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"We want our region, which dates back to the history of humanity, to be a geography of peace"

In his speech at the opening of the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum, President Erdoğan said, "We want our region, which is ancient with the history of humanity, to be a geography of civilization, peace, security, and stability in accordance with this deep-rooted history. We want to see a region where reconciliation, not conflict; alliance, not division; prosperity and stability, not blood, tears, pain, and tension prevail. We want to live in such a world and leave such a world to our children."

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Kyrgyz President Japarov Invites European Business Community to Invest in His Country

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov invited the European business community and partners to invest in the fields of hydropower, renewable energy, and energy efficiency technologies in Kyrgyzstan.

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It is stated that the aging of society and the decline in birth rates are influential in the population decline.

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Hundreds of fanatic Jews, under police protection, continued their raids on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, citing the Passover (Pesach) holiday.

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33 Years Since the Siege of Sarajevo



The capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, which was subjected to Serbian attacks for nearly four years during the 1992-1995 war, continues to live with the scars of the conflict even 33 years later.

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In his speech at the opening of the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum, President Erdoğan said, "We want our region, which is ancient with the history of humanity, to be a geography of civilization, peace, security, and stability in accordance with this deep-rooted history. We want to see a region where reconciliation, not conflict; alliance, not division; prosperity and stability, not blood, tears, pain, and tension prevail. We want to live in such a world and leave such a world to our children."

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan delivered a speech at the opening of the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum held at the NEST Congress Center, with the main theme "Embracing Diplomacy in a Diverging World." President Erdoğan's wife, Emine Erdoğan, also attended the opening program. President Erdoğan started his speech by greeting the participants. Stating that he was very pleased to come together with the heads of state and government at the 4th meeting of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, President Erdoğan said, "Again from here, on behalf of my country and nation, I greet all the oppressed people who carry the pain of wars, conflicts, and deaths in their hearts, and I send them our messages of solidarity." President Erdoğan thanked each and every guest from all over the world who attended the forum and wished that the 3-day programs would be beneficial for the world and humanity, especially for the oppressed and victims in the geography.

"TOGETHER WE ONCE AGAIN DECLARE TO THE WORLD THAT WE PREFER GLOBAL CONSCIENCE TO THE COMPETITION FOR POWER"

President Erdoğan congratulated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Hakan Fidan, and his colleagues for successfully organizing the 4th edition of the forum, which has become a global brand where the pulse of diplomacy beats. He also congratulated all the organizations that supported the event and congratulated Antalya MP Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, who pioneered the realization of the forum during his ministry.

Hoping that the panels and discussions to be held within the scope of the forum, organized under the theme "Embracing Diplomacy in a Diverging World," will provide the participants with a productive horizon tour, President Erdoğan said: "We are pleased with the intense interest in the forum, which is among the leading events in the field of foreign policy and international relations in the world. Today, we declare to the world once again that we prefer dialogue instead of conflicts, common sense instead of polarization, and global conscience instead of power competition. These messages of peace and friendship that we give to the whole world from Antalya position the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in a unique place compared to its counterparts. As every year, thousands of participants will exchange ideas and discuss solutions on critical regional and global issues for 3 days. The heart of global diplomacy will beat in Antalya again for 3 days."

"THE WORLD IS BIGGER THAN FIVE, BECAUSE HUMANITY IS BIGGER THAN FIVE"

Expressing his gratitude to the participants

for their valuable contributions to the forum, President Erdoğan continued as follows: "While humanity is making new technological breakthroughs one after another, the international system is not able to achieve the same success in keeping up with the times. At a time when we are dealing with problems that concern all of humanity, such as terrorism, hunger, poverty, racism, Islamophobia, anti-immigration sentiments, and the climate crisis, we unfortunately witness that the international community is failing to develop fairer and



more conscientious policies. We feel this deficiency every day in a wide range of areas, especially in the conflicts and tensions in our region. It is clear that we need to emphasize more the humanitarian, entrepreneurial, and future-oriented planning capability of diplomacy. The world is bigger than five because humanity is bigger than five. Our aim in making this determination is to make such an understanding dominant. Turkey is one of the countries that can give this message to the world most easily due to its experience, and historical, humanitarian, and cultural richness and depth. I would like to draw your attention to a fact: We are not a country located in a comfortable geography far away from problems. We are located in a country that is prone to crises, as well as having a high strategic importance. This has always been the case throughout history. Attempts to invade, the Crusades, imperialist games, and attempts to create confusion and instability have never been absent from our environment. From World War I to the Cold War, this was the geography that was most battered and negatively affected by the destructive rivalry between the great powers."

"WE ARE NOT ONLY THE INHABITANTS BUT ALSO THE OWNERS OF THIS GEOGRAPHY"

Emphasizing that many of the problems, wars, crises, and tensions that dominate the agenda of international politics today also

take place in Turkey's immediate vicinity, President Erdoğan said: "I have to say with pride that we are not only the inhabitants of this geography, but we are also its owners. We have been here for a thousand years, we have been on these lands. God willing, we will be here again for many more centuries." Stating that they want the region, which is as old as the history of mankind, to be a geography of civilization, peace, security, and stability in accordance with this deep-rooted history, President Erdoğan said, "We want to see a region where reconciliation prevails over conflict, alliance over division, prosperity and stability over blood, tears, pain, and tension. We want to live in such a world and leave such a world to our children. Of course, we know that this is not easy."

"ISRAEL IS COMMITTING A BLATANT GENOCIDE AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE"

Stating that they are aware that peace requires more effort than war, President Erdoğan emphasized that they have always chosen the hard way, not the easy way, and that today they stand on the side of the hard way.

With this understanding, President Erdoğan said that just as they struggle for peace and stability in countries such as Ukraine, Sudan, Libya, and Somalia, with which they have close friendships, they also assume responsibility in Africa and Asia through initiatives such as mediation and facilitation: "We strive to create a belt of peace and security around our country by establishing good relations with our neighbors, expanding cooperation and trade opportunities, and building bridges of dialogue between conflicting parties. I would like to state once again today with all sincerity that we have no eyes on anyone's land, sovereignty, or resources. As Turkey, wherever we have a presence, we are not interested in what is under the ground, but in what is above the ground—in other words, in people, in lives. Let us not forget that we say, 'oppression does not make a prosperous future.' We say, 'a prosperous future cannot be built on exploitation and conflict.'"

As you know, one of the most painful issues for global conscience and justice is the persecution in Palestine, especially in Gaza. For 1.5 years, Israel has been committing a blatant genocide against the Palestinian people, disregarding the most basic human rights and trampling on international law. Raising our voices against this, objecting to this persecution, and giving the strongest possible reaction to this is not only our brotherhood but also our humanity—it is a requirement of our humanity. Because we all have a heart. To remain silent against Israel's massacres is to be a partner in this crime." Reminding that a few days ago, the Israeli army bombed a tent where journalists were

staying in Khan Yunis, in the south of Gaza, President Erdoğan said, "Three journalists lost their lives in this attack, and 10 people, nine of whom were members of the media, were seriously injured. One of those martyred was a journalist named Ahmet Mansour. The images of Ahmet Mansour, who was burned alive in the tent after the attack, horrified us all on the one hand, and on the other hand, once again revealed the crimes of war and humanity committed by Israel. The Israeli government has murdered 211 journalists so far. Just this morning, 10 people, including 7 children, from the same family were martyred in Khan Yunis. Now, if the name of this is not barbarism, what am I asking?"

Drawing attention to the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Israel, President Erdoğan stated that Israel executed medical personnel who went to help the wounded in an ambulance and mercilessly massacred innocent babies, children, and women trying to hold on to life among the ruins.

President Erdoğan said, "Let us put our hands on our conscience and ask ourselves this question: Would a legitimate state act like this, even in war? Isn't this called state terrorism? Therefore, Israel is a terrorist state. It cannot have any other name."

"NO ONE CAN DENIGRATE THE HEROIC STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BY LABELING



IT 'TERRORISM'"

Stating that the Israeli government is trying to uproot the Palestinian people from their land and cause a second Nakba disaster, President Erdoğan said that Israel, whose every crime goes unanswered before the law, attempts more bloody and unscrupulous attacks each time.

President Erdoğan stated that by calling Palestinians who exercise their legitimate right of resistance against the Israeli occupation "terrorists," Israel seeks to legitimize their massacres, and he said, "No one can denigrate the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation by labeling it as 'terrorism.'"

Stating that Palestinians have been defending their land since October 7, 2023, and have been the pride of humanity, President Erdoğan emphasized that the Turkish nation acts in full solidarity with the Palestinians today, as it has done throughout history.

"PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ONLY POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF A TWO-STATE SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT"

President Erdoğan continued his speech as follows: "We welcomed all the people of Israel, the Jews, who were expelled from their lands 500 years ago, by opening our doors. What Turkey was then, Turkey is the same today. Since the beginning of the attacks, we have sent over 101 thousand tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza with the support of sister countries in the region. God willing, we will continue to extend our helping hand to the oppressed people of Gaza. As long as Israel's state terrorism in Gaza continues, as long as the ceasefire efforts are sabotaged, as long as bombs are dropped on the innocent, it is very difficult for lasting peace to come to our region. I emphasize again that peace in the Middle East is only possible on the basis of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This depends on the establishment of a free, sovereign, and territorially integral Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. I once again call on all members of the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council, to assume responsibility, stop the bloodshed, and stand by the Palestinian people."

"WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH ALL ACTORS IN THE REGION ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SYRIA"

Stating that Israel is turning into a problematic country that directly threatens the stability of the region, especially with its attacks on Lebanon and Syria, President Erdoğan noted that Israel's attacks have also hampered efforts to fight the terrorist organization DAESH. President Erdoğan continued his speech as follows: "In Syria, the Syrian government is trying to dynamite the December 8 revolution by inciting ethnic and religious affiliations and provoking the minorities in the country against the government. Look, Turkey's position on this issue is very clear. We are one of the countries that have borne the brunt and paid the price for 14 years of conflict and instability in neighboring Syria. We cannot allow the opportunity to establish lasting stability not only in Syria



but also in our entire region to be wasted with the December 8 revolution. We will not allow Syria to be dragged into a new vortex of instability. I would like to emphasize here that we do not consider the territorial integrity, stability, and security of our neighbor Syria, with which we have a total border of 911 kilometers, as separate from our own. The Syrian people have had enough of suffering, oppression, and war. Those who intend to put our Syrian brothers and sisters through this again should make their calculations accordingly. No one should misunderstand or misinterpret our composure, our patience, our attitude of



resolving issues through dialogue, and our calmness should not lead some people to very wrong ambitions." Emphasizing that Turkey is a country that acts with principles, not with hidden intentions and agendas in foreign policy, President Erdoğan stated that they want peace, stability, prosperity, and security for all the peoples of the region. President Erdoğan said, "We are in a unity of understanding and in very close dialogue with all actors who have influence in the region, especially Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin, in order to preserve the territorial integrity and stability of Syria. We will resolutely continue to take all necessary steps within the framework of this unity of understanding, the security plans of our country, and the agreements between us and the Syrian government." Stating that they are increasing political contacts and consultations with Asian countries every day through the Asia Re-opening, President Erdoğan noted that with the Africa partnership policy, cooperation is developing with a win-win approach. President Erdoğan said, "We continue our efforts to ensure lasting stability in the South Caucasus. We aim to maintain peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean, and work to preserve positive atmospheres with our neighbor Greece. We closely follow the developments in the Balkans and continue our cooperation with the countries in the region. The brotherly republics in Central Asia are strengthening their special place in our foreign policy day by day."

"IT HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME CLEAR THAT EUROPEAN SECURITY IS UNTHINKABLE WITHOUT TURKEY"

President Erdoğan said: "The Organization of Turkic States, which has taken important steps towards integration in recent years with the intensive efforts of our country, contributes significantly to strengthening our cooperation. We have recently increased our efforts for the recognition of the sovereign equality and equal international status of the Turkish Cypriot people. We will continue to do so patiently until justice is served on the island. NATO, as the foundation of Euro-Atlantic security, is one of the building blocks of Turkish foreign policy and the security of our country. In these days when the future of NATO and the European security architecture are on the agenda, it has once again become clear that European security cannot be imagined without Turkey. Turkey, which commands

NATO's second-largest land army, is ready to take responsibility for European security in the future, especially with its defense industry, which has made great strides in recent years."

"FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IS OUR COUNTRY'S STRATEGIC GOAL"

President Erdoğan also stated that there is no validity to the claims and criticisms that Turkey is moving away from the European Union (EU) and pointed out that full EU membership is still Turkey's strategic goal. President Erdoğan stated the following: "However, sometimes due to fears, sometimes due to prejudices, sometimes due to actors who have captured the Union from within, the European Union is unable to show the necessary will to advance our membership process. To put it more accurately, some European countries today unfortunately lack the horizon, courage, and strategic perspective that gave life to the European Union three and a quarter centuries ago. We say that if the European Union wants to overcome the current challenges and be duly represented in the restructured global system, it must act accordingly, get rid of its baggage, and Turkey must regain its seat in the Union as a full member as soon as possible. We are ready and determined to advance our membership process. We expect the European Union to take concrete steps." Stating that a strong foreign policy cannot be implemented without a strong defense industry, President Erdoğan noted that Turkey owes its current self-confidence to its breakthroughs in the field of defense industry along with other steps. "Today, we have reached a localization rate of 80 percent in this field. Thus, we have become self-sufficient," said President

Erdoğan, adding that Turkey has gone far beyond meeting its own needs with armed and unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles, ships, helicopters, tanks, rockets, and missiles, as well as many other capabilities.

"WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR 100 BILLION DOLLAR TRADE TARGET WITH THE USA"

Stating that the annual export target of 10 billion dollars in the defense industry is being approached with firm steps every year, President Erdoğan continued as follows: "We are gradually strengthening our defense cooperation with friendly and brotherly countries. We attach great importance to our \$100 billion trade target with our ally and strategic partner, the United States of America. I believe that in President Trump's second term, our relations with the United States will flourish in every field with the contribution of our close friendship with him. Our relations with the Russian Federation, with which we have a deep-rooted history, are developing day by day on a multidimensional ground. We are determined to advance our cooperation with Russia, with which we share a common geography, on the basis of mutual interest and respect. Ending the Russian-Ukrainian War, now in its fourth year, with a just and sustainable peace agreement remains our priority. We have taken many steps, including the Black Sea initiative, prisoner swaps, and the Istanbul Process. We will hopefully maintain our balanced and proactive stance that we have maintained since day one."

President Erdoğan stated that they will endeavor to improve relations with Asian, African, and Latin American countries and said, "We are doing our best to prevent the escalating trade competition over customs tariffs from becoming destructive. Turkey, with its economy that is resistant to shocks, will not only overcome this process without any problems but will also be one of the winners of the new era, God willing." Pointing out that Turkey will gain a different momentum in the economy when it gets rid of terrorism, President Erdoğan said: "When we get rid of the scourge of terrorism, which has cost our country 40 years, the lives of thousands of its citizens, and billions of dollars in resources, we will hopefully achieve a very different momentum in the economy. We have no doubt that we will reach our ideal, which finds its meaning in the phrase 'Century of Turkey,' hopefully with your support. I believe that the Antalya Diplomacy Forum will be instrumental in explaining this vision to future generations and all friendly countries."



Hakan Fidan: 80 Years of Violence Has Been Ineffective, Palestinians Have Not Abandoned Their Homeland



Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan said, “The 80 years of violence perpetrated by Israel against Palestinians has yielded no results. Palestinians have not abandoned their homeland. We call on Israel to declare a ceasefire immediately and make peace with the Palestinians.”

The “Two-State Solution and Lasting Peace in the Middle East – Antalya Ministerial Meeting,” held within the scope of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, as well as the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Bahrain, Indonesia, Qatar, Egypt, and Jordan. Speaking at the end of the meeting, Hakan Fidan said, “There was also participation from China, Russia, Ireland, Spain, Norway, Slovenia, and Nigeria. In today’s meetings, we discussed the humanitarian situation in Gaza, efforts to re-establish the ceasefire, and developments in the occupied territories. We also evaluated steps that can be taken within the international community to ensure lasting peace and implement the two-state solution. A permanent ceasefire must be established as soon as possible.”

“80 Years of Violence Has Been Ineffective”

Minister Fidan expressed their support for the ceasefire process, stating: “We support the ceasefire process led by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States. Uninterrupted access for humanitarian aid to Gaza must be ensured immediately. We support the reconstruction of Gaza. The 80 years of violence perpetrated by Israel against Palestinians has yielded no results. Palestinians have not left their homeland. We are confident that they will live in peace and security within their own state. They have not given up on their cause. We call on Israel to declare a ceasefire immediately and make peace with the Palestinians. Meetings on Palestine will continue at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.”

“We Reject the Displacement of Palestinians from Their Homeland”

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan stated that the meeting was productive, saying: “We gathered with the Gaza Contact Group and international partners. A ceasefire

must be reinstated immediately and made permanent. A lasting political solution is needed to protect Gaza. Humanitarian aid must reach civilians. Depriving them and blocking humanitarian aid is using aid as a weapon of war. We support the negotiations. We support the ceasefire steps taken by our friends in Egypt, Qatar, and the United States. We reject the displacement of Palestinians from their homeland. People there cannot meet their needs for electricity, food, and water. Depriving the people of Gaza of basic necessities is a form of forced displacement. We must continue to work on Gaza. Arab and Islamic countries are committed to peace. The security of everyone in the region must be ensured.”

“We Are Ready to Fight for Greater Support”

Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono said: “We reject the displacement of the Palestinian people. We do not accept their being removed from their own land. As a country that supports Gaza’s independence, we must provide support. All countries must be of one mind. This is Indonesia’s position. We are ready to fight for greater support. We have always supported the two-state solution. This forum has been productive in standing in solidarity with everyone.”

“We Want Palestine to Be Recognized as Soon as Possible”

Palestinian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Mustafa said: “We thank everyone for their efforts in supporting the upcoming two-state peace. We must also address the ongoing attacks in the West Bank and Jerusalem, in terms of economic blockade. We want to draw attention to all actions that violate the law. We thank the international community for all steps taken, especially those countries that have explicitly recognized the State of Palestine. We ask the countries that have not yet recognized Palestine to do so as soon as possible.”

“We Are Working with Our Partners”

Mustafa stated that the priority of the meeting was the ceasefire: “This is not only to resolve the dire humanitarian situation, but also to initiate the reconstruction of Gaza and the revival of the political process. As the Palestinian government, we are working with our partners. We hope that these efforts will progress swiftly. There will be a conference on the reconstruction of Gaza hosted by Egypt. Without these efforts, there will be no stability in the region.”

“We Are Working for the Establishment of a Free Palestine”

Mustafa expressed hope that these efforts would yield results: “We are doing everything we can to achieve success. We are also continuing our efforts to unite Gaza and the West

Bank. Reform efforts are a national duty for us. We are working for the establishment of a Free Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. God willing, we will host you in a Free Palestine.”

“The Ceasefire Issue Is Our Primary Concern”

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, who stated that very important issues were discussed during the meeting, said: “The ceasefire issue is our primary concern. Our cooperation with Qatar continues. The release of some Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners would help ensure a period of calm. We are working to implement previously agreed upon terms. A ceasefire agreement was signed on January 19. The Israeli side must adhere to this agreement. It must not evade its responsibilities. We will implement the Gaza reconstruction plan. This plan will also enable early recovery. The Palestinian people will continue to stay in their homeland.”

“We Reject All Forms of Displacement”

Abdelatty said: “Together with our international partners, we categorically reject displacement. There is no legal or moral justification for displacing the Palestinian people from their homeland. Whether called voluntary or not, we reject all forms and modes of displacement. Forcing Palestinians out of their homeland equates to the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. This is exactly what Israel wants. They want to claim, ‘There is land here, but no people.’ It is important to support the stance that Palestinians should remain in their homeland. We must stop Israel’s regular attacks. As has been clearly stated before, this issue is a red line for Egypt and Jordan.”



Japan's Population Decreased by 898,000

It is stated that the aging of society and the decline in birth rates are influential in the population decline.

According to the latest statistics published by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, as of October 2024, the number of Japanese citizens recorded the largest annual decline to date.

Accordingly, as of October 2024, the number of Japanese citizens in the country decreased by 898,000 compared to the previous year, falling to 120.3 million. Including foreigners, the total population of the country also declined by 550,000 year-on-year as of

October 2024, dropping to 123.8 million.

The "working-age population," considered to be those between the ages of 15 and 64, also decreased by 224,000, reaching 73.73 million. It is stated that the aging of society and the decline in birth rates are influential in the population decline.

SOURCE: VEDAT KURT



Iran: Talks with the US may be moved elsewhere, but Oman will remain a mediator

It is stated thaIranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei stated that the negotiations with the United States scheduled for April 19 might be moved to another location instead of Oman, but Muscat will continue its role as mediator and the talks will proceed indirectly.at the aging of society and the decline in birth rates are influential in the population decline.

Baghaei answered journalists' questions on his country's foreign policy agenda and regional developments during a press conference held in Tehran. Referring to the indirect talks held between Iran and the US on April 12 in Oman, Baghaei said the negotiations focused on nuclear issues and the lifting of sanctions. He noted that the April 19 talks with the US may be relocated to Europe instead of Oman, but emphasized that Muscat would retain its role as mediator, and that the negotiations would continue in an indirect format.

Stating that no decision had yet been made regarding the location of the next round of talks, Baghaei said, "After receiving Oman's official views, we will make our decision on the venue for the next round of negotiations with the US. The location of the talks is not important; what matters is the framework and the nature of the negotiations. We do not consider direct negotiations to be effective or beneficial," he said. IAEA Director to visit Tehran

The Iranian spokesperson shared that the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, would visit Tehran this week to meet with officials. In response to a question about whether Iran would reduce its uranium enrichment level to 3.67%, as stated in the 2015 nuclear deal in the event of a potential agreement, Baghaei noted that this is a technical issue that would be addressed in later stages. Ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people by Israel

Baghaei also addressed the genocide being carried out by Israel against the Palestinians, stating, "We continue to witness genocides in Gaza and the West Bank, and the so-called ceasefire—agreed upon and with guarantors assigned—is being effectively ignored by

Israel. Attacks are being carried out on the defenseless Palestinian people, hospitals, doctors, and limited infrastructure. Journalists are among the Zionist regime's constant targets, and these crimes continue amid the silence of the Security Council and relevant institutions. Ceasefire violations persist in Lebanon. Attacks on Syria and Yemen continue, and we condemn all of these as violations of international law." Araghchi to visit Russia Baghaei also shared that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi would visit Russia within a few days, saying, "In line with prior planning, our Foreign Minister will visit Russia by the end of this week. Various topics will be discussed during the visit, including developments related to the negotiations in Muscat." Stating that the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Agreement process between Iran and Russia is one of the Foreign Ministry's priorities, Baghaei announced that the agreement would soon be submitted to the Parliament for approval. We do not block US citizens' investments

In response to a question regarding the possibility of American investors operating in Iran, Baghaei said, "Iran has never prevented economic cooperation or investment from other parties. The problem lies with the US itself, which, due to its complex and multilayered legal system, deprives its own citizens of any economic engagement with Iran. This is an issue the US side needs to address."



Kyrgyz President Japarov Invites European Business Community to Invest in His Country

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov invited the European business community and partners to invest in the fields of hydropower, renewable energy, and energy efficiency technologies in Kyrgyzstan.



Speaking at the First European Union (EU)-Central Asia Summit held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, President Japarov emphasized that Kyrgyzstan's strategic geographical location and growing transit potential open up broad horizons for trade and investment.

"We invite European businesses and our partners to take part in large-scale hydropower plant construction projects being implemented in Kyrgyzstan," Japarov said, noting that together with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan has begun the construction of the Kambar-Ata Hydropower Plant (HPP-1), which is expected to have an annual production capacity of approximately 5.6 billion kWh (kilowatt-hours).

Japarov stated that Kyrgyzstan seeks to expand cooperation

with the EU in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. He welcomed the EU's initiative to invest €10 billion in developing sustainable transport connectivity in Central Asia. Highlighting that Kyrgyzstan possesses significant reserves of rare and valuable metals, Japarov added, "In this regard, we seek cooperation with the EU, similar to the agreements previously established between the EU and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan."

Japarov underscored Kyrgyzstan's commitment to deepening its partnership with the EU in all areas and expressed confidence in this relationship. He expressed hope that today's meeting would result in new, concrete agreements that would give additional momentum to EU-Central Asia relations.

Ministers of Health of the Organization of Turkic States Convened in Kazakhstan

The 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

Hosted by Kazakhstan's Minister of Health, Akmaral Alnazarova, the meeting was attended by Turkish Minister of Health Kemal Memişoğlu, Azerbaijani Minister of Health Teymur Musayev, Kyrgyz Minister of Health Erkin Checheibaev, Uzbek Minister of Health Asilbek Khudayarov, Director General of Infectious Disease Centers of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan Annamyrat Recepow, Hungarian Deputy Secretary of State for the Interior Judit Bidlo, Secretary-General of the OTS Kubanychbek Omuraliev, President of the Turkic Investment Fund Bagdat Amreyev, and WHO Regional Director Hans Kluge.

The meeting began with the reading of a congratulatory message sent by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev specifically for the occasion.

In her opening remarks, Minister Alnazarova expressed her pleasure in hosting the health ministers of the OTS member countries in Kazakhstan. Recalling that President Tokayev had emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation in the health sector at the 10th OTS Heads of State Summit held in Astana, Alnazarova stated that they proposed declaring 2025 as the "Year of Primary Health Care" among OTS countries, aiming to take joint steps in the areas of accessibility, equity, and sustainability of health systems.

Alnazarova highlighted Kazakhstan's prioritization of digitalization in its healthcare system, saying, "There are 52 healthcare services offered in our country. More than 90% of these are fully digitalized."

She stated that they are ready to share their achievements in this field with OTS member states and added that they support the initiative to establish a joint infrastructure for organ transplantation among Turkic states.

"As Kazakhstan, we are ready for active cooperation in the health sector under the umbrella of the Organization of Turkic States," she said.

We, as Türkiye, Highly Value the Development of Joint Health Projects under the OTS Umbrella"

Speaking at the meeting, Turkish Minister of Health Kemal Memişoğlu expressed his great pleasure in meeting with his counterparts from Turkic states at the 5th OTS Health Ministers Meeting and extended his gratitude to the government of Kazakhstan for hosting this meaningful gathering.

Memişoğlu emphasized that the Turkic



world is a large family united by shared history, culture, and strong ties, stating: "As we have expressed at the highest level on various platforms, the Organization of Turkic States is not only a regional but also a globally effective cooperation platform. Our organization has the capacity to generate joint solutions in political and economic areas as well as in health and humanitarian fields."

He noted that they have gathered with the vision of strengthening global health diplomacy and enhancing human resources capacity at the level of primary health care, and added:

"As we all know, the sustainability of health systems depends on the effectiveness of primary healthcare services and the availability of qualified health professionals. Training healthcare workers and sharing experiences among our countries will strengthen our regional health resilience."

Memişoğlu underlined that Türkiye has achieved significant success in primary healthcare through long-standing health reforms, and continued:

"Our strengthened family medicine system, the widespread implementation of community-based healthcare, integration of digital health solutions, and the modernization of our hospital infrastructure have enabled us to provide more accessible and effective healthcare services to our citizens. We are eager to share this expertise with our sister countries under the umbrella of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS)," Minister Memişoğlu said.

He emphasized that global health diplomacy requires not only cooperation between countries but also the capacity to act together in times of crisis, noting, "The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent natural disasters we have experienced once again revealed the vital importance of solidarity in healthcare."

Stating that Türkiye has always stood by and will continue to support its friendly and brotherly countries with its humanitarian and technical capacities, Memişoğlu continued: "We, as Türkiye, highly value and support the increase of initiatives to develop joint health projects under the umbrella of the OTS."

He noted that especially health personnel exchange programs, joint training initiatives, and coordinated intervention mechanisms during crises further strengthen cooperation, and added:

"I believe that our health action plan — which includes new thematic areas and assigns various responsibilities to our member countries — will have an even greater impact and help us achieve our goals through the devoted efforts and commitment of all member states. Our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's emphasis on 'our unity is our strength' for OTS member countries is a call to strengthen cooperation and ensure that our nations can look to the future with confidence. Therefore, as the OTS, we must act collectively and take concrete steps to ensure equity in healthcare."

In this context, Minister Memişoğlu called for collaboration to enhance joint production capacity in the health sector and to strengthen cooperation in the production of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, stating: "Recently, we launched a new process in Türkiye under the vision of a 'Productive Health System.' This process, built on a foundation from idea to production, and from distribution to sharing, aims to include the Turkic World as a key stakeholder — one of our main objectives."

He concluded by stating that they aim to take the organization much further through unity of purpose and spirit, and said: "On this occasion, I would also like to emphasize once again the importance of the solidarity we, as the Turkic World family, must show in the face of the isolation imposed on our Turkish Cypriot brothers and sisters, especially in the field of health. As Türkiye, we share the rightful cause of the Turkish Cypriots and attach great importance to the support of the OTS and you, our brotherly countries."

Azerbaijani Minister of Health Teymur Musayev began his remarks by once again thanking his Kazakh counterpart and healthcare professionals for their professionalism and assistance following the crash of an Azerbaijan Airlines aircraft last year in the city of Aktau.

Musayev emphasized that the OTS has

rapidly become a platform for enhancing cooperation among its member and observer countries, noting that under the auspices of heads of state, relations in political, economic, and cultural fields have flourished not only within the framework of the organization but also through bilateral ties.

He highlighted that the OTS health meetings enhance interaction among healthcare professionals from member states and provide important opportunities for sharing experiences.

Kyrgyz Minister of Health Erkin Checheibaev pointed out that there are some obstacles that need to be addressed in the health cooperation among OTS member countries, saying, "We believe that through mutual interaction, we can provide much better healthcare services to our people."

Uzbek Minister of Health Asilbek Khudayarov expressed their support for initiatives such as the use of artificial intelligence in the health sector, improving the professional skills of healthcare workers, and organizing joint training programs within the framework of the OTS.

OTS Secretary-General Kubanychbek Omuraliev emphasized that today's gathering was evidence of strong cooperation among member countries.

He noted that 12 sub-working groups are currently active among member states, covering areas ranging from traditional medicine to digitalization in the health sector.

At the end of the meeting, the ministers approved the "2025–2026 Action Plan" among the health ministries of the member countries and signed the OTS Ministers of Health Joint Declaration.

In addition, memorandums of understanding were signed between the relevant institutions of the OTS member countries on cooperation in emergency healthcare services, biosafety, medical education and science, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices.

The meeting concluded with a family photo session.

Raids by Fanatic Jews on Al-Aqsa Mosque Continue

Hundreds of fanatic Jews, under police protection, continued their raids on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, citing the Passover (Pesach) holiday.

An official from the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Administration, speaking to an AA correspondent on condition of anonymity, stated that 765 fanatic Jews stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque in groups through the Al-Maghariba Gate. The official also noted that 494 fanatic Jews entered the Haram al-Sharif yesterday. Eyewitnesses reported that the Israeli group, who provocatively toured the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque, performed "Talmudic rituals" in various parts of the Haram al-Sharif.

It was noted that Israeli police were deployed in the vicinity during the raid. The fanatic Jewish groups entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the morning, and these entries were expected to continue in the afternoon.

Such raids by fanatic Jews on the Haram al-Sharif escalate tensions in the region. With the beginning of Passover (Pesach) on the evening of April 12 and continuing until April 20 in Israel, an increase in these raids by fanatic Jews on Al-Aqsa Mosque is expected. Raids Intensify During the Seven Jewish Holidays

As with the other six Jewish holidays, the raids by fanatics on Al-Aqsa Mosque intensify during Passover



(Pesach). According to the peace agreement signed between Israel and Jordan on October 26, 1994, the Al-Aqsa Mosque is under the custodianship of the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Administration, which is affiliated with Jordan's Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Places.

Since 2003, Jews have been entering the sacred compound under police escort without permission from the Waqf Administration, based on Israel's unilateral decision. The Waqf Administration describes these entries as raids and emphasizes that Muslim sovereignty is being violated.

Israelis are conducting excavations beneath the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex—which includes the Qibla Mosque, Dome of the Rock Mosque, a museum, madrasahs, and a large courtyard—claiming that the ruins of Solomon's Temple lie beneath it. The Israeli government claims to preserve the historical status quo that allows only Muslims to worship at Al-Aqsa, while members of other religions may only visit.

However, during these raids, it is often documented that fanatic Jews, under Israeli police protection, perform prayers and religious rituals inside Al-Aqsa.

Most ultra-Orthodox Jewish rabbis in Israel emphasize that it is religiously forbidden for Jews to enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Jerusalem Islamic Waqf: Fanatic Jews Provoke Muslims with Raids on Al-Aqsa

In a statement by the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Administration, it was emphasized that violations against the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem, are increasing.

It was reported that 189 extremist Jews stormed Al-Aqsa yesterday, while the number of those who raided the mosque today reached 1,149.

With the start of Passover, fanatic Jews have been entering the Haram al-Sharif to perform their own religious rituals such as praying, kneeling, dancing, and singing. It was noted that they also gathered at the mosque's entrances to prevent Muslims from entering, committing a series of violations and provocations. It was warned that extremist groups made calls to perform sacrificial rituals in and around the courtyard of Al-Aqsa, provoking Muslims worldwide and escalating tensions in the region.

The statement condemned the permission granted to extremist groups to perform various rituals in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa in violation of its historical, religious, and legal status, and the targeting of the Waqf employees and mosque preachers under various pretexts.

In the statement, it was emphasized: "The Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Administration confirms that the



blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, with its 144-dunum area, is solely the right of Muslims. Non-Muslims have no connection to the mosque. It does not accept any division or partnership and has never been a center of religious conflict throughout history."

A call was made to King Abdullah II of Jordan to "assume his responsibilities in the face of these violations against one of Islam's three holiest mosques." Jordan Is Recognized as the Custodian of Religious Affairs in Jerusalem

Jordan is recognized as the country responsible for religious affairs in Jerusalem under the Wadi Araba Agreement signed with Israel on October 26, 1994. Article 9 of the agreement stipulates that "Israel shall respect the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem."

According to the agreement, the Al-Aqsa Mosque is under the custodianship of the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Administration, affiliated with Jordan's Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Places. However, since 2003, Jews have been entering the sacred compound under Israeli police escort without the Waqf's permission.

According to the status quo, fanatic Jewish settlers are not allowed to worship in Al-Aqsa, but they frequently conduct raids under the protection of Israeli police.



President Tatar: "The Sole Reason for the Continuation of Peace, Tranquility, and Security with Stability is the Presence of the Turkish Armed Forces on the Island"

President Ersin Tatar emphasized that the only reason peace, tranquility, and security have continued with stability since the 1974 Cyprus Peace Operation is the presence of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) on the island.



President Tatar delivered a speech at the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation Medal and Certificate of Appreciation Ceremony. He began his remarks by greeting all attendees. Tatar recalled that before the 1960 Agreements, then-Prime Minister of Turkey Adnan Menderes and Foreign Minister Fatin Rüştü Zorlu had told the British, "We handed Cyprus over to Britain during the Ottoman era—not to Greece. Therefore, you must know your place," expressing that if the Greek Cypriot-Greek duo aimed to annex Cyprus to Greece, Turkey would do what was necessary.

Highlighting the achievements of Turkey's national defense industry following the 1974 Cyprus Peace Operation, Tatar stated that these accomplishments are also a source of pride for the Turkish Cypriot people. He noted that companies such as ASELSAN, HAVELSAN, and ROKETSAN effectively implement digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and all forms of technological advancements. Tatar thanked those who brought the national defense industry to its current level.

Referring to recent events in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, and Ukraine, President Tatar drew attention to how fortunate the Turkish Cypriot people are, stating, "The sole reason peace, tranquility, and security have continued with stability since the 1974 Cyprus Peace Operation is the presence of the Turkish Armed Forces on the island."

Quoting then-Prime Minister of Turkey Bülent Ecevit, who said, "We are carrying out this operation not only to bring peace to Turkish Cypriots but also to Greek Cypriots," Tatar added: "This is indeed what happened, and history

has recorded it as such. Today, the Turkish Cypriot people's desire and demand is for the continuation of Turkey's guarantorship and for the Turkish Armed Forces to maintain their presence on the island as a guarantor of peace." Stressing that "We will not compromise our red lines," President Tatar stated that the Turkish Cypriot people will continue this approach with the support of Turkey to ensure the continuation of peace, tranquility, and stability.

President Tatar also noted the economic aspect of the national defense industry, pointing out that a citizen named Salih Avcı has a large production facility in the Haspolat Industrial Zone and exports his products as far as the United States. Tatar expressed hope that as the TRNC develops, investments in industrial zones will contribute to the success of Turkey's new century.

Mentioning that there has been an increase of nearly 40% in passenger numbers with the opening of the new Ercan Airport Terminal in the past two years, Tatar said, "All these show the potential of developments in the economy."

Stating that donations to the Turkish Armed Forces, which protect, ensure the security of, and guarantee the peace of the people, are highly valuable in strengthening the bonds of brotherhood, Tatar noted that as the country develops, the scale and value of donations will also increase.

President Tatar emphasized the need to continue the struggle in the "Blue Homeland" as an independent Turkish state on the basis of sovereign equality with the support of the Republic of Turkey. He pointed out that there is currently no common ground in the Cyprus issue. "Despite the lack of common ground, we continue to extend our hand," said Tatar, noting that they are proposing projects that could benefit both peoples through cooperation between the two states. He stressed that cooperation on matters such as electricity and the opening of new border gates is significant and valuable for increasing prosperity both in the TRNC and across the island of Cyprus. He also highlighted that Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan fully supported the stance of the Turkish Cypriot side during the talks in Geneva. Commending the determination demonstrated to continue infrastructure investments under the Economic and Financial Cooperation Protocol signed between Turkey and the TRNC, Tatar expressed his belief that projects will be realized with the involvement of Turkish Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Murat Kurum.



Energy Production Rises in Turkmenistan

Seeking to expand its export market in the energy sector, Turkmenistan recorded an increase of over 100 percent in natural gas and petroleum product output during the first three months of the year.



Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers responsible for energy, Batyr Amanov, stated that there was an increase of more than 100 percent in the production of natural gas and petroleum products during the first quarter of the year.

Speaking during a briefing with President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, Amanov said, "In particular, production volumes are increasing year by year in the Galkynysh gas field and other areas. This strengthens Turkmenistan's position as a reliable partner in the energy market."

Turkmenistan holds the position of having the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves.



Aliyev: Azerbaijan Will Stand by TRNC for Recognition of Its Independence



President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev stated that they will always stand by their brothers in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) for its recognition as an independent state by the international community.

Aliyev attended the international forum titled “Towards a New World Order” held at ADA University in Baku, where more than 80 experts from 44 countries participated and delivered a speech.

Evaluating the relations with the TRNC, Aliyev said that he is in contact with TRNC President Ersin Tatar. Aliyev reminded that Azerbaijan played an active role in the TRNC gaining observer status in the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) and that he had invited President Ersin Tatar to the Informal Summit of the OTS held in Shusha.

Recalling that the TRNC flag was flown at the OTS Summit in Shusha, Aliyev stated:

“We are always on the side of our brothers. Our policy has always been clear. We have no other agenda on this matter. We only consider how we can help our brothers protect their states. They deserve this historically and because of their actions.”

Aliyev reminded that the TRNC said “yes” to the Annan Plan, while the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus opposed it, and continued:

“What happened afterward? The Greek Cypriot Administration was accepted into the EU. Is this fair? This is a clear example of double standards. Our brothers in the TRNC should rest assured that we will always stand by them in their quest to be recognized as an independent state by the international community.”



Chinese President Xi visits Vietnam amid rising trade tensions with the U.S.

Vietnam, whose exports to the United States account for 25% of its gross domestic product, is expected to be among the countries most adversely affected by Donald Trump’s new tariff regime and the resulting shift in international trade.



Chinese President Xi Jinping is visiting Southeast Asian countries, which are key trade partners for China, during a time of increasing trade tensions and economic uncertainty caused by the U.S.’s tariff hikes under its “reciprocal tariffs” policy.

According to a statement from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, President Xi began his three-nation tour with a visit to Vietnam.

On the first day of his visit, Xi met with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, To Lam, and indirectly criticized the U.S. for its tariff policies, calling on Vietnam to “jointly oppose unilateral bullying” and to “defend global free trade.” Highlighting that China and Vietnam are two countries that have benefited from globalization, Xi emphasized that both nations should support economic globalization and work to maintain the stability of industrial and supply chains.

Following the meeting, the two countries signed cooperation agreements in areas including transportation, artificial intelligence, customs enforcement and quarantine, agricultural trade, culture, sports, livelihood projects, human resources development, and media.

Trade showdown between the U.S. and China

Xi’s visit coincides with the tariff confrontation between the U.S. and China that erupted after President Donald Trump announced tariff increases under his “reciprocal tariffs” framework.

China was the first country to respond to the U.S.’s tariff hikes, imposing retaliatory measures of equal magnitude. As the tariff dispute escalated, the U.S. raised tariffs on Chinese goods to as high as 145%, while China imposed tariffs of up to 125% on American products.

While the U.S. administration postponed reciprocal tariffs on other countries for 90 days, the tariffs on Chinese goods were implemented immediately.

Trump later announced that certain tech products, such as smartphones, laptops, hard drives, processors, and chips, would be exempt from the additional tariffs.

Vietnam’s critical position in supply chains

Under the reciprocal tariff framework, Trump imposed an additional 46% tariff on Vietnam, one of the highest among targeted countries. In recent years, Vietnam has emerged as a key manufacturing hub in global supply chains, producing goods for international companies. With exports to the U.S. making up 25% of its GDP, Vietnam is expected to be one of the countries most negatively impacted by Trump’s new tariff regime and the resulting changes in global trade.

During Trump’s first term, Chinese manufacturers tried to evade U.S. tariffs by shifting parts of their production to Vietnam. This time, Trump is extending tariffs to other key manufacturing countries in Asia—such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia—effectively raising trade barriers along China’s alternative routes.

The Vietnamese government has signaled its willingness to negotiate with Washington to avoid losing access to the U.S. market, while also pledging to regulate its trade relations with China.

Call for joint protection of the multilateral trade system

In an article published in the official newspaper of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Nhan Dan, Xi emphasized that China and Vietnam are “comrade and brother” countries. He stated that they must work together to protect the multilateral trade system, ensure the stability of global industry and supply chains, and create an open and cooperative international environment.

Xi pointed out that China and Vietnam share common beliefs, ideals, and broad strategic interests. He noted that in recent years, the two countries have deepened mutual political trust and developed close cooperation in areas ranging from border security and the fight against cross-border crime to foreign policy and national defense. He added that they hold similar positions on many international and regional issues and often work together.

Xi called on Vietnam to help promote the formation of a fair and orderly multipolar world by defending the common interests of developing nations alongside other countries in the Global South.

The Chinese leader will continue his Southeast Asia tour until April 18, visiting Malaysia and Cambodia after Vietnam.

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to Hold Joint Naval Drill in the Caspian Sea



The “Caspian Breeze 2025” exercise, scheduled for June, will take place in the Kazakh section of the Caspian Sea.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Kazakh Naval Forces, Kanat Niyazbekov, and Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijani Naval Forces, Teymur Murshudov, met in the Kazakh city of Aktau.

Announcing that a joint exercise will be held with Azerbaijan, Niyazbekov stated, “The drills will encompass a wide range of tasks aimed at enhancing interaction between naval forces and strengthening bilateral relations.”

The “Caspian Breeze 2025” exercise will be conducted from June 15 to 20 in the Kazakh section of the Caspian Sea.

Personnel from the coastal units and vessels of the naval base will

participate in the exercise. Azerbaijan will contribute two patrol ships, one auxiliary vessel, and coastal units to the drills

The exercise will include practical training in countering asymmetric threats and providing assistance to aircraft, ships, and boats in distress.



EU High Representative Kallas: Israel’s current actions go beyond proportionate self-defense

European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas stated that Israel’s current actions have gone beyond proportionate self-defense, calling for a return to a ceasefire.



Kallas spoke at a press conference following the regular EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting held in Luxembourg. Reminding that they will hold the first “EU-Palestinian Authority High-Level Dialogue Meeting” this evening with Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, Kallas said that all EU countries agree on a two-state solution.

Kallas stated that they proposed €1.6 billion in support over three years for the Palestinian Authority, saying: “We truly want the mediators to return to the negotiating table, to assume the ceasefire, to deliver our humanitarian aid, and for all hostages to be released. It should not be politicized.”

The EU High Representative said,

“Israel has the right to defend itself, but its current actions go beyond proportionate self-defense.” Criticism of the Arab Plan Kallas said, “We welcome the Arab countries’ plan for the reconstruction of Gaza, but at the same time, it lacks three key elements: security, funding, and governance of Gaza. However, we are ready to work with our international partners to develop these points.”

At the extraordinary Arab League Summit held in Cairo on March 4, the “Arab Plan,” which envisages the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip without displacing Palestinians, was adopted. It was stated that the cost of the plan would amount to approximately 53 billion dollars spread over five years.

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33 Years Since the Siege of Sarajevo

The capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, which was subjected to Serbian attacks for nearly four years during the 1992–1995 war, continues to live with the scars of the conflict even 33 years later.

On April 5, 1992, the first barricades were set up by Serbian forces in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which witnessed one of the most painful wars in modern history. The first bomb was dropped on April 6, and Sarajevo remained under siege for 1,425 days.

In the lead-up to war, the European Union (EU) recognized the independence of Slovenia and Croatia on January 15, 1992, but made a referendum a condition for Bosnia and Herzegovina’s independence.

Despite Serbian threats, Bosnia and Herzegovina decided to hold an independence referendum in February 1992. Following the referendum on March 1, 1992, which led to the emergence of an independent Bosnian state, Serbian forces began preparations for the siege of Sarajevo on April 5 by placing barricades around the city. On that same day, Serbian snipers killed two civilians, Suada Dilberovic and Olga Sucic, marking the first attack and the beginning of the siege. As Serbian forces opened fire on Sarajevo residents protesting the war, many others were wounded.

Serbs deployed 13,000 heavily armed troops on the hills and mountains surrounding Sarajevo, using both heavy and light weapons to launch a siege on the city. The Bosnian Defense Forces (Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina – ARBiH) managed to establish a 70,000-strong army within 19 months in the besieged city. However, due to insufficient military equipment, they were unable to break the siege. Sarajevo remained under siege until February 29, 1996



One of the most beautiful cities in the Balkans, celebrated in poems and songs, Sarajevo remained under Serbian attacks and siege until February 29, 1996.

During the siege, Serbs bombed everything they considered a living or non-living target. Serbian snipers, stationed on hills and tall buildings, especially targeted civilians, including women, children, and the elderly going about their daily lives.

At times, mortars were fired at civilians standing in bread lines or shopping at the market.

Sarajevo, which endured one of the longest sieges in history, lost 11,541 people, including 1,601 children, during the 1,425-day siege. An average of 329 mortar shells hit the city each day. Serbs deliberately targeted Ottoman and Muslim heritage in the city, bombing historic buildings, mosques, madrasahs, and libraries. The bloody war in Bosnia and Herzegovina ended on November 21, 1995, when Bosniak, Serb, and Croat leaders reached an agreement at the Dayton Air Base in Ohio, USA.

The Dayton Peace Agreement was initiated with the efforts of U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke by Bosnia and Herzegovina's first president, the late Alija Izetbegovic, former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and former Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

April 6 Incidents in Sarajevo
Known as the “Jerusalem of Europe” for hosting places of worship and people

from various faiths, Sarajevo has witnessed significant events on April 6 throughout history.

On April 6, 1941, during World War II, Sarajevo was bombed by Nazi Germany. Exactly four years later, on April 6, 1945, the city was liberated from occupation following an operation by the former Yugoslav army.

During the Second World War, 10,961 Sarajevo residents lost their lives, including 7,092 Jews. In the most recent war, Sarajevo was

bombed for the first time on April 6, 1992, and remained under siege for 1,425 days. April 6 is celebrated as Sarajevo City Day, marking the city’s liberation from Nazi occupation, while at the same time, due to its heavy historical significance, the victims of the siege of Sarajevo are also commemorated.

Even after 33 years, the memories of what happened in Sarajevo remain alive, with the public continuing to hold memorial ceremonies for the victims of the massacres in the capital.



Uzbek President Mirziyoyev: The Only Just Solution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict Is the Implementation of the Two Peoples–Two States Principle

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev delivered a speech at the 150th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).



President Mirziyoyev participated in the IPU 150th General Assembly, held in Tashkent, with the attendance of nearly 2,000 delegates from 190 member countries, 15 observer countries, and more than 25 international and inter-parliamentary organizations.

Speaking at the General Assembly, which was held under the theme "Parliamentary Action for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions", and attended by Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Numan Kurtulmush, Mirziyoyev noted that conflicts in various parts of the world pose a serious threat to global and regional peace and security. He stated, "Uzbekistan is in favor of resolving all kinds of conflicts and disagreements solely through diplomacy and peaceful negotiations."

Emphasizing the importance of finding a resolution to the war in Ukraine based on universally recognized norms of international law, the United Nations Charter, and its resolutions, Mirziyoyev also addressed the Palestinian-Israeli issue, stating, "In this context, the only just solution to the

Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the implementation of the two peoples–two states principle."

Mirziyoyev also drew attention to the situation in Afghanistan, stating that the country must be integrated into the

international community and that constructive dialogue must be established with the current government. "We Support the Reform of the United Nations"

Emphasizing Uzbekistan's support for efforts to reform the United Nations and enhance its potential, Mirziyoyev noted that climate change has become a serious issue and poses a significant obstacle to global development, particularly affecting developing countries.

In this context, he stressed the growing importance of fully meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon neutrality.

Highlighting that, in recent years, armed conflicts, environmental and man-made disasters, economic crises, trade wars, and the threats of terrorism and extremism have increased around the world, Mirziyoyev concluded by saying that in such complex conditions, it is time to enhance the participation and influence of parliaments in achieving world peace, social development, and justice.



UN Secretary-General Guterres: 'Gaza is Like a Death Field'

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres said, "Gaza has turned into a death field; civilians are trapped in an endless cycle of death." Speaking to journalists in front of the UN Security Council the day before, Guterres drew attention to the fact that no food, fuel, medicine, or commercial goods have entered Gaza for over a month.



THE WEST BANK IS ALSO IN BAD SHAPE

Guterres pointed out that the "authorization mechanisms" proposed by Israeli officials, especially for food delivery, carry risks of controlling and restricting aid. He stated, "We will not be part of any arrangement that does not fully respect humanitarian principles such as humanity, neutrality, and independence. Uninterrupted humanitarian access must be guaranteed."

The UN Secretary-General also addressed the situation in the West Bank, saying, "There is a risk that the occupied West Bank could turn into another Gaza. The time has come to end inhumane treatment, release the hostages, and renew the ceasefire."

Since March 2, no aid has reached the region, which has a population of 2.3 million; the Israeli government had warned that no supplies would be allowed into Gaza until all hostages were released. Israel's military agency coordinating aid, COGAT, announced last week that it had proposed a "structured aid entry mechanism" for Gaza in meetings with UN agencies and international aid groups.

THREAT TO 970 SOLDIERS

Meanwhile, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that 970 air force personnel, including pilots, who signed a joint declaration expressing their desire to resign

due to criticism of the Netanyahu government for refusing a ceasefire and making the war entirely political, received phone calls warning them they would be dismissed if they did not withdraw their signatures.

On the other hand, 43 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza yesterday. Since Israel resumed its attacks by breaking the ceasefire on March 18, the death toll in Gaza has risen to 1,482.

INDONESIA: WE CAN TAKE IN A THOUSAND PALESTINIANS

As the US administration is reportedly in contact with various countries to relocate Gazans, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said they are ready to provide temporary shelter for Palestinians affected by the war between Israel and Hamas. Prabowo said, "In the first phase, we are ready to send planes for a thousand people."

He stated that they would prioritize the wounded and orphaned children and that they would remain in Indonesia until it is safe to return to Palestine. Subianto also expressed continued support for the Palestinian struggle for independence.

According to the UN, approximately 400,000 Gazans have been displaced due to renewed Israeli attacks last month.



Gaza Government: Israel, which is blocking aid, is trying to implement its plans through a suspicious organization

The Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip announced that Israel, which is preventing the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, is trying to implement its plans in the region by distributing aid through "suspicious organizations."



In a statement issued by the Government Media Office, it was noted that Israel has established "suspicious organizations" to distribute humanitarian aid in Gaza and is using these organizations to implement its plans in the area. The statement declared: "We are determined that these plans will not come to fruition, and we are monitoring closely. We will take the necessary measures to prevent the occupier from imposing its plans."

The statement emphasized that Israel will not be allowed to control aid and impose starvation in Gaza, adding: "Within the framework of the ongoing genocide, ethnic cleansing, systematic blockade, and starvation policy against the Palestinian people, the occupying forces (Israel) continue to completely close the border crossings." The international community, particularly the United Nations, was reminded of its "responsibility to provide aid to

Palestinian refugees and those living under occupation," and the statement warned that "suspicious organizations will not be allowed to intervene in Gaza."

Israel halts humanitarian aid to Gaza and resumes attacks Following the end of the first 42-day phase of the ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement with Hamas, Israel decided to halt the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip as of March 2. After a ceasefire that took effect on January 19 in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army resumed heavy attacks on the morning of March 18. Since the resumption of attacks, 1,574 Palestinians—mostly elderly people, women, and children—have been killed and 4,115 injured. Since the beginning of Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, the total number of Palestinians killed has risen to 50,944, with 116,156 wounded.

The National Museum of Kazakhstan Offers a Unique Opportunity for Those Who Wish to Discover the Country

The National Museum of Kazakhstan introduces visitors to the country's deep-rooted past and cultural richness with over 220,000 historical artifacts on display.



Architecturally resembling the shape of a bird, the museum is located in the same area as some of the symbolic landmarks of the capital Astana, including the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, Kazakh Eli Square, the Palace of Independence, the Hazrat Sultan Mosque, and the National University of Arts. Celebrating its 10th anniversary last year, the National Museum has hosted more than 7 million visitors during this period. Spanning eight floors, the museum sheds light on various historical periods of Kazakhstan, the cultural richness developed by ancient civilizations that lived on these lands, and the shared deep-rooted Turkic history. More than 220,000 artifacts are exhibited throughout the museum.

The Museum's Highlight: "The Golden Man" The museum stands out as one of the first places visited by foreign tourists arriving in the capital. The "Gold" hall, where thousands of pure gold items from around 2,500 years ago are displayed, fascinates visitors with its grandeur. Kazakhstan's first "Golden Man" is also located in this hall. Museum guide Aydana Serik stated that the "Golden Man," unearthed from the Issyk kurgan in southern Kazakhstan, was actually a Saka prince (or warrior) around 17–18 years old, and was buried covered from head to toe in gold items. Serik said, "We welcome a large number of visitors every day who come specifically to see the Golden Man, the highlight of our museum. It has been confirmed that he was a Saka prince who lived on these lands about 2,500 years ago. Nearly 4,000 gold items were found on his body and in his burial. All of these can be seen in this hall."

"Ancient Turkic Civilization" Hall

Serik also noted that gold items unearthed from graves in western Kazakhstan, most of which date back to the Sarmatian period, are also on display. She added that the museum features an "Ancient Turkic Civilization" hall dedicated to the shared Turkic history, where valuable artifacts reflecting the spiritual and cultural life of ancient Turkic states are exhibited.

An Artifact Found Nowhere Else in the World Serik drew attention to the significance of the Altai Mountains in ancient Turkic history, saying, "In this hall of our museum, we exhibit many artifacts discovered through archaeological excavations carried out in the foothills of the Altai Mountains — considered the golden cradle of Turkic civilization in our country." She also noted that the museum houses a unique artifact not found in any other museum in the world, concluding: "At our museum, we exhibit the bones and saddle of horses ridden by Saka warriors between the 4th and 3rd centuries BCE, discovered at the Berel kurgan in the foothills of the Altai Mountains by Kazakh archaeologist Zeynolla Samashev. These horse bones and saddle, preserved due to the discovery of the frozen kurgan, demonstrate that equestrian culture developed on these very lands."



Palestinian Prime Minister Mustafa: Israel must be held accountable

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa stated during the first High-Level Dialogue Meeting with the European Union (EU) that achieving lasting peace and a two-state solution requires holding Israel accountable, and he called on the international community to act.



Mustafa spoke to the press following the conclusion of the first High-Level Dialogue Meeting between the EU and Palestine. Describing the meeting in Luxembourg as productive, Mustafa said: “Israel has killed more than 50,000 Palestinians in Gaza. Entire neighborhoods in the West Bank lie in ruins, mass displacement and land grabs are accelerating. What we are witnessing is not just a war, but an attempt to erase a people and a cause. We are not here to accuse anyone—we are here to ask the international community for clarity. There can be no lasting peace without accountability. Israel must be held responsible for the crimes committed in Gaza and for the escalating violations of international law both in Gaza and the West Bank. Silence or delay only inspires impunity.”

Mustafa said he discussed with the EU the implementation of a ceasefire, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and the reconstruction of Gaza, noting that the Arab Plan provides a clear roadmap. The Palestinian Prime Minister added, “Ongoing efforts to weaken the Palestinian Authority—financially, politically, and in other ways—do not only threaten us as Palestinians, but also regional stability.”

Call for recognition of the Palestinian state
Thanking EU countries that have already recognized the State of Palestine, Mustafa said he called on other countries to do the same during the meeting. Highlighting that the war in Gaza, displacement in the West Bank, economic blockade, financial siege, illegal settlement activity, and settler violence all aim to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, he continued: “I think what today’s meeting showed is that the world—and Europe—does not agree with Israel. Europe, like many other countries and institutions around the world, is saying that Palestinians should have the right to self-determination, to establish their own independent state, to live in freedom and liberty, to live a life of dignity, and to be a good neighbor in the Mediterranean. We are committed to this. They are committed to this. That is why this partnership is so important. It’s a source of hope for the Palestinian people.”

Mustafa noted that 149 countries and 11 EU member states have recognized the State of Palestine, saying: “We have heard encouraging remarks from some key EU members regarding their serious consideration of recognizing the State of Palestine in the near future. I believe the sooner this happens, the better. However, I think some are waiting for the International Peace Conference scheduled for June 17 in New York to make such announcements. But we are encouraging countries to take this step as soon as possible. This could accelerate the path to peace in the region and help level the playing field.”

The Century-Old Seal of Healing from Turkey to the World

Since ancient times, various civilizations have considered the bay leaf sacred and used it in the field of health. Today, Anatolia, the cradle of many civilizations, meets 70% of the world’s bay leaf demand. The bay leaf, one of nature’s most ancient gifts to humanity, is not only a source of aroma that adorns kitchens but also a plant that has delivered healing for centuries with its medicinal value. However, the true power of this ancient plant lies in its active ingredients.



Active Compounds and Benefits of Bay Leaf

The pharmacological effect of bay leaf is derived from its essential oils, flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolic compounds. Among the most prominent active ingredients are 1,8-cineole (eucalyptol), linalool, geraniol, pinene, and terpenes. These components make bay leaf a powerful antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammatory agent.

- **Immune Booster:** The phenolic compounds in bay leaf support the immune system and protect the body against diseases.
- **Supports Digestive Health:** It helps relieve gastritis, stomach spasms, and intestinal gas. It also promotes the secretion of enzymes that aid digestion.
- **Regulates Blood Sugar:** Bay leaf may contribute to diabetes management by increasing insulin sensitivity.
- **Supports Heart and Vascular Health:** The flavonoids and quercetin it contains help prevent atherosclerosis and support heart health.
- **Supports the Nervous System:** Linalool and pinene in bay leaf reduce stress and anxiety, promoting mental relaxation.

Bay Leaf Oil: Nature’s Concentrated Power

The healing compounds of bay leaf become more concentrated in oil form. Bay leaf oil is obtained through steam distillation and contains 1,8-cineole, methyl eugenol, linalool, terpenes, and sesquiterpenes. These compounds offer a wide range of benefits from skin health to the musculoskeletal system.

- **Relieves Muscle and Joint Pain:** Bay leaf oil eases symptoms of rheumatism and arthritis with its muscle relaxant and

- analgesic effects.
 - **Opens Respiratory Passages:** The vapor of bay leaf oil is a natural remedy for respiratory issues like cough, bronchitis, and sinusitis.
 - **Fights Microbes:** With antibacterial and antifungal properties, it accelerates healing in skin wounds, fungal infections, and eczema.
 - **A Miracle in Hair and Skin Care:** Bay leaf oil strengthens hair roots and reduces dandruff, while also soothing acne and skin irritations.
- Uses of Bay Leaf and Its Oil
- **As Tea:** A few leaves can be steeped in hot water and consumed to support digestion and boost immunity.
 - **Steam Inhalation:** Adding a few drops of bay leaf oil to hot water and inhaling the steam helps relieve respiratory issues.
 - **Massage Oil:** When diluted with carrier oils, it can be used as a massage oil to alleviate muscle pain.
 - **Natural Preservative:** Bay leaves can be added to storage containers to help prevent food spoilage.
- Conclusion: Bay Leaf Continues to Bring Healing from Past to Future

Bay leaf and its oil are indispensable natural treasures both in the kitchen and in the field of health. Modern medicine has scientifically confirmed the effectiveness of this healing plant, long used in traditional remedies. As interest in natural treatments grows, the value of bay leaf and its oil is becoming increasingly recognized. As one of humanity’s quiet yet powerful heroes throughout history, the bay leaf continues to deliver healing from the past into the future.





Is Clean Politics Possible?

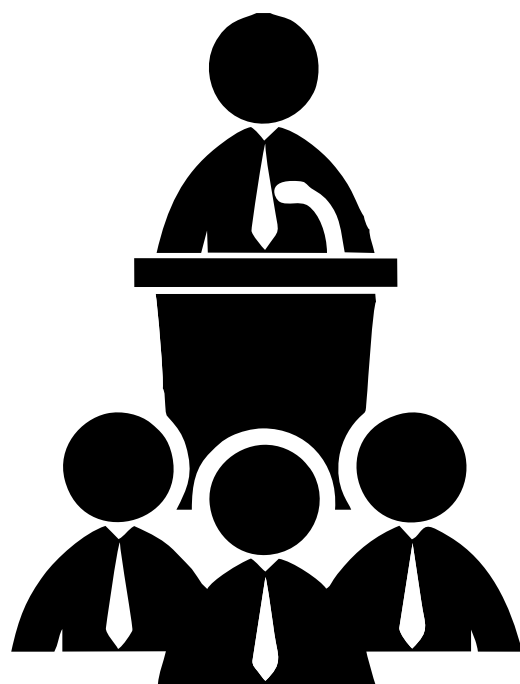
Hasan Yiğit

of the political atmosphere makes rational evaluation of these expectations difficult; ethical concerns are often overlooked in favor of party loyalty and ideological allegiance. Moreover, clean politics is not a domain to be left solely to the personal morals of politicians. An effective legal system, a strong culture of oversight, an independent media, and an active civil society are indispensable parts of this process. Without empowering these societal actors, it is quite difficult to establish a healthy balance between individual will and systemic ethics.

The question "Is clean politics possible?" cannot be reduced to a mere theoretical debate or the media effect of isolated incidents. The answer to this question also encompasses society's relationship with politics, its faith in democracy, and its expectations for a shared future. Whether clean politics is possible depends not only on how the system is built but also on what the society consents to. Transparency,

accountability, and ethical responsibility are values that must be upheld not only by those who govern but also by those who are governed. When these values are protected and institutionalized, clean politics not only becomes possible but also sustainable.

Therefore, the question we should now be asking is not whether clean politics is possible, but what we are doing to make it possible.



Kosovo President Osmani highlights President Erdoğan's support for her country

Vjosa Osmani emphasized the significant support President Erdoğan has provided in the process of gaining recognition for her country by other states, saying, "I would like to thank him once again for the great support he has given to the people of Kosovo."



Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani made statements to Kosovo's "RTV21" television regarding her meetings within the scope of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF).

Osmani noted that Kosovo has never ceased coordination and cooperation with its allies for new recognitions, confirmation of existing recognitions, and membership in international organizations in order to strengthen its international standing.

"The closer we work with our allies, the more concrete results we achieve. In fact, this has been evident in the close cooperation I have had with President Erdoğan. He has always stood by Kosovo. Now, we see this support more clearly in the form of concrete assistance in this (recognition) process, beyond just economic and military areas," she said.

Emphasizing that Turkey, and especially President Erdoğan, have provided great support in the process of Kosovo being recognized by other countries, Osmani continued: "President Erdoğan has personally helped in the recognition process both during his term as prime minister and now as president. In our meeting, we spoke very concretely about which countries are closer to recognizing us. We also discussed our joint plan not only for these days but also for the coming months and years. Therefore, I would like to thank him once again for

the great support he has given to the people of Kosovo. This support is not only important in the fields of defense and economy but also in further strengthening our international subjectivity, as recognition is a very important process."

A "wonderful" meeting with Ahmed Şara

Osmani also said that she had a "wonderful" meeting with Syrian President Ahmed Şara within the scope of the ADF.

"The Syrian people have suffered for a very long time, and genocide and horrific war crimes have been committed against them. Even chemical weapons were used against children by the Assad regime. As institutions, we have never sought diplomatic relations with that regime. Now, of course, we hope this process will be consolidated and completed as soon as possible with the institutions of a free Syria," she said.

Osmani added that they have brought the process of recognition by other countries to its final stage and are now awaiting the official recognition. Kosovo, which unilaterally declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008, has been recognized by 119 countries.

A large number of countries, led by Turkey, immediately recognized Kosovo's independence, with the most recent recognitions coming from Kenya on March 26 and Sudan on April 12.

Politics stands as one of the most fundamental institutional structures in the organization of modern societies. In democratic systems, politics ensures the reflection of the public will in governance through the principles of representation and participation. However, the legitimacy of this structure is shaped not only by electoral processes but also by the transparency of those processes, the accountability of leaders, and adherence to ethical principles. Recent allegations in various levels of government and the public's reactions have once again brought the question "Is clean politics possible?" to the forefront. This article aims to examine this question within a theoretical framework, discussing the moral and structural aspects of current political practices.

The concept of clean politics does not merely imply the absence of corruption. It also requires the simultaneous establishment of justice, transparency, public interest, and ethical responsibility. According to political ethics literature, honesty, merit, avoidance of conflicts of interest, and accountability in public duties are the foundational pillars of the clean politics approach.

However, in practice, politics often deviates from these norms. Particularly, allegations arising in local administrations reveal not just individual or institutional issues but structural problems concerning the entire system. Developments that reach the public even without naming names prompt questions about the extent to which leadership cadres are exempt from ethical oversight, or how functional the oversight mechanisms truly are.

What is noteworthy here is the impact these allegations have on society. Voters care not only about the services provided but also about how those services are produced; they expect politicians to be fair, transparent, and accountable. Yet, the polarizing nature



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