Kyiyal Januzakova, and Deputy Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan Rano Turdiboeva.

Also in attendance were Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Sadık Gardiyanoglu, and Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan Halbib Tachjanova.

In her speech, Muradova emphasized that the concept of family symbolizes loyalty and sacrifice in the Turkic world. She spoke about the efforts to strengthen the family institution, stating: "We must reinforce our mechanisms regarding early marriages, divorces,

and other related issues to strengthen the foundation of the family. We should prevent the integration of values foreign to our culture into our societies."

OTS Secretary General Omuraliev underlined that one of the core values underpinning cooperation among the Turkic states is the importance given to the family institution: "Family has always been considered sacred in the Turkic world. Respect for the elderly, solidarity within the family, and mutual responsibility are among the highest values inherited by the Turkic states through generations. In the face of modern challenges, preserving this understanding and transmitting it to future generations remains one of our main duties." Deputy Minister Rano Turdiboeva of Uzbekistan emphasized the importance of establishing a legal framework for protecting women's rights and ensuring gender equality, as well as its effective implementation.

She highlighted that concrete steps have been taken in Uzbekistan in this regard, with necessary resources allocated from the state budget and relevant committees established. Stressing the critical role of women's education and awareness, she noted: "Improving women's knowledge and skills not only supports their personal



development but also contributes to the overall progress of society." Kayrat Kambarov, Chairman of the Committee on Family and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan, stated that the strong spiritual bonds, shared history, and common family values among the Turkic states continue to be the foundation of their cooperation today.

Speaking about Kazakhstan’s efforts to strengthen the family structure, Kambarov expressed his belief that the steps taken by the OTS in this regard would not only enhance regional cooperation but also strengthen solidarity among peoples. Kyiyal Januzakova, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration of Kyrgyzstan, proposed the establishment of a Women’s Platform under the framework of the OTS: "Such a platform could serve as a strategic tool to amplify women’s voices, promote solidarity, and enhance regional cooperation," she said. Halbib Tachjanova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan, stated that the active participation of women in social and economic life is among the priority areas of state policies in her country.

She emphasized that granting women equal rights and ensuring gender equality are integral parts of national policy. TRNC Minister of Labour and Social

Security Sadık Gardiyanoglu, in his address, spoke about the struggle for independence of the Turkish Cypriots and the difficulties they face due to isolation.

He reiterated the call for recognition of the TRNC and reminded the audience that the promises made to Turkish Cypriots under the UN’s Annan Plan by the United Nations and the European Union have not been fulfilled. Gardiyanoglu stated: "Even though our country is not yet officially recognized, the opening of representative offices by countries that already have embassies in the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus (GCA) would help counter the efforts of the GCA to isolate the TRNC from the international community." At the end of the meeting, a joint declaration was adopted by the participants.



NATO Secretary General Rutte: Greater Investment in Security Is Essential

As the countdown to the NATO Summit on June 24–25 continues, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has once again stressed the need for member states to increase defense spending and boost military production.



Speaking at a press conference following the "Weimar+" meeting held in Rome — attended by the foreign ministers of Italy, France, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom, and Spain, along with representatives from NATO and the European Union — Rutte emphasized the urgent need to bolster defense budgets.

“We are safe now, but we will not be in 3 to 5 years,” Rutte warned. “That is why we need to spend more.”

Recalling that NATO defense ministers had agreed last week on new capability targets, Rutte noted: “The new spending goal is based on facts, on our joint analysis of where the gaps in our capabilities are and how we can close them. Now, at the upcoming NATO Summit, our leaders must reach an agreement on the additional funding needed to make this happen.”

The Secretary General also underscored the urgency of increasing defense industry production.

“We have excellent industrial companies across the United States, Europe, and Canada — but they are not producing fast enough. We need more shifts, more production lines,” he stated.

Reiterating the importance of long-term support for Ukraine, Rutte stressed that Ukraine must be kept in a strong position throughout the war, and that guarantees must be put in place to prevent future aggression by Russia once peace is achieved.

Messages from the EU

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas emphasized that Russia has shown “no sign of stopping the war.”

Kallas pointed out that Russia has carried out “its largest assaults on Ukraine since the beginning of the war,” adding that Russia remains “dangerous” and its behavior “predictable.”

“This means Russia responds not to empty slogans or dialogue, but only to strength,” Kallas said, explaining the rationale behind the EU’s proposal for an 18th package of sanctions against Moscow.

She stressed the need to further block financial flows to Russia, asserting that “the war will only stop if there is sufficient pressure.”

Noting that the EU provided its highest level of military assistance to Ukraine in 2025, Kallas concluded: “The stronger Ukraine is on the battlefield today, the stronger its position will be at any future negotiating table when Russia is truly ready to talk.”

Working Instead of Childhood in Gaza: Gazan Children Forced to Work to Survive

“The situation of Gazan children is not only a reflection of the ongoing war in the region, but also of deepening poverty and the inadequacy of international aid.”



In the Gaza Strip, where Israel has been carrying out intense attacks for 20 months, children have lost all their fundamental rights. In order to survive and support their families, they are forced to shoulder heavy responsibilities and work instead of playing. On June 12, the World Day Against Child Labour, the tragedy experienced by Gazan children became even more visible. Israel’s intensified attacks since October 7, 2023, the closure of border crossings, tightening of the blockade, and prevention of humanitarian aid access have turned life in the region into primitive conditions. These circumstances have forced children to work in environments that are entirely inappropriate for their physical and mental development.

The surviving children in Gaza bear responsibilities far beyond their age. On March 16, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) stated that Palestinian children are living under “extremely alarming” conditions, emphasizing that they are experiencing “severe fear and anxiety” and are facing serious consequences due to lack of humanitarian aid.

The ongoing attacks in the Gaza Strip for months have had the most devastating impact on children. Tragic circumstances such as forced displacement, the loss of family members, and a widespread food crisis have further intensified their daily struggle for survival.

Near a shelter center in Khan Younis, many children work in various jobs to earn a living. They grind chickpeas and make falafel, pull heavy carts, and sell basic

necessities such as vegetables, fruits, and biscuits in an effort to support their families. One of these children, Abdurrahman Abu Jameela, says they migrated from the town of Bani Suheila to Khan Younis and that due to Israeli attacks, he has been deprived of all his rights, including education. Abu Jameela explains that before the attacks, he used to go to school, wear new clothes on holidays, and play with his friends, but now he has to make falafel to meet his family’s basic needs. He says that even going to aid distribution centers can result in death: “Those who go to get food either die or get injured.”

Tala Shenbari also says that they had a good life before the attacks, but now the border crossings are closed, and it has become increasingly difficult to find food and water. Living under constant bombardment, Shenbari says they opened a small stall with her family to make a living and adds: **“We are going to our deaths just to get food.”**

Another child, Yamen Kara, says he sells clothes to help his family and has lost his right to education and play. Kara calls for a ceasefire and peace in Gaza, saying he wants to return to school and experience his childhood again.



Another child, 8-year-old Habiba, says she was forcibly displaced with her family to the shelter center in Khan Younis and now sells biscuits to support her family’s livelihood. Habiba says, “I wish I could live a normal life like other children. Before the attacks, I would play and study. But the genocide destroyed everything, nothing is the same anymore.”

Eleven-year-old Nour Shawa says that she goes to Nasser Hospital every day with her family to carry water, using a wheelchair to do so. Shawa says she cannot go to school, has lost her education and childhood, and lives in constant fear due to the Israeli attacks.

The situation faced by Gazan children is a reflection not only of the war but also of deepening poverty and insufficient international aid. Despite being children, Gazan youth are forced to act like adults under the weight of the difficulties and responsibilities they face. They call on the global community for “peace” and the “right to live.”



Tokayev: Kazakhstan Ready for Energy and Food Trade with Slovakia



Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced Kazakhstan's readiness to expand trade with Slovakia in energy, gas, uranium, and food products during a meeting with Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. Tokayev emphasized that there are broad opportunities to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

According to a statement from the Kazakh presidency, President Tokayev received Prime Minister Fico at the Akorda Presidential Palace in Astana as part of Fico's official visit.



Following an official ceremony, Tokayev and Fico held talks and later delivered a joint press statement. President Tokayev noted that Kazakhstan and Slovakia share close ties and have implemented major projects together. He said that Kazakhstan views Slovakia as one of its principal partners within the European Union and expressed his commitment to strengthening and deepening relations in all fields. Highlighting the wide scope for cooperation, Tokayev stated, "There are no disputes between our countries. Strengthening multifaceted ties serves the interests of both our peoples." He reaffirmed Kazakhstan's determination to expand bilateral trade with Slovakia and stressed the importance of enhancing mutual investment cooperation. "Kazakhstan is ready to export oil and gas, uranium, food products, and other goods to Slovakia," he said. Tokayev pointed to the potential for joint projects in the fields of energy,

mechanical engineering, agriculture, digitalization, and tourism. He also emphasized that "there is significant potential for cooperation in the military-technical sphere."

He added that the two leaders had also exchanged views on regional and international issues. "Our positions are similar on many global trends and challenges. We place great importance on multilateral diplomacy," Tokayev noted. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico confirmed that there were no political disagreements between Kazakhstan and Slovakia, and reiterated his country's commitment to fostering mutually beneficial relations.

Fico also expressed gratitude to Kazakhstan for the participation of Kazakh soldiers in the liberation of Slovakia during World War II, noting that around 60,000 Soviet troops lost their lives in the effort. He concluded by saying that Slovakia closely follows Kazakhstan's development and encourages his EU counterparts to adopt a broader global perspective, rather than focusing solely on intra-European issues.



Tatar: "The Turkish Red Crescent Supported Our People's Struggle for Existence and Heroic Resistance"



President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Ersin Tatar, expressed his gratitude for the support provided by the Turkish Red Crescent during the Turkish Cypriot people's past struggle for existence and heroic resistance.

In a message celebrating the 157th anniversary of the Turkish Red Crescent's founding, President Tatar recalled that the organization was established in 1868 under the name "Ottoman Society for the Aid of Wounded and Sick Soldiers," and has since extended a helping hand to those in need across the world without discrimination.

Tatar stated, "Even during the most difficult times of the Ottoman Empire, the Turkish Red Crescent considered it a sacred duty to help people with great dedication, despite all the hardships of the period."

Noting that the Turkish Cypriot people have also endured great suffering throughout history, Tatar emphasized that the Turkish Red Crescent stood by the Turkish Cypriot community during the attacks carried out by EOKA and Greek militias in 1964 and played a crucial role in supporting this struggle. He also highlighted that following the 1974 Peace Operation, the Red Crescent extended aid not only to Turkish Cypriots but also to Greek Cypriots,

showcasing the Turkish nation's humanitarian approach that transcends religion, language, and ethnicity.

In his message, President Tatar pointed out that the Turkish Red Crescent continues to operate today with strong determination, stating: "Today, the Turkish Red Crescent, remaining true to its deep-rooted legacy spanning over a century and a half, has become one of Turkey's leading civil society organizations. It continues to operate as a great institution of compassion and aid, offering hope to the oppressed all around the world in the face of all kinds of natural disasters."

Concluding his message, President Tatar celebrated the 157th anniversary of the Turkish Red Crescent's founding and said, "On behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people and my state, I extend my most sincere thanks to all Red Crescent staff who contribute to making our region and the world a more peaceful and secure place."

Source: Vedat KURT

Minister Fidan: The Only Leader Trusted by Erdoğan, Trump, Putin, and Zelensky

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, commenting on the ongoing negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, said: “Our expectation is that another round will follow. Both sides recognize the benefit of coming together.”

Fidan emphasized that Turkey’s stance has remained unchanged since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine War, stating that Turkey does not want a war in the region. He described the war as one that has resulted in over a million deaths and injuries, the destruction of major cities, and the paralysis of the regional economy. Pointing out that the war is entering its fourth year, Fidan said: “This is not just a war between two countries. The countries backing them have taken sides, and it is turning into a more global war. That’s why we have been pushing for a ceasefire from the beginning—because this is not just their war, but one that could spread globally due to those standing behind them.”

He highlighted President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s repeated calls for peace and reminded of Turkey’s initiatives such as the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the March 2022 negotiations, and prisoner exchanges.

Fidan mentioned that a ceasefire call came with the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump and that both sides expressed their intentions. Turkey initiated mediation efforts, using its experience, and hosted the first round of talks on May 16 in Istanbul.

He noted that during the May 16 talks, an agreement was reached on prisoner exchange, and both parties committed to working on ceasefire conditions and

explored the possibility of a leaders’ summit. Recalling his high-level meetings during visits to Moscow and Kyiv, Fidan said Turkey has been working on outlining a process toward achieving a ceasefire and peace.

He added that the latest meeting was conducted in a positive atmosphere, both sides were well-prepared, and a decision on a new prisoner exchange was made, possibly involving more than 1,000 individuals.

Documents regarding the ceasefire conditions were submitted by both Russia and Ukraine, and their perspectives on a possible leaders’ summit were shared. He said both sides agreed to meet again.

“Our expectation is that another round will take place”
Commenting on the potential next round of talks, Fidan reiterated: “Our expectation is that another round will take place. Both sides see value in meeting.”

He emphasized that the talks were productive and not contentious, saying: “Given the current conditions and the psychological atmosphere shaped by the war, it was the best possible meeting. The important thing is not to abandon the table and to maintain the stance toward ceasefire and peace. That’s our advice to both sides. It doesn’t matter if the talks are held in Turkey or elsewhere, what matters is that they keep talking.”

“There is no other name that all three leaders trust”

Addressing the possibility of a leaders’ summit being hosted in Turkey, Fidan said that President Erdoğan would be pleased to host such a meeting and emphasized: “There is no other name recognized, trusted, and respected by all three leaders at once. While a location can be arranged, in terms of political leadership and global stature, no one else matches President Erdoğan’s credibility, experience, and institutional professionalism.”

He noted that Erdoğan has conveyed his readiness to host such a meeting during visits to Kyiv and Moscow and said that certain results and preparations need to be completed beforehand. Referring to upcoming meetings, Fidan



said: “If Russia and Ukraine meet a few more times and progress is made, a leaders’ summit will be inevitable.”

Fidan evaluated various approaches to the war, highlighting a global resistance to recognizing Russia’s strategic posture and its rise as an alternative hegemonic force. He mentioned that the military and financial aid to Ukraine initiated during the Biden administration is nearing its end, and with Trump potentially returning to office, a new phase in the war could begin. Fidan noted he had phone calls with Trump’s Special Representative for the Middle East Steve Witkoff and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio regarding Russia, Ukraine, Iran, and Gaza.

Fidan shared that Turkey discussed the outcomes of the last two Russia-Ukraine meetings with Rubio, who in return shared U.S. perspectives, indicating continued cooperation.

Lifting Sanctions on Syria
In response to a question about how lifting sanctions on Syria might shape the country’s new era, Fidan emphasized that post-Assad Syria is a country that has been “destroyed, devastated, leveled to the ground, and cut off from the world.”

He said: “Now, rehabilitating a neighboring country with such deep wounds and vulnerability to infection requires a highly professional, coordinated, and multi-stakeholder approach—politically, economically, and in terms of security.”

Fidan noted that many meetings have been held in Ankara on this issue, along with discussions involving both regional and non-regional countries. He stressed the significance of President Erdoğan’s diplomatic efforts and stated that the benefits of lifting sanctions on Syria are already beginning to be observed.

He pointed to developments in areas such as the international banking system, investments, basic services, and the economy in Syria under the new administration. He also mentioned a major energy tender held a few days ago

with participation from U.S., Qatari, Syrian, and Turkish companies.

Fidan continued by expressing Turkey’s expectations: “Our expectation going forward is the reconstruction of the country, the revival of infrastructure, the delivery of basic services, and the return of displaced Syrian brothers and sisters to their homeland. As they return, the population grows, the economy is revitalized, and—God willing—we will enjoy the presence of a truly normal Syria next door, where life has returned to normal.”

Integration of Northeastern Syria
Asked about the current situation on the ground following the Integration Agreement signed on March 10 between the terrorist organization PKK/YPG (which operates under the name SDF) and the Syrian government, Fidan responded: “In practice, not much has happened since the agreement in March. But behind the scenes, a lot is going on.”

He said that this trilateral dynamic—encouraged by U.S. efforts, Syrian state-building steps, and developments in Turkey—is becoming increasingly coordinated. Fidan stated: “We are heading toward a solution. We hope to achieve a common perspective among Damascus, Ankara, and Washington to overcome this menace in a smooth manner.”

“We have begun to take concrete steps” (Anti-ISIS Mechanism)
Fidan addressed the mechanism established among Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon to combat the terrorist organization ISIS (Daesh), saying: “We have started to take concrete steps here.”

He noted that a few weeks ago, they brought the foreign ministers of Jordan and Syria to Ankara and made a fundamental decision to activate an Intelligence and Operations Cell with military and intelligence teams, setting a date for its establishment.

He said: “Teams from Jordan, Syria, and Turkey have launched the Counter-ISIS Cell. This is a significant step for

regional security.” Fidan emphasized: “We must take the ‘Daesh card’ out of the organization’s hands and prevent it from blackmailing the international community.”

He underlined the need for intense, specialized work and stated that two main issues are being addressed: camps and prisons. He said there are over 40,000 people in camps and that efforts are underway with the Iraqi and Syrian governments to evacuate these camps.

Fidan noted: “The UN is now involved. The Americans have proposed managing the camps until they’re emptied. There’s also the issue of these camp regions returning to Syrian government control and ongoing work regarding the prisons. The key is establishing professional, multi-national teams that consistently work on this issue backed by political will. If that’s done, progress will be made.”

He expressed hope that coordination among the U.S., Syria, Turkey, and Iraq will lead to results, acknowledging that coordination is taking time as it’s the first effort of its kind. He confirmed that Turkey continues its work with the full engagement of state institutions.

“Our main issue was not with the U.S. presence, but with its partnership with the PKK”
Asked about the latest developments regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria, Fidan said: “Our core issue was not the U.S. presence itself. The U.S. has a presence in many regions. Our main problem was its cooperation with the PKK and the support provided. We want that support to end.”

He emphasized: “What mattered to us was ending this area of cooperation.”

On regional cooperation in the “Terror-Free Turkey” initiative, Fidan explained that the involvement of neighboring countries requires careful and precise planning.

He stated: “This process must be well monitored and analyzed. In foreign policy, our language must be focused on our goals. We are working on developing such a focused discourse.”

****Ceasefire in Gaza****

When asked whether a ceasefire in Gaza was expected, Fidan said: “As long as the issue of hostages and

their release remains on the table, a ceasefire can be brought up in some form.”

However, he emphasized that if fighting resumes after the hostages are released, it would serve no one’s interests.

Fidan said in his meeting today with Donald Trump’s Special Representative for the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, that a 60-day ceasefire, accompanied by intensified U.S. focus and pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, could allow uninterrupted humanitarian aid and pave the way for a permanent ceasefire.

He noted that Turkey continues to engage with Palestine, Qatar, Egypt, and the United States on this matter, adding: “Mr. Witkoff is truly focused on this. I genuinely appreciate his dedication and efforts. He really wants a ceasefire. Today we also got a sense of how he has been briefing President Trump on this issue. These are significant developments.”

****“In the OIC, Gaza will be our number one topic”****

When asked what would be discussed at this month’s Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Istanbul, Fidan said: “The issue of Gaza and Palestine will be our number one topic. It’s what we will discuss the most. We need to focus on what more can be done beyond what we’ve done so far.”

Fidan added that this meeting would follow an important session in New York led jointly by France and Saudi Arabia. He stated: “Netanyahu’s cruelty has reached such an extent that even countries that once supported Israel—France, the UK, and others—are now distancing themselves. They are doing everything they can to avoid being seen as complicit in this historic genocide.”

He continued: “One of the outcomes of Israel’s genocide policy under the Biden administration—with U.S. support—is that Israel and its backers are losing all their previously held international legitimacy. The blood of the martyrs has swept away their legitimacy like an ocean.”

Fidan called on the international community to take all necessary steps, stating: “There are many crises similar to the Palestinian issue around the world—Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, and others—but

this is the issue we’ve invested the most time and effort in.” He acknowledged it was difficult to predict whether the U.S. would withdraw its support for Israel but said that European countries are beginning to take serious steps to shift their positions.

Fidan noted that the European Union (EU), which often claims moral authority, has squandered all its credibility on the Palestinian issue.

****“Europe is distancing itself from Netanyahu”****

He warned that the international system may be shifting toward a power-based order and noted that the EU may not be able to keep up in such a scenario.

He added: “We needed a Europe that defended basic principles and values, even if it couldn’t change the world. For years, we could only work with a few European countries on this. Now, one by one, they are seeing Netanyahu for who he is—bloodthirsty and deranged—and are distancing themselves. No one wants to pay the political cost.”

Fidan stated that the U.S. has positioned itself as Israel’s patron and that this is deeply embedded in its political and bureaucratic systems. He noted that Israel has become a key benchmark in terms of making progress within that system.

****Turkey-U.S. Relations****

Fidan indicated that Turkey-U.S. relations could improve if efforts continue in good faith, noting that the primary problem lies in Syria-related issues and that lifting sanctions on Syria is of utmost importance.

He mentioned ongoing work regarding the U.S. law known as CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) and said that the U.S. is trying to find a constructive path forward, with legal teams involved.

Fidan shared that positive signals have been received concerning advancing bilateral trade and economy, including the export of previously restricted military spare parts and key components.

He emphasized that overall relations are improving and that joint mechanisms continue to operate. Preparations for President Erdoğan’s possible visit to Washington are also underway with U.S. counterparts.

Germany: US-China Rare Earth Deal Resolves Another Issue

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz welcomed the agreement reached between the United States and China regarding rare earth elements and stated that it does not harm Europe.



Following his meeting with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Berlin, Merz held a joint press conference. Commenting on the agreement between the US and China to ease export restrictions on rare earth elements, Merz said: “I welcome the agreement between the United States and China on rare earth elements. This is not to Europe’s detriment; on the contrary, it is another dispute that has been resolved.”

Merz also called for the resolution of trade disputes between the European Union (EU) and the United States, saying: “I hope we will similarly succeed in reducing and, where possible, eliminating the trade disputes between us and the Americans.” He emphasized that open markets, free trade, and access to raw materials are the best solutions for everyone and that they aim to contribute to this, adding: “I hope we can soon reach an agreement with the United States on issues such as tariffs.”

Incidents in Los Angeles

In response to a question about the recent incidents in Los Angeles, Merz said he did not want to comment on domestic political events in the US from abroad. Noting that the images from Los Angeles were disturbing, he added: “However, I hope a swift solution is found and these clashes end quickly.”

EU Sanctions Package Against Russia

Regarding the EU’s 18th sanctions package being prepared against Russia, Merz expressed confidence that member states would reach an agreement. He noted that the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the EU would discuss the package for the first time next week. Merz stated: “We may need to revisit this issue at the European Council. However, an agreement might also be reached as early as next week.”

The 4th Tashkent International Investment Forum Begins: Participation from Over 100 Countries

The 4th Tashkent International Investment Forum has begun in Uzbekistan.

Held at the Congress Center in the capital, the forum is being attended by around 3,000 officials and experts from nearly 100 countries and international organizations, including Bulgarian President Rumen Radev, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, Kazakh Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan Adylbek Kasymaliyev, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Asadov, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Odile Renaud-Basso, and President of the New Development Bank under BRICS Dilma Rousseff.

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his opening speech at the forum, stated that today the global community is facing serious challenges, with increasing threats to global security and sustainable development, rapidly changing geopolitical processes, and a renewed global arms race. He noted that due to the consequences of the economic crisis and lack of financial resources, the global GDP growth rate has been declining over the past three years.



"The Palestinian people have the right to their own independent state"

Addressing the situations in Ukraine and Palestine, Mirziyoyev said, "We believe that the situation in Ukraine should be resolved only through diplomatic means, and we welcome the direct negotiations that took place in Istanbul."

He also drew attention to the ongoing tragedy in Gaza, stating, "In the 21st century, it is impossible to justify the death of so many innocent people before our eyes. The only solution to this issue is a fair resolution of the conflict based on international law and accepted resolutions. The Palestinian people have the right to their own independent state." Mirziyoyev emphasized that under current difficult conditions, Uzbekistan is focusing on maintaining economic stability. He noted that within the last eight years, the country's GDP has doubled, and they aim to increase it to \$200 billion by 2030.

He stated that global demand for minerals has increased significantly in recent years, and that Uzbekistan possesses large reserves of tungsten,

molybdenum, magnesium, lithium, graphite, vanadium, titanium, and other minerals.

"Uzbekistan is creating all conditions for foreign investors and supports them in every way"

Mirziyoyev expressed hope that Uzbekistan would finalize its membership in the World Trade Organization next year and said that they are working to align numerous laws and standards in the country with international norms. He underlined that they aim to provide a more favorable business environment for foreign investors and to create a system that protects them from excessive inspections.

Pointing out that friendly relations with neighboring countries in recent years have led to the emergence of a completely new environment of cooperation in Central Asia, Mirziyoyev stated, "In general, we propose the implementation of the concept of 'a single region for investment and trade' in Central Asia. In this context, I would like to call on international organizations: it

is time to establish new financial mechanisms to support regional projects. If we act together, we can transform Central Asia into a region of peace and development."

Stating that investment means not only financial resources but also technology, knowledge, qualified personnel, integration into international production chains—in short, real development—Mirziyoyev said, "Uzbekistan is creating all conditions for good-faith foreign investors, supports them in every way, and guarantees this. All the doors in our country are always open for you. Most importantly, we have laws that protect your activities, a government open to dialogue, and a hardworking people ready for cooperation," he said.

Presentations on business and investment opportunities and investment projects in Uzbekistan will be made during the two-day forum. As part of the forum, the Uzbekistan National Exhibition and the 3rd Meeting of the Foreign Investors Council will also be held for the first time.

ULUSLARARASI SİVİL DİPLOMASİ GAZETESİ

İMTİYAZ SAHİBİ
USTSEM TELEVİZYON GAZETECİLİK
BASIN YAYIN SANAYİ TİCARET LTD. ŞTİ.
ADINA
Çağrı Mert GAYIR

YAYIN TÜRÜ : YAYGIN SÜRELİ YAYIN
SÜRESİ: 15 GÜNLÜK
YAYIN DİLİ: İNGİLİZCE

SORUMLU YAZI İŞLERİ MÜDÜRÜ
Mustafa UYSAL

GENEL YAYIN YÖNETMENİ
Can BAŞKAN

HABER MÜDÜRÜ
M.Ali HOZAN

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Razı SAFAROV

İSTİHBARAT VE HABER ŞEFİ
Berke ŞAHİN

HABER EDITÖRÜ
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GÖRSEL YÖNETMEN
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YAZAR
Lütfiye İlksen ÇİRİTOĞLU KURT
Hasan YİĞİT

İSTANBUL İL ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
Suat ŞİMŞEK

TÜRKMENİSTAN ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
Burak ÖZATA

AZERBAIJAN ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
Razı SAFAROV

UKRAYNA ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
Sofia BARNAS

DAĞITIM / AMADE AJANS
WEB TASARIM / Can BAŞKAN

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Av. Doğan KOZAN
Av. Faruk EVİRGİN
Av. Kerim ÖZTÜRK
Av. Naile ŞEKER
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Putin: Russia Possesses the World’s Most Advanced Nuclear Capability

Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced that 95% of the country’s strategic nuclear forces are now equipped with modern weapons and equipment. Highlighting Russia's superiority in this field, Putin stated that this figure represents the highest level among all nuclear powers worldwide.



This statement came at a time of strained relations with the West and as the war in Ukraine continues to challenge Russia’s conventional military capabilities. Putin made the remarks on Wednesday during a high-level defense meeting dedicated to reviewing the state armament program.

He emphasized the critical importance of Russia’s nuclear triad — consisting of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic bombers — for the country's national sovereignty. Maintaining and modernizing this triad, he said, remains a top priority.

As the war in Ukraine enters its third year, Russia's ground forces have suffered significant personnel, equipment, and logistical losses. Moreover, Western sanctions and industrial bottlenecks have negatively affected the military's combat readiness. Under these conditions, the Kremlin's renewed focus on strategic weapons systems signals a reassertion of nuclear deterrence as a central pillar of its defense doctrine.

In recent years, Russia has introduced new systems such as the RS-28 Sarmat ICBM, the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, and the Borei-A class nuclear submarines. However, there is limited information on the operational status and actual deployment of these systems. Putin’s message underscores that, despite challenges faced by its conventional forces, Russia continues to view its nuclear arsenal as a key instrument for maintaining its global strategic posture. Nonetheless, experts warn that such statements may further harden Western security perceptions and deepen Russia’s diplomatic isolation. The broader impact of the Kremlin’s signaling on the international security architecture remains uncertain.

Zelensky: Russia Determined to Continue the War, Odessa and Neighboring Countries Under Threat

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that allied countries must pressure Russia into peace, saying, “You all see, Putin does not want to end this war.”



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky noted that the Russian army wants to capture the city of Odessa, stating, “Russian military plans point to this region, to Odessa, and then to the borders of Moldova and Romania.” The 4th Ukraine-Southeast Europe Summit was held in the city of Odessa, Ukraine.

The summit was attended by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Moldovan President Maia Sandu, Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić, Romanian President Nicușor Dan, Montenegrin President Jakov Milatović, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Bulgarian Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov, Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, Albanian Parliament Speaker Elisa Spiropali, North Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning Izet Mexhiti, Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Tanja Fajon, and other guests. Speaking at the summit, Zelensky thanked the leaders of various

countries for their participation. Recalling that the Russia-Ukraine war continues, Zelensky stated that Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to prolong the war. Zelensky noted that intense Russian airstrikes against his country continue and that Russians launch around 300 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) every night.

He stated that they have started working on producing domestic interceptor UAVs to defend energy infrastructure, saying, “As soon as the Russians figure out where our air defense systems are, they attack them, so we are constantly changing the locations of our air defense systems.”

“You all see, Putin does not want to end this war”
Zelensky emphasized that allied countries must force Russia into peace, saying, “You all see, Putin does not want to end this war.” He stated that Ukraine needs more weapons and air defense systems to prevent Russian attacks, and also called for sanctions pressure to be maintained on Moscow. Zelensky expressed satisfaction with the announcement of the

18th sanctions package by the European Union (EU) against Russia, and argued that the price of Russian Brent crude oil should be reduced to 30 dollars per barrel.

Odessa and the borders of Moldova and Romania are in Russia’s crosshairs
Zelensky claimed that Russia poses a threat not only to Ukraine but also to its neighbors. He stated that they are fighting not only for the protection of Ukraine but also for the security of the entire region, and that the security of the region must be strengthened to prevent potential threats from Russia.

Zelensky emphasized that Russia wants to capture the city of Odessa, and said: “This beautiful city is a target for Russia. Just as it has destroyed countless cities and villages in the occupied territories, it also wants to destroy this one. Russian military plans point to this region, to Odessa, and then to the borders of Moldova and Romania. Of course, we need protection now. But more importantly, we need long-term guarantees that this will never happen again.”



Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Pakistan Deliver Message of Unity: “Together in Good Times and Bad”

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev stated, “The brotherhood among Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan—three fraternal countries—is growing stronger year by year. We stand together in both good times and bad.”

President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan delivered a speech in the city of Lachin during Azerbaijan’s Independence Day celebration, which was attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif.

Thanking Erdoğan and Sharif for joining them on Azerbaijan’s most important holiday, Aliyev said, “The brotherhood among Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan—three fraternal countries—is growing stronger year by year. We stand together in both good times and bad.”

Aliyev stated that the Türkiye-Azerbaijan-Pakistan Trilateral Summit held today once again reaffirmed the strategic partnership among the three countries.

Emphasizing the symbolic significance of the leaders of three fraternal nations meeting in Lachin, which had been under occupation for 30 years, Aliyev said, “During the 44-day war (Second Karabakh War), Türkiye and Pakistan supported us. The support of these two countries gave us hope and additional strength.”

Aliyev continued, “Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in our trilateral cooperation. I am confident that the agreements reached today will bring us even closer.”

Referring to the declaration of independence on May 28, 1918, the Soviet occupation period, and the transfer of Western Zangezur from Azerbaijan to Armenia, Aliyev also spoke about the reestablishment of independence in 1991 and the occupation of Azerbaijani territories as a result of Armenian aggression. Aliyev emphasized that the victory in the Second Karabakh War established a new reality in the region, which is now recognized by all countries.

Touching on reconstruction and revival efforts in Karabakh, Aliyev noted: “We will forever remain a victorious nation and state. The presence of my esteemed brothers at this celebration today, along with the support and solidarity shown, has created an entirely new global reality. Our strength lies in our unity. Today, we once again reaffirmed our unity in a trilateral format. I am confident that the messages delivered from Lachin—liberated from occupation—by the three countries will reach their intended audience. Long live the unity and brotherhood of

Azerbaijan-Türkiye-Pakistan.”

PM Sharif: The Three Fraternal Nations Share Their Difficult Times Like a Family Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif also delivered a speech, noting that the event coincides with both the anniversary of the proclamation of the Azerbaijani Republic on May 28, 1918, and the anniversary of Pakistan becoming a nuclear power.

Expressing his great joy and honor to participate in today’s celebration, Sharif extended his congratulations to the people of Azerbaijan.



Referring to the event being held in Lachin and the liberation of Karabakh from occupation, Prime Minister Sharif praised President Ilham Aliyev and the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

Highlighting the support extended by Türkiye and President Erdoğan to Azerbaijan, Sharif also recalled his own country’s diplomatic and political support for Azerbaijan.

“We used to say ‘2 souls, 1 heart (Pakistan-Türkiye),’” Sharif stated. “Now it has become ‘3 souls, 1 heart (Pakistan-Türkiye-Azerbaijan)’ for eternity.”

Sharif expressed sorrow over the April 22 terrorist attack in the Pahalgam region of Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 people, saying it was a tragic incident. He emphasized that Pakistan, despite facing a larger and more economically powerful adversary that had spent billions of dollars on advanced weapons over decades, managed to “overcome” that force.

Pointing out that India made “baseless accusations” against Pakistan, blaming it for organizing the terror attack, Sharif stated:

“We immediately proposed the establishment of an International Investigation Commission to transparently and credibly investigate the matter. However, in response, India attacked Pakistan, killing 33 innocent civilians, including children. We performed the funeral prayer for a six-year-old martyr. There were also women

and elderly among the victims, and 55 Pakistanis were injured. We had no choice but to respond to defend Pakistan, and shortly afterward, our Air Force downed four French-made Rafale jets, one MiG-29, another aircraft, and one drone—six Indian aircraft in total.” Sharif stated that a message was delivered to India saying, “Pakistan is a peace-loving country that seeks to promote peace and prosperity in the region. However, if Pakistan is attacked, we will respond with all our strength.”

Sharif introduced Pakistan Army Chief Marshal Syed Asim Munir and highlighted his achievements, stating: “He told me that India had attacked again. His voice reflected unwavering confidence. He was absolutely determined and calm, but also extremely clear about the need to teach our enemy a life lesson. We did not target civilians; we targeted India’s military facilities. This is the sharp distinction between us and them. They targeted innocent civilians and martyred them. We, on the other hand, targeted their military facilities and gave them the response they deserved.”

Sharif said that after the clashes, a ceasefire offer came from India, and they accepted it because they wanted to avoid war.

Sharif emphasized that when Azerbaijan was attacked by Armenia, Türkiye and Pakistan stood firmly by Azerbaijan “like a solid rock,” and continued:

“Pakistan was attacked by India, and my dear brother President Erdoğan and our brothers in Türkiye stood by Pakistan like a strong fortress. And my very dear brother Aliyev and our brothers in Azerbaijan did not waste any time in showing their full solidarity with Pakistan. This was one of the most beautiful moments in our shared history. The three brotherly countries are sharing their hard times like a family.”

Sharif said that these were difficult times but noted that the support of President Erdoğan and Azerbaijan’s President Aliyev during this period would never be forgotten.

Recalling that the second round of the trilateral meeting was held today, Sharif said that the meeting was highly productive in terms of coordinated efforts among the three brotherly



countries.

Pointing out that the flags of Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan are flying together in the city of Lachin, Sharif said:

“This strongly declares that these flags will rise even higher together. We will walk the path of progress and prosperity together.”

Sharif expressed his thanks to Aliyev and Erdoğan for their support on the Jammu and Kashmir issue and reminded that the mountains of Kashmir have been stained with blood and that many lives have been lost.

“They have not abandoned this cause, and they will never give up until they obtain the fundamental freedoms secured by the articles of the United Nations Charter and outlined in the Security Council resolutions.” Sharif stated that Pakistan firmly stands behind the cause of the Kashmiri people and emphasized that Türkiye and Azerbaijan also support this cause.

“Inshallah, the day will come very soon, and the people of Kashmir will gain their freedom and escape the conflicts of captivity.”

Prime Minister Sharif said what is happening in Gaza is no different from Jammu and Kashmir, noting that 52,000 Palestinians, including children, women, and the elderly, have been martyred and that even now blood is dripping from the streets of Gaza.

“In my opinion, there is no more heartbreaking incident in modern history than this. I wonder, when will the conscience of this civilized world wake up to these atrocities and Israel’s barbaric actions? This barbarism must be condemned in the strongest way, and together.”

Sharif said President Erdoğan has always been the leader of this cause and is appreciated for being the voice of humanity, not only in the Islamic world but around the globe.

Drawing attention to the need for Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan to raise their voices together, Sharif emphasized that a ceasefire must be achieved in Gaza immediately for the sake of humanity and that the deaths must stop.

Sharif concluded by stating that Palestinians must be granted the right to self-determination and that a two-state solution must be implemented.

World reactions to the Israel-Iran tensions

The international community reacted to the conflict that began with Israel's intense attacks on Iran.

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, regarding the conflict that began with Israel's intense attacks on Iran, "It is time to stop."

UN Secretary-General Guterres made a statement on the Israel-Iran tension on his social media account X.

Recalling Israel's targeting of Iran's nuclear facilities and Tehran's retaliation, Guterres said, "It is time to stop."

Pointing to the rising tension, Guterres stated that "peace and diplomacy" must prevail.

Pope Leo XIV calls on Israel and Iran to act with 'responsibility and reason'

Speaking during an event at St. Peter's Basilica, the spiritual leader of Catholics and Head of the Vatican State, Pope Leo XIV, made assessments regarding the crisis in the Middle East.

Referring to recent developments in the Middle East, Pope Leo XIV said, "In recent days, very worrying news has arrived. The situation in Iran and Israel has seriously deteriorated. At such a delicate moment, I want to renew the call for responsibility and reason. The commitment to build a safer world free of nuclear threats must be pursued through respectful negotiation and sincere dialogue, in order to build a lasting peace based on justice, fraternity, and the common good."

Emphasizing the importance of continuing dialogue, Pope Leo XIV said, "No one should threaten the existence of another. It is the duty of all countries to support the cause of peace, initiate paths of reconciliation, and promote solutions that guarantee security and dignity for all."

U.S. Senator Sanders condemns Israel's attack on Iran

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders stated in a post on his X account that the world has become a more dangerous and unstable place as a result of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government's repeated violations of international law.

Condemning Israel's attack on Iran, Sanders said, "(Israel) is using the starvation of children in Gaza as a weapon of war, which constitutes a violation of the Geneva Convention. Now, its illegal and unilateral attack on Iran raises the risk of a regional war."

Sanders pointed out that the U.S. and the international community must do "everything possible" to prevent the escalation of tensions in the region and bring the warring parties to the negotiating table.

OIC calls for international action to

stop Israeli attacks on Iran

In a written statement from the Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Israel's attacks on Iran were "strongly condemned."

The statement emphasized that the attacks constituted a "blatant violation" of Iran's sovereignty, security, and international law.

The international community and the UN Security Council were called upon to "assume their responsibilities in the face of this aggression that threatens security, peace, and stability across the entire region, and to act swiftly and decisively to stop it."

Greece: Closure of the Strait of Hormuz could have serious consequences for maritime transport

Greek Minister of Maritime Affairs and Island Policy Vasilis Kikilias stated in an interview with ERTNews that recent developments in the Middle East have forced everyone to remain on high alert.

Highlighting that a scenario such as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz could have serious consequences for global maritime transport, the economy, and directly for Greece, Kikilias stated that the outcomes of wars are always unpredictable.

Diplomatic efforts from Saudi Arabia and Oman to de-escalate regional tensions

According to the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held phone conversations with French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, during which they discussed "developments in the region and Israel's military attacks on Iran."

In both conversations, Bin Salman emphasized the need to "reduce regional tensions, maintain restraint, and resolve all disputes through diplomatic means."

Last night, Bin Salman also spoke with U.S. President Donald Trump, and once again, "Israel's attacks on Iran" were on the agenda.

According to SPA, the two leaders reiterated "the importance of working together for regional stability and peace" and called on all parties to "de-escalate tensions and resolve disputes through peaceful means."

Meanwhile, Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi held "intensive diplomatic talks" with several of his counterparts to halt the "dangerous escalation" following Israel's attack on Iran.

In a statement from the Omani Foreign Ministry, Minister Busaidi emphasized "the importance of deterring the



aggressor through means based on international law, in order to prevent bloodshed and safeguard regional security."

Pakistan calls on the Islamic world to unite against Israel

Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, speaking in the National Assembly, warned: "Israel has targeted Iran, Yemen, and Palestine. If Muslim countries do not unite now, each of them will share the same fate."

Asif called on Muslim countries with diplomatic ties to Israel to sever those relations immediately and stressed that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) must convene urgently and develop a common strategy.

"We Stand with Iran"

Defense Minister Asif, noting that Pakistan has deep relations with Iran, said, "We stand with Iran and will support them on every international platform to protect their interests."

Pakistan is historically known for its support of the Palestinian cause and its friendly ties with Iran, as well as for its stance against Israel's attacks on Gaza.

Italian Prime Minister Meloni discussed the Middle East crisis with other leaders

In a written statement from the Italian Prime Minister's Office, it was noted that, because of the crisis in the Middle East, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, after holding a meeting with the relevant ministers last night, held telephone conversations with U.S. President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, as well as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to seek a diplomatic solution to the problem.

The statement recalled that two rounds of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States were held in Rome, adding: "Prime Minister Meloni informed all her interlocutors that Italy is ready to undertake any initiative that could support this outcome, as it did before by hosting the two rounds of negotiations between Iran and the United States."

Further details were provided regarding Meloni's telephone conversation with Netanyahu:

"During the call, the Prime Minister shared the necessity of ensuring that Iran, under no circumstances, acquires nuclear weapons, while expressing the hope that

the efforts led by the United States to reach an agreement will nevertheless be successful. Finally, Prime Minister Meloni once again stressed the urgency of ensuring humanitarian aid access for the civilian population in Gaza."

Azerbaijani and Iranian Foreign Ministers discuss Israel-Iran tensions

According to a statement from the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi discussed the situation in the region following Israel's attacks on Iran.

Iranian Minister Araghchi provided information about the attacks carried out by Israel and the steps taken by Iran in response.

Minister Bayramov expressed concern over the escalating tension in the region and extended his condolences over the deaths of the Iranian Chief of General Staff, the Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, several high-ranking commanders, and civilians.

Bayramov pointed out that the situation surrounding nuclear facilities raises serious concerns and emphasized the importance of resolving current issues solely through dialogue and diplomatic means, in accordance with the norms and principles of international law.

He also stressed that Azerbaijani territory cannot be used by any country against a third country—particularly against friendly and neighboring Iran.

During the meeting, it was also recalled that, due to the closure of Iranian airspace, citizens of various countries and Iranian nationals have been using Azerbaijan's land border for transit. The importance of reviving diplomatic efforts to prevent the conflict from spreading to a wider geography was underscored.

Conflict triggered by Israel's heavy attacks on Iran

On June 13, Israel launched large-scale attacks targeting Iran's nuclear facilities in various cities as well as the top command of the Iranian military.

The Iranian Chief of General Staff, the Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, several senior commanders, and 9 nuclear scientists were killed in the attacks, with a total civilian death toll reported as 78.

In retaliation, the Iranian military launched ballistic missiles at Israel, wounding at least 63 people.

Israel was condemned by many countries, including Turkey.

‘Healing’ with the Scent of Spring

Grown in the fertile lands of Anatolia, the oleaster is considered a natural pharmacy not only for its fruit, but also for its seed and bark. The oleaster flower, with its pleasant scent, has earned a strong place in local cultures. Known for its spring-like breezes, the oleaster flower spreads a refreshing aroma. It has been proven that this scent invigorates the mind and helps improve concentration.

Although this humble fruit has secured a solid place in folk medicine for centuries, many of its benefits are still not widely known.

Oleaster Fruit: A Miracle That Boosts Immunity

Oleaster contains high levels of vitamin C, phenolic compounds, and natural fiber. These components strengthen the immune system and protect the body against illnesses. Especially during the winter months, it serves as a natural shield against the common cold and flu. Its antioxidant effect fights free radicals in the body, slows down cell aging, and provides protection against chronic diseases. Additionally, it regulates the digestive system and helps relieve constipation.

Oleaster Seed: A Hidden Source of Healing

The oleaster seed holds even more medical potential than the fruit itself. It is known to help eliminate kidney stones. When finely ground into a powder and mixed with yogurt or honey, it helps relieve digestive issues, supports gut flora, and assists in removing toxins from the body. It also stands out for its properties that reduce joint pain and support bone health. This effect comes from its natural flavonoids and phenolic compounds.

Oleaster Bark: A Forgotten Treasure

Often overlooked, oleaster bark is actually a powerful source of anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties. In traditional Anatolian medicine, oleaster bark water was used to promote faster wound healing. When boiled and used as a mouthwash or gargle, the water reduces inflammation and prevents infections in the mouth and throat. Furthermore, due to the natural tannins it contains, it helps ease stomach discomforts, especially offering relief in conditions such as gastritis and ulcers.

Oleaster and Its Active Compounds

The oleaster, its seed, and bark are rich in



vitamins C and E, and minerals such as potassium, magnesium, and calcium. Flavonoids, phenolic acids, and tannins make the oleaster a powerful source of antioxidants. These compounds reduce inflammation, support cell regeneration, and protect the body against various diseases. The tannins found in oleaster bark are particularly effective in preventing inflammation and microbial infections.

Areas of Use: From Tradition to the Future

While the fruit is consumed dried as a natural winter snack, the seed is ground into powder for use. The bark, on the other hand, is boiled into a healing liquid used both internally and externally. In traditional Anatolian medicine, oleaster seeds were also used in amulets and prayer beads like the evil eye bead. Today, oleaster and its components are drawing increasing interest in the production of natural medicine and supplements.

Final Words: Health That Comes from Nature

While the fruit supports immunity, the seed regulates the digestive system, and the bark protects against infections. This triple healing source holds many benefits that modern medicine has yet to fully discover. It should be remembered that nature’s miracles can greatly contribute to our health when used correctly and consciously.

In short, including oleaster not only for its fruit but also for its seed and bark in our lives means opening the door to natural and sustainable healing.



"Cultural Heritage of the Turkic World Meets in Turkistan: Divanu Lugati’t-Turk Exhibition"

The spiritual capital of the Turkic world, Turkistan, is hosting the exhibition "The Beginning of Wisdom is Language: Divanu Lugati’t-Turk", specially organized to mark the 950th anniversary of the writing of Kashgari Mahmud’s Divanu Lugati’t-Turk dictionary.

The exhibition, held in cooperation with the Turkic World Foundation and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, previously attracted great interest in Bishkek and Astana, and is now open to visitors in the city of Turkistan, Kazakhstan.

The exhibition, opened at Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University, is also supported by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). In her opening speech, the President of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, Aktoty Raimkulova, emphasized that Divanu Lugati’t-Turk is a work that strengthens the common cultural identity of Turkic peoples. “As a foundation, we are proud to reintroduce this ancient work, which offers unique insights into the daily life, culture, and traditions of Turkic peoples, in its 950th year,” Raimkulova said.

President Raimkulova also extended her gratitude to Nabi Avcı, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Turkic World Foundation, as well as to TİKA and YTB, for their collaboration on the exhibition. Türkiye’s Consul General in Turkistan, İlker Pak, reminded that the soul of a nation lives in its language, stating, “It is our shared responsibility to preserve and carry forward the richness of our Turkish language rooted in our heritage.” Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Turkic World Foundation, Osman Özsoy, also highlighted in his speech that Divanu Lugati’t-Turk is not only a dictionary, but

also a document of civilization: “The work contains nearly 250 proverbs. Ten of these, selected as examples, are presented to visitors in the exhibition. The fact that proverbs like ‘Out of sight, out of mind’ and ‘Drop by drop, a lake is formed’ are used both in Anatolia and in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan points to our common language and cultural unity.”

Rector of Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University, Janar Temirbekova, expressed her delight in hosting such a meaningful exhibition. The exhibition presents the historical journey and content of Divanu Lugati’t-Turk, which serves as a collective memory of the Turkic world, in detail to its visitors. The exhibition also includes a facsimile replica of the work, prepared in accordance with the original, selected words and proverbs from Divanu Lugati’t-Turk, and a modern interpretation of the world map centered on the Turkic world drawn by Kashgari Mahmud.

Within the scope of the work—which holds the distinction of being the first dictionary of the Turkish language written in the 11th century by Kashgari Mahmud—objects, thematic costumes, and contemporary designs that offer clues about the aesthetic understanding, clothing style, and social life of the period are also on display. Women’s and men’s clothing specially designed by fashion designer Ezgi Karayel, inspired by the details in the Divan, visually bridge the past and the present. The exhibition will remain open to visitors until June 30.



MODERNITY AND SOCIETY

Modernity is not just a concept that refers to technological advances or the vertical growth of cities. It is the transformation of a mindset, a way of life and even an identity.

Modernity is not just a concept that refers to technological advances or the vertical growth of cities. It is the transformation of a mindset, a way of life and even an identity. Today's people decide what to wear, what to think and how to feel within a framework largely shaped by modernity. Never before has the influence of society on the individual been so intense, but in the modern age this influence comes not only from tradition, but also from global trends, digital platforms and even algorithms. Never before in history has humanity been so connected, yet so alone at the same time. When modernity is mentioned, most people think of science, technology, secularization, individualization and urbanization. However, these are only the tip of the iceberg. In fact, modernity is the change in the answer to the question "who am I?". While in traditional societies the individual derives his identity from his family, village and the belief system to which he belongs, in modern society the individual now has to construct his own identity. This seemingly free process also brings with it a heavy burden. This is because identity construction, in a world of infinite options, leads to a constant state of decision-making. The modern individual is therefore often indecisive, restless and dissatisfied.

Society has transformed into a multi-layered structure with modernity. The transition from an agricultural society to an industrial society and then to an information society has transformed not only the mode of production but also social relations. Children who used to grow up with neighborhood culture now grow up with digital screens. While it used to be natural to live with the elders of the family, now individual life has become a sign of prestige. Although this transformation has brought some conveniences, it has also caused a shake-up in the human psyche. Values such as solidarity, belonging and unrequited trust have become less and less felt. One of the main characteristics of modern society is presented as the emancipation of the individual. People now make their own decisions; they decide what to wear, where to study, whom to marry, what to believe in. While this may seem like freedom on the surface, modern man is surrounded by invisible pressures when making these choices. The fashion industry, digital platforms, popular culture and social media guide the individual's decisions. In other words, while the individual thinks

that he/she has been liberated, he/she has actually entered into another kind of steering mechanism. There are no more prohibitions, but norms are much stronger. Being liked, being accepted and being visible are the new sacraments of modern man. Technological advances are the most visible face of modernity. Smartphones, artificial intelligence, the internet of things make everything faster, easier and more efficient. However, the same speed has superficialized human relationships. We now establish relationships without getting together and leave without saying goodbye. Friendship starts with a message and can end with an emoji. While the possibilities offered by technology make life easier, the inner depth of human beings remains on the surface. The modern individual no longer cares about feeling, but showing. Presentation instead of depth, image instead of emotion are at the forefront. This turns society into a showcase built on visibility rather than emotion.

Another effect of modernity on the transformation of society is the loss of meaning of the sacred.

In traditional societies, values such as religion, family and nation were the basic building blocks of society. Modernity, on the other hand, brought these values into question. With secularization, religion withdrew from the public sphere and became a choice of the individual sphere. This created freedom for some and a void for others. For the sacred is not only a religious concept; it is the basis of the human search for meaning. As the modern individual struggles to replace the old sacred with new ones, he or she drifts into a crisis of meaning. This leads to the psychological problems of the modern age such as depression, loneliness and identity crisis.

Education is one of the pillars of modernity. Through education, individuals are both equipped with knowledge and integrated into the system. However, the modern education system does not always aim to reveal the potential of the individual. Rather, it aims to raise individuals WHO conform to certain norms and fit the system. This encourages conformity, not originality. Modern man becomes adept not at finding his own voice, but at adapting to the voices of others.

Therefore, individuals who think alike, dress alike and act with similar concerns proliferate in society. Diversity is no longer perceived as an asset, but as a

threat. This shows another face of modernity that contradicts its claim of freedom.

Politics has also undergone a major transformation under the influence of modernity. The traditional understanding of leadership has been replaced by technical management. Performance, not charisma, is now expected from leaders. As values such as democracy, pluralism and freedom of expression became more widespread, the presentation of policies became more important than their content. This has opened a new chapter in politics' relationship with the public. Voters no longer look at what the leader does, but how he or she looks. This turns politics into a showcase race, just like in other fields. Perception management becomes more important than reality. In such an environment, society makes decisions based on impressions rather than information.

The economy has become one of the most powerful actors of modernity in social life. Consumption culture has become a way of life, not just an economic behavior. People no longer

consume for their needs, but to express their identities. Everything from the brand they wear to the neighborhood they live in has become an indicator of an individual's social position. This has led to a deep economic divide and widened the gap between social classes. The center of modern society is no longer production, but consumption. And this consumer culture has begun to measure the value of the individual by the purchases he or she makes. This shows that the value modernity places on human beings has become limited to material indicators. Another important effect of modernity is the transformation in the perception of time. In traditional societies, time was more cyclical, shaped by seasons, rituals and natural cycles. In modern society, time is linear and competitive. Everything needs to be done faster. Slowness becomes a weakness and speed a virtue. This leads to a constant rush. Even rest becomes a problem of efficiency. This fast-paced life does not allow people to stay with themselves. That is why modern man is often late for himself when he is catching up. Media also plays a central role in the transformation of society. Especially digital media has a great impact on shaping the way individuals think, their value judgments and even their emotions. In a world where everyone has a screen, reality is now as much as that screen presents. Truth is no longer a personal



experience; it is a digitally produced content. This brings about the age of post-truth. It is no longer what is important, but how it is told. In this environment, societies lose their sense of common reality.

Everyone has their own truth. This makes social consensus difficult. Modernity is a force that moves societies forward, but the change it brings is not always positive. Therefore, while benefiting from the blessings of modernity, it is also necessary to face the problems that it creates and . Instead of pitting tradition against modernity, an approach that can synthesize the two will lead to a healthier social transformation. Neither blind devotion to the past nor unlimited admiration for the future... What is essential is to capture the spirit of the age without forgetting the essence of the human being.

In the case of Turkey, the modernization process of the society has followed a different course from other Western societies. From the Tanzimat period to the Republic, modernization was mostly carried out from the top down, that is, through elites. While this created resistance in some segments of society, it led to rapid adaptation in others. Today, the balance between tradition and modernity is still delicate in Turkey. Maintaining this balance is of great importance for social peace and cultural richness.

In conclusion, modernity is a force that determines the development of societies, but the way each society experiences this process is different. Modernity is not only a technological development; it is also a way of being. Understanding society is possible by understanding the individual. And understanding the individual requires being able to see his/her inner conflicts, searches and loneliness. Modern man is perhaps more powerful than ever before, but more fragile than ever before. This fragility will be the most fundamental dynamic that will determine what he will become not only as an individual but also as a society.



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