

Istanbul teams must learn from Lucescu as Shakhtar takes home last UEFA Cup



09



04



TİKA boss Musa Kulakhkaya: Turkey to boost international standing through aid projects

EU pressure on Turkey to open ports to Greek Cyprus not in good faith, says Foreign Minister Davutoğlu

# TODAY'S ZAMAN

YOUR WAY OF UNDERSTANDING TURKEY

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Swine flu patients released from hospital page05

## AK Party can boost electoral support by healing economy, latest poll shows

MUSTAFA EDİB YILMAZ, ANKARA

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) can win back the support it lost in the March 29 local elections and garner even more support than it received in the 2007 general elections if it can repair Turkey's crisis-stricken economy and reverse the damage done so far, according to a recently released poll.

A report summarizing the findings of a poll conducted by the MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center said allegations that the AK Party is pursuing policies against the secular character of the state are not the cause

of the party's loss of popular support in the recent elections, even for those who voted for the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP). According to the report, voters primarily cited the ongoing global financial crisis, unemployment and a general decline in economic welfare in Turkey as reasons for the AK Party's failure to receive as many votes as it did in the 2007 general elections. The party secured 46.7 percent of the nationwide vote in the 2007 elections, but it received only 39 percent of the vote in the recent local elections.

The MetroPOLL research team, led by Professor Özer Sencar and Dr. Sitka Yıldız, carried

out the study mainly to understand the public's response to the outcome of the recent elections. The study also aimed to discover what the public thinks about the initiatives taken by the CHP to get closer to conservatives and religious voters and the country's efforts to join the EU.

According to the study, the AK Party was seen as both the biggest winner and the biggest loser in the recent elections. The researchers concluded that the AK Party is regarded as the party that gained the most because it was still the biggest political party and its share of the nationwide vote was almost equal to the sum of the shares of its two biggest rivals, the CHP and Nationalist

Movement Party (MHP). However, it was also the party that lost the most because its share of the vote declined by around 8 percent.

Poll respondents primarily cited economic problems as the underlying cause of the AK Party's loss of support. While those who cited the global economic downturn, unemployment levels and other economic problems as the reasons behind the ruling party's diminished support made up 41 percent of all the poll's respondents, only 5.1 percent said the AK Party lost support because of anti-secular policies or because the public had lost its trust in the government. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

PHOTO: TURKUT ENGIN

## BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO IMPROVING TURKEY TIES

DANIEL MCINTOSH, ISTANBUL

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is confident that Turkey is a country of the utmost importance for the world but it is upset that relations between Turkey and Brazil are not as strong as desired, which is why, he said, he was paying an official visit to the country.

The president, who visited Turkey to attend the Turkey-Brazil Business Forum organized by the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), spoke to Today's Zaman yesterday in Istanbul to share his opinions on a variety of issues. He

was accompanied by the Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim.

Da Silva explained the recipe used to overcome the varying challenges that his nation had experienced in recent years and how the huge potential of business relations between Brazil and Turkey remain largely untapped. As cargo ships make their way through the magnificently sunny Bosphorus backdrop to Istanbul's Ciragan Palace, President Da Silva's visit marks a historical event; the first visit since that of the Emperor of Brazil, Peter II to the Ottoman Empire in 1876. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**



PHOTO: DAY

## CARNAGE IN IRAQ AS BOMBS KILL 60 IN JUST TWO DAYS

Suicide bombers killed at least 19 people in Iraq on Thursday in separate attacks in Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk, security officials said, underscoring the fragility of Iraq's security gains. In the latest attack, a suicide bomber struck at a crowded market in the south Baghdad district of Doura, killing 12 people and wounding 25 others, police said, adding that three US soldiers were also killed. The US military could not immediately confirm this. Earlier on Thursday, a bomber dressed in a security forces uniform mingled with Sunni Arab anti-insurgent militiamen in Kirkuk as they made their way to an army building to be paid, before triggering a vest packed with explosives. The blasts come hours after a car bomb killed 40 civilians and wounded over 70 others in Baghdad's poor, mostly Shiite district of Shula late on Wednesday, police said. **STORY ON PAGE 10**



Abdullah Gül

PHOTO: DA LI UNAL

## ÇİÇEK SAYS DEBATES ON GÜL'S IMMUNITY WILL HARM TURKEY

ALİ ASLAN KILIÇ, ANKARA

A top government minister has said a debate over the political immunity of President Abdullah Gül will not serve any good purpose for Turkey, in an effort to bring an end to heated discussions over whether the president should be put on trial in a decade-old fraud case.

"Whose benefit would it serve to open a debate on the political immunity of the president? Such a debate will harm Turkey and its image," government spokesperson and Deputy PM Cemil Çiçek told

Today's Zaman yesterday, in the wake of a recent controversial ruling by an Ankara court ordering Gül to stand trial. The high criminal court in Ankara's Sincan district ruled on Monday that the president be put on trial in a past fraud case, known as the "lost trillion case." Though the ruling is unlikely to affect the president in the short term, it heightened political tensions between the government and the secularist opposition and was interpreted by many as an attempt to sabotage efforts led by Gül to resolve Turkey's long-standing Kurdish issue. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**

05 intelligence

## MIT Undersecretary Taner to keep post until end of year

National Intelligence Organization (MIT) Undersecretary Emre Taner's term in office has been extended by six months, enabling him to remain in the position until December. The undersecretary's tenure would normally end on June 15.

11 security

## FBI says plot to bomb Jewish temple in NY foiled; 4 charged

Four men arrested in the US on charges of plotting to bomb a Jewish temple and shoot down military planes appeared in federal court in White Plains, New York. Officials said the arrests came after a nearly yearlong undercover operation.

07 opinion

## Europe's energy security still far off

The Nabucco pipeline plan to reduce Europe's reliance on Russia by bringing gas from the Caspian and Middle East across Turkey could be kick started by a deal signed last weekend to get gas from Iraq.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We will not witness another incident like the one in 1994. We will solve our problems through normal channels.  
Interior Minister Beşir Atalay

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

We say to the superpowers: "Who of you dare to threaten the Iranian nation? Raise your hand!" But they all stand there with their hands behind their backs.  
Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

## WORDS OF WISDOM

War is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.  
Thomas Mann

## COLUMNS

## Gül's statement could alter political horizons

RADİKAL MURAT YETKİN



President Abdullah Gül made an important statement yesterday that could wind up freeing the blockages that currently exist on the topic of political immunity in Turkey and that could also shift political balances over the next few years. Not only did Gül's statement add a new dimension to this debate, it also employed the following words to open new doors on the subject of political immunity in Turkey in general:

1. Gül said he "had no hesitation when it comes to being tried as part of the fulfillment of due process."

This means that if the Supreme Court of Appeals gives its nod of approval, Turkey will, for the first time ever, witness the sight of an acting president heading to court to testify and thus become part of the judicial process.

2. Gül also said this topic had arisen when he served as foreign minister and that there had been a request for him to appear in court, but that "under the conditions in place then, immunity was viewed differently and so that never took place." This brings up the question of what sort of changes have occurred to the conditions that guide our perspectives on the political immunity of figures such as the president.

## Artists march

SABAH NAZLI ILLICAK



When the topic at hand is really the strength of justice in the nation, then we applaud the artists. But this particular march was, unfortunately, perceived by many as sending a message of support to those arrested in the Ergenekon investigation. The reason for this perception is that these same people protesting their artistic sensitivity to infractions of justice and freedom of thought failed to show similar reactions in previous cases where freedoms were clearly trampled. Why was there no reaction of artistic sensitivity during the trials of people like Hrant Dink, Öhan Pamuk, Elif Şafak and Perihan Magden, or when *Nokta* magazine was forced to shut down?

Speaking on Reha Muhtar's CNN Türk program, Lale Mansur talked about why she didn't participate in the recent march, noting that Turkey had been polarized into camps and that every thought expressed out loud by people led to them being labeled as one type or another.

## What does Davutoğlu think about the EU?

STAR MUSTAFA KARAALOĞLU



There has generally been a warm welcome to Professor Ahmet Davutoğlu's appointment to the position of foreign minister. In fact, you could even say that some factions were positively joyful at this appointment. I joined the delegation heading to the Turkey-EU Partnership Council in Brussels with Davutoğlu. It was a visit that took place in light of recent criticism that in fact Davutoğlu is more interested in the Middle East than in Europe when it comes to his foreign policy leanings. But the tableau appears to be completely the opposite. In fact, contrary to keeping a distance between himself and the European Union, Davutoğlu carries a very strong EU perspective with him. What we are seeing now under Davutoğlu is the creation of an all-encompassing EU program, planned line by line all the way up to the elections.

## CROSS READER

## REPERCUSSIONS OF WRONGFUL COURT RULING ON GÜL

A recent ruling by an Ankara court ordering President Abdullah Gül to stand trial in a decade-old fraud case has not only heightened political tensions between the government and the secularist opposition but also spurred intellectuals to decode the motives behind it. According to some, secularist circles are doing their utmost to remove Gül from the presidency, using what is probably their last chance to this end. For others, the court ruling aims to sabotage efforts led by the president to resolve Turkey's long-standing Kurdish question. Regardless of the real motive, what intellectuals agree on is that the Ankara court overstepped its authority, defying a clear article of the Constitution which stipulates that presidents cannot be tried for anything other than treason.

Erme Aköz, a Sabah daily columnist, claims that the real motive behind the ruling is to hinder a solution to the decades-old Kurdish problem. "A possibility for a solution of the Kurdish problem clearly stands before Turkey. There are, however, some who do not want it to be solved, and yet others, like President Gül, who are determined to solve it. Gül made significant steps toward a solution. He is striving to pioneer the solution. But an unusual court ruling, which came amid such an atmosphere, aims to prevent or at least slow down the path to a solution," he says. Aköz also draws attention to another impact of the ruling, indicating that the wrongful ruling has carried debates on the "independence and impartiality of the judiciary" back to the agenda. "What they hope to do is to put Gül on trial and punish him, even if it is against the Constitution. This is not only the case for Gül. They are hoping to do the same for everyone who does not share their ideology. And, if the judiciary is impartial and totally independent, they will not reach their aims. Thus, their greatest wish is to make the judiciary entirely dependent and partial," Aköz writes.

Radikal's Hasan Celal Güzel agrees, saying the ruling revealed the interference of politics in the judiciary. He recalls previous attempts to prevent Gül from being elected president, including the notorious 367 quorum for the presidential election, a formula invented by former Supreme Court of Appeals President Sabih Kanadoğlu to that end. "Now they are trying to stain the image of the president by calling him a 'suspect.' Article 105 of the Constitution is very clear. According to this article, presidents cannot be put on trial for any reason other than treason. You may or may not like the president, but you have to respect him. And so do judicial bodies and courts," Güzel remarks.

According to Ahmet Kecek of the Star daily, the Ankara court's ruling damaged the credibility and trust of judges. "The esteemed judge committed a crime. He abused his authority. His calling the president a suspect has aggravated his crime. Even jurists famous for their hard-line secularism are disturbed by the ruling. They believe the ruling aims to wear down the president. I don't know if it is the case, but what I am most struck by is a statement by the judge who issued the ruling. He said everyone should trust the judges. He is right. We should trust the judges. But the history of the Republic of Turkey is full of wrongful rulings by judges which have weakened our faith in the judiciary," Kecek notes.

## PRESS ROUNDUP



PHOTO: DAA

The father of an imam who was killed in a vicious armed attack in the village of Bilge in the southeastern province of Mardin earlier this month paid a visit to the village on Wednesday to share the grief of people who lost their loved ones in the assault. The attack on an engagement ceremony in Bilge on May 4 resulted in the deaths of 44 people and the injury of two others.

**RADİKAL:** "I don't have the slightest concern regarding the case," read the top headline yesterday, referring to remarks by President Abdullah Gül in response to a recent ruling by an Ankara court ordering him to stand trial in a decade-old fraud case. "I don't have the slightest worry about being put on trial when due process takes its course and if the claims are proven true," Gül stated. The ruling, which comes at a time when the president is engaged in efforts to pave the path to a solution to the years-long Kurdish question, has drawn the ire of jurists, who say it runs against the Constitution, which stipulates that presidents cannot be tried except for treason.

**BUGÜN:** The daily claimed in its lead story yesterday that the judge who ordered Gül be put on trial also previously demanded that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan be tried for calling Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed

leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), "esteemed Öcalan." The judge also made his way into the indictment of a clandestine criminal organization known as Ergenekon for his close contacts with suspected Ergenekon members. According to the Ergenekon indictment, the judge received a congratulatory message from Kemal Kerinçsiz, a lawyer currently under arrest for Ergenekon membership, when he called for Erdoğan to be tried for referring to Öcalan as "esteemed."

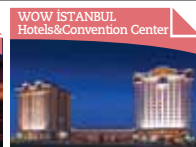
**STAR:** The daily devoted its front-page story yesterday to 20-year-old Baran Tursun, who was gunned down by a police officer last year for refusing to stop despite the officer's warnings. The police officer, against whom the prosecutor was seeking up to 25 years in prison for willful or first-degree murder, was sentenced to two years in jail instead. Tursun's father said the ruling did not help ease his sorrow.



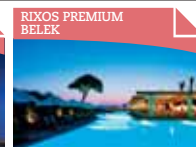
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# Kızılay stages earthquake drill

MÜKREMIN ALBAYRAK İSTANBUL

The Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) held an earthquake drill yesterday in Istanbul's Bağcılar district as part of its Organizing Society's Leaders project. More than 100 people were involved in the preparation and practice phases of the drill, observed by such high state officials as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Istanbul Governor Muammer Güler, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Kadir Topbaş and Istanbul Chief of Police Celalettin Cerrah.

Speaking before the drill, Erdoğan said Turkey had in the past suffered heavily from earthquakes and that the government is looking for ways to reduce injuries and damage to a minimum through preparations such as this drill. Kızılay President Tekin Küçükali said yesterday's exercise was unmatched in scope and content.

Following the speech, an alarm sounded to announce a magnitude 6.5 earthquake. The Kızılay disaster operations and aid unit asked all Kızılay branches to dispatch teams to the area of the simulated disaster. Medical teams treated the wounded upon arrival. The drill ended once ambulances had taken all the injured to nearby hospitals.



The Turkish Red Crescent held an earthquake drill in Istanbul as part of its Organizing Society's Leaders project.

PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN; TURKUT ENGİN

## ERGENEKON, LIES AND ANTI-SEMITISM

Based on recent developments, one can safely argue that while Ergenekon has received a major blow from the ongoing investigation and trial process, the organization is still capable of making decisions, remaining under the control of its upper management and conducting operations. The Ergenekon network -- whose foot-steps can be seen overlapping with those of the Turkish deep state on several occasions -- has, it seems, increased its activities recently.

Yes, it is true that, thank God, we do not see bombs exploding very often, as was the case in the past, and that we do not wake up in the morning to find that some distinguished figures have been killed in inexplicable murders. Nor do we witness bloodshed in provoked social incidents, as was also the case in the past. Nevertheless, the reintroduction of the infamous Republican Rallies, despite some cosmetic changes, the tear-jerking media campaign waged over the death of Türkân Saylan and, most importantly, the attempt to raise suspicions about President Abdullah Gül, who recently hinted about radical steps concerning the settlement of the Kurdish issue, by removing old case files from dusty shelves and triggering a controversial judicial process, all bear signs of the insidious modus operandi of Ergenekon. Of course, much more important than all of this, there are animated efforts to influence the international arena by distorting the facts about the ongoing investigation and suggesting that the investigation targets innocent civilians or ordinary opponents of the government, not a network that resorts to terrorism.

With logistical, financial and intellectual support from the Republican People's Party (CHP), the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), the Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (TÜSİAD) and the Doğan Group, a campaign is being conducted against the Ergenekon investigation in a vast geographical expanse ranging from Azerbaijan to Germany and from Brussels to Washington. Of course, everyone is free to report the facts as they see them. We can raise no objection to such efforts. But if lies are being pushed instead of facts and if distorted facts are being disseminated, serious problems will emerge.

In particular, articles decorated with lies penned by emergent authors who have been making public appearances for some time in influential international publications cannot have gone unnoticed. One such author is definitely Soner Çağaptay from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Çağaptay offers us a good example of the abovementioned overlapping foot steps. Whenever a libelous campaign is waged in the international media with his contributions, Çağaptay is automatically rewarded by the infamous media group. For instance, in return for his outstanding performance in this smear campaign, he was rewarded with a column at the Doğan Group's Hürriyet Daily News. An interesting form of payment, I must acknowledge.

As we have already pointed out the lies and errors in his article in the latest issue of Newsweek in our paper, I will mention instead



how Çağaptay is trying to pass off neo-nationalist fascists as liberals, coup supporters as democratic opposition and those who killed Hrant Dink, threatened to kill Orhan Pamuk and conducted the Council of State attack as innocent people victimized by the Ergenekon investigation. I will not touch on his contradictions in turning a blind eye to the weapons and arsenals seized during the investigation, but blindly arguing that it aims only to repress the opposition. What I wish to underline is why a reputed magazine, Newsweek, which is so picky about its reliability and credibility, and other reliable publication, such as The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, are willing to publish Çağaptay's articles, which are rife with so many lies that can cause the reputations they have built through years of labor to tumble. This is what I had difficulty understanding. How can Çağaptay secure space for his frequent ravings in these influential publications?

On this point, what a friend of mine who is well informed about "who's who" behind-the-scenes in the US told me is really eye opening. My friend stressed that the publications where Michael Rubin and his ilk make frequent public appearances have the common characteristic of being close to the Israeli lobby in the US and that without continued support from this lobby, such openly defamatory articles could not be published so frequently in so many well-known papers. Given the fact that the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where Çağaptay works, is also close to the Israeli lobby, we should give some credence to this claim.

Perhaps the best part of the era we currently live in is that nothing remains a secret forever. Everything is disclosed sooner or later. Thus, shadowy relations, destructive partnerships and libelous propaganda are all eventually disclosed to the public. Those who today lend concealed support to the sordid lies of people like Çağaptay will have to take responsibility for the justified reactions that will emerge from Turkey when their collaboration is revealed in the future. If you continue to provide those who conduct campaigns of lies with new means to wage their war with raised voices, then you must accept the possible criticisms you will draw because of this attitude that leads to anti-Semitism. No, this is not acceptable.

Please listen to a piece of advice from me. Come to your senses. When the outcome of the lies and defamatory campaigns you sponsor today starts to take its toll on you, you will not have the right to complain. Those who lend logistical and moral support to this filthy campaign should be aware of the fact that they are inciting anti-Semitic sentiment in this country and perhaps the entire Muslim world. This is our advice. If they still continue to do what they currently do, then they will pay the price.



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## University seeks to break dance record with kolbastı

Karadeniz Technical University's Karadeniz Usaklan Kolbastı group aims to break a world record by taking 340 steps in a minute while performing kolbastı, a popular regional folk dance.

The artistic director of the group, Assistant Professor Engin Erşen, told the Anatolia news agency that kolbastı has recently become increasingly popular in Turkey. Describing kolbastı as a "dance of passion and energy," Erşen said: "Kolbastı is an extremely dynamic dance which also has philosophical and aesthetic aspects. We wanted to make it more energetic so we conduct-

ed studies of it; we are determined to make it the most energetic dance in the world." Erşen added that they have rearranged the dance to produce 340 steps per minute. "We will break the record of being the fastest group employing sound and reliable steps. There will be five people performing the dance at a time," he said.

He further argued that kolbastı is good for stress. "It has antidepressant characteristics. People who dance kolbastı are free from stress, and those who watch it feel energized. Even experts recommend it to combat depression." **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires

# Ankara sees momentum in international efforts on Karabakh

EMINE KART ANKARA

Turkey has been observing a "stirring" along with intensified efforts within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group of countries mediating the talks between Yerevan and Baku for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

On Monday, Bernard Fassinier of France, one of the three co-chairpersons of the OSCE Minsk Group, held several meetings in Ankara, including one with Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, the under-secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was Fassinier's first visit to the Turkish capital in his capacity as a co-chairperson of the OSCE Minsk Group -- a post he assumed in 2004. The other two co-chairpersons are Ambassador Yuri Merzlyakov of the Russian Federation and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza of the United States.

"In the Caucasus, there are two ongoing processes: the Minsk process and Armenia and Turkey's negotiations for normalization of their bilateral relationship. There is a stirring within the Minsk

process, and all three co-chairpersons from France, Russia and the United States have been exerting intense efforts in reaching a resolution regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. These efforts are definitely noteworthy, and we strongly support these efforts," a senior Turkish diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Thursday.

The Turkish diplomat's remarks, as well as Fassinier's talks in Ankara following his meetings in Baku and Yerevan, came days after the ongoing Turkish-Armenian reconciliation process appeared to encounter problems last week; Armenian leaders criticized Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during a visit to Baku, for making the normalization of ties with Armenia conditional on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, and urged him not to interfere in the settlement process.

"The Caucasus should not be considered solely from the aspect of being a rich resource of energy. We are talking about a geography between Europe and Asia -- the two continents which are constantly expanding -- and a geography next to the Black Sea. Issues are multilateral issues in this geography, thus

stability of this region matters globally," the same diplomat said, while noting that it would be optimistic to expect full regional stability and peace in the Caucasus before the next three to five years.

"Regarding the recognition of the alleged Armenian genocide; these allegations will continue keeping us busy for a while, and Turkey's approach in the Caucasus is the best possible approach for dealing with this issue," the diplomat said.

## 'Upcoming UN stirring within Cyprus negotiations'

On Monday in Ankara, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's special adviser on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, met with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu. Officials at the Foreign Ministry said the meeting was part of regular consultations between Ankara and the UN on the Cyprus issue.

Recalling Downer's visit to Ankara, the senior diplomat first of all noted that the UN has been involved in the "pressing process," within the ongoing negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

"The Greek Cypriot side is not warm towards the implementation of the well-established UN parameters, which are bi-zonality and the political equality of the two parties and a new partnership that will be established by two equal, constituent states, although [Greek Cypriot leader Dimitris] Christofias has been assumed as a reconciling leader. The Greek Cypriot leader is trying to impose new interpretations on the negotiation process. They even tend to undermine parameters of the Annan plan, which is already a part of the well-established UN parameters," the diplomat said, referring to a reunification plan prepared under the aegis of previous UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"The Greek Cypriot side has a tendency to deviate from UN plans. In the upcoming three or four months, I expect a stirring at and from the UN front. Mr. Talat has already proven his loyalty to the UN parameters and process. If this stirring takes place, then no EU review may be necessary," the diplomat added, referring to the fact that the EU had decided in 2006 to review progress regarding the opening of Turkish ports to Greek Cypriot vessels in 2009.

## Gül to visit Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan next week

President Abdullah Gül will start a tour of Central Asia next week, visiting Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Gül is scheduled to visit Kyrgyzstan, where he will meet with President Kurmanbek Bakayev and other officials, on June 26-28 and proceed to Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, for his next stop.

Economic cooperation and expanding business ties are expected to be the main focus of Gül, who will be accompanied by a group of businessmen on his Central Asia trip. Reports in the Tajik media said Gül and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon will discuss ways to increase the existing trade volume between the two countries. He will also meet Turkish businessmen operating in Tajikistan.

Turkey is one of Tajikistan's major trade partners. The trade volume between the two countries stood at \$500 million in 2008, nearly 11 percent of Tajikistan's total foreign trade volume. This is Gül's first visit to the two Central Asian nations since being elected president in 2007. **Istanbul Today's Zaman**

## Official denies Baku shutting down Turkish mosques

A government official has denied media reports that Azerbaijan is closing down mosques built by Turkey's Directorate of Religious Affairs.

During a meeting with Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Hulusi Kılıç this week, Hidayet Orucov, the head of Azerbaijan's state committee for religious institutions, said he had made several statements stating that reports to that effect were not true, the Anatolia news agency reported yesterday. In his earlier statements, Orucov said Azerbaijani authorities were only closing buildings that were built and operate as mosques illegally.

But Anatolia also said a Turkish mosque, built by the Religious Affairs Foundation, an affiliate of the Directorate of Religious Affairs, was about to be closed by Azerbaijani authorities. Officials at the İlahiyat Mosque said they were notified by Azerbaijani officials that the mosque, operational since 1996, was illegal and will therefore be closed following today's Friday prayer.

Kılıç met with Orucov to discuss the issue after hearing reports about the İlahiyat Mosque.

Azerbaijan demolished a mosque last month, saying the building was not officially registered and that its architecture was incompatible with Azerbaijani architecture. Another Religious Affairs Foundation mosque, the Şehitlik Mosque, has been closed since last month, with authorities saying it is under renovation.

The mosque controversy comes as Azerbaijan protests Turkey's efforts to reconcile with Armenia without any Armenian concession on its Nagorno-Karabakh dispute with Azerbaijan. Turkey closed its border with Armenia in 1993 in a show of solidarity with Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. But Ankara and Yerevan announced last month that they had reached a framework agreement to normalize relations. **Istanbul Today's Zaman**

## EU lends support to Turkey's measures to combat torture

The European Union and Turkey have launched new training activities to offer instruction to 4,000 physicians and 1,500 judges and prosecutors throughout Turkey in correctly identifying and processing torture cases.

The program, which is part of a 2.7 million euro EU-funded project that aims to improve the assessment of suspected torture cases, was launched yesterday at an event held in Ankara. Members of Turkey's Council of Forensic Medicine and the Turkish Medical Association were present at the event, as was Tibor Varadi, deputy head of the delegation of the European Commission to Turkey.

The Council of Forensic Medicine has already instructed 250 Turkish judges on the proper documentation of the findings of physicians in torture cases and the appropriate legal interpretation of such medical reports. These judges will train their colleagues in the forensic field.

"Torture and ill-treatment are among the most appalling violations of human rights and human dignity. Combating torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading punishment or treatment forms a priority of European Union work. Respect for human rights is therefore a prerequisite for countries seeking to join the union. I am therefore delighted that we can support Turkey in this respect," Varadi said.

The training will be based on the manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, also known as the Istanbul Protocol. It forms the internationally recognized basis for the effective examination of alleged torture cases. Drafted by more than 75 Turkish and international experts on law, health and human rights, the manual was initiated by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (THV) in 1997 and became an official United Nations document in 1999. **Ankara Today's Zaman**

# DAVUTOĞLU: EU'S CYPRUS PRESSURE NOT IN GOOD FAITH

Ankara reaffirmed its full support for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) during the new KKTC foreign minister's first official visit to the Turkish capital and said pressure from the European Union on Turkey to open its ports and airports to traffic from Greek Cyprus was not an act of good faith.

"Given the fact that promises given to Turkish Cyprus by the international community, the United Nations and the European Union are clearly evident and given the fact that none of these promises have been kept, efforts to put pressure on Turkey do not comply with the principle of good faith," Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said at a joint news conference with his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Hüseyin Özgürün, after talks in Ankara. "For us, a permanent and comprehensive resolution to the Cyprus issue is fundamental. As for Turkey's EU process, it is a process which should be carried out within its own nature and within the framework of promises given to us, well-established traditions and customs," Davutoğlu said, when reminded by a journalist of the fact that the EU had decided in 2006 to review progress regarding the opening of Turkish ports to Greek Cypriot vessels in 2009.

The current traditional cooperation between Ankara and Lefkoşa will continue as before, Davutoğlu said at the press conference following their talks at the Foreign Ministry, while noting that the opening of representative offices in third countries should be a priority to internationally publicize the KKTC.

Displaying an understanding of a bi-zonal unit based on two-states as a "must" for a resolution on the divided island of Cyprus, Davutoğlu underlined the importance attached by Ankara to the intensification of ongoing UN-led reunification negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders. The United Nations "is exerting efforts which are extremely well-intentioned," Davutoğlu said, underlining close contacts between Ankara and the UN to reach a resolution in the Cyprus dispute.

The Cyprus problem erupted after the eastern Mediterranean island was granted independence from Britain in 1960, soon followed by an outbreak of inter-communal clashes in 1963. The island was ethnically divided between a Greek south and a Turkish north when the



The new Turkish Cypriot foreign minister, Hüseyin Özgürün (L), speaks at a press conference with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoğlu, after talks in Ankara.

Turkish military intervened in 1974 under the terms of the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee after diplomacy failed to end unrest on the island.

In 1983 the KKTC unilaterally declared its independence, though it remains recognized only by Ankara. In 2004 Turkish Cypriots backed a UN settlement plan that Greek Cypriots voters rejected. Greek Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 as a divided island, with Turkish Cypriots being denied the bloc's membership benefits.

But prospects of progress were raised by

repeated commitments made in September 2008 by Greek Cypriot leader Dimitris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat toward finding a solution and resumed negotiations for reunification.

The two leaders have so far completed discussions on the issues of administration and share of power, property and EU affairs during 29 rounds of talks. Past efforts to reach a settlement have been scuttled by disagreement on issues including power sharing, property rights for Greek Cypriot refugees and the nature of a future federation.

Özgürün underlined that "motherland" Turkey's guarantorship is a "sine qua non,"

for Turkish Cypriots. "There is peace in the KKTC. It was brought by the Turkish Armed Forces [TSK] in 1974," Özgürün said.

Davutoğlu, meanwhile, also voiced an expectation of receiving contributions from the other two guarantor states to the resolution of the Cyprus issue. He said he hoped to hold talks with his Greek counterpart, Dora Bakoyannis, in the coming period.

Turkey wants a resolution "at once" and, if possible, before the end of 2009. Davutoğlu replied when asked whether he considered reaching a resolution of the Cyprus issue before the end of this year was possible. **Ankara Today's Zaman**

# Armenian activist says women can contribute to peace

YONCA POYRAZ DOĞAN YEREVAN

As the Turkish and Armenian leaders work to normalize relations between their countries, there are other contacts taking place at the civil society level, and one of them relates to the problems of women.

"If the borders open, we can have solidarity with Turkish women," said Emma Mirzabekyan from the Women's Resource Center, the only center in Yerevan dealing with the problems of women.

"We have the same problems, after all," she said, referring to such issues as violence and low levels of political representation.

Despite her young age, the 23-year-old Mirzabekyan said she has already seen too many

problems, which include violence against women.

"I have seen women being beaten by their husbands and I have seen women who died because of domestic violence," she said, adding, "That's why I've chosen this area of work."

There are no reliable crime statistics in Armenia regarding domestic violence, although women play a big role in this society, in which two out of three people are women, according to the 2001 census. Mirzabekyan said the former Soviet Union provided a social system with such assurances as universal health coverage and housing, but there were no women in the government. After the 2008 elections, five women deputies were elected to the 165-seat parliament. There is also a

female minister heading the Ministry of Diaspora.

"Since the time of Armenian independence, women have started to take more places in the economic life of the country," she said, pointing out that the economic problems of the country have grown since Armenia's independence from the Soviet Union and the devastating earthquake in 1988, which forced men to leave the country to seek work outside. Some of them returned, some did not, and women increasingly entered the working world, first in the unregistered economy, then more in the professional sectors. The employment rate of women currently stands at 35 percent in Armenia, compared to 25 percent in Turkey. Mirzabekyan said the Armenian government has signed international agreements regarding

women's rights and has adapted its civil code to international norms, but the practice does not yet translate into reality, also a problem in Turkey.

Representatives from about 20 nongovernmental organizations from Turkey were in Yerevan last month to discuss various issues with their Armenian counterparts.

"There were also women's organizations' representatives, and we discussed our problems," she said, adding that they have discovered similar problems although these were initial contacts. She also said Armenian and Azerbaijani women had peace-building workshops in Istanbul and Tbilisi regarding the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Azerbaijani territory under Armenian occupation.

# Human rights ombudsmanship to be established, says Çiçek

ERCAN YAVUZ ANKARA

Government spokesperson and Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek has said that a bill establishing a human rights ombudsmanship will soon be presented to Parliament. If the bill is passed, human rights agents will be able to carry out inspections in public institutions. The draft law was opened for signature at Monday's Cabinet meeting. The new legislation will restructure the Human Rights Presidency of the Prime Ministry and establish the ombudsman-like Executive Board, which will operate autonomously.

Çiçek told Today's Zaman that the present institution comprising 25 members of staff from various public institutions and universities does not work efficiently. The deputy prime minister said that if the bill is passed in Parliament, it will fulfill Turkey's long-running pursuit of a resolution to the issue. "With the draft we prepared, the Human Rights Presidency will have an Executive Board which will comprise 11 members. These members will be selected by the Cabinet for a term of seven years and will be civil society representatives, academics and bureaucrats. They



Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek

will work autonomously, and the institution will not be dependent on the Prime Ministry," said Çiçek, adding that the establishment of such a body has also been mentioned several times in the European Union's annual progress reports.

**Move unprecedented in Turkish history**  
The Human Rights Presidency will be the first of its kind with its new structure because no other institution in which bureaucrats and civil society representatives work together has previously been established in the Turkish state.

The institution will form commissions to investigate human rights violations if necessary. These commissions will comprise public employees as well as civil society representatives, particularly those whose agendas specifically deal with human rights issues. Reports can only be prepared after an inspection from at least five members of these delegations. Additionally, the 11-member Executive Board will also be able to issue reports on its own and authorize special human rights experts to investigate questionable cases.

The bureaucrats will be appointed by the ministries of internal affairs, foreign

affairs, health and justice as well as the Prime Ministry. Civil society representatives in the delegations will be appointed directly by the Human Rights Presidency.

The body will also be responsible for carrying out research for improving administrative and legislative regulations to secure human rights more effectively. It will be able to present the outcome of its findings to the Prime Ministry or to other relevant ministries. The Human Rights Presidency will be in contact with other human rights organizations and will coordinate with them. It will also monitor the implementation of national and international agreements put into force. It will prepare a training program to be taught to public employees within their respective institutions.

Anyone will be able to petition the presidency, and if it concludes that a violation of human rights has taken place, it will file a criminal complaint with the relevant courts immediately. People can submit their complaints to the human rights commissions present in all 81 provinces of the country. After the signing of the bill has been completed by the ministers, it will be sent to Parliament for the deputies to vote.

## Police officer sentenced to 2 years in Baran Tursun trial

▶ A police officer has been sentenced to two years, one month in prison over the fatal shooting of a 20-year-old man during a police chase in Izmir.

Police officer Oral Emre Atar and nine police officers accused of concealing evidence about the shooting of Baran Tursun were not present in court. The nine police officers were acquitted.

Tursun died following a police chase on Nov. 24, 2007. After ignoring police officers' calls to stop his vehicle, his car crashed in Izmir's Karsiyaka district. Emergency doctors treating the young man found a bullet lodged in his head. The prosecutor had been seeking up to 25 years' imprisonment on charges of first-degree murder.

Tursun's father, mother and sister attended the trial at the Karsiyaka 1st Criminal Court. After the trial they expressed disappointment with the verdict. Tursun's father, Mehmet Tursun, claimed that although there is significant evidence showing that Atar killed his son on purpose, he was sentenced to just two years in prison. "The Baran Tursun trial is not a trial to be concluded by local courts. We will appeal to the European Court of Human Rights," he said.

Bahattin Özdemir, the lawyer representing the Tursun family, also said the court's verdict would not stop their pursuit of justice. "We were without hope at the beginning of this trial since we had seen that the police chiefs were glossing over the faults of the police officers. This trial has shown us that all public prosecutors are protectors of the police. They protect the police when police officers kill citizens," he argued. **Istanbul** Today's Zaman with wires

## PKK plans to block solution to Kurdish problem with suicide bombers

▶ The Security General Directorate has issued a warning about three suicide bombers mobilized by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) to conduct attacks amidst the government's intensifying efforts to find a solution for Turkey's long-standing Kurdish problem.

Following remarks made by President Abdullah Gül, who told journalists "Whether you call it a terror problem, a southeastern Anatolia problem or a Kurdish problem, this is the first question for Turkey. It has to be solved" on his way back from Prague last week, Turkey has been discussing possible solutions to the Kurdish problem.

Yet security officials warn that there are plans by the PKK to undermine the initiative taken by Gül. The police have discovered that three PKK members entered Turkey from the northern Iraqi border illegally after training in PKK camps in

northern Iraq in order to carry out suicide bombing attacks. The three terrorists entered Turkey using false identity cards, which was only discovered after the terrorists had fled the area. After receiving intelligence about the forged identity cards, security officials warned police departments in 81 provinces of the situation via a statement.

The statement said the three terrorists, who are still at large, were using identity cards with information of people registered in the southeastern province of Sanliurfa's Bozova district on which they posted their own photos. All counterterrorism police units across the country were informed about the terrorists' identity information. The police also launched an investigation into the three people whose information was used by terrorists, but they were found to have no links to the PKK. **Sedat Güneç** Ankara

## MIT Undersecretary Emre Taner's term extended to the end of this year

▶ National Intelligence Organization (MIT) Undersecretary Emre Taner's term in office has been extended by six months, enabling him to remain in the position until December. The undersecretary's tenure would normally end on June 15; however, Law No. 657 stipulates that undersecretaries can remain in their posts until they reach the age of 68. Taner is 67.

People such as Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) General Director Ibrahim Sahin and Undersecretary to the Prime Minister Ekan Ala were among those thought to be possible replacements for Taner as MIT undersecretary; however, the government decided to keep Taner for six more months. The decision was reportedly taken at a National Security Council (MGK) meeting in April.

The decision on Taner's term in office has been interpreted by experts as a demonstration of the determination by the government to make efforts to achieve peaceful solutions with regards to the Kurdish issue. Starting his term at MIT in 2005, Taner is known for contacting people who are related to the outlawed

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and has spearheaded plans to make PKK members come down from the mountains. During Taner's tenure the question of what Kurds living in Turkey want has been discussed. Taner is concerned not only with Kurds in Turkey but also with those in Iraq and other countries. He has also written a report on research regarding the Kurdish issue and distributed it to all state institutions, including the Prime Ministry.

Iraqi Kurdish officials know him as a bureaucrat who favors political and administrative solutions to issues related to the Kurdish question. Taner also aided the investigation into Ergenekon, a terrorist organization charged with plotting to overthrow the government by sending important documents to the Prime Ministry before the investigation started.



MIT Undersecretary Emre Taner

### About Emre Taner

Taner was born in 1942 in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir. He graduated from Ankara University's faculty of political science. Starting working at MIT in 1967, he has undertaken numerous posts in the organization. **Istanbul** Today's Zaman with wires

## Swine flu patients released from hospital

▶ Two members of a US-Iraqi family who were suffering from swine flu were released yesterday from Istanbul's Haseki Training and Research Hospital, where they had been receiving treatment.

In a statement released by the Health Ministry, it was stressed that the patients were released from the hospital because their treatment was finished.

Last week, Turkey identified its first two swine flu cases in a family traveling to Iraq

from the United States. Thermal cameras at the Istanbul Atatürk Airport detected that the two of the family members had a high fever. They were put under observation at the Haseki hospital along with four other family members. The Health Ministry statement also said that the other four were determined not to have contracted the virus and had been released from the hospital. **Istanbul** Today's Zaman with wires

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# GOV'T TO INTRODUCE NEW REGULATIONS TO COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTION

ERCAN YAVUZ ANKARA

The government has pushed the button to block unlawful communications interceptions following a ruling by the Constitutional Court in January canceling earlier interceptions by the police and the gendarmerie on the grounds that the way these were done was unconstitutional, Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek told Today's Zaman.

Çiçek emphasized the government's sensitivity to telephone tapping and communications interceptions and recalled that after detailed legislative changes in 2005 in the Turkish Penal Code (TCK), the Criminal Procedures Law and the Law on the Police and its Authorities, lawful interceptions could only be carried out by court order.

The interceptions canceled by the Constitutional Court earlier this year had also been started on court orders, but the security forces have often used a single court order to monitor wired communications of individuals other than the person the court order was issued for.

Çiçek said no permission from any court in Turkey wielded the power to monitor conversations of the entire country, adding that the government would also be passing a new regulation to fend off possible unlawful interception from security forces following the Constitutional Court's order.

Article 135 of the new Code on Criminal Procedure (CMK), which came into effect on June 1, 2005, makes provision for the interception of telecommunications of an individual if he or she is suspected of committing a crime. During an investigation, if there is a strong suspicion that a crime has been committed and there are no other means of collecting evidence, or where a delay would be detrimental, upon a request by the public prosecutor and if the judge agrees, the telecommunications of the suspect or the accused may be intercepted, monitored or recorded. In such a case, the public prosecutor immediately submits this re-



PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN, MUSTAFA KIRAZLI

Despite having the least number of lawful interception operations in Europe, Turkey has been criticized for unlawful interceptions due to problems in legislation.

quest to the judge for approval and the judge decides on this matter within 24 hours. Upon expiration of this period, the interception of telecommunications must be terminated by the public prosecutor immediately. If the judge denies approval, the interception of telecommunications must not be initiated.

The interception, monitoring and recording of communications are done through a single department working within the Telecommunications Directorate (TIB), which answers directly to the president of the directorate.

On Jan. 31, 2009, the Constitutional Court canceled a provision that was appended to the laws on the National Intelligence Agency (MİT), the National Police Department and the Gendarmerie General Command which stipulates that "lawful interception activities are inspected by an individual or commission to be authorized by the prime minister." The Constitutional Court, based on the fact that the head of

the TIB is appointed by the government, canceled the provision, saying it was unconstitutional as this would imply that lawful interceptions would be carried out in the government's orbit.

Now the government is considering new legislation regulating the method of election of the TIB president and regulating the methods of inspection of the TIB's activities. The new legislation is expected to introduce a new method to appoint a president to the TIB with a decree approved by the relevant minister, the prime minister and the president, and also a mixed commission where judicial organs will be represented to oversee the TIB's affairs. When the new law goes into effect, TIB President Fethi Şimşek's term will expire. But the possibility that he might be re-appointed under the new law remains in place.

The new legislation will meet the standards set in the 8th Article of the European Convention on Human Rights and the 20th Article of the Constitution,

both of which regulate the protection of privacy. The six-month to two-year sentence for unlawful interceptions will also be increased, possibly to one to three year sentences.

## 70,000 people under surveillance

Although the government is working on new legislation to regulate lawful communications' interceptions, it is not yet clear how many people's phones are under the close observation of the police in Turkey. The TIB announced last year that 70,000 people's communications were being monitored under lawful interception operations, but unofficial figures indicate that the actual figure could be 10 times this number.

Despite having the least number of lawful interception operations in Europe according to official figures, Turkey has been criticized for unlawful interceptions due to the problems in legislation. On average, the wired

communications held by 2 to 3 percent of the population are being monitored by authorities in European countries, while that percentage is one per thousand in Turkey. It is also known that despite the TIB being the only legal entity that has the right to wiretap telephones, other institutions, such as the Gendarmerie General Command, also listen in on phone conversations.

Former Justice Minister Mehmet Ali Şahin also confirmed the number as 70,000 in a statement last month, but the Justice Ministry has no official court record information to support this claim. Under the law, the records of any lawful interception that cannot be considered evidence in case of a crime or any interception that has been conducted without a court order should be terminated within 10 days of recording. In 2006, records from the conversations of 2,729 people were destroyed, while this number went up to 4,947 in 2007 and to 5,212 in 2008.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Late BBP leader Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu's personal bag missing

**ANKARA** The late Grand Unity Party (BBP) leader Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu's personal bag is missing, his wife, Gülefer Yazıcıoğlu, has told a parliamentary commission looking into a helicopter crash that killed Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu and five others. Speaking to the commission on Wednesday, Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu's widow recalled the announcement made by Kayseri Governor Mevlüt Bilici directly after the accident that "the crash site has been found. Yazıcıoğlu has a broken foot and rib and is being taken to the hospital." Gülefer Yazıcıoğlu asked how the Kayseri governor had come by this information, noting: "The incorrect information given by the governor stopped the search. But after the dead bodies were in fact found, in truth my husband really did have a broken foot and rib. Was this a coincidence? How did he know that?"

The widow of the late BBP leader also reiterated to the commission that a personal bag belonging to her husband that contained important documents, a firearm and a special cell phone that he didn't use very often was also missing. "The cell phone was turned over to me, but the card that contained all the information on it had been completely erased. The gun was found, but the papers and bag itself were never given back to me," she said.

### Bullets found in pocket of Ergenekon suspect

**ISTANBUL** Authorities at Silivri Prison found a bullet from a long-barreled rifle in the pocket of lawyer Fuat Turgut on Thursday, when he went to the facility to attend a hearing in the Ergenekon case. Turgut told authorities that the bullet was a G3 bullet that had been given to him as a gift by a military commander during a trip to Cannakale. Authorities reportedly discovered the bullet when Turgut passed through metal detectors at Silivri Prison while on his way to the hearing.

### Young Civilians: Let Yassada become an island of democracy

**ISTANBUL** A group called the Young Civilians has kicked off a new project aimed at marking the unfortunate fate of the Turkish island of Yassada. The civil society organization has started a campaign to officially change the name of the island of Yassada to "Demokrasi Adası" (Democracy Island) in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the May 27, 1960 military coup next year. Yassada was where many figures from the government that was overthrown by the coup were tried, tortured and even sentenced to death. In the wake of the trials that took place on Yassada, former Turkish Prime Minister Adnan Menderes, Foreign Minister Fatin Rüştü Zorlu and Hasan Polatkan were executed.

### 14 students arrested in anti-terror operations

**ISTANBUL** Fourteen university students were taken into custody in Istanbul and Ankara yesterday for alleged membership in the outlawed Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP). Gendarmes who had been monitoring a number of students from Middle Eastern Technical University (ODTÜ) and Bilkent and Hacettepe universities due to suspicions that the students were promoting the MLKP and participating in illegal activities on behalf of the organization conducted simultaneous operations against the suspected MLKP members yesterday morning. A first-year graduate student who claimed to be in a leadership position in the organization was detained in the operation in Istanbul. Thirteen others were detained in Ankara, and the suspect captured in Istanbul will be transferred to Ankara as well, according to gendarmerie authorities.

### Ersöz confirms divorce case

**ISTANBUL** Retired Brig. Gen. Levent Ersöz, held as a suspect in the ongoing Ergenekon case, has responded through his lawyer, Ali Rıza Dızdar, to allegations made against him by his daughter Fulya Ersöz regarding an affair that Gen. Ersöz is rumored to have had, prompting his wife, Muzafer Ersöz, to try to commit suicide. Ersöz's lawyer confirmed on Thursday that the Ersöz divorce resulted from serious problems within the marriage. "I spoke with Levent Ersöz, and he asserts that he and the woman with whom he is rumored to have had an affair, Ulviye Salamov, are only friends. He is not focusing on this news, and he says his daughter is not well and will say anything. He also says he and his wife have not gotten along for years now," said Dızdar.



## Second Turkish high school for girls opens in Afghanistan

SULTAN FAIZY HERAT

The second high school for girls built by Turks in Afghanistan recently opened its doors following an official ceremony. The school, built in Herat, is a continuation of benevolent Turks' efforts to invest in Afghanistan's future through building schools countrywide. The first such school was opened in Kabul.

The opening ceremony was attended by Herat Governor Mohammad Yusuf Nuristani, high-level representatives from the Afghan Ministry of Education, deputies and students and parents. Delivering the keynote speech at the ceremony, Nuristani said, "We thank our Turkish brothers and friends for completing the construction of the high school for girls, and we want them to construct schools in other provinces as well."

Stressing that they want more high schools for girls to be built in Afghanistan, the director general of the Turkish-built Afghan high schools,

Hikmet Coban, said: "The schools we have opened make us happy, but they are not enough. The schools we could not open and the children we have been unable to educate worry us more."

According to information provided by the Herat high school's principal, Yusuf Koca, the school was built thanks to the contribution of benevolent Turks and Afghans. "An exam was held to select students to be accepted into the school. Of the 550 students who took the exam, 120 were accepted. Education is quite important for the Afghans. This is the second such high school for girls we have opened in the country, and this makes us quite happy," Koca said.

Humeysra Tenha said she is proud to be able to attend the Turkish-built school. "I thank my Turkish brothers," she said. Another girl, Ruhina Qayseri, told Today's Zaman that she is very happy because her Turkish brothers opened schools in her country despite security problems that continue to plague Afghanistan.

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# Turkey missing the biotech train, ranking reveals

DAVID NEYLAN ATLANTA

In a scorecard unveiled on Wednesday at the 2009 Bio International Convention in Atlanta, Turkey made it onto Scientific American's list of the most competitive countries in the biotechnology sector. Unfortunately, Turkey ranks squarely in the bottom 10th percentile of the list of 35 countries, which range from Singapore to the US. And while Turkey having made it at all can be considered a considerable milestone on the road to becoming a dynamic and developed economy capable of providing the conditions required to address the needs of global innovators and attract much-needed Greenfield investment, the country's low ranking on the list leaves much to wonder about.

So, too, does the Turkish government's seeming obliviousness to both the report and, indeed, the sector as a whole. Industry insiders report that the perceived lack of attention that Turkey is displaying toward the sector is sending troubling messages to biotechnology leaders and the people who are able to determine whether or

not investment in the sector can be made.

The "scorecard," the first of its kind representing biotech's worldwide progress, was compiled using third-party data sets and sought to uncover the "innovation capacities" of a wide range of countries, regardless of size. Scientific American is considered by many to be the world's most authoritative consumer science magazine.

The report shows clearly that countries that have good intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and clear policies to support medical innovation and that invest in science education are emerging as the global leaders of innovative medicines.

Developing a strong biotechnology sector is considered valuable for an economy for a number of reasons: Countries able to successfully foster a dynamic biotech sector have, most agree, demonstrated that their economies grow rapidly and in a sustainable manner, as high-value products can be manufactured and exported abroad. Moreover, the sector generates high-paying jobs and contributes to a reverse "brain drain," as skilled workers return home in order to

take advantage of high-paying jobs at home.

But despite Turkey having declared the biotechnology industry a "strategic sector" and professed its intent to work toward becoming a technological hub, the government has done very little to achieve these goals. And a noticed lack of a presence at the forum has caused alarm amongst some people.

The survey was intended to provide guidance to policymakers around the world in formulating the kind of policies that will bring investment to their economies. It also sought to demonstrate that there is a clear correlation between government policies and the propelling of innovation and foreign investment in the sector.

"We wanted to find out what was really happening on the ground when it came to biotech activity, funding and policy initiatives," said Jeremy Abbate, the publications director and head of global media for Scientific American, explaining his motivation behind compiling the scorecard. "What we found is that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to building a promising life science sector, and a lot of smaller

countries -- where you would not expect a lot of activity -- are really punching above their weight."

The report also revealed that there was no correlation between geographical location and investment: Leaders on the list included such diverse countries as the US, Singapore and Denmark. But while Singapore has successfully attracted tens of billions of dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI), Turkey, a country with about 10 times the population, was only able to attract about \$40 million last year.

Dr. James N. Class, associate vice president of international affairs at Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), told Today's Zaman that it would not be difficult for Turkey to increase this figure: "If the government made bold public statements and created a public policy based on its commitment to strong IPR, that would have a tremendous effect among the leadership of pharmaceutical companies."

Despite the present economic crisis and increasing competition for fewer resources, Turkey, unfortunately, was nowhere to be seen at the event.

## EUROPE'S ENERGY SECURITY STILL

### FAR OFF

NEWS ANALYSIS

Daniel Fineren

TODAY'S ZAMAN

Europe will not solve its energy security problems, even if it can build a new pipeline packed full of Iraqi gas, until it builds more backup storage, grid links and alternative sources of supply. The Nabucco pipeline plan to reduce Europe's reliance on Russia by bringing gas from the Caspian and Middle East across Turkey could be kicked started by a deal signed last weekend to get gas from Iraq. But big political and operational obstacles stand between the gas fields of Iraq's Kurdistan and energy hungry consumers in Europe and the region will remain vulnerable to winter gas crises without more supplies, storage and energy alternatives. "It is just one piece of a much bigger puzzle. OK, so we get Nabucco stuffed full of gas it's going to help but its not going to solve the problem," Paul Stevens, senior energy research fellow at think tank Chatham House in London said.

"In so far as it adds to the diversity of who is supplying gas to Europe again that's a big plus but its not an occasion to have street parties." Europe's appetite for gas had been growing steadily until the economic downturn cut demand over the last few months. But when and by how much demand will grow again is uncertain, making investments in new energy supply infrastructure more difficult still.

### Russian gas

Europe still gets about a quarter of its gas from Russia and tens of thousands in central Europe were left without heating or electricity in January after a row between Moscow and Ukraine cut supplies. Repeated delays and sluggish investment in alternative energy sources mean large parts of Europe will still be in trouble if a major supply route is cut again.

Even if Nabucco gets built and its backers find the gas to fill it, which remains in doubt, it will only be able to supply about 30 billion cubic metres of gas a year to a region that consumed over 530 bcm in 2007-08. Less than half that is likely to reach western Europe after the south east European countries it crosses on route to Austria have taken their share.

"In terms of the capacity you have to be very careful about what will actually end up in Austria," Rebekah Bostan of consultants IHS Global Insight said, estimating only about 11.5 bcm of gas would get to Austria by 2020. "It's not an enormous amount of gas anyway. Europe's diversification strategy should be much more wide ranging -- about renewables and LNG, as well as finding alternative sources to Russia," Tanya Costello, director of the Europe practice at Eurasia Group in London said. "One of the big problems that were exposed with the recent Russia-Ukraine crisis was the interconnector problem in Europe. Interconnectors and storage need to be improved," she said.

"Some people would argue that is more pressing than choosing whether we are getting it from Russia or not," Costello said. Some countries have been building more facilities to stock up on gas in summer so they can get through supply cuts and peak winter demand periods. But those hardest hit by last winter's gas cuts and most dependent on free-flowing fuel from Russia still do not have enough storage and no LNG terminals planned, while network bottlenecks in many parts of Europe continue to restrict the free flow of energy to where it is most needed.

### South Stream

Analysts say there is plenty of gas in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa to meet Europe's gas needs for decades to come and wean it off Russian gas. An Iraq deal could help the development of the 3,300 km Nabucco pipeline which has been delayed by sourcing uncertainty, weak political support and arguments over transit terms through Turkey. But analysts say Russia has made more progress in securing supplies with potential Nabucco suppliers and signing bilateral agreements with transit countries for its rival South Stream project because it acts alone and with a clear, single goal. "People will only supply the gas at the other end if they believe that the EU is politically committed to support them in the provision of that gas," Dieter Helm, professor of Energy Policy at the University of Oxford said. Supporters of liberalised energy markets like Britain argue against reliance on one supplier; Germany and others see good relations with Russia and other big suppliers as the key to long term security.

"The big problem is that Europe doesn't have a united view on what it understands energy security to mean and what the best method for improving energy security is," Eurasia Group's Costello said. "That's why you have some European member states supporting South Stream and others strongly supporting Nabucco." London Reuters

# Brazilian President committed to improving ties with Turkey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brazil received President Abdullah Gül in 2006 when he was the minister of foreign affairs; then his Brazilian counterpart Amorim came to visit Turkey. Although a joint commission on economic affairs was created 10 years before this visit, it hasn't met since then. "We want to see if we can gather this commission this time around. It is absurd that countries with the importance of Turkey and Brazil do not have a stronger relationship," the Brazilian president said.

Lula da Silva is known for giving aid to the poor to study and food to poor communities in his country. He has himself felt the bitterness of poor education and lived in poverty, too. However, his name is also associated with Brazil's economic success story. He pioneered his country's efforts to establish relations with the world while not losing key economic relations with the US and Europe.

"It was not a normal thing for emerging countries to wait only for the actions of the US and Europe and it was necessary to look for other countries and to extend the possibility to develop trade relations with them, too. I have already visited 21 African countries and after that we re-established our relationships with Arab countries and with the Asian world. This came without diminishing our relationship with the US and Europe and made it possible to go from \$60 billion to \$200 billion in our exports," he explained.

Talking about his country's social and welfare policies, Lula Da Silva said along with their expansion of trade policies to the world and receiving benefits out of this move, they also took decisions to take care of those in need in the country. "We developed the zero hunger program and family stipend program through which we serve 11 million families today. We now have a 57 percent real increase in the minimum wage realized in the last couple of years. We have also increased retirement payments for those who have never worked before and for disabled people," he said, adding that "if all world rulers managed to take it as a priority, I believe the cheapest thing in the world, actually, is to take care of the poor, the most difficult thing is to take care of the rich."

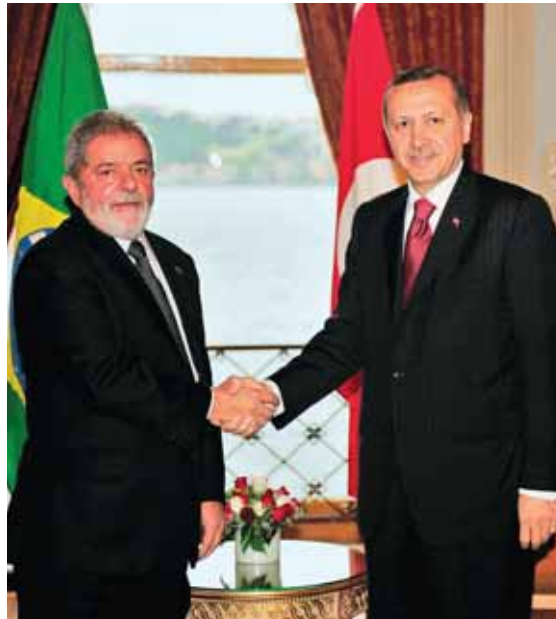
Brazil was one of the few emerging markets that did not predict a contraction for 2009 but did cut its growth targets more

than a week ago. Asked about how to interpret this development, Lula Da Silva said they were of course affected by the global economic crisis as were all countries worldwide. Complaining about the perception of the crisis created in so many Western countries, the Brazilian president stressed his country has not grown as much as they had forecasted in the past but made assurances that it will not go into a recession either. "I don't like to mention figures because every time the president mentions a figure, it looks like it is the absolute truth," he said.

Advising Turkey about its possible agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Lula Da Silva touched upon his country's own experience with the IMF. "I don't think that it is a bad idea that a country facing some difficulty borrows money from the IMF. This is what the IMF was created for. But what cannot happen is that because the IMF lends the money, it is entitled or thinks that it is entitled to impose conditions on what kind of fiscal judgment the country has to make or what kind of monetary policy the country has to follow. That is unimaginable. But I think Turkey will not face great difficulties while negotiating with the IMF."

Lula Da Silva also talked about the areas his country plans to cooperate on with Turkey. "My trip to Turkey is within a strategy, not only at the government level but at the business level. Petrobras, a state owned enterprise, is investing here in Turkey to look for oil in the Black Sea. That is a great opportunity for Turkey, because Petrobras is a company that holds the most extraordinary technology in prospecting for oil in very deep water. We are also working towards the project of manufacturing a cargo aircraft to replace our previous Hercules. We have already established the contact but we think Turkey could also join us here. And, we do have the knowledge to contribute to Turkey, especially in new technologies in the energy field -- especially in ethanol and biodiesel -- that could serve to create jobs and improve people's lives."

Applauding the potential of both countries, Lula Da Silva concluded with a message to Turkish entrepreneurs, "Turkey, with 72 million and Brazil, with 190 million people, are two emerging countries with many things that they still have to build, so let us do it together."



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L) shakes hands with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Turkey-Brazil Business Forum meeting in Istanbul.

PHOTO: A.A. AHMET DUMANKI

## Brazil, Turkey can produce jet aircraft together

Brazilian Development, Industry and Trade Minister Miguel Jorge said Brazil, the third largest jet aircraft producer in the world, could work with Turkey to manufacture jets.

Speaking at the Turkey-Brazil Business Forum in Istanbul on Thursday, Jorge said his country would welcome any projects in which Turkey and Brazil can produce jets jointly. Brazil's Embraer is the third largest commercial aircraft manufacturer in the world.

The Brazilian minister said trade between the two countries climbed from \$222 million in 1999 to \$1.5 billion in 2008, a 400 percent increase. Jorge said Brazil was ready to be one of Turkey's leading trade partners. He added that Turkey was in 44th place among the countries to which Brazil exported and 56th among countries from which Brazil imported goods.

Jorge said 82 percent of the products that Brazil imported from Turkey were industrial, while 18 percent were for personal consumption. Recalling that Petrobras, Brazil's national oil and gas company, and the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) plan to explore for oil off Turkey's Black Sea coast, he said that they would invest some \$400 million in this area in Turkey by 2011. Istanbul Today's Zaman with wires

Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said on Thursday that Turkey will emerge from the global economic crisis as strong as it was before the turmoil began. Speaking at the Turkey-Brazil Business Forum held in Istanbul yesterday, Simsek noted that a series of factors would determine the rate of recovery in the economy.

"Turkey's finance sector is strong. Turkish banks are still posting profits, which was seen in the first quarter of this year," Simsek said. "When things return to normal, the sector will play an important role in helping Turkey emerge from the current economic crisis as strong as before," he said. On the subject of economic relations between Turkey and Brazil, he said Brazil was Turkey's biggest trade partner in Latin America but that the current trade volume between the two countries was below the desired level. "Turkey and Brazil have both been successful at attracting in foreign capital in recent years," Simsek said, adding that mutual investment remained relatively low. Calling on Brazilian businessmen to take advantage of Turkey's unique geographical location, he said Turkish and Brazilian firms could cooperate in several industries, particularly the automotive, household appliance, textile and agriculture sectors. Istanbul Today's Zaman with wires

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# New incentive package to arrive in two weeks



Minister of Industry and Commerce Nihat Ergün

A long-awaited incentive package that aims to reinvigorate the domestic economy with region- and sector-specific stimulus measures will be introduced in two weeks, Minister of Industry and Commerce Nihat Ergün has said.

Speaking on a TV program on TRT Türk yesterday, the minister said the package was discussed in depth during the latest Economic Coordination Board (EKB) meeting on Monday and a compromise had been reached on all major points. "In this new system, every area of Turkey will be taken into the scope of the incentives, but there will be a variety of different criteria determining the extent to which each region will receive them," he said, noting that some regions will receive more incentives than the others while some sectors will be supported in certain districts

considering the absolute and relative advantages of these regions. The minister explained that large investments in a number of sectors would receive special incentives. "There will be a separate incentive model for large investments," Ergün said, pointing to the automotive industry as an example. "We are one of the leading countries in the auto manufacturing industry and the number of vehicles produced this year may exceed 1 million. In order to surpass 2 million annually, however, we need two new manufacturing plants, one of which may focus on hybrid cars. All in all, we regard the automotive business as an important sector that requires special, intensified incentives," the minister said, adding that in order to achieve the target of producing 2 million vehicles in a year, nearly \$1 billion in investments

is required. Another detail the minister revealed about the upcoming incentives was that there would be measures to prevent already established facilities from moving from one city to another city that enjoys incentives. Moreover, the duration of incentives will vary from region to region. The same incentive, for example, temporary tax relief on new investments, will be valid for five years in one city and 10 years in another depending on economic development levels.

Ergün also touched on the discussions of how much longer Turkey would have to face the hurdles of the crisis. He said there were basically two different answers to the question depending on whether Turkey has seen the worst of the crisis. Those who claim the crisis will get worse are looking at annual figures **Istanbul Today's Zaman**

## Iraqi oil minister invites Turkish firms to invest

Iraqi oil minister calls on Turkish firms to invest in reconstruction Iraq Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahrastani has called on Turkish companies to take on important roles in the reconstruction of Iraq's oil fields. Speaking to the Anatolia news agency in Baghdad on Thursday, Shahrastani said the state-owned Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) had been entrusted with projects for the improvement of Iraq oil fields, noting that there were many other projects sharing this objective. "There are many other things to be done, such as the construction of pipelines, oil storage facilities, oil stations and refinery facilities. I hereby invite Turkish companies to do business in Iraq. They can take on many projects in Basra, which is the oil production center, and other cities. Turkish companies are qualified and experienced. They have done business in Iraq before. They can play important roles in Basra and Kirkuk," Shahrastani said. He also said that they were working to increase the volume of oil exported through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline, noting that they were planning to improve their natural gas fields in order to meet the gas demands of Turkey and EU countries. **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires

## Number of newly registered cars skyrockets in March

Following a recent reduction in the private consumption tax (ÖTV) on automobiles as part of government efforts to ward off the negative effects of the ongoing global financial crisis, the number of newly registered motor vehicles jumped in March, seeing a 101.2 percent increase over February.

The ÖTV on motor vehicles with engines up to 1,600 cubic centimeters in size was cut to 18 percent from its previous level of 37 percent; the tax on vehicles with engines between 1,600 and 2,000 cubic centimeters was set at 40 percent, down from 60 percent.

According to data released by the Turkish Statistics Institute (TurkStat) on Thursday, 59,007 new cars were registered in March.

The majority of vehicles registered in March were passenger cars, making up 60.9 percent (35,911) of the total, followed by small trucks with 19.9 percent (11,767), motorcycles with 13.4 percent (7,917) and trucks with 1.7 percent (8,000). Buses and special-purpose vehicles constituted 4.1 percent (2,404) of the motor vehicles registered in March.

Despite the rush of new registrations in March, the number of motor vehicles registered in the first three months of the year declined by 36.1 percent compared to the same period last year. The total number of vehicles registered in Turkey between January and March was 147,620, while 16,517 motor vehicles were taken off the road in the same period.

By the end of March, the total number of registered motor vehicles in Turkey had hit 13.89 million. Istanbul has the largest number of motor vehicles in the country. Thirty-six percent of all vehicles are registered in Istanbul, followed by 9.6 percent in Ankara, 5.7 percent in İzmir, 3.6 percent in Antalya, 3.4 percent in Bursa, 2.9 percent in Adana, 2.4 percent in Mersin, 1.9 percent in Konya, 1.8 percent in Gaziantep and 1.8 percent in Hatay, while 30.9 percent were registered in other provinces.

Hyundai was the leading brand name in car registrations in March, with 12.2 percent. Renault came in second with 9.2 percent, followed by Volkswagen with 9.1 percent, Toyota with 8.7 percent, Ford with 8 percent, Opel with 6.8 percent, Honda with 4.9 percent, Tofas-Fiat with 4.6 percent and Peugeot with 4.5 percent. **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires



Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said US markets have improved but warned of a capital shortfall that could obstruct recovery.

# GREENSPAN: US ECONOMY IMPROVED, BANKS NEED FUNDS

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the US economy and financial markets had improved but warned that banks faced a capital shortfall, which could stall lending and obstruct a recovery. Bloomberg reported on Thursday. "Things have unquestionably improved," Greenspan was quoted as saying in an interview published on Bloomberg's website. "They've improved everywhere in the world. It's remarkable."

"There is still a very large unfunded capital requirement in the commercial banking system in the United States and that's got to be funded," he added. The

comments come after the US Treasury Department and top banking regulators earlier this month released the result of regulatory "stress tests" of banks, using a hypothetical scenario that assumed a deepening recession. The tests showed a combined capital shortfall of \$74.6 billion for a group of 10 banks which was found to require extra funding. Each bank must submit a capital-raising plan by June 8, and then has until Nov. 9 to implement it.

According to Bloomberg, Greenspan also said there was still potential for a mortgage crisis and that the financial crisis was not over: "Until the price of homes

flattens out we still have a very serious potential mortgage crisis." Greenspan, who headed the US central bank until 2006, also warned of the risks arising from the ongoing slump in home prices, which was threatening millions of borrowers. "We're on the edge and if this thing doesn't get resolved quickly I'm worried." He added that prices would only stabilize once the liquidation rate of single-family homes had peaked and that that had not happened yet. Bloomberg said Greenspan estimates that US gross domestic product will decline at an annual rate of 1 percent in the second quarter. **Singapore Reuters**

## Chinese firm to build R&D center in Turkey

Chinese technology company Huawei, one of world's leading telecommunications network solutions provider, expects to establish a new research and development (R&D) center in Istanbul, the company announced on Wednesday. Huawei is in partnership with Turkey's mobile phone operators Turkcell, Vodafone and Avea in order to build their 3G networks. Huawei Turkey said 2008 was a very bright year for the company's global operations. Huawei's global sales climbed 46 percent to \$23.3 billion in 2008. The technology company estimates that its sales could exceed \$30 billion in 2009. Huawei Turkey said the company aims to expand in Turkey and that its primary goal was to open an R&D center in Istanbul. Huawei has 14 R&D centers around the world, and employs almost half of its nearly 87,500 staff at these centers, the company said. Huawei added that they had started preliminary studies for the construction of the new center in Istanbul. **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires

## Israel to begin delivery of Herons in August

Israel will begin the delivery of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, to Turkey in August and complete it by October, Murad Bayar, undersecretary for Turkey's defense industries, said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters in Ankara, Bayar said the Israeli-made surveillance drones, known as Herons, would be delivered with new engines. Turkey agreed with Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Elbit Systems Ltd. three years ago to buy 10 Heron UAVs for over \$180 million. However, the Israeli firm missed the deadline for delivery. Israeli media reports claimed that Turkey was considering terminating its contract with Israel, but Turkish Minister of Defense Vecdi Gönül said Turkey would not break the contract. Bayar told reporters that the Israeli company would deliver four Herons in August, followed by another two and then the last four by the end of October. **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires

## PM: Gov't will continue to support textile sector

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said the government will continue extending financial support to the Turkish textile sector, noting that it is well aware of problems brought about by the ongoing global financial crisis. "We are pushing our limits to ease the burden on various sectors," he said, speaking on Wednesday at EVTEKS 2009, the 15th Istanbul Home Textiles Exhibition. Erdoğan said the fair, the largest exhibition in Turkey, was a good opportunity for producers in search of new markets and noted that 667 companies from over 20 countries were in attendance, representing some 1,500 brands. The prime minister noted that the fair bore special importance with regard to the global financial crisis since ways to tackle the negative effects of the crisis would also be discussed during events to be held within the scope of the fair. **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires

## Turkcell bids for Tunisian telecom license

Turkey's largest mobile phone operator, Turkcell, said on Thursday that it has submitted a bid in a tender for a license to build and operate a mobile and land-line telecom network in Tunisia, acting as the leader of a consortium including local Tunisian partners. Releasing a written statement to the Istanbul Stock Exchange (IMKB), Turkcell said it submitted its bid on Wednesday with local partners for a tender launched by the Tunisian government. If Turkcell gets the license, it will compete with Tunisiana, which has a 51 percent market share, and Tunisie Telecom, which controls 49 percent of the Tunisian market. "Tunisia had a mobile-phone penetration of 83 percent at the end of March and a land-line penetration of 10 percent as of August," Turkcell said. **Istanbul Today's Zaman** with wires

### MARKETS & MONEY

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

May 21  
US-Unemployment Insurance Claims

Indices & Contracts							World Markets				Native & Foreign Shares (%)			Native & Foreign Shares (%)		
	Close	Daily Change (%)	Monthly Change (%)	Yearly Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	MCAP (million TL)	1-Y Av. Volum	Country	Change (%)	Level	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign
IMKB-100	35,140	4.4%	11.0%	-14.9%	30.8%	207,482	1,174	Hong Kong	-0.39	17,475.8	25.5	62.91	15.1	37.09	49.86	62.91
IMKB-30	44,765	4.8%	10.8%	-11.8%	27.9%	165,005	991	Nikkei 225	0.59	9,344.6	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.9
IMKB-IND	25,513	2.9%	11.5%	-30.8%	29.0%	51,712	253	Cac 40	1.13	3,572.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
IMKB-BANK	77,404	6.2%	11.8%	-1.0%	35.3%	92,578	712	DAX	1.82	5,049.7	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
DJMT	8,10	2.3%	5.7%	-29.6%	14.1%	-	0.43	FTSE 100	0.03	4,481.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
TURKDEX								Dow	1.43	8,570.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
US\$JPY	44,200	5.68%						NASDAQ	1.43	4,118.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
EURJPY	1.54	-1.94%						S&P	1.56	922.3	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
								BOVESPA	2.25	52,502.4	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9

IMKB Top 3 Advances				IMKB Top 3 Declines				IMKB Top 3 Business (million TL)				Earnings			
Ticker	Price (TL)	Daily Change (%)	Volume	Ticker	Price	Daily Change (%)	Volume	Ticker	Price (TL)	Yearly Change (%)	Daily Change (%)	Monthly Change (%)	Yearly Change (%)	US\$/JPY	95.32
KOZA	2.41	13.68%	EQLC	1.33	-0.75%	GARAN	586.0	3.9	48.46	TL / €	2.085	-0.5%	TL / \$	1.527	-1.8%
GSHO	0.55	12.24%	THYAO	9.05	-0.55%	KOZAA	222.4	2.4	173.86	TL / ₺	1.527	-1.8%	Commodities		
GARAN	3.86	9.04%	FENER	48.50	-0.51%	YNSNK	180.4	2.4	16.19	Light C. Oil	60.41	▲ 2.5%	60.50	58.76	
TEXTS	0.81	8.00%	TKKOM	4.54	-0.44%	ISCTR	150.2	5.2	28.41	Gold	928.50	▲ 0.8%	928.50	938.50	
TSNB	1.02	7.75%	TATKS	1.81	0.00%	TOELL	144.7	8.1	-2.00	Copper	210.55	▲ 1.8%	210.55	206.60	

Market Movers									
Mcap TL	IMKB 100	IMKB 30	IMKB IND	Cement	NURCM	BUCIM	AKNS	CMSA	64
				7,543.3	3,434	3,189	687		
P/E 2006/12	10.9x	10.2x	8.2x	51.3x	47.7x	40.3x	50.9x	10.0x	
P/E 2007/06t	7.8x	7.3x	6.2x	29.3x	42.9x	20.3x	28.7x	3.9x	
P/E 2007/09t	7.5x	7.1x	6.2x	27.8x	37.9x	19.7x	110.4x	3.3x	
EV/EBITDA 2006/12*	5.5x	4.5x	6.3x	11.9x	31.8x	6.9x	7.0x	4.0x	
EV/EBITDA 2007/03t*	6.0x	5.0x	6.2x	11.7x	29.6x	6.7x	8.4x	4.2x	
EV/EBITDA 2007/06t*	5.8x	4.9x	6.3x	11.7x	29.0x	6.9x	8.0x	3.7x	

P/E: Share price divided by earnings per share is a measure of the price paid for a share relative to the income or profit earned by the firm per share.  
EV/EBITDA: Enterprise value divided by earnings before interest, tax and amortization; "1" stands for trailing and means the data over the last four quarters.  
\* Wednesday's closing. \*\* Updated at 6 p.m. by GMT+2  
Disclaimer: The information in this report has been prepared by BMD, BMD Securities from sources believed to be reliable. All the information, interpretations and recommendations covered herein relating to investment actions are not within the scope of investment consultancy. Therefore investment decisions based only on the information covered herein may not bring expected results.



## CASE

## Intruder had 'vision' Suu Kyi in danger, lawyer says

The American man at the center of the trial against Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has said he swam to her house after having a vision that her life was in danger. Suu Kyi's lawyers said on Thursday. It is the first indication of Yettaw's motives for the stunt that could see Suu Kyi jailed for up to five years if she is found guilty of breaking the terms of her house arrest. Nyan Win, a spokesman for Suu Kyi's party and a member of her defense team, said Yettaw made the comment as the court heard testimony on Tuesday from a police officer who questioned him. "Do you remember that I told you at the interrogation that I had a vision that her life would be in danger?" Yettaw told his lawyer to ask the officer. The court refused to allow the question. "I had come to Myanmar to warn Myanmar authorities and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi against that danger," Nyan Win quoted Yettaw as saying. The 53-year-old American, who state media said used homemade flippers and flotation devices to swim to Suu Kyi's home on May 4, did not discuss his motives in a meeting with US diplomats after his arrest. He is charged with immigration violations, trespassing into a restricted area and violating a security law protecting the state from "those desiring to cause subversive acts." Suu Kyi and two female assistants who also live in her home were charged under the same draconian security law a week ago. **Yangon Reuters**

## OFFENSIVE

## Hundreds feared dead in Nigeria unrest

Human rights group Amnesty International said on Thursday it had received reports suggesting hundreds of people, mainly civilians, may have been killed in a week-old Nigerian military offensive in the oil-producing Niger Delta. Nigeria last week launched its biggest military campaign for years in the western delta, bombarding militant camps near the town of Warri from the air and sea before sending in hundreds of troops to try to flush rebel fighters out of local communities. Amnesty said the highest death toll was believed to have come when the joint military taskforce (JTF) in the delta used helicopter gunships to attack communities around a major militant camp close to Warri last Friday. "According to reports received by Amnesty International, hundreds of bystanders including women and children are believed to have been killed and injured by the JTF (military) and by the armed groups while shooting at the JTF," it said in a statement. The Nigerian army has repeatedly denied using excessive force and has said that no innocent civilians have been killed or displaced. "We are applying minimum force," military spokesman Colonel Rabe Abubakar said on Wednesday. "There are no casualties on the civilian side. Whoever is injured must have taken part in the fighting. It means they are criminals and if we get them, we will arrest them," he said. **Lagos Reuters**

## SHOOTOUT

## Georgia mutiny suspect killed by police

Georgian police shot dead a man suspected of playing a leading role in a mutiny at a tank base this month and wounded two others when they resisted arrest overnight, the Interior Ministry said on Thursday. The former military servicemen were accused of organising a brief, bloodless mutiny at a base east of Tbilisi on May 5, which Georgia said was part of a Russian-backed bid to foment a wider rebellion against President Mikheil Saakashvili. Russia dismissed the accusation as "insane." "Gia Kriashvili was killed, and Koba Otanadze and Levan Amiridze were wounded as a result of a shootout when they resisted arrest," Grigori Beselia, the head of the crime department at the Interior Ministry, told a news briefing. The shootout occurred in a suburb of Tbilisi. There were no other details. Otanadze was the alleged ringleader of the mutiny. He and Amiridze were transferred to a Tbilisi hospital. The mutiny deepened fears of anti-government unrest in the former Soviet republic, where the opposition has been protesting since early April demanding Saakashvili quit over his record on democracy and last year's war with Russia. **Tbilisi Reuters**

## TREATMENT

## Gabon leader seriously ill in Spanish clinic

President Omar Bongo of Gabon, Africa's longest-serving ruler, is seriously ill in a hospital near Barcelona, a Spanish Foreign Ministry source said on Thursday. "He's in hospital here and currently his condition is stable but serious," the source said. Bongo traveled to Europe earlier this month and temporarily stood down from his duties as head of state on health grounds. The absence of 73-year-old Bongo, who has ruled the oil-producing West African country since 1967, risks creating a power vacuum. Opposition leaders fear the president's son Ali Ben Bongo, currently defense minister, could step in. Bongo has faced mounting speculation about the state of his health and has been in hospital for treatment at least twice in recent months. Bongo suspended his functions as head of state for the first time in his 42-year rule to mourn his late wife, who died in March after a long illness. **Madrid Reuters**

# Indonesian air force in spotlight after fatal plane crash

Indonesia vowed to ground all of its C-130 Hercules planes if investigators determine that mechanical problems caused a crash that killed 99 people, putting a spotlight on its beleaguered air force.

The accident -- which occurred in clear weather moments after pilots spoke with air traffic control -- was the third involving a military aircraft in just two months. It also followed complaints that the air force could hardly afford spare parts for its aging fleet.

Survivors said they heard at least two loud explosions and felt the C-130 wobbling from left to right as it plummeted to the ground on Wednesday, losing a wing as it hit some trees and then slamming into a row of houses. It skidded 700 meters before halting in a rice field.

There were 110 people on the plane, which was carrying troops and their families from the capital, Jakarta, to Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua, home to a decades-long insurgency.

It was making several stops along the way and was attempting to land at an air force base in East

Java province when it crashed.

Air force official Bambang Samoedra said at least 99 people were killed, including at least 10 children and two villagers on the ground. Fifteen people were injured, many with severe burns.

"People were screaming hysterically as the plane was going down. We were being thrown around all over the place," Pvt. Saputra told Internet news portal Detik.com. "Then it just blew up and I found myself lying in a field, 20 meters from the wreckage. I couldn't stand up and some villagers came to help me."

"Fire was rising up to the sky," said Saputra, who suffered head and arm injuries. "I just submitted myself to God."

Indonesia's air force, long underfunded and handicapped by a recently lifted US ban on weapons sales, has suffered a string of plane crashes.

Twenty-four people were killed last month when a Fokker 27 crashed into an airport hangar during a training mission. **Magetan AP**



Indonesian rescuers evacuate the body of a victim of the crashed C-130 military transport plane in Magetan, East Java.

# BAGHDAD, KIRKUK BOMBINGS KILL 19; TOLL IN TWO DAYS TOPS 60

Awakening Council members, also known as Sons of Iraq, have been frequently targeted by al-Qaeda and other Sunni groups still fighting US troops and the US-backed Iraqi government



Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Shula district on Thursday. A parked car bomb ripped through the poor mostly Shiite district of Shula in northwest Baghdad on Wednesday, killing 41 people and wounding over 70.

Suicide bombers struck on Thursday in Baghdad and a northern city, killing at least 19 people and wounding dozens more in a burst of violence only weeks before US combat troops are due to leave Iraqi cities.

The attacks came a day after a car bomb exploded near a group of restaurants in a Shiite neighborhood of northwest Baghdad, killing 41 people and injuring more than 70. Attacks in civilian areas appear to be carried out by extremists seeking to rekindle sectarian warfare.

The deadliest blast on Thursday occurred in Baghdad's southern district of Dora when a suicide bomber attacked an American foot patrol in an outdoor market. Police and hospital officials said 12 civilians were killed.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to release the information. US military officials said they had an initial report of an attack in Dora but no word on US casualties.

Earlier Thursday, another suicide bomber killed seven US-backed Sunni paramilitaries as they waited in a line to receive salaries at an Iraqi military base in the northern city of Kirkuk.

Police Maj. Salam Zankana said the victims in the Kirkuk attack were members of the local paramilitary Awakening Council -- Sunnis who turned against the insurgents and help provide security. Eight others were wounded, he said.



A wounded man lies in a hospital after a bomb attack in Baghdad's Dora district on Thursday.

Awakening Council members, also known as Sons of Iraq, have been frequently targeted by al-Qaeda and other Sunni groups still fighting US troops and the US-backed Iraqi government.

Sami Ghayashi, 37, who was among the injured, said the local council members had been waiting three months to receive their salaries.

"While we were waiting at gate talking to one another a big explosion took place," he said from his hospital bed. "I

saw several colleagues dead, among them my cousin. I have no idea how this suicide bomber got among us."

Also Thursday, a bomb exploded inside a police station in western Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding 19 others, an Iraqi police official said. The bomb was hidden inside a trash can and carried into the station, he added.

The official also spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. **Baghdad AP**

## H1N1 virus spreads in Asia, protection wobbly

The spread of the new H1N1 virus in Asia showed no signs of slowing on Thursday as new infections were confirmed in Tokyo and Beijing.

In the United States, health authorities reported the country's ninth death from the virus, that of a 13-year-old boy in Arizona. Most of the deaths came in Mexico, occurring mostly in people with underlying medical problems.

While it has killed nobody so far in Asia, its grip appeared to tighten on a region that has battled the H5N1 bird flu virus and SARS over the past 10 years.

Japan reported 272 confirmed infections by midday on Thursday, including a 16-year-old female high school student in Tokyo who had recently returned from New York.

About 4,500 schools, mostly in the western prefectures of Osaka and Hyogo about 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Tokyo, have closed their doors until the end of the week. The local government in neighboring Shiga prefecture, which also confirmed its first case on Wednesday, was also urging its schools to follow suit.

In China, authorities confirmed a second case of H1N1 in Beijing, a 21-year-old Chinese-Canadian student. This case would be the fifth nationwide, but officials said the other patients have either been given a clean bill of health or are recovering.

There was also a jump in infections in Australia, which confirmed its sixth case, a Mexican woman who tested positive for the virus while visiting the country. **Tokyo Reuters**

## Biden gets cheers in Kosovo after cool Serb welcome

Cheering and waving flags, thousands of ethnic Albanians lined the streets of Kosovo's capital on Thursday to welcome Vice President Joe Biden and applaud US support for its declaration of independence.

Biden's visit was the first by a senior American official since Kosovo proclaimed its independence last year from Serbia -- a change Serbia has vowed never to accept.

"The US has made it clear: the recognition of independence of Kosovo is irreversible," Biden said flanked by Kosovo's leaders. "It will not change."

Pristina was decorated with flags, large posters and banners thanking Biden and US for their role in Kosovo. Many people waved Kosovo and US flags.

Ethnic Albanians are staunch supporters of the US because it led the 1999 NATO bombing of Serbia that stopped the war in Kosovo.

Biden was greeted at the airport by Kosovo's newly formed security force, and later by President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci. He was awarded the Gold Medal of Freedom, and he was to address the country's parliament and receive a copy of Kosovo's Independence Declaration.

Biden also plans to visit a 14-century Serbian Orthodox monastery, a UN world heritage site that he is often credited for saving from destruction by putting pressure on local officials when ethnic Albanians attacked Serbs and their religious sites in 2004 riots. He will then head to the largest US military installation in the region, Camp Bondsteel, home to some 1,000 American peacekeepers. **Pristina AP**

# FBI says plot to bomb Jewish temple in NY foiled; 4 charged

Four men arrested in the United States on charges of plotting to bomb a Jewish temple and shoot down military planes and were expected to appear in federal court in White Plains, New York later on Thursday. Officials told The Associated Press the arrests came after a nearly yearlong undercover operation that began in Newburgh, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of New York City.

James Cromitie, David Williams, Onta Williams and Laguerre Payen, all of Newburgh, were charged with conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction within the United States and conspiracy to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles, the US attorney's office said. Three of the defendants are US citizens and one is of Haitian descent, officials said.

The men had planned to detonate a car with plastic explosives outside a temple in the Bronx neighborhood of Riverdale and to shoot military planes at the New York Air National Guard base at Stewart Airport in Newburgh with Stinger surface-to-air guided missiles, authorities said. The defendants planned to "destroy a synagogue and a Jewish community center with C-4 plastic explosives," Acting US Attorney Lev L. Dassin said. The religious targets were the Riverdale Temple, founded in 1947, and the Riverdale Jewish Center, authorities said.

"This latest attempt to attack our freedoms shows that the homeland security threats against New York City are sadly all too real and underscores why we must remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent terrorism," New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement. The mayor is expected to appear at Riverdale Jewish Center morning services with Police Commissioner Raymond



James Cromitie, right, is led by police officers from a federal building in New York after being arrested on charges related to a bombing plot in the Bronx. At top left is David Williams, also known as Daoud, and below is Onta Williams, also known as Hamza.

Kelly. The defendants, in their efforts to acquire weapons, dealt with an informant acting under law enforcement supervision, authorities said. The FBI and other agencies monitored the men and provided an inactive missile and inert C-4 to the informant for the defendants, a federal complaint said.

In June 2008, the informant met Cromitie in Newburgh and Cromitie complained that his parents had lived in Afghanistan and he was upset about the war there and that many Muslim people were being killed in Afghanistan and Pakistan by US military forces, officials said. Cromitie al-

so expressed an interest in doing "something to America," they said in the complaint.

In October 2008, the informant began meeting with the defendants at a Newburgh house equipped with concealed video and audio equipment, the complaint said. Beginning in April 2009, the four men selected the synagogue and the community center they intended to hit, it said. They also conducted surveillance of military planes at the Air National Guard Base, it said.

The suspects were arrested Wednesday night, shortly after planting a mock explosive device in the trunk of a car outside the

Riverdale Temple and two mock bombs in the backseat of a car outside the Jewish Center, authorities said. Rep. Peter King, the senior Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee, was briefed on the case following the arrests.

"This was a long, well-planned investigation, and it shows how real the threat is from homegrown terrorists," said King, of New York. Democrat Sen. Charles Schumer said if there can be any good news out of this case it's that "the group was relatively unpoliticized, penetrated early and not connected to any outside group." **New York AP**

PHOTO © AP, ROBERT MECCA

## India's new ruling caste

OPINION

Appu K. Soman\*

TODAY'S ZAMAN

The largest election in history, involving more than 700 million voters, has resulted in the victory of India's ruling alliance, led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of the Indian National Congress. The verdict disproved gloomy predictions of a hung parliament and the further strengthening of regional parties. The new government will be far more stable than many of its predecessors, so the election results have elicited profound relief.

But the fact remains that, like previous governments, the new administration will consist mostly of politicians unfit to hold ministerial office. While several provincial satraps have been cut down to size, new, aspiring ones have garnered significant support. Despite the manifest success of Indian democracy, its parliamentary system is not succeeding in giving India good governance.

Obviously, India is not a failed state. Lant Pritchett of the Harvard Kennedy School has coined a new name for India: a "flailing state" -- a state where the government's extremely competent upper echelons are unable to control its inefficient lower levels, resulting in poor performance.

But this analysis gives credit where none is due: India's problem is its top political leadership's lack of competence. The inability of India's current political system to provide effective government places the country in a different category, a non-performing state.

The idealism of India's freedom movement quickly evaporated after independence in the face of the opportunities for patronage that came with power. The way India's political system evolved has made politics the surest path to wealth. The money spent to win elections (often including the purchase of a party's nomination) is recouped many times over once the winner is in office. Half of India's legislators who stood for re-election this time around had tripled their assets in the last five years.

Increasing corruption within governments run by the Congress Party, which led India to independence and monopolized political power for decades, showed what a lucrative career politics had become. Given India's religious, caste and linguistic divides, politicians saw how easily they could leverage even a small following into votes.

Soon, Indian political parties began to break up, giving rise to a large number of regional and caste-based parties. Most of these parties are led by political dynasties that prize loyalty over merit.

Because of the splintering of political parties, India has had only one single-party government and eight coalition governments in the last two decades. Members of the coalition governments have treated the ministries allocated to them as fiefdoms, to be milked for their benefit. Over time, India's government has become primarily a tool for advancing the personal interests of politicians rather than the entity responsible for running the country.

The opportunity for personal gains through public office has made electoral politics an automatic career choice for Indian politicians' progeny. Record numbers of sons and daughters of political leaders and millionaires (and people with criminal backgrounds) contested this election. We are seeing the formation of a new Indian caste -- a caste of rulers different from India's traditional Kshatriya caste -- before our very eyes.

Like existing castes, the new caste specializes in one occupation: political office. Just as someone became a carpenter or a trader in an earlier era merely through birth, members of India's ruling caste now become leaders of parties, members of legislatures and cabinet ministers solely because of their parentage.

And, as with the older castes, there is no need for any qualification for the vocation; birth alone is sufficient. Lack of vocational competence never barred Indians from remaining in their caste, and how well one performs in political office is, likewise, not a criterion for politicians to continue in positions of power.

India's parliamentary system requires ministers to be members of the legislature. Party leaders select family members and other loyal followers as candidates for elections, with absolutely no consideration of their abilities to fulfill ministerial responsibilities, resulting in cabinets that are simply not capable of managing the problems confronting the country's national and state governments.

Even with the best political leadership, governing India is no easy task. Successive governments staffed with unqualified politicians have failed dismally to carry out the core governmental functions of maintaining law and order, providing the basic services expected of modern societies and promoting economic growth. India's high-performing private sector has so far masked the failure of the Indian state.

In its current form, India's parliamentary system can produce only non-performing, corrupt governments. It rewards ambition, promotes office-at-any-cost politics and devalues merit.

Taking away the prize of ministerial office from elected representatives might discourage wealth-maximizing politicians from entering politics. It is, therefore, for India to consider introducing a presidential system of government, which would reduce the scope for "horse trading" and allow the country's leader to select competent people for cabinet positions.

\* Appu Soman is a fellow of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. © Project Syndicate, 2009

## Israel removes West Bank settler outpost

Israeli police broke up an unauthorized settler outpost in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, bulldozing seven makeshift cabins, police said. About 40 members of Israel's paramilitary border police force took part in the operation. There were five settler families at the hill-top camp, called Maoz Esther, living in wooden structures with sheet metal roofs.

The outpost was located on a hilltop about 300 meters from the Jewish settlement of Kokhav Hashahar, northeast of the West Bank city of Ramallah. The settlers -- about three dozen adults and children -- were in the middle of a Torah lesson when the police arrived. They were allowed to finish and then left as ordered, without resisting, one settler told Reuters. The evacuation was carried out a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned from talks with US President Barack Obama, who urged a halt to construction of settlements in order to revive stalled peace talks.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Wednesday told Jewish settlement leaders that outposts erected illegally had to be removed, a statement from his office said. It quoted him as saying Israel "cannot compromise over enforcing the law," and adding that removal would be carried out either through dialogue or by force.

## Two dozen outposts

There are more than 100 Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, many close to Palestinian towns and villages. The World Court regards all of them as illegal. Israel disputes this. But it acknowledges there are at least two dozen enclaves built by settlers in recent years without Israeli government approval. The Haaretz newspaper said Netanyahu had agreed with Barak that they should go.

"The defense minister, on behalf of the government, is leading on this issue," Netanyahu's spokesman Mark Regev said.

"It's a matter of the rule of law and, at the moment, the attempt is to have a situation where unauthorized structures will be taken down through a process of dialogue, which we hope will succeed," Regev could not say how long the process might take. Several "unauthorized" outposts have been evacuated in the past, but settlers have rebuilt most of them. Kokhav Hashahar Reuters



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TODAY'S ZAMAN

FAILAKA

# QUIRKY KUZGUNCUK

Situated on İstanbul's Asian shore, Kuzguncuk lies between Paşalimanı and Beylerbeyi, in a green valley. The origins of the name Kuzguncuk are not clear. Some say the original name of the area was Hrisokeramos, meaning 'Golden Tiles'



PHOTOS: TODAY'S ZAMAN; TURKÜT ENGIN

KATHY HAMILTON İSTANBUL

Sometimes we all need a change of venue in order to get a different perspective on ourselves and the world around us. When I am in need of a change in scenery, I hop on a minibus from in front of the Üsküdar pier and head to Kuzguncuk. There is a refreshing air in this quiet village on the Bosphorus. I feel a creative energy there that I find lacking in many other parts of the city, which could account for the number of artists who live and work in this quirky enclave of İstanbul.

Situated on İstanbul's Asian shore, Kuzguncuk lies between Paşalimanı and Beylerbeyi, in a green valley. The origins of the name Kuzguncuk are not clear. Some say the original name of the area was Hrisokeramos, meaning "Golden Tiles," in recognition of a church with gilded roofing tile that was built here during the reign of the Emperor Justinian. Another theory is that the village was once known as Kosintiza (Little Raven) and over time the name morphed into Kuzguncuk. The 17th century Ottoman traveler and writer Evliya Çelebi wrote that the area was named in honor of a holy man known as Kuzgun Baba (Father Raven), who resided here during the rule of Mehmet the Conqueror.

Whatever the history of the village, it has stood as an example of an area where different nationalities and religions can live together in harmony. Here you find an Armenian church sharing a garden with a mosque and a Greek Orthodox church standing side by side with a synagogue. When the Kuzguncuk Mosque was built, the Armenian residents of the area helped with the construction. When the Armenians decided to build their church, the Surp Krikor Lusavoric, Sultan Abdülaziz donated money for its completion. This tiny hamlet on the shores of the Bosphorus has, over the centuries, been a haven of tolerance and respect that continues today.

During Ottoman times, Kuzguncuk residents supported their families mainly through fishing, gardening and handicrafts. The hand-embroidered fabrics produced here were much in demand at the palace. Once the ferry company Serketi-i Hayriye began regular ferry service to Kuzguncuk in the second half of the 19th century, the area quickly became a favorite daytime destination for many city residents.

Today, the winding side streets of Kuzguncuk appear often in Turkish television shows. The colorfully painted 19th century wooden houses are used as backdrops to evoke a sense of the "old" İstanbul. In many ways, the feeling of old İstanbul still permeates the village. Artisans have workshops in storefronts all through the tiny valley, and much of their artwork adorns local businesses.

A walking tour through Kuzguncuk is an enjoyable way to spend half a day away from the noise and bustle of more congested parts of town. The easiest way to get to Kuzguncuk is from the Üsküdar ferry terminal. From there it is a five-minute taxi, bus or minibus ride to the stoplight at Kuzguncuk's main street. Just before arriving in Kuzguncuk, on the shores of the Bosphorus, is the Fethi Ahmet Paşa Yalı, an 18th century wooden mansion. Also known as the Pink Yalı, this is one of the landmarks of

Kuzguncuk and is best seen from one of the occasional ferries that glide into the small boat landing in the village. Built over the water in typical Turkish style, this mansion has 20 rooms that each have their own distinctive decor. This was once the home of an Ottoman ambassador to Paris who was also a son-in-law of Sultan Abdülmecit.

After alighting at the traffic light, you will notice the marble fountain built in 1792 gracing what was once the quay. Walking up the sahil yolu, or shore road, toward the first Bosphorus bridge, you will pass the domed Surp Krikor Lusavoric Armenian Church. Built in 1835, this is still a working church. If the gate to the church is not open, ring the bell and ask the caretaker if you can see the inside. The light, pastel colors make the interior seem much larger than it actually is. Continuing on from the church, you will pass the Uryanizade Mosque, which shares a courtyard with the church next door. Built in 1880, this mosque is noted for its carved wooden minaret.

Turning right at the street the mosque sits on will put you on Yenigün Sokak. This street has several lovingly restored wooden Ottoman houses, each one painted in bright colors. A short walk down Yenigün Sokak will take you to Tufan Sokak. If you turn left on Tufan Sokak and walk to the top of the very steep hill, you will find a wooden door with a cross above it. This is the entrance to the Greek cemetery. If the gate is not open, knock and the caretaker will let you in to wander through the grounds.

From Yenigün Sokak, walk past Tufan Sokak until you come to the main street of Kuzguncuk, İcadıye Caddesi. This tree-lined street is full of barbershops, teahouses, art galleries and tiny cafés. Across the intersection you will see the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Panteleimon. This church was built in the sixth century, during the reign of Emperor Justinian, and is one of the oldest churches in the city that is still in use. It is only open for Sunday services, but sometimes the ayazma, sacred spring, is open during the week.

Continuing up İcadıye Caddesi past the church, turn right onto İcadıye Hamam Sokak. Turn right onto Yakup Sokak, and you will find the Virane Synagogue, a small, yet old place of worship that is still in use.

For those who want a rather rigorous walk, continue uphill on İcadıye Caddesi until you come to Kuzguncuk Dere Sokak on the left. Continue a long block and at the hairpin turn, turn left and enter the Jewish Cemetery. This is one of the oldest cemeteries in İstanbul and has been in use by the Jewish community for almost 500 years.

Returning down İcadıye Caddesi, just before the light on the shore road, is the Ayyos Georgios Monastery and Church, built in 1821. Just a few steps past the monastery is the Beth Yaakov Synagogue, built in 1878 to serve the Judeo-Spanish community. Closed except for services and by special arrangement, the interior has an impressive dome, painted with scenes from Israel.

Throughout Kuzguncuk are tiny cafés and miniscule artists' workshops tucked away along side streets. It is worth the time to stroll the quiet streets, admiring the architecture and the view. In quirky Kuzguncuk, you never know what you will find, or how many friends you will run into who also enjoy this little haven in our busy city.



Throughout Kuzguncuk are tiny cafés and miniscule artists' workshops tucked away along side streets. It is worth the time to stroll the quiet streets, admiring the architecture and the view.

CULTURAL CORNER  
CHARLOTTE  
McPHERSON



## ADDRESSING MINORITY ISSUES AND CULTURE

Many visitors, before they even come to Turkey, have heard in the international news about the Kurds and Alevites. The two questions that I am most often asked are about how many Alevites there are in Turkey and if they are Muslims. Europeans are especially interested in this topic because of the emphasis Europeans place on protecting the diversity of culture.

One of the main challenges that Turkey faces are the rapid change that are taking place and challenging the culture. Culture is what provides people with a design for living and guidelines to problems so that individuals in each new generation do not have to start from scratch. Culture breaks down when it is too traditional and inflexible and the changes come too quickly.

In the 1950 Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the main objective is minority rights and that every person has equal status. In our daily lives, our culture demonstrates our identity. One of the main points in European minority politics that is being discussed with regard to Turkey and its eligibility to join the European Union is the whole area that deals with the question: Are minorities and minority issues in the EU being used as a political tool to accomplish certain interests of the EU and impose these on the nation?

Dear visitors:

Let me just briefly answer my first two loaded questions. Firstly, the exact number of Alevites is not known since the official census makes no differentiation between the various Islamic groups.

To answer the second question, I cannot be as brief, but I will try to keep it as simple as possible even though the subject is not a simple one. Let me make just a few points:

- The Turkish term "Alevilik" should be written as "Alevism" in English; however, Alevism is the name of the religious belief only. Alevilik on the other hand represents the religious belief, the philosophy and the particular community of Alevites in Turkey.

- Alevites follow Ali, who was Muhammad's cousin (amca oğlu) and son-in-law (damat), marrying the prophet's daughter Fatima.

- Alevites believe that Ali was the first to believe in Muhammad as a great prophet and, therefore, became the first Muslim.

- Alevilik is a heterodox Islamic belief with different rituals, holy places and differing emphasis on religious figures than the majority Sunni population.

- Alevilik has a syncretistic belief structure within the general framework of Islam, but also differs on some main doctrinal points of the religion.

- The origin of Alevilik began when the Turks started accepting Islam as their religion in the 10th century onward and has been influenced by Shiism and Sufism.

It'd be good to mention here for visitors unfamiliar with the Ottoman Empire and how the rulers dealt with minorities for centuries: The millet system has been referred to by scholars as an early example of pre-modern religious pluralism. The millet system gave unlimited autonomy to non-Muslim minorities in the Ottoman Empire, letting the people practice their religion and culture as long as they paid their taxes.

This brings us back to the EU's present day concern for those who are not mainstream -- the Sunni branch -- such as the Alevites and Yezidites.

Steps in the right direction began back in 1923 when the Turkish Republic was founded with the idea of belonging to Turkish people who had fought for the independence of Turkey against all the foreign powers that had invaded Turkish territory, and this fight was the most important element of a unified identity.

The EU requires Turkey to reorganize its minority definition in accordance with EU legislation and provide schooling, education in the native tongue, religious autonomy and other freedoms to these people. The present government is taking measures to move in the right direction.

It is hard for Americans and Europeans to understand the grave concerns of the Turkish state about people having any identity other than that of being a Turk over the fear that it would threaten the unity of the state.

Changes in local culture will occur as Turkey implements the international conventions' new definitions of the term "minority," which embraces the idea that minorities are individuals within a population who represent a group that embodies different ethnic, linguistic or religious characteristics than the majority.

"Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity." -- Robert Alan

Note: Charlotte McPherson is the author of "Culture Smart: Turkey, 2005." Please keep your questions and observations coming. I want to ensure this column is a help to you, Today's Zaman's readers. Email: c.mcpherson@todayzaman.com

# Tarantino and Pitt re-write history in Nazi-slaying caper

US director Quentin Tarantino rolls a Western, gangster flick and wartime caper into one in "Inglourious Basterds," his new film starring Brad Pitt as the leader of a ruthless gang of Nazi-slayers. So fearsome is the band of Jewish-American "bastards" that Adolf Hitler himself comes to hear of them, and the predictably violent and action-packed narrative weaves real life figures into a riotous and fanciful plot that re-writes history.

Most of the dialogue is in German and French and translated with subtitles, possibly limiting the film's box office potential in the United States. But at the Cannes Film Festival, where Tarantino's

picture is in the main competition and had its world premiere on Wednesday, there was warm applause after a press screening.

"I am not an American filmmaker. I make movies for the planet Earth and Cannes is the place that represents that," said the 46-year-old, who won the Palme d'Or in Cannes in 1994 with "Pulp Fiction." "During this time here on the Riviera, cinema matters, it's important," he told reporters, explaining why he rushed to have his movie ready in time for the world's biggest film festival.

Early reviews have been mixed. Hollywood publication Variety's Todd McCarthy said the

movie improved halfway through, "after which it's off to the races," but Peter Bradshaw of the Guardian called it a "catastrophe" and like "some colossal armor-plated turkey from hell."

Tarantino declined to explain why he inserted spelling mistakes into the title of his film, borrowed from Italian director Enzo Castellari's 1978 picture "Inglorious Bastards."

The narrative opens in the first year of the German occupation of France, where character Shosanna Dreyfus witnesses the execution of her family at the hands of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa, flamboyantly played by Christoph Waltz.

Elsewhere in Europe, Pitt's character Aldo Raine forms a group of soldiers charged with scalping their Nazi victims. Diane Kruger plays a famous German actress who is also an undercover agent on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich. The strands converge on a small Parisian cinema where history is turned on its head in an explosive climax.

Much of the humor in "Inglourious Basterds" stems from language. Americans' reputations for speaking nothing other than English is a recurring theme, with Pitt's limited Italian comically exposed by the polyglot Landa. **Cannes Reuters**

## Best of world cinema set for Adana outing

Award-winning films from around the globe will be offered in the World Cinema program of this year's Altn Kozas International Film Festival, which is set to unveil its 16th edition June 8-14 in the southern province of Adana.

Among the most notable titles to be featured in the World Cinema program are "London River," director Rachid Bouchareb's dramatic exploration of a family's life in the aftermath of the July 7, 2005 bombings in London; "Kashmir: Journey To Freedom," American-Israeli director Udi Aloni's documentary that follows Kashmiri Muslims who attempted to change the destiny of their nation; and "Treeless Mountain," director So Yong Kim's cinematic take on abandonment, told through the perspective of a little girl.

Other titles to be offered will include "North," the debut feature by Norwegian film director Rune Denstad Langlo; the Polish-French co-production "Four Nights With Anna" by Jerzy Skolimowski; the family comedy "It's Not Me I Swear" by Canada's Philippe Falardeau; the Georgia-Russia co-production romantic film "The Rainbomaker," by Nana Djordjadze; and "Empty Nest," Argentinean director Daniel Burman's comedic look at the problems of married life, according to a written statement released yesterday by the festival's organizers.

Twelve Turkish titles will be running for prizes in the festival's national feature competition, whereas 48 short films from Mediterranean countries will run in the international competition for Mediterranean short films. The festival will screen 190 productions in nine theaters in total, the statement said. **Istanbul Today's Zaman**

## Teenage Dylan 'poem' was Hank Snow song

A poem purportedly written by a teenage Bob Dylan and up for auction at Christie's is actually a song written by the late Canadian country singer Hank Snow, the auction house said on Wednesday.

Christie's announced on Tuesday the sale of the hand-written poem believed to have been written in 1957 when Dylan was 16 and away at Jewish camp. But Christie's failed to detect that the words, with a few minor variations, matched those of a song previously recorded by Snow, who died in 1999 at age 85. Reuters discovered the lyrics matched the Snow song when alerted by a reader.

"Additional information has come to our attention about the handwritten poem submitted by Bob Dylan to his camp newspaper, written when he was 16, entitled 'Little Buddy.' The words are in fact a revised version of lyrics of a Hank Snow song," Christie's said in a statement. "This still remains among the earliest known handwritten lyrics of Bob Dylan and Christie's is pleased to offer them in our Pop Culture auction on June 23." Christie's expects the manuscript to fetch \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Christie's said Dylan, still using his given name Robert Zimmerman, signed the piece Bobby Zimmerman and submitted it to the Herzl Camp newspaper. The editor of the paper kept it for more than 50 years and recently donated it to Herzl Camp, a Jewish camp in Wisconsin, Christie's said. It reads in part, "But I'll meet my precious buddy up in the sky/ By a tiny narrow grave/ Where the willows sadly wave." Those words and others match the Snow song.

The Hank Snow Country Music Center lists the "Little Buddy" lyrics and music as by Snow and said the song was recorded in Montreal in December 1947. **New York Reuters**

## England's Royal Ballet to make Cuba visit

England's Royal Ballet will make its first visit to Cuba in July with performances that include a homage to Cuban ballet legend Alicia Alonso, ballet executives said on Wednesday.

The Cuba visit came about in part because the Royal Ballet's principal guest dancer, Carlos Acosta, is a Cuban and was anxious to perform in his home country, administrative director Kevin O'Hare said. "He said it would be the highlight of his career to bring the company to Cuba," O'Hare said. He said the Cuban government had supported the visit.

"It really just came out of the Royal Ballet taking this on board, deciding this is what we want to do for the company," O'Hare said. "Because of the heritage of their national ballet, there is probably no other place in the world that has a love of classical ballet like Cuba," he said. The communist-led island also has been one of the top producers of male dancers in recent years, O'Hare said.

The company, which will bring 96 dancers to Havana, is scheduled to perform four pieces, one of which will be a tribute to Alonso and include dancers from the Cuban National Ballet, he said.

Alonso, 88, who danced in the United States and Europe, has led the Cuban ballet since shortly after Fidel Castro took power in a 1959 revolution. Acosta, considered one of the top dancers in the world, was her student before leaving Cuba. The Royal Ballet, which is based at the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden, will perform at the Gran Teatro de Havana and Karl Marx Teatro on July 14-18. **Havana Reuters**



A photograph by Alexey Moskvina, featured in the "Golden City" exhibition, on display until June 6 at the Akbank Art Center in Istanbul

# 'Golden City': an artistic look at contemporary urban experience

RUMEYSA KIGER ISTANBUL

An exhibition titled "Altn Şehir/The Golden City," featuring pieces by contemporary artists Alexey Moskvina, Lütfi Özden, Lynn MacRitchie and Denizhan Özer exploring the concept of freedom from the perspectives of the past and the present, is currently on display at the Akbank Art Center in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district.

Özer, who is also one of the show's curators, explains that the concept of the show was shaped around the idea of urban experience and that the other curator, MacRitchie, suggested the title "The Golden City." "As we all know, cities are centers of political, social and intellectual power. When we look at their historical developments, we see that they either evolved according to their inner dynamics or shrunk in time and some of them even vanished," Özer says, adding, "What makes a city important is its cultural structure along with its geographical, political and commercial position."

"These aspects affect everybody, including -- and maybe most importantly

-- artists. Cities that are gradually and continually developing -- such as Istanbul -- become not merely places for people to live, but also spheres of conflict," Özer adds. "Although every city has its own mobility, under the influence of modernism and globalization, they each become alike. This directly affects the architecture, living culture, education and arts," he emphasizes, noting that now these metropolises have become "structures that grind human beings." "For all these reasons, we wanted to discuss the city as a concept. Was there really a 'Golden City' once? Or was the 'Golden City' just a utopia?"

The show brings together pieces by four artists working in different mediums, and all of them derive their works from their own experiences. MacRitchie lives in London near the historic city center, known simply as the City, and she joins the show with a seven-screen installation made up of scenes from this area. Moskvina is also an artist based in London, though he grew up in St. Petersburg.

In his video for the show, there are scenes not just from these two cities, but also from Bogota, where he visited for five days. "According to Moskvina, wherever he lives is 'the Golden City,'" Özer says.

The Ankara-based Özden, on the other hand, shows the often disregarded dark side of the Turkish capital through his oil paintings.

Özer, as an artist who has lived in many different cities, has offered a video installation about these cities' lost identities by drawing out their similarities through black-and-white photographs.

Still, despite being centered around the same theme, each piece in the show highlights the artists' different approaches to the subject. "One can easily discern that Turkish artists are more pessimistic while depicting the cities in their work. MacRitchie and Moskvina's pieces, on the other hand, are more gleaming, more hopeful," the Özer adds.

The exhibition runs until June 6 on the first floor of the Akbank Art Center. Visiting hours are between 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday. Tel: (212) 252-3500



An oil painting by Lütfi Özden



A photograph by Denizhan Özer

## CONCERT

### Violinist Mirjam Tschopp shares stage with CSO

Ankara's Presidential Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will host violinist Mirjam Tschopp as guest soloist in tonight's concert, marking this week's Atatürk Commemoration, Youth and Sports Day. Under the baton of Rengin Gökmen, the CSO and Tschopp, who is best known for her recordings of violin and viola concertos by Ahmed Adnan Saygun, will present a program of pieces by Ulvi Cemal Erkin, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Darius Milhaud.



### AWARD Ömer Lütfi Akad to be honored at Altn Kozas

Ömer Lütfi Akad, the veteran 93-year-old pioneer of Turkish cinema who directed over 40 films in his career, will receive one of the awards of honor at this year's Altn Kozas International Film Festival, slated for June 8-14 in the southern province of Adana. Other artists to be honored at the festival are actress Filiz Akan, actor Yusuf Sezgin and musician Cahit Berkay. The awards ceremony will take place on June 11 during the festival ball.

## FESTIVAL

### The Prodigy, Linkin Park to headline Rock'n Coke

The Prodigy, Linkin Park, Nine Inch Nails, Jane's Addiction and Kaiser Chiefs will headline this year's Rock'n Coke festival in Istanbul, which returns this summer after a yearlong hiatus following its 2007 edition. The three-day festival, one of Turkey's largest open-air rock music events, is set for July 17-19 in its new venue, the Istanbul Park, which hosts the Formula 1 Turkish Grand Prix, on Istanbul's Asian side.



### ESTIVAL Palace Concerts moved to historic Çinili Köşk

The "Concerts at the Palace" series in next month's Istanbul Music Festival have been moved from the Topkapı Palace Imperial Council building to the Çinili Köşk due to restoration at the original venue. The first concert, set for June 9, will feature Chinese cellist Jian Wang and Swedish guitarist Göran Söllscher, while Turkish flautist Halit Turgay, British harpist Claire Jones and violist Ashan Pillai will be onstage at the second concert, on June 23.

# WHAT IS AZERBAIJAN TO TURKEY?



This question is like asking Mecrun about Leyla. Love for Azerbaijan is so natural and so deep in Turkey that any person will be taken aback when such a question is asked. Like the air you breathe, one cannot explain the reasons for his or her love. This love cannot be questioned. This love cannot be put to any test. This love cannot be doubted. For Turkey, this is the reason it portrays Turkey and Azerbaijan as "a single nation with two states." An Azerbaijani Turk living in Baku or Mingecevir and a Turkish Turk living in Istanbul or Trabzon are members of the same nation. Thus, there cannot be different interests for the members of this single nation. Indeed, this single nation will draw the divergent policies of these two states in the same direction. Those who take the helm of the state apparatus will come and go, but the people will travel to eternity together.

## Has Turkey's Armenian policy changed?

Can Turkey's policy concerning Armenia, which stands like a knife between Turkey and Azerbaijan, change? Can Turkey come closer to Armenia by turning a blind eye to Azerbaijan's interests? Let us focus on some specific issues. Can the border crossing between Turkey and Armenia, which was closed down in response to Armenia's occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh, be reopened?

All of these questions can be answered as follows: Turkey's Armenian policy may change, but Turkey's policy regarding Azerbaijan will not change in the least. Turkey shapes its Armenian policy based on the Karabakh issue in the first place, as well as on Azerbaijan's interests. If it introduces any change to its policy, then it is also intended to produce benefits for Azerbaijan.

Recent debates should be assessed from this perspective. Turkey has launched new initiatives in order to normalize relations with Armenia. These initiatives are conducted with a very important assumption in mind: Turkey assumes that the existing status quo in the Caucasus is detrimental to all three countries -- Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia. To maintain this status quo does not serve the interests of any of these countries. It is not reasonable to maintain this situation that brings losses to all three sides.

Today there is not a single issue that can be resolved by fighting between Turkey and Armenia or between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Yet all three countries are harmed by the existing form of relations. It should be acknowledged that the biggest harm is being done to Armenians. Having turned into a toy for the Armenian diaspora cannot promise good days for the people of Armenia. Armenians have been living with fear, poverty and desperation and they are in dire need of change. On the other hand, Azerbaijan cannot save Nagorno-Karabakh from occupation and cannot ensure the return of refugees to their homeland. Hopes for the return for those who fled the massacre and are now living in exile and hopes for abolishing this occupation for are diminishing further every day. As for Turkey, it is struggling against the Armenian genocide claims that hinder its progress in the EU and the US. But the passing of Armenian genocide laws does not bring any good to Armenia. Armenians who maintain the occupation in Karabakh are crushed under a heavy burden. This issue creates a vacuum into which Russia is moving.

So something must be done in order to change the status quo. This is what Abdullah Gül did when he arranged a meeting between Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev in Prague.

## Turks' public diplomacy

Nuri Pasha, who drew the current borders of Azerbaijan back in 1918, was applying what he had learned from



Turkish President Abdullah Gül (L) and Azerbaijani counterpart İlham Aliyev

Hüseynzade Ali and Mehmet Emin Resulzade. Not only Hüseynzade Ali and Mehmet Emin Resulzade, but also Anatolian Turks had largely learned how to become a nation from Azerbaijani intellectuals. The national awakening of Azerbaijani Turks, who were under Russian rule at that time, removed the hesitation in Turkey resulting from its imperial heritage. In their quest to ensure the survival of an empire, İstanbul's intellectuals were trying to conceal their national peculiarities due to concerns about disintegration, but Azerbaijani intellectuals provided them with the sort of inspiration they needed to create a nation out of an empire in decline.

There are two different traditions this single nation. Behind these traditions are the different experiences of the two societies. Azerbaijanis' experience of nationhood is far richer and sounder than that of Anatolian people. On the other hand, Anatolian Turks have much older and established state experiences. If these two experiences could be combined, the result would be miraculous.

Unlike our brothers and sisters in Azerbaijan, we were newcomers in the land that we today call our homeland. After we arrived, we established the longest-lived and strongest states. This is because we did not come to these lands as wandering migrants with no purpose, but as an organized society led by Alperens and veteran dervishes. In Anatolia, all of the religious organizations are, in essence, social organizations. This has not changed since the arrival of the first Turks in these lands. Accordingly, a religious leader takes the initiative and sees to the organization of the society, setting rules and principles, and he does this to ensure that society can move toward the same destination as the state. For this reason, religious communities are uniquely organized and assertive civilian forces for Anatolian Turks. Those who lend support to these communities are actually serving social purposes rather than religious ones. The religious leader of the community has the duty of securing confidence in this joint target. The fact that rapprochement with Azerbaijan has been facilitated by these communities is the result of this historical experience. Azerbaijanis should realize that the communities that settled in Azerbaijan coming from Turkey cannot be treated as mere religious organizations. These

communities are like locomotives. They not only determine the direction and lay down the track, but also pull the national forces with them toward the target.

When the world was no longer bipolar, a new form of diplomacy, called "public diplomacy," was introduced. Invented by the Americans, this form of diplomacy implies that the weight and support of the public should be integrated with foreign policy. Diplomacy is no longer shaped behind closed doors or around tables where the diplomats of two countries bargain. The peoples of these countries are added to the formula. They make diplomatic demands. They influence the decisions of their states. Turkey's public diplomacy has evolved considerably over time. Turkey's increased weight in the Middle East is largely a result of this policy. Also, in the Balkans Turkey made great progress thanks to its public diplomacy. The force of the public giving support to the diplomacy currently developed regarding Armenia should be taken into consideration.

The driving forces behind Turkey's public diplomacy are communities. This is the same force that sends Turkish entrepreneurs everywhere around the world. Today Turkey owes its place in the Middle East arena to its economic power and social mobility, rather than its military power. This applies to the Caucasus as well.

When the Caucasus is viewed from the perspective of public diplomacy, there is one sole alternative in sight. Turkey's economic and social power is ready to penetrate there through any opening that can be found. Shouldn't Azerbaijanis treat Turkey's new power as their own based on the single-nation principle?

In harmony with its state and people, Turkey ventured to change a status quo that is of no use to the parties in the Caucasus. Soon it was found that Armenia was ready to backtrack with respect to the Karabakh issue. Thus, it can be concluded that President Abdullah Gül is taking the right steps. Turkey's civil society force in Azerbaijan -- its religious communities -- understands Azerbaijan very well. It is these communities that are on the alert in order to rectify any wrong move by the Turkish state.

Being a single nation is the direct result of this rapprochement between two peoples and the will to protect common national interests, isn't it?

# FROM HUBRIS TO NEMESIS IN THE EU

PIERRE MOSCOVICI\*

PARIS -- The European Union's Lisbon treaty was initially greeted with enthusiasm, pride and even hubris. It promised a more realistic and reasonable way forward than the ill-fated constitutional treaty that it replaced, and many of its supporters also hoped that a central feature of its predecessor -- the notion of "constitutional patriotism" -- was still alive. But the Lisbon treaty has instead brought chaos to the union. What went wrong?

Constitutional patriotism, a concept developed by two German philosophers, Dolf Sternberger and Karl Jaspers, was intended to replace the nationalism that had been discredited in Germany by the country's Nazi past. Similarly, as the EU evolved into a federal state, its loyal citizens would reject nationalism based on ethnic affinities and instead identify with the democratic principles of the federation's constitution.

This fantasy was unambiguously rejected by Irish voters, so it seems fitting to remind ourselves that the ancient Greeks, who gave the word "hubris" to the Western world, saw it as a portent of tragedy leading to downfall, or "nemesis."

Did the ambitions of the Lisbon treaty's designers condemn it to failure? And, indeed, has it really failed? After all, European integration may meet obstacles, but it is still moving forward. As France's Robert Schuman, one of the EU's founding fathers, said in 1950, "Europe will neither happen in one go, nor as a whole construct. It will happen through concrete achievements, first by creating a *de facto* solidarity."

Many thought that this solidarity had been achieved in October 2004, with the signing of the Nice treaty, which outlined an EU constitution. But only 18 member states then approved it, before France and the Netherlands rejected it in referendum and the seven other member states then halted the ratification process.

Faced with this situation, the European Council had only two choices. First, it could stick with the Nice treaty as the basis of the union's operation. But that admission of failure would have weakened the political dynamic of the European project and severely constrained its scope for the future. The second option was to search for a compromise -- the Lisbon treaty.

It bears repeating that the Lisbon treaty constitutes real, if modest, progress for the European project. Under its terms, the European Council's presidency would have far greater stability; in place of the current six-month rotating presidency, a European political leader who could command the necessary support would be elected to serve as president for two and a half years. Council decisions that now require unanimity would be taken by majority vote. The EU's "high representative" would straddle the European Commission and the European Council to look after foreign affairs and security, and the European Parliament would have more power.

Over and above these considerable advances, the treaty aims to make the EU more democratic. A group of citizens would be able to "invite" the European Commission

to propose new legislation. National parliaments would be given a say in EU lawmaking, as the treaty recognizes the roles of parliaments in the "adequate workings of the union."

Yet, despite its undeniable importance and its contribution to the EU's development, the Lisbon treaty is far from being the key to everything. Instead, it is a simplified treaty replete with protocols, dispensations and opt-out clauses. Former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt was right when he spoke of the treaty as a set of "footnotes."

Meanwhile, with the Lisbon treaty blocked and no institutional step forward in sight, the underlying question remains: What type of Europe do we want? The Lisbon treaty is content with clearing pathways rather than creating new horizons. It mainly gives member states' leaders the responsibility of implementing various EU advances and sketches only tantalizing glimpses of Europe's full potential. It doesn't condemn the EU, but as French President Nicolas Sarkozy likes to say, it doesn't save it, either. The member states' political authority remains the motor of European policymaking, with all that this implies in terms of coordination, compromise and negotiation.

It is now up to the EU's political leadership to move quickly and take a firm grasp of the achievements that initially gave birth to the Lisbon treaty. A charter of fundamental rights has, for example, been integrated into the treaty; but, unless the member states bring it to life, it will certainly fail to yield concrete results. Fair rather than free competition in trade is proposed, but what does this mean if member states are not able to reach consensus on how to make it happen?

A final point worth emphasizing is that the Lisbon treaty moves away from many of the ideas that could serve as the foundations of a European federal super-state. The disappearance from the treaty of such terms as "constitution" and "minister of foreign affairs" clearly show that the constitutional treaty's ambitions have been scaled back.

To move forward without Ireland by establishing a new union with only 26 countries is legally impossible. But starting a new cycle of institutional negotiations also seems improbable. Europe's citizens are tired of these recurrent discussions -- since 1995, there have been treaties of Amsterdam, Nice, Rome and Lisbon, none of which has entirely succeeded.

Some believe that we will ultimately find a compromise, some use to make the Irish succumb, that gives the EU a treaty. But it will all take time, and if the new arrangement lacks a qualified majority vote, fails to reform the commission and includes an opt-out on the charter of fundamental rights, it will not resolve the EU's essential problems or its estrangement from European public opinion. Perhaps hubris has finally delivered nemesis in the form of a union without people, where treaties have replaced the spirit of Europe.

\*Pierre Moscovici, the French minister for European affairs from 1997-2002, is vice president of the European affairs committee of France's Assemblée Nationale. © Project Syndicate, 2009

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## THINK TANK CAFÉ



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## A RACE AGAINST TIME

"Have you heard the rumor?" he asked.

Although I am not much for the power of the rumor, I had to pay attention. After all, this is Turkey, where naïveté is always a luxury.

Then, I was told anxiously that a new rumor was spreading in Ankara. A new closure case was being prepared against the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party).

Aghast, I could not help but ask: "For doing what?"

He did not really know, but added, carefully, that there was a hint that Kurdish policies, if and when implemented, would drag the governing party into the web of a new judicial process.

I responded that I found it unbelievable that such a counter-development would be expected at all. I counted all that factors that per se refute thoughts of a new legal plot. It is, particularly after the local elections, against the "zeitgeist."

But, something of that sort always leaves a trace behind: You simply do not have the luxury of acting naively in Turkey. Be watchful, keep your mind stable and healthy and always be ready for surprises.

The motto remains the same, unless one witnesses the usage of the same language and total restraint for the irrational.

How is one to read the recent ruling of a provincial court in Ankara? It declared that the "suspect" -- i.e., the president of Turkey -- should stand trial in an old fraud case. The court ruling followed



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Abdullah Gül's statements -- the latest in a series on the same subject over the past few months, but much more clear than any of the previous ones -- about a solution to the bloody Kurdish conflict.

But, is this -- if not an isolated ruling -- solely related to Gül's stance on the Kurdish conflict?

"Turkey is a country that overcame the 367 quorum hogwash; it will certainly overcome this one," Kerim Bali commented yesterday in this paper, pointing to a bigger picture and hinting at a strategic outlook.

"Under the current Constitution, the president is a key figure in the appointment of top judges and prosecutors. The Sincan court is trying to create an aura of unreliability around the personality of the president. This will, of course, put a question mark next to his appointments. I am not aware of any critical appointments to be made to the Constitutional Court or to the Council of State in the near future. There may be future resignations that will create va-

cant places, however, and I am sure Kanadoğlu and his friends are better informed about such developments."

This may or may not bear grains of truth. Still another motto remains the same, if one pays attention to the recent, lengthy comments by the former chief prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Appeals, Sabih Kanadoğlu, who urged the courts to put Gül on trial:

It's (still) the judiciary, stupid!

The struggle for power, beyond the appearances of politics, will continue in the depths of Ankara with new rounds, more excitement and, certainly, more damage. Risk levels remain unchanged.

Was Gül simply projecting wishful thinking rather than conveying the truth when he told the press in Damascus about the "unity" in Ankara about a solution? Probably so. He is aware, perhaps more than anyone in power, that Turkey is racing against time in not only the question of the Kurdish rift but also on two major border conflicts -- one in the south and another in the east -- and an increasingly blurred European Union negotiations process.

"The most important factors are domestic. Presidential elections, the resurrection of Kurdistan Workers' Party [PKK] terror and the closure case against the AK Party slowed down the pace. The two or three years we left behind have been lost," said Ahmet Davutoğlu, the foreign minister, reflecting the view that the ticking clock is a reality -- and a stress generator.



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## JUDICIARY'S SUICIDE

The decision taken by the Sincan 1st Heavy Penal Court is a violation of the Constitution. It is a clear mistake and the manifestation of an intentional stance. How can a court refer to its president as a suspect? Which befuddled member of the judiciary can conclude that the president can be prosecuted when the Constitution clearly states that the president can only be tried for high treason and nothing else?

Besides, the subject of the debate, which is known as the "missing trillion" case, happened more than 10 years ago and has been concluded. So what is the court in Sincan trying to do? It's evident that this is not a legal but a political decision, and unfortunately this isn't an isolated incident.

The politicization of the judiciary, which has been occurring for a long time, has started to damage the public conscience. Inconceivable and unusual decisions taken by the courts have crippled public confidence in the justice system and undermined the judiciary's prestige. The public is concerned because no one knows when and where a member of the judiciary is going to become involved in political speculation. Can't the system remove the problem by itself? The judicial system could resolve these kinds of absurd actions. For example, the Supreme Board of Prosecutors and Judges (HSYK) could intervene when there are such manipulations [of members], but unfortunately the HSYK has also been hit with politicization. Their stance toward the Şemdinli case not only clouded the independence of the judiciary but also sparked an image of a deficient democracy.

They ruined the life of a young prosecutor (Ferhat Sankaya) and barred him from the legal profession. The issuance of such a disproportionate punishment destroyed the concept of justice on the one hand and increased the suspicion of tutelage over the judiciary on the other.

On a television program called "32. Gün," then-Chief of General Staff Gen. Yasar Büyükanıt said: "During the time the Şemdinli events were unraveling, the head of the police intelligence department went to Parliament and made false statements about me. I reported this to the relevant authorities, and that man was immediately removed from his post." He admits having contacted other people to have Sabri Uzun removed from his post. This is a critical situation. Although he could have easily explained and justified the situation, Gen. Büyükanıt made it worse.

This inevitably brings to mind a particular question: Might a retired chief of general staff, who at one point requested that a high-level police official be removed from his post have sent a message with a similar request to the HSYK?

I am not writing this to open past accounts or to offend certain statesmen, but to show that the HSYK has wasted so much of its credibility on frivolous issues, that its actions are always open to misunderstanding. The HSYK has been mentioned many times in the Ergenekon case. It has sought near-unlawful alternatives to prevent the efforts of prosecutors and judges heading the case; at least this is the kind of suspicion its image has led to. Unfortunately, at this point, even if they were to take the right step, citizens will be confused because public opinion no longer sees the HSYK as an internal auditing mechanism.

The judiciary is beating itself up. There is an organization called the Judges and Prosecutors Association (YARSAV), which takes a dive into every political issue and fully supports the Ergenekon organization. On top of that, the person heading the organization is still an active prosecutor. How can this be? These kinds of incidents occur in this country and members of the judicial system can take it in. And there is more! The Constitutional Court is openly exceeding its scope of authority. It does not stop at sufficing with its auditing authority with regards to the procedure of the heads-of-law but also interferes with its principles as well. There is no need to even bring up the terrifying mistake regarding the 367 quorum decision. Judiciary members prefer to remain silent about this critical mistake. What a scandal!

It is necessary to continue with a list of examples? The judiciary has kicked the ball into its own net every time with respect to the decisions it has taken on critical events in recent years. The Sincan court's decision on President Gül is the latest example of this wild course of action. Members of the supreme judiciary speak of the judiciary's independence on every level. They are right. It's obvious that there is no problem with the independence of the judiciary in this country, but rather with their objectivity. Objectivity is as important as independence in order to maintain confidence in the justice system. Anytime they find a microphone, the judiciary executives say, "Let's not exhaust the judiciary." Again they are right. But it is the judiciary itself that is exhausting the judiciary and therefore it is only they themselves who can repair their image.

## NO COMMENT

BAGHDAD, REUTERS, MOHAMMED AMEEN



## MAKING WAY FOR THE YOUNG



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Bowing out gracefully is not an ability that many politicians demonstrate. This is true around the world, but particularly so in Turkey where party regulations allow leaders to exercise such control over internal decision-making bodies that they become almost impossible to unseat.

It was therefore a surprise to hear Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announce that he planned to retire from active politics after serving a third term. His statement was received with consternation by his supporters who vowed to convince him to stay on. It also led commentators to speculate about his intentions and the possibility that he is aiming for the presidency.

The prime minister's declaration, unprecedented in Turkish politics, coincided with the return to active politics of Hüsamettin Cindoruk as head of the Democrat Party (DP), at the age of 76. Can anyone expect this veteran of the political scene, who has served as deputy leader of the True Path Party (DYP) under Süleyman Demirel and speaker of Parliament, to come up with anything more innovative and constructive than he produced two decades ago?

It is an attractive trait of Turkish society that it hasn't succumbed to the agism of many Western countries and continues to treat older people with great respect. But age does not confer automatic wisdom or leadership qualities, neither in a political context nor at the level of the family or the community.

Yet for a country that has a median age of 28.5, Turkey is doing very little to empower its youth and attract young people into public life. On television, anyone below the age of 30 tends to be confined to music channels. "Serious" current affairs programs inevitably involve white-haired male pundits, usually deemed more qualified to comment on the challenges the country faces than their younger compatriots, despite the rapid changes

Turkey, and the world around it, are undergoing. Soaring unemployment is also hitting young people particularly hard, with the result that many feel disenfranchised and isolated.

The Human Development report published last year by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) focused on youth and highlighted the low participation of young people in decision-making not just in political life, but also within the family, for matters as trivial as choosing what TV channel to watch. In the most traditional circles, young people are simply not considered capable of making wise decisions and are expected to accept their elders' opinions.

In the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), which was only formed in 2001, the leadership is generally middle-aged rather than post-retirement age. More old-timers occupy prominent positions in the opposition. They may have valuable experience to offer but they shouldn't mobilize leadership positions that could be occupied by younger politicians with new ideas and a different approach. In the 2002-2007 Parliament, there were only 35 deputies below the age of 35. After the 2007 election, their numbers fell to 19 out of 550 deputies.

Erdoğan dropped his bombshell as he was addressing a young audience. Telling them that he would eventually make way for others was perhaps the best way to promote an interest in politics which, the UNDP noted, is largely absent among Turkey's youth.

Given that Bülent Ecevit was 79 and still prime minister at the time of the 2002 elections, Demirel was 75 when he left the presidency and Deniz Baykal, now in his early 70s, maintains his stronghold over the Republican People's Party (CHP), it is hardly surprising that young people have so far not felt particularly tempted to join the political arena.

Time will tell if Erdoğan was serious about leaving politics and including more young people on electoral lists, now that the law allows 25-year-olds to be elected. Politicians often give the impression that they, alone, can solve a country's problems. The prime minister's statement suggested he could envisage a future for Turkey without him, and that in itself was refreshing and may give young people hope that their turn will come.

At this moment, some points can be made. The greatest challenge remains the Constitution. It is the mother of all problems. All the disturbing elements, deviations, abnormalities, polarizations, discontent, radicalization and levers to maintain the status quo stem from it. Unless it is approached with a will for a wide consensus, Turkey will not only be standing on the same ground, but risks falling back into its dark self. In addition to the first point, there must also be a vigorous search for common ground between political actors, and this search may not work if it is exclusive of the current top commander. This search should also include the precondition that the judiciary is made aware of the race against time phenomenon. As Davutoğlu made clear, time must be used most efficiently. Parliament must work overtime to pass significant laws and turn into a ground of benevolent communication. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan must explain, in all honesty, to his public the virtues of opening the border with Armenia and of cooperation to deal with Cyprus in a sophisticated manner. The recent EU criticism regarding press freedom in the Dogan Media Group tax evasion case should have shown its owner, Aydın Dogan, the fairness of the EU's soft power. Now, the key is whether this position is well grasped by the leading Dogan paper, Hürriyet. It is the outlet which has spread the most suspicions and ill intent about the EU. A full and honest commitment from the Dogan Media Group from now on may help "change" the mood of the "enemies of change" in Turkey.

## REVISING SECULARISM

The slightest change in France, particularly with regard to secularism, closely concerns Turkey because it is claimed that Turkey's system of secularism was adopted from France, although the extent to which it resembles the system in France can be debated. How the French people feel about the way secularism is implemented in Turkey is important. French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) Middle East and Turkey expert Pierre-Jean Luizard described Turkish secularism as "conflict oriented," adding that it is based on the Algerian style of secularism developed by France for its colonies. He says this kind of secularism includes strict state control.

This understanding of secularism undermines Islam as a religion and Muslims as followers of this religion. According to Luizard, even French President Nicolas Sarkozy is considering exempting Muslims from the country's 1905 law on secularism, which is applicable to Christians and Jews. In fact, not just France, but many European countries are starting to take Turkey's version of secularism as an example. France under Sarkozy is handling Islam as it did when it was occupying Algeria. It wants to have strict control over Islam because, unlike other religions, Islam poses a threat. In sum, while in France secularism separates the church from the state, in Turkey secularism is designed by the state to ensure control over religion.

Luizard underlined an important point. Unlike other colonies, Algeria was considered French soil. That means the 1905 law on the separation of church and state should have been applied in Algeria the same way it was applied in France. But the law only applied to Christians and Jews, not Muslims. Why? Luizard's response is that combative secularists believe, "If we allow Muslims to do their own thing by themselves, we will face Islamist movements." This is the same mentality as that harbored by the Kemalists elites and the French Council of the Muslim Faith. They believe pressure should be put on religious communities and that Islam, Muslim religious orders and Islamic practices should be controlled by the state.

According to Luizard, this feature makes secularism in Turkey a model of colonialist secularism. If we analyze Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's discourse on religion, we see that he constantly talks about civilization. When we look at the rhetoric of the founding fathers of secularism in France, starting with Jules Ferry, who tried to legitimize colonialism, the content is almost identical word for word. Religion needs to be modernized and reformed. Religion needs to be under state control. Atatürk had the same idea for Islam. The idea was that religion could not be left alone, but rather had to be placed under state control in order to become civilized.

This model of secularism that France applied in Algeria served as an example for the Gamal Abdel Nasser, Habib Bourguiba and Baathist administrations in the Muslim world. These countries adopted a version of Turkish and colonialist secularism. The reason many people use Islam to express themselves in most Muslim countries can be explained by the state control over Islam in those countries (Ali İhsan Aydın, Zaman, March 14, 2008).

France is preparing to redefine secularism by making changes to the 1905 law because in reality secularism is no longer functional in the country. Sarkozy publicly says France "cannot deny her Christian roots." As reflected in the media, Emmanuelle Mignonon, the new office director of the presidency, was not hesitant to announce that Sarkozy would be revising the 1905 law during his term.

The 1905 law prevents the state from recognizing a specific religion and from providing financial support or paying a salary to religious workers. Sarkozy wants the law to be re-evaluated taking present circumstances into account. It is no secret that there are 5 million Muslims behind this desire. But will the change to the law in question ensure material support for the Muslim community, as well? According to some, the needs of Muslims living in France, such as mosques, graveyards and religious education are going to be provided either through state support or by offering tax exemptions for private and legal entities that provide support.

Muslims do not have private schools or prayer areas like Christians and Jews because they cannot benefit from opportunities providing financial support. But changes to the 1905 law are going to change that.

In both France and Turkey, secularism has entered a period of qualitative change.

MOVIE GUIDE



ANGELS & DEMONS
ISTANBUL: Beyoğlu AFM Fitas: 10.30
13.30 16.30 19.30 22.30 Fr/Sat: 23.50
Esenetepe Cinebonus Astoria: 11.00 14.00
17.00 20.00 Fr/Sat: 23.00 Caddebostan
AFM: 10.40 13.45 17.00 20.10 Fr/Sat:
23.20 ANKARA: Ata On Tower: 11.00
14.00 17.00 20.00 Fr/Sat: 24.00 Bilkent
Cinebonus: 10.45 13.40 17.00 20.20
Fr/Sat: 24.00 İZMİR: Cinebonus Konak
Pier: 11.00 14.00 17.00 20.00 Fr/Sat:
23.00 ANTALYA: Cinebonus Migros:
11.00 14.00 17.00 20.00 Fr/Sat: 24.00

CORALINE
ISTANBUL: Esenetepe Cinebonus Astoria:
11.00 13.00 15.00 17.15 19.45 22.00 Fr/Sat:
24.00 Etiler AFM Akmerkez: 11.00 13.20
15.50 18.20 20.50 Macka Cinebonus: 11.00
13.00 15.00 17.00 19.00 21.00 Fr/Sat: 23.00
Caddebostan AFM: 10.45 12.50 15.00 17.10
19.20 21.30 Kadıköy Cinebonus: 11.15 13.45
16.15 18.45 21.15 Fr/Sat: 23.45 ANKARA:
Cinebonus Panora: 11.00 12.55 15.10 17.30
19.45 22.00 Fr/Sat: 24.20 Metropol: 12.00
14.15 16.30 18.45 21.00 İZMİR: AFM
Bornova Forum Turkmalı: 11.00 13.30
16.00 18.30 20.50 Balçova Cinebonus Kipa:
10.45 12.45 15.00 17.15 19.30 21.45 Fr/Sat:
24.00 ANTALYA: Cinebonus Migros: 11.15
13.15 15.30 17.45 20.00

HANNAH MONTANA:
THE MOVIE
ISTANBUL: Esenetepe Cinebonus Astoria:
11.00 13.00 15.15 17.30 19.45 22.00 Fr/Sat:
24.00 Etiler AFM Akmerkez: 11.20 13.50
16.30 19.00 21.30 Caddebostan AFM: 11.20
13.50 16.15 18.35 21.00 Fr/Sat: 23.20
Kadıköy Cinebonus: 11.30 14.00 16.30
19.00 21.30 Fr/Sat: 23.45 ANKARA: Ata On
Tower: 11.00 13.00 15.15 17.30 19.45 22.00
Fr/Sat: 24.00 Bilkent Cinebonus: 12.20
14.40 17.00 19.20 21.40 Fr/Sat: 24.00
Cinebonus Panora: 11.30 14.00 16.30 19.00
21.30 Fr/Sat: 24.00 İZMİR: Balçova
Cinebonus Kipa: 11.00 13.00 16.00 18.30
21.00 Cinebonus Konak Pier: 10.30 12.45
15.00 17.15 19.30 21.45 Fr/Sat: 24.00 AN-
TALYA: Cinebonus Migros: 11.45 14.15
16.45 19.15 21.45 Fr/Sat: 24.15



Gregorian Calendar: 22 May 2009 C.E. Hijri Calendar: 27 Jumada al-Awwal 1430 A.H. Hebrew Calendar: 28 Iyyar 5769
calendar@todayszaman.com

Today is the International Day for Biological Diversity. Recognizing the importance of biological diversity for the health of the planet, the UN proclaimed this day in 1993. The world's rich, diverse and irreplaceable biological inheritance is under attack from land clearance, over-hunting, over-harvesting, pollution and the spread of invasive species. This international day encour-

ages relevant organizations around the world to organize special events, lectures and presentations to alert the world's population to the dangers of losing this biological diversity. Today is National Day in Yemen. On this day in 1990 north and south Yemen were united to create the Republic of Yemen. The unification replaced the Yemen Arab Republic in the north and the People's

Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south. The union was not immediately successful and disputes broke out, leading to a war in 1994 that was won by the northern forces. Today is Republic Day in Sri Lanka. On this day in 1972, Ceylon adopted a new constitution, changed its name to Sri Lanka and became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations. Sri Lanka

means "resplendent land" in Sinhalese. Today is National Maritime Day in the US. Designated in 2002 by President George W. Bush, National Maritime Day commemorates the establishment of the US Merchant Marines by Congress in 1933. Today is National Sovereignty Day in Haiti. This is a public holiday dedicated to the head of state and to Haitian culture.

A MODEST VICTORY AT 'IDOL'

ANN POWERS HOLLYWOOD

Minutes before Kris Allen was announced as the new American Idol, he and Adam Lambert sang "We Are the Champions," the 1977 smash by the rock band Queen. As the pyrotechnics sizzled and a large choir (including this year's other 'Idol' finalists) backed them up, those two unlikely partners in bringing back heat to the long-running series had one last laugh together.

It was Lambert's moment. It felt like his victory. Ever since he auditioned with an cappella version of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," fans of the Southern California native had been clamoring for him to sing a Queen song. And here he was doing it, leaning on guitarist Brian May's shoulder, fitting right into the spot originally occupied by Freddie Mercury. Allen seemed delighted to be his wing man. And then, in a surprise that really wasn't a surprise at all, Allen grabbed away the spotlight.

Well, sort of. When Ryan Seacrest announced Allen's victory Wednesday night at the Nokia Theatre, the sweet-natured troubador actually seemed a bit distressed. "It feels good, man, but Adam deserves this," he said.

Did Lambert? My critics -- including this one, openly and with heartfelt enthusiasm -- thought so. But Allen has his undeniable strong points. In terms of the music industry, he cuts a more contemporary figure than Lambert: Many stars now (specifically rock-oriented, male ones) tend to do better when they draw themselves to scale, offering songs that make fans feel warm and connected, not blown away. Think Jack Johnson. Dave Matthews. Jason Mraz, who performed on the "Idol" finale. And on the country side, Keith Urban, with whom



Finalists Adam Lambert (L) and Kris Allen perform "We Are the Champions" with Queen before the winner is named during the finale of "American Idol."

Allen did a spirited duet early in the show. This approachable kind of pop figure is one that often naturally emerges from the "Idol" competition. David Cook, last year's winner, is cut from this natural-fiber cloth. Performing "Permanent," the song he's dedicated to the brother he recently lost to cancer, Cook epitomized what Allen will likely soon become -- a crowd favorite, empathetic and touchable.

Lambert is another matter altogether. His two shining moments in the finale came during that Queen song and in an equally explosive turn with the pioneering pop-metal band KISS.

For a medley of songs with the latter, Lambert wore very black wings that updated KISS' signature silver-and-greasepaint style. Lambert took this chance to claim his place within the lineage of classic rock, a form that seriously needs a new star like him to refresh it. Sinking his painted fingernails into those worn-out Guitar Hero favorites, he renewed them. But he still lost. Does it matter? As a whole, the finale argued otherwise. This two-hour-long immersion in mainstream pop's confetti pit happily asserted that one kind of music -- or personality -- cannot define or dominate America taste.

The show was a breakeven run through the vast landscape of current popular song. Though utterly fragmented and sometimes almost incoherent, it was thoroughly enjoyable. More tellingly, it showed what pop is now: not a unifying force, but a thousand points of flossent light, with each style captivating some fans, alienating others and casually enjoying by most of the millions. This is the world Kris Allen and Adam Lambert enter now, as newly minted pop stars. It's a world that loves a nice guy -- clearly, but which has room for a challenging one too. © Los Angeles Times 2009

PHOTO © REUTERS/DANNY MOLOSHOK

TV GUIDE

12NT
08:00 Looney Tunes
08:30 Foster's Home & Imaginary Friends
09:00 Seinfeld
09:30 Will and Grace
10:00 Saturday Night Live
12:00 Days of Our Lives
13:00 Murder: She Wrote
14:00 Judging Amy
15:00 Northern Exposure
16:00 Home & Away
16:30 Foster's Home & Imaginary Friends
16:50 Johnny Bravo
17:10 Ben 10
17:30 Malcolm in the Middle
18:00 Seinfeld
20:00 Brothers & Sisters (Season 2)
21:15 Anatomy That 23:30 Will & Grace
00:00 The Guardian

E2
08:00 The Rachael Ray Show
10:00 The Martha Stewart Show
11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:00 The Rachael Ray Show
14:00 The Martha Stewart Show
15:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
16:00 Desperate Housewives
18:00 The Martha Stewart Show
19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
20:00 Desperate Housewives
22:15 The Sopranos
23:00 Late Night with Jimmy Fallon
24:00 The Sarah Silverman Program
00:30 The Sopranos
01:30 Battlestar Galactica
05:00 The Sopranos

CNBC-E
18:15 Gossip Girl
19:30 The Simpsons
20:00 Ghost Whisperer
21:00 ER
22:00 Dracula
00:30 Ghost Whisperer
01:15 ER
02:00 Dracula
04:00 Ghost Whisperer
05:00 ER
06:10 Gossip Girl

GOLDMAX
06:20 Little Big League
08:20 Chaplin
09:30 A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story
10:00 The Sin Eater (The Order)
02:30 Patton
04:00 Gossip Girl
06:55 Wendy and Lucy

MOVIEMAX
07:00 The Name Of The King: A Dungeon Siege Tale
12:35 Mission: Impossible III
14:15 Shooter
16:30 Fight 93
18:15 Daddy Day Camp
20:00 Rocky Balboa
21:55 Alien vs. Predator: Requiem
23:40 Isolation
01:20 Wrong Turn 2: Dead End
02:55 Fight 93
04:25 Daddy Day Camp
05:55 Alien vs. Predator: Requiem

ACTIONMAX
07:25 Night Sims - Part 2
09:00 14 Hours
10:30 Hot Potato
12:00 Vows Of Deception
13:35 Six the Bullet
15:50 A Crime of Passion
17:25 Outbreak
19:25 The Pelican Brief
22:00 Deliverance
23:55 Hard Hunted
01:35 The Getaway
03:40 Schemes
05:20 Shaded Places

RADIO GUIDE

TRT TOURISM RADIO
00:00 Identification and Programming
09:25 Music
07:25 Identification and Programming
07:30 Music
08:30 News (English, French, German)
08:40 Live Broadcast (English, German, Russian)
10:30 News (English, French, German, Greek, Russian)
10:45 Live Broadcast (English, German, Russian)
12:30 News (English, French, German, Greek, Russian)
12:45 Live Broadcast (English, German, Russian)
15:00 News (English, French, German, Greek, Russian)
15:15 Live Broadcast (English, German, Russian)
18:30 News (English, French, German, Greek, Russian)
18:45 Live Broadcast (English, French)
21:30 News (English, French, German, Greek, Russian)
21:45 Live Broadcast (English, Greek)
23:58 Identification

BROADCAST AREAS:
Alanya FM 94.4
Ankara FM 100.3
Antalya FM 92.1
Aydin FM 101.1
Bodrum FM 97.4
Fethiye FM 103.1
Istanbul FM 101.6
Izmir FM 101.4
Kalkan FM 105.9
Kusadasi FM 103.0
Kusadasi FM 101.9
Marmaris FM 101.0
Pamukkale FM 101.0
Trabzon FM 101.5

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 'PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER' grid.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions.

MR. DIPLOMAT!

Mr. Diplomat! cartoon strip featuring a man and a woman with dialogue bubbles. Includes a signature 'CEM KIZILTUG'.

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with 'HARD' and 'EASY' labels and some numbers filled in.

HOW TO PLAY? The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:
- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

TRAVELERS' SOS
Ambulance: 112 Fire: 110 171 Police: 155 156 Maritime: 158 Unknown numbers: 118 Turkish Airlines: 444 0 849 U.S. Embassy: 0312 455 5555 U.S. Consulate: 0212 2513402-3-4 Russian Embassy: 0312 439 2122 Russian Consulate: 0212 244 1693-2610 British Embassy: 0312 455 3344 British Consulate: 0212 292 4810-11
2012 293 7540 German Embassy: 0312 455 5100 German Consulate: 0212 334 61 00 French Embassy: 0312 455 4545 French Consulate: 0212 292 4810-11
Indian Embassy: 0312 438 2195 Pakistani Embassy: 0312 427 1410 Austrian Embassy: 0312 419 0431-33 Austrian Consulate: 0212 262 9315 Belgian Embassy: 0312 446 8247 Belgian Consulate: 0212 243 3300 Egyptian Embassy: 0312 426 1026 Egyptian Consulate: 0212 263 6038 Israeli Embassy: 0312 446 3605

## Ergenekon suspects love hospitals

ÇAĞLAR AVCI İSTANBUL

Many suspects in the investigation into Ergenekon, a clandestine criminal network charged with plotting to overthrow the government, have been hospitalized for various disorders.

These suspects include retired generals Sener Eruygur, Hursit Tolon and Levent Ersöz; retired colonels Arif Doğan and Atilla Uygur; and Baskent University Rector Mehmet Haberal. None of these suspects have returned to prison after being hospitalized. Retired Gen. Veli Küçük, however, is one of the few detainees that have returned prison.

Also remarkable is the fact that the suspects generally have heart-related diseases.

Becoming ill when he was arrested on April 17, Haberal was taken to the intensive care unit at Istanbul University's Cardiology Institute and is being treated in a normal hospital room. Haberal underwent an angiogram at the institute, and the results were clear. The hospital's administration says Haberal's treatment could take seven or eight more weeks, according to a report from the medical board at Istanbul University's Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty Hospital.

Retired Col. Doğan has been transferred from hospital to hospital three times since September 2008. Having a heart condition, diabetes and hypertension, Doğan first underwent treatment at Bakırköy Sadi Konuk Research Hospital and then at Koşuyolu Hospital. Currently at Haseki Training and Research Hospital, Doğan has the worst health among all Ergenekon suspects, according to experts. Guarded by a gendarme who stands in front of his hospital door, the retired colonel will be sent to the Forensic Medicine Institute for additional examinations and tests.

### Uğur could not be hospitalized for heart disease, but for epilepsy

Retired Col. Uğur is currently undergoing treatment at the Gülhane Military Academy of Medicine (GATA). Having been first hospitalized at Siyami Ersek Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Training and Research Hospital, Uğur was sent back to Silivri Prison after no serious disorders were detected. He was then referred to GATA, where he was diagnosed with epilepsy.

### Ersöz is discussed most

Retired Gen. Ersöz is also being treated at GATA. Developing a heart condition after he was arrested, Ersöz spent January and February at Koşuyolu Hospital. He became sick again when he was sent to Silivri Prison. Refusing to undergo treatment at Haseki Training and Research Hospital, he was hospitalized at GATA. He once claimed that he caught necrotizing fasciitis, also known as flesh-eating disease, at the hospital. Many say Ersöz tries to get sick in order to avoid returning to prison and that other people have helped him to this end.

### He is now hanging out on Bağdat Street

Retired Gen. Eruygur, one of two generals who were first arrested and then released due to their ages and health conditions, is being treated at home, with occasional trips to GATA. He was recently seen on Bağdat Caddesi with his wife. Eruygur was reported to be very serious condition, especially when his health was in the news.

Having been released from prison for health reasons, retired Gen. Tolon is currently receiving treatment at GATA for unexplained weight loss.

### Only Küçük returned to prison

Now back at Silivri Prison, retired Gen. Küçük underwent treatment for a week at Bakırköy Sadi Konuk Research Hospital for complaints of gastric bleeding. After a thorough examination at the hospital, no serious health problems were detected, and Küçük was sent back to prison.

## Pakistan says nuclear reports are 'malicious'

News reports about Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, including questions about its safety, are part of a malicious campaign that is counter-productive to efforts to defeat terrorism, a Pakistani spokesman said on Thursday.

As Pakistan battles a growing Taliban insurgency, reports in US media have raised the nightmare scenario of its nuclear weapons falling into militant hands.

Pakistan has repeatedly stressed its weapons are safe. This week, the New York Times reported US lawmakers were told in confidential briefings that Pakistan was rapidly adding to its nuclear capability, stoking fears in Congress about diversion of US funds.

"We consider this ... a malicious campaign against Pakistan which in our view is contrary to facts," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Basit told a regular briefing, referring to the reports.

"It is counter-productive to the collective objective of defeating militants and terrorism and also raises serious doubts in the minds of the people of Pakistan about the ... objective of those engaging in negative propaganda."

Many Pakistanis believe the United States is secretly intent on confiscating Pakistan's nuclear weapons although US officials, including President Barack Obama, have said they believe Pakistan's weapons are safe.

Analysts say that while the Taliban have almost no chance of ever being in a position to launch a nuclear warhead, there is a danger militants could exploit chaos in Pakistan to hijack or steal enough radioactive material to build a dirty bomb.

When asked if Pakistan was expanding its nuclear arsenal, Basit did not respond directly, but said Pakistan was determined to maintain a minimum nuclear deterrence as nuclear-armed rival India beefed up its conventional forces. **Islamabad Reuters**

## Çiçek says debates on Gül's immunity will harm Turkey

PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN



Abdullah Gül

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jurists denounced the Sincan court for the ruling, as it clearly violated an article in the Constitution that stipulates that presidents can only be tried for treason. The ruling also sparked a debate among politicians and jurists over whether the president has political immunity or not.

"A president is the highest representative of the nation and the state. While other state officials have political immunity, would it be logical to deem that the president does not?" asked Çiçek. He also said, insofar as he knows the president, Gül would not have the slightest concern about appearing before the judge about the claims.

Gül also said the same thing on Wednesday when he spoke to journalists about the court ruling. "The office of president is the highest post in Turkey, and the president represents the unity and integrity of Turkey as well as the entire Turkish nation. Frankly, my primary concern is about how this office is being undermined with debates concerning the immunity of the president. ... Yet, I also want to declare that if the legal process is concluded and if I am required to stand trial, I will not hesitate for a moment to do so. Concerning the outcome of the legal procedure, I do not harbor any concern or worry. This is my clear message to the general public," he stated.

The president also recalled that he had previously asked for his immunity to be removed when the issue was brought to the agenda.

"As you might remember, when I was serving as a minister or a deputy prime minister or a foreign minister ?????, this matter was discussed at a parliamentary commission, and I demanded that my parliamentary immunity be removed. However, at that time, the matter of parliamentary immunity was viewed

from a different perspective, and therefore, this could not be done," Gül remarked.

### Jurists point to procedural error in ruling

While debates were continuing over the political immunity of the president, jurists pointed out a serious procedural error in the controversial ruling. According to jurists, Judge Osman Kacmaz put a petition of complaint from one of the plaintiffs in the "lost trillion case" into process although it came 28 days after the completion of the legal period.

According to Article 173 of the Code on Criminal Procedure (CMK), a petition of complaint can be put into process if it comes 15 days after the completion of the legal process at the latest. Thus, jurists called Kacmaz's move a serious procedural error that will heat up the debates over the correctness of the ruling.

### Close contact between judge, Ergenekon suspect raises eyebrows

The Bugün daily claimed yesterday that the architect of the ruling against Gül, Kacmaz, has close contacts with a lawyer who is currently under arrest for suspicious links to Ergenekon, a criminal organization charged with plotting to topple the government.

According to the report, Kemal Kerinçsiz, the Ergenekon suspect, sent a congratulatory message to Kacmaz shortly after he demanded a few years ago that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan be tried for calling Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), "esteemed Öcalan."

The close contact between Kerinçsiz and Kacmaz also made its way into the Ergenekon indictment. According to the indictment, Kerinçsiz threatened Ergenekon prosecutors, saying: "You will need those fair judges [referring to Kacmaz] the most. You will have to beg for justice from those judges."

## AK Party can boost electoral support by healing economy, poll shows

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, only 1.9 percent of the respondents attributed the AK Party's loss of votes to an increase in the popularity of rival parties. Most notably, the government's support for the ongoing trial and investigation into Ergenekon, an alleged terrorist organization charged with attempting to topple the government, was cited by just 1.5 percent of the respondents as a reason for the AK Party's loss of support.

Neither CHP nor MHP supporters favored non-economic reasons over economic ones while interpreting the AK Party's losses in the local elections. For instance, among those who voted for the CHP, which is known for arguing that the secular character of the state is at risk because of the AK Party government, in the last elections, only 6.4 said the AK Party lost support because of religious policies. Also, although CHP leader Deniz Baykal himself has extended support to the defendants in the ongoing Ergenekon trial and expressed his displeasure with the investigation on several occasions, only 2.5 percent of CHP supporters polled said the case had undermined the AK Party's popular backing. For MHP supporters, those who cited anti-secularism as the cause of the AK Party's loss of support were just 3.6 percent, while those who attributed the loss to the Ergenekon case were only 2 percent. Economic reasons were cited as the primary reason for the AK Party's loss of support by 42.2 percent of the CHP supporters polled and 41.9 percent of the MHP supporters.

Speaking to Today's Zaman, Professor Sencar said it is apparent that the blow the AK Party received in the local elections was primarily a result of economic problems. Thus, Sencar stressed, it is possible for the ruling party



PHOTO: DALI UNAL

A recent poll has revealed that the ongoing global financial crisis, unemployment and a general decline in economic welfare in Turkey were behind the decrease in the AK Party's votes in the March 29 local elections.

to regain the votes it lost if it can heal the economic damage caused by the global financial crisis, such as high unemployment rates and rising inflation. "There is currently faith in Ali Babacan [deputy prime minister responsible for the coordination of the economy], and the circumstances are now ripe for the AK Party to regain this lost political support," he argued.

### CHP's initiatives found 'insincere'

As the country was approaching the March 29

local elections, the CHP appeared to be seeking reconciliation with Turkey's conservatives and religious voters with a number of initiatives, such as pledging to open Quran courses and accepting women wearing the chador as party members. MetroPOLL's research, however, showed that a majority of people regarded such initiatives as insincere. Whereas 60 percent said they did not believe the moves were sincere, only 29.6 percent said they trusted their sincerity.

Respondents were also asked how they would vote if there was a referendum on Turkey's accession to the EU. A majority, 57.7 percent, said they would vote for EU membership, while 30.5 percent said they would vote against it. Comparing these responses with figures from a MetroPOLL survey conducted in January, it can be seen that popular support for Turkey's accession to the 27-member bloc has slightly increased from 55 percent to 57.7 percent.

## Man with grenades at Serbian president's office

A man with two hand grenades threatened to blow himself up on Thursday at the entrance to the office of Serbian President Boris Tadić.

There was no information on whether Tadić was in the building. "The man is a psychiatric case," a police official said. "He has been isolated and negotiations are under way."

Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac arrived at the scene, as well as police in flak jackets and

armed with sub-machine guns.

The safety pin on one of the two grenades had been pulled out. The bomb threat comes a day after Tadić met US Vice President Joe Biden who left Belgrade on Thursday for Kosovo, the next leg of his Balkan tour.

"The man came to the entrance normally used by journalists and citizens who come to visit the building," said the president's press aide Jasmina Stojanov. "He's now sealed off in

a safety area between two entrance doors, one of them armored doors.

"The police took one of the bombs from the man, but he is still holding another in his hand," she said, but declined to say whether Tadić was in the building. "The president's security detail is taking care of him."

The man, Dragan Maric, 57, arrived at the entrance of the president's office just before 1000 GMT. Maric is already known to police for an 80-

day hunger strike in 2004, an offer to sell his kidney and a threat to set himself on fire.

He gave the government a 1400 GMT deadline to respond to his request for an "out-of-court settlement" to what media said was a property dispute.

"He had turned to Tadić, because Tadić was the one who promised that his Democratic Party will deal with corruption," a police official told Reuters. **Belgrade Reuters**

ELEMENTARY

READING

# Kittens on the balcony

Last summer, my neighbor's cat had four kittens on my balcony. I didn't want them on my balcony. I told my neighbor to take the kittens away. However, she said: "I can't look after four kittens. I don't want them. You can throw them away if you want." As the kittens were very small, I felt pity for them and decided to keep them until they grew up. My husband didn't like them but he didn't object. I gave them milk and some meat every day. They liked me a lot. When I opened the door of the balcony, they were big enough to take care of themselves.

I put them in a carton box and left the box in the park. The next morning, I heard a noise. When I looked out, I saw the four cats on the balcony. My husband worked in a factory about fifty kilometers away from our house. I put the cats in a bag. I gave the bag to my husband and told him to leave the cats near the factory. He put the bag in his car and drove away. He returned in the evening. He said, "I left them in the forest near the factory." I felt relieved and slept very well that night. However, two days later, I heard scratching coming from the balcony. All of the four cats were there meowing and looking at me pathetically.



ILLUSTRATIONS: DOSHAN FERHAN

Part 1: Vocabulary

Match the words on the left from the passage with their meanings on the right.

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. kitten       | a. unpleasant sound of something sharp rubbed against a surface                   |
| 2. pity         | b. move the tongue over the surface of something                                  |
| 3. grow up      | c. extremely large in area, size, amount, etc.                                    |
| 4. object       | d. young cat  |
| 5. lick         | e. say that you disagree with or oppose   |
| 6. relieved     | f. feeling happy because something unpleasant has stopped                         |
| 7. scratch      | g. developed into an adult  |
| 8. pathetically | h. pitifully  |
|                 | i. feeling of sympathy and sadness caused by the suffering and troubles of others |

Part 2: True or False

- \_\_\_ The writer's cat had four kittens in her balcony.
- \_\_\_ The writer's neighbor didn't want to look after the kittens.
- \_\_\_ The writer decided to look after the kittens because they were too young.
- \_\_\_ The writer's husband didn't like the kittens.
- \_\_\_ The writer left the cats in the park but they returned the next morning.
- \_\_\_ The writer put the cats in a bag and left them in the countryside.

INTERMEDIATE



READING

# Chess (Part 2)

"Once you learn this, you will thank me," she said. "I have had many delightful times because of this game." She then told me in detail how she had played chess on sailboats, castles, teahouses, libraries, airport and hospital waiting rooms, attics, kitchen tables, basements, cabins and monasteries. It was difficult not to feel a little impressed. "At some point in the game, it may become clear there is a greater sense of one's advantage developing," she said. "What does that mean?" I thought to myself. She could tell what I was thinking. "It means you are not going to win," she said. "Often people will concede defeat at this point by turning the king on his side." She added. She could tell I did not like this. I was not sure why. "However, if you can manage to get a lowly pawn to the opposite rank, you may turn it into another playing piece of greater power." Now I felt more interest in the game.

Then, my friend asked me whether I had heard the name "Deep Blue" before. I said, "No." She said Deep Blue was a chess-playing computer developed by IBM. The first machine that IBM developed in 1988 was called "Deep Thought." Garry Kasparov easily beat Deep Thought 2-0 in 1989. After Deep Thought's 1989 match against Kasparov, IBM held a contest to rename the chess machine and it became "Deep Blue," a play on IBM's nickname, Big Blue. In 1996, Kasparov beat Deep Blue by a score of 4-2. A much-improved machine, benefiting from IBM's considerable resources, proved stiffer competition in a February 1996 rematch. Kasparov won again. However, on May 11, 1997, the machine won a six-game match by two wins to one with three draws against the world champion. Kasparov accused IBM of cheating and demanded a rematch, but IBM declined and dismantled Deep Blue.

Part 1: Vocabulary

Match the words on the left from the passage with their meanings on the right.

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. delightful | a. take apart a machine or structure so that it is in separate pieces |
| 2. attic      | b. competition in which people try to win some thing                  |
| 3. basement   | c. admit that you have lost a game, an election, etc.                 |
| 4. concede    | d. room(s) in a building, below the level of the ground               |
| 5. pawn       | e. very pleasant; charming  |
| 6. contest    | f. more difficult or severe than usual                                |
| 7. stiff      | g. match or game played again between the same people or teams        |
| 8. rematch    | h. chess piece of the smallest size and least value                   |
| 9. dismantle  | i. room or space just below the roof of a house                       |

Part 2: True or False

- \_\_\_ The writer's friend told her about the different places she played chess.
- \_\_\_ While playing chess, a person can realize that s/he will lose the game before the game ends.
- \_\_\_ The writer didn't like the idea of a pawn becoming a piece of greater power.
- \_\_\_ The writer hadn't heard the name "Deep Blue" before.
- \_\_\_ IBM developed the first chess machine in 1989.
- \_\_\_ Garry Kasparov beat "Deep Thought" easily.
- \_\_\_ "Deep Blue" beat Garry Kasparov in 1996.
- \_\_\_ IBM didn't accept the demand of Kasparov for a rematch after the game in 1997.

Proverb of the day

Put the following words into the correct order to find the proverb that means "If a person has been tricked once, he will be more careful and alert the next time": shy / bitten / once / twice

Joke of the day

A defendant in a lawsuit involving large sums of money was talking to his lawyer. "If I lose this case, I'll be ruined." "It's in the judge's hands now," said the lawyer. "Would it help if I sent the judge a box of cigars?" "Oh no! This judge is a stickler on ethical behavior. A stunt like that would prejudice him against you. He might even hold you in contempt of court. In fact, you shouldn't even smile at the judge." Within the course of time, the judge rendered a decision in favor of the defendant. As the defendant left the courthouse, he said to his lawyer: "Thanks for the tip about the cigars. It worked!" "I'm sure we would have lost the case if you'd sent them." "But I did send them." "What? You did?" said the lawyer, incredulously. "Yes. That's how we won the case." "I don't understand," said the lawyer. "It's easy. I sent the cigars to the judge, but enclosed the plaintiff's business card."

Today in history (May 22)

- 1990 North and South Yemen merged to form the Republic of Yemen.
- 1950 Celal Bayar was elected the third president of Turkey.
- 1947 The Truman Doctrine went into effect, aiding Turkey and Greece.
- 1939 Hitler and Mussolini signed the "Pact of Steel."

1945 Winston Churchill resigned as the prime minister of Britain.

1906 Henrik Johan Ibsen, a Norwegian playwright, died at 78.

Riddle of the day

With my rosy cheeks, don't I look cute?  
But am I a vegetable or a fruit?

Did you know?

Pollen never deteriorates. It is one of the few natural substances that lasts indefinitely.

"Please send in your riddles and jokes to learningenglish@todayszaman.com

Tomorrow in history (May 23)

- 1991 The last Cuban troops left Angola.
- 1990 Rocky Graziano, a boxer/writer/actor, died.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Winners compare their achievements with their goals, while losers compare their achievements with those of other people." **Nido Qubein**

ADVANCED

READING

# Black bears

"Hurry up! We're going to miss the movie!" I shouted. Matt came bursting out of the house with his shirt half on, gasping for air. "Have you seen my keys?!" Growing impatient, I reminded him he had left them on the kitchen table. Another minute later, we were on the road, heading to the cinema to catch the newest Batman film.

Matt was driving fast, and the car was swerving a bit. Normally, driving in such a haphazard manner can be dangerous, but there were no other cars on the road. But there was another type of obstacle. From our left, a gigantic, galloping black bear came crashing on the road -- "Ahhh!" We screamed together. Matt slammed the brakes and cranked the wheel to the left, and just barely missed the terrifying bear. The car came to a screeching halt. And to our surprise, the bear, seemingly unfazed, continued galloping into the woods. We never saw it again.

The North American black bear is a

tremendous animal and is found in 41 of America's 50 states. It is prevalent in nearly all of Canada. The bear is often contrasted with the brown bear and the grizzly bear. The grizzly and brown bears are much larger, and live in much colder climates, mainly Alaska and Canada. Furthermore, black bears are generally not aggressive animals. They almost never attack humans unless they firmly believe one of their cubs is threatened.

Only in recent years have black bears become a problem. As cities grow bigger and forests are destroyed, people and nature get closer and closer. Nowadays, sometimes bears can wander into urban areas. This is probably what happened to Matt and me.

I have never seen a black bear since my experience with Matt, but I certainly want to. Despite their appearance, black bears are amazing, serene animals. As long as people treat them with proper respect, they rarely, if ever, pose a threat to people.



Part 1: Vocabulary

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. swerve    | a. common; widespread   |
| 2. haphazard | b. move very fast   |
| 3. gallop    | c. not worried or surprised by something unexpected that happens        |
| 4. slam      | d. change direction suddenly  |
| 5. crank     | e. make something turn or move by using an L-shaped bar                 |
| 6. screech   | f. calm and peaceful  |
| 7. unfazed   | g. with no particular order or plan                                     |
| 8. prevalent | h. push or throw something into a place or position with a lot of force |
| 9. serene    | i. make a loud, high, unpleasant noise as it moves                      |

Part 2: True or False

- \_\_\_ The writer and his friend hurried because they didn't want to miss the film.
- \_\_\_ Matt drove very fast and haphazardly.
- \_\_\_ Suddenly, they saw a black bear on the road.
- \_\_\_ Matt slammed the brakes but he hit the bear.
- \_\_\_ The bear attacked the car.
- \_\_\_ You can see black bears in most American states.
- \_\_\_ Black bears attack human beings only when their cubs are threatened.
- \_\_\_ Nowadays, black bears sometimes wander into urban areas because they can't find enough food.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER KEY

ELEMENTARY Part 1: 1. h 2. d 3. a 4. e 5. g 6. c 7. f 8. b Part 2: 1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. T 8. F INTERMEDIATE Part 1: 1. e 2. h 3. a 4. f 5. g 6. i 7. d 8. j 9. c 10. b Part 2: 1. T 2. T 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. T 7. F 8. F ADVANCED Part 1: 1. g 2. e 3. d 4. a 5. f 6. c 7. b 8. h Part 2: 1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T 6. T 7. T 8. F Proverb: Let sleeping dogs lie. Riddle: nightmare



## Werder's Schaaf weeps over spilled milk

Werder Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf on Wednesday lamented his side's failure to put more pressure on Shakhtar Donetsk. "We were just not fast enough and we were not effective enough and we were not able to put pressure on the opponent," he said. "We weren't able to attack as much as we usually do. Our ball control wasn't as good." Istanbul, Reuters

# Shakhtar Donetsk: The last UEFA Cup champion

Shakhtar is the third former Soviet club to win the UEFA Cup, which will become the Europa League from 2009-10 on, in five seasons following victories for CSKA Moscow in 2005 and Zenit St. Petersburg last year

Brazilian Jadson struck an extra-time winner to secure Shakhtar Donetsk a 2-1 victory over Werder Bremen in the last UEFA Cup final at the Fenerbahçe Sükrü Saracoğlu Stadium on Wednesday.

Jadson's first-time shot from Darjo Sma's cross seven minutes into the first extra period squirmed under keeper Tim Wiese and Shakhtar became the first Ukrainian team to win a major European trophy since the break up of the Soviet Union.

Shakhtar was the third former Soviet club to win the UEFA Cup in five seasons following victories for CSKA Moscow in 2005 and Zenit St. Petersburg last year.

"It was important not to allow Werder to play to their style, we contended the game and we created most of the chances," Shakhtar coach Mircea Lucescu told reporters.

Brazilian Luiz Adriano had put Shakhtar, in their first European final, ahead with a neat finish after 25 minutes but compatriot Naldo equalized before halftime after keeper Andriy Pyatov fumbled his well-struck free kick into the net.

Shakhtar, pleasing on the eye with slick one-touch passing, threatened at times to carve Werder apart but the Bundesliga side, desperately missing the creativity of suspended playmaker Diego, defended stoutly.

Lucescu included all five of his Brazilian players in an attack-minded starting side and they soon made their presence felt as Ilinho and Jadson combined to create a chance for Adriano but he blazed wide.

Werder replied with Frank Baumann's snapshot off-target and Clemens Fritz fired over the bar but Shakhtar soaked up the pressure and hit Werder on the break.

Left back Razvan Rat's incisive pass was collected by Adriano, who skipped into the penalty area and clipped his shot over Wiese.

### Stretched defense

Adriano, finding plenty of space to run into the channels behind Werder's stretched defense, should have doubled Shakhtar's advantage soon after from another lightning break but



Shakhtar Donetsk players, coach Mircea Lucescu, team owner Rinat Akhmetov and other club officials celebrate after Shakhtar beat Werder Bremen in the last UEFA Cup final at the Fenerbahçe Sükrü Saracoğlu Stadium in Istanbul on Wednesday night.

failed to test Wiese with a wild shot.

Despite lacking a cutting edge, Werder were handed their equalizer by Pyatov, the keeper inexplicably allowing Naldo's free kick, which was struck straight at him from 25 meters, to deflect in off his gloves.

The half ended with Shakhtar again on top, though, Mariusz Lewandowski forcing a full-length save from Wiese who turned his stinging drive around the post.

A less entertaining second half brought few chances of note. Wiese parried away Jadson's curling free kick soon after the restart and Werder substitute Aaron Hunt almost made a telling contribution 13 minutes from time but poked wide from close range after Pizarro's flicked header had been parried by Pyatov.

The UEFA Cup will become the Europa League next season, a revamped competition UEFA hopes will enhance the image and profile of European soccer's second-tier tournament. **Istanbul Today's Zaman with wires**

## Legendary Lucescu thinking about returning to Istanbul

Shakhtar Donetsk coach Mireia Lucescu was already thinking about returning to Istanbul just hours after winning the UEFA Cup there.

The veteran coach had already been linked with a return to the city, where he enjoyed success with both Galatasaray and Besiktas, before guiding Shakhtar to a 2-1 extra-time win over Werder Bremen on Wednesday.

His reputation burnished further among locals after making Shakhtar the first Ukrainian team to win the UEFA Cup, Lucescu confirmed he was interested in another stint in Turkish soccer -- just not yet.

"I had a good time at Galatasaray and I had a good time at Besiktas," Lucescu said on Thursday. "I have good relations even with Fenerbahçe supporters. I think sometimes about returning to Turkey but I am not sure when."

Lucescu, popular with city rivals Galatasaray and Besiktas after winning the national league with both, said he first wants to stay at least another year at Shakhtar.

His aim is to improve the team's showing in the elite Champions League, which Shakhtar exited at the group stage this season, dropping into the less prestigious UEFA Cup.

"We have bigger aims," Lucescu said. "We now want to do things in the Champions League: reach the quarterfinals, maybe the semifinals."

Key to that aim will be keeping hold of the five Brazilian players that inspired Wednesday's triumph.

With attacking midfielders Willian, Jadson

and Ilinho in support of lone striker Adriano, the Ukrainian team shrugged off expectations of a cautious performance and frequently baffled the Bremen defense.

Only the resistance of Naldo, yet another Brazilian at the heart of Bremen's back line, seemed to deny Shakhtar a more convincing victory.

"I am very happy for my young Brazilian players because maybe now people will know them and hopefully (national coach) Dunga has seen them," Lucescu said. "Half of our team was Brazilian and they are all younger than 25, but I trust in them."

"The team is very young and I hope no young players leave this team because we have bigger objectives. We want to do well in the Champions League now."

The 63-year-old Romanian gave players individual instruction as they lay on the grass stretching or receiving massages to relieve cramp at the end of 90 minutes, when the game was locked 1-1.

Bremen's Thomas Schaaf -- 15 years Lucescu's junior -- instead gathered his team about him in a huddle.

Lucescu's tailored approach was more productive, with Shakhtar creating good chances in extra time. Bremen goalkeeper Tim Wiese pushed out a long-range shot from Darjo Sma and dived at the feet of Olexandr Gladkyi to deny the substitute a chance before Jadson scored in the 97th. Wiese got to Jadson's 12-meter shot but let it slip over his own line.

"It is bigger because it is the last and maybe we can keep the trophy," Lucescu said. **Istanbul AP**

### UEFA Cup champions

- 1958 Barcelona (Spain)
- 1960 Barcelona (Spain)
- 1961 AS Roma (Italy)
- 1962 Valencia (Spain)
- 1963 Valencia (Spain)
- 1964 Real Zaragoza (Spain)
- 1965 Ferencvaros (Hungary)
- 1966 FC Barcelona (Spain)
- 1967 Dinamo Zagreb (Yugoslavia)
- 1968 Leeds (England)
- 1969 Newcastle (England)
- 1970 Arsenal (England)
- 1971 Leeds (England)
- 1972 Tottenham (England)
- 1973 Liverpool (England)
- 1974 Feyenoord (Netherlands)
- 1975 Moenchengladbach (West Germany)
- 1976 Liverpool (England)
- 1977 Juventus (Italy)
- 1978 PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands)
- 1979 Moenchengladbach (West Germany)
- 1980 Eintracht Frankfurt (West Germany)
- 1981 Ipswich (England)
- 1982 IFK Goteborg (Sweden)
- 1983 Anderlecht (Belgium)
- 1984 Tottenham (England)
- 1985 Real Madrid (Spain)
- 1986 Real Madrid (Spain)
- 1987 IFK Goteborg (Sweden)
- 1988 Bayer Leverkusen (West Germany)
- 1989 Napoli (Italy)
- 1990 Juventus (Italy)
- 1991 Inter Milan (Italy)
- 1992 Ajax (Netherlands)
- 1993 Juventus (Italy)
- 1994 Inter Milan (Italy)
- 1995 Parma (Italy)
- 1996 Bayern Munich (Germany)
- 1997 Schalke (Germany)
- 1998 Inter Milan (Italy)
- 1999 Parma (Italy)
- 2000 Galatasaray (Turkey)
- 2001 Liverpool (England)
- 2002 Feyenoord (Netherlands)
- 2003 FC Porto (Portugal)
- 2004 Valencia (Spain)
- 2005 CSKA Moscow (Russia)
- 2006 Sevilla (Spain)
- 2007 Sevilla (Spain)
- 2008 Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia)
- 2009 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine)

NOTES: European Fairs' Cup, 1958-71, not contested in 1959.



Shakhtar Donetsk coach Mircea Lucescu holds the last UEFA Cup.

## Istanbul teams, learn from coach Lucescu, please

OKAN UDO BASSEY ISTANBUL

Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu's return to Istanbul to win the UEFA Cup for Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk proves once again that the revolving-door policy on coaches does more harm than good. It is the epitome of failure, and this is something the "Big Three" Istanbul clubs -- Galatasaray, Fenerbahçe and Besiktas -- must learn by heart.

Lucescu joined Galatasaray in June 2000, almost immediately after the team won the UEFA Cup under Fatih Terim -- who left for Italy. The Romanian coach led Galatasaray to win the UEFA Super Cup that same year by beating Real Madrid. Under Lucescu, the Lions reached the quarterfinals of the UEFA Champions League in 2000-2001 for the first time, but they also lost the Turckcell Super League title to century-old rival Fenerbahçe.

The following season, Lucescu led the Galatasaray Lions to the Turkish league championship in spite of the fact that almost all the star players on the team had left for greener pastures. In June 2002, Galatasaray decided to replace Lucescu with Terim. Lucescu may have made Turkish history as the first-ever championship-winning coach to be sacked.

And since Lucescu left, the Lions have hired seven coaches -- Terim (2002-2004), Gheorghe Hagi (2004-2005), Eric Gerets (2005-2007), Karl-Heinz Feldkamp (2007-2008), Cevat Güler (2008-2008), Michael Skibbe (2008-2009) and Bülent Korkmaz (at present). And the saddest thing is that all these coaches combined have not achieved an iota of what Lucescu did.

### From Galatasaray to Besiktas

The irate Romanian coach, who joined Besiktas in June 2002 after being sent packing by Galatasaray, led the Black Eagles to the league championship in 2002-2003 in their centenary year. That same season, the Eagles reached the UEFA Cup quarterfinal, where they lost to Lazio.

In the second half of the 2003-2004 season, the tide turned against Lucescu and Besiktas. The solution was simple: Throw Lucescu, "the Jonah," into the sea, and all will be well. But the reverse has been the case because what the Besiktas club has failed to understand is that patience is a virtue.

Lucescu then moved to Shakhtar in 2004, where he has won three Ukrainian league championships, two Ukrainian Cups, two Ukrainian Super Cups and the last UEFA Cup.

Yet things have not calmed at Besiktas and have instead gone from bad to worse.

In fact, the Eagles have not won the league title since then, though they have acquired almost as many coaches as Galatasaray: Spaniard Vicente Del Bosque (2004-2005), Rıza Calımbay (2005-2005), Frenchman Jean Tigana (2005-2007), Özgürnel Sağlam (2007-2008) and Mustafa Denizli (October 2008-to present). And it is worth noting that Besiktas ended up paying Del Bosque, the current coach of the Spanish national team who succeeded Fener's Luis Aragones in the summer, 8.5 million euros for wrongful dismissal.

Besiktas won the Fortis Turkish Cup under Denizli last Wednesday, and the team is the current leader and the top favorite for this season's Turkish league title. Good enough, but what happens if the going gets tough next season? Will Denizli be shown the door?

"I am happy that we continued the success of Ukrainian teams. I hope this result will give us more stamina and strength to prepare for the 2012 (European Championships)," Lucescu told reporters in Istanbul Wednesday after Shakhtar won the last UEFA Cup. Yes, Lucescu has every reason to be happy because he returned to Istanbul with a clear conscience because he believed he did no wrong during his stay here.

Fenerbahçe is also guilty, but since Lucescu is at issue, we will skip Fener for the time being. The Istanbul giants must learn from Shakhtar, which has kept Lucescu since 2004, a UEFA Cup-losing Werder Bremen, which has stuck with Thomas Schaaf since 1987 (the Bremen youth team 1987-1995, the Bremen B team 1995-1999 and the Bremen senior team 1999-present). They should also look at Manchester United, which has continued uninterrupted with Alex Ferguson since 1984 and Arsenal, which has kept Arsene Wenger since 1996.

It's an undeniable truism that success does not come easy, especially in soccer. Friends, foes, Istanbul "Big Three," lend me your ears: The evil that men do lives after them. The revolving-door policy on coaches is outright wrong. It just doesn't work.



## Report: Figo wants to play on, perhaps in China

Former World Player of the Year Luis Figo wants to extend his career outside Europe and would consider playing in the Chinese Super League (CSL), a Chinese newspaper reported on Thursday. The Portugal midfielder announced his retirement from "high level" football after helping Inter Milan to a fourth successive Serie A title last weekend. Beijing, Reuters

## BUTTON MAY NOT HAVE HIS WAY IN MONACO

Sunday's showcase Monaco Grand Prix could be the most open in years, even if Formula One championship leader Jenson Button will still be very much the man to beat. The Briton, a Monaco resident, has won four of the season's five races and will feel completely at home on the Mediterranean principality's tight and twisting streets. However the harbor side circuit with its unforgiving barriers and blind corners has made a mockery of

predictions in the past, particularly if it rains. With overtaking next to impossible, qualifying will be crucial. Button's Brawn GP team mate Rubens Barrichello, who celebrates his 37th birthday on Saturday before his 17th appearance in the glamour showcase of the season, is hungry for his first win since 2004. In the slowest race on the calendar, McLaren's world champion Lewis Hamilton and the Ferrari pairing of Felipe Massa

and Kimi Raikkonen could also be dangerous while Renault's Fernando Alonso and Toyota's Jarno Trulli are past Monaco winners. Red Bull's Australian Mark Webber has always stood out while German team mate Sebastian Vettel can add to the growing comparisons with retired compatriot Michael Schumacher. "It is very different and it is 'chuck all the downforce on' and don't worry about the drag and see what happens," said Button. **Monaco Reuters**



Turkish star Hedo Turkoglu celebrates after an assist on a 3-point shot by Rashard Lewis in the fourth quarter of game one of the NBA Eastern finals against Cleveland. PHOTO BY: WINSLOW TOMANSON

## Hedo's Magic subdues Cavs despite LeBron's 49 points in East opener

Dwight Howard scored 30 points, Rashard Lewis added 22 and Turkish star Hedo Turkoglu had 15 points, six rebounds and 14 assists as the visiting Orlando Magic rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to hand LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers their first loss of the postseason, 107-106 on Wednesday night in the Eastern Conference finals opener. James finished with 49 points, eight assists and six rebounds, but the league's Most Valuable player walked off the floor with a slight limp after Cleveland's stunning loss -- just its third in 46 home games.

Lewis made a 3-pointer with 14.7 seconds left and the Magic, who dethroned the champion Boston Celtics in the previous round, survived two shots by Cleveland in the final seconds. Mo Williams missed a catch-and-shoot jumper off a jump ball as the horn sounded and the Cavs fell to 8-1 in the postseason.

"It's a big victory," said Howard, who broke one of the shot clocks with a dunk in the opening minutes. "We kept fighting the whole game. We kept believing we could win." Game 2 is tonight at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, which fell eerily silent after the Magic's win. As fans headed to the exits, they turned to observe James still on the floor and bent over in obvious pain. He seemed to be bothered by cramps in the fourth quarter and was tended to by Cleveland's training staff before slowly making his way to the locker room.

"I'm not hurt," said James, who felt the long layoff -- the Cavs hadn't played since May 11 -- may have contributed to the cramping. The Cavaliers lost their grip on the game with a stagnant third quarter that carried into the fourth. Also, the Magic shot 55 percent from the floor -- 59 percent in the second half -- against the league's top defensive team. "That's unacceptable," James said. "We should have lost."

Orlando, which won two games and lost one against Cleveland in the regular season, took its first lead at 85-84 with 10:06 left when Anthony Johnson hit a 3-pointer from the left corner. The bucket seemed to suck the air out of the raucous building and Cavs coach Mike Brown quickly called a timeout to stop the Magic's run and get James back in. The Magic, though, kept making big shots with Lewis hitting a jumper with 31.6 seconds left to give Orlando a 104-103 lead. James then dove and scored on a runner while drawing a sixth foul on Howard, who added 13 rebounds. **Istanbul Today's Zaman with wires**

## Mickelson suspends play, wife has cancer

Phil Mickelson has suspended playing on the PGA Tour indefinitely after his wife was diagnosed with cancer, officials said Wednesday. The breast cancer in Amy Mickelson was discovered after an "extensive battery of tests," the golfer's manager T.R. Reinman said in a release. More tests are scheduled but the treatment process is expected to begin with major surgery, perhaps within the next two weeks, Reinman said.

The couple married in 1996 and have three children aged nine, seven, and six. Mickelson, 38, is a two-time Masters champion and winner of the 2005 PGA Championship. The world number two was due to play the Byron Nelson Championship in Dallas beginning Thursday and defend his title at the Colonial Invitational in Fort Worth next week. The situation casts doubt on Mickelson's participation in next month's US Open at Bethpage in New York, where in 2002 the big left-hander finished second to Tiger Woods.

"Elin and I are deeply saddened to hear the news about Amy," Woods was reported as saying on US Tour Web site pgatour.com. **Los Angeles Reuters**

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