



"We Trust and Support Our Youth in Every Field of Life"

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Hakan Fidan in Baghdad: "We Desire Close Relations Between the New Governments of Iraq and Syria"



During his visit to Baghdad, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan expressed Turkey's desire for the establishment of "close relations" between the new governments of Iraq and Syria. Fidan also called for the creation of an alliance to fight ISIS, including Syria and Jordan, to further strengthen the region's security.

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The first activity of the Turkic World Institute for Human Resources Development took place in Türkiye



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Serbian President Vucic: If a New Government Is Not Formed, Elections Will Be Announced



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Kyrgyzstan President Caparov Marks 4th Year in Power

During President Sadyr Japarov's four-year tenure, significant emphasis has been placed on fighting organized crime and

corruption, while a longstanding border dispute with Tajikistan, which had led to deadly clashes, was resolved.

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OTS Secretary General Congratulates the Successful Launch of National Satellite Fergani FGN-100-d1

Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, issued a congratulatory message following the successful launch and orbital placement of Türkiye's largest satellite, FGN-100-d1, which was nationally developed by Fergani Space and manufactured by a private company.

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Martyrs Commemorated on the 67th Anniversary of the Resistance Against British Colonial Rule in the TRNC

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Healthcare Workers Serving in Different Countries Call the Events in Gaza "Genocide"



Healthcare workers from various countries have described the events in Gaza, which has been continuously attacked by Israel since October 2023, as "genocide."

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Kyrgyzstan Establishes National Artificial Intelligence Council

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"We Trust and Support Our Youth in Every Field of Life"

President Erdoğan, in his speech at the 7th Ordinary Congress of the AK Party Youth Branch, stated, "We are building a Turkey where our youth can live comfortably and express themselves freely, together with you, our young people. We trust and support our youth in every field of life."

President and AK Party Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the AK Party Youth Branch 7th Ordinary Congress held at the Ankara Indoor Sports Hall and delivered a speech. Extending his warm greetings to all young security forces defending the homeland both within and beyond the borders, President Erdoğan also saluted, on behalf of AK Youth, the brave youth of Palestine and Gaza who resist Israeli state terrorism, and the revolutionary youth of Syria who brought an end to Baath oppression with an epic victory.

Remembering with mercy all the heroes and young people who fell in the treacherous attacks of terrorist organizations, President Erdoğan prayed for Allah's mercy for Abdullah Tayyip Olçok, Mahir Ayabakan, Mutlucan Kılıç, and all other young martyrs who bravely faced the bullets of FETO traitors on the night of July 15.

"YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION, ITS BRIGHT TOMORROWS"

Reciting Abdurrahim Karakoç's poem "Message to the Youth," President Erdoğan said: "Dear youth; this is your path, your purpose, your goal, your horizon. Your horizon is the horizon of Hoca Ahmet Yesevi. Your horizon is the horizon of Yunus Emre and Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli. Your horizon is the horizon of Bilge Khans and Alparslans. Your horizon is the horizon of Fatih Sultan Mehmet, who said, 'Either I conquer Istanbul or Istanbul conquers me,' and Yavuz Sultan Selim, who brought the world to its knees. Your horizon is the horizon of great statesmen whose wisdom could not be contained in political treatises, all of whom we remember with mercy today. Your horizon is the horizon of the brave heroes of independence and the future, the martyrs, and the veterans. Your horizon is the horizon of the Kuva-yi Milliye. Your horizon is the horizon of the Anatolian alp warriors, dervishes, akhis, and bacis who made these lands a homeland. Your horizon

is the horizon of our writers, scholars, and sages who intricately embroidered this geography and kneaded it with the dough of brotherhood."

Addressing the youth, President Erdoğan said, "Mehmet Akif's dream of 'Asım's Generation' is realized in you. Üstat Necip Fazıl's 'Ideal Youth Dream' is interpreted through you. The late Sezai Karakoç's 'Resurrection Generation' finds its embodiment in you." He continued: "The dreams of our cause devotees, who dedicated their lives to the exaltation of Allah's word, are coming true in you. You are all at the age when Fatih conquered Istanbul. You must all be in the spirit and faith of Fatih when he conquered Istanbul. Remember, each of you is a Turkey in your own right. You are the future of this nation, its bright tomorrows. You are the hope of liberation for the oppressed, the powerful voice of the free world. You are not just the future of Turkey but also the resurrection soldiers of a world plunged into oppression and darkness. You are the youth of a great country. You are the heirs of a great civilization. You are the children of a great nation with conscience, nobility, and integrity. I wholeheartedly salute each of you and congratulate you all."

Expressing his gratitude to Allah for granting him loyal, diligent, and combative companions like AK Youth, President Erdoğan also prayed for the late Betül Önderoğlu, a member of the AK Party Ankara Youth Branch Executive Board, who lost her life in a traffic accident.

Noting that a change of leadership was taking place in the youth branch today, President Erdoğan congratulated İzmir Deputy Eyyüp Kadir İnan, who successfully served as the youth branch chairman for four years, for his significant contributions both within the party and the youth branch. He also congratulated Yusuf İbiş, who took over the youth branch chairmanship, expressing his heartfelt belief that İbiş would fulfill this duty admirably. President Erdoğan also acknowledged and praised previous youth branch chairmen.

"WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION TOGETHER WITH OUR YOUTH"

President Erdoğan emphasized that they are building a Turkey where young people can live comfortably and express themselves freely, together with the youth.

Stating that they trust and support young people in every field of life, President Erdoğan said that despite all objections from those who view youth as "window dressing," they lowered the eligibility age for election first from 30 to 25 and then to 18, rejuvenating politics.

President Erdoğan noted: "While some say, 'Youth cannot do it, youth cannot handle it,' we, on the contrary, say, 'Only the youth can accomplish this, only the youth can do it,' and placed the children of this country at the center of our policies. Together with you, our youth, we are shaping the

future of our nation, which Üstat Necip Fazıl described as 'those gathered around a center of faith.' In our youth branch, which we see as a school, a youth is growing up that is passionate about this country and nation, deeply connected to its independence and future, knowledgeable, cultured, ethical, virtuous, and equipped. A youth is coming with thunderous steps, a youth with a sense of cause ethics, who, when asked 'Who is there?' responds without looking left or right, 'I am here,' and says, 'Where I am not, no one is.'"

"WE HAVE MOBILIZED ALL OUR RESOURCES FOR OUR YOUTH"

President Erdoğan stated that four of the five youngest members of parliament, the manifestation of national will in the Grand National Assembly, represent the people from the ranks of the AK Party, working and striving for the youth, and being the voice of their demands.

Noting that the AK Party Youth Branch Organization, with nearly 1 million members, now surpasses the population of 37 countries registered with the United Nations, President Erdoğan said: "This number is higher than the total membership of many political parties in Turkey. In just the last four years, 700,000 young people joined our party's youth branch. They said, 'I am also part of the cause of serving the nation.' The AK Party Youth Branch, thankfully, brings together young people whose hearts beat for their country and nation, strengthening our ideal of a great and powerful Turkey. I want to emphasize and proclaim this truth once again today; this youth is not a rootless, soulless, unconscious youth that defaces Istanbul's walls with writings like 'Oppression began in 1453.' This youth is not a vandal youth that burns and destroys streets, loots the property of shopkeepers because a few trees were relocated."

President Erdoğan stated that this youth is not a deceived youth that shoots at soldiers, throws Molotov



cocktails, stones, and bottles at the police, adding: "This youth is not a heartless youth that mocks the pain of our families the day after we lost 78 lives on a black day. This youth is not a youth filled with hatred, anger, and resentment towards its own state and people. On the contrary, this youth is a youth that holds 1453 in high esteem. This youth is a youth that embraces the spirit of conquest and Fatih Sultan Mehmet. This youth is a national youth in love with its flag, its homeland, its independence, and its future."

Expressing that he sees before him the youth to whom they can entrust the future with peace of mind, President Erdoğan said, "I feel the pride of seeing such a youth, for whose upbringing I have devoted my life, coming like an unstoppable torrent."

President Erdoğan thanked all the young people who play a role in building a great and powerful Turkey and who are moving towards the goals of the Turkey Century without stopping, resting, and with strong steps, saying, "May Allah protect you and safeguard you from all evil."



Stating that they have always stood by the youth not only in the field of rights and freedoms but also in other areas, President Erdoğan continued his speech as follows: "For 22 years, while growing and developing our country in every field, we have also mobilized all our resources for our youth. In 2002, there were only 76 universities in our country. We opened 132 new universities, increasing the number of universities to 208. When we came to power, the number of youth centers was only 9; today, this number has reached 522. We increased the number of higher education dormitories from 190 to 862. We have provided comfortable, safe, and modern dormitories with a capacity of nearly one million beds for our students. In 2002, undergraduate students received 45 lira, graduate students 90 lira, and doctoral students 135 lira in scholarships and student loans. Today, we provide 3,000 lira to undergraduate students, 6,000 lira to graduate students, and 9,000 lira to doctoral students in scholarships and loan support."



"TURKEY WILL WRITE EPICS WITH THE EFFORTS OF ITS YOUTH"

President Erdoğan stated that 22 years ago, the total number of academic staff in universities was 70,000, and today this number has exceeded 184,000.

Expressing that they have opened the doors of higher education institutions to international students from different countries around the world, President Erdoğan said, "In 2002, the number of international students was 15,505, while today we have nearly 340,000 guest students from over 190 countries. The recent events in Syria remind us of what international students mean for a country's soft power."

President Erdoğan noted that international students who studied in Turkey are now serving their own people as ministers, high-level bureaucrats, politicians, businessmen, and academics, adding: "If we had given credence to the racist rabble, we would have been deprived of these goodwill ambassadors in many places from Syria to Africa. But despite this unruly mob that harbors hatred towards everyone but themselves, we supported international student mobility in education. These are just the beginning. We will, God willing, see the positive results of this policy more clearly in the future in every field from economy to trade, diplomacy to human relations. Even if some still do not understand, look, in 5, 10, 20 years, we will be talking about a very different Turkey on a global scale.

Another area where we have expanded opportunities for our youth is sports. The number of youth and sports facilities in 2002 was only 1,575. We built new football fields, athletics tracks, semi and full Olympic swimming pools, sports halls, stadiums, and youth centers, increasing this number to 4,456."

Stating that they encouraged high school and university students to develop new products and projects by launching the domestic and national technology initiative TEKNOFEST, President Erdoğan expressed his pride in seeing young engineers working in over 3,500 companies in the defense industry.

President Erdoğan said, "Today, our youth are taking leading roles in many strategic projects, from our national combat aircraft KAAN to unmanned aerial vehicles. God willing, this number will increase even more in the coming years. The Turkish defense industry will rise on your shoulders. Turkey will, God willing, write epics with the efforts of its youth. The century we are in will, God willing, be the Turkey Century. I have not the slightest doubt about this. I believe this with all my heart."

"WE WILL ELEVATE BROTHERHOOD TOGETHER"

President Erdoğan emphasized that they will continue to work for a Turkey where young people live side by side in peace, harmony, and brotherhood, and they will carry on this struggle together with the youth.

Using the phrase "We will overcome obstacles together," President Erdoğan said, "We will tear up dirty scenarios together. We will face attacks together. We will elevate brotherhood together. We will grow Turkey together. We will walk together towards the bright days of the future. While others try to divide and separate, we will strive to unite, embrace, and bring together the youth of this country on common ground, as we do in this hall today."

President Erdoğan stated that as long as Allah grants him life and the youth stand by him, they will continue to serve Turkey and the nation with love, enthusiasm, and sacrifice.

President Erdoğan said, "I wholeheartedly congratulate each of you for your passion, enthusiasm, and devotion, and I kiss your eyes. May Allah preserve our unity, solidarity, strength, and brotherhood. I wish that our Youth Branch Congress, held in a festive atmosphere, will once again be a source of goodness for our party, our cause, our country, and our youth."

Thanking the party members who handed over their duties at the congress, President Erdoğan also wished success to the newly appointed party members.



Hakan Fidan in Baghdad: "We Desire Close Relations Between the New Governments of Iraq and Syria"

During his visit to Baghdad, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan expressed Turkey's desire for the establishment of "close relations" between the new governments of Iraq and Syria. Fidan also called for the creation of an alliance to fight ISIS, including Syria and Jordan, to further strengthen the region's security.



Fidan held separate meetings with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Huseyin, Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, and President Abd al-Latif Rashid. Speaking at a joint press conference following his meeting with Foreign Minister Hussein, Fidan said they discussed "important issues concerning both countries and the region in detail." Recalling the 27 agreements signed during President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visit to Iraq in 2024, Fidan underlined the special importance attached to the Development Road Project. He expressed hope for concrete results from the project to be seen as soon as possible.

Fidan: Turkey's Expectations from Iraq on PKK

Regarding security and counterterrorism cooperation, Fidan stated that the understanding reached between Iraq and Turkey on these matters was "extremely valuable." He pointed out that the PKK is a threat to Turkey, Iraq, and Syria, and emphasized that combating terrorism is crucial for the future and prosperity of the region. Fidan added, "Our ultimate expectation from Iraq is to recognize the PKK, which it has already designated as a banned organization, as a terrorist organization."

Desire for Close Relations Between Iraq and Syria's New Government

Fidan also noted that the situation in Syria was discussed during the meeting, expressing Turkey's readiness to play its part in fostering closer relations between Iraq and Syria's new government. He added, "We are ready to do our part to

establish close relations between the new government in Syria and Iraq."

Huseyin: Iraq's Continued Contact with the New Syrian Government

According to AA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein also mentioned regarding the meeting, "We had the opportunity to assess political and energy issues between the two countries, the water issue, trade relations, and the situation of Turkish companies in Iraq." Iraqi Foreign Minister Huseyin confirmed that Iraq and Syria were in constant contact. He noted, "Iraq and Turkey have reached a consensus on how to position ourselves regarding the situation in Syria. We are in constant communication with the new administration in Damascus and are working to coordinate on various issues. Turkey, too, is in continuous contact with the new administration in Damascus."

Huseyin further emphasized that Iraq has been continuously in contact with the new Syrian government and has worked to coordinate various matters.

Fidan Proposes Four-Nation Alliance Against ISIS

During his meeting with Iraqi President Rashid, Fidan proposed the creation of a four-nation alliance to combat ISIS, including Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Turkey.

In a statement issued by the Iraqi

Presidency regarding the matter, the following was stated:

"Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan confirmed the Turkish government's support for the preservation of Iraq's stability, security, and independence, and emphasized the importance of continuing joint efforts in the fight against terrorism. Minister Fidan also called for the establishment of an alliance that includes Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Turkey to fight against the ISIS terrorist organizations, eliminate their focal points, and cut off their funding sources. He stated that this step would ensure the stability of the regional countries."

Sudani: Syria's "Conflict Zone" Affects Regional Stability

Iraqi Prime Minister Sudani, after meeting with Fidan, discussed the latest developments in Syria, Gaza, and Lebanon. He stressed the importance of unifying efforts and increasing coordination among countries in the region to support stability. Sudani reiterated that Iraq rejects Syria being a "conflict zone," noting that such a situation negatively affects the overall stability of the region.



Kyrgyzstan President Caparov Marks 4th Year in Power

During President Sadyr Japarov's four-year tenure, significant emphasis has been placed on fighting organized crime and corruption, while a longstanding border dispute with Tajikistan, which had led to deadly clashes, was resolved.



Under Japarov's leadership, anti-corruption efforts have been prioritized, and the border issue with Tajikistan was resolved.

One of the key events during this period was the appointment of a trustee on May 18, 2021, to oversee the Kumtor gold mine, which had been operated by a Canadian company for 28 years. The mine was nationalized on April 4, 2022.

In the fight against organized crime, corruption, and bribery, Caparov's administration has made notable strides. The national budget increased from 308 billion som (3.52 billion USD) in 2020 to 687 billion som (7.85 billion USD) in 2024.

Kyrgyzstan, which faced a budget deficit of approximately 340 million USD in 2020, is expected to see a surplus of around 70 million USD in 2024.

According to the National Statistics Committee, Kyrgyzstan's GDP in 2024 grew by 9% compared to the previous year, reaching 1.5 trillion som (17.44 billion USD).

Industrial production also increased by 5.5% to 6.8 billion USD, and the country's foreign trade volume rose by 3.7% to reach 14.6 billion USD.

The gross agricultural output for 2024 amounted to 4.52 billion USD.

Record Tax Collection and Infrastructure Development

Kyrgyzstan's State Tax Service reported a record-breaking 228.2 billion som (2.62 billion USD) in tax revenues in 2024. This is attributed to increased efforts in identifying tax evasion factors, enhanced monitoring, and the implementation of modern digital technologies.

Additionally, hundreds of properties were nationalized, new airport terminals were built across the country, and automobile and drone manufacturing plants commenced operations.

Over the past four years, 268 schools, 52 nurseries, and three villages—Kapchagay, Dostuk, and Barak—comprising 101

homes, were built. Construction of numerous mini-hydroelectric power plants continues.

Kyrgyz People Experience Mass Social Housing for the First Time

During the initial years of Japarov's presidency, there was criticism for prioritizing security forces in addressing housing issues.

However, the government shifted focus and allocated 138 million USD to Kyrgyzstan's State Mortgage Company (KMİK), a body similar to Turkey's TOKİ (Housing Development Administration). For the first time in the country's history, 1,059 families moved into new homes with favorable payment terms. Large-scale housing projects continue, with 40,000 apartments currently under construction.

Resolution of the 33-Year Border Dispute with Tajikistan

The border issue between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which had been a source of conflict due to the arbitrary borders drawn by the Soviet Union, was resolved after armed clashes began in 2011.

On December 4, 2024, a joint statement declared the resolution of the border dispute, with both countries expected to sign formal agreements in March 2025.

China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway Project

The foundation for the Kyrgyz section of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway Project, which will enhance Kyrgyzstan's strategic position in transportation and trade, was laid on December 27, 2024. President Japarov emphasized that this railway will facilitate the transportation of goods from China to Kyrgyzstan and beyond, to Central Asia, the Middle East, and the European Union.

The total construction cost of the project is estimated at 4.66 billion USD. This project aims to ease transportation for landlocked Kyrgyzstan.

OTS Secretary General Congratulates the Successful Launch of National Satellite Fergani FGN-100-d1

Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, issued a congratulatory message following the successful launch and orbital placement of Türkiye's largest satellite, FGN-100-d1, which was nationally developed by Fergani Space and manufactured by a private company.



In his message, Omuraliev stated, "I proudly celebrate the launch of Fergani Space's first satellite, FGN-100-d1, into space. This achievement, led by Baykar Chairman Selçuk Bayraktar, once again showcases the creativity and determination of the Turkic world." He expressed his happiness in witnessing the realization of the vision Bayraktar shared with the "bright young minds" of the Turkic world during the OTS Youth Platform event held in Bukhara. Omuraliev emphasized, "This success, rooted in a long-nurtured dream, is a great source of pride and joy for the entire Turkic world." Omuraliev highlighted that the project pays homage to the legacy of scholars like Fergani and Ulugh Beg, reviving the shared scientific heritage to inspire

future generations while demonstrating the growing capacity of the Turkic world in global space exploration.

A Message of Cooperation in Space Technologies

Pointing out that this milestone also marks a significant step in enhancing cooperation among OTS member states in space technologies, Omuraliev reaffirmed the OTS Secretariat's "unwavering commitment" to advancing collaboration in this field.

He underscored the aim of establishing a platform for sharing expertise, experience, and technical knowledge to strengthen joint capabilities in space research, stating, "On this occasion, I congratulate everyone involved and hope this remarkable achievement paves the way for even greater successes for the Turkic world."

FGN-100-d1, Türkiye's largest satellite, developed nationally by Fergani Space, successfully reached its orbit after launch.

According to a statement from Baykar, the FGN-100-d1 satellite, developed by Fergani Space—founded by Baykar Chairman and Technology Leader Selçuk Bayraktar—was launched into space from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in the United States at 22:09 Türkiye time last night.



Kazakhstan to Accelerate Nuclear Power Plant Construction Due to Electricity Shortage

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has instructed the government to speed up the construction of the country's first nuclear power plant in response to the growing electricity shortage.

Chairing the government's annual assessment meeting, Tokayev also assigned new tasks to the cabinet led by Oljas Bektenov. Despite the difficult global situation last year, Tokayev highlighted that the country's economy continued to grow but acknowledged that there were still pressing issues to address.



Tokayev emphasized the urgent need for economic diversification, attracting foreign investment, and advancing sectors such as tourism, transit, transportation, logistics, e-commerce, and artificial intelligence. He also noted that the climate agenda is undergoing significant changes, necessitating a reassessment of approaches to green energy development.

Need for Nuclear Energy

Tokayev pointed to the increasing electricity shortage and gave instructions to accelerate the construction of the first nuclear



power plant and initiate the establishment of a nuclear cluster in the country.

He also emphasized plans to build two additional nuclear plants in the future. "The second nuclear plant's construction proposal is awaited from Parliament and the government. Let me reiterate that our country needs nuclear energy. Without it, Kazakhstan's future development is not possible," he stated.

Kazakhstan as an "Intermediate Power"

Tokayev described Kazakhstan as a "reliable" and "intermediate power" on the global stage. He stressed that this high status should be supported by tangible successes not only in politics but also in the

economy, investment, science, and technology.

In the current geopolitical context, Tokayev emphasized the importance of taking cooperation with Kazakhstan's closest neighbors to a new level. He also highlighted the need for large investment projects with countries such as China, Russia, the U.S., the European Union, the Middle East, and other Asian nations.

Fighting Disinformation

Tokayev also drew attention to the need for legal reforms to combat disinformation and prevent the spread of harmful content on online platforms. "We are increasingly encountering disinformation and media manipulation aimed at manipulating public opinion, discrediting authorities, and inciting hatred. This poses serious risks to public safety and stability in the country," he remarked.

Prime Minister Bektenov added that agreements related to the construction of the first nuclear power plant in the Almaty region would soon be signed, and regional analysis for determining locations for the second and third nuclear plants is nearing completion.



Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz Meets with UN World Food Programme Deputy Executive Director



Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz met with Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), to discuss developments in Syria and Gaza, as well as food security issues.

Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz Meets with UN World Food

Programme Deputy Executive Director Carl Skau

According to a statement posted on the Ministry's official social media account, Deputy Minister Yilmaz held a meeting with WFP Deputy Executive Director Skau.

During the meeting, areas of cooperation related to the developments in Syria and Gaza, as well as food security, were discussed.

Martyrs Commemorated on the 67th Anniversary of the Resistance Against British Colonial Rule in the TRNC

In the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), martyrs were commemorated at a ceremony marking the 67th anniversary of the resistance against British colonial rule.



A ceremony was held in front of the Martyrs' Monument in the capital, Nicosia, on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the resistance against British colonial rule, which took place on January 27-28, 1958.

The ceremony was attended by TRNC President Ersin Tatar, as well as military and civilian officials and citizens.

The event began with the laying of wreaths at the monument, followed by a moment of silence and a salute, then the raising of the flags to the sound of the national anthem.

In his speech, President Tatar stated that 67 years ago, the Turkish Cypriot people fought against British colonial rule in order to live as a separate people on these lands, and he paid tribute to the martyrs with gratitude.

Tatar emphasized that after the British colonial rule, the Turkish Cypriot people resisted the terrorist organization EOKA, which was established to annex Cyprus to Greece, and that this struggle led to the establishment of the Turkish Resistance Organization (TMT).

Pointing out that there is a Turkish people in Cyprus as sovereign as the Greek Cypriots, Tatar added: "Since they never accepted a federal-based agreement and did not recognize our equality, with the full support of the motherland Turkey, we have now embarked on a new path and put forward a new policy. From now on, any agreement can only be in the form of cooperation between two states. Behind our policy stands the motherland Turkey. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan continues to announce this policy to the world."



Putin: Negotiating with Ukraine Now Would Not Be Legitimate

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had banned negotiations with Russia, emphasizing, "If we start negotiations now, it will not be legitimate."



Speaking to the Russian state broadcaster Rossiya-24 about the situation in Ukraine, Putin recalled that negotiations with the Ukrainian side began right after the start of the "special military operation."

"At the beginning, we told the Ukrainian leadership that the people in Donetsk and Luhansk did not want to be part of Ukraine and that everything would end there if they left these regions," Putin said. He stressed that if Ukraine had withdrawn from these regions, there would have been no conflict, adding, "**Kiev decided to go to war.**"

Putin also stated that during negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul in 2022, a draft agreement was reached. "Although this document contained some contentious elements, I still agreed to put it into effect. On the evening of April 15 or the morning of April 16, we informed the Ukrainian side that we were ready to sign it," he said. Putin recalled that when the Russian army advanced near Kiev, some European leaders spoke to him. "They said Ukraine could not sign a peace agreement while weapons were pointed at it near its capital. It is possible that this was a deception, but based on the idea of preventing bloodshed and a war, we still agreed

to withdraw our troops," he explained.

Possible Negotiations

Regarding potential negotiations with Ukraine, Putin pointed out a legal issue: "The leader of the regime in Ukraine signed a decree banning negotiations. Now, since he is no longer a legitimate leader, he cannot revoke this decree. If we start negotiations now, it will not be legitimate."

Putin emphasized that Russia is open to talks with anyone from Ukraine, but Zelensky would not be able to sign any documents. "If there is a desire for negotiations, legal issues can be resolved. However, we do not see such willingness," he stated.

He also argued that the war would end without Western support, saying, "If the flow of money and ammunition stops, they won't last even a month."

Finally, Putin underlined that any potential negotiation outcome must ensure security for both Ukraine and Russia.



Kyrgyzstan Establishes National Artificial Intelligence Council

Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Akylbek Japarov, announced that the country aims to systematically and extensively integrate artificial intelligence (AI) technologies into state institutions.



According to a written statement from the government, Japarov spoke at the 7th Digital Almaty-2025 International Forum, titled "Industrial Artificial Intelligence: Technologies of a New Era," held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Japarov stated that the goal is to integrate AI technologies into state institutions to ensure sustainable development and strengthen Kyrgyzstan's position on the global technology agenda. He emphasized that digital transformation has been a strategic priority for Kyrgyzstan for over a decade, saying, "Artificial intelligence is our shared priority and has become an integral part of the global technological landscape today. It is important for our countries not only to utilize their potential but also to become active participants in technological progress."

Japarov recalled that the National Artificial Intelligence Council has been established to make strategic decisions and implement advanced technologies, adding that the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy will soon be adopted.

"We Have the Chance to Become a Global Digital Hub"

Japarov highlighted that for the successful digital transformation of

Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states, focus should be placed on areas such as developing digital skills, supporting startups and innovations, and ensuring cybersecurity. He said, "We have the chance to become a global digital hub. In this context, I propose the creation of a Joint Coordination Council (JCC) to manage regional projects and coordinate strategies. Kyrgyzstan is ready to initiate a pilot project to establish such a structure."

Emphasizing that the region where Kyrgyzstan is located can become a center for digital innovation and sustainable development, Japarov stated, "I propose the creation of a regional AI center for sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices, the development of regional standards regulating AI to ensure the protection of citizens' data, and providing access to computing power through regional data centers to eliminate technological barriers."

Japarov also noted that an AI robot named "Akylai," which provides legal and financial advice to citizens based on national legislation, has been launched in the country. Additionally, he mentioned that a study on water resources and related issues using AI has been initiated.

SOURCE: VEDAT KURT

Azerbaijani President Aliyev: We Have Not Forgotten Zangezur, and We Will Not Forget

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev stated, "We have not forgotten Zangezur, and we will not forget. However, today we have no territorial claims against Armenia. But Armenia must fulfill its obligations and ensure unimpeded passage from Azerbaijan to Azerbaijan (Nakhchivan)."



President Aliyev made these remarks during a meeting with transportation ministers and officials in the capital, Baku.

Aliyev noted that Armenia has maintained a non-constructive stance for over four years regarding the Zangezur Corridor, which would connect Azerbaijan's western regions to Nakhchivan, and has failed to fulfill its obligations.

The President emphasized that Armenia has been creating various excuses to prevent the implementation of the Zangezur Corridor and attempting to confuse the international community with manipulations.

Referring to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's "Crossroads of Peace" project, Aliyev said, "Without Azerbaijan, the 'Crossroads of Peace' project is not worth even two cents. If you want to implement this project, you must first approach Azerbaijan. Without us, this project will remain just a piece of paper."

Aliyev recalled that when they saw Armenia acting insincerely, they reached an agreement with Iran and began constructing automobile bridges

bypassing Armenia. He stated, "Thus, Armenia will remain a landlocked country, and its aspirations to become a transit country will remain a dream. Their losses will be greater than ours. Therefore, this issue will remain on the agenda, and we will continue to emphasize it both internationally and in our bilateral contacts with Armenia. The passage from Azerbaijan to Azerbaijan must be smooth, free, and unimpeded, without any controls."

Reminding that Zangezur is historically Azerbaijani territory and that this region was taken from Azerbaijan and given to Armenia by the Soviet Union in 1920, Aliyev said, "We have not forgotten Zangezur, and we will not forget. However, today we have no territorial claims against Armenia. But Armenia must fulfill its obligations and ensure unimpeded passage from Azerbaijan to Azerbaijan (Nakhchivan)."



Zelensky: "Ukraine Needs at Least 200,000 Peacekeeping Troops for a Ceasefire"

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that if a ceasefire agreement is reached with Russia, Ukraine would need "at least 200,000 European peacekeepers" on the ground to defend against any potential Russian attack.



Speaking one day after Donald Trump's return to the US presidency, Zelensky emphasized that Europe must "fend for itself." He mentioned that 200,000 peacekeeping troops from European countries is the minimum required number, stating, "Otherwise, it is nothing."

In his speech at the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, Zelensky reminded that "there is no ocean separating European countries from Russia."

The Ukrainian president also underlined that Russia's demand to reduce Ukraine's military, currently at 800,000 troops, by a fifth is "not an option." Zelensky stated that during a ceasefire agreement, Ukraine's best defense would be NATO membership. While most European countries support Ukraine's NATO membership, Germany and the United States oppose it. Russia-friendly governments in Hungary and Slovakia are also against Ukraine's accession to NATO.

Support for Trump's 5% Defense Spending Proposal

Zelensky further urged European countries to consider Trump's call for NATO members to increase defense spending to 5% of GDP.

"If 5% of GDP is needed for defense, then let it be, it should be 5%," Zelensky said, emphasizing the need for Europe to establish a unified security and defense policy.

Meanwhile, Ukraine is seeking a meeting with Trump, who promised to quickly end the war between Russia and Ukraine if he wins the US presidency. However, how he intends to achieve this has never been clarified.

Russian Drone Attacks Continue

In other developments, Ukrainian officials reported on Tuesday that Russian drone attacks had caused damage to homes in various regions of central and southern Ukraine. The Ukrainian military reported that 131 Russian drones and four ballistic missiles were used in the attacks.

Ukrainian air forces announced that their air defense systems had downed 72 drones.

The Russian Ministry of Defense, in a statement on Tuesday, said that it had destroyed 55 Ukrainian drones, mostly in areas near the Russia-Ukraine border. The ministry added that Russian air defense systems had downed 22 drones over Bryansk, 12 over Rostov, and 10 over the Smolensk region.

Serbian President Vucic: If a New Government Is Not Formed, Elections Will Be Announced



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic stated that following Prime Minister Milos Vucevic's decision to resign, he would call all parties for consultations, and if a new government is not formed, elections will be announced.

An extraordinary government meeting was held at the Palace of Serbia in Belgrade under Vucic's leadership, with the participation of Vucevic, who has decided to resign, as well as ministers and other officials. Following the meeting, Vucic announced that after Vucevic's resignation is accepted by parliament, he will gather all parties to discuss forming a new government.

Emphasizing that he will not delay the government formation process, Vucic stated:

"If a new government is not formed, elections will be announced. There will be no interim government. The most significant developments will take place within the Serbian Progressive Party. Serbia is in a difficult situation, facing immense external pressure. Our stability and social peace are under threat. Within the next 10 days, we will decide whether to proceed with elections or form a new government. The government will continue making decisions in its technical mandate. We can hold elections within 75 days, with the most likely date being April." Vucic stressed that the Serbian people want "normal and trustworthy leaders." He added, "I do not trust politicians who organize groups to target their political opponents. The state can be patient, but that does not mean we will allow these individuals to ruin people's lives."

Vucic also announced that he would use his presidential authority to grant amnesty to 13 individuals who were

arrested during protests against the government following a deadly train station accident in Novi Sad.

Resignations Following Vucevic's Decision

Following Vucevic's resignation, Novi Sad Mayor Milan Duric also stepped down from his position. Protests Against the Government Erupt After Fatal Train Station Incident On November 1, 2024, a concrete canopy collapsed at the Novi Sad train station, resulting in the deaths of 15 people. In response, students across the country launched protests under the slogan "Stop Serbia."

Thousands of university, college, and high school students recently staged a 24-hour road-blocking protest at Autokomanda, one of Belgrade's key traffic hubs.

The students demanded accountability for those responsible for the fatal accident, the publication of all documents related to the construction and renovation of the station, and the release of students and academics detained during previous protests. During a speech last night while the road-blocking protest was ongoing, Vucic assured that the students' demands would be met. He acknowledged the need for a government reshuffle, expecting more than 50% of the cabinet to change. Meanwhile, Speaker of Parliament Ana Brnabic announced that she would propose a vote of confidence in the government during a parliamentary session.

Uzbekistan's Foreign Trade Volume Exceeded \$65.9 Billion in 2024

Uzbekistan's foreign trade volume reached \$65.934 billion last year.

The Uzbekistan State Statistics Agency released the country's foreign trade data for 2024. According to the report, the country's trade volume increased by 3.8% compared to the previous year, reaching \$65.934 billion.

Exports rose by 8.4% to \$26.948 billion, while imports increased by 0.8% to \$38.985 billion. Uzbekistan's foreign trade deficit was recorded at \$12.037 billion in 2024. Maintaining trade relations with nearly 200 countries, Uzbekistan's exports consisted of 27.8% gold, 26.7% services, 15.6% industrial products, 8.1% food and livestock, and 6.3% chemical products. Imports were led by passenger vehicles, machinery, and equipment at 34.6%, followed by industrial products at 15.5%, chemical products at 12%, and food and livestock at 9.5%. China was Uzbekistan's largest trading

partner in 2024, accounting for 18.9% of total trade, followed by Russia at 17.6%, Kazakhstan at 6.5%, Turkey at 4.5%, and South Korea at 3%. The country's foreign trade volume had grown by 18.6% in 2022, reaching \$50.008 billion, and by 23.9% in 2023, reaching \$62.567 billion.

Trade between Uzbekistan and Turkey decreased by 7%

Turkey was recorded as Uzbekistan's fourth-largest trading partner last year, with a 5% share of the total trade volume. The trade volume between the two countries, which stood at \$3.161 billion in 2023, fell by 7% to \$2.937 billion in 2024. Uzbekistan's exports to Turkey decreased by 7.4% to \$1.169 billion, while imports from Turkey dropped by 6.8% to \$1.768 billion. In 2023, Uzbekistan's exports to Turkey had reached \$1.263 billion, while imports stood at \$1.897 billion.



Kosovo: We want Türkiye's continued support



Kosovo's President Vjosa Osmani has requested that Türkiye continue its support for his country in areas such as its membership in international organizations, gaining recognition from more countries, and strengthening defense cooperation.

According to a statement from the Kosovo Presidency, President Osmani met with Türkiye's Ambassador to Pristina, Sabri Tunç Angılı.

During the meeting, political developments in Kosovo and the further deepening of bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed. Osmani expressed appreciation for Türkiye's consistent support and the friendly relations between the two countries, emphasizing that Türkiye is a strategic partner and a strong supporter of Kosovo.

Osmani stressed that for Kosovo to be a member in international organizations, gain recognition from more countries, and deepen defense cooperation, "Türkiye's continued support for the country" is essential. The two sides agreed to strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries and continue long-term cooperation.



ULUSLARARASI SİVİL DİPLOMASİ GAZETESİ

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Suat ŞİMŞEK

TÜRKMENİSTAN ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
Burak ÖZATA

AZERBAIJAN ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
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UKRAYNA ABONE TEMSİLCİSİ
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Investment Plans for 2025 Discussed in Turkmenistan

In an online meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers chaired by President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, investment plans for 2025 were evaluated in Turkmenistan.



Deputy Chairmen of the Cabinet of Ministers responsible for the economy, energy, and agriculture briefed President Berdimuhamedov on the country's socio-economic development program. During the meeting, discussions focused on measures to develop the industrial sector, increase production, and improve the population's living standards. In this regard, plans were made to attract investments to the country and enhance public-private partnerships through regulatory improvements.

Additionally, efforts are being made to create a favorable business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises to boost economic growth. A series of investments are also planned in the energy sector, the country's primary source of revenue. While the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan natural gas pipeline project continues, new wells are set to be drilled at the Galkynysh Gas Field, which holds one of the world's largest natural gas reserves.

To ensure food security, Turkmenistan aims to maintain the agricultural production growth rates of over 100% achieved in 2024 throughout 2025.

Healthcare Workers Serving in Different Countries Call the Events in Gaza "Genocide"

Healthcare workers from various countries have described the events in Gaza, which has been continuously attacked by Israel since October 2023, as "genocide."

Speaking to an AA correspondent during the "Great White Tent Protest," which they launched in front of the United Nations (UN) Office in Geneva to protest the events in Gaza and the targeting of their colleagues, healthcare workers expressed their concerns.

Hüseyin Durmaz, a member of the International Health Initiative who traveled from Turkey to participate in the demonstration, stated that they had previously made calls with more than ten healthcare organizations in Turkey and later contacted their colleagues in other countries to organize a protest with concrete demands.

Durmaz said, "Thus, an international coalition was formed. Right now, more than 100 healthcare organizations from over 12 countries are actively present here. However, in addition to those present, more than 50 countries have signed the statements we issued or are conducting simultaneous solidarity actions in their own countries in support of this protest."



Explaining that they organized this demonstration to clarify their previous efforts for Gaza and to receive responses to their calls, Durmaz emphasized that they wanted to highlight what the UN and its affiliated organizations should do. Durmaz stated, "First and foremost, we want a permanent ceasefire. Because as long as this situation continues in Gaza, there is no chance for any aid. Gaza's healthcare system has completely collapsed. According to our scientific studies, even if we were granted unconditional access to Gaza right now, it would take 12 years to fully restore everything. We demand the immediate and unconditional opening of medical aid, including personnel and supplies." Noting that their calls have received



responses, Durmaz said that a delegation of healthcare professionals met with UN officials yesterday. He continued:

"For the first time in world history, we are witnessing such an event; we have all watched a genocide unfold live. We have seen healthcare workers being killed and people being massacred. This is unprecedented in history. For the first time, not just Muslim communities but the entire world agrees on this matter. There is a new global dynamic. If this dynamic is properly understood, the world can move towards better days. Gaza represents an opportunity for a new world order built on justice and goodness. It has brought together so many people. People of all religions and nationalities are here right now and have been on the streets from the very beginning. Well-intentioned politicians must read this new dynamic correctly and create a proper plan."

"We Can Now Speak of Genocide Without Any Doubt"

Nuriya Belhadj, an Algerian-born French healthcare worker, stated that a massacre has been occurring in Gaza for the past year and a half and that despite the current ceasefire, it is not being respected by Israel.

"As healthcare workers, we are particularly affected by what is happening to our colleagues in Palestine because we believe we have a sacred mission for our patients. We must stand in full solidarity with them," Belhadj said.

Stressing that the mission of providing healthcare should be respected worldwide without any hindrance, Belhadj asserted that the targeting of healthcare workers should never be accepted.

"(Regarding what is happening in Gaza) We can now speak of genocide without any doubt. Genocide is not only about exterminating an entire population but also about eliminating a part of it. This can be for political, ethnic, or religious reasons," she stated.

"It Is Very Difficult to Call This Anything Other Than Genocide" Dutch healthcare worker Sara Galli stated that they were calling on the UN

to protect healthcare workers in Gaza and the West Bank, saying, "Because they are under an attack unlike anything we have ever seen before." Pointing out that the health situation in Gaza is at a catastrophic level, Galli noted that since October 7, 2023, there have been more than 1,400 attacks on healthcare services, resulting in the deaths of over 1,000 healthcare workers. She emphasized that more than 12,000 people in Gaza are waiting for urgent medical evacuation, but this has not been permitted.

Highlighting the dire conditions in which healthcare workers in Gaza are operating, Galli stated, "We have seen footage of healthcare workers being forced to amputate their own children's legs without anesthesia. There is even a healthcare worker who froze to death." Worrying that what is happening in Gaza is genocide, Galli continued: "The UN has two reports stating that the warfare tactics used by Israel are consistent with genocide. We have a special rapporteur who has determined that the criteria for genocide have been met. There are a total of 65 experts and independent institutions who have declared this a genocide. So it is very difficult to call this anything other than genocide."



Uzbek Foreign Minister Saidov Speaks at Joint Press Conference with Fidan and Bayramov

Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyar Saidov stated, "We are determined to strengthen our good neighborly relations in Central Asia, as well as deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with our strategic partners in both near and distant regions."



Saidov made these remarks during a trilateral press conference held in Ankara following the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting of Foreign, Trade, Economy, and Transport Ministers. The press conference was attended by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

Saidov extended his condolences for those who lost their lives in the hotel fire in Bolu Kartalkaya and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Minister Saidov noted that the trilateral meeting exceeded expectations and opened new horizons for strategic partnership among the brotherly countries. He highlighted that this event, a continuation of the first trilateral meeting held in Tashkent in 2022, has become an effective platform for discussing and implementing strategic initiatives.



Emphasizing that relations between Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey have reached an all-time high thanks to the political will of their presidents, Saidov recalled that last year,

Uzbekistan signed comprehensive strategic partnership agreements with Turkey and elevated its relations with Azerbaijan to an allied level.

Saidov said, "These meetings are not only an important step in strengthening trilateral cooperation but also open doors to new opportunities for bilateral relations based on strategic interests. In recent years, our cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral formats has strengthened to an unprecedented level, gaining new dynamics and practical dimensions."

He added that during the meeting, they discussed further strengthening the strategic partnership between Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey in regional and international politics, trade, economy, investments, and transport. They also developed new proposals to advance mutually beneficial relations in various fields and agreed to systematically enhance dialogue within international institutions.

"We Are Determined to Deepen Our Cooperation"

Saidov explained that it has become more important than ever

to effectively promote the common interests of their countries on the global stage and present a unified approach to key issues on the international agenda. He continued:

"Despite the contradictory state of the world, it is no exaggeration to say that under the strong political will of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, pursuing an open, constructive, and proactive foreign policy has become a hallmark of the new Uzbekistan on the international stage. In this context, we are determined to strengthen our good neighborly relations in Central Asia and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with our strategic partners in both near and distant regions. In today's interconnected world, economic diplomacy is one of the pillars of international relations. Uzbekistan is in favor of creating new opportunities in this field by leveraging this trilateral cooperation.

The combined population of our countries is approaching 140 million. By effectively utilizing this great potential, we have the opportunity to at least double our trade volume in the near future. In this regard, I had detailed discussions with my counterparts on actively introducing new mechanisms to promote mutual trade."

Noting that while there are significant challenges in logistics chains, the geographical location and transit potential of the three brotherly countries hold strategic importance, Saidov emphasized that close cooperation in this area would not only ensure the stability of freight transportation but also create new transport corridors that meet the needs of modern global markets.

Saidov said, "While Turkey and Azerbaijan are today the western gate of the Middle Corridor, Uzbekistan is emerging as a strategic hub, much like the ancient Silk Road. We held comprehensive consultations on using Uzbekistan as a transport and logistics center for Turkish and Azerbaijani companies to access new markets. In particular, we exchanged views on increasing transportation by extensively utilizing the opportunities of the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey-Europe international transport corridor."

"I Congratulate Our Turkish Brothers"

Saidov stressed the need to unite in promoting their shared history and rich Turkic-Islamic culture to the world, stating: "In this context, I sincerely congratulate our Turkish brothers on the successful launch of the satellite named after the great scientist Ahmad al-Ferghani on January 14. This historic event not only showcased Turkey's high level of scientific and technological achievement but also reflected the inseparable link between our shared cultural and intellectual heritage and contemporary successes. We expressed our deep gratitude to our Turkish colleagues for their significant contributions to widely promoting the rich legacy of our great ancestors, who made unique contributions to the development of world civilization."

The first activity of the Turkic World Institute for Human Resources Development took place in Türkiye

The first activity of the Turkic World Institute for Human Resources Development (TİKGE), operating under the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), was held in Türkiye.



A delegation of 30 civil administrators from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan arrived in Türkiye as part of training programs that will run until January 26. During their visit, they met with the Head of the Presidential Human Resources Office, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salim Atay, at the Presidential Library. Atay emphasized that this was the first event organized in Türkiye with the participation of representatives from four countries, stating, "Thus, while you have the opportunity to observe the work of our relevant institutions and ministries firsthand and receive related training, you will also have the chance to meet and engage with each other."

"We Have a Lot to Learn from You" Ermek Irgebaev, the head of the Kyrgyz delegation, mentioned that they came to Türkiye with a team of 10 people to gain various experiences. He noted that he had heard positive things about the working methods of institutions and organizations in Türkiye and expressed that the training sessions to be held at ministries would provide valuable insights. He also stated that relevant representatives from Kyrgyzstan would continue to participate in future programs. Dilshod Kenjaev, the head of the Uzbek delegation, highlighted their interest in learning from Türkiye's

expertise in human resources and implementing those experiences in Uzbekistan. Yazmyrat Kulayev, the head of the Turkmen delegation, expressed gratitude for Türkiye's hospitality. He stressed that the meetings scheduled as part of the program would strengthen friendly relations between the two countries and believed that they would lay a solid foundation for joint projects.

"They Directly Contribute to the Legislative Process Upon Returning to Their Countries"

Following the meeting, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salim Atay made statements to journalists, noting that the Presidential Human Resources Office has various programs in place with the countries of the Turkic States and maintains continuous interaction with them.

Atay pointed out that this was the first time representatives from four Turkic states had come together for a common purpose, emphasizing the significance of Turkmenistan's participation, despite not being a full member of the organization.



Second Turkey-Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan Trilateral Ministers' Meeting to Be Held in Ankara



The second Turkey-Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan Trilateral Foreign, Trade, and Transport Ministers' Meeting will take place in Ankara.

Representing Turkey at the meeting will be Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Trade Minister Ömer Bolat, and Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloğlu. The Azerbaijani delegation will include Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov, and Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyev. The Uzbek delegation will be represented by Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade Laziz Kudratov, and Transport Minister Ilkhom Makhkamov.

The agenda of the meeting will cover foreign policy issues, regional cooperation, the enhancement of trade, economic, and investment relations, the development of regional transportation networks, and the strengthening of collaboration in the transport and communications sectors.

At the end of the trilateral meeting, the signing of the Ankara Declaration and its accompanying Action Plan is expected, outlining a concrete roadmap for future

cooperation among the three countries.

Turkey-Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan Trilateral Foreign, Trade, and Transport Ministers' Meeting

The first meeting in this format was held on August 2, 2022, in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War disrupted supply chains. In response, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan established this trilateral platform to discuss projects aimed at strengthening economic, transport, and energy connectivity along the historic Silk Road route between Asia and Europe.

The meeting is expected to address the harmonization of customs regulations, the expansion of electronic services, and the gradual removal of trade barriers in line with the principles of constructive and mutual benefit.

The Turkey-Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting is also seen as a concrete example of Turkey's close solidarity and cooperation with the Turkic world.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi Calls for Lifting Sanctions on Syria

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), stated, "Lift the sanctions (on Syria) and create space for investments, reconstruction, and recovery."



Grandi held a press conference in Ankara following his visits to Syria and Lebanon. He mentioned that he would also visit Jordan tomorrow and shared that he had conducted assessments in Damascus and Aleppo, Syria. He highlighted the difficulties Syrians have faced since 2011 and the displacement of many people.

Grandi noted that nearly 12 million Syrians have been forced to either relocate within Syria or migrate to other countries. He shared information about those who decided to return home after the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime.

Emphasizing that he had a "constructive" meeting with Ahmed Shara, the leader of Syria's new administration, Grandi reported that his discussions in Syria regarding the return of displaced persons, human rights, and security were positive.

Grandi pointed out that he received a message from senior Syrian officials about a Syria where all communities could live in peace.

Call to Lift Sanctions on Syria

Grandi stressed that the poor governance during the Assad regime and the sanctions have led to the destruction of Syria's economy. He called on the international community, "Please help Syria."

Highlighting the importance of assisting the Syrian people, Grandi said, "Lift the sanctions and create space for

investments, reconstruction, and recovery."

Grandi added, "If we do not do this now, at the beginning of this transition period or new era, we will lose a lot of time."

The High Commissioner referred to the importance of the electricity issue, noting that the EU has agreed on a roadmap to ease sanctions on Syria, but such practices need to be expanded.

Praising Turkey's aid efforts and policies in Syria, Grandi said, "Turkey itself, with its institutions TIKA, AFAD, Turkish Red Crescent, and other organizations, is already doing a lot in Syria."

Grandi stated that Turkey has very good procedures, mechanisms, and practices for the return of Syrians to their country. He also mentioned that Turkish authorities are working excellently and setting an example.



Founder of the Republic of Azerbaijan: Mehmet Emin Resulzade

The memory of Resulzade, the man behind the famous words, "Once a flag is raised, it will never be lowered," is honored both in Azerbaijan and in Turkey, where he spent a part of his life.



Resulzade, who played a significant role in shaping the national identity of Azerbaijan, recognized as the first democratic republic in the Muslim East, dedicated his life to independence and the enlightenment of society through his journalistic and political activities. His legacy is cherished both in Azerbaijan and in Turkey, where he lived for a period.

Resulzade, whose slogan "Once a flag is raised, it will never be lowered" became a symbol of independence for Azerbaijanis, was born on January 31, 1884, in the village of Novkhani near Baku.

From a young age, Resulzade was involved in politics, working with anti-Tsarist political parties and organizations and writing for various newspapers and magazines. Facing pressure from the Tsarist regime, he moved to Iran in 1909, where he engaged in journalism and politics. After the constitutional regime in Iran was abolished, Resulzade faced further oppression and was forced to leave for Turkey in 1911.

Later, Resulzade returned to Baku and joined the Musavat Party, becoming its Chairman in 1917.

Signed the Agreement with the Ottoman Empire on Behalf of Azerbaijan

In 1918, Resulzade was elected Chairman of the National Council formed by Azerbaijani intellectuals. On May 28, 1918, the National Council officially declared the establishment of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Resulzade signed the friendship and cooperation agreement between Azerbaijan and the Ottoman Empire on behalf of Azerbaijan on June 4, 1918. On June 18, 1918, a delegation led by Resulzade arrived in Istanbul to attend a

conference introducing the newly established Caucasus states. On September 15, 1918, the Ottoman army, known as the "Caucasus Islamic Army," liberated Baku from Armenian and Bolshevik gangs, and the news was delivered to Resulzade by Enver Pasha, the Ottoman Minister of War.

Returning to Baku, Resulzade, though not part of the government, actively worked in the parliament as the Chairman of the Musavat Party and guided the government's activities.

Resulzade Settled in Turkey in 1947 and Became a Turkish Citizen

After the Bolsheviks occupied Azerbaijan, Resulzade was arrested and taken to Moscow. Despite Stalin's insistence, he refused to cooperate and left the Soviet Union.

Resulzade lived in France, Finland, Poland, and Germany, where he published anti-Soviet materials and worked to inform the world about Azerbaijan's occupation. In 1947, he settled in Turkey and became a Turkish citizen by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

In Ankara, Resulzade founded the Azerbaijan Cultural Association in 1949 and continued to raise awareness about his country's situation through books and conferences.

Resulzade passed away on March 6, 1955, in Ankara and was buried in Cebeci Asri Cemetery.

The Azerbaijan Cultural Association, founded by Resulzade and headquartered in Ankara, continues to operate in Turkey. Resulzade's memory is also honored in Turkey through streets and avenues named after him in many cities and districts, as well as at the Mehmet Emin Resulzade Anatolian High School in Çankaya, Ankara.

A Golden Miracle Stretching from Safranbolu to the Turkic Republics

Nature has served humanity like a pharmacy filled with healing plants for centuries. Among these, one of the most valuable is undoubtedly saffron. This golden-hued spice, deeply rooted in cultural contexts, not only adds flavor to cuisines but also plays a significant role in health, beauty, and the economy.

From Central Asia to the Caucasus, saffron production in these regions is not just an agricultural activity but also a cultural heritage and an economic force. With its unique health benefits and high commercial value, saffron represents an opportunity for the Turkic Republics to gain a stronger voice on the global stage.

So, what makes saffron so special? The Chemistry of Saffron: The Formula of Healing

Saffron's uniqueness lies in its active compounds. Chemical substances such as crocin, safranal, and picrocrocin transform saffron from a mere spice into a natural medicine. Crocin, a powerful antioxidant, protects cells



from the damage caused by free radicals. Additionally, scientific studies suggest that crocin may be beneficial in treating mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Safranal supports the nervous system and enhances memory, while picrocrocin gives saffron its distinctive aroma and taste.

In modern medicine, research on these active compounds is rapidly increasing. Promising results have been observed in areas ranging from Alzheimer's and cancer to heart diseases and depression. However, for this natural miracle to transition from traditional to modern medicine, international collaborations and research investments must be expanded.

From Safranbolu to the Turkic Republics

The Turkic Republics possess unique geographical and climatic conditions ideal for saffron production. From Safranbolu, which lends its name to the region, to Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, saffron cultivation is

widespread. For instance, Azerbaijan stands out with its high-quality saffron grown particularly on the Absheron Peninsula. Azerbaijani saffron enjoys a well-deserved reputation in global markets due to its intense aroma and high concentration of active compounds.

In Turkey, the value and incentives given to saffron have already made the region synonymous with Safranbolu. Turkmenistan is advancing saffron cultivation across its vast steppes, aiming to become a significant player in the production of this precious plant. Uzbekistan is employing modern agricultural techniques to enhance saffron yields, with fertile regions like the Fergana Valley offering ideal conditions for its cultivation.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are focusing on natural and organic farming practices to develop saffron for both domestic consumption and export. These countries view saffron not just as an agricultural product but also as a cultural bond. Shared Turkic history and traditions make the production and trade of this plant even more meaningful. Saffron cultivation is not only an economic opportunity but also a means to preserve traditional farming methods and support rural development. For small-scale farmers, saffron is a livelihood, and with the right marketing strategies, it can significantly contribute to national economies. Given the demand for organic and high-quality saffron in European and Asian markets, Azerbaijan, in particular, has the potential to become a major player in this field.

The Saffron Economy: A Golden

Investment

Globally, saffron prices range from \$500 to \$5,000 per kilogram. With such a high market value, saffron is akin to an economic goldmine for countries. Nations like Azerbaijan, with their production potential, can multiply their agricultural income by increasing saffron exports. Additionally, developing value-added products—such as saffron teas, cosmetics, or pharmaceutical ingredients—can further enhance its economic impact. On the international stage, countries like Iran and Spain currently lead the saffron market. However, Turkic Republics with saffron cultivation can leverage their historical and cultural heritage to gain a competitive edge. For example, high-quality saffron products branded as "Made in Azerbaijan" should be promoted at international fairs, and cross-border trade collaborations should be strengthened.

Conclusion: Saffron, a Bridge from the Past to the Future

Saffron is not just a plant but a profound link between culture, economy, and health. With the right policies and visionary approaches, this valuable heritage can achieve the global recognition it deserves. From traditional farming methods to modern scientific research, from rural development to international trade, saffron offers benefits across a wide spectrum and is poised to become the "golden plant" of the future.

For the Turkic Republics, saffron is not only a legacy of the past but also an investment in the future. This precious plant should be integrated not just into kitchens but into every aspect of life, from medicine to the economy. The time has come to utilize this valuable resource more effectively across all areas of life.





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