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President Erdogan: "Today, the dawn of a great and powerful Turkey is breaking"

President Erdogan, in his speech at the AK Party's 32nd Consultation and Evaluation Meeting, regarding the terrorist organization laying down its weapons, said: "Today, the spirit of Malazgirt, the Jerusalem Alliance, and the essence of the War of Independence are taking shape again. Today, the dawn of a great and powerful Turkey is breaking."

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Turkish Foreign Minister Fidan: Turkish Businesspeople and Investors Are Increasing Their Investments in ASEAN Countries

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Relations Between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Improve Following Border Agreement



Following the signing of the border agreement between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, relations between the two countries continue to progress.

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Ankara Named Turkic World Tourism Capital for 2026

The closing ceremony of the 10th Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Tourism of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held in the garden of the Ethnography Museum in Ankara. During the ceremony, OTS Secretary General Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev delivered a speech.

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SOURCE: VEDAT KURT



As World Population Exceeds 8 Billion, Declining Fertility Rates Turn into a Global Crisis

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Uzbekistan wants to increase products with geographical indications to develop tourism and national brands

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UNICEF: Killing Families Trying to Reach Life-Saving Aid in Gaza is Inhumane

UNICEF has stated, "Killing families trying to reach life-saving aid (in Gaza) is inhumane."

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Russian Foreign Ministry: Trump Administration's Statements and Actions Are Highly Contradictory

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U.S. President Trump Announces Weapons for Ukraine Will Be Sent via NATO

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Zelensky: We Have a Positive Dialogue with President Trump on Patriot Systems

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The 30th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide Commemorated with a Special Program

A commemoration program was held for the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Serbian forces brutally massacred more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians in 1995.

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TRNC President Tatar: Sooner or Later, the TRNC Must Be Recognized



President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Ersin Tatar, stated that there is a structure, a reality, and a system in which people live in the northern part of Cyprus, adding, "Sooner or later, the TRNC must be recognized."

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Azerbaijan and Armenia confirmed that negotiations without mediators are the most efficient format

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YİĞİT



The Land Remembered By The Heart: The Silent Call Of The Homeland In Yahya Kemal

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President Erdogan: "Today, the dawn of a great and powerful Turkey is breaking"

President Erdogan, in his speech at the AK Party's 32nd Consultation and Evaluation Meeting, regarding the terrorist organization laying down its weapons, said: "Today, the spirit of Malazgirt, the Jerusalem Alliance, and the essence of the War of Independence are taking shape again. Today, the dawn of a great and powerful Turkey is breaking."

President and AK Party Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdogan participated in the AK Party's 32nd Consultation and Evaluation Meeting held in Kızılcahamam.

Praying to Allah that the consultation meeting would bring goodness to the country, nation, and democracy, President Erdogan sent his greetings to all his companions in the cause and journey who passionately work for the growth, strengthening, and maintaining the peak position of the AK Party in all 81 provinces and 922 districts.

"WE HAVE STRIVED TO SERVE THE NATION IN THE BEST WAY"

Erdogan pointed out that they have taken the command "Hold yourself accountable before you are held accountable" as their guide, and noted: "We have always strived for the better, more effective and efficient work, and serving the nation in the best way. We considered different ideas as richness. We saw constructive criticism as a lantern illuminating our path. It is a fact that consultation not only leads to common sense. It also increases blessings, deepens insight, strengthens foresight, broadens horizons, and further strengthens brotherhood and solidarity among cadres. We are conducting our 32nd meeting with this understanding. Our consultation meeting, like previous ones, will function as a platform where we hold a mirror to our party, examine ourselves, and take a precise photograph of all matters concerning the country's politics. I especially request that you share what's in your hearts and minds with us openly. I would like to thank all participating brothers for their valuable ideas, suggestions, and constructive criticisms in advance."

"OUR MARTYRS WILL ALWAYS BE OUR CROWN"

Recalling that 41 years ago, on August 14, 1984, the separatist terrorist organization carried out its first action in Eruh district of Siirt and Şemdinli district of Hakkari, President Erdogan said: "In this terrorist attack, we lost two soldiers as martyrs, and nine civilian citizens were injured. From this date onward, the separatist organization carried out attacks against our security forces and civilians. We lost nearly 10,000 security personnel as martyrs in the fight against terrorism. Nearly 50,000 citizens lost their lives in terrorist incidents. First of all, I once again pray for Allah's mercy on our

martyrs and citizens who lost their lives. We have not forgotten them and will not forget them. Our homeland will, God willing, exist forever, and our flag with the crescent and star will, God willing, wave freely in our skies forever. Our martyrs, who watered the homeland soil with their blood and colored our crescent and star flag with their red blood, will always be our crown."

"METHODS OF STRUGGLE OUTSIDE LAW AND LEGITIMACY FUELED TERRORISM"

President Erdogan pointed out that terrorism escalated in Turkey with each passing day after the first action in 1984, using the following expressions: "After that day, many governments came. Each said they would 'eradicate terrorism,' but terrorism could not be eliminated either in our lands or in the territories of other countries where it established bases. Of course, some wrong practices of the state had a share in this. White Toros cars, unsolved murders, Diyarbakır Prison were among these. Burned villages, people forced to migrate overnight, mothers who couldn't speak Kurdish with their children in prison were among these wrong practices. Methods of struggle outside law and legitimacy, instead of ending terrorism, on the contrary, fueled and enlarged it, and provided the terrorist organization with a favorable ground to exploit."

Emphasizing that the price of mistakes was paid together, President Erdogan said, "We not only lost our security forces as martyrs, not only civilians lost their lives, but Turkey also became unstable with these terrorist attacks. We faced a

bill of 2 trillion dollars in the economy. Most importantly, the terrorist organization inflicted very heavy damage on our country's peace, harmony, unity, integrity, and brotherhood."

President Erdogan stated that after the November 3, 2002 elections, when they came to power, they addressed the terrorism issue in multiple dimensions, adding: "While fighting terrorism on one hand, we also struggled to dry up the swamp that created excuses for terrorism. We took measures to prevent the terrorist organization from trapping our Kurdish brothers and separating them from the state and the nation. We took historic steps to fulfill the law of living together and brotherhood. While we made 'silent revolution' reforms in democracy and human rights at home, we conducted very intensive diplomatic traffic abroad. Along with all these, we developed our defense industry, produced our anti-terrorism weapons without being dependent on others. With cross-border operations, we took our borders under full control. After the treacherous coup attempt of July 15, we cleansed FETÖ from all our institutions, especially our armed forces and police. Thus, we eliminated treachery in the fight against terrorism. In recent years, we completely broke the operational capability of the terrorist organization. We prevented terrorist acts from harming officials or civilians. Our operations in Iraq and the December 8 revolution in Syria have further strengthened our hand in the fight against terrorism."

President Erdogan said that with their alliance partners, they have taken a series

of steps to realize the "Terrorism-Free Turkey" project following the historic call of MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli.

THE TERRORISM-FREE TURKEY PROJECT IS NOT THE RESULT OF A NEGOTIATION, A BARGAIN, OR A GIVE-AND-TAKE PROCESS

Emphasizing that security units are working in full coordination, President Erdogan stated that they are managing a very sensitive, very cautious process to take advantage of this opportunity window that has opened up for the country.

Recalling that the terrorist organization PKK announced that it had convened its congress at the call of İmralı and declared its dissolution, President Erdogan said, "Yesterday, the organization announced that it had implemented the decision it made, especially by holding a ceremony to lay down its weapons. As of yesterday, the 47-year-old terrorism plague has, God willing, entered the process of ending. Turkey has begun to close a long, painful, troubled, tear-filled page as of yesterday. Today, let's not forget, is a new day. Today, a new page has been opened in history. Today, the doors of great Turkey, strong Turkey, the Turkish Century have been opened wide."

President Erdogan noted that after the terrorist organization's first action in 1984, Turkey tried every way and method to end terrorism, adding: "Looking at examples around the world, formulas beyond armed struggle were tried to end terrorism. However, none were successful. The Terrorism-Free Turkey Project we have been pursuing is not the outcome of negotiations, bargaining, or give-and-take processes. That's why we were very careful from the beginning. Today we are even more careful. We are closely following any initiative that will stop the bloodshed, end mothers' tears, alleviate suffering, and strengthen brotherhood. But let everyone be sure of this; we will not let the honor and pride of the Republic of Turkey be trampled. We will never bow Turkey's head. We are following our 'Terrorism-Free Turkey' project with this understanding. First of all, I want all of Turkey to know this; questioning the nationalism, patriotism, and love for Turkey of our alliance partner, Nationalist Movement Party Chairman Devlet Bahçeli and his cadre is, you would appreciate, beyond anyone's limit. Similarly, no one can question the



nationalism, patriotism, and love for Turkey of myself and the AK cadre, both those here and those not here. This is neither anyone's limit nor right."

WHATEVER WE DO, WE DO IT FOR TURKEY

Emphasizing that together with MHP Chairman Bahçeli and his cadre, they have put their lives, blood, all their experience, and lives on the line for a "Terrorism-Free Turkey," President Erdogan said they are not involved in anything that is not for Turkey's good.

Noting that today, their understanding, policies, direction, and efforts are only for Turkey's benefit, President Erdogan said, "In every initiative that benefits Turkey, you will see us at the forefront. And in every initiative that is not for Turkey's benefit, you will see us at the forefront opposing that initiative. We know very well what we are doing. No one should be afraid, uneasy, or concerned. No question marks should form in anyone's mind. Whatever we do, we do it for Turkey. Whatever we do, we do it for our nation. We do it for our independence. We do it for our future."

Stating that today they are obliged to speak some truths openly, President Erdogan said that terrorism from the very beginning formed a sector, an ecosystem with its opponents.

Emphasizing that those who appear to be against terrorism benefited as much as those on the terrorism side from terrorist acts, President Erdogan said: "They exploited the nation, fueled instability. They tried to derive rent for their own dirty ambitions from terrorist attacks. They are revealing themselves these days. The end of terrorism bothers them the most. Because their rent doors are closing. Because their interests are being damaged. Because their schemes are being disrupted. Because they are losing the toy in their hands. They are making an intense effort to muddy the waters, to darken minds. Let my nation see these people, and let them not forget that we will grow much stronger as my nation sees these people. They say they are 'nationalists,' don't they? They say 'we are patriots.' Terrorism is ending, they should be happy, but they can't be. By reading intentions, dreaming, producing conspiracy theories, spreading fear, blatantly lying, they are trying to overshadow the nation's joy, to break emerging hopes. No matter what they do, terrorism will end, and you will see they will all be left jobless."

TURKEY HAS WON, MY NATION HAS WON

Saying that as terrorism ends, terrorism exploitation also ends, President Erdogan said, "It is now our greatest desire that my nation sees these fake heroes. Let there be no question marks in anyone's mind. As the government, as AK Party cadres, our struggle over the past 23 years, our



pressures inside and outside, our efforts have started to yield results. Turkey has won, my nation has won. Every one of our 86 million citizens, be they Turkish, Kurdish, or Arab, has won."

President Erdogan continued his words as follows: "We will not be part of any initiative that aims at our unity, integrity, homeland, state, nation, peace, the honor and pride of our state, and we will never allow such initiatives. The Republic of Turkey stands upright and, in fact, the Republic of Turkey today is much more powerful, more majestic, more proud, more honorable than yesterday, and most importantly, it is much more hopeful for its future than yesterday. Praise be to Allah, the 41-year parenthesis is closing. The wall of terrorism built between the members of our nation is being demolished. Far from being uneasy, every member of our dear nation should rejoice, celebrate from this picture, every street, avenue, every household of Turkey should be adorned with our crescent and star flag."

President Erdogan pointed out that Turks are not a nation that appeared on the historical stage yesterday, that they have existed on the historical stage since the 8th century BC with the names of Scythians and Sakas.

Explaining that Turks became acquainted with Islam en masse in the Battle of Talas in 751 and were honored with Islam, President Erdogan said, "From that day on, when one says Turk, Muslim comes to mind, and when one says Muslim, Turk comes to mind the most. After Mecca-i Mukarrama and Medina-i Munavvara, Samarkand, Bukhara, Ray, Merv, Isfahan, Tabriz, Herat, Diyarbakır, Konya, Bursa, Istanbul, Ankara, and many others became centers of civilization, science, art, and statehood for Turks and Muslims."

Expressing that when Seljuk armies reached Baghdad, Damascus, and Malazgirt, they mingled with their Kurdish and Arab brothers there, President Erdogan said, "The Malazgirt Victory, the Conquest of Jerusalem, the

Conquest of Istanbul, the Defense of Çanakkale, the War of Independence are common wars and victories of Turkish, Kurdish, Arab, and many other Muslim peoples. The Baghdad of the Arabian Nights was built by Turks, Kurds, and Arabs. Jerusalem was conquered by Turks, Kurds, and Arabs under the command of Saladin Ayyubi. Damascus is our common city. Diyarbakır is our common city. Mardin, Mosul, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Aleppo, Hatay, Istanbul, Ankara are our common cities."

Stating that when Turks, Kurds, and Arabs allied, the wind of their horses spread cool breezes from the China Sea to the Adriatic, President Erdogan continued: "Peace spread to the geography from the rearing of our horses. The clatter of swords brought peace to this region. We fought shoulder to shoulder, taking our swords out of their sheaths when necessary. When necessary, we divided a slice of bread into three with our daggers. When necessary, we put our swords and daggers back in their sheaths. We took out our pens. Together, we engraved the line 'La Ilaha Illallah Muhammadun Rasulullah' on the earth, the sky, and in each other's hearts. When we allied, no one could stand before our horses, swords, shields, battle cries, and takbirs. When we allied, no one could compete with our civilization, our art, our knowledge, our level of prosperity. If Turks, Kurds, Arabs are together, are one, are united, then the Turk exists, the Kurd exists, the Arab exists. When they are separated, divided, distanced, there is defeat, destruction, sadness. Mongol armies ruthlessly destroyed Islamic lands. Because Turks, Kurds, Arabs were separated. Crusaders attacked Islamic lands. Because Turks, Kurds, Arabs had separated from each other. We lost the First World War, borders were drawn between us, walls were erected. We lost Jerusalem because there was division. Whenever we separated, we lost, we were defeated. Whenever we allied, we directed history. Today, in Gaza, in Palestine, the most cruel, most savage, most barbaric genocide in history is being carried out. Why? Because Turks, Kurds, Arabs cannot come together and form an alliance as they have throughout history.

TODAY, TURKS AND KURDS ARE EMBRACING EACH OTHER AGAIN WITH AFFECTION WITHOUT OBSTACLES

Expressing that the ultimate aim of terrorism is not to divide Turkey, President Erdogan said, "No one has the power to divide Turkey. But they distracted us, made us lose time, caused economic loss, spent our energy. Most of all, they tried to sow discord between Turks and Kurds. Who won in 41 years? Terrorism barons, the terrorism sector, those who feed on blood won. Those who had dirty calculations on Turks, Kurds, Arabs won. Today, we are breaking, overturning this dirty game, this dirty scheme, this discord movement. History is repeating itself. Today, Turks and Kurds are embracing each other again with affection without obstacles. Today, the spirit of Malazgirt, the Jerusalem Alliance, the nucleus of the War of Independence is taking shape again. Today, the dawn of a great and powerful Turkey is breaking. Now we will sit and talk. Not with weapons, violence, not for fighting, but for affection, brotherhood, we will talk face to face, heart to heart, removing the obstacle of terrorism between us."

Underlining that they will solve every issue through dialogue, President Erdogan noted: "Every citizen of this country, whether Turkish, Kurdish, Arab, Sunni, Alevi, rightist, leftist, rich, poor, every citizen is a first-class citizen before the state. The Republic of Turkey is our common home, our roof. We 86 million are one, together, brothers from eternity to eternity. Despite all our differences, together we are Turkey. We have been fighting for this for 23 years. And God willing, Turkey is crowning this struggle. Our Kurdish brothers, do you have an issue? We will sit and talk without weapons, violence, terrorism in between. Our Alevi brothers, do you have a problem? We will solve it through dialogue. Believe me, blessings will come to our table. Peace will come to our broad Turkish home. With that blessing, with that peace, we will overcome every obstacle and walk towards the future."

President Erdogan emphasized, "Let's not forget, when hearts are one, borders disappear. As a first step, we will establish a commission in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and we will start discussing the legal needs of the process under the roof of the Parliament. I emphasize, as the People's Alliance, together with the AK Party, the Nationalist Movement Party, and the DEM delegation, we will develop this process and carry it to the future."

Recalling that the DEM Party delegation met with the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly, Numan Kurtulmuş, yesterday, President Erdogan said, "We

believe that the strong contribution that our Veteran Parliament will make to the process is critically important for the work being carried out. In this process, we met with our late brother Sırrı Süreyya, then with Mrs. Pervin Buldan, and Mithat Sancar this week, we sat down, we talked. We discussed what we can do together for this journey. It seems it has been possible, better things will happen."

IT IS OUR SINE QUA NON THAT OUR KURDISH BROTHERS IN SYRIA ALSO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY

President Erdogan emphasized that he hopes the Parliament will support this beneficial process with the widest possible participation and with a constructive and facilitating approach, adding: "Here, I also want to express with all my sincerity; not only the issue of our Kurdish citizens but also the issue of our Kurdish brothers in Iraq and Syria, don't forget, is our issue. We are discussing, talking about this process with them too, and they are very happy. These developments in Turkey, especially the steps taken yesterday, created very different voices in Iraq. It is our sine qua non that our Kurdish brothers in Syria also live in peace, tranquility, and security."



President Erdogan pointed out that the U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, Tom Barrack, is also the Special Representative for Syria, saying, "They also held discussions and meetings in Syria, and the messages given from there were really very positive and were pleasing for us as well."

THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY WILL BE MUCH STRONGER THAN BEFORE

President Erdogan announced that they continue to work with the new Syrian government and their international partners for such an atmosphere to form rapidly.

Emphasizing that they sincerely believe that the terrorism chapter will close there as well, and brotherhood, unity, togetherness, and integrity will win, President Erdogan said, "Now, AK Party, Nationalist Movement Party,



DEM, we have decided to walk this path together at least as three. We have a concern, we are concerned, since we have a concern, since we are concerned, since we have joined hands, with Allah's permission, we will overcome these obstacles. Let everyone know that there is no need to clench fists anymore. We will purify, we will embrace, we will talk, we will walk taking steps towards each other.

Emphasizing that they will build the Turkish Century together, hand in hand, heart to heart, President Erdogan continued as follows: "With the end of terrorism, the Republic of Turkey, don't forget, will be much stronger, much more self-confident than before. We will now give our energy to our main work. We will mobilize our resources not for fighting terrorism, but for development, for prosperity, for a prosperous and victorious Turkey. Turkey will grow with brotherhood, Turkey will strengthen with democracy, Turkey will walk towards the future in stability and confidence. You will see, we will soon reach a very different Turkey. I underline and say again; we provide all kinds of facilities to those who take a step. Don't forget, we open the door wide for those who seek a way out, but if the waters flow in reverse, we do what is necessary."

President Erdogan underlined that no one should be uneasy, "The Turk is much more secure, much stronger than yesterday. The Kurd, the Arab is much more secure, much stronger than yesterday. Overcoming the pains will not be easy, I know, leaving painful

memories behind will certainly not be easy. Our losses will undoubtedly not return, but with Allah's permission, our youth will not leave us again in the spring of their lives. God willing, our mothers will not shed tears, they will not experience the pain of losing a child."

President Erdogan noted that they have gone through calamities, overcome traps to reach today, adding: "We heal our wounds and continue on our way much stronger, much more determined. As a country and a nation, we abundantly have this self-confidence, this will. Without hurting, saddening, or offending anyone, we will facilitate in accordance with the sensitivity of the process for the work to be swiftly concluded, we will meticulously follow the surrender of weapons through the established mechanism. Mothers of martyrs, fathers of martyrs, I kiss your hands, no one can extend their hand to the dear memory of our martyrs, they cannot stain their legacy. Yes, be at ease, with the point reached, the aim of our martyrs will have reached its destination. My veteran brothers, be at ease, with the point reached, your sacrifice will be crowned. Our martyrs carried Turkey here, our veterans carried it, we are grateful to each of them, and we will never let their memory be desecrated."

Emphasizing that Mehmet Akif Ersoy had heralded 104 years ago what needed to be said today, President Erdogan recited the verses of the National Anthem: "Wave like the

dawn's lights, O glorious crescent, so that our blood shed may be finally blessed. May all the blood we have shed now be blessed. Eternally, there is no extinction for my race, neither for you. Freedom is the right of my ever-free flag, independence is the right of my God-worshipping nation."

Saying "May our Lord make our path and our fortune open," President Erdogan concluded his words as follows: "I once again express my gratitude to the heroic members of our heroic army, our police, gendarmerie, coast guard units, our security guards who fight in the front lines against terrorism, the unnamed heroes of our National Intelligence Organization, our esteemed veterans and the valuable relatives of our martyrs, and to our dear nation who, despite all the pain they have experienced for half a century, have not allowed a stain on their eternal brotherhood in these lands.

I once again heartily thank our alliance partner, the Chairman of the Nationalist Movement Party, Mr. Devlet Bahçeli, the DEM Party delegation who embraced the process with a sensible tone, and especially the late Sırrı Süreyya Önder, the political parties and actors who show the wisdom to take a national stance on national issues even though we are in different lanes, the press organizations and journalists who support the process with a responsible broadcasting line, and also our other friends whose names are preserved with us."

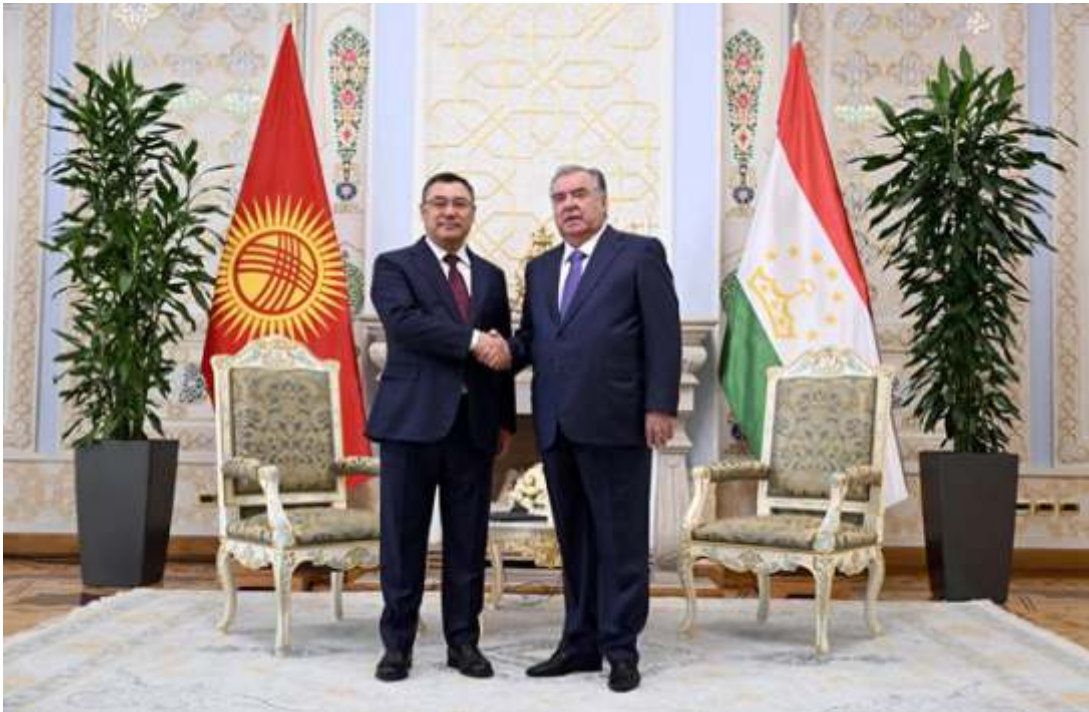
Relations Between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Improve Following Border Agreement

Following the signing of the border agreement between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, relations between the two countries continue to progress.

According to a statement from the Kyrgyz Presidential Press Office, President Sadyr Japarov paid a return visit to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, upon the invitation of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. Japarov was welcomed by Rahmon at Dushanbe International Airport. The two leaders attended a concert featuring more than 500 performers.

Later, during the official ceremony held at the Presidential Palace of Tajikistan (Palace of the Nation), 21 gun salutes were fired in honor of President Japarov’s visit. Leaders Discussed Security and Border Demarcation In a private meeting, the leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral cooperation topics, including the situation of citizens living in the border regions of both countries.

partnership, as well as regional and international issues. Japarov Expects Constructive Talks President Japarov expressed gratitude for the invitation and for the warm and sincere reception from the brotherly people of Tajikistan. He stated that he expects constructive negotiations during the talks and noted that the completion of the border demarcation process is a significant step not only for the two countries but also for strengthening security and stability throughout the region. Japarov affirmed his confidence that the border delimitation work would be completed in the near future according to the agreed timeline. A Series of Documents and Agreements Signed Between the Two Countries After the inter-delegation meeting, the



President Rahmon noted that Kyrgyz-Tajik relations are on the rise, highlighting that the border demarcation process had been successfully completed and that efforts in this area are actively continuing. Rahmon emphasized the dynamic development of trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian ties between the two countries and underlined the importance of close cooperation in the field of security. He stated that he was ready to discuss with his Kyrgyz counterpart the current state and future prospects of bilateral

leaders signed a joint declaration. Additionally, several agreements were signed between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, including an agreement on confidence-building measures, the establishment of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Intergovernmental Council, and cooperation agreements in the fields of geodesy, cartography, land management, cadastre, real estate registration, and remote sensing. Other agreements signed included cooperation in standardization, metrology, product conformity assessment and accreditation, as well as

in tourism. An agreement was also approved to establish a business council between the two countries’ Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Agreements on cooperation between labor, social security, and migration institutions, as well as on public service and a cooperation program between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, were also signed. An action plan covering the 2025–2026 period for cooperation in supply, industry, and new technologies was endorsed. Furthermore, cooperation agreements on environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as memorandums of understanding between national broadcasting organizations and agricultural research institutes, were signed. Following the signing ceremony, the border customs checkpoints “Karamyk” and “Bordobo” between the two countries were officially opened via video conference. Leaders Spoke to the Press After Talks Speaking to the press after the talks, Japarov stated, “Today, Kyrgyz-Tajik relations are entering a new phase of development based on mutual respect, trust, and good neighborliness.”

He announced that they had agreed to facilitate border crossing procedures for citizens, including creating favorable conditions for trade and the movement of goods and services, and that the first meeting of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Intergovernmental Council would be held in Bishkek. Rahmon emphasized that they had agreed to continue cooperation in the field of hydroelectric energy and stated that the agreements signed today had strengthened the legal foundation for further expanding the full spectrum of trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian relations. **Border Agreement Signed on March 13 in Bishkek** The long-standing border dispute between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which had continued since 1991, was resolved with the signing of an agreement by the presidents of both countries on March 13 in Bishkek. The exchange of the border agreement documents took place in the city of Khujand, Tajikistan, on March 31. As a result, the disputed 486-kilometer section of the 1,006-kilometer-long border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was officially defined.

Turkish Foreign Minister Fidan: Turkish Businesspeople and Investors Are Increasing Their Investments in ASEAN Countries



Minister Fidan, who is in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur for the Seventh Trilateral Meeting of the ASEAN-Turkey Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, answered questions from Bernama TV and shared his evaluations.

Fidan emphasized that historically, relations between Malaysia and Turkey are extremely strong and robust, and stated that there are unbreakable ties between the two nations.

Hakan Fidan expressed that it is their duty to utilize these strong bonds and to enhance cooperation in all areas.

Emphasizing the importance of diplomacy between leaders, Minister Fidan noted that the leaders of the two countries have very close relations, and therefore, their bonds are also strong. Fidan stated that the close relationship between the leaders provides a foundation for foreign ministers to continue their agenda.

Fidan underlined that there are many things that can be done to improve Turkey-Malaysia cooperation and said that there are many areas in which they can act together, including technology, trade, the defense industry, and education.

"Our nearest target is 10 billion dollars"

Foreign Minister Fidan said that the trade volume between the two countries is at a level that does not reflect their friendship, stating, "We have just passed 5 billion US dollars, and our closest target is actually 10 billion US dollars. This is an area we are working on very intensively."

Fidan emphasized that ASEAN is an extremely important platform for them, stating, "ASEAN is a highly significant geography for us. Malaysia is also a very important country as an ASEAN member... It is very important that we work together and develop our relations within this framework."

When asked whether there is a specific timeline for the 10 billion dollar target, Fidan said, "If you know President (Recep Tayyip) Erdoğan, there is only one timeline, and that is yesterday. Not

even today. According to President Erdoğan, we should have already reached that 10 billion dollars yesterday. This shows us how urgent the situation is and highlights how suitable the environment is for us to develop this and increase trade."

Minister Fidan stated that investors and businesspeople in both countries need to increase their awareness and said that Malaysia has a competitive advantage in trade and investment, especially in the fields of technology and microelectronics, and that they want to benefit from this. Fidan noted that the Turkish defense industry and its companies want to take advantage of the opportunities here, and expressed that there is a lot that companies from both countries can do in third countries in terms of both traditional and renewable energy sources.

"Turkish businesspeople and investors are increasing their investments in ASEAN countries"

When asked about their plans as an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner, Fidan stated that they have a large agenda here and that they are present to identify opportunities for both sides.

Minister Fidan said, "Especially Turkish businesspeople and investors, particularly in recent years, are increasing their engagement and investments in ASEAN countries. This is a very important plus for us."

He noted that the interaction between the peoples of the two countries has increased, with Turkish citizens showing great interest in ASEAN countries, and that people from these countries are also visiting Turkey for tourism and educational purposes.

When asked how they evaluate Turkey's long-term relationship with ASEAN, Fidan emphasized that they are maintaining this relationship with a positive agenda, which gives them great support.

Highlighting that there are investment opportunities in many different fields such as the defense industry, energy, and technology, Fidan said, "Because Turkey has established a very important and

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan emphasized that they are working intensively to reach the goal of a \$10 billion mutual trade volume between Turkey and Malaysia and underlined that Turkish businesspeople and investors are increasing their investments in ASEAN countries.

solid foundation in the defense industry. Our region is indeed a troubled one. We have had to defend ourselves. However, this ASEAN region is generally one where more peaceful relations prevail. So perhaps there has not been much need to develop a defense industry here. In this sense, we can complement each other."

On the question of what Turkey and Malaysia can concretely do regarding humanitarian aid to Gaza and the reconstruction of Gaza, Fidan responded: "Unfortunately, the ongoing genocide in Gaza is truly a heartbreaking development. Events are unfolding that we will never forget—extremely painful events for all of us. This is a great failure for humanity in general, but especially a major failure for Muslims."

Fidan stated that Turkey and Malaysia have certain responsibilities regarding Gaza, noting that they are aware that Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has raised his voice concerning the oppressed Palestinians and the occupied Palestinian territories. Emphasizing that they must act shoulder to shoulder in close cooperation on this issue, Fidan said, "Because if we do not unite in the face of this kind of barbarism, one day it may come for us as well."

Fidan pointed out that coordinated pressure for the provision of humanitarian aid to Gaza is crucial, stating: "Because 2 million Gaza residents are currently being held captive, and Gaza resembles a concentration camp. It resembles a World War II-era concentration camp. The Palestinian people here are being deliberately starved and subjected to harsh conditions. All of this is happening before our very eyes. We cannot allow this to continue."

"When you have open and honest dialogue with the Trump administration, there is much you can do together"

Fidan underlined that diplomacy plays a very important role in highlighting certain agendas in relation to Western countries and especially the United States, saying: "In terms of relations with (U.S.) President (Donald) Trump, our

experience is this: When you have an open and honest dialogue with the Trump administration, there is much you can do together. That is what our experience as Turkey has shown."

On the question of how countries like Malaysia or Indonesia can be involved in the process of mediation and finding diplomatic solutions to conflicts, Fidan responded:

"As I mentioned earlier, due to the unique characteristics of our region, there are actually not many options. You either go to war, or mediation occurs. In this sense, mediation is not only in our interest but also a regional responsibility for us as a responsible country in the region."

Mediation

Fidan added that this is also a key part of President Erdoğan's foreign policy vision, which is why they try to contribute to mediation efforts in Gaza, between Israel and Iran, and between Russia and Ukraine.

Stating that they have contributed to mediation in different regions as well, Fidan emphasized that mediation is a very important diplomatic tool.

He said he works very intensively on mediation and noted that when mediation fails, military solutions and other areas bear more of the burden. He mentioned they try to implement very complex mediation technologies. Referring to the problems in Turkey's surrounding region, Fidan said that Syria, Iraq, Iran, and all of these countries have problems both domestically and internationally, and that a very complex set of problems exists in the region, all of which affect Turkey.

"Therefore, you first need to identify, examine, and apply specific diplomatic methodologies to every type of problem.



So you need to begin implementing this strategy, and the goal here is this: to first find diplomatic solutions to all existing problems... And in order to do this, you need to be transparent. You must have empathy for the other side. And our President always says this: Every solution must be a win-win solution. You cannot always think only of yourself. When conducting diplomacy, you must also focus on the interests of the other side. Otherwise, this cannot be a real solution or real diplomacy.”

“Every international system is designed by the victors”

Fidan emphasized that the global system is experiencing existential problems, saying that when a problem arises in any part of the world, it inevitably negatively affects everyone within the international system.

He recalled that the current international system was designed right after World War II, noting that there were 55 nation-states at that time, whereas today there are 193 member states registered with the United Nations (UN).

Fidan continued:“If your intention is to establish dominance over the international system and create an environment only for yourself, that is a different agenda. But if your intention and policy is to ensure that the international system treats everyone equally and fairly, to create a system where no one is left behind, then the system can also support others. Unfortunately, when we look at every international system throughout history, we see that these structures have been designed by the victorious powers. Naturally, then, these systems serve the interests of the victors. However, every time we see this, we also see that such systems have a limited shelf life.” Fidan stated that as Turkey, they are seeking an answer to the question: “How can we transform the system into one not only based on the winners' perspective but also where no one is left behind and everyone is included?” He emphasized that this forms the foundation of Turkey’s foreign policy mission.

Noting that within the current system no one wants to give up their competitive advantage, Fidan said: “Be it the veto power or being a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, these are seen as inherent rights, and no one wants to give them up. But these rights act against the interests of the rest of the international community. To be honest, my fear is this: If we do not learn from history, we may unfortunately have to endure a great conflict just to build a new international system. But as humanity, we must have learned from history. We must not repeat this mistake.” Fidan concluded by stating that although Turkey and Malaysia are located in different parts of the world, they share

the same values, and whenever their leaders, societies, and peoples find an opportunity, they immediately stand side by side.

The meeting, hosted by the Judicial and Legal Council of Azerbaijan and President of the Supreme Court Inam Karimov, was attended by Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council of Uzbekistan Halmumin Yodgorov, Chairwoman of the Council of Judges of Kyrgyzstan Aida Seidakmatova, and Member of the Supreme Judicial Council of Kazakhstan Yernar Begaliyev. Also present at the meeting were Secretary General of the OTS, Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, Vice President of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) Fuzuli Aydoğdu, and President of the Supreme Court of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Bertan Özerdag. During the meeting, the Statute of the OTS Council of Judges Network was adopted and signed by the participants.

“The greatest goal of the OTS Council of Judges Network is to make the justice vision of the Turkic world visible on a global scale.”

In his speech, HSK Vice President Aydoğdu stated that the network to be established would go beyond being just a coordination structure and would create a new synergy in many areas, from judicial ethics to professional development, the sharing of best practices, and mutual exchange of experiences. Aydoğdu said that they aim for this network to be a continuous communication and consultation platform among the relevant institutional bodies of OTS member states. He added: “It is our primary goal that the OTS Council of Judges Network provides an effective mechanism for developing joint solutions to common problems, strengthens universal principles such as judicial independence, impartiality, and transparency, and makes the justice vision of the Turkic world visible on a global scale.”

President of the Judicial and Legal Council and the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan, Karimov, stated that the OTS Council of Judges Network is an important step towards institutionalizing concrete legal cooperation between member states. Karimov said, “With the adopted statute, a legal basis will be laid for multilateral and sustainable cooperation in the field of judiciary and law among the member states. In this context, a reliable platform will be established for implementing joint projects, organizing scientific and educational programs, training judges in ethics and professionalism, conducting joint legal research, and continuous exchange of experiences. This process will make significant contributions to deepening the common legal culture of the Turkic states and promoting the principles of justice and the rule of law more broadly.”

Ankara Named Turkic World Tourism Capital for 2026



The closing ceremony of the 10th Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Tourism of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held in the garden of the Ethnography Museum in Ankara. During the ceremony, OTS Secretary General Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev delivered a speech.



Expressing his pleasure over the decision to designate Ankara as the “Turkic World Tourism Capital” for 2026, the Secretary General emphasized his belief that this decision would significantly contribute to the joint efforts to promote the shared cultural heritage of the Turkic world. In addition to the Secretary General, the Republic of Türkiye’s Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, and other senior officials also delivered speeches. They highlighted Ankara’s rich historical heritage, developed infrastructure, and symbolic significance. They underscored that this title offers a unique opportunity to widely promote Ankara’s heritage across the Turkic region.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy described Ankara as “one of our distinguished cities that reflects the collective memory of the Turkic world with its rich heritage stretching from Gordion to Anıtkabir, from the Roman Baths to CSO Ada Ankara, along with its museums, art institutions, and cultural diversity.”

He continued, “This ancient capital rising in the heart of Anatolia will now be not only the showcase of Türkiye but also the cultural and tourism showcase of the entire Turkic world.”

Ersoy emphasized that throughout 2026, Ankara will be explored together and that the values the capital holds will continue to be shared with brotherly nations.

The closing ceremony was attended by high-level representatives from OTS member and observer states. Participants also visited the exhibitions inside the Ethnography Museum. The event concluded with a concert by the Turkic World Music Ensemble.

SOURCE: VEDAT KURT



Uzbekistan wants to increase products with geographical indications to develop tourism and national brands

Uzbekistan aims to develop tourism and promote national brands by increasing the number of products with geographical indications in the country.

Known for its historical and cultural assets, various handicrafts, and unique cuisine, Uzbekistan has recently increased efforts to register products with geographical indications. Uzbek authorities aim to further develop gastronomy and cultural tourism in the country and promote national brands by increasing the number of products with geographical indications that reflect national values and cultural richness. Within this framework, the Geographical Indications Law was signed by President ShavkatMirziyoyev in February 2023.



After the law came into effect, the Ministry of Justice registered for the first time the Margilan atlas and Margilanadras silk fabrics, which have been produced for centuries in the city of Margilan in the Fergana Valley, and the Kokand knife as products with geographical indications.

In 2023, Zamin tandoor meat prepared in the Jizzakh region of the country and Gizhduvan kebab from the Bukhara region were also registered as products with geographical indications. In 2024, Guzar tandoor meat specific to the Kashkadarya region, Khorezm egg pastry, and the Chust knife and Chustdoppi (skullcap) from the Chust district in the Namangan region were designated as products with geographical indications.



More than 10 products have been registered in the country to date. This year, Sokak samsa (pastry) unique to the Sokak village near Tashkent and the Andijan doppi (skullcap) were within registered and included in the list of products with geographical indications. Additionally, Samarkand bread, Samarkand paper with a 1000-year history made from mulberry trees, and Samarkand chickpea soup from the Samarkand region were also registered with geographical indications.

Thus, as a result of the work carried out for the registration of products with geographical indications in the country over the last three years, more than 10 products have been identified in this context.

Various events are being organized to increase the number of products with geographical indications

According to the country's laws, after applying to the Ministry of Justice for the registration of products with geographical indications, a certificate regarding the registration of the product in question is issued within a month. Various seminars and conferences are organized by the Intellectual Property Center under the Ministry of Justice to expand this product list and develop its platform. In the country, fairs where these products are exhibited are also organized for the registration and promotion of products with geographical indications.

There are nearly 100 more products that can be registered with geographical indications in the country. According to information obtained from the Ministry of Justice, there are currently nearly 100 more products throughout the country that can be

registered with geographical indications, and the process and work regarding their registration are ongoing.

Among those to be registered with geographical indications are numerous products such as the Bukhara carpet, Bahmal apple, Mirzachol melon, Parkent grape, Kokand cherry, Karakalpak karauyu (tent), Khorezm melon, Khorezm rice, Altyaryk radish, and Chinaz fish. Dilmurad Aliyev, an official from the Tashkent Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emphasized in his statement that Uzbekistan stands out with its ancient historical and cultural assets, rich cuisine representing different regions, various products, and dazzling handicraft examples, noting that many of these are candidates to be registered as products with geographical indications.

Aliyev pointed out that the registration work of products with geographical indications belonging to different regions of the country is a new situation for the country, emphasizing that despite this, these efforts have rapidly increased recently, and the government provides ample support for these efforts.⁵ Dilmurad Aliyev said, "The development of the geographical indications products platform will contribute to the promotion of products from different regions, as well as the development of gastronomy and cultural tourism in Uzbekistan and an increase in the number of tourists."



The 30th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide

Commemorated with a Special Program

A commemoration program was held for the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Serbian forces brutally massacred more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians in 1995.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's video message was shown at the commemoration program held at the former battery factory used as a base by United Nations (UN) soldiers during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Turkish Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş and Head of Religious Affairs Ali Erbaş also attended the ceremony at the factory.

Speaking at the commemoration program held at the former battery factory used as a United Nations (UN) base during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kurtulmuş expressed that the recovered remains of genocide victims killed in Srebrenica were being laid to rest, saying, "We feel a deep embarrassment toward the people of Srebrenica and Bosnia and Herzegovina. We all feel this embarrassment. At the same time, as valuable members of the international community, we strive to raise our voices on every platform to address the issue of genocide and ensure that what happened in Srebrenica is not forgotten."

Kurtulmuş recalled that July 11 was declared last year as the "International Day of Remembrance and Reflection on the Srebrenica Genocide" at the UN, noting that the decision was an important step but represented a belated apology.



Indicating that efforts must be made to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future with lessons learned from Srebrenica, Kurtulmuş continued: "I would like to give meaning to this meeting by recalling the valuable words of Alija Izetbegović, the founder and wise leader of Bosnia and Herzegovina: 'Never forget the genocide, because forgotten genocide is repeated.' We have witnessed three major genocides in modern times. One is Auschwitz, another is Srebrenica, and the other is the ongoing Gaza genocide while we speak here."

Kurtulmuş emphasized that among the lessons to be learned, the first is the silence of the international community, saying: "Second, those responsible for all three genocides are the same type of people. There is no difference between Adolf Hitler, Ratko Mladić, and Benjamin Netanyahu; they are people with the same behavior. Third, ethnic cleansing has been employed in each case. These are actions established to completely destroy the people they see as enemies."

"Humanity, already crushed under the shame of Srebrenica, is being crushed even more under the shame of Gaza"

Kurtulmuş stated that the situation witnessed in Gaza after Srebrenica shows that international law exists "as text" but not "in reality," saying, "The connection between justice and truth has been broken. Justice has been captured by the powerful and turned into a toy in the hands of those with power. That is why we say that if we are to stand against genocide, we must reveal all its foundations and act together to ensure that genocide never happens again anywhere in the world."

Kurtulmuş remarked, "Today's ceremony here teaches each of us a lot. In fact, if even after 30 years only one body can be identified, consider how massive the atrocity was... While bodies are being exhumed from the mud years after the genocide was committed here, with the support of the international community, I fear that we may face the same scene in the near future."

Noting that 60,000 people have been killed in Gaza and thousands of nameless bodies could be recovered from the rubble, Kurtulmuş said, "Humanity, already crushed under the shame of Srebrenica, is being crushed even more under the shame of Gaza and remains under an even greater burden. Together, from Srebrenica, on behalf of humanity burdened by the heavy weight of all past genocides, let us be in solidarity with you valuable members of the international community who show this sensitivity to prevent all future genocides."

Kurtulmuş emphasized that the struggle put forth by the Srebrenica mothers and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be an example to everyone, saying, "Every human being is equal in creation. No human has any superiority over another for any reason. Knowing this and possessing this understanding, we will, God willing, protect all humanity's heritage."

Stating that 7 genocide victims would be buried on the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, Kurtulmuş concluded:

"I commemorate with mercy the 7 Srebrenica martyrs we will bury today, and I know that their souls are here in this hall with us. May Allah treat the Srebrenica martyrs with mercy. May He welcome them to the highest heavens and reward them as the most honorable people on earth."

Message from the Netherlands: "We could not protect Bosniak civilians"

Denis Becirović, the Bosniak member of the Presidency Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, speaking at the ceremony, stated that 30 years have passed since the war crimes committed in Srebrenica and Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying, "Thirty years have passed since the systematic



killing of civilians, their burial in mass graves, the struggle for justice to punish the perpetrators, and the building of a safer future."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his written message, stated that they stand in solidarity with the people of Srebrenica and that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, participating in the memorial ceremony via video message, stated that 30 years have passed since the genocide that shocked the world and that they will never forget what happened in those terrible days, saying, "We were with you in those days. For 30 years, we have maintained our presence to ensure security in the region, and we will continue to do so."

Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp, recalling that Bosniak civilians sought refuge with Dutch soldiers under the UN during the genocide in Srebrenica, said, "We failed to protect them. Both we and the international community. I can say that we will not forget what happened here."

Veldkamp, noting that terrible suffering is being witnessed today in Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East, said, "Of course, this cannot diminish your pain. We remember all genocide victims and express solidarity with their relatives in building a common future."

European Union (EU) Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos also stated that they have not forgotten and will not allow the Srebrenica genocide to be forgotten, saying, "Srebrenica continues to be one of Europe's deepest wounds. Our responsibility is to not forget what happened and to prevent hate speech and violence."

Solidarity message from Srebrenica mothers to Gaza mothers

Munira Subasic, President of the Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa Association, pointed out that the pain experienced by Srebrenica mothers in 1995 is now being experienced by mothers in Ukraine and Gaza. Subasic received a standing ovation at the end of her speech.

Hamdija Fejzic, Chairman of the Srebrenica Memorial Ceremony Organization Committee, stated that the pain in Srebrenica has not subsided for 30 years, saying, "Denying genocide is perpetuating genocide. Therefore, we will not remain silent. We will continue to seek justice."

The ceremony also included speeches by Graciela Gatti Santana, President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT); Rosemary

DiCarlo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals; former German President Joachim Gauck; Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen; Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard; Montenegrin Foreign Minister Ervin Ibrahimovic; Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic; European Union (EU) Council President António Costa; and Bosnia and Herzegovina High Representative Christian Schmidt.

Messages from Council of Europe Secretary General Alain Berset, Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen, Italian President Sergio Mattarella, and French President Emmanuel Macron were also read at the commemoration program.

7 genocide victims will be buried at today's funeral ceremony

Following the memorial ceremony at the factory, 7 identified genocide victims will be buried after a funeral prayer.

The youngest of the 7 victims to be buried are Senajid Avdic and Hariz Mujic, who were 19 years old when they were killed. Fata Bektic, the only woman and oldest victim to be buried this year, was 67 years old when she was killed.

The names of the 7 people to be buried today are as follows:

"Senajid Avdic, Hariz Mujic, Fata Bektic, Hasib Omerovic, Sejdaliija Alic, Rifet Gabeljic, Amir Mujic."

After this year's ceremony, the number of victims buried in the memorial cemetery will rise to 6,772.

More than 1,000 genocide victims still not found

After the occupation of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995, by Serbian forces under the command of Ratko Mladić, Bosniak civilians who took refuge with Dutch soldiers under the UN were later handed over to the Serbs.

The Serbs allowed women and children to reach the area controlled by Bosniak soldiers but massacred at least 8,372 Bosniaks in forest areas, factories, and warehouses. The massacred Bosniaks were buried in mass graves.

In the efforts initiated after the war to find the missing, victims whose bodies were recovered from mass graves are buried each year on July 11 at the Potočari Memorial Cemetery after identification.

Despite 30 years having passed, the bodies of more than 1,000 genocide victims have yet to be found.

UNICEF: Killing Families Trying to Reach Life-Saving Aid in Gaza is Inhumane

UNICEF has stated, "Killing families trying to reach life-saving aid (in Gaza) is inhumane."

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that 15 people, including children and women, were killed this morning by Israel while waiting to receive food aid in Gaza, and stated, "Killing families trying to reach life-saving aid is inhumane."

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell issued a written statement regarding the attack. Russell noted that this morning, 15 people — including 9 children and 4 women — were killed by Israel while waiting to receive food aid provided by UNICEF's partner organization "Project Hope" in Gaza, and added that 30 others were injured.

Russell emphasized, "Killing families trying to reach life-saving aid is inhumane."



She stated that this attack reflects the harsh reality many people in Gaza are facing today as a result of the months-long obstruction of sufficient aid deliveries to the region and the failure to fulfill the obligation to protect civilians. She continued:

"The lack of aid is causing children to face hunger, and the risk of famine increases with each passing day. Unless life-saving aid and services are fully restored, the number of malnourished children will continue to rise. International law is clear: All parties to the conflict are obligated to protect civilians and ensure the safe

and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance."

Russell called on Israel to urgently review its rules of engagement to ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law, which prioritizes the protection of civilians and children, and to conduct a thorough and independent investigation into this incident. Stressing that all allegations of violations must be rigorously investigated, Russell once again called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages, and for all parties to protect civilians,

children, and humanitarian aid workers.

Russell stated, "Food, water, nutrition, and medical supplies must reach children safely and without delay. The deaths and suffering of children and civilians must end."



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As World Population Exceeds 8 Billion, Declining Fertility Rates Turn into a Global Crisis

While the world population continues to grow, the global fertility rate falling below 2.3 points to a "real fertility crisis."

According to the "State of World Population 2025" report published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) titled "The Real Fertility Crisis," a large proportion of women and men worldwide are unable to achieve their goals of having their desired number of children.

A survey conducted by UNFPA and public opinion research company YouGov involving over 14,000 people in 14 countries, representing more than 37 percent of the global population, showed that individuals often have to change the ideal number of children they wish to have in their lifetime. About 18 percent of reproductive-age adults who participated in the survey reported believing they would not be able to have their desired number of children. Eleven percent of people of reproductive age said they had fewer children than they wanted, while 7 percent said they had more.

The report noted that among people over 50 who have passed their reproductive years, 31 percent said they had fewer children than desired, while 12 percent had more children than planned. Based on these data, the report determined that a significant portion of the world's population, which now exceeds 8.2 billion, is unable to achieve their fertility goals. An AA correspondent compiled the current state of the world population and regional increase and decrease trends from the UNFPA 2025 State of World Population Report on the occasion of World Population Day.

Average life expectancy has risen to 73 years in the last 50 years
According to the report, the increase in average life expectancy and the decline in fertility rates on a global scale are causing the world's population to age progressively. According to the UNFPA report, as of 2023, there are 809 million people aged 65 and over in the world. This number



is expected to reach 1.6 billion by 2050 and 2.4 billion by the end of the century. Although the aging trend has long been seen as a burden in terms of social security systems and healthcare expenditures, the report defines this group as an important segment that also "contributes economically." According to this, people over 50 contributed \$45 trillion to the global economy in 2020.

While the highest proportion of elderly population is seen in developed countries, the fastest aging trend is occurring in developing countries. It is emphasized that these countries need to prepare their healthcare, retirement, and social support systems for aging. In the last 50 years, the average life expectancy has increased from 59 to 73 years. Parallel to this development, many countries have experienced a serious decline in fertility rates. These two factors together lead to an increase in the elderly population. Individuals cannot achieve suitable living standards for reproduction As defined in the report, "reproductive agency" includes not only the right to not want children but also the capacity to want to have children and to implement this decision. UNFPA emphasized that the root of this crisis lies in the absence of suitable environments where individuals can implement their "reproductive agency." According to this, it was emphasized that people need not only the right to have children but also the capacity to make this decision in a timely, informed, and free manner. The report determined that unless this right is supported by economic stability, egalitarian social environments, and quality healthcare services, individuals' decisions to have

children are limited. In her article in the report, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem argued that policymakers should focus on creating social and economic environments where individuals can realize their own fertility preferences, rather than interventions aimed at lowering or raising fertility rates.

Africa ranks first in global population growth rate
The report indicated that Africa leads in global population growth, while Asia shows varying rates of fertility. In Europe, the trend of population decline and aging continues According to UNFPA data, there are an average of 4.3 children per woman in West and Central Africa, and 4 children in East and Southern Africa. These rates were reported to be well above the world average of 2.2. The report noted that approximately 40 percent of the population in these regions is under the age of 14, indicating an extremely young population structure in the region. The report highlighted that the proportion of elderly population is increasing in developed countries, while Africa, with its young population, is of critical importance for the future global workforce. The report found that low fertility and aging populations limit growth rates, especially in countries like India, China, Korea, and Japan, while a slight growth trend was observed in Indonesia, the Philippines, and some Southeast Asian countries. While the fertility rate per woman in the Europe and Central Asia region was

recorded as 2.1, this rate was observed to vary generally between 1.3 and 1.6 in European countries. The report stated that countries such as Germany, Italy, and Russia have a decreasing workforce and aging population, noting that these countries face challenges due to these factors.

People are forced to change their ideal number of children
The report revealed that the main factors making it difficult for individuals to achieve their fertility goals are economic insecurity, lack of access to healthcare services, inability to find a suitable partner, and gender-based division of labor at home. According to the report, 39 percent of the 10,000 participants who have children or want to have children said financial problems affected their decisions to have children, 21 percent cited unemployment and job insecurity, and 19 percent mentioned problems related to the real estate market as influencing their decisions on this matter. The report emphasized that the unequal sharing of household work, especially among individuals under 40, also causes fertility goals not to be realized, with women experiencing about twice as many problems in this regard compared to men.



Russian Foreign Ministry: Trump Administration's Statements and Actions Are Highly Contradictory

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov stated that the statements made by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration contradict their actions, saying, "Despite this, we are moving forward persistently and steadily toward improving bilateral relations."

Speaking at a press conference held in the capital Moscow, Ryabkov addressed current issues. Referring to the relations between Russia and the United States, he pointed out that the U.S. had postponed a meeting aimed at improving bilateral relations, and said, "This is a technical pause. We expect the date for the third round of consultations with the U.S. to be set as soon as possible."

He noted that the issue of the U.S. appointing an ambassador to Russia remains unresolved and that no request for an agrément has been made from the U.S. side. Ryabkov also mentioned that there had been no developments yet regarding a potential prisoner exchange with the United States.

Ryabkov stressed that the seizure of Russian diplomatic property in the U.S. is unacceptable and that they would continue to exert pressure on Washington over this issue. He added, "We are not seeing any response to our proposal to resume direct flights between the U.S. and Russia." Criticizing the U.S. administration, Ryabkov said, "The Trump administration's statements and actions are highly contradictory. This makes our work more difficult. Nevertheless, we are



moving forward persistently and steadily toward improving bilateral relations."

"BRICS is not against the United States"

Drawing attention to U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to impose an additional 10% tariff on BRICS countries and other nations adopting similar policies, Ryabkov said that they are closely following these statements and added, "There is nothing new here. We have seen such signals before." Ryabkov argued that BRICS is not against the United States and emphasized that such threatening rhetoric aimed at BRICS countries would not yield results.

"This issue needs to be addressed in bilateral talks. It should be resolved through a normal and calm dialogue. We call on the American side to do this," he said.



"We will take possible UK-France nuclear cooperation into account in military planning"

Commenting on the possibility of the UK and France deepening and coordinating their cooperation in the nuclear field, Ryabkov underlined that the nuclear potential of these countries should not be overlooked.

Indicating that such a move would be directed against Russia, Ryabkov stated, "We will take this issue into consideration not only politically but also in military planning." Ryabkov added that they would continue their initiatives aimed at stabilizing the situation around Iran and that they are in contact with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on this matter.

He said, "We made a proposal for enriched uranium to be brought from Iran to Russia for processing and use in nuclear power plants. Work is ongoing through the IAEA to find a solution to this issue."

North Macedonia and Serbia Launch Joint Border Checkpoint



A joint border checkpoint system has been implemented at the Tabanovce-Presevo Border Crossing, located between the Balkan countries of North Macedonia and Serbia. The aim is to facilitate crossings, reduce waiting times, and increase the efficiency of border controls.

A ceremony was held at the Tabanovce-Presevo Border Crossing to mark the launch of the new system. The event was attended by North Macedonia's Minister of Interior Panche Toshkovski and Serbia's Minister of Interior Ivica Dacic.

Speaking at the ceremony, Toshkovski expressed his satisfaction with the establishment of what he described as a "different border control system" at the beginning of the summer season, stating: "As the Ministry of Interior, within the scope of our authority, we are implementing a border control system that will ensure faster crossings, shorter waiting times for citizens, and improved conditions."

Dacic emphasized that simplifying the border control process is in the interest of both countries, adding: "This eliminates unnecessary waiting times for passengers when exiting the country." The agreement regarding the joint border checkpoint system between North Macedonia and Serbia was signed on May 9 in the Serbian capital Belgrade by Toshkovski and Dacic.

The joint border checkpoint system, referred to as the "One Stop Shop," aims to facilitate border crossings, reduce waiting times, and increase the efficiency of border controls. North Macedonia has also implemented a similar system with Kosovo and announced plans to establish one with Albania as well.

Zelensky: We Have a Positive Dialogue with President Trump on Patriot Systems



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that it could be possible to hold negotiations at the leadership level with Russia after the agreements reached during the negotiations held in Istanbul on June 2, hosted by Türkiye, are implemented.

Zelensky, speaking at a press conference in Rome during the Ukraine Recovery Conference hosted by Italy, said that many world leaders and high-level officials participated in the "Coalition of Volunteers" meeting.

He noted that they discussed issues such as preventing the ongoing Russian attacks on his country.

Zelensky stated that they also addressed the issue of strengthening Ukraine's air defense capabilities, noting that Germany and Norway are ready to purchase a total of three Patriot air defense systems from the United States for Ukraine.

He mentioned that he recently had a positive and productive phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump.

"We have a positive dialogue with President Trump on the issue of Patriot systems," said Zelensky, adding that following a very constructive and positive conversation with Trump, it is important that they receive all the necessary political signals to resume aid and that their teams are working to ensure everything reaches Ukraine in a timely manner.

Zelensky said, "Our intelligence and that of our allies have all the information indicating that Russia intends to prolong this war. (Russian President Vladimir) Putin is rejecting all opportunities for a real ceasefire. He does not want a genuine peace."

Reiterating his call for increased pressure through sanctions on Russia, Zelensky said, "Ukraine's defense must be strong

enough. Sanctions against Russia must also be truly strong."

In his speech, Zelensky claimed that Russia could spend \$300 billion next year on the war.

He stated that, in order to end the war, a leaders' level meeting should be held between the U.S., Ukraine, and Russia, and added that they had received offers to host such a meeting from Türkiye, Austria, Switzerland, and the Vatican. Zelensky emphasized that before any negotiations with Russia at the leadership level can be held, all prisoner exchanges and transfers agreed upon during the June 2 Istanbul talks must first be completed.

"We must complete the swaps agreed upon during the second meeting held in Istanbul. I believe the necessary steps will be implemented in the near future. Only after that can the teams discuss preparations for a leaders' level meeting," he said.

In response to a question about the emerging claims regarding Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov potentially being appointed as ambassador to the U.S., Zelensky said: "If I decide that Ukraine's representation in the United States — that is, having our key ambassador be Defense Minister Rustem Umerov — is the right step, then this will certainly lead to significant changes in the Ukrainian government, which is understandable."

Zelensky also stated that the decision to replace Ukraine's current Ambassador to the U.S., Oksana Markarova, has definitely been made.

U.S. President Trump Announces Weapons for Ukraine Will Be Sent via NATO

U.S. President Donald Trump announced that his country has reached an agreement with NATO to deliver weapons to Ukraine through the alliance, and that the costs of these weapons will be covered by NATO.



In an interview with NBC News, Trump shared details of the new agreement between the U.S., NATO, and Ukraine regarding military support to be provided to Ukraine.

Trump explained that the military ammunition sent from the U.S. would first be delivered to NATO, and then NATO would transfer it to Ukraine, saying:

"We're sending the weapons to NATO, and NATO is paying 100 percent of the cost. So essentially, the weapons are going to NATO, and NATO is then providing them to Ukraine."

Trump emphasized that the agreement was reached during the NATO Summit held last month. He noted that the same method

would apply to Patriot air defense systems as well:

"We will send the Patriot systems to NATO, and then NATO will distribute them," he said.

Commenting on the Russia-Ukraine War, Trump stated, "I'm disappointed with Russia, but we'll see what happens in the coming weeks."

Trump also announced that he would make an important statement regarding Russia on Monday, July 14. Additionally, Trump said that the U.S. plans to impose general customs tariffs ranging from 15 to 20 percent on most of its trade partners, and emphasized that the newly implemented tariffs have been received quite positively. Currently, general tariffs are applied at around 10 percent.



TRNC President Tatar: Sooner or Later, the TRNC Must Be Recognized

President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Ersin Tatar, stated that there is a structure, a reality, and a system in which people live in the northern part of Cyprus, adding, “Sooner or later, the TRNC must be recognized.”



President Tatar met with the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy on Cyprus, Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar. The meeting took place at the Presidential Complex, during which Tatar and Cuellar exchanged views on issues related to the Cyprus problem, particularly the expanded 5+1 format meeting to be held in New York on July 16–17, hosted by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Following the meeting, President Tatar held a press conference where he stated that they would approach the New York meeting constructively. He also conveyed to Envoy Cuellar their continued discomfort over the actions of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus (GCASC) regarding the arrest of individuals who purchase property in the TRNC.

Tatar explained that during the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation

Organization (ECO) held in Azerbaijan, he discussed the TRNC’s position with several heads of state and said: “From this point on, returning to the old model and a partnership under a federal framework would set us back. Unity and solidarity are essential for the success of the new two-state policy based on sovereign equality and equal international status.” Pointing out that there is a structure, a reality, and an order of life in the northern part of Cyprus, Tatar emphasized that the two-state reality is increasingly gaining recognition. Tatar also noted that it is no longer possible for the two existing structures in Cyprus to unite, and said: “Sooner or later, the TRNC must be recognized. I’m not saying ‘recognize it tomorrow morning,’ but eventually, this must be done. There is a state in Northern Cyprus. There are two states in Cyprus. Perhaps the state in the North is not recognized at the moment for various reasons. But our reality exists here.”



The Plant That Whispers with the Soil: Silent Healing

From time to time, the body grows weary, digestion slows, the mind becomes clouded. In the chaos of modern life, people forget where true healing lies. And in such moments, nature offers a quiet yet powerful answer: purslane.

Recently, I’ve been receiving many questions about herbs that may be effective in cleansing the body from parasites, intestinal worms, and similar issues. In my previous articles, I’ve covered some well-known fruits, vegetables, and herbs like pumpkin seeds, thyme, garlic, and onions. With time and opportunity, I hope to introduce many more plants in future pieces. Today, however, I want to focus on purslane — often overlooked, yet one of the most powerful natural allies gifted to us by nature.

This humble plant, which we often refer to as “growing wild in the garden” and which many rural folk pass by without much notice, is in fact one of the strongest keys to bodily cleansing and cellular renewal. It is neither as showy as a rose nor as fragrant as linden. Yet it is one of the green miracles that touches the soil most, grows with minimal human interference, and offers the greatest benefit.

For those passionate about pharmaceutical chemistry, purslane is far from an ordinary herb — it is a molecular treasure chest. The omega-3 fatty acids it contains are rarely found in plant-based sources. Apart from fish, there are very few other plants that offer such a rich amount of alpha-linolenic acid (ALA). In this sense, purslane serves as a shield for vascular health and a natural supporter of brain function.

But the true value of purslane lies in its juice. Freshly pressed purslane juice is exceptional for cleansing the inner lining of the intestines, soothing inflammation, and helping the body eliminate accumulated toxins. It contains high levels of flavonoids, glutathione, beta-carotene, and ascorbic acid — all of which help lighten the liver’s load and support the kidneys in their detoxifying role.

Among the public, it is also widely believed — and passed down through generations — that this plant weakens intestinal parasites and aids in their expulsion through the digestive tract. The betalain pigments hidden in its sap reduce oxidative stress in the body. In other words, they slow down aging, fight inflammation, and protect the cells. Thanks to these pigments, purslane also acts like armor against cancer. Its regenerative effects on intestinal cells give scientific backing to the Anatolian belief that it “brings relief to the gut.” Glutathione and vitamin C found in purslane act as shields for the immune



system’s defense army. While supporting the renewal of cells, they also strengthen the body’s resistance to external factors. Its richness in minerals such as potassium, magnesium, and calcium contributes to both heart health and bone development. Another remarkable feature is its prebiotic fiber content. These fibers support the growth of beneficial bacteria in the digestive system — a vital factor for both immunity and digestive health. Purslane offers natural balance, especially for issues like constipation, bloating, and heartburn. Some old Anatolian sources suggest that purslane leaves are more effective when harvested with the morning dew. This traditional knowledge aligns with today’s scientific findings, which show that plant compounds tend to be more concentrated in the early morning hours.

Purslane even supports mental fatigue. Some natural compounds within it are believed to have dopamine-enhancing effects, which offer calming and mood-balancing properties. Elders used to say that a simple tea brewed from this plant “softens anger” — and it seems this wasn’t merely a folk saying, but a quiet truth rooted in the plant’s nature.

Purslane is not just a leafy green. It is a potent herbal ally with a long-standing place in traditional medicine, and its benefits have been scientifically validated. Recognizing this humble yet powerful healing gift from nature is a significant step toward the balance both body and soul deeply seek.

Unfortunately, it is not sold in fancy packaging nor promoted in glossy advertisements.

But those closest to the soil know its worth. It is modest, yet profound. And often, the strongest healers walk in silence.



Azerbaijan and Armenia confirmed that negotiations without mediators are the most efficient format



Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan confirmed that bilateral negotiations without mediators are the most efficient format for resolving all issues in the normalization process.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a written statement regarding the meeting between Aliyev and Pashinyan held in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

According to the statement, the parties discussed various aspects of the normalization agenda between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The parties, confirming that bilateral negotiations without mediators are the most efficient format for resolving all issues related to the normalization process, agreed to continue result-oriented dialogues within this framework.

The leaders, evaluating the progress made in the border demarcation process, gave necessary instructions to the relevant state commissions to continue the work in this direction.

Additionally, an agreement was reached to continue confidence-building measures and bilateral talks.

According to information obtained from Azerbaijani diplomatic sources, during the Aliyev-Pashinyan meeting, which took place in a constructive atmosphere, comprehensive and in-depth exchanges of views were held on issues such as border demarcation, the opening and development of the Zengezur Corridor, and the initialing of a peace agreement



Hasan YİĞİT

The Land Remembered By The Heart: The Silent Call Of The Homeland In Yahya Kemal

When a homeland settles into a person's heart, it can never be torn out. The homeland that settled into Yahya Kemal's heart was not just the breeze of the land where he was born; he loved the scent of a civilization, the time carried by the call to prayer, the sorrow hidden in the shadow of a cypress, the curve on a gravestone. His love was not tied to a border or a map; it was bound to a time, a state of spirit, a silence. Because for Yahya Kemal, homeland was a calmness that echoed in a person's memory. The heart that trembled at the first call to prayer he heard as a child in Skopje would become the Istanbul of a lifetime. That call to prayer fell into his heart like a voice of the homeland.

People may forget some sounds, but others always remain. That first sound that stayed inside Yahya Kemal later turned into poetry. In those poems, there was neither a loud cry nor dry praise. There was a soft sorrow, a dignified devotion, and an endless longing. For Yahya Kemal, homeland was not only a place to die for, but a climate to be loved by living in it. He found the homeland in a morning call to prayer, in the stone of a mosque courtyard, in a shadow swaying over the Bosphorus in Istanbul. Can the pulse of a nation beat in the silence of a poem? In Yahya Kemal, it did. When he spoke of his nation, he would not describe crowds, but the cypresses in cemeteries. Because those cypresses showed that it was possible to speak without words. And love of the homeland could sometimes be lived without shouting.

The shade he saw under a mosque dome was, for him, a homeland descended from the sky. A pair of eyes looking at that dome carried all traces of the past. In Yahya Kemal's poetry, there is "a hill" from which he watches Istanbul. That hill is not just a piece of geography; it is his view of the past, the future, and the nation. To look at Istanbul from above is like leaning over a civilization. Every time he looked, he saw Istanbul not with his eyes, but with his heart. He did not watch the water flowing through the Bosphorus, but the memory that the water carried. Each wave carried a name, each wind brought a time. He was the poet who best understood both the weariness and the patience of a nation. When the nation was tired, his poetry became a place to lean on. When patience was needed, it became a calm. Yahya Kemal chose to write without shouting. From that silence flowed a love. His words came not from on high, but from within. The sorrow that came with the "Silent Ship" was like the ship of a nation.

For him, every port was a piece of homeland. And every farewell was a longing for the homeland. Yahya Kemal never gave up hope of one day returning to his homeland. But his homeland was not only Skopje. For him, homeland was the morning light of Istanbul, the silence on the hills of Eyüp, the curve of a gravestone in Karacaahmet. This homeland did not belong only to the living; it was also the land of the dead. That's why, in his view, homeland was the soil that gave a nation not only the right to live but also the right to die. Because homeland is what makes those left behind offer prayers. Just as a mother looks at her son, the nation looks at its land. In that gaze lies the weight of a thousand years.

He stood far from the hurried patriotism of modern times. There was no rush in him. Everything came in its own time. To love the homeland, one did not need to shout. To describe the homeland, watching a sunrise was enough. In those sunrises, Yahya Kemal saw not only the sun, but the patience of a nation. Because what we call a nation was, in fact, a shared destiny born from a thousand acts of patience. And the shadow of that destiny always fell beneath a cypress. While watching the Bosphorus, he looked not only at the water, but also at history. That water flowed from Byzantium to the Ottomans, from there to the Republic. And Yahya Kemal wrote a poem that embraced them all. Excluding none, favoring none. He carried both the pain and the pride of the nation. Yahya Kemal's homeland did not belong to a single era, nor could it be contained within a single border. His homeland was a compassion expanding over time. Sometimes a sound, sometimes a shadow, sometimes the old color of a wall.

While walking in Istanbul at dusk, he would even look at the stones beneath his feet. Because those stones carried the traces of a nation. Every step was an echo of the past. Every wind brought news from the ancestors. For Yahya Kemal, homeland was in the stone, the bird, the water. Homeland was the mercy that descended from the sky. And that mercy always touched the nation with the same dignity. He did not see the nation as an ethnic community; rather, he saw it as people who heard the same call to prayer, looked up at the same sky, and whispered the same poem. That is why there was no division in his poetry. Everyone came together in the same wind. Because what we call homeland is the gathering of many solitudes. And Yahya Kemal became a heart that united those solitudes.



Can one belong to a nation through a poem? According to Yahya Kemal, yes. Because the feeling carried by a poem could sometimes shoulder the burden that a whole country could not bear. That's why his poems were not just verses; they were letters the nation wrote to itself. Every letter was a greeting to the past, a caution to the future. In those letters, a quiet love for the homeland flowed. It did not shout, nor cry out. It simply stood still. And the place it stood was the heart of the nation. He was never a poet of speeches. His love for the homeland was quiet, elegant, and deep. He wrote as if sitting under the shade of a plane tree. The trunk of the tree was history, its shade the nation, its roots the homeland. He wrote poems so that the nation would remember itself. He formed verses so that even when the homeland was silent, it could still speak. And he kept silent — so the voice of the nation could be heard. While walking through a cemetery, he could see the homeland even in the space between the stones. Because those spaces carried the echoes of lives gone but not forgotten. Homeland meant not forgetting. And Yahya Kemal was the one who expressed remembrance in the most beautiful way. He lived like the memory of a nation that never forgets.

To love the homeland is sometimes like standing in sorrow at the end of a poem. In Yahya Kemal's poetry, the homeland never ends — it only falls silent. That silence is something no other nation can understand. But we understand it, because we grew up with that poem. We walked through it. And we remained in it. While Yahya Kemal lived, he wrote a homeland for this nation. That homeland was not on a map; it was a place in the heart. That is why his homeland never died. Every generation found it anew. Maybe they never went to Skopje, but they felt the morning of Skopje through his poetry. Maybe they never climbed the hills of Eyüp, but they felt the silence there thanks to Yahya Kemal. And every feeling is a homeland.

To love the homeland is not only to fight for it; it is to feel the awakening of the nation in the coolness of a morning. Yahya Kemal wrote that coolness — so that a nation could awaken once more.



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