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“With TÜRKSAT 6A, Turkey has become one of 11 countries capable of producing its own communications satellite”

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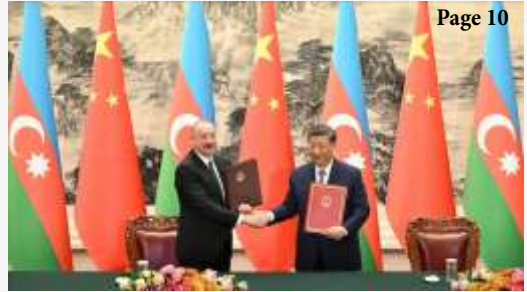
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The 4th Meeting of OTS Space Agencies and Relevant Authorities Held in Azerbaijan

Source: Vedat Kurt

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President Erdoğan stated at the TÜRKSAT 6A Commissioning Ceremony, “With TÜRKSAT 6A, which we developed using more than 84 domestic components with over 80% localization rate, Turkey has become one of 11 countries capable of producing its own communications satellite.”

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the TÜRKSAT 6A Commissioning Ceremony held at the TÜRKSAT Gölbaşı Campus and delivered a speech.

He stated that TÜRKSAT 6A was launched into space on July 9, 2024, and its first test broadcast was made on February 17.

President Erdoğan expressed that all processes were completed smoothly and without any issues and wished the TÜRKSAT 6A project to be beneficial for the country and the nation. He thanked those who contributed to the success of the project from design to production, transportation to launch into space, orbit placement to the testing phase, and congratulated all personnel dedicated to the space industry who supported the project. Noting that TÜRKSAT 6A, which will serve for at least 15 years, increased the number of communication satellites operated by TÜRKSAT to six and the total number of satellites in space to 10, Erdoğan stated that the new geostationary communication satellite would provide services such as television broadcasting and emergency communication over a wide coverage area.

Pointing out the critical importance of uninterrupted TV broadcasting, Erdoğan emphasized that TÜRKSAT 6A would allow the current broadcast satellites to be backed up. He stated that this was a significant step forward in the space communication sector and wished for TÜRKSAT 6A to bring prosperity to the country and the nation.

Emphasizing the importance of producing technologies like communication satellites independently in terms of national security, Erdoğan said, “With TÜRKSAT 6A, which we developed using more than 84 domestic components and with over 80% localization rate, Turkey has become one of 11 countries capable of producing its own communications satellite. Our new communication satellite is the product of a meticulous, intense, and challenging 20-year effort in line with our goal to produce national and domestic technology.”



“WE DIDN’T LISTEN TO THE PESSIMISTS OR THOSE WHO LOST HOPE IN THEIR COUNTRY”

President Erdoğan emphasized that reaching this point was not easy and reminded that they ensured TÜRKSAT engineers participated in the production of 3A, 4A, and 4B satellites through a technology transfer program. He stated that they involved 12 engineers directly in the design, production, and testing processes of the 5A and 5B satellites, and that these long-term efforts and experiences helped Turkey overcome many critical thresholds in space technologies.

Erdoğan underlined that Turkey now has the capability, experience, and competence to produce TÜRKSAT 6A, the satellite with the highest localization rate.

He said, “Despite the doubters, we said, ‘We can do it — in fact, we can do it better.’ We never listened to the pessimists or those who lost hope in their nation. In other words, by working with belief, patience, and determination without giving up or tiring, we have thankfully reached this day with our heads held high. Today’s success is a heavy blow to the mindset that starts every sentence with ‘Nothing good can come from us’ and spreads hopelessness among the youth.” Thanking the engineers and everyone contributing to Turkey’s presence in space, Erdoğan stated that they would continue to turn dreams into goals, and goals into reality, just as they have done for the past 23 years.

He added that with this national and domestic communication satellite, TÜRKSAT’s service area would expand to include India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, saying, “The population reached by our satellites globally will increase from 3.5 billion to 5 billion.” Thanks to technology transfer and experience gained, Turkey will now have a significant market share in the design and production of satellites and components, he said, adding that with this revolutionary project, Turkey now owns a national and domestic communication satellite platform.

President Erdoğan explained that by establishing a satellite production ecosystem with subcontractors alongside the main stakeholders, they enabled many institutions and organizations to contribute to the space industry, and said:

“With dozens of engineers and staff taking active roles at all stages, we also cultivated human resources for satellite and space technologies. With the equipment developed by project stakeholders, we have reached a level capable of international competition. We have further strengthened our export capacity. In addition to joint work with SpaceX, the launch process was also managed by TÜRKSAT. With a coverage area containing more than 60% of the world population — 5 billion people — we have become one of the leading countries in space activities and satellite broadcasting.”

President Erdoğan stated that the achievements and activities gained through the TÜRKSAT 6A project represent a significant opportunity for establishing a national satellite brand and founding a national space company.

“We will also benefit from this accumulation of knowledge in future moon and deep space missions, communications satellites, and satellite constellation projects,” he said.

Highlighting that they will continue to raise the bar and reach their goals, President Erdoğan noted: “When we look at global developments, we all see this truth: a historic window of opportunity is opening before Turkey. We are very close to attaining our rightful place in the global system.”

President Erdoğan emphasized that no one will be allowed to squander this opportunity and recalled that, in the past, while the world experienced similar transformations, Turkey was preoccupied with internal strife.

He continued: “While scientific and technological progress was taking place, we, as a nation, wasted our energy on pointless, fruitless, and empty debates. Everything was done and tried to distract Turkey from external affairs. They preoccupied us with internal issues using sectarian, ethnic, and ideological differences, successfully pushing Turkey out of global competition. While the countries in the same league with us fiercely competed in technology, remember what this country was discussing: the headscarf, beards, turbans, veils, religious reactionism, and green capital.

They created an internal enemy and kept Turkey busy with it. And what was the result? Turkey lost. Our nation lost. While others moved forward at full speed, we stood still for years. We could not prevent the widening gap between us and our rivals. We had to pay very heavy prices in our economy, democracy,



foreign policy, and social peace and stability.”

“TURKEY IS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED AS A REGIONAL POWER CENTER ON EVERY PLATFORM”

President Erdoğan stated that the world is once again on the verge of a major transformation, and that global trade rules are fundamentally changing due to tariff confrontations.

He observed that not only are current crises unresolved, but new tensions arise daily. He pointed out that the international system has lost its credibility entirely, particularly with the genocide in Gaza, and continued: “The Western world and its institutions have completely lost their former influence. No one can predict where artificial intelligence technologies will lead. In other words, while the old system is rapidly collapsing, no one can clearly foresee what will replace it.

Turkey’s name is now mentioned more frequently on every platform as a regional pole of power.

Yet, in such a critical period, we see that the main opposition party is trying to drag Turkey back into old arguments and conflicts. Outdated scenarios that previously cost our country dearly are once again being brought back into play by the same circles.

From attempts to incite unrest in our streets to shamelessly complaining about Turkey to Western powers and media outlets, from provoking university and high school youth to damaging the economy through boycott calls — all the buttons are being pushed at once. Most recently, they have exploited the politics of tension and provocation using the Gaza genocide. While 50,000 innocent people were massacred, they remained silent for 18 months



saying, ‘What is it to us?’ and now they are trying to gain political mileage from this humanitarian tragedy by slandering Palestinian resistance fighters defending their land as ‘terrorists.’

Let me say this clearly: even though the actors may have changed, we know the game is the same. Our nation also fully understands what is being attempted. Therefore, no matter how hard they try, they cannot create the chaos and disorder they desire. As the government, we avoid falling into their traps by staying committed to our politics of service and achievement.”

President Erdoğan also recalled that just last week, they began excavations for the Silvan Irrigation Tunnel, one of Turkey’s most strategic projects, and achieved results.

“WE ARE WITNESSING A HISTORIC SUCCESS STORY”

Also last week, President Erdoğan said, they launched the era of three independent runways operating simultaneously at Istanbul Airport — making Turkey the second country in the world after the United States to implement such a system.

Referring to the opposition’s earlier statement that “no plane would land there,” he emphasized that today, three planes can take off and land simultaneously at that airport.

“Today, praise be to God, we are commissioning TÜRKSAT 6A,” Erdoğan said.

“We take pride in advancing the space journey we began 31 years ago with TÜRKSAT 1B to a much higher level. With faith, determination, and labor — with every sentence of this success story written in knowledge, experience, and sweat — we are all witnessing a historic achievement.”

Expressing great pride in the institutions, engineers, and workers involved in the project, President Erdoğan concluded: “All of this is heralding the Century of Türkiye we are building. God willing, we will reach even greater heights. We will hand over a strong, prosperous, and respected Türkiye to our youth.

May God support us all on this path we walk with the support of our people and grant us further success.

On this occasion, I pray for the mercy of God upon Ahmet Özsoy and Ali Karslı, our brothers who were martyred here during the treacherous coup attempt by FETÖ terrorists on July 15.

Once again, I hope our first national and domestic communications satellite, TÜRKSAT 6A, brings goodness and prosperity to our country and nation. I congratulate all my brothers and sisters whose labor, contributions, hard work, and ideas were involved in this project.”

Sadyr Japarov and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow Attend National Equestrian Games in Issyk-Kul

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow attended a presentation of Kyrgyzstan's national equestrian games, Corgo Salysh and Kok-Boru, held at the hippodrome in the village of Baktuu-Dolonotu, Issyk-Kul region.



According to the Presidential Press Service, the distinguished guests were greeted with traditional Akyn improvisations at the entrance of the hippodrome. They were then introduced to the Kyrgyz Village ethnocomplex, which showcased elements of traditional Kyrgyz life, including yurts, folk crafts, national cuisine, and traditional costumes.

The event also featured competitions in Corgo Salysh and Kok-Boru. Guests were given demonstrations of "Salbuurun," a traditional form of hunting with birds of prey and Taigan hunting dogs. At the conclusion of the cultural program, President Sadyr Japarov personally escorted the honored guest to Issyk-Kul International Airport.



Uzbekistan and Russia Discuss Strengthening Strategic Partnership and Alliance

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev discussed the consolidation of comprehensive strategic partnership and allied relations with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is on a working visit to the country.



According to a statement from the Uzbek Presidential Office, Mirziyoyev received Lavrov in the historic city of Samarkand. The statement noted that Lavrov conveyed greetings and best wishes from Russian President Vladimir Putin to Mirziyoyev, and emphasized that discussions focused on strengthening the friendship, comprehensive strategic partnership, and allied relations between Uzbekistan and Russia. It was highlighted that both sides expressed satisfaction with the active dialogue and productive exchange of ideas across all fields.

The statement also underlined the increase in trade and investment volumes between the two countries, the strengthening

of cooperation between regional and leading industrial enterprises, and the further expansion of partnerships in culture, arts, science, education, healthcare, sports, and tourism. Additionally, the two officials exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. Lavrov is also scheduled to meet with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov during his stay in Samarkand.



Minister Fidan: The Turkic world will continue to stand by the Turkish Cypriots as a whole.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said, "The Turkish world will continue to stand by the Turkish Cypriots as a whole. We will patiently continue our policies on this issue."

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan spoke at a joint press conference organized after his meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Noting that they also discussed developments in Palestine during his meeting with his counterpart, Fidan said, "Israel's massacres in Gaza continue with all their violence in front of the eyes of the world. Humanitarian aid has not been allowed to enter Gaza for more than 50 days. Hunger can neither be used as a weapon, nor as a political bargaining tool, nor as a means of punishment. The uninterrupted and continuous delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza must be ensured as soon as possible."

Stating that no country is superior to international law, Fidan emphasized that "Israel's actions against the law and human conscience must come to an end as soon as possible."

Asked about his views on the recent steps taken by Central Asian states in the context of Cyprus, Fidan stated that the capacity development, work, and progress of Central Asian countries have attracted the attention of global actors and the European Union (EU). Fidan said that this is "understandable" from their point of view and added, "However, there are also areas where we see that this mutual interest is being exploited by the EU. Of course, we are closely following these developments in all their dimensions. We are taking the necessary initiatives. We are in contact with our friends, exchanging views, and sharing information."

Minister Fidan underlined that they will continue to "act in accordance with the ideal of the Turkic world." Pointing out that there is another problematic issue, Fidan said, "Some circles who want to break us apart based on this latest incident want us to discuss this issue openly in public. As a principle, we prefer not to discuss family matters in public. In this respect, the manipulations of those who want to drive a wedge between us and the Turkic world will not be successful."

"The Turkic world will continue to stand by the Turkish Cypriots as a whole."

On the other hand, Fidan said that "the efforts of those who try to impose a negative rating on the government" will not be successful, adding that the place they stand, the steps they take, and Turkey's direction are clear. Emphasizing that they will continue to act with

common sense and address all kinds of issues within the family council, Fidan said, "Our position on this issue is clear. The Turkish Cypriots are an essential and inseparable part of the great family of the Turkic world. This will never change in reality. The Turkic world will continue to stand by the Turkish Cypriots as a whole. We will patiently continue our policies on this issue."

Fidan said that everyone acting with the same understanding and determination would make the family bigger and stronger.

Fidan said Norway is a respected partner of Turkey that supports multilateral diplomacy, international law, and peaceful solutions and shares similar views on many international and regional issues. Reminding that 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Norway, Fidan emphasized that the two countries are determined to further strengthen their deep-rooted relations and will work hard to increase mutual investments and bilateral trade volume. Noting that they are pleased with the increasing number of ships built for Norway by Turkish shipyards, Fidan said, "In the coming period, we are also developing our cooperation with Norway in the field of the defense industry. We encourage our relevant institutions and companies to work on concrete projects."

"As two NATO allies, the future of European security is of great importance to us."

Stating that they also discussed the fight against terrorism with his counterpart, Fidan said that they conveyed their expectations regarding terrorist organizations such as FETÖ and PKK and that they will continue to work closely on these issues.

Fidan continued: "As two NATO allies, the future of European security is of great importance to us. As two non-EU NATO members — our country and Norway — we believe that all steps towards European security should be shaped with our input. We will continue to work with other non-EU NATO allies on this."

Turkey fully supports Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Since the beginning of the war, we have continued to call for negotiations for a just and lasting peace. We hope that a partial ceasefire will be implemented as soon as possible. This would be the first step toward peace. As our President has



stated, Turkey will continue to be part of any constructive effort in this direction." Stating that Norway has been sending humanitarian aid to Syria for a long time and that they find this extremely valuable in terms of establishing stability and security in Syria, Fidan said that he and his colleague also agreed on the importance of lifting the sanctions against Syria completely. It is their common wish that Syria becomes a stable and prosperous country, where terrorist organizations cannot shelter and which is not a source of irregular migration.

Fidan emphasized that Israel's actions against international law and the conscience of humanity must come to an end as soon as possible, and said that Turkey will continue its efforts in this direction with determination.

Reminding that Norway hosted the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Arab League Gaza Contact Group meeting in December 2023, Fidan stated that Norway participated in the meeting organized in Antalya on April 11 and thanked Norway for its contributions to the work of the group.

Fidan stated that Norway shares the sensitivity of the Palestinian issue in all kinds of international platforms and took a very important and meaningful step by recognizing the State of Palestine last year.

"The biggest threat to the stability of our region right now is Israel's expansionist mentality. Israel thinks it can ensure its own security by occupying Palestinian territories and weakening neighboring countries. This strategy is completely wrong. The only solution that will ensure the security of the countries in the region, especially Israel, is the establishment of a Palestinian state." Fidan emphasized that the struggle for the rights of the Palestinian people will also enable the establishment of regional security.

Some recent allegations about the TRNC Fidan pointed out that the steps taken under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in recent years regarding the institutionalization of the Turkic

world are gigantic compared to other steps in history. He emphasized that Turkey has always been the ideal of the Turkic world, both during the Soviet Union and today, when there are independent Turkic republics, and will always continue to be the ideal of the Turkic world.

Referring to the allegations made by some circles in recent days regarding the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Fidan continued as follows:

"The sensitivity of our President on this issue is obvious. As a ministry and as a government, our work and efforts are obvious. The work and efforts we have put forward with the TRNC are clear. But despite all this, the effort to create a problem that does not exist, to present a problem that does not exist as if it does, actually shows how desperate and in a dilemma the focal points who strive on this issue are."

Referring to the Crans-Montana process in 2017, Fidan stated that the TRNC withdrew from the federation model after that day and that they have repeatedly stated that they will not waste time with negotiations that will not yield results.

Fidan said, "And then, the two-state solution model was put forward, and we continued to stand behind this model. At the meeting held in Geneva last March, the federal model was not even mentioned by the UN. Instead, we focused on areas where the two sides on the island could cooperate."

"No matter what the Greeks and the European Union say, the exhausted federation model is now off the table."

Stating that there is a frozen problem on the island and that both sides continue to live within their own borders under the management of their own administrations, Fidan said that the mutual isolation imposed by the two sides against each other has started to affect the total welfare of the island.

Fidan stated that they expressed their agreement with the vision of the United Nations on the importance of increasing the spirit of cooperation on the island: "No matter what the Greeks and the



European Union say, the exhausted federation model is now off the table. As you know, this model was also eliminated by the Greeks. But a negotiation process, a solution process, an agreement process that targets the further isolation of the Turkish Cypriots and causes them to struggle with more difficulties is not an approach that we will accept in any way. Of course, we respect the will of the Turkish Cypriots. Their own choices, their own preferences are clear. But as a guarantor country, as the motherland, we always put forward our views and our attitude with great clarity. We are extremely clear on this issue."

"The allegation of drilling on our continental shelf is unrealistic."

Stating that they met with Greece as well as the UN on the continental shelf issue, Fidan said that they presented their views on the basis of mutual respect. He emphasized that there are other ways to aim for peace, prosperity, and sustainable development on the island and that they will continue their constructive policies on this issue. "But this does not mean that we will give up our rights." Fidan emphasized that Turkey protects its rights and interests in the Eastern Mediterranean to the end.

"The allegation of drilling on our continental shelf is untrue. On the other hand, we have conducted seismic surveys and drilled wells in our continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean. Our priorities in drilling and hydrocarbon exploration are scientifically based." Fidan stated that everyone knows that Turkey will not allow any unilateral step or fait accompli in Cyprus, the Aegean, and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Pointing out that with the start of the Russia-Ukraine War and the European security perspective of the new administration in the US, a debate on the European security architecture has started, Fidan said:

"Before this debate started, we were always pointing out, especially as NATO member states that are not members of the European Union, that within NATO, the EU itself creates a separate perspective and acts on it. The security issues of countries in the European geography that are not members of the EU, such as Norway, Turkey, the UK, Albania, and Montenegro, also need to be managed. In fact, we have always maintained our strategic insistence that the NATO security architecture should be a single security architecture and that there should be no distinction between

EU and non-EU members. This has been generally accepted."

Pointing out that the EU has initiated a process based on the European security architecture and defense industry, Fidan said that this policy has initiated concrete negotiations on how European countries will feed their own security and defense industry sectors in the next 5-10 years, how they will meet their defense needs, and how they will provide financing for this.

Fidan said that the EU's new policy includes 3-4 categories such as EU and non-EU member states, candidate countries, and countries that have signed strategic agreements, adding that this initiative is the only concrete move the EU has made in the defense industry. Fidan assessed that if the US makes a decision on force structure, some discussions on this issue may start in Europe.

Emphasis on Europe ensuring its own security

Underlining that the Russia-Ukraine War is an issue inseparable from European security, Fidan said that Turkey's ideas on this issue largely overlap with the Norwegian administration and that the defense industry cooperation between the two countries is in an extremely good state. "Whether we live in this geography as members of the European Union or not, as part of the large European family, establishing the security and peace of this geography should primarily be our job. We should be determined to produce competence in this regard, to develop a cooperation model." Fidan said that they reached this conclusion during their talks with his Norwegian counterpart.

Stating that a division such as "EU members and non-EU members" in the European geography would encourage the search for other types of alliances, Fidan said, "Of course, our integration within ourselves and the development of a strategy on defense does not prevent us from seeking other alliances."

Pointing out that priority should be given to "securing their own neighborhoods," Fidan said: "It is not and cannot be a strategic approach to rely on the principle that someone else will always come and protect our neighborhood. God forbid, if one day the help you expect does not arrive, you will be left in the middle. We will continue to pursue a multi-faceted, multi-geographical, multi-layered security strategy."

Norwegian Foreign Minister Eide In his speech, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide spoke about the global impact of Israel's attacks on Palestine, pointing out that his country has never remained silent on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Emphasizing that Norway was one of the first countries to call for a ceasefire, Eide said:

"We were one of the first countries to say, 'Israel's response to the October 7 attacks went far beyond international human rights laws or proportionality.'"

Stating that it is extremely important to be consistent on this issue, Eide said: "We need to defend international human rights, laws, and regulations. We believe that these rules should be applied at every point."

Eide described Israel's violations as "extremely extreme and worrying" and said:

"Because it causes a lot of unnecessary suffering to the Palestinian people."

"We believe that there should be a ceasefire in Gaza," Eide said, adding that his country had used its membership in both the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to raise certain issues.

Eide stated that he believes the only solution is a "two-state solution" and said:

"The only alternative to this is perpetual violence. And this is a very bad situation. It is also bad for Israel. This is a situation that will also affect their relations with their neighbors."

Regarding the countries that have remained silent on Israel's attacks on Palestine, Minister Eide said:

"I am also concerned by the silence of others. I believe that many of my Western counterparts have made a critical mistake by not making their views clear."

Stating that the meeting was "extremely useful, constructive, and productive," Eide said, "Our bilateral relations are really strong and continue to develop."

Eide pointed out that the Russia-Ukraine war is at a crucial juncture and that both his country and Turkey agree on the need for a lasting peace agreement.

He emphasized that the two countries agree Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, adding, "This is a terrible war. It took place due to Russia's aggression. So, of course, Ukraine also needs to make its own choices in the future and be free to do so."

Regarding the negotiation process, Eide said, "If we see a situation where the United States becomes less involved in this process—which is not something we hope for—it means that the rest of us will have to take more steps. We will need to assume more political and economic responsibility in this regard."

"The formation of a new government in Syria is a promising development."

Stating that the formation of a new government in Syria is a "promising development," Eide continued:

"At the beginning of January, I went to Damascus, I was one of the first visitors to the region, and I visited Mr. (Ahmed) Shara, who is now the President of the Republic. During this visit, we emphasized the need for Syria to come together as a whole, not divided, and for the formation of a national unity and integrity."

Eide stressed that the necessary importance should be given to ensuring national unity and integrity in Syria, and that everyone should unite on this issue.

Speaking about his country's recognition of the state of Palestine, Eide said:

"We have seen that this recognition is important, especially in terms of convincing the Palestinian people that a two-state solution is possible. Because there are no two alternative solutions here. We must move towards the real solution: the two-state solution. I am very pleased to be working very closely with Turkey in this regard."

Eide added that his country is involved in many processes regarding Sudan and the Horn of Africa. "We are different countries in many ways, but both countries believe this: We have an important role to play here. We can make the world a better place."



"We signed some strategic agreements with the EU in the field of security and defense."

Minister Eide stated that his country and Turkey are NATO countries and said, "We have really strong armies. During the Cold War, Turkey and Norway were actually the only two NATO countries that had a border with the Soviet Union." He further mentioned that his country is not a member of the EU but is close to the EU, adding, "In this context, there have been some meetings between Paris and London. Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Norway were invited to these meetings. Even Canada participated in some. So, an informal format is developing, and we are getting more involved."

Eide said that his country has signed some strategic agreements with the EU in the field of security and defense and continued: "We have stated that our collective defense should be within NATO, but if there are armament initiatives or other initiatives, we can also participate in them for the European family. That's why we are already able to participate in these new European initiatives. We are involved in Europe's defense-related preparation initiatives until 2030. I think it's extremely important to make similar developments with Turkey."

Eide concluded by saying that it is extremely important for all European and NATO countries to be involved in the developments. "It is important for us that the EU shows more interest in this issue, and we welcome that. But it needs to be open, and even if there are some developments, there is still a lot of work to be done."

The 4th Meeting of OTS Space Agencies and Relevant Authorities Held in Azerbaijan

The 4th Meeting of the Space Agencies and Relevant Authorities of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held in Azerbaijan.



The meeting, hosted by Dunay Bedirhanov, Chairman of the Azerbaijan Space Agency, took place in the capital, Baku. OTS Secretary General Kubanychbek Omuraliev, along with officials from Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, participated in the event.

The meeting aimed to strengthen mutual relations in the field of space among the Turkic states and to develop joint technologies. Yusuf Kırac, President of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA),

also attended the meeting. Discussions included the launch of a joint CubeSat project among OTS countries, the standardization of the legal framework in the field of space, and the establishment of a virtual space academy.

Additionally, information was shared regarding the space camp planned to be organized in Türkiye.

The parties reached a consensus on holding regular meetings between the OTS space agencies and relevant authorities, and on conducting cooperation and information exchange systematically among member and observer countries.

Source: Vedat Kurt



Russian President Putin Meets Trump's Middle East Envoy Witkoff

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Steve Witkoff, the Middle East Special Envoy of U.S. President Donald Trump.



According to a statement from the Kremlin, Witkoff was received by Putin in Moscow.

The meeting was also attended by Kremlin Foreign Policy Adviser Yuri Ushakov and Putin's Special Representative for International Economic Cooperation Kirill Dmitriev. Yuri Ushakov later briefed journalists in Moscow, evaluating the meeting between Putin and Witkoff.

Ushakov stated that the meeting, which lasted approximately three hours, was constructive and beneficial. He added:

"This was Witkoff's fourth visit to Russia. The meeting allowed for the narrowing of positions between Russia and the United States on Ukraine and other international issues.

During the talks, the possibility of restarting direct negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian representatives was discussed. Productive dialogue at various levels between Russia and the United States will continue actively."

President Putin had previously met with Steve Witkoff in the Russian city of St. Petersburg on April 11. That meeting, which lasted around 4.5 hours, also focused on possible solutions regarding the Ukraine issue.





A city is being established in Uzbekistan in honor of the Mughal Emperor Babur

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, who emerged from Turkestan and conquered India, founding the great Mughal Empire there, has had his name given to a newly constructed city in his birthplace, Andijan.

While a new city named New Andijan began construction in 2021 near the city of Andijan in eastern Uzbekistan, the city will henceforth be called Babur. During his visit to the Andijan region this week, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev inspected the ongoing construction works in the New Andijan city. Meeting with the people of Andijan and local leaders, Mirziyoyev proposed naming the city after Babur—the founder of the Great Mughal Empire, a great poet, and statesman. The city's residents supported this proposal, and the city was officially named Babur. In his speech, Mirziyoyev stated, “Babur is such a great person that not only streets and squares, but even a separate city should be named after him. Babur lived his life longing for his homeland, wherever he was in the world. Today, if I say that our great ancestor’s dreams have come true and that his soul has returned to his homeland, it would be accurate. Congratulations to us all on such a great and historic day.”

Turkish designers involved in city planning
According to information gathered from Uzbek authorities, Turkish designers were also involved in the planning and design of the new city, which is being built on an area of 4,000 hectares.



According to the multi-phase project still under construction, more than 2,000 residences will be built on 1,500 hectares, and parks and green areas will be created on 1,820 hectares. The remaining space will be used for industrial enterprises and infrastructure facilities. So far, 63 multi-story residences, a school, a polyclinic, shopping centers, banks, infrastructure facilities, and some industrial enterprises have already been built. An additional 40 residences are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

New Uzbekistan Park and Babur statue to be built
In the city, New Uzbekistan Park is also being constructed. The 19-hectare park, where over 10,000 saplings have been planted, will include cinemas, concert halls, various attractions, and other entertainment venues. According to the project, a large statue of Babur will be erected in the center of

the park, and a thematic park dedicated to all rulers of the Babur Empire will also be created. Once the construction in Babur city is completed, it will be able to accommodate 410,000 residents.

Born in Andijan, founded an empire in India
Born in Andijan in 1483, Babur Shah was a great statesman, poet, and writer who later founded the Babur Empire in India. He was a descendant of Timur on his father's side and of Genghis Khan on his mother's side.

After losing his father, the ruler of Fergana, at a young age, Babur ascended the throne at just 12 years old and achieved his first major military success at 14 by capturing Samarkand. After being defeated in the battle for Samarkand by Muhammad Shaybani in 1504, Babur left Central Asia and took Kabul—the first target of his major campaign towards India.

In 1526, during his campaign in India, Babur defeated Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi's 100,000-strong army with just 12,000 soldiers, thus laying the foundation of the Babur Empire—ruled by the Timurid dynasty—which lasted for over three centuries in India. One of the 16 Turkish imperial flags displayed at the Presidential Palace of the Republic of Turkey is that of the Babur Empire founded in India.

His Works
In addition to being a statesman, Babur Shah was also a poet, translator, and author. In his 47-year life, he left behind a rich literary and scientific legacy and is considered the most important poet of

Chagatai literature after Alisher Navoi.
Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur authored the autobiographical Baburnama, as well as many ghazals, rubais, and poems compiled in his Divan-i Babur. He also wrote Mubayin on Islamic jurisprudence, the Arud Risalesi on prosody, and other works.

Another of Babur’s creations was the Baburi Script (Hatt-i Baburi), a writing system he invented by blending the Arabic and Uyghur alphabets. It is known that Babur used this script in correspondence with state officials and relatives, and even commissioned a Qur’an to be written in it.



Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan plan to expand their cooperation in the natural gas sector

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Turkmenistan's Halk Maslahaty Chairman Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov discussed the expansion of their cooperation in the natural gas sector.



According to a statement from the Kazakh Presidential Office, President Tokayev met with Chairman Berdimuhamedov during an informal meeting held in the city of Turkistan.

During the meeting, various issues were discussed with the aim of further strengthening the multifaceted strategic partnership between the two countries. In particular, steps to increase bilateral trade to 1 billion dollars were evaluated.

Tokayev highlighted the successful development of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, stating, "Our plans include strategic projects in not only the gas sector but also in transportation and logistics."

Berdimuhamedov emphasized that Kazakhstan is one of Turkmenistan's key strategic partners, adding, "Our

bilateral relations in political, commercial, economic, cultural, and humanitarian areas have positive expectations." The meeting focused on the development of the natural gas sector cooperation, including Kazakhstan's participation in Turkmenistan's Galkinish field project, which is being developed with foreign partners.

The parties also discussed cooperation in areas such as transportation, education, and digitalization.



Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia Delegations Meet to Discuss Strengthening Cooperation in the South Caucasus



Delegations from Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia convened in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, to discuss enhancing regional cooperation in the South Caucasus.

According to a written statement from the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting was opened by Georgian Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili and attended by Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan, and Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Lasha Darsalia.

In her opening remarks, Minister Botchorishvili emphasized Georgia's commitment to fostering regional cooperation, stating: "What brings us together around this table today is Georgia's genuine desire to promote regional cooperation and identify shared interests."

Underscoring the importance of sharing visions for the region and exploring opportunities for trilateral collaboration, she added: "The South

Caucasus is a region of immense potential and strategic importance that we can harness together."

The meeting, held at the level of deputy foreign ministers, was closed to the press. The official statement outlined the core objective of the gathering: "To identify and exchange views on mutually beneficial, practical areas of trilateral cooperation that will contribute to the prosperity, stability, and sustainable development of the region."

It was also emphasized that this trilateral meeting among the ministries of foreign affairs does not contradict or replace any existing cooperation formats. Instead, it represents an additional effort by the three neighboring countries to build constructive and mutually beneficial partnerships.



Georgia: Russia Continues to Violate Georgia's Territorial Integrity



Georgian Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili stated that Russia continues its occupation policy against her country.

Georgian Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili met with the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Feridun Sinirlioğlu, who was visiting the capital Tbilisi.

Following their closed-door meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Botchorishvili and Sinirlioğlu held a joint press conference.

Speaking at the conference, Botchorishvili reminded that Georgia is a member of the OSCE, stating, “In this context, on the 50th anniversary of the OSCE’s establishment, we believe this organization must have the capacity to work for European security.”

Botchorishvili emphasized that Georgia is facing a problem with its territorial integrity, saying, “Two regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and Tskhinvali (South Ossetia), are under Russian occupation, and Russia continues to violate Georgia’s territorial integrity.” She noted that Sinirlioğlu would visit the occupation line of South Ossetia, which unilaterally declared independence from Georgia, as part of his visit, and added that the OSCE Secretary General would “have the opportunity to witness firsthand the severe humanitarian consequences of the occupation.”

Botchorishvili stated that the OSCE contributes to the Geneva Discussions between Georgia and Russia and underlined the need to restart the previously held Gali Talks between the two countries.

Stressing that Georgia continues to pursue a peaceful policy, Botchorishvili said:

“We also believe it is important to ensure access to international security and human rights mechanisms in the occupied territories. Georgia wants peace and stability in the region.”

Minister Botchorishvili also emphasized that they want to continue contributing to peace and stability in the South Caucasus, adding, “We welcome the peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia and state that Georgia is ready to contribute to strengthening peace and cooperation in the region.”

"Stability in Georgia is of Vital Importance"

Sinirlioğlu noted that this was his first official visit to Georgia as OSCE Secretary General.

He stated that the OSCE supports Georgia, saying, “Of course, I serve loyally the interests of all member countries of our organization.”

Feridun Sinirlioğlu pointed out that the OSCE has a 16-year history of conflict prevention mechanisms and said, “The OSCE is an organization that has proven the importance of dialogue, especially between regions and countries in conflict.”

He noted that they have been cooperating with the Georgian government for many years and added: “Stability in Georgia is of vital importance for the Georgian people and for the security and stability of the entire region.”

OSCE Secretary General Sinirlioğlu expressed their determination to prove to Georgia that they are committed to strengthening security in the country. Sinirlioğlu’s contacts in Georgia are ongoing.

Kazakhstan is Implementing Major Infrastructure Projects on the Caspian Sea Coast

Kazakhstan is carrying out 24 infrastructure projects, including ports, cargo terminals, highways, and airports, in the Mangistau region, the only sea gateway on the Caspian Sea coast.



Kazakhstan's President, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, paid a working visit to Mangistau, located on the Caspian Sea coast. During the visit, Tokayev inspected the Aktau International Sea Port, which plays a key role in the development of the country’s transit potential.

Minister of Transport Marat Karabayev briefed Tokayev on the ongoing efforts to develop the region’s transportation and logistics infrastructure.

Karabayev emphasized that the strategic location of Aktau Port in the "east-west and north-south" directions is of vital importance for both international and national transportation. He noted that the volume of cargo transported via the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor, which passes through the Caspian Sea, increased by 62% to reach 4.5 million tons in 2024, with the goal of reaching 10 million tons by 2028.

Minister Karabayev highlighted that a total of 24 infrastructure projects, worth approximately 3.64 billion dollars (1.9 trillion tenge), are being implemented in the region to achieve this goal.

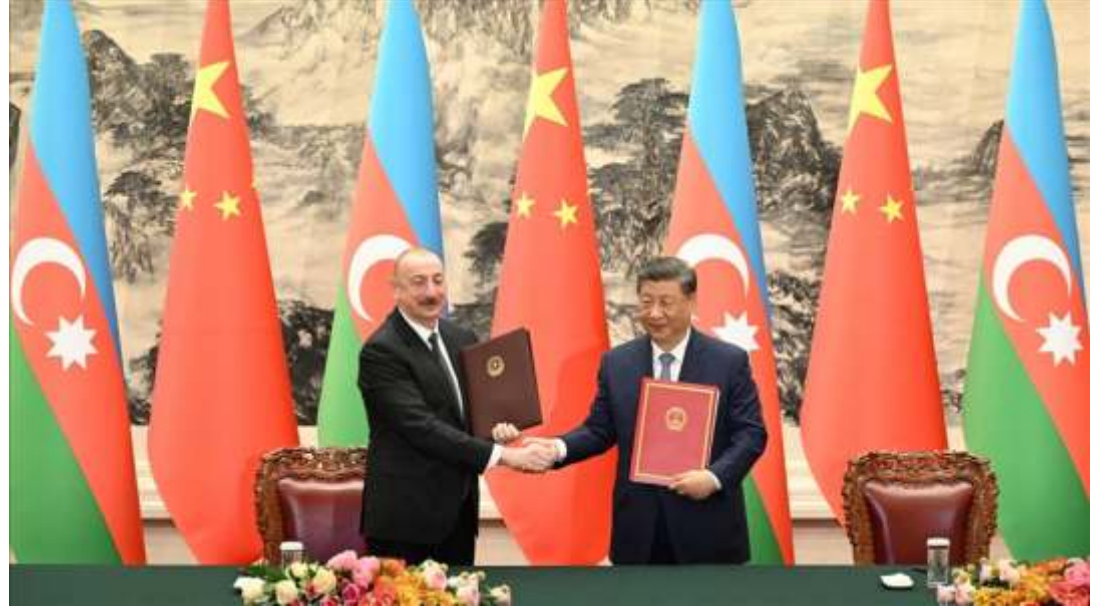
These projects include the construction of a container center that will increase the capacity of Aktau Port from 140,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) to 240,000 TEUs, the construction of a highway that will reduce the distance between the capital, Astana, and Aktau by 800 kilometers, and the construction of a new airport in the Kenderli Tourism Resort on the Caspian Sea coast.

President Tokayev emphasized Mangistau's strategic role in becoming the transportation and logistics hub of Eurasia and ordered the acceleration of the Kenderli Airport construction project.



Azerbaijan and China Sign Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Declaration

Within the framework of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's visit to China, a series of agreements were signed between the two countries, including a declaration on the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership and mutual visa exemption.



According to a statement from the Azerbaijani Presidency, during his official visit to China, Aliyev met with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Following the meeting, Aliyev and Xi signed the "Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the People's Republic of China."

The declaration stated that both parties would support each other in safeguarding their fundamental interests, sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity. It emphasized Azerbaijan's support for the "One China" policy and strong opposition to Taiwan's independence, while China expressed strong support for the peace agenda proposed by Azerbaijan (with Armenia). According to the declaration, the parties agreed to strengthen the alignment of

China's "Belt and Road" initiative with Azerbaijan's "Revival of the Silk Road" state development strategy and the 2030 Socio-Economic Development Strategy, to promote joint modernization, and to create a new field of joint development characterized by a higher level, strong resilience, and long-term stability.

To enhance interaction in the fields of trade, investment, green energy, and digital economy, and to contribute to high-quality development of bilateral cooperation in trade and economy, the two sides agreed to establish a "Working Group on Investment Cooperation." They also declared their intention to gradually expand mutual market access for environmentally friendly and high-quality agricultural products by jointly creating favorable conditions for the development of trade and economy between the two countries.

The parties stated in the declaration that

they are ready to start negotiations on a free trade agreement to provide high-level institutional guarantees for deepening cooperation in trade and investment.

They expressed readiness to continuously deepen cooperation in the industrial sector and to actively promote the digital transformation of the industry. The declaration also noted support for strengthening, deepening, and expanding commercial cooperation between enterprises of the two countries in fields such as petrochemicals, metallurgy, textile industry, pharmaceuticals, and mechanical engineering equipment.

The sides expressed their readiness to actively develop cooperation in the field of renewable energy and to jointly advance the formation of a global partnership in clean energy, which supports the energy transition and sustainable socio-economic development of both countries.

The declaration stated that China is ready to cooperate with Azerbaijan and other countries along the route on China-Europe-China express corridors crossing the Caspian Sea. It also emphasized both parties' interest in improving the level of favorable conditions for automobile transportation between Azerbaijan and China and laying the groundwork for bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Mutual Visa Exemption Introduced

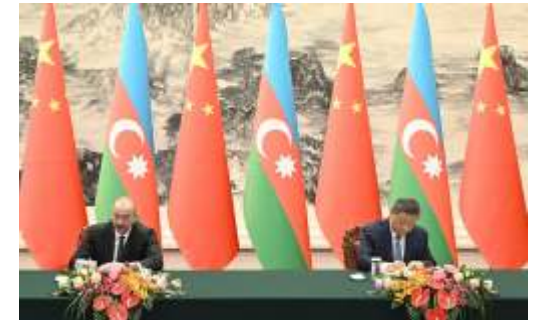
Between China and Azerbaijan As part of Aliyev's visit, a series of agreements were signed between Azerbaijan and China.

At the ceremony attended by Chinese President Xi, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi signed the "Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Visa Exemption for Passport Holders."

Additionally, ministers and officials from both countries signed agreements in the fields of mine clearance, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, technical and economic cooperation, cooperation in science and technology, judiciary, culture, copyright, transportation, trade, media, and information.

Nakhchivan and Urumqi Become Sister Cities

During the ceremony, a letter of intent was signed declaring the city of Nakhchivan in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan and the city of Urumqi in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China as sister cities.



ULUSLARARASI SİVİL DİPLOMASİ GAZETESİ

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Burak ÖZATA

AZERBAIJAN ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
Razi SAFAROV

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World Food Program: Gaza food stocks are completely depleted

The United Nations (UN) World Food Program (WFP) announced that food stocks in the Gaza Strip, where Israel has imposed a tight blockade by closing border crossings, are completely depleted and the last supplies are being delivered to kitchens where hot meals are cooked.



In a written statement from WFP, it was noted that kitchens in Gaza meet 25 percent of the daily food needs of Palestinians. The statement said that food stocks in Gaza have been depleted and the last stocks were delivered to the kitchens in the region, which are expected to be depleted in the coming days. "On March 31, all 25 WFP-supported bakeries in Gaza closed due to a shortage of wheat flour and cooking fuel," the statement said, adding that WFP also supports bakeries to distribute bread in Gaza. The statement said. The statement emphasized that humanitarian aid has not entered Gaza for more than 7 weeks due to the closure of border crossing points and warned, "This is the longest closure the Gaza Strip has ever faced, worsening already fragile markets and food systems." More than 116,000 metric tons of food aid, enough to feed one million people for four months, is ready to be brought to Gaza as soon as the borders open, the statement said, adding, "Without urgent action to open the borders to aid and trade, WFP's critical assistance may have to end." The statement called on the parties to "prioritize the needs of civilians, immediately allow aid to enter Gaza and fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law."

Gaza government calls for "urgent humanitarian corridor"
In a written statement issued by the Media Office of the Palestinian government in Gaza, Israel and its supporters were accused of committing "the crime of genocide documented in audio and video". The statement said that Israel's 55-day total blockade and closure of crossings has led to the spread of famine and the rapid deepening of a humanitarian catastrophe that threatens the lives of more than 2.4 million people. "Famine in Gaza is no longer a threat, it has become a painful reality. The 55-day Israeli blockade has resulted in the deaths of 52 Palestinians, including 50 children, due to starvation and malnutrition. This is one of the most horrific methods of slow killing." It was also reported that more than 60,000 children suffer from severe malnutrition, while more than 1 million children struggle with daily hunger, leaving them weak and physically impaired. The statement noted that thousands of Palestinian families are unable to provide even a single meal for their children and are starving to death.

"Last call before disaster strikes"
"This is the last call before disaster strikes. Any form of delay would be a clear complicity and an indelible shame for humanity." The Gaza government demanded the immediate and immediate opening of a safe humanitarian corridor to save the lives of more than 2.4 million Palestinians. The statement also called for the establishment of independent international commissions to investigate the "crimes of starvation and slow killing" by Israel in Gaza. Osama, a 5-year-old Palestinian who starves in Gaza, where Israel has closed borders, is on

the brink of death
On the other hand, in the footage shared by Al-Quds News Network's X account, it is seen that Osama Rakab, 5-year-old Osama Rakab, who cannot get enough nutrition due to the lack of aid inflow, is counting his bones due to extreme weakness in Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis city. Osama's mother Menal Rakab said her son suffers from malnutrition and malabsorption due to food shortages caused by Israel's closure of border crossings. Pointing out that her son's health was previously very good and his weight was at the level it should have been, the Palestinian mother said, "Osama dropped to 9 kilograms when he should have been 14 to 16." Stating that the border gates have been closed for two months and they have not received any aid, the grieving mother said that Osama needs eggs and meat on a daily basis, but eggs cost 3 dollars and meat costs around 120 to 150 dollars per kilo.



"The prices are very high and I can't afford to buy Osama what he needs," said Rakab, a Palestinian mother whose son came close to death.
Dr. Ahmed Abdulhalik al-Ferra stated that malnutrition will cause a whole generation in Gaza to have trouble focusing and will negatively affect their mental faculties. Pointing out that children in Gaza have chronically low blood levels and vitamin deficiencies due to malnutrition, Dr. Ferra said: "We know that a child's brain is shaped in the first 3 years. If the child is deprived of basic foods in the first 3 years, permanent damage occurs in the brain structure of the child. Even if these basic foods are accessed later, there is no change."

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepens every day
Israel has decided to halt the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip as of March 2, following the end of the 42-day first phase of the ceasefire and prisoner swap agreement with Hamas. Since October 7, 2023, Israeli military attacks have displaced nearly 2 million people in the Gaza Strip, which has a population of 2.3 million. Israel also targeted civilian infrastructure and hospitals, causing a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The cut-off of water and electricity supplies and the closure of border crossings exacerbate the difficult conditions for Palestinians in Gaza. On the morning of March 18, the Israeli army resumed its violent attacks in the Gaza Strip following the ceasefire that went into effect on January 19. The number of Palestinians killed in Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7,

2023 has risen to 51,355 and the number of wounded to 117,248.
Israeli MP: "Starving and deporting Gazans is our duty"
In a program on Israel's Channel 14 television, the far-right Saada commented on the situation in Gaza, where the Tel Aviv administration has not allowed humanitarian aid to enter since March 2. "Our mission is to expel Gazans," Saada said, claiming that 10 countries are willing to accept Palestinians living in Gaza. When the presenter reminded him of his words, Saada said, "Yes, I will starve the residents of Gaza, yes, absolutely. This is our duty. I want to starve the residents of Gaza, I want to impose a complete siege." Asked if he was worried about facing international criticism for his promises to starve and deport Gazans, Saada said, "No, that's boring. We have to deal with the Jews now."

Israel has been blocking aid to Gaza for 54 days
The Israeli administration halted humanitarian aid inflows to the Gaza Strip on March 2 following the end of the first phase of the ceasefire and prisoner swap agreement reached in the Gaza Strip, where approximately 2.3 million Palestinians live. Since then, not even a single parcel of humanitarian aid has been allowed to enter Gaza for 54 days. Due to the denial of aid, Gaza, which is under Israeli attacks, is experiencing shortages of food, medicine, water as well as fuel.

The Israeli cabinet has reportedly decided to maintain the humanitarian embargo on Gaza Israeli state television KAN reported that Israel agreed to lift the humanitarian embargo on the Gaza Strip only "after it was guaranteed that it would not reach Hamas". Since March 2, Israel has not allowed any humanitarian aid, fuel or medicine to enter the Gaza Strip, where more than 2 million Palestinians are struggling with genocide. The United Nations (UN) warns that Israel is blocking all aid supplies into Gaza and warns that the impact on the people of Gaza is dire. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), for its part, said that the impact of the spread of hunger in Gaza on children was "dramatic".

Harsh words from Justice Minister Levin to Chief of Staff Zamir
Justice Minister Yariv Levin of the government led by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reportedly lashed out at Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir during last night's cabinet meeting. Justice Minister Yariv Levin lashed out at Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir for opposing the idea of the Israeli army taking part in the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip if the embargo is lifted, KAN reports. Accusing Zamir of disobeying decisions, Minister Levin said, "You cannot tell us, 'You will make the decisions, you will make the decisions,' and then when the decisions are made, you cannot say, 'We will not fulfill this task."

At Tuesday's Security Cabinet meeting, far-right Minister Betzalel Smotrich, angered by the argument between Zamir and Katz, rebuked the chief of staff.
Smotrich leaves the cabinet meeting again in protest against Bar
Minister Smotrich, a far-right extremist, reportedly left yesterday's cabinet meeting in protest when Ronen Bar, the director of the domestic intelligence agency Shin-Bet, was speaking, as he had done at the Security Cabinet meeting. Maariv newspaper reported that at the Security Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Betzalel Smotrich left the room when Bar began to speak, provoking Zamir with harsh words. WHO Director-General Ghebreyesus: "We have reached a terrible and desperate moment in Gaza"
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), reported that a terrible and desperate moment has been reached in Gaza, where Israel has maintained a humanitarian embargo for nearly 2 months.

Ghebreyesus posted on X about the situation in Gaza.
"We have reached a terrible and desperate moment in Gaza," Ghebreyesus said, noting that the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is running out of resources in the Gaza Strip and that although there is enough food in the aid corridors to feed one million people, it is not reaching those in need. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "The situation is the same for medical supplies, they are running out. 16 WHO trucks are waiting to enter Gaza." Since March 2, Israel has not allowed any humanitarian aid, fuel or medicine to enter Gaza, where more than 2 million Palestinians struggle to survive.

Breaking the ceasefire, the Israeli army resumed violent attacks on Gaza
On the morning of March 18, the Israeli army resumed its violent attacks in the Gaza Strip following the ceasefire that went into effect on January 19. Since the Israeli army resumed the attacks, 2,62 Palestinians, mostly elderly, women and children, have lost their lives and 5,375 people have been injured. The number of Palestinians killed in Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023 has increased to 51,439 and the number of wounded to 117,416. Breaking the ceasefire, Israel announced that it would act with "increasing military force" against Hamas for rejecting new ceasefire proposals. Hamas, on the other hand, declared that "Israel has failed to fulfill its promises and has resumed the genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip by failing to fulfill its responsibilities in the eyes of the ceasefire mediators." It was noteworthy that Israel launched the attacks on Gaza in the shadow of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's controversial political steps, such as the dismissal of the Director of Shin Bet, the domestic intelligence organization.

UN: Civilian Casualties in Ukraine in March Increased by 70 Percent Compared to the Same Month Last Year

Karolina Lindholm Billing, the UNHCR Representative in Ukraine, stated, “According to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, civilian casualties in the country in March were 70 percent higher than in the same month last year.”



Karolina Lindholm Billing made evaluations during the weekly press briefing at the United Nations (UN) Office in Geneva.

Billing noted that the Russian army's deadly attacks in Ukraine have intensified worryingly since the beginning of the year, recalling that 12 people were killed, 87 were injured, and homes were damaged in yesterday's attack on the capital, Kyiv. She pointed out that recent attacks on various cities in Ukraine have resulted in numerous civilian deaths and damage to infrastructure, saying, “According to the UN

Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, civilian casualties in the country in March were 70 percent higher than in the same month last year.”

Billing noted that UNHCR is helping affected individuals recover and rebuild their lives, adding, “We are grateful to the governments and private sector partners who fund these critical programs. However, more is needed to provide timely and predictable responses to the calls from affected individuals and authorities. UNHCR and its partners have the capacity and access to deliver services efficiently if the necessary funding is received.”

President of the TRNC Tatar: "Turkic states should be more cautious in their relations with the Greek side."



The President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Ersin Tatar, commented on the agreement between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan, members of the Turkic States Organization (TSO), and the European Union (EU), stating, "Turkic states should be more cautious in their relations with the Greek side."

President Tatar hosted Davut Günaydın, the Vice President of the Turkish Travel Agencies Association (TÜRSAB), and his accompanying delegation at the Presidential Office. During the meeting, Tatar made statements to journalists from Turkey, explaining that the agreement made by some TSO member states with the EU was normal. He said, "It is normal because these countries have entered into such a process in the context of their relations with the EU. After all, these countries have various projects with the EU, and they have interests and benefits both in terms of the private sector and the state. As stated, there are material projects, material contributions, and also various commercial opportunities that the EU can offer them."

Tatar emphasized that the TRNC holds affection and respect for all TSO member states and expressed that it would be more natural for his country to be part of a union of countries that speak the same language and share the same culture.

"The EU's goal in making this agreement is to block the TRNC"

Tatar, who stated that relations between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and other member states of the TSO and the TRNC have been developing, noted that the EU, which had never previously engaged in such relations in that region, aims to block the TRNC, which has been an

observer member of the organization since 2022.

President Tatar elaborated on the Turkish stance regarding Cyprus, which calls for a two-state solution, and expressed that he expects Turkic states to establish as much of a relationship with the TRNC as they have with the Greek side.

Tatar also pointed out that there are references to UN resolutions in the article regarding the Cyprus issue in the recent agreement signed between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and the EU. He raised concerns that these clauses may have been overlooked by the Turkic states and questioned, "Do they know where these clauses will lead and what results they will have for whom?"

Wishing that the EU agreement brings good fortune to the Turkic states, President Tatar added:

"Turkic states should be more cautious in their relations with the Greek side. They may have relations with the EU, but the EU is not under the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriots, who number only 800,000. The Turkic states may establish relations with the Greek side, but they must be careful because the game the Greek Cypriots are playing is entirely different. The game the Greeks are playing is beyond humanity. Until the rights and law of the Turkish Cypriot people are recognized by the Turkic states, they should tell the Greeks, 'Wait.' I believe the approach should be, 'We will talk again after an agreement is reached.'"

22 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes on Gaza Stripa

In Israeli airstrikes targeting various areas of the Gaza Strip, 22 Palestinians have lost their lives.



According to local sources, the Israeli military bombed the home of the "Hur" family in the Sabra neighborhood in southern Gaza. As a result of the attack, 10 people in the house were killed. Civil defense teams reported that many people were trapped under the rubble of the collapsed house.

In another attack, Israel bombed the house of the "Abdu" family in the Shati refugee camp in western Gaza, killing 3 people. Additionally, in an attack on the city of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza and the

Shujaiya neighborhood in the east, 4 Palestinians were killed.

In the southern Gaza Strip, 3 Palestinians were killed when an area where civilians had gathered near Kuwait Hospital in the Al-Mawasi district of Khan Younis was targeted. In the central Gaza Strip, 2 Palestinians were killed in an attack on a house in the Zawayda area. Israeli artillery units also heavily

bombarded various areas of the Gaza Strip, particularly the eastern parts of Gaza city and the western part of Rafah.

The death toll in Israeli attacks on Gaza rises to 51,495

In a written statement, the Gaza Ministry of Health shared the latest information on casualties and injuries resulting from Israel's ongoing attacks in Gaza. In the last 24 hours, 56 dead and 108 wounded individuals were brought to Gaza's hospitals.

Since Israel violated the ceasefire on January 19, the Israeli military's attacks from March 18 onward have resulted in 2,025 Palestinian deaths, with 5,483 injuries.

Since the beginning of Israel's attacks on Gaza on October 7, 2023, the death toll has risen to 51,495, with 117,524 injured.

There are still thousands of people trapped under the rubble in the Gaza Strip.



Diplomacy and Society: Two Forces Shaping Each Other

Diplomacy is often seen merely as the formal relations established between states.

However, this perception overlooks the societal roots of the concept of diplomacy. Every diplomatic contact, whether directly or indirectly, affects societies, and every society, with its own values, expectations, and reflexes, influences diplomacy. Today, many changes happening on a global scale are being shaped not by states, but in line with the demands of the people.

Diplomacy is not limited to negotiations conducted behind closed doors by leaders; on the contrary, the voice of the person on the street is powerful enough to change the course of diplomacy. We live in an era where the power of public opinion in international relations has significantly increased. A foreign policy pursued without considering the demands of societies struggles to find legitimacy and success in the long term. Therefore, modern diplomacy must be built not only on strategy and the balance of power but also on the sociological tendencies of societies. Especially in democratic societies, the legitimacy of diplomatic decisions largely depends on public support. For a state to be effective on the international stage, internal stability, as well as the sense of belonging and trust of its citizens, plays a decisive role. While a state that enjoys the confidence of its people expands its diplomatic maneuvering space, a state experiencing internal unrest sees its diplomatic ambitions weakened. Thus, diplomacy is not only an outward-oriented activity but also a continuation of internal social engineering.

On the other hand, just as societies influence diplomacy, diplomacy also shapes the mood of societies. A well-managed diplomatic process can instill a sense of confidence and stability among the people, whereas failure to manage crises can fuel waves of despair and anger among the populace. This phenomenon is especially evident during regional crises and the risk of war. A society's outlook on the future is often directly proportional to the trust it places in the diplomatic prowess of its state. Additionally, with the development of communication technologies in the digital age, the participation of societies in diplomacy has become much more visible and influential. The fact that an event can reach millions within minutes forces

states to rapidly redefine their diplomatic reflexes. States that fail to correctly interpret public reactions pay a heavy price not only in foreign policy but also in domestic affairs. Therefore, diplomacy today requires strategic intelligence that can understand and manage the sensitivities of the people.

Diplomacy also directly impacts the representation of societies on the international stage. The successes of a state's foreign policy can strengthen the citizens' self-perception. Success stories become a part of national identity, while diplomatic failures can undermine societal self-confidence. Thus, diplomacy is not only an instrument of international order but also closely related to how a society defines its own existence. In light of these realities, it is clear that the relationship between diplomacy and society has taken on a more dynamic structure in today's world. Diplomacy must now be conducted not only with the mind of the state but also with the mind of the people. In this new era, diplomatic success requires an inclusive and transparent approach that takes into account the sensitivities and expectations of the public. Hearing the voice of the silent majority is a fundamental necessity in the new language of diplomacy.

In conclusion, as the voice of societies grows louder, diplomacy is compelled to change. A diplomacy that ignores societies creates a fragile ground not only domestically but also on the international stage. Today's diplomacy can only achieve true lasting success when conducted with a vision that understands, analyzes, and manages the emotions and demands of societies. It must not be forgotten that a strong society is the foundation of a strong state; and a strong state is the most solid ground for being a respected and effective actor on the international stage.



Pakistan: Any attempt by India in Indus basin will be an act of war

Pakistan has declared that any attempt by India to stop or divert the flow of water in the Indus Basin, which legally belongs to Pakistan, will be considered an "act of war".

In a statement released by the Office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the decisions taken at the National Security Council (NSC) meeting held under the leadership of Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif following the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir were included. Rejecting India's unilateral decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, the statement said the treaty was important for regional stability and underlined Pakistan's determination to protect its water rights. In accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty, any attempt to change the flow of water in rivers that are legally recognized as belonging to Pakistan will not be accepted, the statement said, "Blocking or diverting the flow of water owned by Pakistan will be considered a declaration of war." The statement emphasized that India's diplomatic staff in Islamabad was limited to a maximum quota of 30 people as of April 30 and Pakistan's airspace was closed to all flights owned or operated by India. All trade with India has also been suspended and the Wagah Border Crossing between the two countries will be closed immediately. The statement also said it has the right to suspend all bilateral agreements with India, not just the Shimla Agreement.

Pakistan: We suspect terror attack in Jammu Kashmir was a "false flag operation" Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said they suspect that the terrorist attack in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir was a "false flag operation". Speaking to Al Jazeera, Asif commented on the recent tensions between his country and India. "We strongly suspect that this was a false flag operation," Minister Asif said, suggesting that the terror attack in Jammu Kashmir was carefully organized. Asif strongly rejected the Indian authorities' claim that Pakistan was linked to the attack, stressing that his country has no links with armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan Defense Minister Asif says India is planning "acts of terrorism" against his country Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that they have information that India is planning "terrorist acts" in various parts of the country. According to Al Jazeera, Pakistani Defense Minister Asif spoke about the tension with India at a press conference in the capital Islamabad. Stating that he had information that India was planning "terrorist acts" in various parts of the country, Asif said that if India carried out these acts, it would be responded in the same way and "the price would be paid". Asif also said, "India is fighting a low-intensity war against us and we are ready if they increase the scale. We will not bow to any international pressure to protect our territory."

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar said that a notification would be sent to the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

Pakistan says ready to counter India's attempts to escalate tensions
In a post on the X social media account of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, the statements of Foreign Ministry Secretary Amna Baloch were included. Speaking after a meeting of the National Security Committee in the capital Islamabad, Baloch said India was waging a "misinformation campaign" against Pakistan. Stating that such attempts will disrupt peace and stability in the region, Baloch underlined that Pakistan is against all forms of terrorism. Baloch said India "stands ready to counter any malicious attempt" to escalate tensions.

India cancels all visa services for Pakistani citizens
On the other hand, in a statement on the website of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, it was stated that visa services for Pakistani citizens were suspended following the Pahalgam attack. In the statement, it was reported that existing visas issued to Pakistani citizens were canceled effective April 27, while visas for medical purposes will be valid until April 29. The statement warned Indian citizens to avoid traveling to Pakistan and advised citizens already in Pakistan to return home as soon as possible.

UN calls for restraint
UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric answered journalists' questions at his daily press conference. Asked whether UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has had direct communication with the parties, Dujarric said, "The Secretary-General has not had direct communication, but he is following the situation closely and with deep concern." "We call on both Pakistan and India to exercise maximum restraint," Dujarric said, condemning the terrorist attack that killed many civilians. Noting that the parties should avoid steps that could worsen the situation, Dujarric underlined that all problems should be resolved peacefully through bilateral engagement.

Pahalgam terror attack
In the Pahalgam region of Indian-administered Jammu Kashmir, 26 people were killed and many others injured when gunmen opened fire on tourists on April 22. Following the terrorist attack, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi interrupted his official visit to Saudi Arabia and returned to New Delhi. Immediately after his arrival in

the capital, Modi convened a security meeting with the participation of senior officials to assess the situation. According to national media reports, the Resistance Front (TRF), an extension of the banned Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LET) organization in Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack. India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, asked Pakistani undersecretaries in New Delhi to leave the country within a week and canceled visas for all Pakistani citizens. Details of the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan back on the agenda Following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) signed with Pakistan in 1960, the details of the agreement came back to the agenda.

On April 22, 26 people were killed and many others injured in a terrorist attack by gunmen in the Pahalgam region of Indian-administered Jammu Kashmir. After the terrorist attack, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi interrupted his official visit to Saudi Arabia, returned to the capital New Delhi and met with his cabinet. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting led by Prime Minister Modi discussed efforts to uncover cross-border links to the terrorist attack and new measures. In line with the new measures, the IWT signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 under the guarantee of the World Bank was suspended. AA correspondent compiled the status of the Indus River and the details of the agreement, which will celebrate its 65th anniversary this year. Originating in China's Tibet Autonomous Region, the Indus River flows in a northwesterly direction through India's Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir regions, then through Pakistan's Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit

Baltistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces before flowing into the Arabian Sea near Karachi. Forty-seven percent of the river system is divided by Pakistan and 37 percent by India, with the remaining small portions located in eastern Afghanistan and China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The Indus is one of the largest rivers in the world with an average annual flow of 208 billion cubic meters, about 2.2 times the combined capacity of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The Indus River system provides water for 90 percent of Pakistan's food production and contributes 25 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP).

Guarantor, World Bank
The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between Pakistan and India in September 1960 with the World Bank as guarantor. After nearly 10 years of mediation by the World Bank, the agreement was signed by

India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's former President General Ayub Khan. The agreement, which sets out the rights and obligations of the two countries regarding the use of the waters of the Indus River system, divides the six rivers east and west of the Indus Basin between the two countries. According to the agreement, of the six rivers feeding the Indus River, the control of the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej was given to India, while the control of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab was given to Pakistan. Since the rivers given to India fed the Indus more, Pakistan was granted rights over these rivers. The agreement also included a clause that India had rights to power generation, agriculture and fisheries. Latest status of the disputes The bilateral "Permanent Indus Commission", composed of representatives from India and Pakistan, provides a mechanism for possible new cooperation or for resolving potential conflicts. According to this mechanism, the two sides are supposed to meet at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan. However, there are disagreements between the two sides centered on the Indus Waters Treaty. The designs of India's Ratle and Kishanganga hydropower projects on the Chenab and Jhelum rivers are argued to violate IWT regulations. Islamabad argues that the planned hydropower plants will cut off the flow of agricultural water, while India insists that its projects comply with the terms of the agreement. Pakistan took the matter to the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration to resolve the issue, but India rejected the jurisdiction of the arbitration court. New Delhi formally requested a review and amendment of the agreement last year, but Islamabad says it is committed to its full implementation.

Dam projects
Pakistan had last complained to the World Bank in 2019 over dam projects blocking the flow of water from India, which has to share some of the water flowing through the three rivers with it. Meetings between the World Bank, the guarantor of the agreement, and officials from both countries in Washington in May 2020 ended without a decision.

Despite this regulation, India inaugurated the Kishanganga Dam in 2018 with a ceremony attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. The Ratle Dam is also scheduled to open in 2026. India argues that the dam projects are in line with the agreement. It is stated that there is a risk of water shortage or flooding in Pakistan due to the dams built by India. It is stated that 20 percent of Pakistan's economy depends on activities around the Indus River.

Iran Announces Plans to Build a New Nuclear Power Plant with Credit Provided by Russia

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad announced that Iran will build a new nuclear power plant with credit provided by Russia.



According to Iran’s official news agency IRNA, Paknejad, who was in Moscow for the 18th meeting of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, made a statement during the closing session of the meeting.

Paknejad noted that the commission meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, and stated that Iran and Russia will continue their cooperation “on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the construction of new nuclear facilities, and the completion of the second and third phases of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant with credit provided by Moscow.”

He said, “According to the agreement between the parties, a new nuclear power plant will be built in Iran with credit provided by Moscow.” Referring to previous agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation between Iran and Russia in the oil industry and the development of oil and gas fields, Paknejad said, “Tehran and Moscow aim to accelerate the implementation and completion of cooperation agreements with Gazprom.”

Paknejad also noted that during the commission meeting, the two countries reached consensus on several issues, including comprehensive cooperation in the banking system, alignment of standards to promote trade and lift restrictions, the introduction of businesspeople, strengthening trade centers in both countries to facilitate bilateral trade, and enhancing cooperation in agriculture, health, and customs.

The Iranian Oil Minister had previously stated that they signed four agreements worth 4 billion US dollars with Russia for the development of seven oil fields.

He added that in addition to those four agreements, other memorandums of understanding had been signed regarding oil and gas fields, and that technical negotiations between delegations were ongoing to finalize and implement these agreements. Iran’s former Oil Minister Javad Owji had announced in November 2022 that an agreement worth around 4 billion dollars had been signed with Russia concerning the development and export of natural gas fields and the construction of transmission lines.

The White Gold of Nature: Chamomile and Its Healing Secret

Standing with humble elegance amidst the meadows, chamomile is the silent yet powerful pharmacy of nature. While many see it merely as an ornamental flower, the chemical treasure hidden behind its white petals is a natural manifesto dedicated to human health. This delicate plant has been part of ancient folk medicine recipes for thousands of years; yet even today, it remains underappreciated. Chamomile’s potent power lies in the essential oils and pharmacologically active compounds it contains. Natural flavonoids and terpenes such as azulene, bisabolol, chamazulene, apigenin, and luteolin enable it to act both at the cellular level and systemically. These substances are compounds that modern medicine attempts to replicate synthetically but can never quite match in purity found in nature.

Not just a sedative, but a mood regulator... Chamomile is often known for its calming effects. However, this is only the surface. Its true influence lies in systematically regulating communication between nerve cells, soothing not merely the body but the spirit. In particular, the apigenin compound interacts with GABA receptors in the brain, addressing the root of stress rather than merely alleviating its symptoms.

An ally of immunity Thanks to its antioxidant flavonoids, chamomile virtually re-educates the cells of the immune system. These compounds prevent excessive immune responses while making the defense against viruses and bacteria more balanced and conscious. With this property, chamomile serves as a natural stabilizer, helping the body maintain balance, especially during seasonal transitions.

The wise friend of the digestive system Chamomile tea is commonly known to soothe the stomach. Yet chamomile’s benefits go far beyond the stomach; it relaxes intestinal muscles, relieves spasms, and supports bile secretion from the liver. The bisabolol it contains initiates a kind of reconstruction within the digestive system with its anti-inflammatory and cell-regenerating effects.



Penetrating not just the skin, but the tissues Oils and ointments prepared with chamomile extract are far more than surface moisturizers. Thanks to their deep-reaching anti-inflammatory properties, they offer profound solutions for a range of skin issues, from eczema and burns to acne and allergic reactions. The chamazulene compound neutralizes free radicals in the skin while accelerating the tissues’ natural healing processes.

An ancient plant, the secret of a new age Today, the remedies sought in laboratories are often hidden within nature’s overlooked simplicity. Chamomile is the symbol of this modest magnificence. It is time to rediscover chamomile not only in a teacup but also within the very chemistry of our bodies. Because chamomile is not just a plant; it is a prayer of kindness spoken in the language of nature.

Healing Chamomile Tea Recipe
Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon of dried chamomile (preferably German chamomile)
- 1 cup of boiling drinking water
- Optional: a slice of lemon or 1 teaspoon of honey

Preparation: Drop the chamomile into the boiling water and cover the cup. Let it steep for 8–10 minutes. Strain and add lemon or honey if desired. Drink it warm. Consuming 1–2 cups daily brings peace to both your body and mind.





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