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EU made a sanction decision against China because of human rights violations for Uyghurs

27 member countries of EU have made a sanction decision for the first time since 1989 against China because of human rights violations for Uyghurs in the East Turkistan.

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Lokmâhane gets bigger step by step

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Kerem İŞKAN
Executive Editor

Both the Pain and the Lesson are Huge

The world is experiencing abnormal processes. The effects of the "Global Warming", which was written, mentioned and reported, have started to be seen.

Conflicts, epidemics, droughts, floods, forest fires and all natural disasters can now affect all geographies like a domino rather than regional or local disasters.

***

By August, huge forest fires, being in Ukraine, Europe, Australia, USA, Middle East, Turkey and even Siberia, engulfed villages, towns, cities along with forests. Nearly millions of people have lost their houses because of the fires in residential areas...

***

From the very beginning, every natural disaster has been instructive besides the wounds it inflicted on humans. In the current disaster spiral, the authorities sneering to the nature lovers and nature activists have seen how vital and honourable their struggle is. I am one of those who believe in the awareness that what they are protecting is the future of all humanity rather than just a forest.

***

We can say that, people have learned to care for their health via pandemic and together with the forest fires; they have remembered their responsibilities for the environment via a painful lesson. Unfortunately, the higher the compensation paid, the bigger the lessons learned.

We can say that, with these forest fires, Turkey, as a society, has entered into a total sensitivity about its forests, which it has neglected and ignored for years. With thousands of decares of forest lands, villages and towns we lost, we learned how weak and useless the measures taken by a country with such a rich forest cover.

A huge compensation.

It is obvious that, with global warming, these forest fires will continue to increase in the very near future.

***

The fires, which broke out after the pandemic, have made Turkey pay a huge compensation. We hope that it will teach us to live well-equipped and cautiously against disasters with the lessons to be learned from the compensation paid.

Turkey unites in fight against multiple forest fires



Turkey has mobilized and united in efforts to fight against wildfires that have wreaked havoc on swathes of the country's south and Aegean region, as the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry said 107 of 112 fires have been brought under control as of early Aug. 1

People across the country are sending food aid to the disaster zones, while inhabitants at the scene of fires are carrying water to firefighters and aid to the victims.

The blazes began in early July 28 in four separate locations, including the most destructive in the Manavgat district of the southern province of Antalya. The fires broke out almost in tandem across other Mediterranean provinces, then across some 40 provinces and districts in 50 hours.

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Konya's Culture Will Be Well-Known

The number of dishes unique to Konya, which received geographical indication registration, increased to 10 upon the application of Konya Metropolitan Municipality. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, Minister of Culture and Tourism, who participated in the promotion program of the products for which registration was applied, stated that "We want Konya to be remembered not only as a city of commerce and agriculture, but also as a city of tourism. We work with Konya Metropolitan Municipality for that purpose. We will make Konya a registered city with its gastronomy, which is a complement to tourism, and make it one of Turkey's new tourism faces."



10 DISHES SPECIFIC TO KONYA ARE REGISTERED

With the application of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Okra Soup was registered before. In addition, within the scope of applications made this year, applications for 9 more dishes were accepted. The dishes whose registration application has been accepted are as follows: Semolina dessert, Leaf Wrap with meat, truffles dish, star root dish, Haside Dessert (Black Halvah), Kikirdekli Kesme Soup (akind of soup made with dough), Roasted black plum, Zerdali (Apricot Compote) and Basil Sherbet.



"Tourist-Friendly Business" starts in Konya

Konya Tourism Promotion and Education Foundation start "Tourist-Friendly Business" with the support of the Metropolitan Municipality in Konya. With this initiative the promotion of businesses will be done and it will help gastronomy of Konya become a brand.

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Anatolian Eagles took the breaths away:

42 Turkish 14 Foreign Aeroplanes

International Anatolian Eagle Training Spotters Day was in Konya 3rd Main Jet Base. With Turkish F-16s, Azerbaijani SU-25 and MIG-29s, and Qatar Rafale fighter aircrafts, cooperative mobility has been tried and trainings have been done. Azerbaijan attended the trainings for the first time and the trainings took the breaths away.

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Metropolitan Municipality harvested barley and chickpeas

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The blow of music in August in Selçuklu Congress Center

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We will raise Meram even more in every field

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Harvest has begun in Karatay Lavender Gardens

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This year, drought prevails in the Konya Plain: **Fields turned into pasture**

In the Konya Plain, where an average of 2.5 million tons of wheat is produced annually, sheep are grazed on the cultivated lands that are barren due to drought, since harvesting will not be done



In Konya, Turkey's largest city with an area of 38,873 km2, drought prevailed this year in the Konya Plain, which is known as the 'granary' because the most grain products are grown and where an average of 2.5 million tons of wheat is produced annually. Farmers preparing to harvest their grains fed their crops in the barren land instead of removing their crops from the fields.

Kavuneker, Karatay Chamber of Agriculture President, drew attention to the water scarcity in the basin. He stated that "As there is not enough water in the dams and lakes and there is no rainfall, any harvesting process is not possible in these lands. The farmers also began to graze their sheep so that the fields they planted would not be wasted. So far, we have made all the preparations on these lands. All we need is rain and irrigation. Unfortunately it has not rained yet so there is not enough water in the province. The water from the dams and canals would have been enough. Unfortunately, full irrigation cannot be done in these regions due to the different irrigation management."

THIS IS A WHEAT FIELD; BUT THERE IS NOTHING

Kavuneker pointed out that "Yield loss has increased significantly in the Konya Plain, which almost does not receive precipitation in winter and spring. This is a wheat field; but there is nothing. The farmers have planted oil sunflower seeds, corn, and beet. However, the fields could not be irrigated properly. May be it could be irrigated just once. The yield will drop a lot in Konya Plain. How? It will decrease nearly 100% in barren areas and in wetlands; it will drop to 30 percent at best. This loss is higher especially in sunflower seeds, corn and beets."



Salt Lake is shrinking

The second biggest lake of Turkey, Salt Lake is a heaven for flamingos. The lake is shrinking day by day due to drought

Expressing that the shrink in Salt Lake is about one kilometre, Dr. Hatice Ünal Ercan, who is an academic member of the department of Chemical Technology in Konya Technical University, also said that "we can see that the salt layer is relatively lighter due to the drought and because of the organic materials in interior parts the pink colour has increased".

Salt Lake, which is within the borders of Aksaray, Ankara and Konya, is an endorheic lake because there is no water outlet. Most of the salt need of the country comes from this lake. Also, as it is in the migratory road of different kinds of birds, mostly flamingos, you can see them stop over here during spring and summer. Moreover, thousands of domestic and foreign tourists visit the lake in summer. But the water level in the lake has shrunk due the drought.

TURNED PINK EARLIER THIS YEAR

In an area of the Lake near the Aksaray-Ankara highway, the algae in the water produce red beta-carotene in July and August during which the temperatures and salinity increase. By this way they become able to preserve themselves from the harmful sunray. In the same period, halo-bacteria increase in number and the colour of the lake becomes pink or red. When the temperatures decrease and the rainy season starts the lake relapses. However, this year due to the drought the lake has started to turn into pink in the first days of June.

1 KILOMETRE SHRINKS IN THE LAKE

Dr. Hatice Ünal Ercan, who has been conducting scientific investigations on the lake, expressed that due to the drought in the lake, the salt layer has decreased a lot and the colour pink is also seen more in inner parts because of the organic materials. She also stated that:

This colour attracts the attention of passers and tourists. People park their cars or go into from the main entrance to see it. But this human factor pollutes the environment more. We have been working on the salt structure and minerals around the lake with a private company.

The shrink in the Salt Lake can be seen from the coast. About 50 years ago, the lake was near the highway. But today we can see that it is 1 kilometre away the road. Salt Lake has been shrinking and becoming smaller for two years because of the drought.

This is not only because of people. The surrounding agricultural irrigation and over consuming of water are also other reasons. The area is an important migratory route for lots of birds. When there is no water, the birds change their routes to find different places with enough water.

The address of blue and red quietness in Konya: Suğla

Lake Suğla, which has a basin of 16 thousand hectares in Seydişehir district of Konya, becomes different tones of blue and red in winter. The lake is a mean of living for 80 fisher families and at this time of the year it has rare islets due to the ebbs

Lake Suğla, which is 130 kilometres far away from the city centre, hosts its visitors with its natural beauties in every season; however, the ebbs are causing concerns. A lot of people who are living the surrounding neighbourhoods of the coast of the lake, which is in the northeast and has an area of 16 thousand hectares, are earning their living by fishery.

The lake hosts about 20 different bird species and various fish such as mirror carp, crucian carp, and European chub, sand smelt, tinca and crayfish. 85 families in 4 different neighbourhoods earn their living by fishery.

The water level in the lake rises by 6-7 metres with the winter rains. But, nowadays, due to the seasonal drought, the water levels have decreased and the ebbs are being seen about 5 metres from the coast. The decrease of the water level in the lake negatively affected fishery as the agricultural irrigation has been used in the region.

Last year, fishermen used to catch about 15-20 kilograms of fish, but this year they can only catch about 3-5 kilograms of fish.

Some round wetlands have been observed in some parts of the lake due to the ebbs.

Fishermen have difficulty in going along the lake because their engines are stuck by algae in these wetlands and they have to go on their way by paddling.

Damla Plast extrusion
ONE STEP AHEAD






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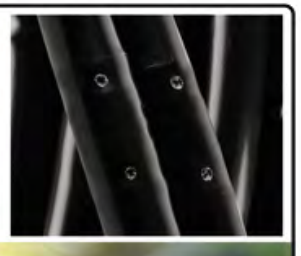
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Konya produces simulator for ARC Airbus



ARC Simulator, in Konya, has produced simulator for Airbus A-320 aeroplane which is used to train pilots in flight schools

Mevlüt Alyaz, the board chairman of the company, stated that the simulator is about 5 tonnes and 8.5 metres high. While stating that the equipment is a simulator for a real A-320 Airbus aeroplane, Alyaz said that: "the students who start their pilotage training in flight schools get education in such a simulator in order to experience positive or negative scenarios that can be faced with in a real aeroplane and to accelerate their manual skills.

This simulator wasn't produced in Turkey before. This is a first in our country. Simulator has become real after a 2, 5 years of work. During the R&D and production processes we got KOSGEB support". While emphasizing that they have cooperated with industry and academia during production process, Alyaz also said that they have completed the project by having an intensive cooperation with academia from Necmettin Erbakan University Engineering Department and KTO Karatay University Pilotage Department during R&D and production processes. He stated that they already had an infrastructure and experience because they had produced simulators for Formula-1 racing cars before. He expressed that their simulator is %70 domestic production and they have already received 4 orders from abroad."

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EU made a sanction decision against China because of human rights violations for Uyghurs

27 member countries of EU have made a sanction decision for the first time since 1989 against China because of human rights violations for Uyghurs in the East Turkistan.

Two EU diplomats gave a speech to Reuters and stated that 27 member countries' ambassadors made a decision about the veto of visas and asset freeze for four Chinese officials due to the human rights violations. Besides, they announce that a Chinese institution will be blacklisted.

Diplomatic resources expressed that the names that will be banned are going to be announced to the public after the approval by the ministries.

Diplomats stated that the Chinese officials to whom the sanctions will be applied are going to be accused of human rights violations.

China: We want EU to think twice. Otherwise, we will fulfil our responsibilities

The EU committee of China made a declaration on Twitter and stated that "sanctions are a source of face-off. We do not want a conflict but a dialogue. We want EU to think twice. If somebody insists on conflict, we do not have another choice and we have to fulfil our responsibilities. So we will not step back."

SOME COUNTRIES SAY THAT CHINA CARRIES OUT GENOCIDE AGAINST UYGHURS

Human rights activists and UN reports state that China urges at least 1 million Uyghur people, who live in the camps in the East Turkistan, in the west of China, to work torture and depopulate them.

The USA and Canada have brought forward that China carried out genocide against Uyghurs. Also, a short time ago, the parliament in Holland described the attack of China against Uyghurs as "genocide".





Increase in Housing Prices in Konya

The prices of houses increased 32,7 percent in Konya in the last 12 months. 1565 houses were sold in Konya, in May. The highest increase was recorded in Akşehir province

Total house sales in Turkey in May increased by 16.2 percent compared to the same month of the previous year and became 59 thousand 166. This increase is mainly based on the base effect. Last year because of the restrictions for pandemic such as lock-down and travel bans last year, the housing sales figures in April and May hit the bottom. While the number of houses sold for the first time in the first five months of this year was 127.786, the share of second-hand sales in total sales was 69.4 percent.



HOUSING PRICES IN KONYA

Housing prices in Konya increased by 32.7 percent annually. Flatfly, global house searching platform, declared the report which they have prepared upon local housing prices in Turkey. According to this report, the on –sale housing prices increased 31.7 percent in Selçuklu province. The average prices of houses with four rooms is 336.500 TL in Selçuklu in May. While the prices of flats for sale in Karatay increased by 33.2 percent compared to the previous year, the average sale price for 4-room flats in May was 314,500 TL. Housing prices in Meram increased by 26.9 percent in the last year. The average price of 4-room flats in Meram in May is 335,000 TL. The housing prices increased 45,3 percent in Akşehir last year. The average price of 4-room flats in Akşehir in May is 341,250 TL.

The prices of flats for rent in Konya increased by 14,0 percent last year. The highest increase was recorded in Beyşehir. Rental house prices in Beyşehir increased by 28.5 percent compared to the previous year. While the prices of rental houses in Selçuklu have increased by an average of 12.5 percent in the last year, the annual rate of increase in rental house prices in Karatay has reached the level of 17.0 percent. Meram rental house prices increased by 10.0 percent compared to last year.

NUMBERS OF HOUSE SALES IN KONYA

Total house sales in Konya in May increased by 25.2 percent compared to the same month of the previous year and became 1565. Mortgaged house sales in May decreased by 54.4 percent compared to the previous year and amounted to 165. The share of mortgage sales in total housing sales in Konya was 10.5 percent in May.

Within the scope of other sales types, a total of 1,400 houses changed hands in Konya in May and increased 57.7 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of new houses sold in Konya increased by 8.0 percent in May compared to the same month of the previous year and became 491. The rate of the new house sales is 31.4 percent in the total house sales numbers. In second-hand house sales, 1,074 houses changed hands in May.

In the first five months of the year, the total number of houses sold in Konya decreased by 3.8 percent compared to the same period of the previous year and decreased to 10.142 units. Mortgage housing sales decreased by 65.6 percent compared to the same period of the previous year and became 1,077. While the number of new houses sold in Konya in the January-May period was 3.186, this figure indicated a decrease of 11.2 percent.

While the number of the houses sold in Konya in 2019 was 34.614, it reached to 37.196 by increasing 7.5 percent in 2020. While new house sales were 14,664 in 2019, this figure decreased by 10.9 percent to 13,69 in 2020. Mortgage housing sales in Konya amounted to 11 thousand 285 units in 2020. Selçuklu had the highest house sales rates last year. 15.238 house were sold in Selçuklu last year.

INVESTMENTS IN HOUSING

Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa and Ankara were in the first four places in the list of the number of buildings for which construction permits were given last year. The number of buildings granted construction permits in the first quarter was 3.095 in Istanbul, 2.390 in the second place, 2.199 in Muğla, in the third place, and 1470 in Antalya, in the fourth place. The number of building permits issued in the first quarter increased by 270 percent compared to the previous year, and Sakarya became the city with the highest increase in the number of building permits. While the number of building permits issued in Muğla in the first three months of last year was 692, this year the number of licenses increased by 217 percent to 2,199. With this increase rate, it ranked third after Istanbul and Izmir in the number of building permits for the January-May period. Antalya, another coastal city, is among the cities that are among the top in the number of building permits issued. The cities on the coast line attracted the attention with the increase in the number of building permits. Because of the pandemic conditions, many families, living in the cities, preferred to leave their lives behind and live in coastal areas. The demand for residences in the coastal areas rose so much that the prices of both rental and sale houses increase. However, the residences in these areas were sold so quickly and easily. The builders, who does not want to miss the chance, started to build new houses in these coastal cities. In the same period, the number of building permits for detached houses increased 201.8 percent.

COSTS OF BUILDING

The construction cost index announced by the Turkish Statistical Institute had increased by 25 percent annually throughout 2020. As of April, the construction cost index increased by 35,5 compared to the same month of the previous year. It is seen that the increase in construction costs continues with the ongoing loss in value of TL. For this reason, it is foreseen that, the rise in the building prices will continue because of the costs.

The Konya News

New management, new goals in Bera Holding

The new management of the Bera Holding has been elected. Erol Kaya, who was a senior official in the Holding before, has been chosen as the CEO of the new management.



NEW MANAGEMENT

The New Management of Bera Holding consists of Erol Kaya, the chairman of the board, Mustafa Ulvi Bezirci,the vice chairman of the management board and the representative of Kompen PVC Building and Construction Materials Inc., Osman Elvan, the representative of Komyapı Construction Inc. as cosignatories. The members of the management have been Haşim Şahin, the former chairman and the representative of Divapan Integrated Tree Panel Industry and Trade Inc. and İsmet Gergerli, the representative of Konya Paper Industry and Trade Inc. Abdulkadir Buluş, Cihat Kıvrak, Ömer Serdar have been selected as independent board members for the first time.



WE AIM TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF SERVICE

Erol Kaya, the new CEO, thanked to the all investors and partners, who registered the trust to the lists, in the general meeting on 17th June. He stated that "28.833.893 shares were presented acting as principal and 84.593.129 shares were presented acting as representative from a record total share of 113.427.022. The total share of the company is 341.600.000. As a result of the voting the legal list includes my friends and me got 84.798.727 affirmative votes. We would like to give our appreciation to all our shareholders, investors and partners. With my friend in the management team, we aim to increase the level of service as I did before for more than 24 years in different positions".





E-commerce daily orders reached a record high

E-commerce orders reached 6,2 million daily in Turkey. Konya is at the top

E-commerce is growing rapidly with the effects of pandemic. According to the data taken from Ministry of Commerce, e-commerce orders were 3 million 726 thousand in 2019 and it reached 6 million 273 thousand in 2020 with a growth of %68. Among the total posts by courier companies, the share of e-commerce has reached %60.

MONDAY IS THE BUSIEST DAY OF SHOPPING-ONLINE

E-commerce has reached a market share of 226 billion liras for 2,29 billion orders per year and Monday is the busiest day of shopping-online. When we consider all the orders, Monday has a share of %20, Tuesday and Thursday have a share of %16, and Wednesday and Friday have a share of % 14. Saturday and Sunday are the quietest days of e-commerce with %12 and %9 shares. November is the busiest month of the year in online-shopping with 27,2 billion liras order due to the global campaigns. December is the second busiest month with 26,2 billon liras order due to the shopping for New Year's. The quietest months are April (13,1 billion liras) and March (13,7 billion liras).

İSTANBUL IS ON THE FIRST RANK

İstanbul is on the first rank in online-shopping. It has a share of %35 and İstanbul is the address for 1 of every 3 orders. Ankara comes the second with %11 and İzmir is the third with %6. Bursa and Antalya have a share of %3, Kocaeli, Adana, Konya, Mersin and Gaziantep have a share of %2 and they are at the top as the busiest Anatolian cities.

Elevators produced in Konya are exported to 67 countries

A company operating in the production of elevators in Konya exports 7 million dollars annually to 67 countries



Ahmet Madenci, one of the owners of the company in the Konya Organized Industrial Zone, said that despite the production difficulties in the COVID-19 process, they managed to increase both employment and production in their factories. Madenci stated that "We established our company 23 years ago and started their journey in a modern machine park in a closed area of 17 thousand square meters. We are one of the leading companies in Turkey at the moment. We export 35 percent of our production to 67 countries. Our export volume is around 7 million dollars annually and this number increases steadily. As our brand is known, we grow in the market and our exports are increasing rapidly. We mainly export to European, Asian, African, Latin American countries and 170 employees are currently working in our factory.

IN THE SECTOR, TURKEY IS THE SECOND IN THE WORLD

Madenci uttered that "They produce all the products in European and international standards that they sent 81 cities in Turkey. In terms of production in this sector, Turkey is the second in the world after China. China is our biggest competitor in the world markets. In terms of both price and quality, we can still give a better price than them in the market. As a sector, we have something we want from the state, which is to bring a standard and control mechanism to undocumented companies working under the counter in this field.



Konya Metropolitan Municipality harvested barley and chickpeas

Konya Metropolitan Municipality harvested barleys and chickpeas which they planted in a 1 million 500 thousand square metres idle land. It is announced that the income of this harvest will be given people in need.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality is conducting an initiator work in Turkey to bring the 1 million 500 thousand square metres idle land –in Kulu and Meram districts - which belongs to the Municipality in production and to use the income for charity. The barley has been harvested in Meram, Çomaklı neighbourhood. Uğur İbrahim Altay, the Mayor of Metropolitan Municipality and the President of International Agricultural Cities Union, said that in order to make these idle lands productive they first took inventory of those lands. After that, they started to plant the lands within the city borders. Altay also expressed that "we did the first planting in November 2020 in Çolaklı neighbourhood. Our most important priority in agriculture is to use local and national seeds. Here, we used the seed of "Larende barley" which is developed by Bahri Dağdaş International Agricultural Research Institute. We got support from our farmers in the region to prepare, to fertilise the land and to plant the seeds, during the planting process. By this way we integrated our farmers into the system."

The blow of music in August

in Selçuklu Congress Center

Selçuklu Congress Center, with its natural acoustic venues, wide foyer areas, continues to host all kinds of scientific, cultural and social events such as company meetings congress, meeting and ball rooms, high-level kitchen infrastructure that can serve events such as gala, wedding, iftar, national and international congresses, fairs, exhibitions, musicals, movie premieres.





In this sense, SKM, which has made a name for itself among the most prestigious concert and performance centers in Turkey, opens its curtains with enthusiastic concerts after the pandemic with GRİPİN, RUBATO, MEHMET ERDEM, YENİ TÜRKÜ in its August event calendar.







Selçuklu Municipality Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı

Babil Sanat comes to Konya

Babil Sanat set out its journey with an innovator perspective of changing the classical cultural and art activities concept and has announced event calendar starting in July

Babil Sanat, which started its journey by looking at the change of culture and civilization with Babil Empire in Anatolia, aims to make this cultural and art change alive in the cities during their events. During this summer, famous celebrities will meet music lovers on stages. In July, August and September Babil Sanat will organize events with Sakiler, Gazapizm, Melek Mosso, Ayta Sözeri, Rubato, Hüsnü Şenlendirici & Halil Sezai and Simge & Musa Göçmen Symphony Orchestra. Within the Karnaval Media Group and under the Turkish media sponsorship of Super FM, JoyTürk and Virgin Radio the concerts will be held according to the Covid19 precautions.

Event Calendar of Babil Sanat starting in July;

- 2nd July Friday | Halil Sezai & Hüsnü Şenlendirici - Antalya Open Air
- 3rd July Saturday | Simge Sağın & Musa Göçmen - Antalya Open Air
- 3rd July Saturday | Melek Mosso - Denizli Open Air
- 4th July Sunday | Ayta Sözeri Denizli Open Air
- 9th July Friday | Melek Mosso - Grand Karaman Hotel
- 10th July Saturday | Gazapizm - Antalya Open Air
- 14th August Saturday | Rubato Grand Karaman Hotel
- 24th September Friday | Sakiler Konya Selçuklu Exhibition Centre

SELCUKLU CONGRESS CENTER

SELÇUKLU MUNICIPALITY

Anatolian Eagles took the breaths away:

42 Turkish 14 Foreign Aeroplanes

International Anatolian Eagle Training Spotters Day was in Konya 3rd Main Jet Base. With Turkish F-16s, Azerbaijani SU-25 and MIG-29s, and Qatar Rafale fighter aircrafts, cooperative mobility has been tried and trainings have been done. Azerbaijan attended the trainings for the first time and the trainings took the breaths away



Yesterday, International Anatolian Eagles-21 Practice hosted the press in Spotters Day. Azerbaijan actually joined the practice for the first time and Pakistani, Qatar and NATO AWACS parts made air force training together. Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Iraq, Sweden, Kosovo, Lebanon, Hungary, Malaysia, Nigeria, Romania, Tunisia, Ukraine, Oman, Japan and Jordan joined as spotters and the practice was from the 21st June to 2nd July. The combat readiness trainings, which were done in a generic scenario in a real operation setting, were in Konya 3rd Main Jet Base.

TF-X BRIEFING

After the Spotters Day activities, Hasan Küçükakyüz, the General of the Turkish Air Force, gave a briefing to the guests, including Pakistani General of the Air Force, about national combat airplane TF-X program. The General Küçükakyüz stated that this practice has been successfully done since 2001 and it achieved its aim this year, too. The General Küçükakyüz pointed out that more than 60 aviation elements of Anatolian Eagle Training Area have the potential of functioning without being affected by other air forces in the area. He said that "on behalf of the aim and achievements of the practice, we found it precious to share this opportunity with our friends and allies".

A STRATEGIC MESSAGE WITH RAFALE

SU—25 and MIG-29 aeroplanes with Azerbaijani pilots and French Rafale war planes that belong to Qatar Air Force made a strong impression with Turkish F-16s. This show was an important message for Greece which tried to threaten Turkey by purchasing French Rafale war plane. In the practice, the operational environment went from easy to hard and became real in a generic scenario.

A GREAT SHOW WITH 56 AEROPLANES

Turkish Airforce joined the practice with 39 F-16 war planes, one E-7T airborne warning and control aircraft, two KC-135R squirts and ANKA-S UAVs. Azerbaijan joined the practice with 2 SU-25, 2 MIG-29 aeroplanes. Qatar joined the practice with 4 Rafales, NATO joined with one E-3A Awacs aeroplane and Pakistani joined with 5 JF-17 war planes. The air force of the practice was formed by 56 aviation elements, 42 of which were national and 14 foreigners. Azerbaijan actually joined the practice for the first time this year. They had joined as spotter before. Anatolian Eagle 2021 was the first practice for Azerbaijan which they attended with NATO in an operational environment.

Although the practice was performed as air-based, Naval Forces also joined with two frigates and two assault boats. This year, the certifications were done by examining the combat readiness and interoperation capability of six F-16 warplanes, which were guaranteed to High Readiness Joint Task Force within the scope of NATO NRF, one KC-135R tanker aircrafts and six Stinger Air Defence Operations teams for the first time.



Dr. Ömer KAVRAR

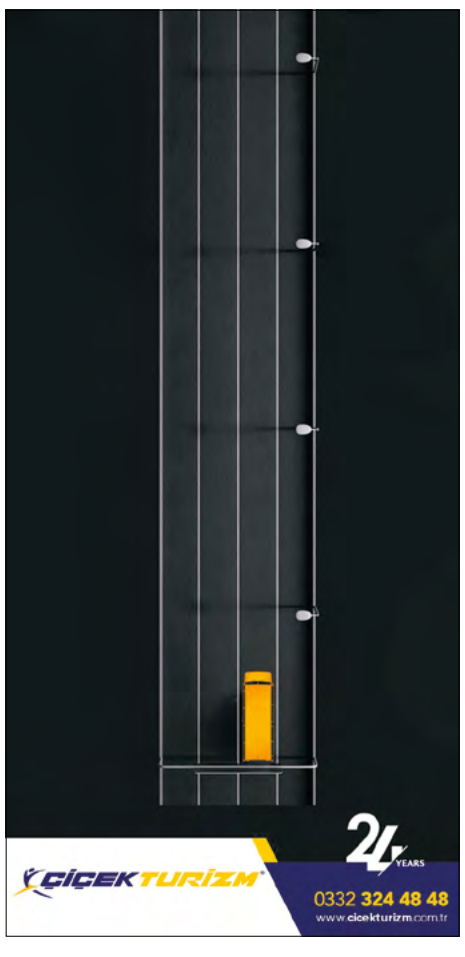
Is investing in infrastructure vital for productivity?

It is said that investing in the right infrastructure is a powerful lever by which governments can increase productivity. Turkey's economy is attributed to the construction sector to a great importance in this respect. One of the reasons for this is that construction has an impact on a large input-output economy in connection with nearly 150-200 sub-sectors. Another important argument is the employment generating effect of infrastructure investments. Another reason is that investments are made for domestically produced investment goods and inputs. All these factors mean that a large economic mass is driven by construction. However, basic statistics on the construction sector are actually not the case.

In the last decade, the construction sector in Turkey is in the range of 8 per cent and 5 per cent share of the total production. These rates are much less than 10-15 percent, which is the share of construction in the world economy including housing, commercial real estate, and infrastructure.

It is pointed out that building more infrastructure will not be a panacea for better productivity results. Today, it is very difficult to achieve employment expansion through infrastructure expenditures compared to the conditions 50 years ago. On the other hand, added value in construction is created by machines. The increase in national income provided by public investments should be balanced with the increase in net exports. It is another fact that construction is a very open sector to crisis. This situation stems from the industry being very fragile and cyclical.

Well-chosen infrastructure investments can increase the added value if they create resource savings (saving time, energy, etc.) and especially if they are based on realistic assumptions about population growth and thus increase national income. This is largely due to the projects having optimal scale, location, and projection. Overcoming a problem depends on defining the problem correctly and putting forward feasible solutions within the current conditions. Among these ways, choosing the best cost / benefit balance and applying the chosen path with precision will determine the success of the policy.





‘We continue to develop technologies in the field of solar energy’



The foundation of the SCADA Center of Konya Karapınar SPP (YEKA SPP-1), implemented by Kalyon Holding, was laid in the ceremony by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dönmez, the Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank and the Minister of Environment and Urbanization Murat Kurum. Fatih Dönmez, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, stated that “The SCADA facility, the foundation of which was laid, is one of the most important steps taken for the localization of energy technologies. Mustafa Varank, the Minister of Industry and Technology, uttered that “We support the Konya Karapınar Power Plant and will continue to do so. The Kalyon YEKA SPP project is one of the most magnificent examples in the world. This power plant is one of the rare power plants that can be seen from space.” Murat Kurum, the Minister of Environment and Urbanization, said that “Kalyon Energy starts a very important investment on behalf of our country.” Cemal Kalyoncu, Chairman of Kalyon Holding, stated that “Despite the conditions of the Covid-19 outbreak, they will complete an investment of 1.4 billion dollars in the energy sector by the end of 2022.”

Domestic Production Machines compete with European ones



Komel Agricultural Machinery produced silage packing machines for the first time in Turkey in 2008 and in the last 11 years they have started to compete with European machines in quality.

In 2008, Komel Agricultural Machinery started to produce silage packing machines in Turkey for the first time and they have started to compete with European ones in quality in the last 11 years. Expressing that thanks to the domestic production they were able to get ahead of imported products, Bilal Koman also said that “we are exporting to 33 countries at the moment and contributing to the national economy. Except the automation part, every part of our products is local”. Komel Agricultural Machinery started to take its place in the sector in 1985 with the production of flour plant machinery. In time, they exported products to 13 countries. After serving in this sector for many years, they realized the deficiency in producing silage, roller and bale machines. For two years they conducted R&D activities and started domestic production and sell in 2008 under the brand of KOMEL TARIM. Silage packing machines have never been produced domestically until 2008. Bilal Koman, Komel Agricultural Machinery General Manager, stated that “silage packing machines were imported then, and we got ahead of those imported products. Today, we sell these machines to 33 countries and contribute to our economy. We have the capacity to produce 100 machines in a year. Except the automation part, every part of our products is local. We produce each part of the machines in our own factories. However, as the automation part cannot be produced in Turkey, we have to import that part.”

Turkey unites in fight against multiple forest fires

Turkey has mobilized and united in efforts to fight against wildfires that have wreaked havoc on swathes of the country’s south and Aegean region, as the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry said 107 of 112 fires have been brought under control as of early Aug. 1



People across the country are sending food aid to the disaster zones, while inhabitants at the scene of fires are carrying water to firefighters and aid to the victims.

The blazes began in early July 28 in four separate locations, including the most destructive in the Manavgat district of the southern province of Antalya. The fires broke out almost in tandem across other Mediterranean provinces, then across some 40 provinces and districts in 50 hours.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said on Twitter that a total of 112 fires have erupted since July 28 and 107 of them have been contained. The efforts to contain the remaining five fires are underway in Antalya’s Manavgat and Gündoğmuş, along with the Marmaris, Köyceğiz, and Milas districts of Muğla, he added.

People helping put out the fire are recommended to drink ayran, a popular cold savory yogurt-based beverage which is thought to be preventative against smoke poisoning.

“The biggest problem firefighters face is the transportation due to small paths in the forests.”

“That’s why motorcyclists come to help. They deliver food and water on bikes.”Volunteer medical staff and veterinarians also wait to close the fire regions to help humans and the animals affected by the fires or the smoke.

Marmaris Mayor Mehmet Oktay thanked people for their support but asked for aerial help.“We don’t have a shortage of water or food. Mobile chargers are our priority in the help. Also, the fight against the fire on land may not be sufficient. We urgently need helicopters to drop water from the sky,” he said.

Bodrum Mayor Ahmet Aras also called on people not to send more supplies to the region, while thanking them.

Speaking in Marmaris, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said on July 31 that teams from Muğla, other provinces, and Azerbaijan continue their work in the region and that further investigations are underway. Overall, an aircraft, 80 water tanks, 35 tankers, 31 construction machines, 176 service vehicles and 1,400 personnel are at work, he said.

GRATEFUL TO AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan on July 31 provided 53 fire trucks to Turkey, where forest fires in the past few days have led to deaths as well as material damage. The Emergency Situations Ministry sent the vehicles meant to fight large fires, as well as 220 personnel by land. Earlier, 100 Azerbaijani firefighters arrived in Muğla. While the trucks reached the affected areas in two days, Baku also sent a helicopter on August 1. Many other countries have also offered help.

The fires started on July 28 with most in southern regions. At least six people died. Blazes broke out in at least 21 provinces, including several Mediterranean provinces, killing at least six people. As many as 271 other people have been affected by the wildfires, according to the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

Erdoğan said 50 million Turkish liras ($5.91million) have been released to meet the urgent needs in areas that have experienced destruction and property damage. He said Turkey is mobilizing all means to bring the blazes under control.



An award-winning Turkish engineer died in the USA at the age of 97 has been buried in New Jersey

Mechanical engineer MSc Mehmet Yontar, who has been one of the most successful youngs in Turkey, went to the USA in the late 1940s for master’s degree and PhD. He died at the age of 97 and has been buried in New Jersey.

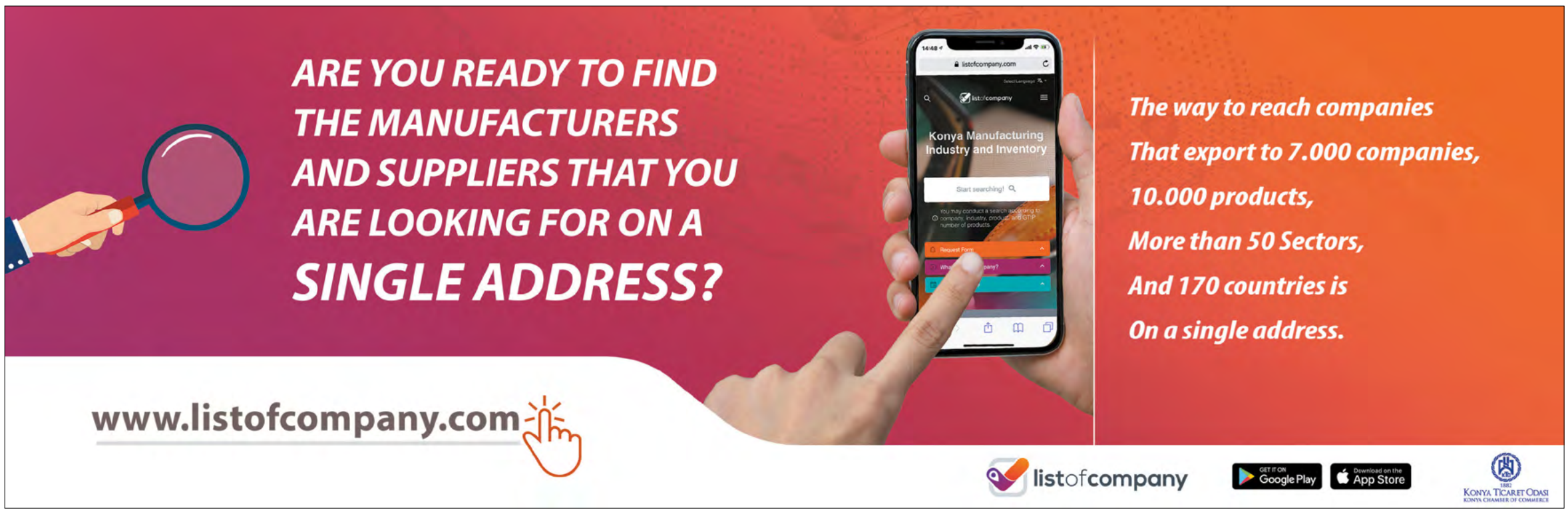
Mehmet Yontar came to the USA to study and due to his outstanding success he was awarded many times. It has been stated that he died of heart failure and has been buried in the city of Millburn in which he lived for 45 years.



THE BEST 3 TO GO ABROAD TO STUDY

Mehmet Yontar was born in Seydişehir district of Konya. He graduated military college with a first degree and entered Robert College in İstanbul as a military student. Due to his outstanding success he was one of the best 3 students to have the chance to go abroad to study. In 1949, he started his master’s degree in Columbia University in the USA. He became a Mechanical engineer MSc and as he was very successful in his education life he had the chance to continue PhD on a scholarship by Port Authority in Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA. He owned many patents and his success in problem solving about the technical problem in New York suburban train carriages was a headline in the newspapers in the USA.

He was accepted to the MIT PhD program with his master’s degree thesis about mechanisms in multi-storey constructions. As he had an ability and experience in track systems, he was the chief engineer during the rebuilt of World Trade Centre which was destroyed in the terrorist attacks on 11th September 2001.



The Konya News

"Tourist-Friendly Business" starts in Konya



Konya Tourism Promotion and Education Foundation start "Tourist-Friendly Business" with the support of the Metropolitan Municipality in Konya. With this initiative the promotion of businesses will be done and it will help gastronomy of Konya become a brand

The certification of tradespeople in the food and beverage sector, which have been active in Union of Chamber of Merchants and Craftsmen, has started in Konya. A certification programme, which is supported by mobile apps, has been put into practice in order to promote gastronomy in Konya and increase the satisfaction of visitors via an initiative called "Tourist-friendly Business" prepared by KOTEV (Konya Tourism Promotion and Education Foundation) and supported by Konya Metropolitan Municipality. With the help of the app it will become easier for tourists to find different food, restaurants and cafes in different categories. The businesses which join the app will become more known and the gastronomy of Konya will become a brand. Moreover, with the application of "Tourist-friendly Business" the customers will have the chance of scoring the businesses and this will help businesses to have a clue about them. There will be a starring system in the app. According to the number of the stars, the businesses will be able to get supports and awards as a motivation. Customers will give points to the businesses instantly via IOS and Android applications and the average of their satisfaction will give the businesses to get a grade in their own categories. With this certification, to gain the trust of visitors will be possible and the promotion of taste corners of the city will be done.

In order to get the "Tourist-friendly Business" certificate, the businesses will apply by filling the form in a link. After the first application period, other applications will be opened in different times. The total application process will be 6 months and at the end of this period, the restaurants which meet the criteria will be announced in the app. In the following 6 month period, these restaurants will be scored in the app by the tourists. After a one year period, foreseen categories will become prominent and the businesses will be starred according to their categories. The announcements related to the issue will be done by Konya Union of Chamber of Merchants and Craftsmen.



Districts of Konya... Historical Places of Konya

The city of Konya has very important values such as Mevlana, who has religious values.

Konya is a city with many places with religious values, natural beauties and many entertaining places. Konya has a wide range of places to visit. Konya is a city that was in a capital in the past.

DISTRICTS OF KONYA

Konya, which has a very large surface area, has 31 districts. Konya is a city neighboring to Eskişehir, Afyon, Isparta, Antalya, Karaman, Mersin, Niğde, Aksaray and Ankara.

PLACES TO VISIT IN KONYA

Konya, which has the oldest history in Anatolia, is a very rich city in terms of culture and history. Konya, which has hosted many civilizations, has many historical artifacts such as madrasahs, tombs and inns from every civilization.

ALAADDIN HILL

It is a hill located at an altitude of 20 meters in Karatay, one of the central districts of Konya. Alaeddin Hill, which is used as a recreation area, also has historical values.

SALT LAKE

A part of the Salt Lake is located in Konya. The salt cover created by evaporation in summer is worth seeing.

KONYA BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Butterfly Garden is a travel destination where you can spend a very good time in touch with nature in a tropical environment with a very large butterfly flight area.

BEYŞEHIR LAKE

It is the third largest lake in Turkey. It has very beautiful views and small islands around it. You can go fishing to the lake. It is one of the natural wonders of the lake. It is a place visited by local and foreign tourists. It is one of the wonderful lakes in the world. It is a place visited by local and foreign tourists.

MEKE LAKE

It is a lake in the Karapınar district with islands around it. It is a lake that takes its name from the meke birds. It was formed naturally by the crater eruption of an extinct volcano.

KONYA SCIENCE CENTER

Many scientific projects take place in the science center. There are an observation tower, laboratories, planet house, thematic exhibitions, library, open-air exhibition and conference rooms in the center.

KARATAY MADRASA

Karatay Madrasa, one of the most important historical monuments of the Seljuk period, is one of the must-see places. There are many details that reflect the culture of the Ottoman and Seljuk periods.

ÇATALHÖYÜK ANCIENT CITY

It is an ancient city located in Çumra District. It is an ancient settlement.

KILSTRA AND LYSTRA

They are ancient cities that are 45 kilometers away from Konya. It is one of the historical places that should be visited, which is very similar to Cappadocia.

MEVLANA MUSEUM

It is a museum where Mevlana's tomb is located with the philosophy of tolerance and meaningful and special words. There are many interesting details such as historical manuscripts and convent items.

ÇUMRA TULIP FIELDS

Thousands of acres of colorful tulip fields in Çumra district should be visited.

YERKÖPRÜ WATERFALL

Yerköprü Waterfall, located within the borders of Hadim District, fascinates visitors with its view.

KONYA ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUMS:

Apart from these; Many historical places such as Eflatupınar Hittite Water Monument, Sırçalı madrasa, Vasada ancient city, Kubad Abad palace are located in Konya.

The Konya

KONYA E
REPOR

Having been one of the most r
with its 139 years of history, K
continued its activities in t
under the shadow of Covid
provide services to its memb
developments of the v

In the year of 2020 that Covid-19 pandemic has emerged and its effects have seen, as always Konya has become the city which made positive contributions to the country's economy with the data above Turkey's average in many parameters such as exports, employment, gross domestic products, entrepreneurship, and etc...

In this sense, Konya Chamber of Commerce completed the study of "Konya Economy Report 2020" which reflects Konya's economic report card guiding us to plan the future. Konya Economy Report 2020, which is published annually, is the product of a very comprehensive and detailed study that blends all these works we have mentioned. This report includes the evaluation of the economies of the World, Turkey and Konya; our predictions about our future expectations in the year of 2020 that Covid-19 left its mark; the data we have received from the dozens of institutions and organizations in the fields of population, education, culture, tourism, animal husbandry, agriculture, energy, foreign trade, communication, transportation, employment, health, investments and economy, and their comparisons with Turkey.

The headlines and statistics that emerged in the Konya Economy Report 2020 study are as follows:

Demographic Structure and Social Development

Konya, which has been the 7th largest in terms of po 2015, kept its p population of thousand 020

According statistics anno Higher Educat (YÖK), Istanb first among th the highest nu students in 20 is followed by Izmir, respecti 121,182 number Konya ranks fo previous year. four cities wit number of stu with the highe

Agriculture

Konya is one of the most important centers of our country in terms of agricultural production, agricultural trade and agricultural employment. 27.9% of Turkey's seed production takes place in Konya. Within this share, Konya ranks first of Turkey's in the production of Barley (40%), Potato (48%), Sunflower (50%), Clover (60%), Safflower (97%), Dried Beans (58%), Sainfoin (40%), Field Peas (28%), and ranks second in the production of Wheat (24%). While the seed production goal of the Turkish Seed Sector in 2023 will be 1,000,000 tons, Konya's goal in this sector will be 400-450 thousand tons. This means, it consists of 40-45% of Turkey's production. Konya, which makes important contributions to Turkey's sheep, cattle, poultry, meat, milk and egg production, makes significant contributions to the development of animal husbandry with its large pastures and plant production areas.

Industry

Konya is one of the cities that bear the employment and industry burden of the Turkish economy, with its 10 organized industrial zones, 8 of which are active, 17 small industrial sites supported by the Ministry, 15 small industrial sites in the city center, 16 small industrial sites and 32 private industrial sites in the districts of Konya.

The main areas of activity in the industrial zone are; automotive spare parts, machinery, agricultural machinery and equipment, defense, plastic, furniture and wood, metal, casting, food, construction materials and packaging industry.

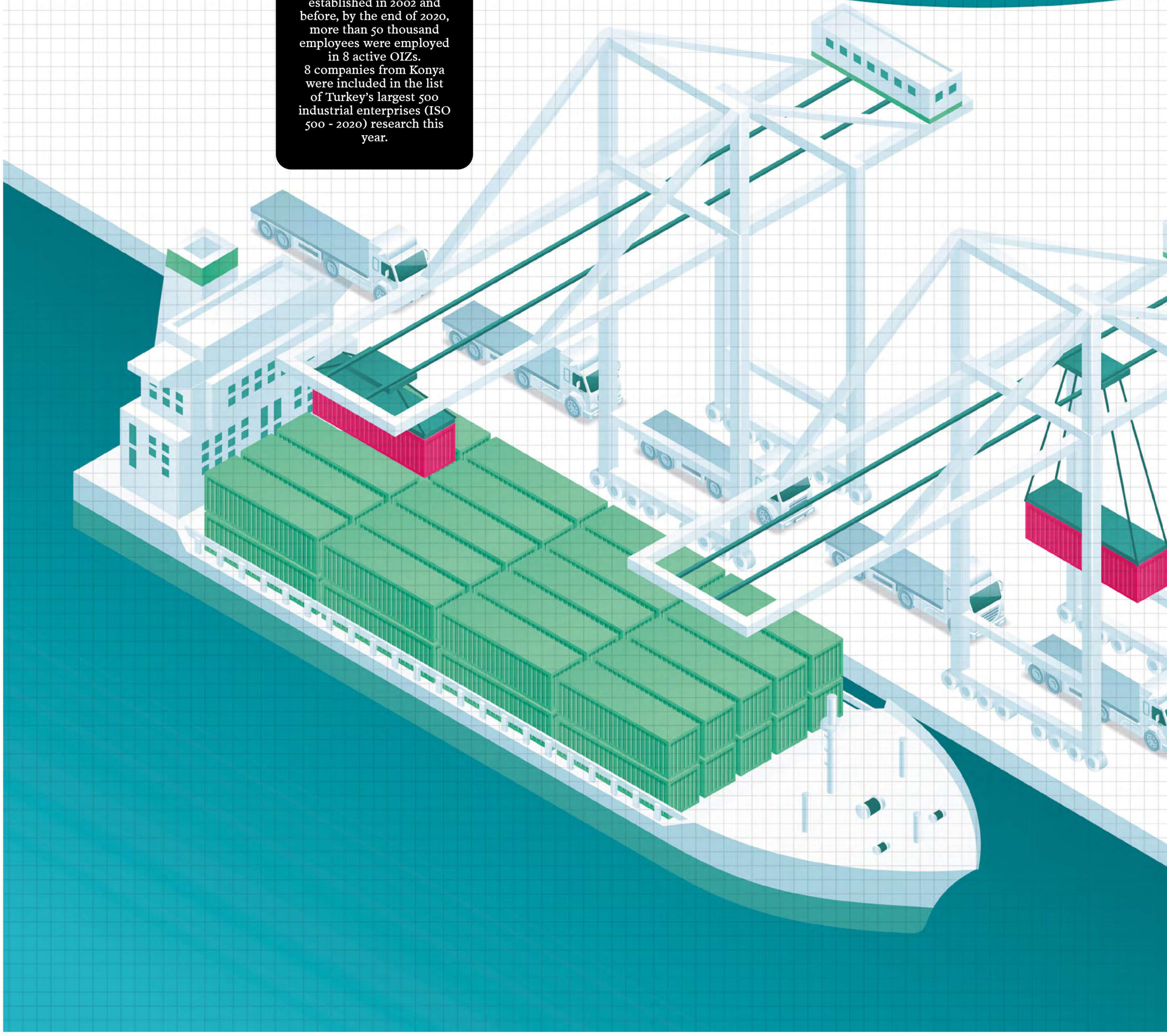
Konya, one of the cities with the largest number of organized industrial zones in Turkey, is among the industrial locomotives of the Turkish economy with a total of 10 OIZs, together with the Kulu and Ilgın OIZs whose parceling/ constructing works are ongoing. While 7 OIZs were established in 2002 and before, by the end of 2020, more than 50 thousand employees were employed in 8 active OIZs.

8 companies from Konya were included in the list of Turkey's largest 500 industrial enterprises (ISO 500 - 2020) research this year.

Employment

The number of active employees in Konya increased by 5.6% in 2020. By the end of 2020, Konya-Karaman Region (TR52) was the region with the third lowest unemployment rate (8.0 percent) among the 26 Development Regions, and stands out with its employment in industry/construction and agriculture, above Turkey's average, in the sectoral distribution.

When the businesses that provide 50 or more jobs are evaluated in the last five years, it is seen that they have increased continuously except for 2018. While the number of companies employing 50 or more was 753 in 2016, this number increased by 9.1% to 822 in 2020.



CONOMY
T 2020

rooted chambers of our country Konya Chamber of Commerce he year of 2020 that passed -19 pandemic, and strived to ers by quickly adapting to the world and our country



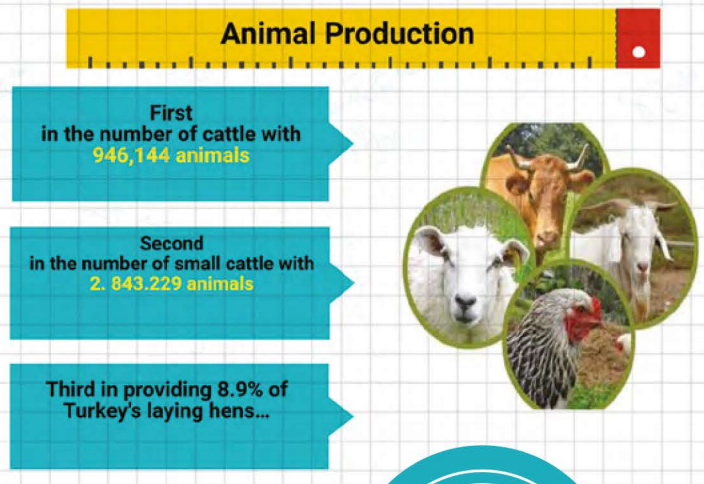
t city in Turkey pulation since lace with a 2 million 250 people in 2020. to the ounced by the tion Institution ul ranked e cities with mber of 20. Istanbul Ankara and ively. With of students, ourth as in the Among the h the highest dents, the city est number of

students per academician is Konya with 22.1.

3 state and 2 foundation universities are active in higher education in Konya. These are Selçuk University, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya Technical University, Konya Chamber of Commerce Karatay University and Konya Food and Agriculture University. It is seen that the majority is in Selçuk University, when we look at the academic and administrative staff of the universities operating in Konya. Among the universities in Konya, the number of academicians increased most rapidly at KTO Karatay University. As of 2020, the academic capacity of the university has increased from 325 to 553.

According to the data of Konya City Health Directorate, 30 state hospitals, 12 private hospitals and 3 university hospitals serve in Konya in 2020. In terms of bed capacity, while the bed capacity was 7,673 in 2019, it was increased to 9,242 with 20.4 percent in 2020.

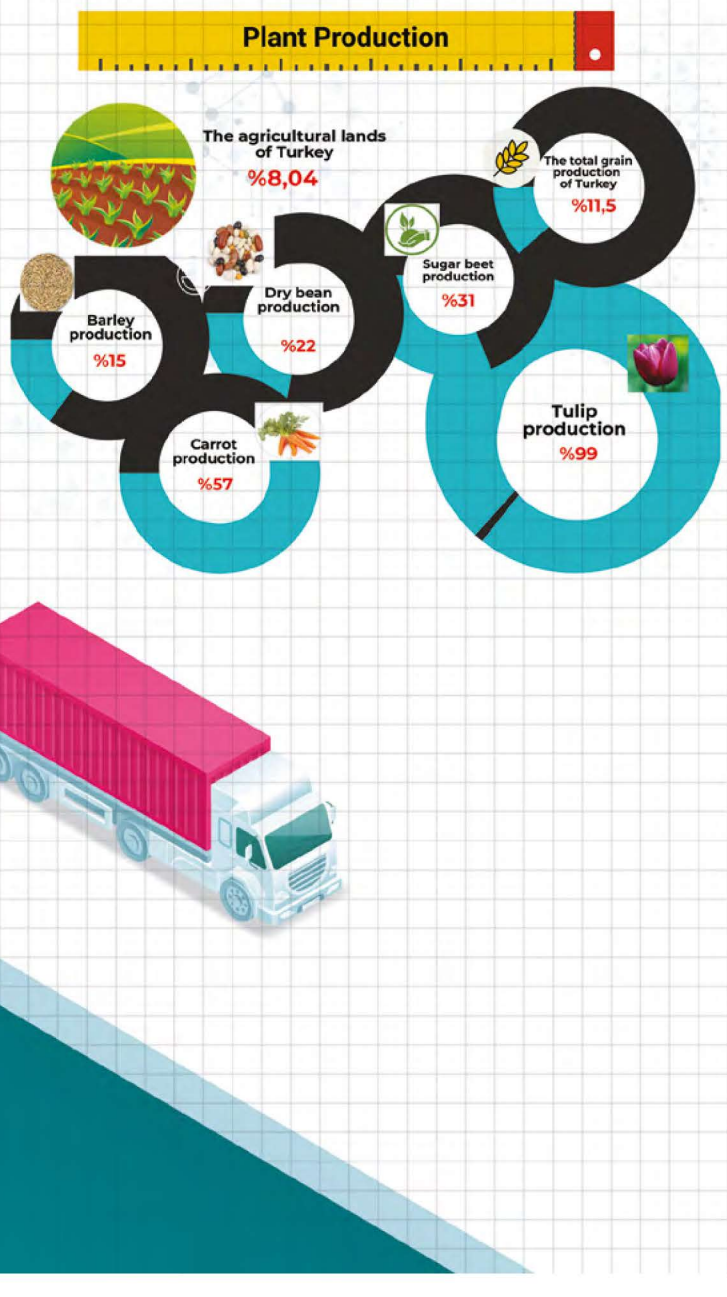
The impact of Covid-19 is mostly seen in the data of tourism and culture. The number of tourists coming to Konya in 2020 decreased by 45.4 percent in 2020 compared to the previous year. The number of visitors to the Mevlana Museum, which has the highest number of visits among Konya museums, decreased by 74.3 percent in 2020 compared to the previous year.



Commercial Life

Konya's trade and industry continues to increase its success in exports every month. In Turkey's exports, which decreased by 6.2 percent, Konya succeeded the highest export in its history, with an increase of 8.9 percent in 2020, making 2.17 billion dollars.
Foreign Trade Balance - Konya / Turkey (2013-2020, Billion Dollars)

Konya has become the 2nd city with the highest increase in exports compared to 2019, among the 15 provinces with the highest exports in 2020.
In May, when Turkey increased its exports by 65.5 percent, Konya exported 224.12 million dollars with an increase of approximately 70 percent. According to this data, our city reached the highest export number in its history with 1.2 billion dollars in the first 5 months. When the exports are evaluated according to the cities of Turkey, Konya ranks at 11th. The number of exporting companies increased by 251 to 2,278.



Investment – Trademark – Patent

In 2020, Konya ranked the 3rd (10,505) in Turkey with 560 Investment Incentive Certificates. Our number of Investment Incentive Certificates was more than the sum of 27 provinces. The highest number of investment incentive certificates belonged to the manufacturing sector with 449 certificates with 80% share.
Konya, in Turkey in 2020, 7th range in the number of Trademark Applications and Registered Trademarks
8th range in the number of Patent Application and Registration.
6th range in the number of Industrial Design Application and Registration.

Financial indicators looking at the cash loans at the cities level in 2020, Konya ranked 8th with a cash loan amount of 67.6 billion TL, as it was last year. Non-cash loans extents in Konya, increased by 13.2% compared to the previous year. While cash loans increased by 32.7%, non-performing loans decreased by 13%.
Considering the distribution of consumer loans in Konya by the end of 2020; housing was 39%, vehicles were 3%, overdraft was 3% and other loans were 55%.

Distribution of Consumer Loans in Konya (2020)

Source : Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency

Transportation Projects completed in Konya in 2020:

Konya Selçuklu High Speed Railway (HSR) Station
Konya Selçuklu HSR Station, which will be integrated with the light rail system project of Konya Metropolitan Municipality also serve as a life center was started to take the passengers 02.10.2020 and also passenger services have been active since then.
Konya (Kayacık) Logistics Center
With Konya (Kayacık) Logistics Industry, Turkey logistics sector has gained a 1 million square meters logistic center with the capacity of 1.7 million tons. Its construction was completed and it was put into service on 02.10.2020.

Script support competition award find its winner in Sufi Cinema Days

During the Sufi Cinema Days, held by Konya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, the 2nd Full Length Film Script Support competition award has found its winner. The 2nd Full Length Film Script Support competition came to an end which was held during the Sufi Cinema Days held by Konya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism. The competition was between the 20th January 2021 and 30th April 2021. 19 participants joined. Mehmet Akif Güler, nicknamed "Karga-Crow", with his work "Looking for Heaven" won the award for 2nd Sufi Full Length Film Script Support.

In 2020, the competition couldn't be held because of the pandemic. So the 7 participants for 2020 had the opportunity to compete in 2021 and there were 19 participants in total. Mehmet Akif Güler, nicknamed "Karga-Crow", won the award for 2nd Sufi Full Length Film Script Support with his work "Looking for Heaven" and got 30 thousand TL encouragement award for his script.



Adile Baysal Culture and Art House will be a city museum

Adile Baysal Culture and Art House , opened by Seydişehir Municipality in 2013, will be a city museum. Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism examined the Adile Baysal Culture and Art House in order to transform the gallery into a city museum. Mehmet Tutal, Seydişehir Municipality Mayor, stated that "In the culture house, an inventory of 749 items such as many household items and agricultural tools belonging to years ago and for daily use was made. The house will be organized as a private city museum after the examination works and will be put into the service of the public. We continue to work within the scope of the city museum. When our work is completed, we plan that the guests from outside will be able to see the past with the present and the present with the past after visiting this museum."



Konya – Karaman 35 minutes

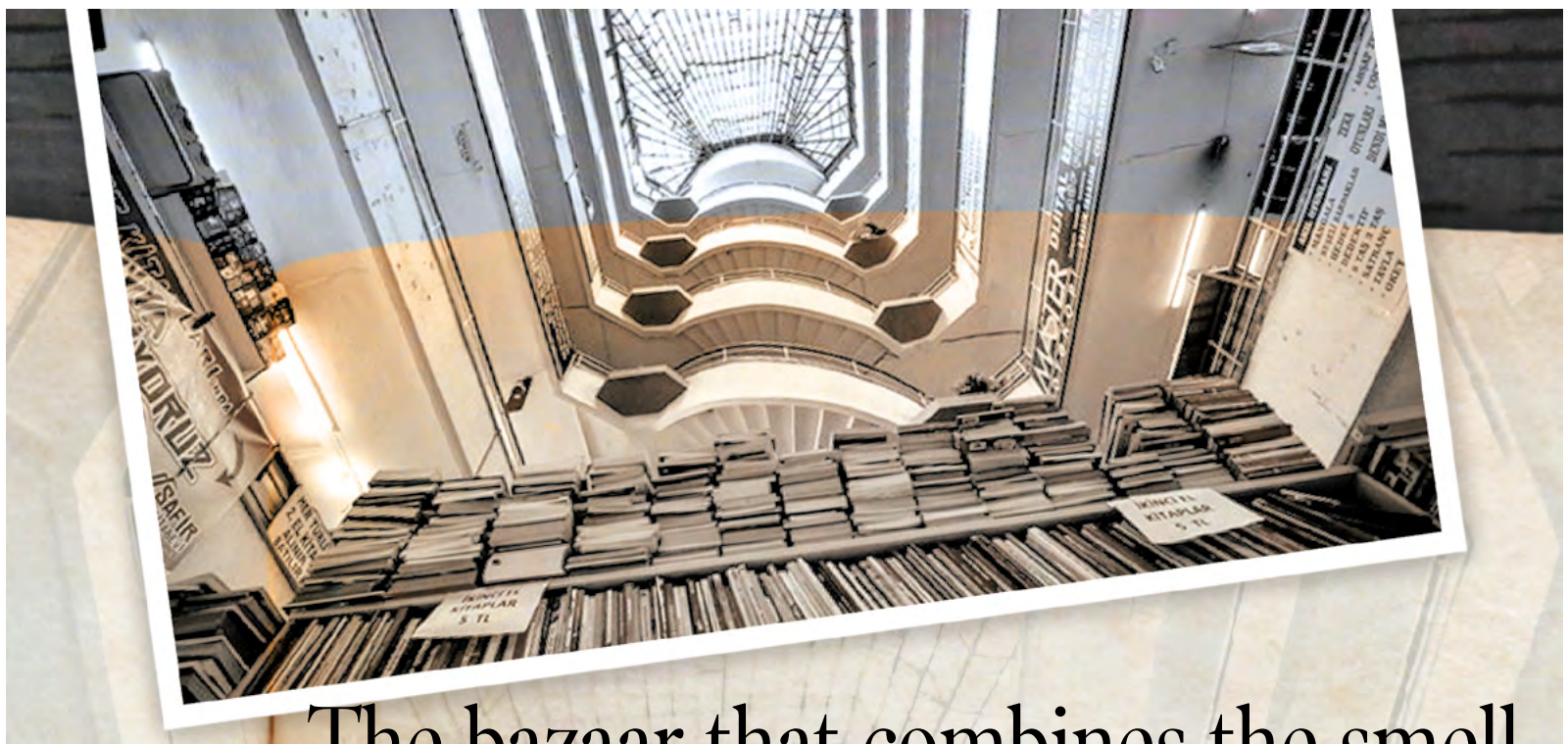
With high speed trains, test drives continue in Konya-Karaman high-speed rail line. Scheduled services are planned to start at the end of May or at the beginning of June.

Karaman will be the 8th city with high speed train. Travel time from 1 hour 15 minutes between Konya and Karaman will be reduced to 35 minutes.

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure announced that test drives on the 237-kilometer section of the Konya-Karaman line, which was completed within the scope of the 102-kilometer Konya-Karaman Ulukışla (Niğde) High Speed Train Project, had begun last month.

It is planned to construct a high speed train line between Konya-Karaman at a speed of 200 km / h and travel time from 1 hour 15 minutes between Konya and Karaman will be reduced to 35 minutes. While test drives continue nonstop, in Karaman train station last controls are carried out and the deficiencies are corrected at the same time.





The bazaar that combines the smell of books with the timbre of music: Rampalı

The 5-storey Rampalı Çarşı, which has been a frequent destination for book and music lovers in Konya for years, draws attention with its spiral ramps that provide transitions between floors and extend from the ground to the roof

Rampalı Çarşı, which is in demand as it is near the city center of Konya, brings book lovers, students, academicians, musicians and music lovers together at the same address. In the 5-storey bazaar, which takes its name from its architectural structure, the transitions between the floors are provided by spiral ramps that extend from the ground to the roof without interruption. Some citizens who lose their way between floors can find the exit with the help of shopkeepers.

In the bazaar, which makes it possible to reach all kinds of books, from manuscripts, novels, textbooks to academic publications, the sound of music is never missing thanks to the shops selling instruments and the masters who give lessons.

HEAVEN OF BOOKS

Hasan Yıldırım, who has been selling books in the bazaar for 13 years, said that "the bazaar is one of the symbols of the city. Besides students, especially old book lovers frequently visit the bazaar. You can find anything about books in the bazaar. We can call the bazaar as "Heaven of Books". I think it is one of the best places about the books in Central Anatolia, may be in Turkey. We can add the music to it."

ESPECIALLY THERE ARE VISITORS COMING TO SMELL OLD BOOKS

Hakkı Bıyık, one of the second-hand booksellers of the bazaar, also said that "those who get used to spend time in the bazaar to wander and some to mingle with books. There are especially some visitors who come to just smell old books. Apart from those who come to buy books, there are those who like to wander in books. There is a leaden substance inside the books that does not age. The smell comes from this. The paper also has a feature. Wherever it is, it takes the smell of the environment. Some of the visitors come in order to smell the old books. Even those who won't buy it, come and smell it as 'second hand' and say, 'This is an old book, it's fifty years old, its smell is still there'."





The Konya News

Sille: The holy route to Jerusalem

Sille, which has been a residential area for five thousand years, has a strong bound with İstanbul, hundreds of kilometres away. Today, Sille is a historical residential area in Selçuklu district of Konya. The founder of Aya Elenia church, which is in Sille, is the mother of Emperor Constantine who made İstanbul the capital of Rome. Sille attracts attention with its characteristic structures and carries the legacy comes from thousands of years to today, even to the future. Sille was on the route of pilgrimage from İstanbul to Jerusalem and because of this location Sille always had a great importance in Roman period

Konya has been a home for Çatalhöyük, which is the oldest residential area known in the world. Although Sille is not as old as Çatalhöyük, it has a history of five thousand years and with its rich history it is also very assertive.

It is believed that the name of Sille, in Selçuklu district of Konya, comes from "Sile" in Greek mythology. On the other hand, some believe that the name of Sille comes from Greek language "silenos" means running water.

In 1923, there was a population exchange between Turkey and Greece and the population structure completely changed in the area.

At the beginning of the 20th century the population was nearly 18 thousand and the majority of it was Greeks. According to the population exchange they migrated to Greece and the Turkish people in Kozana and Florina migrated to Sille.

Bela Horvath, a Hungarian researcher, came to the region just before the First World War and wrote that there were about 60 churches in Sille then. Of course, some of these churches were formed as a result of the engraving of



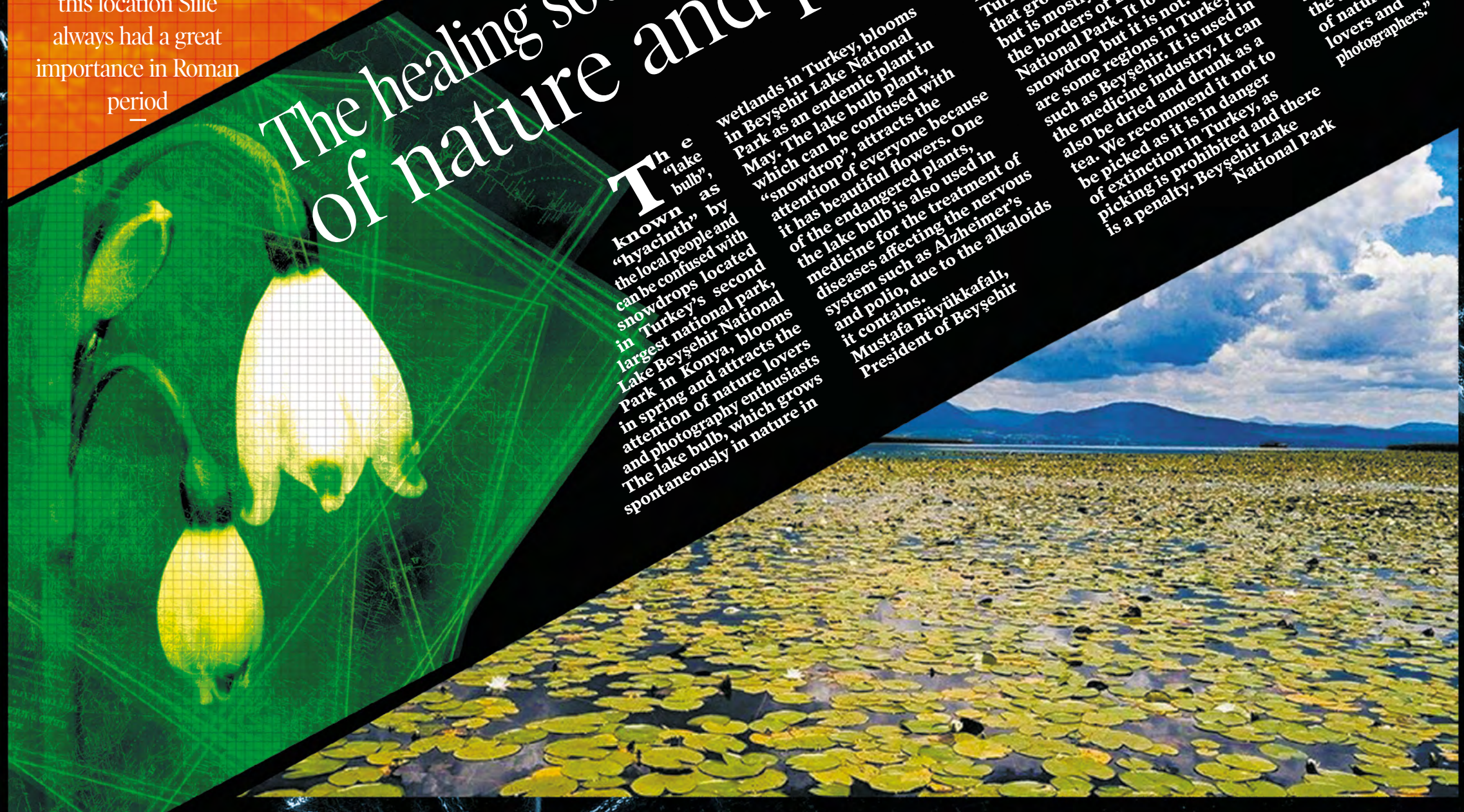


soft volcanic rocks in the region. However, there are also architecturally outstanding churches which managed to reach today in Sille. As Sille was on the route from the capital Constantinople to Jerusalem, which was holy for Christians, during East Roman Empire period, it was an important rest point in medieval age. Sille was a stop during the pilgrimage towards to Jerusalem and developed religiously and became an important place for Christians. Elena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, who made İstanbul the capital of Rome, had a rest time in Sille during her pilgrimage from İstanbul to Jerusalem and this changed the destiny of the region. When she first came to the region, she was really impressed by the churches which had been made first Christians by carving the rocks. Aya Elenia Church named after her was constructed with Sille stones and has been renovated many times in more than sixteen centuries. Among the residents, carpet business, pottery, grapery and stonemasonry have been very popular occupations. The mosques, churches and civil architecture buildings are under guard as they are in a protected area. You can see stone houses in a harmony in Sille. You should visit Aya Elenia Church, Devil's Bridge and historical streets. You can have a one-day visit or you can stay in Sille stone house hostels.

The healing source "lake onion" attracts the attention of nature and photography lovers

The "lake bulb", known as "hyacinth" by the local people and can be confused with snowdrops located in Turkey's second largest national park, Lake Beyşehir National Park in Konya, blooms in spring and attracts the attention of nature lovers and photography enthusiasts The lake bulb, which grows spontaneously in nature in wetlands in Turkey, blooms in Beyşehir Lake National Park as an endemic plant in May. The lake bulb plant, which can be confused with "snowdrop", attracts the attention of everyone because it has beautiful flowers. One of the endangered plants, the lake bulb is also used in medicine for the treatment of diseases affecting the nervous system such as Alzheimer's and polio, due to the alkaloids it contains.

Mustafa Büyükkafalı, President of Beyşehir Culture, Tourism and Nature Association, stated that "In Turkey, the lake bulb is a plant that grows in limited areas but is mostly seen within the borders of Lake Beyşehir National Park. It looks like a snowdrop but it is not. There are some regions in Turkey such as Beyşehir. It is used in the medicine industry. It can also be dried and drunk as a tea. We recommend it not to be picked as it is in danger of extinction in Turkey, as picking is prohibited and there is a penalty. Beyşehir Lake National Park is one of the rare areas where lake bulbs grow in nature. This plant, which emerges in mid-April, can be seen in nature until the end of May. The areas where it is located take on a white appearance even when it is in bloom. This scene attracts the attention of nature lovers and photographers."



Water Lily Feast in Beyşehir Lake

The water lily flowers that grow in Beyşehir Lake on the Konya Plain, Turkey's largest freshwater lake, offer a visual feast. The area, which resembles a water lily flower field on an area of 8000 square meters of the lake, attracts great attention from photographers and travelers. The penalty for picking the water lilies in the lake is 73000 thousand TL.

Water lily flowers grow in an 8 thousand square meter section of Beyşehir Lake in Konya. The water lily flowers blooming in May every year create a visual feast. The area, which resembles a water lily flower field, attracts great attention from photographers and travelers. We can say that this region is Turkey's largest water lily garden. Water lilies begin to appear in early May and continue until October. During these times, it is possible to visit the water lilies. The region attracts photographers, travelers and hikers throughout the year.

2 OF THE 9 TYPES OF WATERLILIES IN THE WORLD ARE IN BEYŞEHİR LAKE

Two of the 9 water lily varieties in the world, yellow and white, are found in Beyşehir. Water lilies are an endemic plant. Domestic and foreign tourists come to see water lilies. Visitors come here to take photographs of water lilies and cruise by boat. Water lilies that grow in wetlands also have the ability to clean the water.



Assoc. Dr.
Sefa USTA

Local Democracy and Neighborhood Councils

Local governments are the most suitable for democratic participation as the institutions closest to citizens. Local governments are also referred to schools of politics and democracy. The values on which local governments emphasized as democracy schools are based on efficiency, participation, freedom, autonomy, and democracy.

In the words of John Stuart Mill, "It cannot be said that democracy develops in a place where local governments are not strong enough". In order to democracy to function effectively, local governments should be given importance. Hence, institutionalization of democracy at the country level can only be possible with the experience of democracy at the local level.

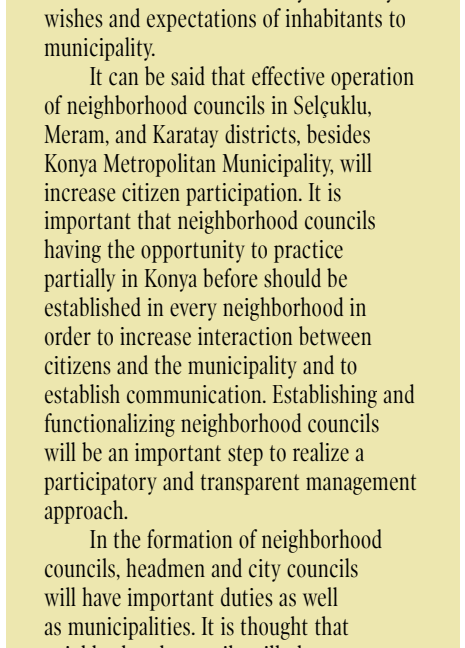
Local democracy is an environment where democratic values are validated for local governments. Here, the agenda that directly concerns the citizens is determined, problems are discussed and resolved, and they are put into practice. Democratic behavior and participation, efficiency and productivity, social justice, transparency and accountability, impartiality and equality have an important place among the basic principles on which the concept of local democracy is based.

According to Friedrich Von August von Hayek, "Local governments function as a political school for both people and local administrators". It is possible for citizens to gain habits towards democratic principles and behaviors through local governments that are also referred to democratic decency organizations. In this context, it can be said that if one can be successful in terms of democracy at the local level, it will also be successful at the country level. Elections held at the local level are the primary tools used for the functioning of local democracy. For all that, local referendums, local ombudsman, public meetings, city councils, neighborhood boards, advisory assemblies, people's and citizen's initiatives, city and neighborhood councils are considered as implementation tools of local democracy.

As a reflection of the citizen-oriented management approach, neighborhood councils are one of the most important application areas of the understanding of local democracy. Neighborhood councils serve as a bridge between citizens and municipalities, and it can be claimed that it acts as an intermediary to convey wishes and expectations of inhabitants to municipality.

It can be said that effective operation of neighborhood councils in Selçuklu, Meram, and Karatay districts, besides Konya Metropolitan Municipality, will increase citizen participation. It is important that neighborhood councils having the opportunity to practice partially in Konya before should be established in every neighborhood in order to increase interaction between citizens and the municipality and to establish communication. Establishing and functionalizing neighborhood councils will be an important step to realize a participatory and transparent management approach.

In the formation of neighborhood councils, headmen and city councils will have important duties as well as municipalities. It is thought that neighborhood councils will play an important role to shape urban culture and developing urban consciousness and increasing citizens' urban belonging. In this context, with a project to be led by the Konya Metropolitan Municipality, neighborhood councils to be established first in the central districts of Konya will then spread to the other districts of Konya. In this way, interaction between neighborhoods will increase and cooperation opportunities between neighborhoods of Konya will expand.





YOUR HOUSE IN AKŞEHİR; GARP HOTEL

Garp Hotel is the first and the only hotel which has a game concept in the world. Moreover, it provides a unique accommodation experience with its different structure which is designed to provide high quality and comfort to the guests during business and vacation travels

We present special experiences with new generation's inimitable accommodation to our guests in calm atmosphere near the foothills of Sultan Mountains. It gives a personalized service concept beside eclectic architectural design and different kinds of approaches to accommodation.

Garp is a comfort zone for the guests who want to feel like at home. Besides specially designed furniture, decorative accessories which have local breezes bearing welcome you in our hotel.

Different room options are avaliable in the Garp. High quality furniture, which is used for the decoration of the hotel, is also used in the rooms. Our hotel is decorated with traditional games which have strategic and intelligent philosophy . Also each room has a story and a private name. When we have a look at the names of the rooms we see the traditional Turkish theater locations and Ottoman words, which are used to describe games. For instance; Abdulcanbaz is the protagonist of a comic book called "Abdulcanbaz" that was started to be drawn for Milliyet newspaper in 1957 by Turhan Selçuk.

Baziçe (toy, amusement), Kuşbaz (a person who breeds ornamental birds), Serbaz (fearless, brave), Dilbaz (chatty person), Hayalbaz (a person who makes shadowplay and galanty show), Ateşbaz (a person who plays with fire.), Sihirbaz (illusionist), Cambaz (acrobat), Şahbaz (hero, valiant), Oyunbaz (a person who loves to play games).

Akşehir which has been a center for many civilizations through Anatolian history and it keeps lots of cultural treasures. This makes the town a unique and popular place for the visitors.

Akşehir can be called as a cultural mosaic because of its historical importance. You can see Byztantium, Ottoman, Seljuks and even Neolithic civilizations' traces in the region. In Akşehir you can visit three significant museums which exhibit historical artifacts from Anatolian history. These museums are Nasreddin Hodja Archeological and Ethnography Museum (100m.), Stone Artifacts Museum (650m), and West Front Headquarters Museum (1km away on foot).

All these historical buildings which are in cultural heritage area can be reached on foot from Garp Hotel. (Historical Armenian Church-Priest's House is 230 meters, Seyyid Mahmud Hayrani Tomb is 300 meters, Hasan Pasha Mosque is 650 meters, City Forest is 900 meters, and Hıdırlık Promenade is 900 meters away from the hotel)



Animal friendly TORKU Forests

Recep Konuk, the president of Pankobirlik, stated that, "While the Red Deer live in their natural environment, geese do the weed control and bees do the pollination. The forests are protected by their natural guardians. With these efforts, consumers can also obtain organic goose meat and honey.

It started afforestation works in 2004 with the target of trees as much as the population of Konya, and as soon as this target is achieved, it set its new target as trees as much as Turkey's population. Continuing uninterruptedly with the 21 million trees it has planted and the Torku Forests in 67 different locations it has created in the most ambitious afforestation project carried out by a private company in our country, Konya Şeker also revives the ecosystem in the Torku Forests, which it grows every year. Konya Şeker, which released squirrels, chickens and turkeys to forest areas to increase biodiversity in collective afforestation areas, took a new step 2 years ago. Torku Forests started to host bee hives and goose herds besides dozens of red deer. While it hosts thousands of geese and hundreds of hives for now, with the spread of the project to all afforestation areas, both the success of the weed control in the collective afforestation areas and the pollination in the Konya Plain will increase more effectively. It is aimed to increase the number of hives exponentially in order to contribute to the increase in efficiency especially in fruit and vegetable production.

Konuk stated that "When our number of trees reaches 21 million, it becomes impossible to reach at least weed removal with human power. There were two ways of accelerating this struggle, one by using a plebiscite and the other to find a way to fight ecological solution where we can both feed the forest inhabitants and control weeds by increasing the biodiversity in the forests. We found that solution with geese. Instead of chemical struggle, we preferred geese, that is, a biological struggle. As a result, the geese, with their saw-like teeth, began to function like lawn mowers of Torku Forests. Another ecological solution we have developed in our forest areas is a service for the entire Konya Plain. As it is known, the most important issue in terms of plant production and fruit growing is pollination. In other words, in order for flowering plants to bear fruit, pollen must be carried to the flowers. This can happen with the help of the wind, but the most important carriers of this are bees. While they are being placed from flower to flower, they fertilize the flower they land with the pollen they carry on their feet and stems and start the production process of fruit and vegetables. We have placed hundreds of hive bees in our forests in order to make pollination more effective in the plain, to accelerate it in a healthy way, and to increase productivity.





Konya has the largest farming area

According to the recent TÜİK (short for Turkish Statistical Institute) data, the cities which have the largest farming areas in Turkey are Konya, Ankara and Şanlıurfa

With its 19 million 106 thousand 386 decares farming area, Konya owns %8 of farming areas in Turkey. In % 96,9 of these areas, cereals and other crops are cultivated. Every year, more than 5,5 million decares of cereal areas are being fallowed.

Konya's farming area is nearly as large as Israel's land (20 million 330 thousand decares)

CEREALS IN KONYA, VEGETABLES IN ANTALYA, FRUIT IN ORDU

When we have a look at the products, Konya has the largest cultivation area for cereals and other crops. Antalya has the largest area for vegetables (479 thousand decares), Ordu has the largest area for fruit, drinks and medicinal plants (2 million 277 thousand 326 decares) and İzmir has the largest area for ornamental plants (13 thousand 899 decares).



Genç: Products are advanced by feedbacks



Şakalak Agricultural Machinery Inc., which has been maintaining its production for over 35 years in Konya Organized Industrial Site, is producing 15 thousand machines per year.

The general manager of the company Mustafa Genç said that their firm has been producing planting/sowing machinery and tillers.

While expressing that drills and planting/sowing machinery that are in the production category have been drawing attention in recent years, Genç stated that despite the negative effects of Covid-19 pandemic, they passed the previous year with a dense production period.

He expressed that the sector has opened its doors to the world in a powerful way with the help of the development in agricultural industry in the city. He also said:

"The year 2020 was a year of pandemic but despite the pandemic there was a huge demand. We are exporting to 20 countries. We also have a great potential about exporting to the countries in the region. We also continue to contract manufacturing for some European countries. There is also a huge demand from South America. One of the biggest demands is for our drills. They are planting carrots and onions in the USA with our machinery. This is a point of pride. They are planting in the USA soils with our machinery. We are sending more than 150 drills to the USA in a year. Our strength in this market is increasing every year."

PRODUCTS ARE ADVANCED BY FEEDBACKS

While expressing that their company is employing 300 people, Genç said that "40 percent of our production is being exported. We are producing about 50 different products under 3 main group of machinery. We have come to a certain point in the sector with our experience and the investment in production technology R&D. We continue to work on R&D. We also seek support from the academic world in the university. We also gather feedbacks from farmers to advance our products."

From the Seljuk period and with a history of 1000 years, a traditional Hemp Halvah unique to Konya.

Hemp Halvah

Hemp Halvah was prepared with the main ingredients of hemp and molasses by boiling them, and then cooling it in snow after being poured into trays that have been sprinkled with chickpeas, especially during winter nights in the past. You must try this completely natural traditional taste that is made richer with various dried fruits.

HEMP HALVAH
Konya Mutfağı
TRADITIONAL TASTE

KAFEM Konya Mutfağı
Available in our branches.



Dr. Mehmet KOCABAŞ

The Key to Beat COVID-19

It has been a year since the coronavirus pandemic started dominating headlines and our lives. It has been a period of unprecedented stress and grief for many people in Turkey and around the world. We have all been waiting to have a sigh of relief. At first, our families, friends, and communities have received their vaccines but is the vaccine sufficient in the fight against covid-19? It is the most powerful weapon against covid-19, but it is not enough on its own.

Vaccines save millions of lives each year and they work by training and preparing the body's natural defences – the immune system – to recognize and fight off the viruses and bacteria they target. After the vaccination, if the body is exposed to these disease-causing germs, it is immediately ready to destroy them, preventing the body from illness.

There are several safe and effective vaccines that prevent people from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. This is one of the ways of managing COVID-19, in addition to the main preventive measures of staying at least 1 meter away from others, covering a cough or sneeze in your elbow, frequently cleaning your hands, wearing a mask and avoiding poorly ventilated rooms or opening a window.

Vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, and Sinovac are being administered in our country. The two vaccines authorized by the World Health Organization (WHO). These two vaccines have similar results in terms of protection and side effects. Pfizer-BioNTech is 95% efficacy in blocking COVID-19 in those without prior infection. Sinovac is 91.25% efficacy against symptomatic COVID-19 cases. Although each COVID-19 vaccine is unique, all of them may help with herd immunity.

Who should get vaccinated?

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe for most people aged 18 and older, including those with pre-existing conditions of any kind, including auto-immune disorders. These conditions include: hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver and kidney disease, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled. However, do not forget to discuss your situation with your care provider.

Turkey has administered over 46.84 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines since it launched a mass vaccination campaign in mid-January. More than 32 million people have received their first doses, while over 14.8 million have been fully vaccinated. The health ministry manages a successful vaccination program together with health workers.

Turkovac, a Turkish-made inactive coronavirus vaccine, began phase three trials in June. The Turkovac is being developed in cooperation with Erciyes University and the Health Institutes of Turkey (TUSEB).

The vaccine will be tried on more than 40,000 volunteers, and experts say that the whole process can be concluded by November. People falling between the age group of 18 and 55, who never had COVID-19, had not been vaccinated and had never tested positive for PCR were selected as volunteers for the phase three trials. And those with chronic diseases affecting the immune system were excluded from the trials. During the evaluation process, volunteers responded to a questionnaire, which asked whether they used public transport, whether they were working, or if they worked in a public environment close to other people.

It is expected to be the first locally-made vaccine to be available in the country if it receives approval from the Health Ministry after safety tests. If the approval process takes less time, the vaccine will be fully available for the Turkish public by the start of next year.

We mustn't forget that approved COVID-19 vaccines provide a high degree of protection against getting seriously ill and dying from the disease, although no vaccine is 100% protective.

I wish our scientists every success with their trials and wish everybody the best of luck. Let's hope and pray this coronavirus pandemic ends soon. Stay healthy and take care of yourself!

WE WILL NEVER BREAK WITH KONYA

The Slovenian footballer Nejc Skubic who has played in Konyasport for 6 seasons said that "Konya is our second home. When we return to our country one day, we will never break with Konya. We will always visit Konya and follow the matches"

INTERVIEW | İBRAHİM BÜYÜKEKEN

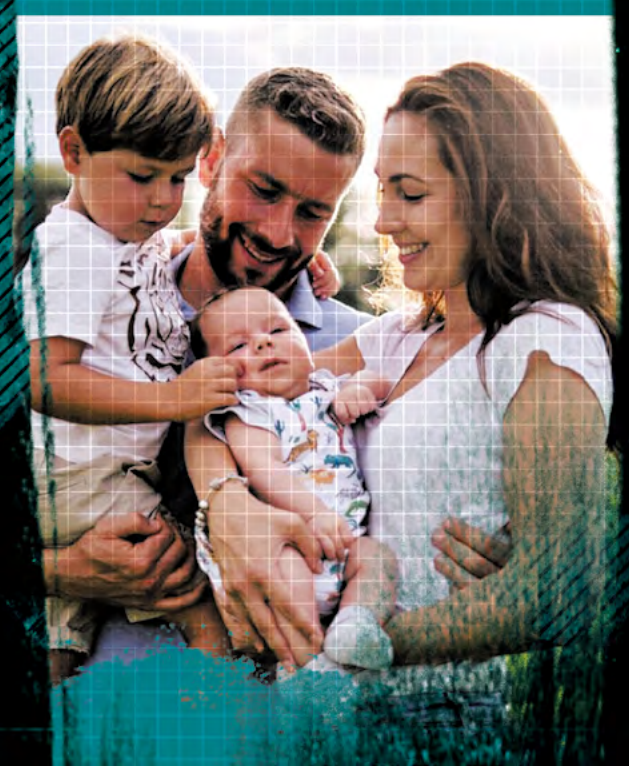
THE SLOVENIAN STAR: NEJC SKUBIC



Turks Love Children

****You have been living in Konya for long years. What are your favourite items in Turkish culture? What are the differences between Slovenian and Turkish people and culture? What do you think about the pros and cons?**

- Turkish people are very kind and hospitable people and they love the children very much. My wife and I always appreciate moral behaviours. Turkish people are slow people, but Slovenian people do their jobs in a very fast way. Another important point in Turkey is traffic. Turkish people insist on not obeying the traffic rules and this affect us badly. We have very strict traffic rules in Slovenia.



PRAISES FOR KONYASPORT FANS

The successful wingback of Konyasport, Nejc Skubic praised Konyasport fans and stated that "they are the most characteristic fans in Turkey and their support always motivates me. I love them so much".

KONYA IS THE SECOND HOME FOR US

Expressing that Konya is always at a special place for him and his family, Skubic expressed that "Slovenia is my country but Konya has become a second home for us. My sons Lan and Maj grew up here. My wife Jusa learnt Turkish in Konya. In the future, when we leave Konya, we plan to visit this city every year. We want to show our sons the place where they grew up and we want to meet our friends here".

MY CAREER IN KONYASPORT STARTED WELL

****You came from a small football league and a small country to a big football league and a big country. You play football in a different country and in a different culture. How was it different to play football here?**

- As you mentioned, Slovenia is a small country and football doesn't attract much attention as it does in Turkey. When I came here, I had a great shock. Of course it was a good shock. I used to play football for about 500 fans. But when I started to play here there were 42 thousand supporters. This was really a different feeling. Fans in Turkey are really excited and Konyasport fans are also fantastic. They met me really well and my career in Konyasport also started well. For 17 matches we didn't lose any games. The next season, we also made a great start. We won the Turkish Cup and Super Cup and we got the chance to attend the UEFA European League for the first time. It has been a great honour for me to play football in Konyasport.

WE WILL CONSTANTLY VISIT KONYA

****You are one of the foreign footballers who played the longest in the history of Konyasport. Next year it will be 6,5 years. What do you feel about it?**

- It has been a great honour for me to play football in Konyasport for long years. Generally footballers change teams every one or two years. However, I have been playing here for a long time and it is really a great feeling. I am very happy here. I never wanted to play in another team. My family is happy here. Konya is our second home. 6 years is a long time period for a person. We had great times in Konya. When we leave Konya, we plan to visit Konya in the future. I want my sons to see the place they grew up, played games and the school they went. The people in Konya are really nice and they always welcomed us.

****Konyasport had victories in its history during your time in the team. You gave an unforgettable happiness to supporters by scoring goals during the last penalties in Turkish cup and Super cup matches. Do you still miss those days? And what did you feel during those penalties?**

- Everything was really good in the year we won Turkish Cup. We had great times after the match. I got the ball and went to the penalty point. In that moment, I just thought about scoring a goal. You have to believe in yourself in those moments. I am really happy to have a contribution of this success in the history of Konyasport. We were very happy to make our fans happy. That moment was very fantastic. Of course we miss those days, but we have to be realistic. There are many factors that affect the success. Sometimes you need luck, too. And sometimes you need everything to go on well at the same time.

YUGOSLAVIAN ECOLE BRINGS THE SUCCESS

****Half of the players in Konyasport Team are from Balkan Countries. Nearly half of the team speak the same language. How does this affect the team and the communication in the team?**

- I have been playing in Konyasport for 5 and a half year. We play with at least 5 players from Balkan countries. I had the advantage to adapt to the team via playing with former Yugoslavian footballers in my first year in Konyasport. Nearly all of us speak the same language. We have the same way of thinking. This has a very important impact on our success. The fans of Konyasport also love the Yugoslavian footballers. A footballer who comes from Balkans adapt to the team very easily. The footballers from Balkans play in the team for long years. Footballers such as Hacıahmetovic, Vukovic, Rangelov, and Milosevic have played in Konyasport for long years and they still continue to play.

WE SPEAK TURKISH WITH MY SON "LAN"

****You live with your family in Konya for 4-5 years. Your sons "Lan and Maj" have grown up in Konya. The fans love especially Lan. How does Konya affect your wife Jusa and your sons' lives?**

- My wife and sons are very happy to live in Konya. People make jokes about my son's name "Lan". He has lots of friends in the kindergarten. They speak Turkish very well and this will be very good in his future life. Konya is a very special city for my wife and me. We will miss Konya in the future.

I LOVE OKRA AND LENTIL SOUP SO MUCH

****Konya and Turkey have a very vast gastronomic culture. What are your favourite food and desserts?**

- There are very delicious meals in Turkey, but they are not very healthy. As a football player, I have to be careful about my nutrition. Some meals are fatty. I love the okra soup very much and lentil balls (a kind of appetiser made with lentil) and lentil soup.

****What is your favourite hobby?**

- To play tennis.

****What kind of music do you listen to?**

- I listen to any kinds of music except Metallica.

****What would you like to be if you were not a football player?**

- I would like to be a tennis player or I would like to run a restaurant.

****What would you like your children to be in the future?**

They can choose any jobs they want, however; as a father, I want them to be sportspeople.

Harvest has begun in Karatay Lavender Gardens

The third harvesting has begun in the Karatay Lavender Garden, which was created by the Karatay Municipality in 2019 by planting more than 90 thousand seedlings on an area of 90 thousand square meters in Karaaslan Üzümcü Neighboorhood



HASAN KILCA, "THE LAVENDER GARDEN PROVIDES ADDED VALUE TO OUR CITY"

Hasan Kılca, the Mayor of Karatay, stated that they take pride in hosting tens of thousands of citizens in the lavender garden since they opened their doors in July and said: "We attach importance to this project in terms of providing added value to our district as well as encouraging this special looking and fragrant plant to agricultural production in Konya."

The third harvesting has begun in the Karatay Lavender Garden, which was created on an area of 90 thousand square meters by Karatay Municipality in Karaaslan Üzümcü Neighbourhood. Harvesting works by the teams of Karatay Municipality Parks and Gardens Directorate are carried out with a harvesting machine.

LAVENDER GARDEN ENTERTAINS THOUSANDS OF GUESTS BEFORE HARVESTING

Karatay Lavender Garden, which has been visited by tens of thousands of people from Konya since July 1, when the doors were opened to citizens, has become a natural studio for those who want to take pictures. In the garden, which has been a frequent destination for professional and amateur photographers as well as citizens, photographers using lavenders in different shades of violet and purple as background colour captured the most beautiful shots in company with decorations created with special objects.

Hasan Kılca, the Mayor of Karatay, reminded that they planted lavender with great enthusiasm in 2019, which makes the places a center of attraction in tourism with their beauties, and which provides significant added value to the producers in economic terms due to their production, and said that they are also happy to have the third harvesting today.

Hasan Kılca, the Mayor of Karatay, stated that the interest in Karatay Lavender Gardens is increasing day by day; and mentioned that they turned the area covered with a pile of debris into an eye-brightening beauty two years ago. Mayor Hasan Kılca also said that their biggest goal is to contribute to urban tourism.

WE WITNESSED THE BEST MOMENTS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS

Hasan Kılca said, "We entertained tens of thousands of guests this year at the Karatay Lavender Garden. It was very crowded, especially on Saturday and Sunday. Our brides and grooms came and shot after the wedding ceremony. With the materials we placed in the garden, we created admirable areas to take photos. We also received very positive feedback from our photographers who came to the garden. As Karatay Municipality, it was invaluable for us to decorate the happy moments of our fellow citizens with the Lavender Garden."





Kılca, who reminded that lavender, which is the medicinal and aromatic plant with high added value, is drought-tolerant and suitable for barren lands, stated that they also aim to offer an alternative and useful product to farmers, and concluded his words as follows: "We had the opportunity to offer ice cream and soda pop made from lavender to all the guests who came to visit the garden. These products were loved by the citizens. We served the district with tourism on the one hand and added an economic value to Konya on the other hand with the Lavender Garden. Some of the Lavenders, which we are currently harvesting, shall be used in the oil sector and some in the floristry sector. We are also working on alternative products. We will continue to support the brand and added value of Karatay and Konya."

REAL CONTRIBUTION TO BOTH TOURISM AND THE ECONOMY

Lokmâhane GETS BIGGER STEP BY STEP

Harun Dönmez has been a hero of a bitter struggle in the kitchen for 35 years. His adventure which started in the kitchen as a child has made him a person who has been highly spoken by famous chefs in Turkey and all over the world. Chef Dönmez made the Selçuklu cuisine a brand in Konya with the name of "Lokmâhane" and he has been serving with his two restaurants in Konya



Who is Harun Dönmez? Can you mention about yourself?

Harun Dönmez. I was born in Beyşehir, in 1973. I attended primary school in Beyşehir, Başgöze. I went to secondary school in İzmir, but I couldn't go to high school because of economic problems. In summer holidays, I worked at restaurants as dish washer and apprentice in tourist attractions. When I started to love the job, I left school and started to work as waiter. As I worked, I started to learn more details about my profession and adopt my job. I love serving people who come to our place and training people who want to learn about the job. For this reason, I want "Ahievranlık" to be eternal and next generations should learn about this philosophy. I take it as my duty and advice my apprentices to perceive it in the same way.

How did your relation started with kitchen?

I worked in various cities so I learnt different things from different kitchens. Of course this was not a conscious choice. After a while, I realized that the things I learnt were precious. Working in the kitchen contributes a lot. If you really want, you can learn everything at any age. I still try to learn new things. When I was 25, I felt that ii was ready to open a restaurant. I told myself that I already knew the job and I opened my place. However, I saw that I wasn't ready and I went bankruptcy. I couldn't accept it and I reopened my restaurant. But again there was something missing and I decided not to urge it and corrected my mistake.

I started all over again. I questioned my mistakes and worked in different places for ten years. My motivation was a saying of my friend "a brave man goes on even he falls down" and I decided to open a restaurant again. As I didn't have enough money in those days, I re-used my place on Main Road in Konya. I really had lots of difficulties but in spite of those difficulties such as the rumours about my failure, my restaurant managed to survive.

How did the idea of "Lokmâhane" develop?

I was obsessed with culture cuisine in Konya and I made some researches. In order to promote and make people taste cultural food and I opened the first Lokmahâne on Mengüç Road. The road was an isolated place. People constantly asked me "Why did you open your restaurant there?" But, we invested a lot in that restaurant. One of my dear friends, Ahmet Ergun gave the name "Lokmâhane" to our place. We had difficulties through the process but if you do something well, people find you. In order to raise awareness and protect our culture we managed to do it and presented a great place to Meram.

> While he is talking about his tiring, difficult and adventurous life, Dönmez says that "Lokmâhane has become real step by step during our struggle in life. Each step was full of efforts."

There are hundreds of restaurants in the city. What makes Lokmahâne different?

There are a lot of successful restaurants in the city. But when they say they are representing Konya cuisine they prefer to serve dishes such as Etliekmek, Okra soup, FurunKebab, Höşmerim. However, Konya cuisine is not restricted with these dishes and it is very rich indeed. There are more various dishes of Konya cuisine such as Terhun soup, Tutmaç soup, Tirit, Sündürme, Papara, Gaygana, Aubergines, and sour Squash. We joined into a culture and adapted this home-made, cultural food into restaurant kitchen. As a result of this, people now prefer us.

As I said before, we wanted to raise awareness. We were aware of something and we were given lots of awards such as Ateşbazı awards, YD gastronomy awards and Star awards. We are on duty and we love our job and for this reason people prefer us. We have a successful restaurant which famous people drop by. Moreover, Lokmâhane is a restaurant that continues to serve in its first place.

Will Konya be able to have a voice in the world literature with Selçuklu cuisine?

If you offer, of course Konya cuisine will be able to have a voice in the world literature but you need to promote it. When people come to Konya, if only some food such as etliekmek, furun kebab, and okra soup are available, you cannot manage to promote the cuisine. Yet, Konya culture food includes one of the richest cuisines in Turkey. People in Konya should protect this culture and this kind of places. I have never been a selfish person and always appreciate the culture and cuisine in Konya.

Why do you think Konya cuisine cannot improve or not well-known compared to smaller cities?

We can say that there isn't much information about Selçuklu cuisine, but still there is some. The food booklet of Ali Eşref, the books of Nevin Halıcı, and the Konya cuisine books of Saime Yardımcı light the way for us.

If you were invited to dinner, what kind of menu would you like to have from Selçuklu cuisine?

I always say that Tutmaç soup, meat with rice and cold compost is enough.

What are your advices about gastronomy and tasty steps to the visitors?

Nowadays, visitors can easily find Yağ somunu, Tandır böreği, kebabs, and etliekmek everywhere.

You are a project person, what is your dream project?

I have a dream. I would like to establish live kitchen museum and academy. I have talked to Hasan Kılca, the Mayor of Karatay Municipality, about the project. He has liked the project very much and he will arrange a suitable place behind the Mevlana Museum. We are happy to sustain this culture and leave it to the future generations. The current Mayors of the city are really interested in gastronomy.

I would like to thank to Uğur İbrahim Altay, Hasan Kılca, Mustafa Kavuş, Ahmet Pekyatırmacı. After long years, our mayors support us about gastronomy and they work in order to take the city a step forward. We have to use our information upon the subject. I would like to thank each of them.

I have a dream "Kitchen Museum and Academy"

I would like to thank you and I would like to congratulate you for your success to publish newspaper in English and introduce Konya culture to the tourists.

We will raise Meram even more in every field

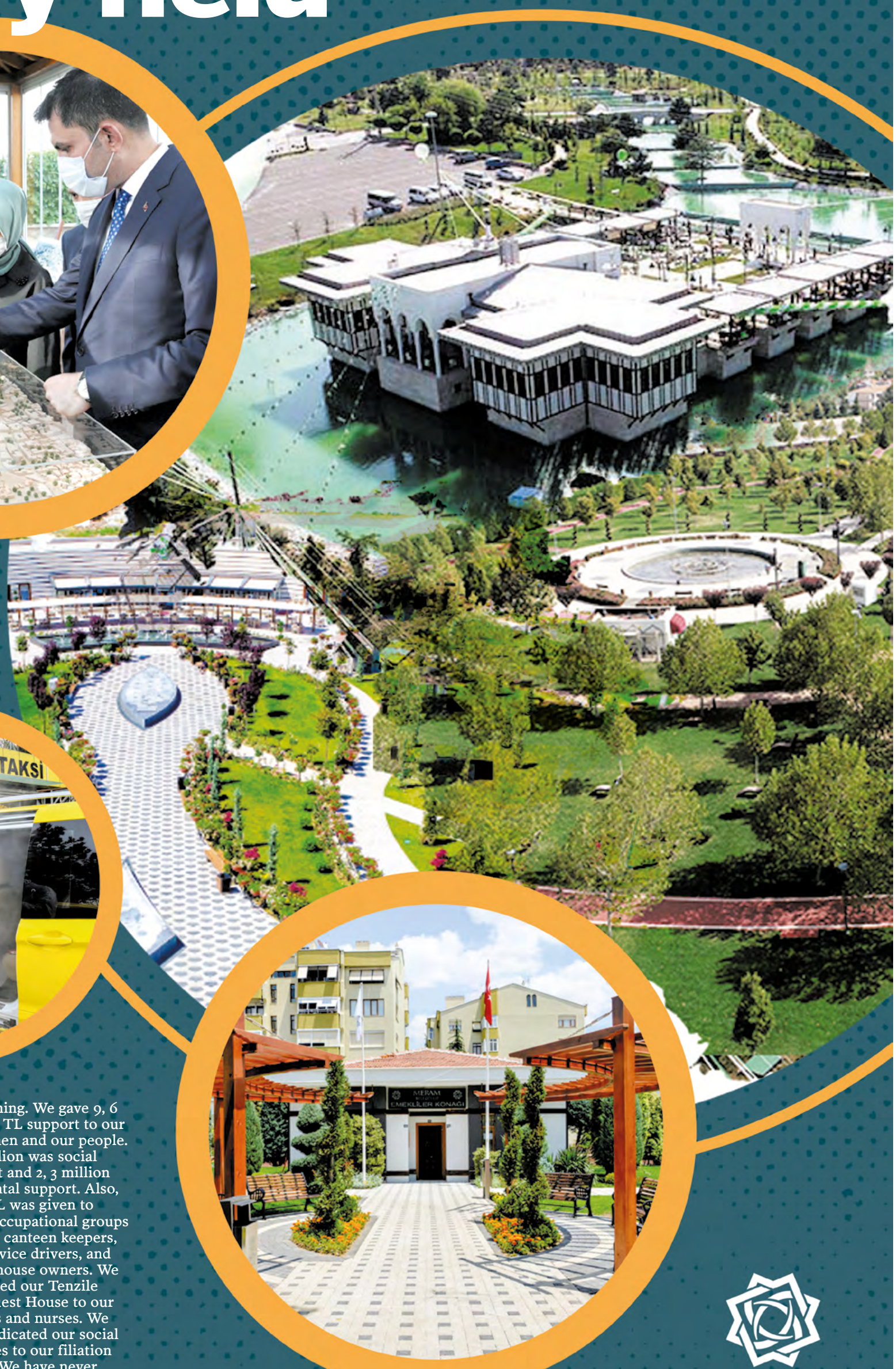
THE MAYOR KAVUŞ; "WE DO NOT HAVE ANY OVERDUE OR WAITING DEBTS

The Mayor Kavuş highlighted that they do not have any overdue or waiting debts in spite of the important works and investments done. He stated that they made investments; on the other hand, they also used the budget in an effective and productive way.



A RECORD WITH 2 MILLION 635 THOUSAND m² ASPHALT

Asphalt has been one of the most important problems and in two years most of the problems have been solved. Mayor Kavuş reminded that they have started to run their own asphalt plant with a capacity of 240 tonnes per hour. In two years, 2 million 635 thousand m² asphalt have been paved over, 222 thousand metres of curbs and 467 thousand metres cobblestones have been paved. The roads and infrastructures of Ayanbey, Yorgancı, Anasultan, Pirhasan, Kozağaç, and Yeşildere streets have been renovated and brought into service. Some roads have been widened to make transportation more comfortable for the people who live in Meram.



OUR MOTTO IS INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION IS THE MOST VALUABLE ONE FOR THE FUTURE

We started to conduct the investments and supports in a more organized way through the Directorate of Services for Youth and Sport. We conducted a different project for each age group. Within Enderun Meram we have been conducting studies about values education for the 1st and 2nd grades, KOP Nature School for 3rd grades, Traffic education for 4th grades, Science-worm education for the 5th, 6th, and 7th grades, and increasing academic success from 4th grade to 8th grade.



MERAM MADE HISTORY IN BATTLE AGAINST PANDEMIC

Meram Municipality used a budget of 15 million TL in fighting against pandemic. The municipality was one of the first institutions which set up fidelity social support group and met 46 thousand demands. Meram Municipality textile mill produced 10 thousand disposable masks per day. From the very first day, about 6 thousand litres of sanitiser have been used in cleaning. We gave 9, 6 million TL support to our craftsmen and our people. 7, 3 million was social support and 2, 3 million was rental support. Also, 1000 TL was given to other occupational groups such as canteen keepers, bus service drivers, and coffee house owners. We dedicated our Tenzile Ana Guest House to our doctors and nurses. We also dedicated our social facilities to our filiation teams. We have never made compromises in our controls during the process."

MERAM BELEDİYESİ



ONE-THIRD OF MERAM, OUR WHOLE HEART IS WITH AGRICULTURE

The agriculture and farmer supports which started in 2019 also continued in 2020. The Mayor Kavuş stated that "we made section of agricultural services real. Our farmers became happier with machine and equipment support which were given by both our metropolitan municipality and vegetable seedling production facility."

The Konya News

56th Presidential Cycling Tour highlighted the beauties of Konya and Turkey

56th Presidential Cycling Tour, which is an important organization in cycling, thrilled everyone. The first two stages of the tour were held in Konya and it ended with Bodrum-Kuşadası stage. The winner is Jose Manuel Diaz Gallego from the team Delko



Konyasport applied TFF for the name of the Super League

Konyasport, which started to celebrate its 100th anniversary, wants the Super League named as "Süreyya Rıfat Ege". The green-whites applied TFF for this and the fans started to share posts on social media.

Fatih Özgökçen, the club chairman of İttifak Holding Konyasport, and the members of the board of management visited Nihat Özdemir, the president of TFF.

Fatih Özgökçen, the club chairman of Konyasport, expressed that in the 2021-2022 football season they would like the league to be named as Süreyya Ege and they made an application about it. If their application is accepted, it will be a great happiness for them.

THE NAME OF "SÜREYYA EGE" IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CELEBRATION MESSAGE

Fatih Özgökçen, the club chairman of Konyasport, made an emphasis on the foundation of the club in the 99th anniversary message. In his message on the website of the club he reminded that this club was firstly formed in the 22nd June 1922 by a PE teacher Süreyya Rıfat Ege and his friends and thanks to their great efforts.

Özgökçen expressed that "Throughout its history; Konyasport has gone through hoops but managed to survive. In 1965, our team was in the professional league. In 1981, it combined with Konya İdmanyurdu and has come to present day. He underlined that green and whites hasn't come to present day easily. He especially emphasized that the managers, footballers and fans from the very first day did everything they could do in order to keep the club alive make its name unforgettable.



Ömer Faruk Besli, the vice general manager of CEO Event which is the institution has been responsible for the organization of Turkey Presidential Cycling Tour in the last five years, made an analysis of the tour and uttered that "during the tour, we had different climates from Cappadocia to Kuşadası. For two months, we had to evaluate all details spontaneously. We constantly took care of different things such as putting up the tents, accreditation, accommodation and transportation. I would like to thank to my team and give my best wishes to each person one by one for their efforts. I hope we can organize this tour again next year and feel the proud of organizing such a tour again." Besli, drew the attention that during the tour they had 3 doctors for covid-19 and also said that "we took all needed precautions for hygiene. We didn't face with important cases except a few patients. So, I would also like to thank to our health care professionals."

ROLAND HOFFER: "TURKEY IS REALLY GOOD AT THESE ORGANIZATIONS"

Roland Hoffer, director of the 56th Presidential Cycling Tour assigned by The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), expressed that "I love Turkey and Turkish people very much. I try to learn more and more Turkish words. This is a different country. You also organize great events and have a difference. When we handle all the parts such as the hotels for accommodation, the organization, the race, and the hospitality together like the rings in the Olympics, there is the perfect job. I have had duties in Turkey for many times and I always leave Turkey with different feelings."

Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey, which is one of the most important traditional sports events, thrilled everyone this year once again. Spanish sportsman Jose Manuel Diaz Gallego has been the winner in the tour which started in Konya and ended in Kuşadası, Aydın. During the tour, the natural and historical beauties in Konya and Turkey came to the forefront. Also, Turkey has proven its experience in sports organizations one more time.

FIRST TWO STAGES IN KONYA

The 56th of Presidential Cycling Tour, which is among the international organizations of Turkey and which has been held by Turkish Cycling Federation since 1963, started in Konya. The first stage was planned to be held in Nevşehir, Cappadocia. But due to the harsh weather conditions, it has been cancelled and replaced. As a result, the first two stages held in Konya.

The first two stages were in Konya. The third leg started in Beyşehir district of Konya and presented the natural beauties of Konya to the sports lovers. People in Konya and other cycling lovers showed a great interest in the tour. The winner has been the Spanish sportsman Jose Manuel Diaz Gallego from the team Delko.

EROL KÜÇÜKBAKIRCI: "WE HAD 8 GREAT DAYS WITH 25 TEAMS AND WONDERFUL SPORTSPEOPLE"

Erol Küçükbakırcı, the president of Turkish Cycling Federation, expressed his feelings about the 56th Presidential Cycling Tour and said that "Despite the pandemic, we had 8 great days without any delays. After the unexpected harsh weather conditions in Cappadocia, we had a quick decision and started the stage in Konya without any problems. As a result, we finished the tour in Kuşadası. We are proud of the satisfaction of our guests here. We hope to meet again next year."



SERDAR GÜLER IN KONYASPORT

İttifak Holding Konyasport, which continues its preparations for the new season in Super League, chose Serdar Güler for the team, for 2+1 years. 29-year-old footballer was the right winger in Antalyasport last year. He will wear number 10 in Konyasport this year.

2 YEAR CONTRACT WITH SONER DIKMEN

Konyasport signed a two-year contract with 27-year-old Soner Dikmen, who played in Gençlerbirliği last year. Dikmen stated that "I know I have joined a big group and also I am very excited." He will wear the number 14 in green-whites.

Konyasport signed contract with 6 players



Mehmet Yenikaynak

Konyasport "the Centenarian"

There are very few teams which are older than a hundred years old in Turkey. Except the so-called big three "Beşiktaş, Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe, Ankaragücü, Altay, Vefa, Beykoz, Anadolu Üsküdar and Küçükçekmece teams have been founded over a hundred years ago. Now, Konyasport will write its name among these teams. Konyasport, one of the biggest values of our city, was founded 99 years ago and the green-whites will celebrate its 100th anniversary in the next season.

I would like to mention about the periods of the team between its foundations up to now. A brand new team was founded under the presidency of Süreyya Rıfat Ege, the P.E teacher in Konya Boys' High School on 22 June 1922. The names of the Anatolian football unions, which became a new team in Turkey, were named Gençlerbirliği, which means teams that bring young people together with the names of the cities. The footballers from Konya met in Gençlerbirliği. The team with black and white colours had to have a symbol and it became a sharp-eyed black eagle.

Konya Gençlerbirliği played football against high school teams for a year. However, they had a difficult rival in July in 1923 and Konya İdmanyurdu was founded. They used a big and white star as a symbol to show how they shine against Konya Gençlerbirliği. They carried the star on their chests against the eagle. Their uniforms were generally plain green and the short form of the name of the team as K.İ.Y was written on their uniforms.

The love for football increased and people started to have the feeling of being a supporter. Gençlerbirliği, İdmanyurdu and high school teams played against each other until 1929. Meanwhile, a team called Selçuksport, which would be mentioned for years, was founded. However, the blow of fanaticism started to be felt in 1940s. 1960s were the years when the fate of the football changed in Anatolia. The football federation, under the presidency of Orhan Şeref Apak, founded two professional football leagues with 13 teams in 1964. Apak, wanted two teams from Konya to play in this league and he suggested managers of the two biggest teams in the city to unite. Konya Gençlerbirliği held a congress with the support of the federation and changed its name as Konyasport. With the joining of Çimentosport and Meramsport, Konyasport gained more power and started to play in the minor league in 1965. As Konyasport played in the professional league, the football fans in the city started to show more interest into black and whites.

In the first years of the minor league, Konyasport had some troubles and although it has self-sacrificing amateur footballers, they couldn't handle it anymore and relegated into a sub-league in 1968 in which İdmanyurdu was playing. In those years two teams were both professional and would play one against another. New sparkles were born from the ashes of the eternal rivalry. The city was divided into two and the eagle and the star started to compete to the death. That ruined the family, friend and business partners' relationships. This deadly rivalry increased until 1981 in which two clubs joined. After the coup d'état on the 12th September, the 2nd army commander Bedrettin Demirel started an initiative to bring two clubs together. Soon, they succeeded to reconcile and the new club was born named as Konyasport to represent the city. İdmanyurdu's demand was accepted about the colours of the club and black and white era closed. After that, green and white flags started to be used. The symbol of the club was decided as sharp-eyed and double-headed eagle in green and white instead of the star.

Konyasport fans defended that under the symbol either 1922 or 1965 should be written to remind the long history of two teams. However, İdmanyurdu made them accept the union date as the foundation date. So, the legend was officially born in 1981. After 6 years of union, Konyasport became a champion in its 22nd year. After this success, the Anatolian Eagle was in the first league.

Konyasport has had ups and downs through the seasons. In the general meeting on the 3rd October in 2016, the debates ended in the light of official documents and the foundation date was registered as the 22nd June 1922.