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“We are making Turkey one of the centers of peace diplomacy.”

In his speech at the AK Party's Group Meeting at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), President Erdoğan stated, "As Turkey, we are not only carrying the banner of goodness but also spreading the climate of peace, security, and tranquility, especially to the oppressed regions, and to all corners of the world. We are taking Turkey beyond being the source of stability in its region, making it one of the central hubs of peace diplomacy."

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Israelis Who Usurped Palestinian Lands Storm Al-Aqsa Mosque Under Police Protection

Israelis who have usurped Palestinian lands stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in occupied East Jerusalem.

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Russia: Deployment of NATO Troops in Ukraine Under Any Flag is a Threat



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that the deployment of NATO troops in Ukraine under any flag constitutes a threat, emphasizing, "We do not accept this in any way."

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Kurtulmuş Attends "Iftar Program with Non-Governmental Organizations" at the Parliament

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), Numan Kurtulmuş, stated, "Our goal is both to advance our country and nation, to ensure that Turkey moves forward in a stronger manner, and to take great strides with our efforts toward the establishment of a new world where humanity can live in peace and prosperity."

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The Turkish Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, organized an iftar program

The Turkish Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, organized a collective iftar program on the first day of the Ramadan month in the capital, Bishkek.

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Foreign Minister Fidan: All armed elements involved in terrorist activities in Syria must be eliminated

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, regarding the developments in Syria, stated, "It is essential that all armed elements involved in terrorist activities in the region are eliminated, and that all populations return to a normal life."

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People's Democratic Party Wins General Elections in Tajikistan

The People's Democratic Party won the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan with 51.9% of the votes.

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Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan aim to increase the cargo volume transported across the Caspian Sea to 10 million tons.

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Nature's Golden Root: The Hidden Power of Ginger

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Uzbekistan has risen up against the growing Chinese population!

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Famous Turkish Poet Saib-i Tabrizi

The mausoleum of Saib-i Tabrizi, one of the prominent Turkish poets of the 17th century, attracts attention both with its architecture and its natural surroundings.

SOURCE: VEDAT KURT

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EU Legalizes "Return Centers" Under Criticism in the Fight Against Irregular Migration



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Ancient City of Turkistan in Kazakhstan Receives Special Status to Protect Its Historical Fabric

In Kazakhstan, the ancient city of Turkistan, with a history of nearly 2,000 years, has been granted special status by law to preserve its unique cultural heritage and historical fabric.

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In his speech at the AK Party’s Group Meeting at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), President Erdoğan stated, "As Turkey, we are not only carrying the banner of goodness but also spreading the climate of peace, security, and tranquility, especially to the oppressed regions, and to all corners of the world. We are taking Turkey beyond being the source of stability in its region, making it one of the central hubs of peace diplomacy.”

President and AK Party Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the AK Party Group Meeting at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) and delivered a speech. In his speech, Erdoğan wished that the consultations and evaluations they would carry out would bring good things for Turkey, the nation, and democracy. Sending his love and respect to all his comrades who share the same passion and have supported the same cause, President Erdoğan said, "On this occasion, I once again express my gratitude to my organization, which turned February 23 into a democracy celebration in Ankara despite the cold that reached minus 10 degrees. I congratulate the brothers and sisters who took part in our congress and thank those who handed over their duties for their efforts and services to our cause."

President Erdoğan expressed pride in AK Party’s organization members, who are each a monument to loyalty, and as their General Chairman, he said, "May God make our solidarity and love everlasting."

“A SECTARIAN STRIFE IS TRYING TO BE SPARKED IN SYRIA”

President Erdoğan continued his speech: "We are going through a difficult process where tensions, wars, and brotherly conflicts are taking place, both in our region and in different corners of the world. Our Sudanese brothers have been struggling with instability for a long time. We see that Somalia, Libya, Yemen, and Afghanistan are facing serious challenges. In Gaza, after long negotiations, the ceasefire achieved is still continuing, despite all the provocations and violations of the Zionist regime. In Syria, where 14 years of oppression ended with the December 8th revolution, a sectarian strife is being attempted. Despite all the negative developments, as a country, nation, and AK Party, we keep our hope alive and maintain our determination in the strongest way. Without being discouraged by difficulties, without getting caught in obstacles, and without falling into traps, we draw strength and courage from our brotherhood, our history, and our deep-rooted experience of thousands of years. As our late

teacher Erbakan expressed, we are working day and night to be ‘a motor for goodness, a brake for evil.’"

Recalling the words of writer Mustafa Kutlu, "Do something beautiful, let it lead to peace, let it open the way to tenderness, inspire enthusiasm, and point to the truth; do something right, protect people from the swamp of lies and falsehood; do something good, let it be composed of service, respect, and compassion, soften hearts, heal the troubles of the poor, travelers, and weak; do something just, never deviate from justice, inform the oppressor of his limits, give the oppressed their due," President Erdoğan said, "This is the noble effort we are in. Starting with our close environment, we strive to contribute to peace, goodness, tranquility, and justice both within and outside our country."



“OUR SERVICES WILL REACH THE PEOPLE”

Underlining that they would not be in the pursuit of showmanship, President Erdoğan stated, "We will not spend 5 liras on advertising a 3-lira service. We will never turn citizens' problems, struggles, needs, and grievances into political tools or leverage for the opposition, as they do. Do not forget, dear brothers and sisters, we are not after making advertisements or shows; we are after winning hearts, entering hearts. We are a team that acts with the aim of healing a wound, providing a cure for a disease, or meeting a need. We come from a political culture like this. Of course, we will tell people what we have done. We will ensure that our services reach the people, but while doing so, we will not behave recklessly like some others, we will not humiliate our people. We will carry out all our activities with dignity. We will never deviate from humility and sincerity. This is the nobility and dignity that suits AK Party cadres."

President Erdoğan emphasized that the approach that suits this movement is an inclusive one that embraces all 85 million people, and he congratulated all of his companions on their Ramadan.

“TURKEY IS SPREADING THE PEACEFUL CLIMATE OF PEACE TO ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD”

President Erdoğan stated, "In this blessed season of mercy, when heartfelt prayers are not turned away, we wholeheartedly say ‘Amen’ to the prayer of the late Mehmet Akif: ‘O Lord, for the sake of this magnificent Ramadan, remove any obstacle to unity; O Lord, may the Ummah not fall into despair due to centuries of division.’ I pray that Ramadan becomes a source of prosperity, peace, and solidarity for our country, our nation, the Islamic world, and all humanity."

President Erdoğan continued, "As Turkey, we are not only carrying the banner of goodness but also spreading the climate of peace, security, and tranquility to all corners of the world, especially to oppressed regions." He stated that they were beginning to reap the results of their efforts with the motto "A fairer world is possible."

President Erdoğan emphasized that Turkey has moved beyond being a source of stability in its region and is now becoming one of the central hubs of peace diplomacy.

A video showcasing Turkey's peace diplomacy was later shown in the hall. After the video, President Erdoğan continued his speech, reminding the audience that today marks a very meaningful anniversary, as it is the 104th anniversary of the acceptance of the National Anthem, the İstiklal Marşı. He recalled that the İstiklal Marşı was accepted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly as Turkey's national anthem and honored its author, the late Mehmet Akif Ersoy, with prayers.

President Erdoğan stated, "It is a fact that our İstiklal Marşı is not just an ordinary poem or an ordinary anthem. Our İstiklal Marşı, the symbol of our independence, is also the symbol of the feelings, heroism, and noble character of our proud nation, embedded in verses, sentences, words, and letters. This anthem is a monument of resistance against imperialism by a nation whose

lands were attempted to be occupied by invaders, and it is the declaration of existence. Our İstiklal Marşı is a foundational and profound text that begins with the words 'Do not fear' addressed to Hz. Abu Bakr by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) when they were trapped in the Cave of Sevr during the Hijra."

President Erdoğan emphasized that the İstiklal Marşı, which narrates the epic story of Anatolia being established as the eternal homeland of the nation, is also the sanctuary for all those who fought alongside the nation against colonialism and imperialism.

"Protecting Turkey's unity, peace, security, and integrity is our collective responsibility. It is a shared duty towards the nation. Being in the opposition does not change this fact; it should not change it," said President Erdoğan. "Another point is that, in this country, Kurds, Alevis, conservatives, and democrats have all suffered the harshest oppression from the CHP and its fascist mindset. The CHP leadership, instead of exploiting and inciting our Alevi citizens, should first repent for the injustices they inflicted upon them."

He added, "While working towards the goal of a terror-free Turkey, I openly and clearly say that creating new fault lines that are prone to exploitation while solving the country's 40-year-old problem is nothing but serving imperialism."

President Erdoğan continued, "Whoever attempts to harm the brotherhood of this nation with the encouragement of a few imperialists will face us, our state, and all 85 million of us. We have seen this plot many times over the past 22 years. We have seen this dirty game before, in the 27 May incident, the 12 March memorandum, the 12 September coup, the 28 February post-modern coup, and the bloody and treacherous roads leading to them. We have witnessed these kinds of statements and attempts to intervene in our democracy and economy, in various traps designed to drag Turkey into a quagmire of instability. We have seen this twisted scenario before in Maraş, Çorum, Sivas, Gazi Neighborhood, and other places. To those who are still chasing after the same desires, I say once again: You will not succeed. You will not harm our brotherhood. You will not keep us from

our goal of the Turkey Century. By stirring up Turkey's internal dynamics, you will not be able to confine this nation to its internal agenda again. With God's permission, this time you will not succeed in pushing Turkey out of the global race for democracy and development."

President Erdoğan stressed that as the AK Party and the People's Alliance, they will not allow new problems and new divisions to arise in the country. He emphasized that, without any distinction, all 85 million will tightly hold onto the ancient values that the İstiklal Marşı advocates.

President Erdoğan, remembering Mehmet Akif Ersoy, said, "We owe a debt of gratitude to the late Akif for giving us not just an anthem but a manifesto that will be sung with pride and enthusiasm for generations to come. I also remember with respect the honorable members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly who accepted our İstiklal Marşı."



"WHEN THE FAMILY IS DAMAGED, INDIVIDUALS, SOCIETY, COUNTRY, AND HUMANITY BEGIN TO DECAY"

Pointing out the increasing negative effects of neoliberal culture in a world that has become a global village, President Erdoğan noted that one of the main targets of global culture is family and family values. "No matter what the modern opinion leaders dictate, in our understanding, family is the nucleus, the core, and the guarantee of the future of the nation and country," said President Erdoğan, stressing that a society where the family does not exist, where families are fragmented, and family values are undermined cannot look to the future with confidence and hope.

He stated that the family is the first school for a person, where they learn tolerance, respect, love, honesty, hard work, patriotism, tolerance for differences, patience, solidarity, altruism, and respect for the rights of others, as well as refraining from corruption. In this sense, family is not only the foundation of society but also one of the most important pillars that hold the country together.

President Erdoğan concluded, "God forbid, if the family is damaged, then the individual, society, country, and humanity will decay in turn. That is why we say 'strong family, strong individuals, strong society.'" He further added, "The principle we use to explain our party's philosophy, 'Live the person, so the state survives,' is also the expression of our feeling that 'Live the family, so the nation

survives.' Indeed, any individual development that excludes family values, demonizes the family, or relegates the family to the background has no chance of success. Recently, supporters of the CHP gathered at Taksim Square and, by placing the name of family in black bags, symbolically threw it away. Your lives have already been like this, and they will end like this. This is why you are of no use, and you will be of no use. Family is everything to us."

President Erdoğan highlighted that efforts to turn individuals into a small, qualified, free, but isolated person have become a global siege.

"HOME MEANS THE PLACE WHERE BASIC EDUCATION AND TEACHINGS ABOUT LIFE AND HUMANITY ARE RECEIVED"

President Erdoğan, drawing attention to the priority of Western populism in the last century being the dismantling of the family and increasing the number of individualistic people in society, stated, "Now, they are paying the heaviest price for this. They cannot escape the deadlock they are stuck in due to wrong policies."

Emphasizing that the concept of a home should not be equated with the number of rooms in a house, President Erdoğan said, "A home is not just a certain square meter of space. A home is a place where beautiful time is spent together, memories are made, peace is found under the roof, and fundamental life and human education and teachings take place. Children go to school to add letters, numbers, and skills to this strong foundation they have gained at home. Therefore, school is not a replacement for the family, but rather an institution that should complement the education, morality, and values taught within the family."

President Erdoğan pointed out that the family institution, which is of vital importance, is under multidimensional siege. He highlighted issues such as population and demographic changes, the imposition of perverse ideologies like gender-neutrality, the decline of extended families, the decreasing number of children in nuclear families, the rising age of marriage, the increasing divorce rates, and the growing number of single-parent families. He stated that these issues have weakened and eroded



the family institution, just like the sun melts the snow.

Despite Turkey's strong culture and family values, President Erdoğan noted that the country is also targeted by these threats and is among the ones most affected. Referring to the figures shared during his speech at the "Family Year Program," he mentioned that in Turkey, the fertility rate and population growth rate have fallen asymmetrically. He pointed out that the fertility rate, which was 2.38 in 2001, has dropped to 1.51. President Erdoğan also mentioned that the annual population growth rate has decreased to 1.1 per thousand, that the child and youth population is decreasing, and that for the first time in history, the elderly population has exceeded 10%. He added that the average age is nearing 34, stating, "Although we are not yet at the level of Europe and other developed countries, we are unfortunately aging in terms of population."

"WE WILL TAKE DETERMINED STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY INSTITUTION"

President Erdoğan stated that the opposition does not see or hear the cries rising from countries battling the social disaster caused by LGBT issues, saying, "By hiding behind a false concept of freedom, they are placing a time-bomb within our national structure. Can you imagine, looking at recent developments in the United States... 'It's only made up of men and women,' who says that? Trump. Of course, what else could be expected from a structure that has

institutionalized theft, corruption, audacity, and even sexual harassment within its party organizations and municipalities? We will take determined steps to strengthen the family institution against the invasion, corruption, and occupation of our national structure by perverse movements. We are openly expressing our sensitive stance on this issue at every opportunity."

Recalling the establishment of the "Family Institute" and "Population Policies Council" under the Ministry of Family and Social Services, President Erdoğan shared that the interest-free loan support given to newlyweds within the Family and Youth Fund has been implemented in all 81 provinces.

"WE DO NOT SEE THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AS THE WEAKENING OF THE FAMILY"

President Erdoğan, recalling the increase in birth assistance, stated, "We will implement new projects, regulations, and practices that will strengthen the family institution, make it easier for young people to start families, and eliminate threats and dangers to the family. We do not view the empowerment of women as the weakening or diminishing of the family. On the contrary, we view women's determination and decisiveness as supporting the family. Therefore, we have never engaged in politics over women; we have always preferred to do politics with women, for women, and together for our country and nation. God willing, we will continue on this path. Despite the CHP, which has shown time and again that it is an enemy of women and families, and the chauvinistic mentality of CHP that belittles women and views them only as decorative items, with God's permission, we will achieve this together."

At the end of the meeting, when asked by a journalist whether he would give a second-round meeting to the DEM Party delegation, President Erdoğan responded, "(AK Party Group) My colleagues will meet with them, I will also meet if it is requested. The Group Chairman is currently handling it. If I am asked, I will meet too."

Kurtulmuş Attends "Iftar Program with Non-Governmental Organizations" at the Parliament

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), Numan Kurtulmuş, stated, "Our goal is both to advance our country and nation, to ensure that Turkey moves forward in a stronger manner, and to take great strides with our efforts toward the establishment of a new world where humanity can live in peace and prosperity."

He emphasized that these iftar gatherings provide an opportunity to review shared goals, saying, "Our objective is both to advance our country and nation, to ensure that Turkey moves forward in a stronger manner, and to take great strides with our efforts toward the establishment of a new world where humanity can live in peace and prosperity."

Pointing out that Turkey is at the beginning of a historic era, Kurtulmuş stressed that the "Century of Turkey" aims to be a century where Turkey's voice is strong and its power is influential, and that they are all working together toward this goal.

He stated that public institutions, private enterprises, and NGOs are key actors in Turkey's journey toward these shared objectives, adding, "That is why we are aware of the significant efforts made by esteemed NGO representatives in facilitating Turkey's common national goals. May God grant you great success in your endeavors. I sincerely hope that each of you will become leaders in your respective fields as NGOs."

Kurtulmuş highlighted that Turkey has made significant progress in civil society compared to previous years, stating: "Civil society is the truest and purest face of democracy. NGOs are the strongest institutions forming the bridge between individuals and the state. Here, we have leaders and representatives of Turkey's esteemed NGOs, whose members number in the millions or hundreds of thousands. These organizations are not just institutions but also serve as strong bridges and key elements in fostering a deep sense of belonging in society. That is why we say that while our areas of work may differ, our priorities may vary, and our political views and opinions may not be the same, it is our historical responsibility to unite around a common goal. At such a critical time, we must stand side by side and move forward together to achieve Turkey's objectives."

"There is a well-known saying: A new world is established, and Turkey takes its place in it."

Emphasizing that Turkey's strength is more critical than ever and that achieving this strength is more feasible than before, Kurtulmuş stated: "Today, we are all witnessing the vast turmoil and deep turbulence that the world, especially our region, is experiencing. We are making efforts to understand and navigate the direction in which the world is evolving through various predictions. In such an environment, Turkey cannot afford to isolate itself, exacerbate its internal issues, and miss out on the opportunities presented by this era. This new period offers Turkey golden opportunities on a silver platter. First and foremost, it must be clearly stated that we are at the beginning of a new global era. This will be an era of multipolarity. The world is no longer a place where a single country determines everything or where countries divide it among themselves. It is no longer possible for one country, one region, one continent, or a single bloc to rule the world alone. Therefore, the coming period marks the beginning of a brand-new era of multipolarity across the globe."

Kurtulmuş stated that Turkey has entered this new phase with greater

maturity, strength, and resilience, saying:

"There is a well-known saying: A new world is established, and Turkey takes its place in it. We are precisely at such a turning point. A new world will be established, and with God's permission, Turkey will not sit where it is assigned but where it chooses to be. To achieve this, we must all align ourselves with common goals."

"We cannot look ahead solely with the prescriptions of the past."

Pointing out that multipolarity will also bring about multiculturalism, Kurtulmuş stated that the world is entering an era where, instead of a dominant global culture, countries with strong cultural and civilizational values will gain prominence.

He emphasized that Turkey, with its deep historical roots and its civilizational heritage spanning Anatolia and a vast cultural geography, is one of the rare countries destined for a leading role in multiculturalism worldwide.

Emphasizing that they will strive to move forward with greater goals, Kurtulmuş stated the following:

"We can no longer look ahead solely with the prescriptions of the past. Even

if past prescriptions were successful in previous periods, we are obliged to produce and present new prescriptions that will understand the upcoming period and provide solutions to its developments. In this regard, we will work together. Our universities, non-governmental organizations, research centers, politics, and all institutions of Turkey will reach the most effective point, understand what is happening in the world, and truly use future perspectives in decision-making." Saying, "The future rooted in the past is an important strength of ours," Kurtulmuş underlined that a nation detached from its past cannot have a future.



He stated that merely recounting past events or analyzing the present will not be enough to benefit from future periods and emphasized that those who make the best future projections will be strong and survive, stressing the need to continue the struggle together.

"Civil society is one of the fundamental conditions for a strong democracy"

Pointing out the responsibilities of civil society organizations, Kurtulmuş continued:

"As politicians, we do not value civil society just because we want them to see only what we see and say only what we want to hear. Civil society is one of the fundamental conditions for a strong democracy. However, we also expect this from civil society: Each of our civil society organizations should be the leading institution in its field, the





mainstream organization, and our civil society organizations should be able to compete and engage not only among themselves but also on a global scale. For this, we must keep both our knowledge accumulation and human resources strong as civil society organizations. But just as important as this is the necessity to strengthen our institutional capacities."

Kurtulmuş noted that civil society organizations cannot illuminate the future with the institutional capacities and organizational structures of the past.

He emphasized that global competition is also a field of competition among civil societies and highlighted the need to strengthen the institutional infrastructure of civil society organizations.

Kurtulmuş stated that once each civil society organization reaches a level where it can compete and provide guidance on the international stage, the task will become easier.

"Civil society is at the center of mobilizing global conscience" Expressing that Turkey will bear significant responsibilities in the new era the world is entering, Kurtulmuş stated that there are also great responsibilities in the field of civil society and that after the occupation of

Gaza, the representation of the global conscience that has emerged worldwide must be ensured.

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Kurtulmuş, continued:

"Despite their governments' prohibitions and the intense media pressure, we see that hundreds of millions of people worldwide, especially in Western countries, have increasingly supported the Palestinian cause over the past 1.5 years, and we know that civil society plays the biggest role in this. If it were not for civil society organizations that mobilized the conscience of humanity in Western countries, there would be no pro-Palestinian demonstrations in London, Paris, America, or elsewhere in the world. The public, despite their governments and contrary to their governments' policies, would not have taken a stand for peace, justice, and fairness. Therefore, it has once again become clear that civil society is at the center of mobilizing global conscience."

Calling on civil society representatives to collaborate with their counterparts around the world for the establishment of a new global order, the creation of a new global political and economic-

financial architecture, and the strengthening of the conscience of humanity, Kurtulmuş stated: "If we can achieve this, I believe that the decisive stance that has been demonstrated since the first day of the Gaza issue—especially by our President and by us as a whole, as the state and the nation of Turkey—will be further strengthened and reinforced through the efforts of you, our esteemed civil society organizations."

Emphasizing that everyone's goal is to establish a strong and great Turkey and a new, fair, and equitable world system, Kurtulmuş underlined that beyond political alliances and friendships, civil society's power should be utilized to mobilize societies.

He stated that through the power of civil society, the front of humanity across the world will be strengthened.

"Turkey will become an important and powerful country in the world"

Stating that they will continue to move forward by strengthening the inner fortress together, Kurtulmuş expressed that they will achieve Turkey's second century as the "Century of Turkey." Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Kurtulmuş, emphasized that a Turkey with a strong voice and influential power will become not only a significant country in its region but also a powerful country worldwide.

At the program, the following individuals were present:

Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Ergün Atalay, President of the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ), Bendevi Palandöken, President of the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK), Erinç Sağkan, President of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, Ali Yalçın, President of Memur-Sen, Abdurrahman Aliy, President of Yunus Emre Institute, Musa Kazım Arıcan, President of the Turkish Writers' Association, Mahmut Mustafa

Özgül, President of the Turkish Maarif Foundation, İsmail Şanlı, General Director of the Turkish Armed Forces Mehmetçik Foundation, Hasan Salih Kurt, President of Başkent Platform, Atilla Kurt, Honorary President of Başkent Platform, Ömer İleri, Deputy Chairman of the AK Party, Talip Uzun, Secretary General of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Members of Parliament and representatives of various civil society organizations.



President Aliyev: President Erdoğan Plays a Major Role in the Unification of the Turkic World

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev stated that the unity and brotherhood between Türkiye and Azerbaijan have made significant contributions to the Turkic world, saying, "President Erdoğan plays a major role in the unification of the Turkic world."



President Ilham Aliyev delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the İğdır-Nakhchivan Natural Gas Pipeline. Recalling that he and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan laid the foundation of the İğdır-Nakhchivan Natural Gas Pipeline one and a half years ago, Aliyev emphasized that today is an important day in the history of Türkiye-Azerbaijan friendship and brotherhood.

Aliyev noted that Nakhchivan, a historical Azerbaijani land, has been separated from the mainland for over a century and lacks a land connection due to the Soviet administration's decision to detach Western Zangezur from Azerbaijan and merge it with Armenia. Stating that this injustice has severely impacted the lives of their compatriots in Nakhchivan, Aliyev continued: "During the First Karabakh War, Armenia blockaded Nakhchivan. Just as they occupied Karabakh, they also intended to occupy Nakhchivan. At that time, my father, Heydar Aliyev, who was the head of Nakhchivan, prevented this. One of the reasons why Nakhchivan was not occupied was the construction of the Ümit Bridge between Nakhchivan and Türkiye. The aid coming from Türkiye played a crucial role in keeping Nakhchivan free."

Aliyev highlighted that Türkiye and Azerbaijan, as two brotherly nations, have carried out major projects together, stating, "Projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum, and TANAP oil and natural gas pipelines have not only connected our countries but have also reshaped the energy map of Eurasia." Pointing out that Azerbaijani gas transported via Türkiye ensures the energy security of many

countries, Aliyev said, "Last year, Azerbaijan's gas exports reached 25 billion cubic meters. Half of this was exported to Türkiye. Apart from Türkiye, 10 European countries strengthen their energy security with Azerbaijani gas." Aliyev stated that the newly inaugurated İğdır-Nakhchivan Natural Gas Pipeline would ensure the energy security of Nakhchivan, solving its energy issues by transmitting gas from Azerbaijan through Türkiye to Nakhchivan.

"President Erdoğan Plays a Major Role in the Unification of the Turkic World"

Aliyev noted that the energy projects of Türkiye and Azerbaijan have also paved the way for transportation projects, stating: "The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway, which connects Türkiye and Azerbaijan, provides great advantages not only for our countries but also for a broader region. This transportation link is particularly significant and beneficial for uniting the Turkic world. Naturally, the unity and brotherhood between Türkiye and Azerbaijan make significant contributions to the Turkic world. President Erdoğan plays a major role in the unification of the Turkic world. Under his leadership, Türkiye has achieved great success, and new opportunities have emerged for the further strengthening of the Turkic world's unity. Azerbaijan has always placed great importance on the unification of the Turkic world and has spared no effort to establish and sustain this unity based on common history and shared interests."

Emphasizing that the 500,000 compatriots in Nakhchivan consider today's ceremony a celebration, Aliyev expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the construction of the İğdır-Nakhchivan Natural Gas Pipeline.

"Organization of Turkic States Regional Water Forum" Held in Brussels

An event titled the "Organization of Turkic States (OTS) Regional Water Forum" was organized in Brussels by the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), the Hungarian Export Promotion Agency (HEPA), and the OTS Drought Prevention Institute (DPI).



Hosted by OTS, HEPA, and DPI in Brussels, the event gathered heads of diplomatic missions and senior officials from OTS member states and observers, as well as experts and numerous distinguished guests.

The forum focused on addressing pressing challenges in water management and sustainability within the Turkic states and beyond. Key agenda items included enhancing regional cooperation, increasing sustainable water technologies, and exploring investment opportunities for green growth.

Discussions on the role of partnerships in providing effective water technology solutions featured representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and other international organizations. Officials from the OTS Drought Prevention Institute briefed participants on the institute's mission, objectives, and initiatives. Additionally, a memorandum of understanding was signed between HEPA, the Hungarian

Association of Environmental Enterprises (HAEE), and KEXPORT to promote technology solutions and capacity building for the Turkic states.

In his opening speech, OTS Secretary General Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev emphasized the critical importance of regional cooperation in addressing water scarcity and climate challenges. He highlighted OTS's role in bringing member states together to develop innovative solutions and enhance resilience against drought and other environmental threats.



The Turkish Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, organized an iftar program

The Turkish Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, organized a collective iftar program on the first day of the Ramadan month in the capital, Bishkek.



The iftar was hosted by the Turkish Ambassador to Bishkek, Ahmet Sadık Doğan, for the congregation of the Central Imam Serahsi Mosque, which was built by Turkey. The program was attended by Kyrgyzstan's Mufti Abulaziz Zakirov, Deputy Mufti Samagan Mirzaibraimov, Chairman of the State Commission for Religious Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Azamat Yusupov, as well as the mosque congregation, embassy counselors, and attachés, and officials from Turkey's institutions in Bishkek. After the evening call to prayer, the congregation performed the evening prayer and then broke their fast on the traditional mats set up on the lower level of the mosque. Ambassador Doğan, in his speech, congratulated the participants on the month of Ramadan and wished the Kyrgyz people health, abundance, and unity. Azamat Yusupov, Chairman of the State Commission for Religious Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, noted that Ambassador Doğan hosted the first iftar of Ramadan at the Central Imam Serahsi Mosque. He emphasized that Ambassador Doğan is one of those who has contributed to the multifaceted development of Kyrgyz-Turkish relations, stating, "Mr. Doğan is

one of the individuals who has made significant contributions to the development of Kyrgyz-Turkish relations and is a person whose mark will remain in the history of relations between the two countries."

The iftar program was attended by 2,000 people.

Guest Habibulla Amirov thanked the Turkish Ambassador to Bishkek for receiving the prayers of Muslims on the first day of Ramadan and bringing joy to them. Mevlüt Küçükemek shared that he felt at home during the iftar, saying, "May Allah be pleased with everyone. Blessed Ramadan to all." Dilnoza Rahmatullayeva, who also attended the iftar, prayed for the acceptance of Muslims' fasting by Allah. Traditional Kyrgyz dishes from the local cuisine were served to the guests. The iftar prayer was led by Kyrgyzstan's Mufti Abulaziz Zakirov.



President of the TRNC Tatar: The patience of the Turkish Cypriot people has run out

Ahead of the Cyprus talks to be held in Geneva on March 17-18, the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Ersin Tatar, stated that the patience of the Turkish Cypriot people has run out due to the embargoes.



President Tatar arrived in Turkey to hold meetings ahead of the talks scheduled in Geneva on March 17-18. Before his meeting with Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz, Tatar made a statement. Regarding the informal meeting to be held in Geneva, Tatar said, "We will sincerely express there that we can provide much more prosperous futures for both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot people together, and that all of these positive and constructive approaches should be accepted by the international community without further delay." Tatar emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, tranquility, and security in Cyprus and stated that an agreement could be reached in Cyprus based on equal sovereignty and equal international status, through cooperation between the two states. He also mentioned that he would have the opportunity to convey this message to the interlocutors in Geneva.

"THE PATIENCE OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE HAS RUN OUT"

Tatar continued by stating that the patience of the Turkish Cypriot people was running out due to the embargoes and isolation that the TRNC has been subjected to for years. He said: "Because in Cyprus, there are two main components: the Turkish Cypriot people, who are a sovereign people, and the Greek Cypriot people, who are also a sovereign people, but on the other hand, there is a recognized state. After the Annan Plan, the Republic of Cyprus (Greek Cypriot Administration) became an EU member state. However, on this side, the Turkish Cypriot people are still subjected to embargoes and various hardships. Their patience on these issues has run out, and we will express there that international isolation must be lifted."

Tatar emphasized that the TRNC's greatest advantage is the strengthening of its motherland and guarantor country, Turkey. He pointed out Turkey's success in the defense industry and its position to have a say in regional and global balances.



Famous Turkish Poet Saib-i Tabrizi

The mausoleum of Saib-i Tabrizi, one of the prominent Turkish poets of the 17th century, attracts attention both with its architecture and its natural surroundings.

Isfahan has historically been a center where many great poets and artists have emerged. One of the most significant symbols that make this city special for literature enthusiasts is the house and the tomb of Saib-i Tabrizi, a great Turkish poet of the 17th century, located within a vast garden. Recognized as one of the greatest masters of classical lyrical poetry, Saib-i Tabrizi made significant contributions to literature, particularly through his mystical poetry and literary works, leaving a lasting impact on both Turkish and Persian literature. Today, his tomb is not only a monument but also a place that carries traces of his life. The large and lush garden surrounding the tomb reflects the space where the poet found inner peace, contemplated, and wrote. Saib lived in this place for many years, continuing his literary work and penning deep mystical thoughts. Over time, his house was transformed into a shrine and has been preserved as a sign of respect for him. Located within a large garden that harmonizes with Isfahan's historical fabric, the mausoleum is surrounded by flowers, green spaces, and a central pool, enhancing the beauty of the site. The vast garden attracts attention both architecturally and naturally.

The Mausoleum of Saib-i Tabrizi: A Simple Yet Impressive Structure
The pool within the garden was also a source of aesthetics and tranquility during the poet's time. Reflecting traditional Iranian garden architecture, the pool enhances the peaceful



atmosphere of the site. Water, considered a symbol in Sufi thought, is also present in Saib-i Tabrizi's poetry. The pool in the middle of the garden creates an environment that brings peace to visitors while forming a point where nature and literature merge. The mausoleum of Saib-i Tabrizi has a simple yet impressive design. The details reflecting the poet's life and literature draw attention. Inscriptions on the walls, featuring excerpts from his poetry, offer visitors insights into his thoughts. Though in an open space, the intricately crafted ceiling of the tomb captivates the eye. Considered a site that contributes to Isfahan's historical and cultural richness, the transformation of the poet's residence into a shrine and its presentation to visitors alongside the vast surrounding garden not only keeps Saib-i Tabrizi's memory alive but also symbolizes respect for him. According to Erfan Salihi, an expert from the Iranian Ministry of Tourism, Cultural Heritage, and Handicrafts, Saib-i Tabrizi moved from Tabriz to Isfahan with his family during the Safavid era and spent his life there. Salihi stated that the area housing Saib's final resting place was once his home and garden, adding, "He was buried here. Later, in 1963, during the reign of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Saib-i

Tabrizi's mausoleum was built." He also noted that the tomb underwent restoration processes, saying, "It was restored twice—first in 2002 and then again in 2017, bringing it to its current form."

Saib-i Tabrizi's Place in Turkish and Persian Literature
Prof. Dr. Israfil Babacan, a faculty member at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, discussed Saib-i Tabrizi's life and literary significance, stating that apart from Shamlou-ye Heravi, no historian or biographer has provided a clear account of his birthplace. Heravi mentioned that Saib was born in Tabriz, Babacan explained, but the idea that he was born in Isfahan, where he lived for a long time, is also widely accepted.

Babacan noted that Saib's father belonged to a well-established merchant family from Tabriz, saying, "In the Islamic year 1012, Saib's father migrated to Isfahan along with other Tabrizi merchants invited by Shah Abbas, who aimed to establish a grand and prosperous capital. Saib, in his late twenties, like many Iranian poets of his time, traveled to India and resided there for about nine years. Upon his return, he received great admiration from Safavid rulers during the reigns of Shah Safi, Shah Abbas II, and Shah Suleiman." For this reason, Babacan emphasized that Saib-i Tabrizi's life in Isfahan is divided into two periods—before and after his time in India.

Although he primarily composed his poetry in Persian, Saib-i Tabrizi also garnered significant attention in Turkish literature. Babacan remarked, "Not only was he of Turkish origin, but his use of Persian with a Turkish thought structure and syntax, as well as his rich mystical and didactic poetry,

attracted perhaps even more interest among Ottoman intellectuals than in Iran." According to Babacan, as far as current findings indicate, Saib's poems have been analyzed and interpreted by five different individuals, including the great Ottoman commentator Ebubekir Nusret and the late Ottoman intellectual, historian, and statesman Ahmet Cevdet Pasha.

Source: Vedat Kurt



Foreign Minister Fidan: All armed elements involved in terrorist activities in Syria must be eliminated

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, regarding the developments in Syria, stated, "It is essential that all armed elements involved in terrorist activities in the region are eliminated, and that all populations return to a normal life."

Speaking in a live television broadcast, Fidan answered questions on the current agenda. Fidan emphasized the importance of the new administration in Syria addressing "oppression and historical injustice" in the region, adding, "It is essential that all armed elements involved in terrorist activities in the region are eliminated, and that all populations return to a normal life." Pointing out that the region has "suffered a lot," Fidan said, "We are in the 21st century now. In a world where everyone should be living in happiness and prosperity, it is unacceptable for weapons to continue spilling blood right at our border." Regarding the question of whether granting equal rights to Kurds in Syria could be interpreted as an extension of the PKK/YPG's demands for strong local governance or autonomy, Fidan responded, "We have never considered any concession on the issue of autonomy or self-governance." Emphasizing that Syria is a large country, Fidan stated, "Frankly, I do not



believe that such an approach exists. I also do not think that the Syrian administration has such an understanding. I do not believe that such a demand would arise in this direction either."

"Our recommendation to the new administration is to grant the rights of Syrian Kurds"
When asked about the factors pushing the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to negotiate with the new Syrian administration, Fidan replied, "Fundamentally, what we have been saying from the beginning is this: since December 8, the new Syrian administration needs to take the initiative to end the YPG occupation and pirate rule. This was the strategy that our President (Recep Tayyip Erdoğan) set from the outset." Commenting on the agreement signed between (Syrian official) Sharaa and (SDF commander) Abdi, Fidan said, "Our recommendation to the new administration is to grant the rights of Syrian Kurds. This is of paramount importance for both our President and Turkey."

Stating that this is a historic opportunity, Fidan added, "It is crucial that the new Syrian administration addresses the oppression and historical injustices against Syrian Kurds by granting them equal rights." Fidan also touched on the balance of power surrounding the Russia-Ukraine war, stating, "The war's onset divided parties, and now its conclusion is also dividing them. From the beginning, Turkey's stance has been clear, and today, the same statements are being echoed by the United States."

Call for the PKK to lay down arms
Referring to the call from İmralı for the terrorist organization PKK to lay down arms, Fidan stated, "This call should be heeded and considered a historic opportunity. The organization should take this as a basis and initiate the process of self-dissolution." Highlighting that "the cadres leading the organization from outside" have some level of authority to issue orders but cannot make certain decisions, Fidan remarked, "It is significant that the founding authority issues such an instruction." Fidan also pointed out that the DEM Party has been under tutelage for many years and has not been able to conduct genuine politics, saying, "There is an entity attempting to engage in politics under the tutelage of the organization's armed terrorist elements. Under these circumstances, it is impossible to say that a genuine political discourse or method exists in its entirety." He emphasized that the call is also important for breaking free from political guardianship, stating, "If they take advantage of this opportunity, it will lead to an opening for Turkey and

the region. If they let others manipulate them, as happened in 2013, it is their decision, but we are prepared for all scenarios."

Europe's security architecture
Fidan speculated that if Turkey had been admitted to the European Union (EU) in 2007-2008, the United Kingdom might not have left the EU, stating, "If Turkey and the UK had been within the EU framework, it would have inevitably led to the earlier development of the EU's foreign policy and security architecture." He noted that European leaders are struggling with uncertainty over what to do if the world is divided into several spheres of influence, explaining: "It is quite possible for a structure including the UK, certain European countries, and Turkey to form its own regional center of gravity. The capability and potential exist—it is simply a matter of asserting the will and following through." Fidan added that looking at the historical roots of European politics, "nothing is ever simple for Europeans."



Israelis Who Usurped Palestinian Lands Storm Al-Aqsa Mosque Under Police Protection

Israelis who have usurped Palestinian lands stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in occupied East Jerusalem.



According to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, the entry and storming of Al-Aqsa's courtyard by fanatic Jews took place under the protection of Israeli police. During the raid, strict security measures were enforced at several gates leading to the site, and the Israelis performed "Talmudic rituals." It was reported that, as a preparatory measure for the raid, Israeli police also implemented strict "security" measures in Jerusalem's Old City. Al-Aqsa Mosque Raids According to the peace treaty signed between Israel and Jordan on October 26, 1994, Al-Aqsa Mosque is under the administration of the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, which operates under Jordan's Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Places. Since 2003, Israelis have been entering Al-Aqsa Mosque under police escort, based on Israel's unilateral decision,

without the permission of the Islamic Waqf administration. The Jerusalem Islamic Waqf administration considers these entries as raids and emphasizes that they violate Muslim sovereignty. Under the claim that the site contains the remnants of Solomon's Temple, Israelis have been conducting excavation works beneath the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, which houses the Qibla Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, a museum, madrasas, and a large courtyard. The Israeli government claims that the historical status quo, which stipulates that "only Muslims are allowed to worship at Al-Aqsa while adherents of other religions may only visit," remains intact. However, it is frequently captured on camera that fanatic Jews, under the protection of Israeli police, perform prayers and religious rituals during their raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY

Throughout human history, diplomacy, which has been the primary tool for interstate relations, has served not only as a mechanism for maintaining peace but also as an art of maximizing states' interests with the least cost. Diplomatic arrangements following major wars have formed the foundations of the international system. Agreements such as the Treaty of Westphalia, the Congress of Vienna, and the United Nations have been the cornerstones of traditional diplomacy. However, as world dynamics have changed over time, diplomacy itself has undergone a transformation, with traditional methods giving way to more flexible, multi-actor processes.

Traditional diplomacy is a process carried out within the framework of specific protocols through the official representatives of states. Ambassadors, envoys, and foreign ministries are the essential elements of this process. In the 19th and 20th centuries, negotiations conducted behind closed doors by major powers shaped the world order. Diplomacy was often seen as a mechanism managed by a specific elite, far removed from the public. Although this method ensured stability in international relations, it was sometimes criticized for disregarding the will of the people.

However, in the 21st century, traditional diplomacy has struggled to keep pace with the demands of the modern world. With globalization, technological advances, and the influence of social media, diplomacy is no longer

conducted solely between states but has evolved into a process involving various actors, such as individuals, civil society organizations, and global corporations. The closed-door negotiations of traditional diplomacy have started to give way to public diplomacy. Today, state leaders can directly address the public through social media, and embassies have transformed from institutions solely focused on political negotiations into hubs of cultural and economic cooperation.

This transformation does not mean the complete disappearance of traditional diplomacy. On the contrary, traditional diplomacy still plays a critical role in managing major crises, preventing wars, and establishing long-term strategic partnerships. However, it is clear that the old methods alone are insufficient and need to be supported by new diplomatic tools. Today, states interact with one another not only through ambassadors but also through public diplomacy, economic cooperation, and digital platforms. Traditional diplomacy has deep roots and still holds an important place in international relations. However, in a changing world, diplomacy must also evolve. Instead of closed-door negotiations, a more transparent, multi-actor diplomacy, where the

public has a voice, is emerging. Perhaps diplomacy is no longer just the domain of statesmen but is increasingly becoming a product of the collective intelligence of the global community.

Hasan Yiğit



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EU Legalizes “Return Centers” Under Criticism in the Fight Against Irregular Migration

The European Union (EU) is preparing to legalize “return centers” to be established in third countries, which have been criticized for potentially leading to human rights violations in the fight against irregular migration.



shortening bureaucratic procedures and making a country’s deportation decision valid in all member states to speed up returns.

Migrants Can Be Sent to Third Countries

The most critical element of the package is the idea, recently backed by right-wing leaders such as Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, to send migrants to centers to be established in third countries, providing a legal framework for this idea.

If von der Leyen’s proposal becomes law, migrants whose asylum applications are rejected could be sent not only to the country of origin or transit but also to any third country agreed upon by the EU.

Hanne Bierens, Director of the Brussels-based Migration Policy Institute, one of the organizations contributing to the proposal, told an AA reporter that there is political will behind the draft that aims to send a message to voters about being tougher and more effective in returns.

Bierens said, “You can see how the political stance on wanting to be tougher on migration really affects the legislative proposals.”

Bierens noted that they contributed to the draft on communication between member states and the reintegration support to be given to returned individuals. She further stated: “Political messages are important, but the question remains whether this will result in more effective returns. If the goal is to send people back, we know from past years that the effective approach is to build more sustainable, long-term partnerships with third countries to facilitate readmission. It is crucial to invest in reintegration programs so that those who need to be returned can do so with dignity, receive support, and have the opportunity to build a future.”

Bierens emphasized that the most striking element of the draft, which largely unites the member states, is the return centers, adding:

“We also see changes in definitions. When we say ‘return,’ it no longer only refers to the country of origin or transit. It could now be a safe third country, a country that the individual has the right to enter, or any country agreed upon by the EU. It is very unclear what the basic principles are for security measures or such an agreement. The details on how the person will be transferred to that country, the conditions for entry, and whether there will be an independent mechanism to monitor what happens there need to be outlined. These are really big questions.”

Bierens, highlighting the problematic aspects of the draft for the EU, stated, “As we saw in the example of the UK-Rwanda or Italy-Albania agreements, return centers that European countries want to use to externalize their migration management are extremely costly operations. For example, in the Italy-Albania agreement, costs could rise up to 1 billion euros. This is the current budget allocated for Belgium’s acceptance agency for 35,000 places annually. I usually refer to this as a kind of ‘Rolex’ policy tool that just shows you the time but is extremely expensive.” Bierens also pointed out that the draft opens the door for compulsory returns, adding that studies suggest voluntary returns should be encouraged.

“It’s No Longer ‘Return,’ It’s Just ‘Sending’”

Flor Didden, an official from the Brussels-based human rights organization “11.11.11,” recalled that there has been a debate for months about whether return centers would be part of the strategy. Didden drew attention to the fact that countries of origin are usually reluctant to cooperate on readmission, and stated that migrants would be held in return centers to be established in third countries until they receive acceptance

from their own countries.

Didden said, “They will be outside of EU control. We won’t have any guarantees that their rights will be respected. What will happen if their countries do not accept them? Will they remain in detention? There are many questions to ask. We are saying that this draft will not provide any solutions to the challenges the EU faces.”

Didden argued that the idea of “connection criteria” in the draft, which aimed to provide favorable conditions for migrants to rebuild their lives by being returned to countries they have ties to, has been set aside. She continued:

“People should have lived in the country they are being returned to or have meaningful connections. Now, however, you can send rejected asylum seekers to any country willing to accept them. This is no longer ‘return,’ it’s just ‘sending.’ I believe you cannot talk about sustainable returns when you send people this way. Therefore, we think this should be removed from the proposal as well as from the return practices. We are asking the Belgian government and Belgian members of the European Parliament to truly remove these ideas from the proposal.”

Referring to examples like the Italy-Albania agreement on which the legislative proposal is based, Didden said, “Our analysis shows that these experimental, innovative solutions have largely failed. Some people were sent to these centers, but nearly all were released because Italian courts ruled that they could not be detained there.”

“The EU Must Solve the Issue of Returns Internally”

Didden emphasized that the EU should solve the issue of returns by building resilient and effective systems internally, rather than relying on external solutions that we have seen for years. “Third-country solutions are very costly. These types of agreements are very expensive. They also require a lot of diplomatic energy,” she said, pointing out that these resources should be invested in more effective strategies.

Didden concluded by drawing attention to the fact that the proposals in the draft reflect the current political atmosphere in the EU, stating, “Last year, 15 countries wrote a letter to the European Commission, asking for innovative solutions. Most of these members have right-wing parties that want to take a tough stance on migration. We know that these ideas do not work in practice. They are mainly made to look tough, but there is very little real content in them.”

On December 1, 2024, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, presented the return strategy, which was listed as one of her first 100-day actions, to the European Parliament (EP) General Assembly on March 11. Von der Leyen first revealed the content of the strategy shortly after securing her second five-year term following the European Parliament elections last summer, through a letter to the member countries. Von der Leyen pointed to the return agreement signed between Italy and Albania in 2023 as an example and signaled the implementation of innovative ideas, such as the establishment of centers in third countries. This approach brings to mind the plan proposed by the UK in 2022, which suggested sending individuals who entered the country illegally and applied for asylum to Rwanda.

Von der Leyen’s proposal, which was criticized by some EU leaders and international human rights organizations for carrying risks such as violations of the right to asylum and related guarantees, arbitrary detention, and restrictions on personal freedoms, gained widespread support. The legislative proposal presented in the European Parliament General Assembly yesterday revealed that all these examples would be given legal ground. The proposal notes that only 20% of those whose asylum applications are rejected in the EU are returned, aiming to accelerate and make these processes more effective. The EU is preparing to move this issue from the jurisdiction of member states to EU-wide regulations,

Victims of the Prekaz Massacre Commemorated in Kosovo

A commemoration ceremony was held on the 27th anniversary of the "Prekaz Massacre," in which Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) founding commander Adem Jashari and his family were killed by Serbian forces during the Kosovo War.



The event took place at the Adem Jashari Barracks in the capital, Pristina, with the participation of Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani, Prime Minister Albin Kurti, government officials, members of the Jashari family, and many attendees. In her speech, President Osmani expressed that Adem Jashari and all those who sacrificed their lives for Kosovo's freedom are remembered with pride.

"One of the most heroic battles of the Albanian nation took place in Prekaz," Osmani stated, adding, "Prekaz was not just a village. It was a fortress of freedom, an indomitable refuge for our people, and it remains so today. The Jashari family is the foundation upon which Kosovo's freedom was built—a living monument of unparalleled sacrifice and heroism." Prime Minister Kurti emphasized that the Kosovo army was initially formed with minimal weapons and equipment but was sustained by the determination of its people.

"Since Adem Jashari and his comrades set out with the idea of forming an army for Kosovo, we have never had a military force as strong, armed, equipped, and trained as we do today," Kurti said. The ceremony concluded with the inspection of the honor guard by the leaders.



Prekaz Massacre

Between March 5-7, 1998, approximately 5,000 Serbian forces besieged Adem Jashari's home in Prekaz village, launching attacks with tanks and heavy weaponry. The assault resulted in the massacre of around 60 people, including women, children, and the elderly.

The only survivor of the massacre was 10-year-old Besarta Jashari, the daughter of Hamza Jashari. The "Prekaz Massacre" is considered a turning point that led to NATO's international intervention in Kosovo. In a report published after the attack, Amnesty International stated, "All findings confirm that the assault aimed not to capture UÇK soldiers but to eliminate them and their families."

People's Democratic Party Wins General Elections in Tajikistan

The People's Democratic Party won the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan with 51.9% of the votes.



Bahtiyar Khudoyarzoda, Chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of Tajikistan, held a press conference yesterday to announce the results of the elections for the lower house of Parliament, the Assembly of Representatives.

Khudoyarzoda stated that in the elections for the 63-seat Parliament, the People's Democratic Party secured 51.9% of the votes, while the Agrarian Party received 21%, the Party of Economic Reforms 12.7%, the Socialist Party 5.3%, and the Democratic Party 5.1%. He also noted that the Communist Party received 1.9% of the votes, failing to surpass the 5% electoral threshold. Khudoyarzoda reported that there were 5,522,000 registered voters in the country, with a voter turnout of 85.3%, as 4,172,967 people participated in the elections. He emphasized that the elections were conducted in an open, transparent, and free manner, highlighting the high voter turnout.

Voters Cast Ballots at 3,513 Polling Stations

The 5,522,000 registered voters in Tajikistan cast their ballots at 3,513 polling stations across 41 electoral districts. Additionally, 36 polling stations were set up at Tajikistan's diplomatic missions in 28 foreign countries for Tajik citizens abroad. More than 200 international observers from various countries and organizations, including the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), monitored the elections. The elections were also observed by the Chairman of the Supreme Election Council (SEC) of Turkey, Ahmet Yener, along with other Council members.

However, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) did not monitor the elections due to the absence of accreditation guarantees.

Last month, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE officially announced that, due to the lack of accreditation guarantees for OSCE international observers, it had to cancel its monitoring mission for the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan. In the previous parliamentary elections held in March 2020, the ruling People's Democratic Party won 47 out of 63 seats in the Assembly of Representatives. The Agrarian Party secured 7 seats, the Party of Economic Reforms 5, the Communist Party 2, while the Socialist and Democratic parties each obtained one seat, all surpassing the 5% electoral threshold.



Russia: Deployment of NATO Troops in Ukraine Under Any Flag is a Threat

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that the deployment of NATO troops in Ukraine under any flag constitutes a threat, emphasizing, "We do not accept this in any way."

In an interview with American bloggers Mario Nawfal, Larry Johnson, and Andrew Napolitano, Lavrov discussed current issues. Commenting on the process of improving relations between Russia and the United States, Lavrov noted that delegations from both countries held talks last month in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. He recalled that these discussions were attended by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, White House National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, and Special Envoy for the Middle East Steve Witkoff. Lavrov stated, "They expressed that during Donald Trump's term, protecting U.S. national interests was the foundation of American foreign policy. This is indisputable. At the same time, the Americans understand that other countries also have their own national interests. We agree with this view."

Lavrov noted that U.S. and Russian interests would never fully align, saying, "It is impossible for these interests to coincide even by 50%. However, when they do align, responsible politicians should do their best to develop and implement them in practice. When interests do not align or even conflict, responsible countries must do everything possible to prevent these differences from escalating into direct confrontation." Regarding former U.S. President Donald Trump's plans concerning Greenland, Lavrov remarked, "Ukraine's importance to Russia's security is far greater than Greenland's importance to U.S. security." Lavrov highlighted Trump's desire to initiate nuclear disarmament talks with Russia and China, stating, "We are open to discussions in any format based on mutual respect, equality, and without the imposition of predetermined solutions. If our Chinese friends are interested in this matter, the decision is theirs." He also underscored the importance of establishing a strategic stability dialogue between Russia and the United States.

Commenting on the possibility of the U.S. withdrawing from NATO, Lavrov said, "I do not believe the Americans will leave NATO. At the very least,



President Donald Trump has never indicated that this could happen." Regarding Ukraine's potential NATO membership, Lavrov asserted, "Ukraine's accession to NATO would violate both its constitution and its 1991 Declaration of Independence." "If the Minsk Agreements Had Been Implemented, Ukraine Would Have Remained Within Its 1991 Borders" Assessing Europe's approach to the Ukraine crisis, Lavrov pointed out that Germany and France undermined the Minsk Agreements, stating, "What the French and Germans have done is shameful."

He continued, "If the Minsk Agreements had been implemented, Ukraine—except for Crimea—would have remained within its 1991 borders. Crimea was never discussed in the Minsk negotiations. Every time they lie, they lose. This process continues." Referring to French President Emmanuel Macron's claim that "Russian President Vladimir Putin tried to impose his conditions on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during the 2022 negotiations in Istanbul," Lavrov responded by noting that Ukraine had already initialed the agreement reached in Istanbul, adding, "This is just another one of Macron's lies."

"The EU is No Longer a Peaceful Economic Project" Lavrov argued that the European Union (EU) has lost its economic essence, comparing European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to Adolf Hitler and calling her "Führer Ursula." He pointed to the ongoing

deindustrialization in Europe, stating, "Europeans are willing to sacrifice everything for the ideological goal of 'defeating Russia in war.' The EU is no longer a peaceful economic project. They now want to establish their own armies." Regarding the possibility of European countries deploying peacekeeping forces to Ukraine, Lavrov stated, "The presence of NATO troops on Ukrainian territory under any flag or in any capacity is a threat to us. We do not accept this in any way."

"We Support the Revival of the Iran Nuclear Deal" Lavrov also mentioned that discussions with the U.S. included issues related to the Persian Gulf and the Iran nuclear deal.

"We support the revival of the program abandoned during Trump's first presidency. We advocate maintaining the format outlined in the original agreement, which was approved by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). There are indications that the Americans want the new agreement to include political conditions. According to this, Iran would undergo inspections to verify that it does not support groups in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and other regions. I do not believe this approach will be effective. This concerns us."

Minister Lavrov noted that discussions with certain European countries regarding the Iranian nuclear issue are ongoing. Addressing the situation in Syria, Lavrov expressed hope for the establishment of a national unity government in the country.

Kazakhstan and China Begin Using New Railway Route for Cargo Transport to Europe

Kazakhstan and China Railways have launched a new railway route for cargo transportation between China and Europe, passing through the borders of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Turkey.



According to a statement from the Kazakhstan National Railway Company, Kazakhstan's KTZ Express JSC and China Railway Container Transport Company (CRCT) have started freight transportation via this new railway corridor between China and Europe. The statement noted that the first freight train, carrying television components, had already departed from Chengdu, China, and would travel through Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Turkey before reaching its final destination in Łódź, Poland, in approximately 40 days.

It was emphasized that this railway route not only expands the region's transportation capacity but also makes international logistics more flexible, faster, and reliable. The statement further highlighted that "the launch of this service reaffirms Kazakhstan's strategic role as a key transit hub and strengthens its position on the global freight transport map."

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan aim to increase the cargo volume transported across the Caspian Sea to 10 million tons.



Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, which aim to increase the cargo volume transported across the Caspian Sea to 10 million tons, have stated that they are working together on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor, one of the key routes of the Middle Corridor.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, who was in Kazakhstan for official talks, met with Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu in the capital, Astana. After the face-to-face and delegation-level meetings, Nurtleu and Bayramov signed an action plan for the years 2025-2026 between the two countries' foreign ministries.

The two ministers held a joint press conference after the meeting. Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nurtleu emphasized that Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan share similar

positions on international issues and stated, "There are no unresolved issues between our countries." He also pointed out that trade between the two countries has increased fivefold in recent years, and that in 2024, bilateral trade reached \$533 million. "We agreed to raise this figure to \$1 billion," he added.

Nurtleu expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to increase grain exports to Azerbaijan and noted that there are currently 1,518 Azerbaijani companies operating in Kazakhstan, making Azerbaijan one of the top 10 countries with the most companies in Kazakhstan. He also stressed the strategic importance of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea. He continued, "We are working together to increase the potential of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor. Last year, the cargo volume transported across the Caspian Sea reached 4.5 million tons. We aim to increase this to 10 million tons in the future."

He also highlighted the successful cooperation between the two countries in the supply of Kazakh energy resources to foreign markets, adding, "We plan to increase the amount of Kazakh oil delivered to foreign markets via the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline from 1.4 million tons per year to 2.2 million tons." Nurtleu thanked Azerbaijan for its support in transporting raw uranium via the Caspian Sea and noted the importance of transporting Kazakh energy resources across the Caspian. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Bayramov thanked the Kazakh government and people for their support following the tragic crash of an Azerbaijan Airlines

passenger plane near Kazakhstan's Aktau city on December 25, 2024. He remarked that the shared brotherhood, common language, traditions, and culture unite the peoples of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, emphasizing that mutual respect and trust-based relations have been established between the two countries' presidents.

Bayramov also discussed cooperation within various international and regional organizations, particularly the Turkic Council, and expressed appreciation for efforts to strengthen the organization's role on the international stage.

He concluded by stating that the "action plan" signed today covers cooperation in various fields and that increasing the potential for economic cooperation is crucial. "Expanding cooperation on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor, an integral part of the Middle Corridor, and building a fiber-optic line across the Caspian Sea will bring dynamism to our relations," he added. Bayramov reminded that Kazakhstan provided a platform for peace negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia in May 2024 and updated his Kazakh counterpart on the peace process.

President Tokayev's Reception Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Bayramov was received by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. During the meeting, Tokayev emphasized the importance of the visit in advancing cooperation with brotherly Azerbaijan, stating, "Our relations with Azerbaijan are of great importance. We consider your country a reliable strategic partner and ally."

Uzbekistan has risen up against the growing Chinese population!

Uzbekistan has erupted in protests against the growing Chinese population, which many citizens view as a demographic threat.



The 30-day visa-free travel agreement signed between Uzbekistan and China in December 2024 has raised new concerns. With its expansionist agenda, China has entered into various agreements that indirectly target Uzbekistan, posing a serious risk to the country's demographic structure.

The recent increase in the Chinese population in Uzbekistan and the dominance of Chinese businesses in the local market have left citizens in a difficult position. Dr. Zebiniso Kamal, an Uzbek-origin faculty member at Istanbul Commerce University, expressed concerns on social media about the significant rise in China's population in Uzbekistan, highlighting the growing unease among the local population.

Meanwhile, protests have begun across the country in response to the increasing Chinese population. Uzbeks have started demonstrations to draw attention to the rising number of Chinese citizens in the country.



Nature's Golden Root: The Hidden Power of Ginger

In the dusty pages of history, ancient physicians, who believed that healing came from nature, called some plants "living gold". Here is one of them: Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*). This root, which adorns kitchens as a spice, is actually a health treasure with its active ingredients. Although today's scientific world is trying to unravel its deep secrets, it still continues to heal with its undiscovered aspects.

Ginger's Chemical Treasure
The most important components of ginger are gingerols, shogaols and zingerones. However, it should not be assumed that these active ingredients are limited to soothing the stomach or treating colds. Gingerols protect the body from chronic inflammation with their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, while shogaols a cellular anti-aging effect. Zingerone is a special compound that strengthens the immune system.



However, the effectiveness of ginger is not limited to these. It contains essential oils, polyphenols and organic compounds that activate enzymes. This is why has effects not only when consumed as a tea when used in powder or fresh.

Unknown Benefits: The Deep Impact of Ginger

- The Silent Protector of the Immune System**
Rather than directly stimulating immune cells, ginger works more like a modulator that strengthens the body's self-defense mechanism. With its antiviral and antibacterial effects, it makes the body more resistant to harmful microorganisms.
- Natural Neuroprotector to Strengthen Brain Functions**
The gingerols and shogaols in ginger slow down the aging of nerve cells by reducing oxidative stress in the brain. It is known to be effective in preventing diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, but a lesser known aspect is its effect on learning capacity. Regular consumption of ginger sharpens memory and increases mental clarity.
- Cell Regeneration and Fighting Cancer**
The effect of ginger on cancer cells has been investigated more and more in recent years. Gingerol derivatives show



a suppressive effect especially on colon, stomach and breast cancer cells. The important point here is that ginger can increase the effectiveness of drugs when used in combination with chemotherapy.

4. **A Natural Supplement that Opens the Veins and Cleanses the Blood**
When it comes to cardiovascular health, ginger's anti-clotting and arteriosclerotic properties to the fore. Gingerols offer a natural support that reduces the risk of heart attack by expanding the vascular walls and accelerating blood circulation.

5. **The Golden Key to the Digestive System**
Ginger is known to relieve nausea, but the unknown aspect is that it strengthens the stomach wall by balancing stomach acid. It also supports digestion by increasing the number of good bacteria in the intestines and regulates the intestinal flora.

Different Ways to Use Ginger

- Fermented Ginger:** When combined with probiotics, the effect of ginger on gut health is doubled.
- Ginger Oil:** Reduces stress and anxiety by acting directly on the nervous system.
- A mixture of powdered ginger and honey:** One of the most effective combinations to strengthen the immune system.
- Ginger Tincture:** It can accelerate cellular regeneration, especially in the fight against chronic diseases.

Conclusion: Herbal Medicine of the Future?

Ginger is not just a simple spice, but a natural medicine that supports the body holistically. As science advances, many more unknown secrets will be revealed. But traditional wisdom tells us that when used correctly, this source of healing offered by nature can be the greatest support of health. To discover the true power of ginger, go beyond just adding a few slices to your tea. Perhaps this root is destined to become one of the greatest miracles that modern medicine will pay more attention to in the future.

Ancient City of Turkistan in Kazakhstan Receives Special Status to Protect Its Historical Fabric

In Kazakhstan, the ancient city of Turkistan, with a history of nearly 2,000 years, has been granted special status by law to preserve its unique cultural heritage and historical fabric.

Kazakhstan's President, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, signed the law granting Turkistan special status on March 3. The law, which will come into effect on March 15, designates the city as the administrative center of Turkistan region with special status.

Thus, Turkistan, with its rich historical texture and invaluable heritage, is now the only city in Kazakhstan to be safeguarded with special status. The aim is to protect, study, and promote Turkistan as an irreplaceable cultural and historical site. According to the law, historical buildings in the city will be classified according to their international, national, and local significance. The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, the symbol of Turkistan, will be preserved as an "internationally important" monument, and efforts will be made to protect its historical and architectural authenticity. The mausoleum, which is Kazakhstan's first UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most significant examples of medieval architecture, will be shielded from construction projects that do not align with its historical context. Specifically, buildings higher than seven meters and those inconsistent with the historical and cultural landmarks in terms of scale, color, and materials will be prohibited around the mausoleum. Furthermore, no construction or creation of structures that could damage historical or cultural monuments in the city will be allowed. To preserve the architectural appearance of the city, a design code will be developed. Additionally, the local budget will cover some costs for local craftsmen and artisans to revive traditional handicrafts in Turkistan. The law will also expand the powers of the Turkistan region's administration.

"Uncontrolled Construction That Doesn't Fit the City's Historical Architecture Is Stopped" Kazakh journalist and columnist Amangeldi Kurmetuly discussed the implications of granting Turkistan special status and its significance for the Turkic world. He emphasized that this decision aims to preserve the city's original fabric and ensure the transmission of its historical and spiritual heritage to future generations. Kurmetuly reminded that in 2018, Turkistan was designated as the administrative center of its region. Since then, the city has been rapidly developing and expanding, with construction increasing. As a result, historic and spiritual structures such as the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi might have been overshadowed by new developments. This had sparked public debates. Kurmetuly stated that with this law,



uncontrolled construction that does not align with the city's historical and architectural fabric has been stopped. He also pointed out that granting Turkistan special status is not only important for Kazakhstan but also for the entire Turkic world. Turkistan's name is not merely tied to the city itself, but it represents the unity of Turkic peoples. He noted that this decision would serve as a factor to strengthen mutual identification and create a more unified Turkic world. Referring to how schools in Turkey have started to use the term "Turkistan" instead of "Central Asia," Kurmetuly said, "The granting of special status to the city is in harmony with history, as Kazakh intellectual and poet Magcan Cumabay had referred to this region as Turkistan in his poetry. I believe that with such decisions, in the next 20-25 years, the name Turkistan might be used in the geographical and political definitions of the region in the United Nations documents. I am confident that small steps, such as using the name Turkistan in Turkish schools and granting special status to Turkistan, can lead to significant achievements." Kurmetuly also pointed out that Turkistan has become one of the most preferred tourist destinations. He concluded, "The name of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi holds great value for all Turkic people. Granting Turkistan special status is also a gesture of great respect to the spiritual leader of the Turkic world, Khoja Ahmed Yasawi."





ULUSLARARASI SİVİL DİPLOMASİ GAZETESİ

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