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# The Konya News

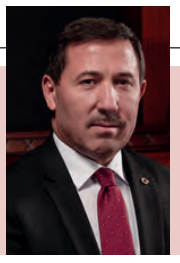
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## ALTAY IS THE PRESIDENT OF TDBB AGAIN

At the 7th Ordinary General Assembly of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities, President of UTWM and Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay was re-elected as president.

**Continued on Page 20–21**



## KONYA CUISINE, NATIVE and ORIGINAL

Let's get to know Nevin Halıcı, the doyenne of Turkish culinary culture, whose kindness, knowledge and culture I admire.

**Continued on Page 2–3**



**Kerem İŞKAN**
Executive Editor

## See It from a Fresh Angle

The capital of the Anatolian Seljuks, the cradle of ancient civilizations, **Konya**, located in the centre of Turkey; is one of the most important student cities in our country with its economy, social life, transportation and opportunities. You can easily reach it from every city of our country and from abroad.
It is one of the first choices not only for students but also for parents. **People who come to Konya feel like home.** The fact that a significant number of those who come for university education stay in Konya is an important indicator of this.

**Continued on Page 16–17**

# *Sinkholes in Konya Plain wait for tourism*

The sinkholes in Konya Plain, which attract attention with their natural beauty, are waiting to be opened to tourism. The sinkholes in Konya are among the few geological structures in the world. There is a phenomenon called 'geo-tourism' in the world. Although it is not very developed in Türkiye, there is a possibility of visiting geological environments for tourism purposes. If precautions are taken, these places can be opened to tourism with observation terraces.



***Record-Breaking*** *Participation in the*
**KONYA AGRICULTURE FAIR**
Internationally

**Continued on Page 6–7**

## *Restored with Gold*



**Great interest in the mosque with windows larger than its doors**

**Continued on Page 14**

# KONYA CUISINE
## NATIVE and ORIGINAL











Let's get to know Nevin Halıcı, the doyenne of Turkish culinary culture, whose kindness, knowledge and culture I admire.

***Could you tell us your life story?***

I was born in Konya. I completed my primary, secondary and high school education in Konya. After Girls' Technical Higher Teachers' School, I completed my master's degree at Selçuk University and my doctorate at Gazi University. I worked as a food teacher in Kızılcahamam, İzmir, Çumra and Konya. I am currently retired and live in Konya and İstanbul. My interest in food led me to become a food writer. I have published twenty-five books on Turkish Cuisine.

***Which city do you think has the richest cuisine?***

If we put Istanbul Cuisine, also known as Turkish Cuisine, first, we can say Konya Cuisine. Konya Cuisine is the richest cuisine in every way, descending from the Seljuks and not influenced by foreign cuisines among the regions included in my research.

***Your area of expertise is Mevlevi cuisine. What is the connection between Ateşbaz-ı Veli and Turkish Culinary Culture and Mevlevi Dervishness?***

Ateşbaz-ı Veli is the head chef of Rumi. He is also the person in charge of dervish training. Ateşbaz-ı Veli's rules related to Mevlevi are valid both in the kitchen and in training. Ateşbaz-ı Veli is the first cook to have a monumental tomb built in his name in the 13th century.

***What is the place of salt in Mevlevi cuisine?***

Salt is sacred and important not only in Mevlevi Cuisine, but everywhere where food and cuisine are concerned. Traditionally, cooks would give each other salt as a gift when visiting.

***What are the effects of Mevlevi cuisine on the Seljuks?***

It is almost the same as the period cuisine. However, a more distinguished cuisine than the folk cuisine is seen in the lodge. We can say that there have been transitions, without a doubt.

***Which Mevlevi dishes still exist today? In my district,Ardanuç, tutmaç and herise soup are also cooked. (I came across it in the past.)***

You can see it in detail in my book Mevlevi Cuisine. It is true that these two dishes are found in most parts of Anatolia. Originating from Central Asia, tuttuç and herise are soups made in the dervish lodges of the Seljuks.

***What are the effects of Seljuk cuisine on Ottoman cuisine in terms of food culture?***

The Seljuks have transferred territorial, administrative and military influences on many civilizations that came after them; cuisine is one of them. The Seljuk tradition has countless effects on Ottoman cuisine, from food to table settings.



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# "GREETING RUMI"

## EVENTS ON THE 797TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF RUMI AND HIS FAMILY TO KONYA



The Teşrif-i Mevlana events organized by the Konya Metropolitan Municipality within the scope of the 797th anniversary of Rumi and his family's arrival in Konya were carried out with enthusiasm. The cortege march, the welcoming of the delegation from Karaman by Konya Governor İbrahim Akın, Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay and the protocol, the events that started with the supplication ceremony in Mevlana Square, were followed by a sema show and a Davud Azad concert.

The 797th anniversary of Mevlana and his family's arrival in Konya is being celebrated with various events.

The Teşrif-i Mevlana events organized by the Konya Metropolitan Municipality for the 797th anniversary of Mevlana and his family's arrival in Konya began with great enthusiasm this year as well.

As part of the events, a procession was held from Depo No:4 to Mevlana Square with the participation of the protocol. Afterwards, Rumi's 22nd generation granddaughter Esin Çelebi Bayru and her family were welcomed at Mevlana Square by Konya Governor İbrahim Akın, Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay and protocol members at the end of their 7-day International Love and Peace Walk from Karaman to Konya.






After the delegation from Karaman presented the Turkish flag to Governor Akın and Mayor Altay, the Konya Metropolitan Municipality Turkish Sufi Society held the Niyaz Ceremony. The events, which attracted great interest from citizens, ended with the Gülbang prayer being recited at the Mevlana Museum. The Sema show and Davud Azad concert held at the Mevlana Cultural Center in the evening also attracted attention. Within the scope of the Teşrif-i Mevlana Events, programs titled Road and Journey, First International Mevlana and Nevai Symposium, 6th Sufi Cinema Festival and Mesel Workshop (Civilization and Cinema Academy) were organized.

# *Record-Breaking Participation in the* KONYA AGRICULTURE FAIR Internationally

> The event was attended by the ministers of agriculture and deputy ministers of 14 countries and representatives of nearly 30 countries at the ambassador and trade attaché level.

The 21st Agriculture, Agricultural Mechanization and Field Technologies Fair, held at the KTO TÜYAP Konya International Fair Centre on April 8-12, is one of the largest sectoral meetings in Türkiye. The fair, which grows with the number of visitors and participating companies every year, has become a global agricultural summit with participants coming not only from Turkey but also from abroad. The fair, which hosted 241,508 visitors from 96 countries and 81 cities last year, broke the record with 251,000 visitors this year. The fair, which has been held in March every year until now, was held in April due to the month of Ramadan. Despite concerns about low interest in the fair in this month when farmers start the season, the rainy week had a positive effect on the organization. The event was attended by the ministers of agriculture and deputy ministers of 14 countries and representatives of nearly 30 countries at the ambassador and trade attaché level.









### *"251,000 VISITORS FROM 79 COUNTRIES AND 81 CITIES OF TÜRKİYE"*

Selçuk Öztürk, President of KTO, stated that the majority of visitors attending the fair came to Konya for purchasing and cooperation purposes. Öztürk stated that the fair was held in April this year, unusually due to the month of Ramadan, and said, "Although April initially caused hesitation for participating companies due to the start of the agricultural season, the weather conditions were in our favour. Farmers who could not enter the fields due to the rains headed to the fair. We had a very successful fair for the sector, for Konya and for our country."

Öztürk: "436 companies from 20 countries participated in the fair."

"A total of 251 thousand visitors from 79 countries and 81 cities of Türkiye were hosted. This record indicates a very strong fair not only in Turkey but also in Europe. 14 countries were represented at the minister and deputy minister level, and approximately 30 countries were represented at the ambassador and trade attaché level. In addition, foreign visitors attended the fair for trade purposes. The agricultural machinery sector has had difficulties both in the domestic market and in exports for the last 6-8 months. The fair provided a serious morale boost to the sector during this period."






# AWARDS FOR THE **SELÇUKLU'S SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES OF 2024**



**By** Büşra Sedef İşkan











Selçuklu Municipality held the "Selçuklu Stars Award Ceremony" for the athletes and coaches of Selçuklu Belediyespor Club who proudly represented our city and country in the National and International Championships held in 2024.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı said, "Our club's athletes made us proud by winning a total of 173 medals, including 66 gold, 53 silver and 54 bronze, in the competitions they participated in 2024."

Selçuklu Belediyespor Club, one of the biggest amateur sports clubs of Turkey, has 78 athletes who won awards in 12 different branches (Wushu Kung-Fu, Judo, Taekwondo, Kickboxing, Wrestling, Cycling, Weightlifting, Karate, Table Tennis, Chess, Archery, Gymnastics) in 2024. The Club achieved 1 World Third Place, 2 European Second Places, 2 European Third Places, 1 Balkan Champion, 2 Balkan Third Places, 30 Turkish Champions, 22 Turkish Second Places and 25 Turkish Third Places.



























| DATE | EVENT | TIME & VENUE | WHY GO? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fri 9 May | The Chronicles of Narnia — Live on Stage | 19:00 · Konya Sahne | Step through the wardrobe into snow-clad Narnia and join Lion's fight against the White Witch in a spectacle fit for the whole family. |
| Fri 9 May | Göksel — Live in Concert | 21:00 · Anadolu Sahne | Velvet-voiced pop poet delivers her greatest hits (''Depresyondayım'', ''Denize Bıraksam'' and more) in a sing-along night of bliss. |
| Sat 10 May | Biz Bize Fest — Youth Power Unleashed | 13:00 – 22:00 · Anadolu Sahne | Workshops, digital playgrounds, contests, live sets and the Community Awards Night—created by young people for young people. Free entry. |
| Sun 11 May | Tahsin Hasoğlu — ''Böyleyken Böyle'' | 18:00 · Konya Sahne | Viral comedian swaps your feed for the stage with meme-worthy punch-lines and sharp improv. |
| Mon 12 May | Şakşakçılar — Theatre | 20:00 · Konya Sahne | 1895 Paris backstage farce where missing ''clappers'' threaten a premiere—your applause might save the show. |
| Tue 13 May | Özlem Kosif — ''Hayatım Yanlış Anlama'' | 20:00 · Konya Sahne | High-voltage storytelling turns everyday misunderstandings into laugh-out-loud revelations. |
| Wed 14 May | Derya Bedavacı — Back by Popular Demand | 21:00 · Anadolu Sahne | Powerful ballads and pop favourites return after a sell-out run—move fast for tickets. |
| Fri–Sun 16–18 May | Konya Wedding Fest — Love Starts Here | 09:00 – 22:00 · Selçuklu Congress Center | Anatolia's biggest bridal fair: runway shows, décor gurus, cake artists and show-only deals. Free entry. |
| Tue 20 May | Mesut Süre's ''Relationship Test'' — Unfiltered | 20:30 · Konya Sahne | Couples spill the tea while sharp-tongued host Mesut Süre turns secrets into comedy gold. No cameras allowed. |
| Wed 21 May | Selda Bağcan — Legend in Concert | 21:00 · Anadolu Sahne | Iconic protest singer revisits folk and Anatolian rock classics ''Uğurlar Olsun'', ''Adaletin Bu mu Dünya'' and more. |
| Thu 22 May | Güler Duman — Folk Roots Revival | 20:30 · Anadolu Sahne | One of Turkish folk's most distinctive voices, under artistic director Ahmet Alıcı, delivers deep-cut türkü gems. |
| Thu–Sun 22–25 May | Camp · Caravan · Tiny House Fair | 10:00 – 20:00 · SKM Open-Air Arena | Konya's first outdoor-living expo: caravans, tiny homes, bikes, garden gear, demos & tastings. Free entry. |
| Thu 29 May | Melis Fis — Live | 20:30 · Anadolu Sahne | Rising pop star behind ''Kara Kedi'', ''Yat Kalk Dua Et'' and ''Dur Diyemem'' hits the stage for an intimate, high-energy set. |
| Sat 31 May | Çok Güzel Hareketler 2 — New Season | 16:00 · Anadolu Sahne | The smash-hit sketch crew is back with brand-new material guaranteed to leave you in stitches. |



























# Discover Karatay KONYA





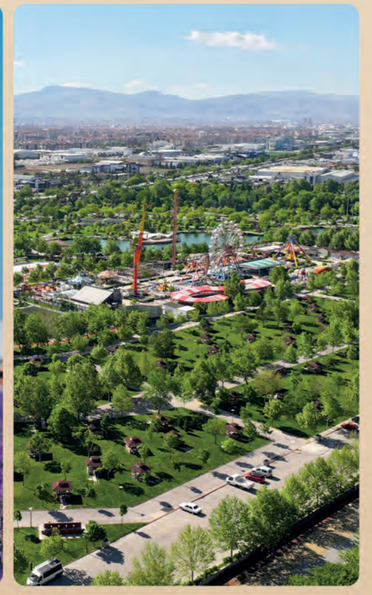






















## Join the invitation of Hz. Mevlana in Karatay.

Mevlana Museum and tomb are located in Konya Karatay.

Karatay is the center of Konya with its historical mosques, large parks, lavender and rose gardens, caravanserais, historical streets, traditional buildings and bazaars.

Every year, millions of people come to Karatay o commemorate Mevlana and for the Sema ceremonies.

www.**visitkaratay**.com

"VisitKaratay" project is supported by Karatay Municipality.

# Restored with Gold





By Zeynep UÇAR

## Great interest in the mosque with windows larger than its doors

Aziziye Mosque in Konya, a late Ottoman structure with windows larger than its doors, attracts great interest from local and foreign tourists. Mehmet Pıçak, President of the Aziziye Mosque Protection and Preservation Association, said, "The reason why its windows are larger than its doors is that they allow more light in and provide a warm environment. Around 6-7 kilograms of gold were used during the restoration of Aziziye Mosque."

### *DESIGNED BY THE ARMENIAN BALYAN FAMILY*

The reconstruction of the mosque, which began with the support of Sultan Abdulaziz's mother Pertevniyal Valide Sultan, was designed by the Armenian Balyan family in baroque and rococo architectural style. In 1874, the mosque was completed and reopened for worship. Drawing attention with its extraordinary architecture, Aziziye Mosque is the only mosque whose windows are larger than its doors.

### *DAMAGED IN THE GREAT FIRE*

Located in the Bedesten Bazaar in the Karatay district, the Aziziye Mosque was built by Damat Mustafa Pasha, the accountant of Mehmed IV, between 1671 and 1676. The mosque was damaged in the great Konya fire of 1867.

### *"ONE OF THE RARE WORKS IN Türkiye"*

Mehmet Pıçak, President of the Aziziye Mosque Protection and Preservation Association, stated that the mosque has a unique place among Islamic works and made the following statements:

"Aziziye Mosque was built in 1671 with shops underneath. It became completely unusable in the great Konya fire of 1867. In 1874, it was rebuilt by Pertevniyal Valide Sultan under the name Aziziye Mosque to be dedicated to her son Sultan Abdulaziz. Since that year, it has been one of the rare works in Turkey as a foundation mosque."

"The reason why the windows are bigger than the doors is that they benefit from more sunlight and provide a warm environment. When we look at the works of the Armenian Balyan family, we see that large windows were used in the Pertevniyal Valide Sultan Mosque and the Beylerbeyi Palace. During the restoration of the Aziziye Mosque, around 6-7 kilograms of gold were used. In order to highlight that magnificence better, the windows were used larger than the doors."

## Only 2 in Türkiye: One in a 5,000-year-old neighborhood in Konya



The Devil's Bridge, which was built as an aqueduct and later became a passage connecting two slopes in the 5,000-year-old Sille neighborhood in Konya, which bears the traces of many civilizations, draws attention with its spooky appearance.

Sille Neighborhood, a 5,000-year-old historical settlement in the Seljuk district of Konya, bears the traces of the Roman, Byzantine, Anatolian Seljuk, Karamanid Principality and the Ottoman Empire, and is known to have hosted many civilizations throughout its history.



## *The 405-kilometer historical road between Konya and Antalya*

Walking activities on the 405-kilometer Keykubad Migration and Caravan Road between Konya and the Alanya district of Antalya began in April. The Keykubad Migration and Caravan Road Project, carried out by the Konya and Antalya Governorships and the Konya Metropolitan Municipality, will bring together the thousands of years of history, culture and natural beauties of Anatolia with nature lovers. The 405-kilometer Keykubad Migration and Caravan Road, for which promotional walks are planned in April, includes the Manavgat-Kubadabad Palace, Taşatan, Akdağ and Kuş Yuvası route, as well as the historical roads between Gazipaşa, Silifke, Karaman and Konya. While the exploration of new routes continues, special routes are also being prepared for bicycle, motorcycle and off-road enthusiasts.



## *5000-year-old castle in Konya bears the traces of many civilizations*

Gevale Castle, located on the summit of Takkeli Mountain in Konya, which has hosted many civilizations, offers visitors the opportunity to explore 5,000 years of history. Gevale Castle, located in the central Selçuklu district, bears the traces of many civilizations for thousands of years, from Hellenistic to Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Karamanid and Ottoman, and works are being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Selçuklu Municipality. Within the scope of the Gevale Castle 3rd Stage Restoration Works, the conservation and restoration of walking paths, corridors, baths, places of worship and over 100 cisterns have been completed.



# Exclusive tastes of the palace cuisine are on your table with their essence.



**Keşkekli Kuzu İncik**
(A dish of lamb's shank and ground wheat)



**Piruhi**
(Boiled dumplings seved with walnuts and butter)

40
KIRKİKİNDİ
RESTORAN

**In side of Millet Bahçesi**
(Old Ataturk Stadium)

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# Wedding Meal in Konya



By Doğa İŞKAN

WEDDING PILAF; is the most important element of Konya culture and gastronomy. Serving food at weddings is the Sunnah of our Prophet (PBUH). Of course, in addition to the spiritual aspect, it has a special place and importance for Konya with its magnificent taste and integrity. Preparations start during the week before going to the pilaf, (Stomach is soothed by drinking vinegar). Before and after the pilaf, it is talked about and discussed like a football match.

SHOEMAKERS; They have acquired the habit of HITTING THE TABLE WITH A SPOON and asking for food over and over again during pilafs. They have become famous in the city for eating too much and torturing the cooks and waiters and have set an example for many professional groups.

There is no distinction of rank or profession at the pilaf table. Everyone eats the same food from the same bowl and experiences the same excitement and pleasure. If there are other concerns at the pilaf table, they forget about it and focus on the meal.

Since Konya is an agricultural city, pilafs used to be made between the morning hours (08:00 / 12:00), but today they are preferred at any time (except in rural areas).

Young people of marriageable age or their parents are not asked "when will you have the wedding", but when will we eat the pilaf.

Wedding tables

The service usually starts after the tables are filled with 10 people. In busy weddings, the guests waiting around the table expect the previous table to be full as soon as possible and their appetite increases even more. As soon as they sit down at the table, they help the waiter clear the table and start a new service because of their impatience.















**Kerem İŞKAN**
Executive Editor

## See It from a Fresh Angle

Let's explain Konya with numbers:
• It is an SME Capital that hosts more than 50,000 SMEs.
• It is the granary of Turkey.
• It is the first in Turkey in the production of flour, sugar, salt, milk, wheat, barley, sugar beet, sunflower seeds, tulips, corn (grain), carrots, cherries, vetch, bird seed, peas, sainfoin (seed), and lupine.
• It is the only city in Turkey where primary aluminium ore is extracted.
• Its leading developed sectors are machinery manufacturing, automotive sub-industry, primary metal, agricultural tools and machinery manufacturing, food industry, shoemaking, on-vehicle equipment.
• It is the leader in agricultural machinery and equipment manufacturing in Turkey.
• It dominates 45% of the Turkish market in metal processing.
• It has 70% of the Turkish market in on-vehicle equipment.
• It ranks 11th in Türkiye with 3.36 billion dollars of exports in 2023.
• Konya exports are more than the total export figure of 26 provinces.
• Konya exports to more than 180 countries.
• Konya has more than 3,400 registered exporters.
• The share of manufacturing industry exports in total exports is 93.5%.
• The top 5 countries in exports are: Russia, Iraq, Germany, the USA and Italy.
• The export figure from 2000 to 2023 has grown 39 times.
• Turkey ranks 16th with $1.62 billion in imports in 2023.
•The top 5 countries in imports are: China, Russia, Germany, Brazil and Italy.
• Konya's foreign trade surplus is approximately $1.75 billion. It is the 7th province with the highest foreign trade surplus.
• As of the end of 2023, 752 investment incentive certificates have been issued in Konya and it ranks 5th in Turkey.
• The fixed investment amount specified within the scope of investment incentive certificates in Konya in 2023 is 31 billion TL and it ranks 15th in Turkey with this amount.
• The number of employments specified within the scope of investment incentive certificates in Konya in 2023 is 8,331 people and it ranks 12th in Turkey with this figure.
• As of the end of 2023, there are 603 foreign-capital companies from 66 countries in Konya.
• The country with the most foreign-capital companies in Konya is Syria with 163 companies. Its share in the total is 27%.
• The second country with the most foreign-capital companies is Germany with 49 companies; the third country is Iraq with 42 companies.
• Konya has a developed industrial infrastructure with 12 organized industrial zones, 3 industrial zones, 108 industrial sites and 2 technology development zones.
• It ranks 5th in Türkiye with 4,502 registrations in trademark registration. (2023)
• It ranks 8th in Türkiye with 40 registrations in patent registration. (2023)
• It ranks 5th in Türkiye with 97 registrations in utility model registration. (2023)
• It ranks 8th in Türkiye with 1,675 registrations in design registration. (2023)
• Total Unemployment rate 7.4% (Konya-Karaman Region) (2022)
We invite you to such a city...





Starter;

YAYLA SOUP is added and everyone starts eating from the same bowl. Although many people find it strange to eat from the same bowl, its abundance and taste have a special importance for Konya. The bread given with it is consumed only with soups. (Guests generally do not eat bread with pilaf.)

• PILAF WITH MEAT starts to be served second; the guests who are hungry enough are served rice in additions until they are full. The fact that the rice is in grains and offers a magnificent taste with its meat increases the demand even more.

• SEMOLINA HALVA; It is the first dessert in the Konya wedding pilaf menu and it means the end for those who are unfamiliar with the menu, but later on, you learn that another legendary soup will follow. While dessert is served last in many menus, it is served after the first pilafs in the Konya wedding pilaf menu. In recent years, it has also been eaten with ice cream.

• Okra Soup; In addition to its appetizing feature, it is the crown jewel and legend of Konya wedding pilafs with its stomach-soothing and authentic preparation, flavor and warmth. It may not be produced in the region, but Konya consumes it the most among the regions where it is produced. Kilos of flower okra are lined up one by one while they are dried in advance, and then they are picked one by one after they are boiled. Each one has a different story. Maybe that is why its value is accepted as GREEN GOLD for us.

• 2nd MEAT PILAF; It is put on the table as the last main course and if there is a demand, another one is added as an extra so as not to waste. Our elders eat it as plain meatless pilaf, combined with zerde dessert.

• ZERDE DESSERT; It is the messenger that the menu is coming to an end and is served with the last drinks. And it is preferred plain.

• COMPOUND & SOFT DRINKS; Previously prepared by boiling naturally sour cherry and apricot compotes have been replaced by all cold drinks upon request.

• SUBMARINE; It is a well-known feature in Konya, a presentation style where meat is placed both under and on top of a rice dish to be served to special guests of wedding hosts in order to honour their guests. In the past, in order not to be rude to other guests (as a courtesy), twice as much meat was placed under the rice and served to the wedding guests. This is the reality of talking about SUBMARINE in a geography without a sea.

• PRAYER: To our LORD, who made such a menu a blessing for us. To the wedding hosts, preparers and servers who made it possible, and to our young couples who got married, prayers are made at every table so that their families will always have abundance, peace and happiness.

There should be one coordinator at each table. He manages the table like an orchestra conductor and informs the waiter of the demands of the table. He is not good for those who eat with appetite, but for those who do not, with classic phrases like, "Come on, why do you wait, eat more, the rest will come", you will remember that you are at the Konya wedding pilaf table.

In the old Konya wedding traditions, when guests were invited, no one was discriminated against and "THOSE WHO HOLD A SPOON, LET THEM COME" was invited to weddings. Everyone carried their own wooden spoon in their pocket and ate with their own spoon.

WEDDING TORT; It is a type of meal prepared by the wedding cook before the wedding, consisting of yoghurt, sumac onion, sauce or sautéed vegetables on dry bread, depending on the available ingredients, for the guest and his/her relatives.

WEDDING CLOSURE; In old Konya weddings, the method of serving the wedding pilaf with whole meat instead of sautéed meat, according to the possibilities and preferences, is called CLOSURE.

LAST WORD;

WE WISH MERCY AND GRATITUDE to our ANCESTORS who have contributed to the transfer of this Culture from the Ottomans to the present day, especially to the chefs Piri Ateshbaz-i Veli, and to our valuable chefs...






By Doğuhan İŞKAN

# MAYOR KAVUŞ; “STRAY DOGS WILL HAVE A COMFORTABLE LIFE HERE”



Meram Municipality has launched the ‘Stray Animals Natural Habitat’ project, which will fundamentally solve the problem of stray animals. Meram Mayor Mustafa Kavuş explained the project, which will allow stray dogs collected throughout the district to continue their lives in a 70.000 m2 area established in Sefaköy District, to the press and the public. Meram Mayor Mustafa Kavuş said that “The facility will largely solve the problem of stray animals that threaten city life. Meram streets will now be much safer, healthier and more peaceful.”



President Mustafa Kavuş said, “The Stray Animals Natural Habitat is a living space with a capacity of 7,000 dogs. The facility consists of a living space for 6,500 dogs, a quarantine and treatment section with a capacity of 250 dogs, and an area with a capacity of 250 dogs for mothers and puppies. Equipped with an administrative building, a veterinary staff section, resting areas, and feed and water tanks, this facility was planned to protect both the physiological and psychological health of dogs. Food and water tanks are made of long-lasting chrome materials, and the kennels are made of polyethylene material resistant to seasonal conditions. Thanks to the bird nests placed in the trees, both the ecosystem is supported, and a calming environment is created for the dogs. This area and this facility will largely solve the stray animal problem of the district with a humane, conscientious and modern understanding. With this project, we are not only fulfilling our legal responsibility; we are also providing a healthy and natural living space for animals with a sense of social responsibility.”








# ALTAY IS THE PRESIDENT OF TDBB AGAIN

At the 7th Ordinary General Assembly of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities, President of UTWM and Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay was re-elected as president. Mayor Altay thanked the members of the union and said, "This union is the yeast of our heart geography, the guarantee of our future. Our meeting with mayors from all over the Turkish world under this roof clearly shows that we are aware of the great responsibility that history has placed on us. Our President, expressing that we are the heirs of a heart bridge extending from the Adriatic to the Great Wall of China, has drawn a strategic horizon that will guide the future of the Turkish world with the power it derives from its past. We will continue to contribute to this vision of our President in the strongest way under the roof of UTWM by acting in line with his goals."





AK Party Deputy Chairman, Head of Relations with Turkish States Kürşad Zorlu stated that "There is a great deal of effort, faith and determination behind the emergence of an important organization like UTWM with over a thousand members in over 30 countries." AK Party Deputy Chairman, Head of Local Administrations Mustafa Demir said, "UTWM is the name of a bond of affection that transcends geographical borders. This unity is where our hearts beat with the same values even though our languages are spoken with different accents." Turkish Grand National Assembly Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş, who sent a video message to the program, wished the general assembly to be beneficial and said that President Altay has accomplished successful services and that he wholeheartedly believes that he will carry out much stronger and more successful works in the upcoming period.

# KONYA ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Konya is an important city with historical, natural and cultural riches. Famous for its 10 thousand years of history and settlements such as Çatalhöyük and Boncuklu Höyük, which shed light on human history, Konya is a historical city that has hosted many civilizations that have continued to the present day, including the Hittites, Phrygians, Lydians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Sassanids, Seljuks and Ottomans.





**Mustafa AKGÖL**
Journalist

Konya, which has such a deep history and natural richness, is also mentioned in the World Heritage List with its historical and cultural assets. Konya is a city with cultural heritages such as Çatalhöyük Neolithic City and Eşrefoğlu Mosque, Mevlevi Sema, Nasreddin Hodja on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List and Salt Lake Special Environmental Protection Area, Seljuk Caravanserais, İvriz Cultural Landscape, Eflatunpınar: Hittite Water Monument, Anatolian Seljuk Madrasahs on the UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List.

### *TURKEY ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST*

Turkey, which was elected as a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the 2023-2027 Period, has 21 heritage sites on this list, 19 of which are cultural and 2 of which are mixed. Again, Turkey has a total of 84 heritage sites on the Tentative List, 77 of which are cultural, 4 of which are mixed and 3 of which are natural. (UNESCO Turkish National Committee. Access Date: 13.12. 2024)

### *KONYA'S POTENTIAL ASSETS TO BE INSCRIBED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST*

Within the scope of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the party states are obliged to submit their inventories (tentative list) of the assets that are suitable for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List to the UNESCO World Heritage Center. The nomination files prepared for the assets included in this list published by the UNESCO World Heritage Center are submitted to the World Heritage Committee. While preparing the Tentative Lists, the status of the assets meeting the criteria determined by the World Heritage Committee and their architectural, historical, aesthetic and cultural, economic, social, symbolic and philosophical characteristics are also taken into consideration.

In this context, there are many more historical and natural beauties in Konya and its surroundings that can be included in the world heritage list. The inclusion of these historical and natural beauties in the UNESCO list is of great importance both in terms of protecting these assets in our city and in terms of revitalizing tourism in the future.

While the process regarding the World Heritage List continues, there are natural and cultural assets such as the Evil Eye Bead of the World, Meke Crater Lake, Boncuklu Mound, Karatay Madrasa, Gevale Castle, Akören Church, Selimiye Mosque, Kilistra Ancient City, Alaeddin Mosque, İnce Minareli Madrasa, Sille Aya Elenia Church, Tınaztepe Cave in Konya and its surroundings that meet the criteria determined by UNESCO.

It also strengthens the view that the Sawatra Ancient City in Karatay District, which we believe meets the criteria determined by UNESCO and whose excavations have just begun, and the underground city "Sarayini" dating back to the Roman period discovered in Sarayönü district of Konya can be included in these lists.

It is also envisaged that Konya may take its place on UNESCO's list of regional and cultural heritages as the "SELJUK CAPITAL KONYA" within the scope of historical cities and with the "ŞİVLİLİK TRADITION" specific to Konya, which has been maintained since the time of Sultan Selim II (1566-1574) during the Ottoman Empire period.

Meanwhile, with Turkey being elected as a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the period 2023-2027, it is of great importance to register the multinational files titled "The Art of Illumination", "Iftar and Socio-Cultural Traditions Related to Iftar", "Mey/Balaban Craftsmanship and Performance" and "The Art of Mother-of-Pearl Inlay" on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

It is also important for Konya tourism that one of the 9 photographs on the 2023-24 World Heritage Map (https://whc.unesco.org/en/wallmap/) on UNESCO's official website includes the Eşrefoğlu Mosque, which is on the permanent list in the category of Mosques with Wooden Roofs and Wooden Carriers in Anatolia.

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**Pema Eco - Elif Sert**

## Nature is never silent, choose to hear!

Every morning when we open our eyes to the world, nature silently tells us many things.

The chirping of birds, the movement of trees with the wind, the touch of fresh air on our skin...

But unfortunately, we close our eyes to all these beauties. Nature no longer whispers to us, it screams, but we still close our ears.

Seas full of plastic waste, garbage covering the greenery of forests, endangered animals... All of these are the results of our habits, consumerism and carelessness. Are you aware that we lose what we have while always hoping for more?

Awareness should not be limited to social media hashtags. Using recycling bins, choosing cloth bags instead of plastic bags, these are small but effective steps. Every individual should take responsibility in this regard because nature is not a home for one person, but for all of us. Let's not forget that the damage we do to nature eventually comes back to us. Our health, our future, our environment; they are all part of this chain. Let's not break this chain. Let's understand that we protect our future by protecting nature before it's too late. The environment should be considered not just one day, but every day. Because nature can exist without us, but we can never exist without nature...

# *SOFL & SOBE Solidarity Day*




Within the scope of Social Awareness activities, the Sobe Autism Awareness visit organized annually by Selçuk University School of Foreign Languages, with the participation of students, academic and administrative staff, was carried out effectively this year as well. During the visit, which was attended by the Director of the School of Foreign Languages, Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Koç, the students and staff of the school were also informed about volunteering and agreed on their participation. Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Koç promised that their collaborations with Sobe and social contribution activities would continue to increase from now on. He stated that the academic and administrative staff of Selçuk University School of Foreign Languages would also lead other units in this sense.

# The Power of Green, Colours of Life

**Konya Tree Park brings the power of green to your life and adds colour to your life. We, for 17 years, have been adding a green touch to every corner of Konya with our love for nature.**

With our landscaping products, we enable you to equip your garden, balcony or living spaces with the beauties of nature. We continue to be the choice of municipalities and customers all over Türkiye with the quality and reliability of our services. We are proud to contribute to the green world of the future with our environment friendly production approach and innovative solutions.

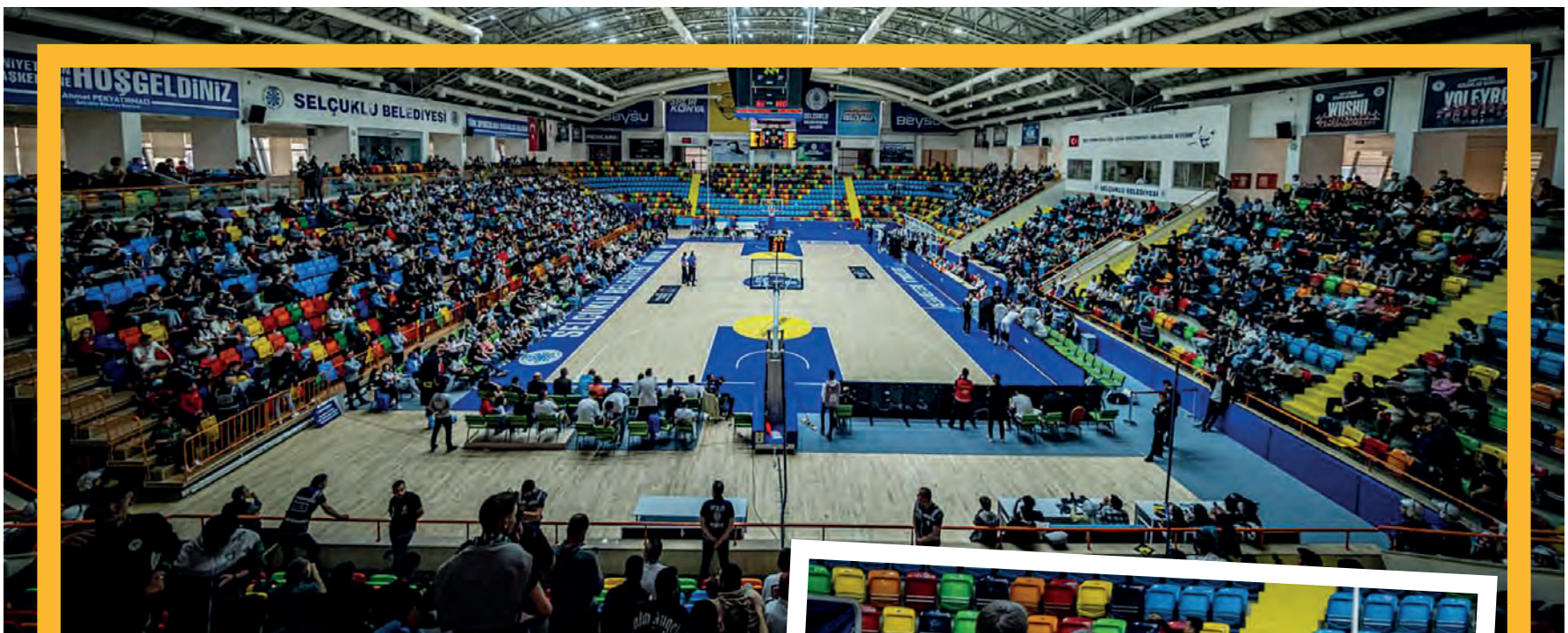
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## *Konya BBSK Levels the Series*

# Winner takes all Showdown Awaits




Konya Büyükşehir Belediyespor bounced back in style last night, defeating MKE Ankaragücü 79–90 on home hardwood to square their best of three TBL semi final at one game apiece. After falling 64–84 in Ankara on 4 May, the Lions needed a response—and produced it in front of a raucous Selçuklu crowd.

Konya exploded out of the gates with a 28 20 first period, but the visitors clawed back to lead 50 48 at the half. Head coach Volkan Ertetik's halftime tweaks paid immediate dividends: a 23 13 third quarter surge—fuelled by stifling perimeter defence—turned the tide for good, and a composed final stanza iced the victory.

The series opened in Ankara three nights earlier, where Ankaragücü rode a blistering 27 16 first quarter to an 84 64 win (quarter scores 27 16, 19 17, 21 17, 17 14).

That leaves the tie delicately poised at 1 1 heading into Saturday's decisive Game 3 in Ankara (10 May, tip off time to be confirmed). The winner will advance to the TBL Finals to face Esenler EROK Spor, who swept Çayırova Belediyesi 2 0 earlier this week.




# *Another Gold Medal From Fatma Zehra in Europe*




Competing for Konya Büyükşehir Belediyespor, Fatma Zehra Meki defeated all her opponents and became the champion in the Judo Junior European Cup held in Berlin, the capital of Germany.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Sportsmen continue to make Konya proud in international competitions. Konya Metropolitan Municipality Sportsmen Fatma Zehra Meki achieved significant success in the Judo Junior European Cup held in Berlin, the capital of Germany. The judoka from Büyükşehir, competing in the 44 kg category, showed a superior performance and became the champion.

Fatma Zehra, who defeated her Belgian opponent Viktoria



Grigoryan, advanced to the final. The successful athlete, who finally defeated Israeli athlete Yuval Gabay in a superior fight in the championship match, hung the gold medal around her neck as the champion. Fatma Zehra had also won the gold medal in the Judo European Cup held in Antalya in recent months and crowned her success. With the championship in Berlin, the judoka from Büyükşehir Belediyespor continues her steady rise in the European arena.