Objective
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The Konya News

Monthly

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To Stop the Dependence on Foreign Sources on Meat

Continued on Page 15



The number of employment in Çelikkayalar increased to 1200

Continued on Page 14



Tourism like a Flower: TRAVEL TO TRUST

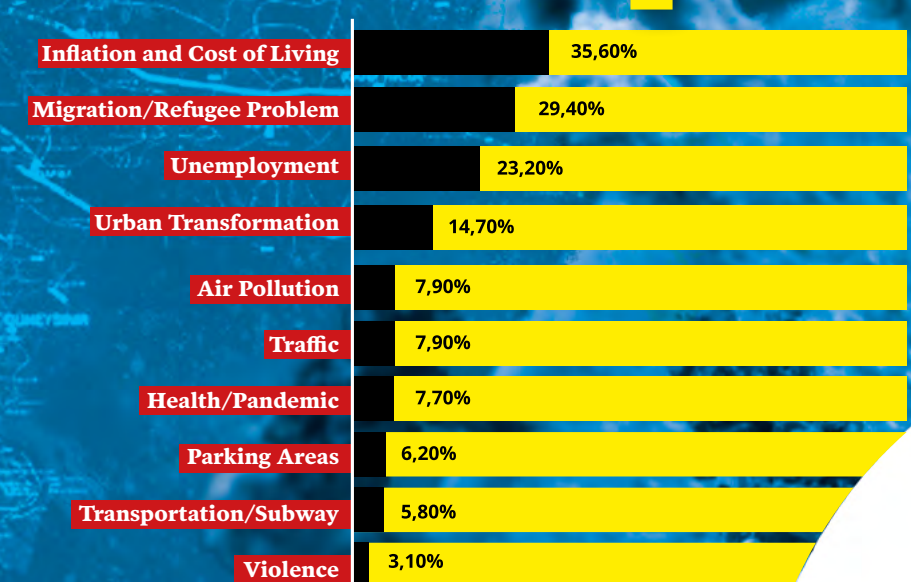
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According to the Public Opinion Research Report by DOU Strategic Studies Center(DOUSSC);

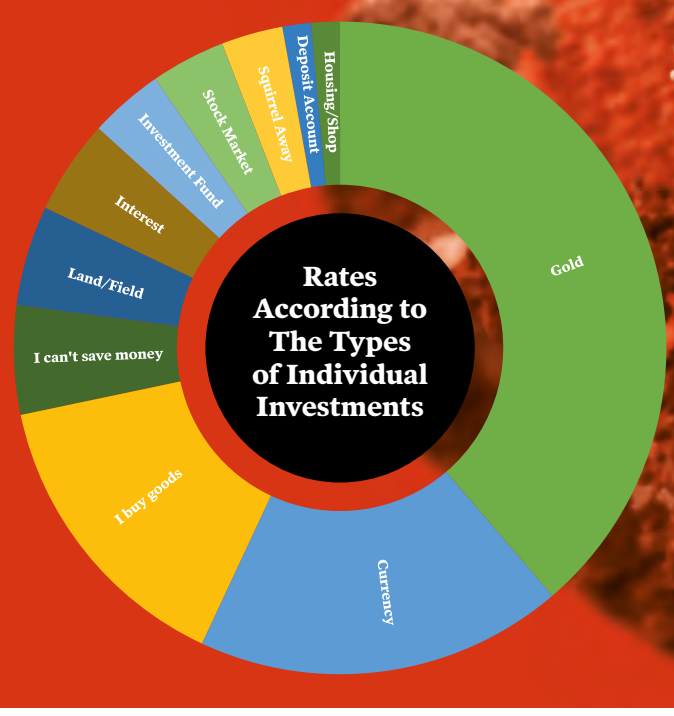
Konya's perception of "problem" has been updated

In the research, the second place on the list of problems in Konya was the refugees living in the city with 29.40% and their number reached over 100 thousand. The unemployment problem brought about by the economic depression caused by the pandemic ranked third in the survey with 23.20%. Problems arising from urban transformation carried out through municipalities took the 4th place with 14.70%.

Participants in the research also expressed their opinions on the general course of Konya. While the rate of those who were satisfied with the general course of Konya was at 25.2%, the rate of those who were worried about the developments in the course was 20.2%. In the research, it was also seen that citizens who want to protect their savings from market risk prefer gold as a safe harbor in the savings habits section. It was observed that those who want to turn their savings into profitable investments have preferred real estate and foreign exchange purchases, after gold.

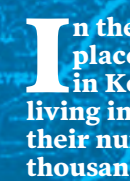


The entire Comprehensive Opinion Survey can be viewed at



STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER

According to the research report, the biggest problem of Konya was the cost of living and inflation with 35.60%. According to the latest Konya public opinion survey conducted by DOU Strategic Studies Center (DOUSSC), Konya's problems have been updated with the pandemic



Kerem İŞKAN
Executive Editor

Compathy

Humanity is feeling an interesting compathy nowadays with the pandemic. All over the world, people are having similar fears, restrictions and lives. With this pandemic, the level of being rich or poor is not determined by money anymore. It is determined by the sizes of the houses people live in.

It is not known that whether loneliness and boredom turned humanity to themselves, but, like a strict, furious and cruel teacher, the pandemic has given people lots of common emotions as well as common fears.

The people all around the world are looking forward to that day, just like they are waiting a festival day, in which all the restrictions and limitations will be removed; A world without a pandemic.

This pandemic has taught to humanity infinite doctrines and hard lessons and it made hygiene permanent which may be impossible to do all over the world for centuries. Keeping your personal hygiene has been the most important thing for billions of people in daily routines.

Individual loneliness of people with developing technology has been removed and people have rapidly learnt friendship and their need to share and their need to each other in difficult days.

Our wish is to remember and to learn a lesson from pandemic when we accidentally find a forgotten mask in one of the pockets of our coats or outfits that we will wear many years later. Our wish is to remember the compathy of this painful pandemic lesson during which everyone has been seen in one single class with their pains, losses and friendships.

And this compathy should be in such a form that the people should try to insistently dictate their wishes to their governments that they would like to live in this world like a single big family in peace, with health and friendship; not according to the borders in the maps but according to the geography in the hearths. All over the world, the hope for peace has gained, again, its importance against a common enemy.

The pandemic has given huge damages to humanity who brutally fought against each other in the past and made them gather within the same guard lines.

There have been a lot of losses of us but it is seen that at the end of this war we will be able to regain our HUMANITY.

Our priorities and targets in our lives have already changed...



Selçuk ÖZTÜRK wrote for **The Konya News**

Continued on Page 17

Distance Education Centers of Selçuklu Starts

Historical City Walls come to light

Karatay Collected 1.5 Tones of Waste Medicine

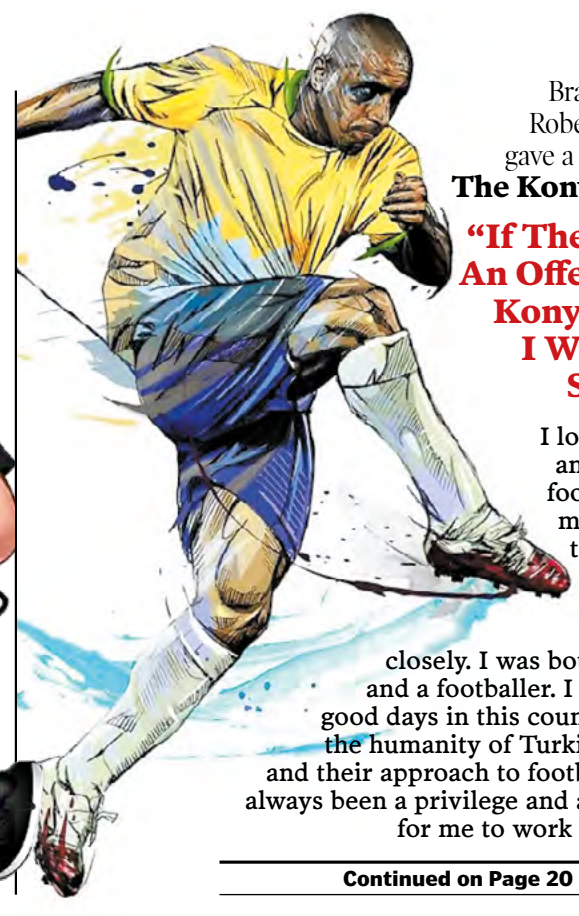
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Promoting Konya Cuisine to the world



Hüseyin Güvenç, born in 1977, in Konya Ereğli, is a good Konya Cuisine expert. Beside his successful education life in his childhood, he became aware of his talent in the kitchen and developed a passion for cooking. Nowadays, with his brand "Güvenç Konyalı", he is promoting Konya Cuisine to the world in Istanbul.

Continued on Page 18



Brazilian Star Roberto Carlos gave a speech for **The Konya News**

"If There Was An Offer From Konyasport, I Wouldn't Say No"

I love Turkey and Turkish football very much. I had the chance to know Turkish football closely. I was both a coach and a footballer. I really had good days in this country. I love the humanity of Turkish people and their approach to football. It has always been a privilege and an honour for me to work in Turkey.

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Turkey's first national,

'Grenade Launcher Drone Songar'

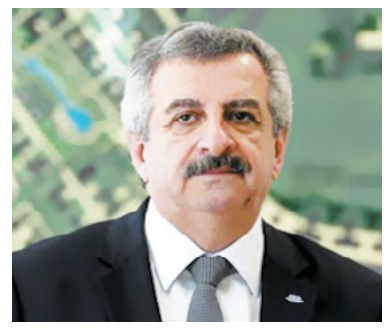
SONGAR, originally developed by the defense industry company Asisguard, entered the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces as the first domestic and national armed drone.

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530 Women's Cooperatives Founded

Gonca Yılmaz Batur, Deputy Minister of Commerce, expressed that "Women's Cooperatives" have been founded in accordance with the demands of women entrepreneurs, and there have been 530 Women's Cooperatives within the scope of Ministry of Commerce.

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Konya is enhancing Turkey's Machinery

Hasan Büyükdede, the Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology, expressed that as a person grew up in Konya, he is really pleased to observe the point where industry in Konya has reached.

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Anatolian Seljuk State that made Konya the Capital



KUTALMIŞOĞLU SÜLEYMANŞÂH PERIOD (1077-1086)

Süleymanşah, who was commissioned to conquer Anatolia by Melikşâh, captured all Anatolia throught İznik in a short time and established his state in 1077. Süleymanşah, who ruled Anatolia up to the Great Seljuk Sultan in Rey, Süleymanşah started to intervene in the internal affairs of Byzantium by taking advantage of the situation in Byzantium, and to support some emperors in the throne fights as a matter of policy. Meanwhile, he defeated the rebellion of his brother Mansur with the help of the force under the command of Emir Porsuk sent by Sultan Malikshah. In 1085, he took the Antakya Castle with a sudden attack. However, the conquest of Antakya caused a disagreement with the Syrian Seljuk Sultan Tutuş. Sultan Tutuş and his ally Artuk Bey defeated Süleymanşâh near Aleppo. Süleymanşâh committed suicide out of sadness (1086).

Süleymanşâh left the administration to one of his commanders, Ebu'l-Kasım in İznik, while he was on his Antakya expedition. After the death of Süleymanşah, Melikşâh, suspected of independent actions of Abu'l-Kasım, sent troops to Anatolia under the command of Porsuk and Emir Bozan. He was killed by Bozan despite asking for his forgiveness (1092). Kılıç Arslan, son of Süleymanşah, who was released upon the death of Sultan Melikşâh on the same dates, came to Anatolia and took the inheritance of his father (1092).

KILIÇ ARSLAN I (1092-1107)

After eliminating Çakan Bey (Çaka Bey), who had become very strong in the Aegean Region (1097),Kılıç Arslan went to Malatya and besieged there. However, in the meantime, hearing that the great Crusader army had come in Anatolia, he came near Iznik, but he withdrew to Anatolia against the superior Crusaders. Kılıç Arslan, who tried his luck again near Eskişehir, disturbed the Crusader army with guerrilla wars until they reached Antakya. Although the Crusaders suffered great casualties, they crossed Anatolia from one end to the other and took Antakya, Jerusalem and Urfa and established a kingdom, county and prenskeps there. Meanwhile, the Byzantines who followed the Crusaders managed to take the Western Anatolia, Black Sea and Mediterranean coastal areas under their control again.

Sultan Kılıç Arslan I, who had only Central Anatolia, brought the capital to Konya. Later, he moved through some cities in the Southeastern Anatolia region. That's why Mosul Atabeki Çavlı, Artuklu II-Gazi and Syrian Melik attacked Rıdvan Kılıç Arslan. Kılıç Arslan, who lost the war by the Habur River in Syria, drowned while crossing Habur (1107). Although his son Mes'ud succeeded him, his other brother Shahinshah did not recognize his reign. The fight for the throne lasted until 1116.

SULTAN MES'UD I (1116-1155)

Sultan Mes'ud had to recognize the sovereignty of Ahmed Gazi from Danismend at the beginning. However, after his death (1134) Mes'ud started to act independently. He tried to re-establish the Seljuk rule in Anatolia. However, the restarted Crusade (2nd Crusade) prevented this project. III. Sultan Mes'ud, who defeated the German forces from the Konrad administration near Ceyhan in 1147, Mas'ud, won a great victory by defeating the French army under Lui VII first in Yalvaç and then in Kazkbeli in the Western Taurus Mountains. Sultan Mes'ud, who also captured the Maraş-Elbistan sides, which were dominated by the Armenians, managed to stop the Byzantine Emperor Manuel Komnenos who came to Konya for a while. After his death, his son Sultan Kılıç Arslan II replaced his father's throne.

SULTAN KILIÇ ARSLAN II (1155-1192)

Sultan Kılıç Arslan II fought against his brother, Yağıbasan of Danişmend and Byzantine Emperor Manuel Komnenos in the first years of his reign. He ensured unity in Anatolia by taking advantage of Byzantium's occupation in the west. After the death of his biggest rival Nureddin Mahmud Zengî (1174), he ruled the whole Anatolia except for Western Anatolia and Marmara. Byzantine Emperor Manuel Komnenos took action with the great army in order to eliminate the danger of Kılıç Arslan. Sultan Kılıç Arslan II defeated the Byzantine army in Yalvaç-Karamıkbeli in the war, which Byzantine and European historians call the "Miryekefalon" disaster. This great victory has a great importance in Turkification of Anatolia. From this date on, the Byzantine will no longer be able to pursue an attack policy against the Turks. With this victory, the regions beyond Western Anatolia and Eskişehir were ready for the Turkish conquest. Turkish armies captured numerous cities as far as the Aegean Sea in a short time.

Towards the end of his reign, Sultan Kılıç Arslan divided his country among his 11 sons, following the old Turkish traditions; however, violent struggles began between his sons.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Crusade had begun and Frederick Barbarossa had entered Anatolia with a large army. However, the death of the German Emperor in the Silifke Stream saved Anatolian Turks from a new disaster. While there were fights for throne in the country, Kılıç Arslan died (1192).

GIYASEDDIN KEYHÜSREV I (1192-1211)

Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev, who ascended the throne after his father, was seeking help by going to Byzantium upon the pressure of his brother Süleymanşâh; however, he could not receive the support he asked for. Meanwhile, at the end of the 4th Crusade, the Latines captured Istanbul. Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev I passed through the Anatolia. . On the same dates, upon the death of his brother, the Seljuk emirs invited him to the throne. During his reign, he defeated Alexios III, the Emperor of Pontus (Trabzon) Greek State, captured Antalya in 1207, defeated Armenian King Leon II and prevented the Ayyubids from spreading to Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia. He was martyred in the Battle of Alaşehir with Iznik Greek Emperor Laskaris (1211).

İZZEDDIN KEYKÂVUS I (1211-1220)

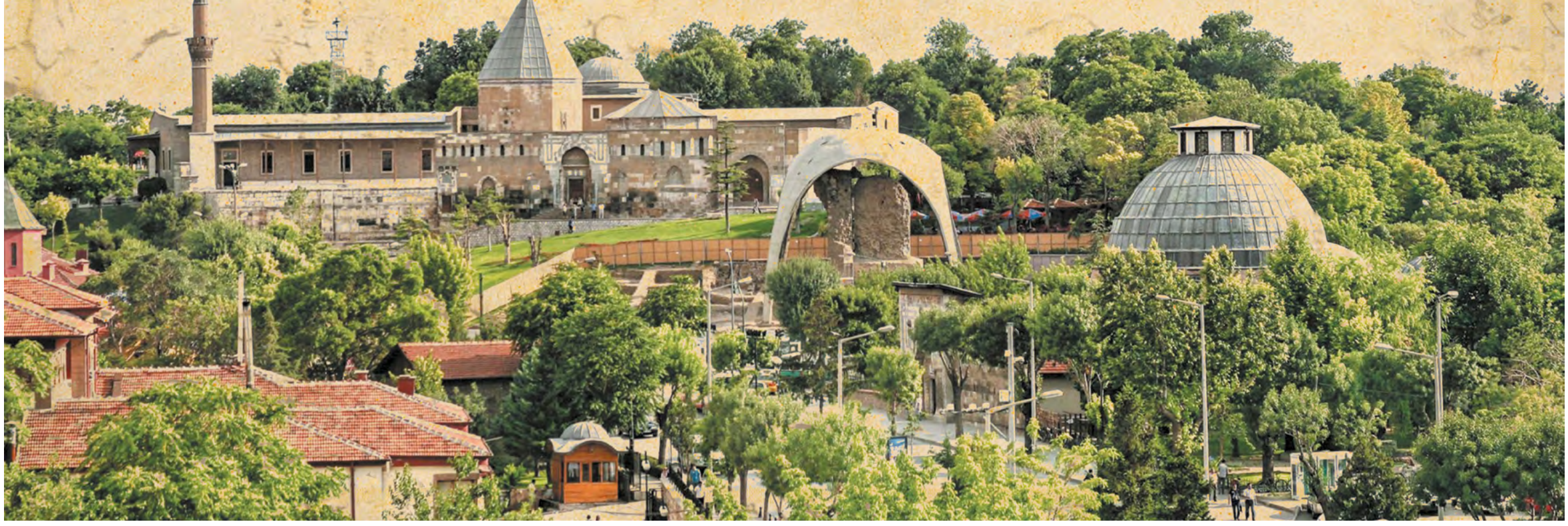
The most important event of the period is the capture of Sinop in 1214. Izzeddin Keykavus reinforced the Seljuk rule in Anatolia.

ALÂADDIN KEYKÛBÂD I (1220-1237)

Alaaddin Keykûbâd, who ascended the throne upon the death of his brother, is one of the greatest of the Anatolian Seljuk Sultans. Sultan Alaaddin Keykûbâd, who realized the Turkish unity in Anatolia to a great extent, took the Kolonoros Castle near Antalya and gave it his name (Alaiye, later Alanya). Sultan Alaaddin Keykûbâd, who sent a fleet to Suğdak, an important trade center in Crimea, with ships built in shipyards in Sinop, captured this place. The Kipchak country recognized the sovereignty of the Sultan (1226). He imposed a tax on the Armenian King. He waged war against Harezmşah Celaleddin, who was fleeing from the armies of Genghis Khan and coming to Anatolia in order to capture these lands, but Alaaddin defeated him in the Battle of Yassicemen in 1230. Harezmşah Celâleddin escaped but was killed around Van. Keykûbâd had castles repaired to secure the eastern borders and reinforced them in terms of soldiers and ammunition, so he formed a large chain of defense in the east. In addition, he made a treaty by sending an envoy to the Mongol Khan Ögedey and thus he protected Anatolia from the encroachment of the Mongols. He got poisoned and died in 1237.

GIYASEDDIN KEYHÜSREV II (1237-1246)

Gıyaseddin was an inadequate ruler. In the beginning, he made many mistakes by being under the influence of one of his commanders, Saadeddin Köpek. One of his mistakes was the murder of Kayır Han,one of the Khwarezm Beys under the service of the Seljuks. This incident caused the Khwarezm troops to revolt and the state struggled with this for a long time. Although he later killed Saadeddin Köpek, the rebellion of Baba İshak (1239), which exploded afterwards, shook the state. Following the events in Anatolia carefully, the Mongolian Governor of Azerbaijan Baycu Noyan entered Anatolia and defeated the Seljuk army in a place called Kösedağ in July 1243. This war caused the collapse of the Anatolian Seljuk State.



Demirkapı Tunnel between Antalya and Konya

Comes into service at the end of 2022



80 percent of Demirkapı Tunnel is completed. The entire project, where the last 600 meters of the second tube is left, is planned to be delivered at the end of 2022. There is 600 meters left to see the light in the second tube of the Demirkapı Tunnel, which is being built in the form of a 5-kilometer double tube in Akdağ in the İbradı district of Antalya. According to the information received from the General Directorate of Highways, the construction of the Demirkapı Tunnel, which started with a single tube in 2013 between İbradı and Derebucak district of Konya, is going on with the construction of the second tube which started in 2017.

In the project carried out by the Antalya 13th Regional Directorate of Highways, physical studies are coming to an end. The single tube of Demirkapı Tunnel, consisting of 5 thousand meters of double tube, was finished at the final concrete coating level. Excavation-supporting and coating concrete work continues in the second tube.

In the 67-kilometer road works designed in connection with the tunnel, 41 kilometers of divided road, 28 kilometers of hot-bituminous mixture and 13 kilometers of surface coating, were completed in accordance with their standard. Bituminous hot mix coated split road works continue between 0-16 and 33-39 kilometers of the road. In the 12-kilometer service road project, which has started to work around Demirkapı for vehicles carrying hazardous materials, earthworks are also continuing.

80 percent of the physical work in Demirkapı Tunnel has been completed. With the commissioning of the project, the shortest route between Antalya and Konya will be provided. Comfortable transportation facilities established in the region, which is of great importance for tourism with its historical, cultural and natural beauties, will bring more local and foreign tourists with it.

In addition, travel times will decrease in traffic, especially in the summer months, and will save time and fuel by increasing road safety. The drivers traveling on the Konya-Beyşehir-Derebucak-Gembos route will pass through the Gembos and Eynif plains and reach Antalya after the tunnel.

Site workers feel the temperature change at the exit from the tube, whose excavation support has been completed and the concrete production has been completed to a great extent. People who cross the snow-covered northern slope of the mountains that separate the Mediterranean and Central Anatolia to the southern slope in 4 minutes and see the green texture, witness the climate change (transition from the continental climate to the Mediterranean climate) in a short time. While there is rain or snow on the Konya side, the other slope of Akdağ can be sunny and hot. Those traveling through the tunnel, which will be passed in 4 minutes at a speed of 80 kilometers when opened to traffic, will soon feel the difference in climate.

Burkay Gökbaş, Road Construction Control Chief in the 13th Regional Directorate of Highways, stated that "the new route between Konya and Antalya will be gained with the project. The project that will bring Central Anatolia to the Mediterranean will provide a comfortable transportation. It is the shortest way between Konya and Antalya. Our goal is to complete the excavation support and lining concrete works in the tunnel at the end of the year. Next year, we will complete the electronic-electromechanical works in the tunnel. We plan to open the tunnel to service at the end of 2022.

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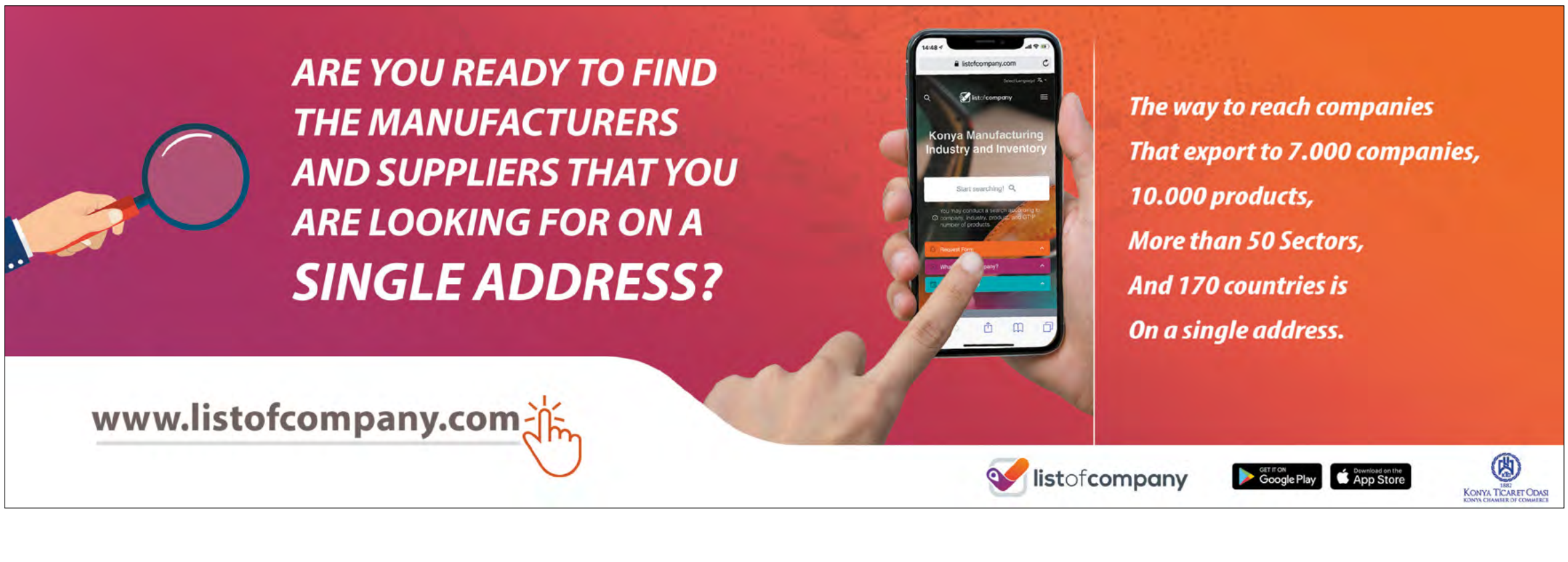


A legendary taste; Konya Tandoori Pie

Some entrepreneurs try to continue this forgotten tradition in the tandooris they have built up

Muhammet Artık, with his wife and children, in the Dere neighbourhood of Konya, bakes and sells this legendary taste in his house

In nearly all of the old Konya houses, there were tandooris. At least once a week, bread was baked in these tandooris in order to meet the needs. When people fired tandooris, beside bread, different meals were also cooked. Especially “tandoori pie” (a special kind of pastry with various ingredients) was baked to eat freshly. The ingredients were usually cheese and meat inside and butter on top. This taste has been missed by people who are fond of eating delicious food. Nowadays, although there have been tandooris in the gardens of detached houses, the places which bake tandoori pie is almost vanished. Some entrepreneurs try to continue this forgotten tradition in the tandooris they have built up. The bakeries produce daily tandoori bread and the people who don’t like the standard bread come to these bakeries to buy this traditional bread. When they come to buy bread, they taste the tandoori pies which they have missed a lot. Muhammet Artık, with his wife and children, in the Dere neighbourhood of Konya, bakes and sells this legendary taste in his house. While stating that the demand for his bread and pies is very high, Artık says that “this is a very delicious taste, but at the same time it is hard to bake taste of Konya. We both bring the people in Konya and the visitors to Konya together with this taste and make a contribution to our family budget.”



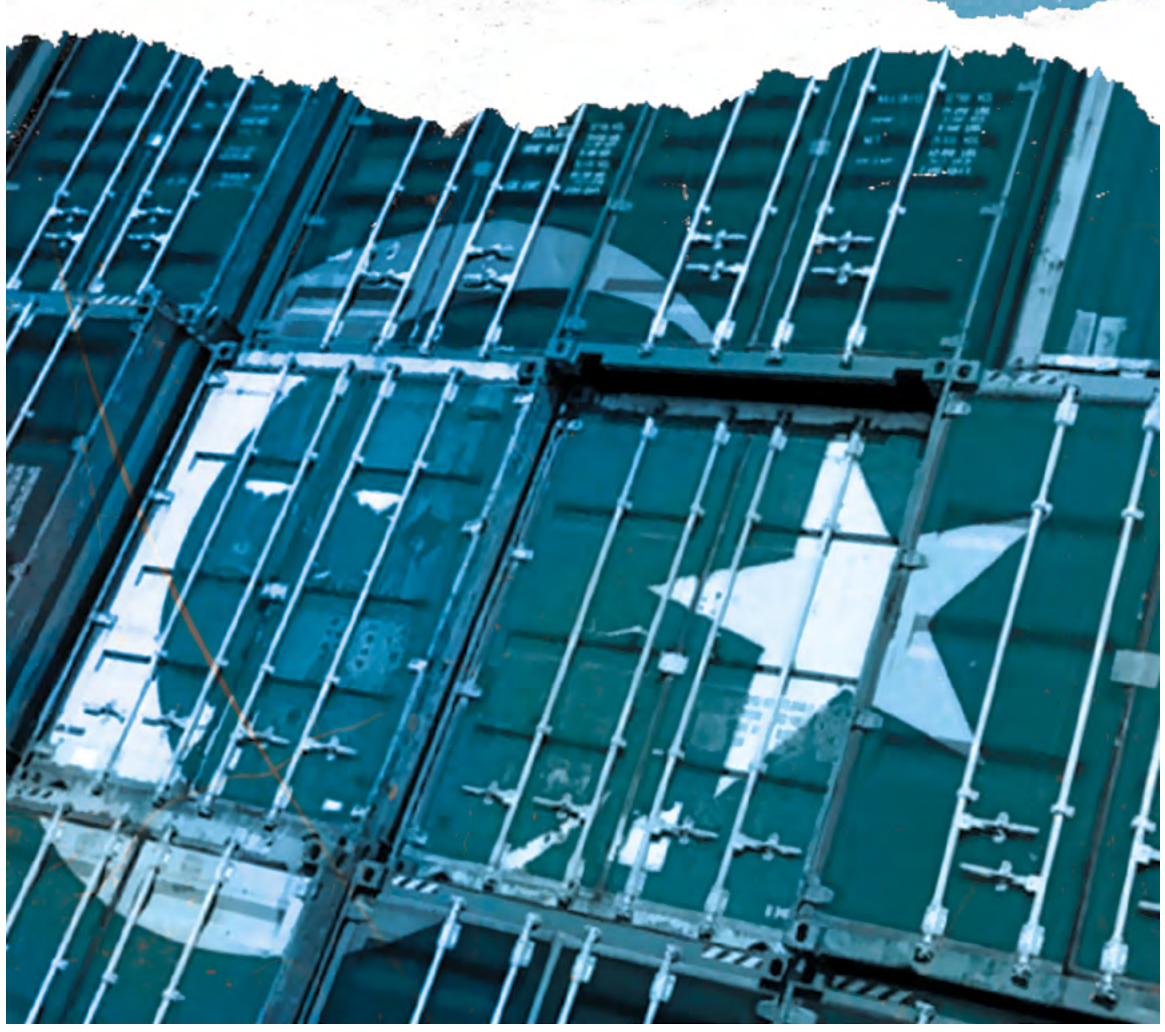
Among the Top 10 Cities in Exports

Konya, with the 1,47 % share of the export rate, is among the top 10 cities in Turkey.

Selçuk Öztürk, Head of Konya Chamber of Commerce (KCC) evaluated the February 2021 temporary foreign trade data which was declared by Turkey, Exporters Assembly (TIM). Öztürk stated that "Turkey's exports in February rose 9.6 percent to 16 billion 12 million dollars.

Konya's monthly exports increased by 21.85 percent in the same period and became 213 million 330 thousand dollars.

Öztürk stated that "Konya continues its rapid rise in exports. "Konya's export increase is at the level of 21.85 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. According to these figures, with its 1.47 percent share, Konya is among the top 10 exporting cities in Turkey. Our exports increased by 4.80 percent compared to the previous month and also, in the first two months it increased by 20.5 percent to 416.895.203 dollars. The rapid rise we achieved in the first two months of 2021 shows that we are progressing in our targets. . We will continue to work in cooperation with our exporters. "



Konya Sugar, Seydibey Agricultural Products Integrated Plant

sells products to *international fast food chains*

Erman Gümüş, the Director of Seydibey Agricultural Products Processing Integrated Plant, stated that "we are a factory which supplies products to many international fast food chains and supermarkets with the brand Pratiko"



Erman Gümüş, the Director of Seydibey Agricultural Products Processing Integrated Plant, an institution of Konya Sugar, expressed that with their brand Pratiko, they are a supplier of products to many international fast food chains and supermarkets.

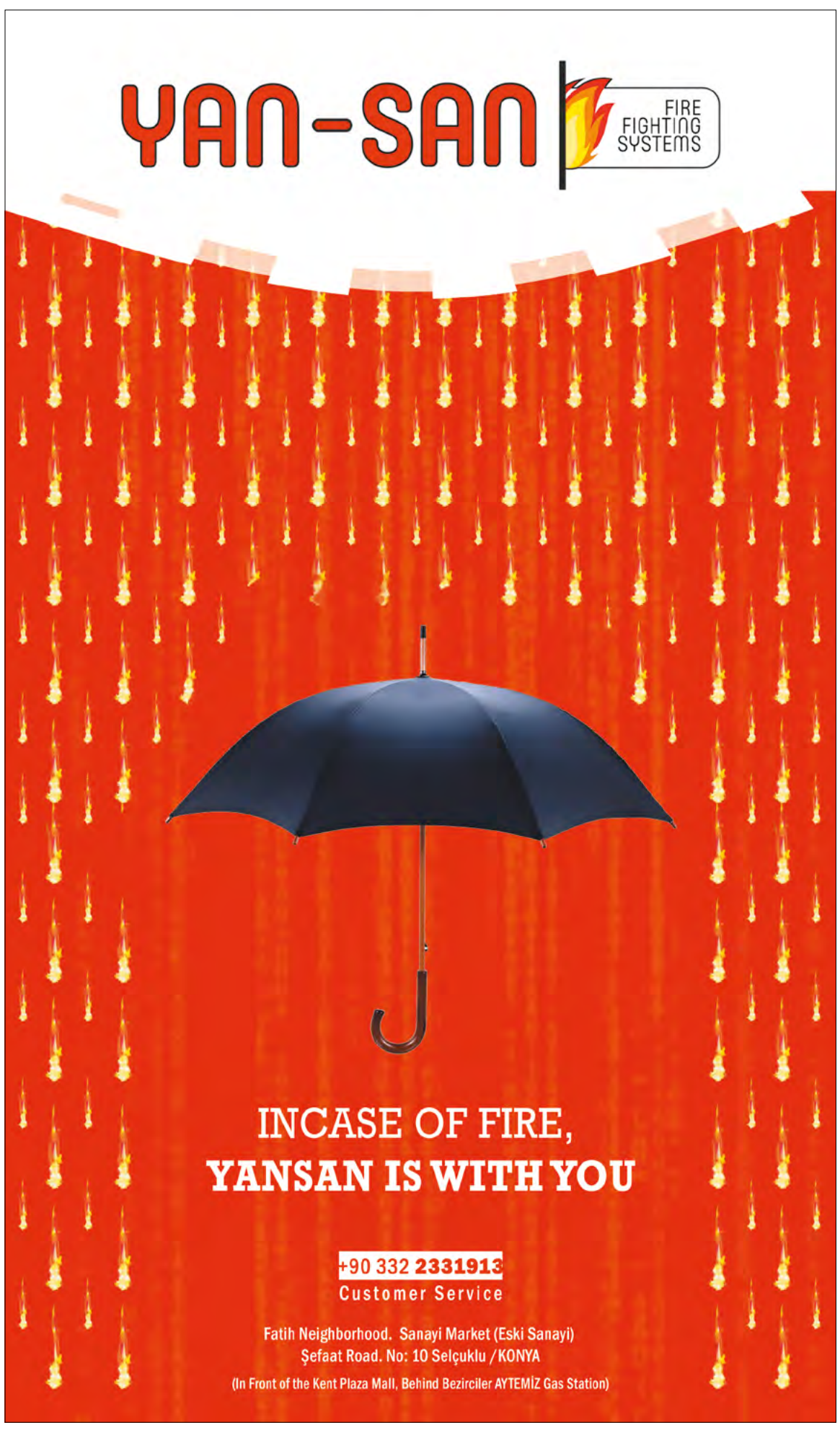
Seydibey Agricultural Products Integrated Plant produces frozen potatoes, onion rings and tater tots and its storehouses and production areas are introduced to the press.

In his statement, Gümüş, said that more than 100 thousand tons of potatoes have been produced in Konya with the investment of integrated plant.

While stating that Konya is in the second place in the agriculture of potatoes in Turkey, Gümüş said that:

"Seydibey, has rapidly become the leader of the sector in 2 years since its entrance to the sector in 2008. Today, it is leading the sector with its 25% market share. We are a factory which supplies products to many international fast food chains and supermarkets with the brand Pratiko. In 2013, Seydibey increased its capacity by 125% and became the first in the sector by establishing the first frozen potatoes line in Turkey. In 2018, onion rings and tater tots lines were increased by 150%. This line has a production capacity of 5 thousand tons and it supplies products to the international fast food chains and supermarkets. In this area, it is the leader in Turkey."

Gümüş also expressed that 80 thousand tons solid waste processed in the plant have been transformed into 10 million cubic meters gas and 19 million kilowatt hour electricity and this electricity is enough to meet the needs of lightening of Seydişehir and Beyşehir districts yearly.





Remigration Increased Thanks to KPP Support

KÖSİP support of the KPP Administration becomes a lifeline for the people of the region. With grant support for pond construction and closed irrigation system conversions, while new areas are being brought into agriculture, young people who migrate for economic reasons are returning to their villages.

Mahmut Sami Şahin, Head of Konya Plain Project Regional Development Administration, who examines the project sites on site with the principle of effective and efficient use of public investments, stated that "We supply water to the local people with the projects supported by the administration. In case of the situation caused by climate change, various studies will be carried out to reduce the impact of drought by applying new irrigation technologies in order to use water more effectively and efficiently in agriculture. He pointed out the significant changes experienced in the lives of farmers from Yunuslar and Damlapınar with a total of 3.590.000 TL financial support. Thanks to the construction of the pond and the support of the dam on the stream, an irrigation capacity that will cover an area of approximately 180 hectares was revealed. The agricultural areas that could not be planted before have gained water. The local people, who mainly do dry farming, can now grow products such as vegetables and fruits, which have economic value, thanks to closed irrigation systems. Such projects provide income and employment to the people of the local people in a very short time."

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Bale Collecting and
Loading Machine

The Konya News

Konya is enhancing Turkey's Machinery

Hasan Büyükdede, the Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology, expressed that as a person has grown up in Konya, he is really pleased to observe the point where industry in Konya has reached. While saying the machinery sector in the city is going through a huge alteration, he also stated that "our people in machinery sector in Konya are going through a serious structuring process at a middle-high quality level. The city has become hard-to-compete with its tempo in prices, speed and globalisation. They have made other people in the sector in Turkey think that how Konya is producing this product at this price. The machinery sector in Konya is living an interesting process in terms of production rate and technique and I think it is a good thing."



Büyükdede pointed that the industrialists in Konya are lucky to reach industrial zones and they are also working in order to create new industrial zones. He said that "the businesses in small industrial areas are becoming larger industrial businesses today. They are competing at enlarging their areas. In Konya there is a formation that invests here and uses the automatization well. Besides, Aselsan Konya Weapon Systems Factory has created a new atmosphere in the city. I hope, this place will bring in Konya a new place in aircraft industry, aerospace industry and weapon industry."



Assoc. Dr. Yusuf SAYIN

"WESTLESSNESS" / "BATIS*IZ*LAŞMA"

The Munich Security Conference and the Report (2020) throws a spotlight on the phenomenon of "Westlessness". Westlessness define a widespread feeling of discomfort and restlessness in the face of growing uncertainty about the future and destiny of the West. A multitude of current security challenges seem to be directly related to the much-described disintegration and retreat of the West. Additionally, the understanding of what it actually means to be part of the West seems to have been lost in Western societies. It remains unclear to what extent the West will find a strategy and common response to an emerging era of great power rivalry and therein lies perhaps the greatest strategic challenge for the transatlantic partnership (https://securityconference.org, 14.03.2021).

Since many years, the West was dominating and representing every kind of values from culture to art, from development to civilization and political and economic unity. Its basic motto was 'unity in diversity'. To mean the West was to the most developed civilization as a role model for all nations of the world. To be a civilized and developed state or nation for the world, it was to follow the footsteps of the West and to be like what it is. With the power that the West takes from the world's belief and opinion against the West in positive manner, the West has been dominated all processes related to the world and tried to consolidate its values, culture, economy, politics, people, etc. from its sovereignty and domination on the world and its people. But in the meantime when we have come, it becomes clear what it is not like that and the West starts to experience a reverse process: Westlessness.

What was the Westernism or Westernization? It was "shaped according to Western forms, emerged with the discourse of progress and the idea of unity of and tries to achieve secularization in religion" (https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/877918, 15.03.2021). In addition, modernization, secularization, progress, development, industrialization and so on; all of these things always meant 'Westernization'. However, today the West forgets its own identity and main discourse which make the West westernization. It began to ignore the Western values and behave in a disrespectful manner to all nations outside the West. The facts of the productive personality of the West in Islamophobia, Otherization, ethnocentrism, and xenophobia; additionally, its entering into the wars of Afghanistan and Iraq, which was included under the alliance of NATO and the US; the silence of the West against the crises of humanity like in Syria, Rohingya, Yemen, etc... all of them become downfall and collapse signs of the West. Today in when we experience the West and "the rest" (for the Westerners) should find an exit way through the glass bell in which they are unwillingly and should prefer their own choices by themselves without interference of another power. They should establish their own world that is completely original. Particularly the West has to build its 'new' and 'specific' identity and ontological existence not on the other's suffers and future expectations but their own (Westerner) people's destiny and will. The fact of Westlessness is also an opportunity for the West to set its own future and it is a chance for 'the rest' world outside the West to rebuild their existence without the Westernizing intervening and the tyrannical authority of the West...

The environment of the city changes with industrial transformation

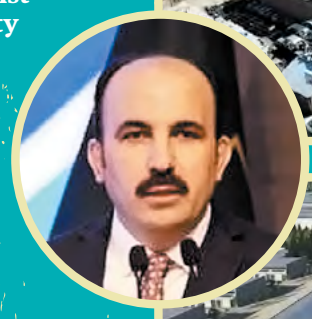
The old industrial zone and Karatay industrial zone, which lead to environmental and noise pollution, are being moved from the centre to the out of the city

Konya with its history is a destination for both domestic and foreign tourists and now it will be a more environmentalist and modern city without noise. Thousands of renter tradesmen will have the opportunity of owning a shop with this change.

The new industrial zone, which is one of the biggest industrial transformation projects in Turkey that will be carried out with the cooperation of Konya Metropolitan Municipality and TOKİ, will be built over 2 million 80 thousand m². Murat Kurum, the Minister of Environment and Urbanisation, attended the ground-breaking ceremony of new industrial zone and stated that the old industrial zone, which is unlike to the city's a thousand year historic formation and spoils the urban skyline of the city, gained a modern look with this giant project.

WE ARE BRINGING A NEW INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN THE CITY







Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of the Konya Metropolitan Municipality, expressed that they will place 2 thousand 690 tradesmen in the new industrial zone after it is completed. He stated that "2 thousand 690 tradesmen, who are working as auto mechanics in the old and Karatay industrial zones, will be placed in the new industrial zone. Especially our renters are becoming owners. We are bringing in a huge transformation with the cooperation of Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation, TOKİ and Konya Metropolitan Municipality. I would like to thank to The President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Murat Kurum, the Minister of Environment and Urbanisation for their supports in our project. The new industrial zone will be established over 2 million 80 thousand m² area and will include 2 thousand 690 workplaces and 134 commercial shops. We are bringing in a new industrial zone for Konya with its parks, green areas and training areas.



Prof. Dr. Bayram SADE
KTO Karatay University
Rector

Rising Preference of International Students: Turkey

At the end of the last year, the President of Turkish Higher Education Council Mr. Yekta Saraç made a statement that received wide coverage in the press. According to 2018 data, with the international student numbers of 2018 in higher education, Turkey entered the top 10 in the world. We believe that the number of international students, which was 125,138 then, has exceeded 200,000 today. Still, the 2018 data alone is of great value. The transfer of power brought by the New Council of Higher Education and providing universities with a vaster range of action was effective in this success. Likewise, the incentives offered by the state to universities to promote themselves abroad, of course, also played a role. However, considering that the incoming students are also interested in Turkish education instead of an education in Western languages, which have become their official language, it is perceived that all these are insufficient to explain the momentum alone.

The real reason for this success, which has been achieved with little effort, is that Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, even our expatriates have been waiting for us for a long time. We know very well that our universities in total have spent very little money compared to Western universities for international promotion. It is worth remembering a Kenyan journalist Aggrey Mutambo said, "Give us a hand." to our President recently. Our only bond with Kenya is the Ottoman rule lasted for about 5 years at the end of the 16th century. Apart from that, we don't maintain a significant relationship with this country. We should equally consider what African experts care about the way we cooperate: An emphasis on local values. The story of Portugal, the UK, or France in Africa did not start by invitation like ours, and we know what they have done.

When we have a close look at the approach of Western countries that are advanced in the scientific field in attracting international students, we see that the goals of talent hunting and financial interest come to the fore. Whereas Turkey is concerned, we encounter a dimension that can not be measured or expressed with numbers: The Geography in the Hearts. The motive that determines our approach is free from ambitions and interests; it is the desire to meet our brothers to help them. How many nations would have such a pure purpose?

We are color-blind, as Malik Al-Shahbaz (Malcolm X) said. A large number of international students on our campus are African, and all of them are popular. These young people do not feel bad because of their skin color in Turkey. Things do not happen to them that will cause them to feel pitiable. Some of them wanted to study Nursing even though they could enter the Faculty of Medicine. Listen to their reason: There are doctors in our country, but there are not enough nurses. There is also a future pilot who said "I chose Konya for its mosques."

While opening our doors to these young people is a source of joy in itself, we are happier when we think ahead. Those who return to their countries will take us with them. They will carry the altruism of Anatolia, everything we can teach and share, to their country. One of them studied in Turkey and became a Minister of State in his country. He is sending us greetings and inviting us there. This means the land of those with a broad heart expands.

KTO Karatay University accepts 100% and 50% scholarship international students to all departments. The online scholarship exam we have been performing for the last two years has also dismissed the problems that originated from flight bans introduced with the pandemic. With the KTO Karatay Hybrid education model, we have also eliminated the problems in education.

The fact that the online exam is not widespread is still an important problem despite our country's success in recruiting international students. A student who wants to study in a university in the USA can apply to universities in this country by taking the SAT. He can attend the test at the examination centers in his own country, maybe six different times a year. However, a vast majority of our universities either prefer doing these tests on their campuses which require students to get a visa and pay for expensive flight tickets or these universities send their staff abroad to carry out the exam with classical methods. Both methods are inadequate to boost the number of international students in Turkey. Thanks to the online examination system the number of our international students rose to 500 in the last two years, and 64 countries are represented on our campus. Our international-local student ratio is far above Turkey's average, and it is more than 5%.

Much will change when Konya discovers the possibilities it has.

Though Konya does not offer rich opportunities in social terms like Istanbul and Ankara, the city already has many things that an international student would want. An international student first seeks peace. Konya is a real student city in this regard. We have not witnessed universities, foundations, and associations in Konya turning their backs on students. Living expenses in Konya are much more reasonable for a student than in Istanbul and Ankara. We are also a city wealthy in culture, and our kitchen possesses the characteristics of a palace cuisine. Local transportation in the city is easy, fast, and common. The most important of all is the work experience international students can gain in Konya. Only in very few cities of the world, biscuit, F1 simulator, shoe and food factories can be found so developed or widespread. If we realize the opportunities that we can offer these students to gain work experience and bring them together with these opportunities, the economy of the city will benefit in the long run.

Indisputably a techno polis



Kutlu Karavelioğlu, the Chairman of Machinery Exporters' Association and Deputy Chairman of TIM, expressed that machinery sector is the one that provides competition in industry. He also said that the place of machinery sector has been rising in Turkey. While emphasizing Konya is indisputably a techno polis in this sense, he stated that "the determination of struggle of cities like Konya is unique. Konya is indisputably a techno polis. Approximately, 60% of 2, 2 billion dollars export are provided from machinery, automotive and defence industry. Today, Konya supplies 13% of agriculture and forestry machinery, 21% of food industry machinery and 11% of compressor machinery on its own in the sector. Moreover, Konya has increased its shares by 7% in machine tools, 8% in lifting platforms and 43% in heavy equipment. Ankara and Konya are playing a big role in Turkey's Machinery with their complementary production infrastructures and developed sub-industry opportunities.

Investors' attention going on Organized Industrial Zones

Investors' attention is going on Organized Industrial Zones that are planned industrial areas of Turkey. Memiş Kütükçü, OSBÜK (Organized Industrial Zones Upper Corporation) President, stated that a thousand and 840 new industrial parcels are assigned to investors in the second half of 2020 in organized industrial zones. Memiş Kütükçü, OSBÜK President, has shared the information that, at the moment, there are 347 organized industrial zones in Turkey including the zones assigned to agriculture. He mentioned that the one-stop service concept of organized industrial zones and investment opportunities give huge advantages to investors.

GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY

Kütükcü gave information about the investment opportunities of organized industrial zones and said that "our organized industrial zones are providing important opportunities to our investors with their investment encouragement advantages and with their one-stop service concept understanding that is away from bureaucracy. For instance, an investment in the organized industrial zone takes the advantages of investment encouragement of a sub-region compared to an investment out of the organized industrial zone. And this gives our investors advantages in various areas such as tariffs, corporation income taxes, social security institution employer's share support, and interest support. Besides, for our companies that are in the organized industrial zones, there are some other important supports such as real property tax exemption, cut-price land allocation and fees exemption."



Project-based State Aid for ASELSAN Konya Weapon Systems Inc.



The decision about supporting the investment of weapon and weapon systems production, which will be done in Konya by ASELSAN Konya Weapon Systems Inc., with "project-based state aid", has been published in official gazette and come into force

The investment for weapon and weapon systems production facility, which will be done in Konya by ASELSAN Konya Weapon Systems Inc., is going to be supported under the circumstances determined by the framework of the principles and procedures specified in the Decision on Project Based State Aid to Investments.

The investment, which is stated to be 3 years from the start date, started in November 2019. If the investment cannot be realized within the stipulated period, the Ministry of Industry and Technology may give an additional half of this period.

The projected total fixed investment amount is 830.692.017 TL, and when it is completed, 168 additional employments will be provided and 30 qualified personnel will be employed.

At the end of the investment period, it is aimed to produce 1000 weapon systems, 5000 light calibre weapons and 240 medium calibre weapons per year.

SUPPORTS TO BE BENEFITED

The investment project will benefit from various supports such as; customs tax exemption, VAT exemption, VAT refund, tax reduction (tax reduction rate 100%, investment contribution rate 75%, the rate of investment that can be used during the investment period is 100%), insurance premium employer's share support (10 years without maximum amount limit), income tax withholding support (10 years), qualified personnel support (maximum 25.000.000 TL). Qualified personnel support will be applied for 5 years on the condition that it will not exceed twentyfold of each qualified personnel's monthly gross minimum wage.

TURKEY'S FIRST NATIONAL, 'GRENADE LAUNCHER DRONE SONGAR'

SONGAR, originally developed by the defense industry company Asisguard, entered the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces as the first domestic and national armed drone





The grenade launching system that adds an important power to SONGAR, which is known as the first domestic and national armed drone system,has been developed by Akdaş Arms Industry, which produces domestic weapons in the Huğlu Town of Konya's Beyşehir district. Dilan Yılmaz Çakmak, Asisguard System Engineer and Songar's Technical Project Manager, stated that "We continue to develop the system and add payload models in SONGAR, which was first an automatic machine gun and later added the "bomb throwing" feature. Military technological system SONGAR has features that differ from armed drone systems. SONGAR operates within a range of three kilometers radius, equipped with an automatic machine gun. SONGAR, which has a real-time image transmission system, performs many critical tasks such as determining the target area, neutralizing the threat, recording data and video for post-operative analysis with its single or multiple drone system." Çakmak stated that "As Asisguard, we are working with Akdaş Arms Industry at the grenade launching phase and our project is still going on. We are pleased to develop an innovative and effective grenade launcher system for our defense industry with Akdaş. We continue to make progress in SONGAR. After the addition of the grenade launcher feature, we have finally provided 4X4 ground vehicle integration. SONGAR can now be used more effectively for attack purposes against ambushes and threats in border and cross-border operations." Metin Çankaya, Akdaş Arms Industry Weapon Consultant who added 'Songar' a system for Asisguard to throw bombs, stated that "We coupled our AKDAŞ AK-40GL grenade launcher gun that we produced to SONGAR developed by Asisguard Company. Today, Turkey's the only domestic grenade launcher is on SONGAR. The field trial of the system is still carried out. We strengthened SONGAR's power with its bomb-throwing feature and presented an innovative product to our local defense industry together with Asisguard."

Barrel Life: 5000 Shots

Çankaya stated that "The AK-40 GL grenade launcher, which is integrated into the SONGAR drone system, has a barrel life of 5 thousand shots. Our product has superior features compared to the grenade launchers in the inventory of the existing world armies in terms of technical features and other capabilities. Since it is a domestic defense industry product, it stands out with its cost-effective structure. With this feature, we are preferred by the major players of our domestic defense industry. We have many projects that continue as the only approved main contractor of the Ministry of National Defense in the field of weapon production in the Konya Region and that will eliminate the dependence of the Turkish Armed Forces on foreign countries and make weapons and weapon systems completely domestic and national."



Konya Technical University is assertive in TecnoFest 2021

Konya Technical University is being prepared for TEKNOFEST'2021 competitions with assertive projects. Rector Prof. Dr. Babür Özçelik said, "We aim to continue to contribute to our country's technology move and this process."

Konya Technical University (KTU), which will take place as an academic stakeholder for the first time in TEKNOFEST Aviation, Space and Technology Festival 2021 (TECNOFEST), is being prepared for technology competitions with assertive projects.

Rector Prof. Dr. Babür Özçelik stated that "The teams that participated on behalf of our university in the past years have made us proud by achieving significant success at TECNOFEST. Our university attaches great importance to taking part in such competitions that will contribute to the future of our country and our youth. This year has much more importance than the previous years, because we have been involved in the process as an academic stakeholder of such a prestigious platform. We aim to contribute to our country's technology moves with our successful instructors and our students whom we train with the goal of becoming a produtive country. In this sense, I wholeheartedly believe that our student teams, who will compete in TECNOFEST 2021, our students, who participate in the competition individually, and our academic advisors will represent Konya Technical University in the best way."





Ali Canip Olgunlu, Anatolian Culture Historian and Turcologist:

The first church in the world is not in Antakya but in Konya

It is stated in many sources that the historical Saint Pierre in Antakya is the first church in the world. According to Turcologist Olgunlu, it is not true. Stating that St. Pierre is a "kenise", Olgunlu claims that "Saintess Helena in Konya is the first church in the world."







Saint Pierre Church or Saint Petrus Church is stated to be the first church in the world in many sources. This cave, which is 13 meters deep, 9.5 meters wide and 7 meters high, used for secret meetings of the first Christians in Antakya, is considered as one of the oldest churches of Christianity.

St. Pierre Church, in Antakya, is mentioned as the first church of Christianity in almost every source, especially the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. However, there is someone who objects to this information. Anatolian historian, writer and Turcologist Ali Canip Olgunlu has started a new debate with his statement on this subject. In his book named Hagia Sophia / The Biggest Sailboat on the Land, Olgunlu states that St. Pierre is not the first church in the world.

He claims that the place where the first church was located was not Antakya but Konya.

ST. PIERRE IS A "KENISE" NOT A "CHURCH"

Olgunlu supported his claims on this issue with different arguments. Olgunlu thinks that "St. Pierre is a "kenise" not a "church". "Kenise" means not a building name, but a secret place of prayer hall. Pointing out that "There are hidden caves in many places in Anatolia, Olgunlu said that "After Jesus, his apostles both worshiped and tried to spread this religion everywhere, especially in the cave where they could hide, in order to form a congregation. Although the main reason for choosing caves was shelter, it was a historical trend that stood out with the birth of Jesus in a cave. These places where people worshiped secretly for religious reasons are called 'kenise', hence St. Pierre is one of the first "kenises". At that time, Christianity was not legitimate and Rome was not Christian. Rome was not tolerant of Christians; therefore, they were not able to openly worship in a church."

SAINTESS HELENA CHURCH IN KONYA

Olgunlu argues that "St.Pierre is not among the first seven churches in the world. Churches that are considered to be among the first churches, but only kenises, are Efes, İzmir (Smyrna), Bergama, Thyateira (Akhisar), Sardes (Salihli), Philadelphia (Alaşehir) and Laodikeia (Denizli). As it is seen, although St. Pierre in Antakya is not included among the firsts, it is not understandable that it is pointed to be the first church in the world."

THE WORLD'S FIRST CHURCH WAS BUILT BY HELENA IN KONYA

Olgunlu, who has been traveling around Anatolia for years and providing information about historical artifacts and writing books, said that "The world's first church is located in Sille province near Konya. This church was built in 327 with the freedom provided by Constantin's Mother Helena, known as the 'mother of Christians'. The first church in the world is today known as Saintess Helena. This church had been built three years before Rome liberated Christianity. During her pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Helena stops by Sille and provides the opportunity to make a place of worship for the believers there. Only a strong and faithful empress like Helena could do this."



Tourism like a Flower

Çiçek (=flower) Tourism was established 24 years ago and has become one of the most important tourism trademarks in Konya. Okay Tınkır, the General Manager of Çiçek Tourism, gave summarized information about the company since its foundation and said that "our company's first steps were taken with a transportation service experience with just one minibus and today we have reached superiority thanks to our different transportation branches and services. With the great efforts and sacrifices of its employees in all branches invested, Çiçek Tourism has a strong experience base."

The slowly developing and non-progressive structure of the economy during the years that the company established was not able to hinder the eagerness of Çiçek tourism. This company has reached today with the consciousness of dealing with every detail of renovations which were used to get over the obstacles due to negative elements.

For 24 years, with a high quality and reliance, Çiçek tourism has been a company at people's service in Konya from now until tomorrow. Today, this company has become the favourite tourism company in Konya with its different investments in service sector and its huge fleet of vehicles.

Okay Tınkır, the General Manager of Çiçek Tourism says that "our transportation services for students and staff, which is the core of natural ambition soul inside us, have been developed on a quality-based process. As a natural result, our successful services in Tourism transportation, delivery service, student transportation, transfer services, and rent a car services have born. Çiçek tourism is never satisfied with the obtained success and educates professional teams with in-service trainings and seminars. As Çiçek tourism we have a success-oriented managerial staff with our 0-5 year-old young, luxury fleet of vehicles, and we have only one motto; travel to trust."



The Konya

UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

Uğur İbrahim Altay, was elected as the Co-pres Local Government

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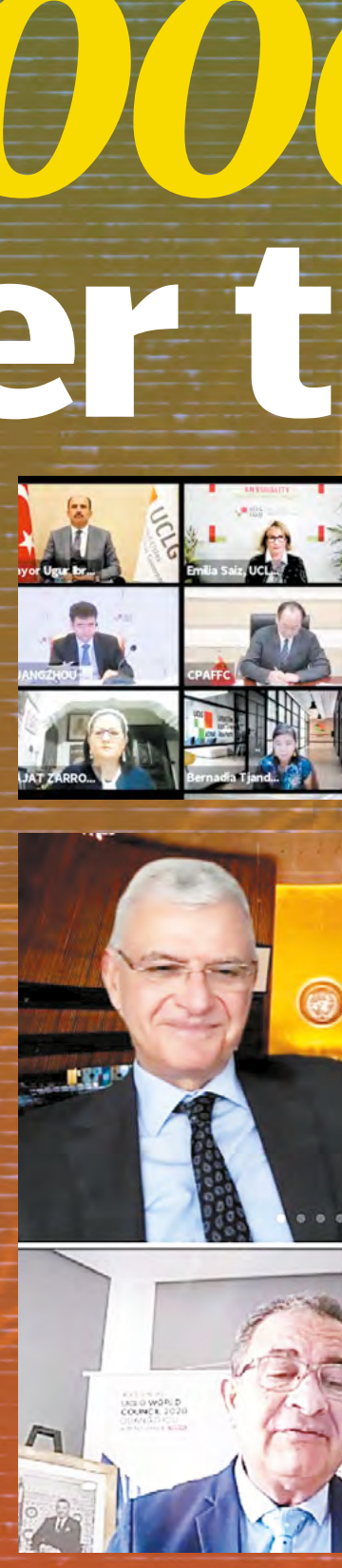


The Mayor Altay uttered that "We are very pleased to be represented here as Konya and Turkey. Turkey's and Konya's flag will wave in one more international platform. We are carrying out studies on identifying the problems of all local governments in the world and creating new solution proposals. We have prepared a Decalogue about what can be done as local governments during pandemic which especially the whole world had to face. In this process, we tried to create a support for local governments by sharing Turkey's and Konya's experiences and tried to contribute to the process of determining a road map."

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), which is one of the most important representatives of local governments and continuously supports local development, has witnessed damages of Covid-19 in cities and prepared a Decalogue for the post Covid-19 era:

1) Guaranteeing Public Services
2) Financial Support Packages
3) Proximity models of global consumption and production
a) A territorial approach to food systems should guarantee not only security but also greater sustainability models in which many small producers and small processors, respectful of the environment, would restore life to our territories and encourage job creation and local development.
4) A worldwide green deal
5) New citizenship and freedoms for renewed democracy
6) Generation Equality
7) Territories that care for their public providers
8) Culture as an antidote for the secondary effects
9) An interurban system
10) Next Generation Multilateralism







UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

the Mayor of Konya, sident of United Cities and s in World Council

presents *0 cities* he world











United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) can be defined as globally the most active organization for local and regional governments. After a long process which started in the Habitat II Conference in 1996 in Istanbul, IULA (International Union of Local Authorities) and FMCU-UTO (World Federation of United Cities) were united by adding METROPOLIS (the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities) and became UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments).

Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, UCLG started its actions in January, 2004. The organisation's stated mission is "to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community." United Cities and Local Governments, known as UCLG in short, is at a point that it increases the role and influence of local government and its representative organisations in global governance; it supports international cooperation between local governments and their associations; and it has become a basic, world-wide information source about local governments.

UCLG is the most comprehensive local and regional governance network which represents 240.000 cities from different regions all over the world. When the population of member cities are considered, it can be said that UCLG represents 5 billion urbanites. At the same time, UCLG has active members in 140 different countries from the total 192 members of UN.

UCLG CO-PRESIDENT UĞUR İBRAHİM ALTAY

Uğur İbrahim Altay, the Mayor of Konya, was elected as the co-president of UCLG in the World Congress of UCLG which was held on 7th November 2018 in Durban, South Africa and he still continues his duty. In the Congress, Hoceima, the Mayor of Morocco, who got the support of African Municipalities was elected as the President of UCLG; together with mayors of Konya, Xian from China, Utrecht from the Netherlands, San Jose from Costa Rica and the Union of South African Municipalities that were elected as UCLG Co-Presidents until 2022.





A Candidate on "UNESCO World Heritage List" as the Seljuks' Capital

Konya, a candidate for the UNESCO World Heritage List as the capital of the Seljuks,has many historical, natural and cultural heritages. The Mevlevi Semah Ceremony was included in UNESCO's "UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" in 2008

The "Mevlevi Semah Ceremony" and Çatalhöyük Neolithic City are on the UNESCO's cultural heritage list, with two intangible and tangible cultural heritages. Konya is also on the UNESCO World Heritage Temporal List as the Seljuks' Capital



The Mevlevi Semah Ceremony

The Mevlevi Semah Ceremony is a mystical ceremony that contains religious elements and themes and, as such, has detailed rules and qualities. While this ceremony, special to the Mevlevi community, was held in the time of Mevlana Celaleddin-i Rumî without adhering to a certain rule, it was performed in a disciplined manner starting from the time of Sultan Veled and Ulu Arif Çelebi. These rules were developed until the time of Pir Adil Çelebi and took their final form and have reached the present day. The ceremony consists of naat, ney taksimi, pesrev, Devr-i Veledî and four salutation sections, which contain different mystical meanings in integrity with each other. The ceremony is performed with traditional Mevlevi music in venues where the Mevlevi culture can be accurately conveyed.

The way of preserving the culture of the Mevlevi culture, which emerged in the 13th century, developed and shaped over time and became an important part of Turkish history and culture, and especially the Semah ceremony, is to be passed on and introduced to future generations without disturbing the technical and internal perfection and originality of this tradition. In order to ensure the realization of the Mevlevi Semah Ceremonies without losing their essence, a conservation action plan, which includes the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, as well as many non-governmental organizations, has been created.

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

In order to ensure that the Mevlevi Semah Ceremony is held without losing its essence, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued a Circular on Semah Ceremonies in 2008. According to this circular; the ceremony must be held in places where this culture can be accurately conveyed and introduced, and in places where the necessary conditions are met, accompanied by works of Mevlevih music, which come from tradition and are an integral part of Semah. The whirling dervishes and musicians participating in the programs should have the necessary technical and musical competence, and act seriously in the awareness that they are performing a cultural promotion as well as a lovely and mystical practice during the program. Declared as a masterpiece in 2005 within the framework of the UNESCO Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Program, The Mevlevi Semah Ceremony was registered in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on behalf of our country in 2008 and introduced to the whole world.

The Konya News

Distance Education Centers of Selçuklu Municipality Starts

Selçuklu Distance Education and Study Center, prepared by the Selçuklu Municipality to support distance education, has started its activities.

Ahmet Pekyatırmacı, the Major of Selçuklu Municipality, stated that "As Selçuklu Municipality, we always prioritize our support for education. We reveal our educational priority, which we have made a policy as a municipality, with the works we have done on all occasions. Our distance education and study centers, which have started to serve in Yazır and Fatih Neighborhoods, are examples of our work. During the pandemic period, our center, which we have prepared in order to ensure that our students receive live course support and to study in a spacious environment, will significantly contribute to our students."



Historical City Walls come to light

Beside the transformation works carried out in the Şükran neighbourhood by Meram Municipality, the works towards the re-exposing of historical and cultural structures are also going on.

Urban transformation works in Şükran neighbourhood are being carried out at full steam. Although some historical structures that have come to light during the works within the area put the works back, they will definitely add a value to the soon arising project. Mustafa Kavuş, the Mayor of Meram Municipality, stated that the urban transformation project in Şükran neighbourhood is getting shaped by preserving the historical values. He also expressed that this transformation project will arise with the ancient castle walls that will especially be revealed with the ongoing excavation works and it will also make an important contribution to tourism.



Karatay Municipality Collected 1.5 Tones of Waste Medicine

Unnecessary use of drugs continues to be a serious problem in Turkey as well as all over the world. Especially drugs that are not used by citizens carry irremediable risks, and this situation causes great harm to both human health and the environment. Hasan Kılca, the Major of Karatay Municipality stated that "Within the scope of the project, with the support of the citizens, we collected 1.5 tons of waste medicine that could not be used or could harm the environment in the last 6 months. Karatay Municipality Environmental Protection and Control Directorate teams placed waste medicine collection boxes in all family health centers in the district. Citizens also throw unused or expired medicines in these boxes and prevent the contamination of the environment. Karatay Municipality Environmental Protection and Control Directorate teams collect these drugs with great care and ensure that they are disposed of in recycling centers." These works carried out by the Municipality of Karatay were honored with the protocol. The protocol was signed between Karatay Municipality and ÇEKOOP.







Selim Yücel GÜLEÇ
Head of Culture and Social Affairs Department in Konya Metropolitan Municipality

United Cities and Local Governments (UCGL)

Konya is a historical city that has survived to the present day with deep historical ties and has hosted many civilizations. Konya, in terms of wealth and stability in its international relations besides its diversity and quality of physical, cultural and social local services, is a model both to Turkey and to the world. The city has established strong relations with many cities and international institutions. It has nearly 50 town twinning all over the world. On the other hand, Konya maintains its relations with 18 globally influential international organizations. United Cities and Local Governments (UCGL), which is foremost of these organisations, is one of the most important organizations representing and defending the interests of local governments on the world stage.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality, which became a member of UCLG in 2012, runs the membership of the UCLG Executive Board and the Co-Chair of UCLG-MEWA, the Organization's Middle East and West Asia Organization. Uğur İbrahim Altay, the Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, was elected as UCLG Co-Chair at the Congress held in Durban, South Africa between 11-15 November 2019 and he still continues his duty., Konya, which continuously follow the agendas of the Union, supports UCLG, which is a leadership and coordination platform for local governments, and its work by implementing the current agenda items in the city. Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay personally invited Mr. Volkan Bozkır, Chairman of the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations, to the UCLG World Council in order to ensure observer status in the UN, which is one of the important goals of UCLG, and expressed this request. Thanks to its relations with UCLG, Konya contributes to the international representation of local governments and also supports Turkish foreign policy.

UCLG, which was established in Paris in 2004 with a very comprehensive Congress attended by representatives of local and regional governments, is now headquartered in Barcelona. The Organization, that wants to be the voice and advocate of democratic local governments around the world, works to promote its values, aims and interests through cooperation between local governments and within the wider international communities. The UCLG Organization is the most comprehensive local and regional government network, as it represents 270,000 cities and 5 billion citizens from different parts of the world. Dear Kadir Topbaş, who was an important figure for Turkey and died recently, had served as the president of the organization. As a city that witnessed the rise of UCLG, Konya worked in coordination with UCLG at that time and supported both Mr. Topbaş and the international representation of our country. UCLG is organized according to its own regions. Organizations; It works to achieve the goals and objectives of UCLG in Africa, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, West Asia, and North America regions. METROPOLIS and the Regions Forum, also within UCLG, are important for the Organization. Thanks to this wide network, UCLG operates in 136 UN member states and works to gain observer status in the United Nations.

UCLG constantly informs its members on a wide range of topics and encourages them to find city-centered solutions to problems experienced around the world. Some of the issues on the agenda of UCLG are as follows: Supporting multilevel governance and local finance, ensuring the rights of people victimized by migration or other reasons, supporting cities for sustainable and participatory democracy, tackling poverty, climate change and inequalities, promoting cultural diversity and gender equality, etc. In fact, all these agenda items can be realized as a result of the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, which UCLG frequently emphasizes and constantly encourages its members. The Sustainable Development Goals is a framework of 17 goals and 169 goals in the social, economic and environmental areas of sustainable development, to which the United Nations (UN) Member States are committed to becoming a reality in the next 15 years. UCLG conducts various studies to localize these goals.

As it is seen, the relations between UCLG, which is a very important platform, and the city of Konya, which seems to be closed to the outside, have a very important past. Konya significantly supports the organization that wants to be the global voice of local governments.

Support from Metro for Small Businesses



"My Small Business" project, enlarged with business partners, was started to support small businesses in refreshments sector which have been negatively affected by pandemic in Turkey. Within the scope of the project, some products and services delivered to 51 businesses including pastry shops, kebab shops, burrito shops, and meat pasty shops in Konya and nearby cities

All the deliveries are completed in "My Small Business" project which was started to support small businesses in refreshments sector which have been negatively affected by pandemic in Turkey on the 29th April by Metro. In Turkey, approximately 4 thousand 500 businesses applied for the project and 1 thousand 500 businesses, which were able to meet application requirements, have been getting products and services support. In Konya and nearby cities 51 businesses benefited from the project received products and services support valuing 5 thousand TL for each business. By this way, it has been possible to support businesses which serve local food such as Mevlana pie and okra soup, and the project has contributed to local economies.

Serkan Dalgıç, the store manager of Metro Turkey Konya, stated that "we have started "my small business" project with our business partners in this



period in which we, as Metro, once more understand that how it is important to be in a unity in Turkey. With this project, we aimed to create awareness among public opinion about the hard situation that the small businesses in refreshments sector are in. We have also brought together the businesses in need with the institutions ready to help in one platform. By this way, opportunities were created for 10 thousand sector workmen to help them continue their businesses in Turkey and 3 billion cost local economies were supported. For 51 businesses in Konya and nearby cities, an important assistance was provided. Also, it has contributed to preserve and sustain local food such as Etliekmek, Mevlana pie and okra soup. Everyone can visit and support small businesses in their neighbourhood in this difficult period. The individual contribution, which may seem small, makes a big contribution to the local economy."



3 New Branches in a Day



Çelikkayalar, which is one of the important brands in retail sector in Konya, continues to grow. The brand opened three new shops in a day in Konya. With these new branches, total employment number in Çelikkayalar has increased to about 1200. Ali Kaya, Çelikkayalar Shopping Centre Manager, expressed that their story started in local bazaars on 9th November 1991 as Mesut, Kerim and Ali Kaya brothers and now has reached to its 30th year. He also stated that today they have 24 branches in total with the motto of "the brand of this city".

While Kaya expressing that they have presented their difference in online shopping because they invested in years ago, he also mentioned that they have written a valuable success story about supplying goods especially in the pandemic with the help of their devoted staff and they continue to give the best service for the people in Konya. He also said that "we are really aware of this: we have written our success story with the people in Konya. We try to show our gratitude to these people, who have carried us to these days as a brand, by serving the best with reasonable prices. Besides, we live the happiness of contributing to the employment in the city in these hard days".



530 Women's Cooperatives Founded



Gonca Yılmaz Batur, Deputy Minister of Commerce, expressed that "Women's Cooperatives" have been founded in accordance with the demands of women entrepreneurs, and there have been 530 Women's Cooperatives within the scope of Ministry of Commerce.

Gonca Yılmaz Batur, Deputy Minister of Commerce, mentioned women's cooperatives and said that; "Within the scope of our ministry, 530 women's cooperatives have been founded in our country. As the Ministry of Commerce, one of our studies is to encourage our women come together as a cooperative. First of all, we are holding educational and informative activities for women in accordance with the demands and we try to make them participate the programmes that will be beneficial for them. According to the "Promoting and Developing Cooperatives" project, we have visited 12 cities and organized various events such as meetings and interviews for women. On the other hand, in order to support women to come together as a cooperative, a financial support through KOOP-DES (a programme for supporting cooperatives) has been provided to the cooperatives which aim to value the efforts of women and are composed by mostly women partners. Among these women's cooperatives, the projects, which will contribute to the production and employment, will be able to get 75% and up to 150 thousand TL donation."



General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises

has three animal farms in Konya

General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises (TİGEM), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, takes an important task in Turkey's animal husbandry by raising ovine and cattle. TIGEM, which has 3 animal breeding farms in Altınova, Gözlü and Konuklar has a great contribution to Konya's agricultural income.

In order to increase and diversify the animal production and also to improve the product quality of Turkey, TIGEM, which has three state animal farms in Konya, breeds disease-free sheep and cattles, deliver them to the breeders and presents a highly qualified service. TIGEM, which has 3 animal breeding farms in Altınova, Gözlü and Konuklar has a great contribution to Konya's agricultural income. Animal husbandry in farms affiliated to TIGEM operating in Konya is as follows;

ALTINOVA AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE

The farm raises brown cattle and Anatolian merino sheep. Last year, 1013 brown cattles delivered 401 calves in the farm. Last year 17.845 sheep delivered 12.502 lambs.

GÖZLÜ AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE

The firm raises brown cattle and Acıpayam, Akkaraman and Bafra sheep. Last year, while there were 4.021 cattle and 27.571 ovine in the farm, they had 1535 calves and 19.004 lambs.

KONUKLAR AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE

There are 638 cattle in the farm which breeds feeder cattle.













Ali Ekber YILDIRIM

How to increase domestic production of wheat?

In order to export flour and pasta based on domestic production, which has been depended upon the import of wheat mostly from Russia, Turkey needs a big step forward in the production of wheat. For this reason, the production is required to be supported with a national agricultural policy like Russia did. A 5-10 year plan should be prepared at least.

Due to the restrictions during crisis, Turkey's flour and pasta export may be at risk like the one, a shot down of a warplane, between Turkey and Russia in 2015.

After the shot down of a warplane crisis, Russia laid an embargo on 24 products from Turkey. When such a crisis happens, if we cannot buy wheat, our flour and pasta export will be at risk, because we are exporting these products depending upon imported wheat. If we don't produce wheat domestically, flour and pasta export will be at risk.

For this reason, it will be really beneficial to increase domestic production gradually. Other than that, Russia started to export flour as well as wheat. Nobody can guarantee that Russia, thanks to its advantage of raw material, won't capture the flour market of Turkey. There are lots of examples of it. In previous years, we used to buy sunflower seeds from Ukraine and Russia. But now, they are selling raw oil instead of selling the seeds. They are processing the seeds in their own countries and by this way they are able to sell both the oil and bagasse separately. Therefore, Turkey is not only a wheat market for Russia but also the biggest sunflower bagasse buyer.

In short, while there have been debates on bread, we shouldn't ignore what is happening about wheat, which is the centre of the issue. By increasing its wheat production, Turkey can both meet its demands and adds a big value if it can meet its flour and pasta needs with domestically produced wheat. By this way, Turkey will also increase its competitive capacity.

"Reasons to Live in Village Project" Grows

Ferhat Pişmaf, head of Agricultural Marketing Group in Ziraat Bank, stated that "The project aims to contribute to the efforts to increase the number of sheep and goats in our country to more than 80 million heads and to make use of the small cattle breeding potential of each province in itself and to keep the economic value to be created in that province.



In 'Reasons to Live in Village Project' which Ziraat Bank started to increase the number of ovine breeding and develop the quality in animal farms, the number of sheep bought by credit reached to 120 thousands."

According to the Ziraat Bank's statement, by signing a protocol, 32 governorships have joined the project which was brought to life in September 2020. Loans started to be provided in 14 provinces that have completed their preparations.

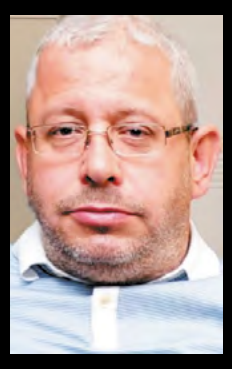
"OUR PROJECT IS TAKING FIRM STEPS TOWARDS ITS GOALS"

In the statement, Ferhat Pişmaf, head of Agricultural Marketing Group in Ziraat Bank, said that "The number of governorships participating in the project reached 32 by signing a protocol today. The producers started to receive their sheep by using credit in 14 provinces where our governors have completed the necessary preparations such as determining potential producers, selecting animals, determining companies to buy feed and to sell meat. The number of sheep delivered to approximately 1,250 producers within the scope of the project reached 120 thousand in a short time."



To Stop the Dependence on Foreign Sources on Meat

Can Kılıç, CEO of Yılet, underlines that we can carry out various projects in order to stop the dependence on foreign sources on meat. He states that "We have various projects which will satisfy the producer and the society and will stop the dependence on foreign sources on meat. Kılıç stated that "As a country, if a solution-oriented, meat animal breeding project is implemented, we can eliminate foreign dependency on meat in the years ahead. In this regard, the joint production and livestock protocol to be made by the Ministry to livestock enterprises with a capacity of 5 thousand and 10 thousand in 81 cities across the country may also eliminate foreign dependency."



Can Kılıç, the CEO of Yılet, said that "The important thing in this process is to make structural change and transformation in the right place and at the right time. The world changes at an overwhelming speed. In order to keep up with this speed, it is necessary to increase the cooperation of the agricultural sector with the industrial sector. The demand of our people for red meat is constantly increasing with the increase in the income level and the change in eating habits. It is very important for sector representatives to act with common mind in order to meet this increasing demand in a sustainable way."

AN IMPORTANT CENTER "KONYA"

Kılıç pointed out that "Konya takes the first place with a number of 800.000 cattle and the second with 2,5 millions of ovine. With this potential, Konya is one of the centers where manufacturer-industry-university cooperation is best implemented. Red-meat production of the country is 1.300 million tones and Konya meets the 6 percent of this demand. He uttered that this sector would continue to grow."

The Konya News

New Education And Culture Projects In

SELÇUKLU were introduced

Ahmet Pekyatımacı, Mayor of Seçuklu, introduced the educational and cultural investments and new period projects made by the Selçuklu Municipality with the publicity program to the public

Selçuklu Municipality, which adds value to the education and cultural life of the city with the exemplary projects it has implemented, illuminates the path of future generations with the power it receives from the ancient civilization, Seljuk.

Ahmet Pekyatımacı, Mayor of Seçuklu, explained the activities, investments and projects of the Selçuklu Municipality in the field of education and culture in the promotional program held at the Selçuklu Congress Center.

Hasan Angı, Justice and Development Party Konya Provincial Chairman; Ömer Hilmi Yamlı, Selçuklu Governor; Ahmet Pekyatırmacı, Selçuklu Municipality Mayor; Mustafa Kavuş, Meram Municipality Mayor; Mustafa Hakan Özer, Justice and Development Party Selçuklu District Cahirman; Güzide Çıpan, MHP Selçuklu District Cahirman; Seyit Ali Büyük, Konya Provincial Director of National Education; Turan Kayacılar, Selçuklu District Director of National Education; Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Mızrak, Necmettin Erbakan University Vice Rector; Selçuklu Municipality Council Members and vice presidents participated in the program.

Starting his speech by expressing that they were inspired by the Selçuklu Values Education Program and that they opened their hearts to new beginnings and new horizons, Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı stated that "Taking courage from our history, we stepped into the future with the Selçuklu Values Education Program. While building our future, we have never forgotten our values of our past. With the light of history, we enlightened the generations who look to the future with confidence. We wanted to bring our children together with our values, raise individuals with personality and character, and carry them to the future with the vision of integrity of mind, body and heart. Selçuklu means education. Selçuklu means civilization from past to the future."

Stating that "Education is a process that continues not only at school but from the beginning to the end of life", Mayor Pekyatırmacı shared the following information about education, culture and art investments;

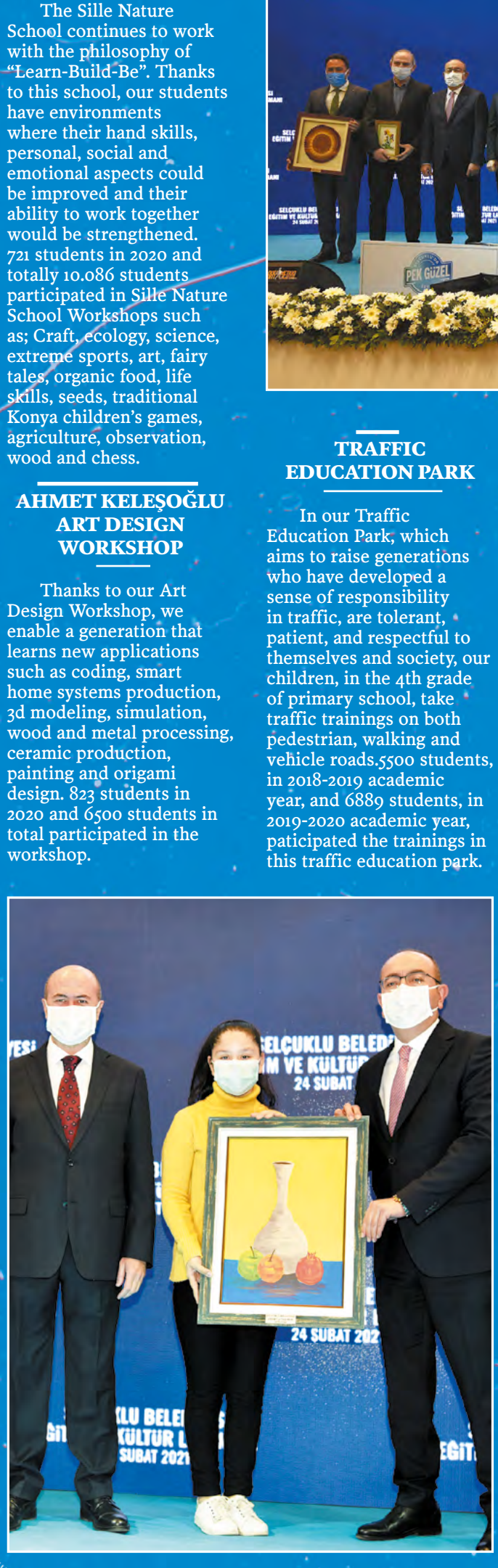
"The Selçuklu Values Education Program, which started with publication and material support at the beginning, has gained a different dimension in the last two years, allowing for the production of various brands and the preparation of out-of-school learning environments. Various educational activities are carried out such as; the Children's Library for kindergarten and primary school, Sille Nature School for kindergarten, the second and fourth grades, Art Design Workshop for pre-school, primary education, secondary education and special education , and Traffic Education Park for the fourth grades.

SILLE NATURE SCHOOL

The Sille Nature School continues to work with the philosophy of "Learn-Build-Be". Thanks to this school, our students have environments where their hand skills, personal, social and emotional aspects could be improved and their ability to work together would be strengthened. 721 students in 2020 and totally 10.086 students participated in Sille Nature School Workshops such as; Craft, ecology, science, extreme sports, art, fairy tales, organic food, life skills, seeds, traditional Konya children's games, agriculture, observation, wood and chess.

AHMET KELEŞOĞLU ART DESIGN WORKSHOP

Thanks to our Art Design Workshop, we enable a generation that learns new applications such as coding, smart home systems production, 3d modeling, simulation, wood and metal processing, ceramic production, painting and origami design. 823 students in 2020 and 6500 students in total participated in the workshop.





TRAFFIC EDUCATION PARK

In our Traffic Education Park, which aims to raise generations who have developed a sense of responsibility in traffic, are tolerant, patient, and respectful to themselves and society, our children, in the 4th grade of primary school, take traffic trainings on both pedestrian, walking and vehicle roads.5500 students, in 2018-2019 academic year, and 6889 students, in 2019-2020 academic year, paticipated the trainings in this traffic education park.

SELÇUKLU MUNICIPALITY KOP CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Selçuklu Municipality KOP Children's Library, which we established in order to enable our children to meet with libraries in the preschool period, serves for children between the ages of 4-10. 1.931 students in 2020 and 11.363 students in total benefited from this library which has 6000 books.

NEW EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS OF SELÇUKLU

Stating that they have new projects for children and young people as well as citizens living in the Selçuklu with the understanding of lifelong learning,

Mayor Pekyatırmacı, talked about his good news.

DISTANCE EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTERS "YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN EDUCATION"

Our first project and good news are for our students who have distance education during the pandemic process. We say "You are not alone in Education" and first of all, we put The Distance Education Support Centers in Yazır and Fatih Neighborhoods to the service of our students. In these special centers, our students will have a calm, peaceful and comfortable working environment where they will be able to access the EBA Support Center online, improve themselves and their learning with digital transformation. The Distance Education Support Centers, which offer computers and tablets, also have a library for local residents.



HATICE HATUN EDUCATION COMPLEX AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL "A NEW AWAKENING"

We hope that this is a project that will also serve as an example for the whole Turkey. This is a neighborhood-scale, mosque-centered center that will serve all age groups, where our children, youth, women and the elderly can access and receive services within walking distance. It is a kind of education complex which serves pre-school children between the ages of 4-6 with its "Childen's school", primary, secondary and high school students with its library and study rooms and parents, eldery people with its public cafes and the residents at all ages with its Education and Meeting Halls. There will be "Elif Hall, Be Hall, Hand crafts Hall (Wooden Works), Kıssahan Hall (Library and Drama) and Play and Recreation Halls (Mind Games) in the Selçuklu Municipality Hatice Hatun Education Complex and Children's School.



SELÇUKLU SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ART CENTER "DEVELOPMENT-TRANSFORMATION-DISCOVERY"

In Selçuklu Social Development and Art Center, a generation that researches, discovers and questions rather than uniform information and content transfer in education will be built. In this center, qualified human resource formation will be served in many areas such as global awareness, health, environment and entrepreneurship literacy, learning and innovation competencies, communication, arts and relationship management themes, without breaking our traditional codes.

There will be Cyber Security Workshop, Entrepreneurship Workshop, CBS - Map Literacy Workshop, Organic Toy Design Workshop, Vefa Youth Workshop, Children's Thinking (Philosophy) Workshop, Music Workshop, Photography Workshop, Children's Calligraphy Workshop, History Workshop, Young Pens / Art of Speaking / Oratory Art Workshop, Glass Art Workshop, Robotic Coding- UAV-Mechatronics Workshop, Pocket Cinema, Drama and Theater Workshops in Selçuklu Social Development and Art Center.



Selçuk ÖZTÜRK
The President of Konya Chamber of Commerce

A Special Article for The Konya News

The Corona virus pandemic started in Vuhan, the capital of Hubei in China, and took hold of 2020. This pandemic has influenced the whole world and is foreseen to relatively continue this year as well.

Due to this pandemic, the new world, new life styles, different consuming areas, and with its specific markets are going beyond the ordinary. People are trying to continue their lives in digital platforms not in real life anymore. They necessarily follow each other on social media instead of being with each other. Moreover, they do their shopping online, too. The companies, which can not accompany with these developments in the digital world, are facing the threat of being eliminated from the markets. Th ones which have been able to predict this situation are trying to change the crisis to an opportunity by entering digital markets.

Everything that will meet the demands of the customers exceedingly exists in the digital markets. If something isn't done, our companies will be eliminated and will go bankruptcy disappear from the markets in this endless cycle until the pandemic is over. That is to say, in order our companies to be integrated into this system; they have to make themselves be seen by other people. They will be able to reach more and permanent customers by putting right and reasonable steps forward.

During the pandemic and in the new normal after the pandemic, our members have taken a great responsibility both for our country and our city from the point of export, which is seen as a solution to have a high national income and to provide economic development. Our country has adopted an economic development model based upon export and has been applying such policies. In this path, as the Chamber of Commerce, we have been carrying out very important projects and support in order our memebrs to increase their exports.

In this context, despite the pandemic, the highest rate of export has been put into practice, which is the highest in the history of our Republic, in 2020, in Konya. In March, April and May, in which the pandemic was started to seen and affected our country badly, the export was slightly interrupted. We performed very well in the subsequent months and until the end of the year. We were able to both closed the gap and reached the highest rates in export in the history of our Republic. The secret of this success is the efforts and devoted works of our members in spite of the pandemic. The second reason of our success is the product range of our city. This product range gives us an opportunity to export more countries.

In recent years, Konya has been mentioned as an industrial city in Turkey thanks to its successes in industry. In every fields of industry, the production was represented in export. Records were being broken one by one every month with the export numbers and 2020 was completed as a successful year.

Konya has a total of 2.185.137.036, 74 USD export in 2020. With this export number and its export share in Turkey, Konya has risen to rank 11 from 12 by 1, 40% rate. Turkey has raised its export by 15, 85% rate and Konya has raised its export by 83, 35% rate in the last ten years.

When we look at the number of our exporters yearly, we can see a relatively high increase. In the previous year, we added 251 new exporters and the number reached to 2.668. According to this number, we are at the 6th rank among the cities including the highest number of exporters.

It is seen that we haven't been able to project this level of participation and density into the export as a city. We are at the 6th rank in terms of companies, but we are at the 11th rank in terms of export numbers. This situation indicates that we need to conduct more market researches and foreign advertise more.

In the last ten years, our export rate has increased by 83, 35%, and our company number has increased by 123, 45%.

Konya has exported to 182 countries and regions in 2020. The most important of these are countries such as Iraq, USA, Germany, Russia and Italy.

Poland and Israel, which are not included in the top ten countries to which we export in 2019, increased their import capacity and ranked among the top ten in 2020. When we look at the weight of countries in our total exports, the first 10 countries attract almost 50% of our exports. In addition, it is seen that last year we exported to countries such as Equatorial Guinea, Dominik and Mayotte.

Our exports, which were realized in 89 sectors in the previous year, were exported to 90 main sectors in 2020. The main sectors are boilers, machinery, parts and components of motor vehicles, cereals, flour, starch, milk preparations, pastry products.

The sectors in which our exports increased the most in 2020 compared to 2019 are weapons and ammunition, boilers, machinery and parts and parts of motor vehicles.

The 2020 import figure of our city is 916,008,615 USD and its foreign trade volume is 3.06 billion dollars. Foreign trade surplus is approximately 1.23 billion dollars. Our city is the 6th province with the highest foreign trade surplus. The ratio of exports to imports is 235%. While Konya has an export surplus in 156 countries among 183 countries and regions to which it exports, it has a foreign trade deficit in only 27 countries. In 2020, the city imported from a total of 117 countries.

The first five countries that we have foreign trade surplus are Iraq, the USA, Germany, Israel and Algeria. The first five countries that we have foreign trade deficit are China, Taiwan, Russian Federation, Japan and Brazil.

Konya has foreign trade surplus with many EU countries including Germany, Belgium, France, Spain and Italy as well as England, the USA and Canada.

Countries such as the USA, Canada, Brazil, Venezuela, Belgium, Belarus, Pakistan, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhistan, Ghana and Republic of Cote D'ivoire are seen as potential markets for our city in 2020.

The preditction of 5% growth in the world trade with the expected "deliberately optimism", it can be foreseen that Konya might provide an increase in export. As the Chamber of commerce, we will continue to cooperate with our industrialists and merchants and lead the way to our exporters in 2021, too.

Prehistoric Researches in Seydişehir, Gökhüyük

The prehistoric research studies, which are started in an area of Gökhüyük neighbourhood, Seydişehir district, are going to enlighten 5 different eras.

Mehmet Tural, the Mayor of Seydişehir Municipality, stated that the studies, which are being carried out in a mound within the borders of Gökhüyük neighbourhood in Seydişehir, will make a great contribution to understand the prehistoric eras in the south of the central Anatolia.

While expressing that some findings that belong to 5 different eras have been detected with the works done via scientific methods up to know, Tutal said that "in the excavation works some pots and pans' parts which belong to Hellenistic and Roman periods have been found in the topping layer. Also, under this layer, we have detected ceramics which belong to Iron Age, Bronze Age, Chalcolithic period and Neolithic Age. Around the area, Suberde and Erbaba were previously excavated and those successive eras couldn't be detected. Moreover, in Çatalhöyük, which is in an air distance of 150 kilometres, those successive ears couldn't be detected, either. For this reason, the excavation works in Gökhüyük have a great importance because they carry traces of 5 different eras."





Youth and Agriculture Camp



It is expressed that the construction of the adobe houses, which are in the Youth and Agriculture Camp in Hüyük District, is about to finish.

Mehmet Çiğdem, the Mayor of Hüyük Municipality, informed us that the first Youth and Agriculture Camp of Turkey is being established in Hüyük district. The Mayor Çiğdem emphasized that with the supports of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the works started in 2019 within a project and is continuing nonstop. He also mentioned that the construction of the houses is about to finish. While drawing attention to that 25 adobe houses are being constructed within the project, Çiğdem stated that "the students, who will be sent to our district by the Ministry of Youth and Sports as groups of 200, will stay in the camp houses for a week. These students will be trained on agriculture. When they learn about how to grow a product, they will be able to do it. This student mobility for studies will definitely have positive contributions to the economy of our district."

Akşehir Grows With Its History

The historical houses restored within the scope of the street improvement project initiated by Konya's Akşehir District Municipality in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, İller Bank and Konya Governorship (YİKOB), are being brought into tourism.

Within the scope of the project initiated by Akşehir Municipality, the restoration of 269 houses in 11 streets in total has been completed since 2014. Restoration work continues in 67 houses in the second stage of Hacı Hamza Road and the third stage of Tabak Hamam Road. The streets of Akşehir Houses with old bay windows, where visitors to Akşehir also show great interest and the historical texture is not spoiled, gives visitors the feeling that they are going on a journey in history. The houses, where visitors and photographers take lots of photographs, have attracted the attention of tourism travel agencies and tourism companies recently.



Salih Akkaya, the Mayor of Akşehir Municipality, pointed out that " Akşehir has a great potential of tourism and we constantly work to bring this potential to the forefront. There are many untouched historical artifacts and structures in Akşehir, whose old historical structure is not damaged. We have thousands of houses in Akşehir with architectural texture samples from the pre-Republican era. We continue to bring this beautiful historical texture to tourism by continuing the restoration works we have started in these houses at full speed. These works and projects we have done have been awarded many times by the Historical Cities Union. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of domestic and foreign tourists coming to Akşehir, but these visits have been disrupted due to the pandemic. As Akşehir Municipality, with these projects, we are striving to keep our historical architecture alive and increase the tourism potential, and we also enable our low-income citizens living in these historical houses to live in healthier houses.







The Konya News



"KONYA" IN EACH BITE

It is crucial to choose the best quality products, to produce the most tasteful food and especially to bring fresh products together with customers in a restaurant. If you do not put enough effort into it, it will be futile to wait for gain. For this reason, Güvenç Konyalı's success is due to the effort given which started in Merter, has increased in Sirkeci and still continues for generations. For, they bring their products from Ereğli including flour and meat without any laziness. While they are introducing Konya flavours to the people in Istanbul, they are also supporting local producers. Now it's time to talk about the menu in the restaurant. It includes Konya flavours such as etliekmek, Mevlana, bıçakarası, flat bread with cheese, saçarası-a kind of dessert-, yoghurt and ayran. You should try all of them. It is guaranteed that you will travel to Konya in each bite. One of my favourite is "fırın kebab (kebab in stone oven)" with side onions, tomatoes and green peppers. It is nearly the most delicious part of the meat. It is both delicious and hard to cook. The stone oven is fired early in the morning and the meat (mutton leg or ribs) is put into copper boilers. It has to be stirred up patiently. While you are eating it with your fork, each bite leaves a taste in the mouth.

The owner of Güvenç Konyalı, Hüseyin Güvenç reminds us the quote "be like a river in generosity and giving help" by Mevlana and emphasizes the importance of sharing saying that "we always have a table for the people in need". Hüseyin Güvenç, who moved Konya Cuisine to Istanbul, Sirkeci expressed that "As we always mention that our aim is to promote our food to the world. Of course another important thing for us is to share. For this reason, in our restaurant we always have a table for the people in need".



Promoting Konya Cuisine to the world

Hüseyin Güvenç, born in 1977, in Konya Ereğli, is a good Konya Cuisine expert. Beside his successful education life in his childhood, he became aware of his talent in the kitchen and developed a passion for cooking. Nowadays, with his brand "Güvenç Konyalı", he is promoting Konya Cuisine to the world in Istanbul

Hüseyin Güvenç, born in 1977, in Konya Ereğli, is a good Konya Cuisine expert. Beside his successful education life in his childhood, he became aware of his talent in the kitchen and developed a passion for cooking. When he was 16, he took his first step in the food sector in Istanbul, Merter with his uncle. In those years he had dreams about serving Konya Cuisine first to Istanbul then to the world. He is really dedicated to his job. The brand was established by his uncle at the beginning, but later he took over the job. He took the full responsibility of the restaurant "Güvenç Konyalı" in Istanbul, Sirkeci in 2011. He served the Konya flavours to Istanbul and in a short time he started to promote these flavours to Turkey and to the world.

Konya Cuisine is a magnificent thing which was formed in Seljuks' palaces and developed by Mevlevi rules and conventions. It constitutes one of the main roots of classical Turkish Cuisine. The most famous local food that is identified with the city is "etliekmek". Konya comes directly to the mind when one says etliekmek. There are various types of it. If the meat is prepared with two knives, this type is called "bıçakarası". If the meat is mixed with cheese, this type is called "Mevlana". But if you ask that when you want to eat real etliekmek, do we have to go to Konya, we can say no. We recommend you "Güvenç Konyalı" restaurant. It is a chain that has reached today since 1988. From the grandfather to the father, and from father to the son, they bring Konya culture and tastes together with people in Istanbul. They attract attention with their delicious dishes and as quality tradesmen. The menu includes everything related to Konya Cuisine.



The Konya News

Şükran Neighbourhood

Urban Transformation Project Counts Down for Foundation

Mustafa Kavuş, Meram Municipality Mayor; "Şükran Neighbourhood will be one of the vision districts of the city."

Kavuş stated that "In addition to the urban transformation works carried out in Şükran Neighbourhood, with its historical richness, the district will also become a center of attraction. We continue to work meticulously and delicately. In the first phase of the work carried out in three different phases, we count down to lay the foundation of the work consisting of 116 shops and 182 offices in a construction area of 47 thousand square meters together with the Housing Development Administration."



A Center of Attraction with its Regional History

Kavuş stated that "We believe that the Şükran Neighbourhood Transformation Project has been shaped in a way that preserves historical values. Within the scope of the works carried out, the district will become a center of attraction with the historical richness of the region. We shape the project in a way that preserves the historical values it contains.
We want to leave our historical beauties to the future like an open-air museum, together with the artifacts, registered buildings and ancestral city walls. In the project, which will be realized in harmony with the historical buildings, the new buildings will also be structured in accordance with the aesthetics of the region and a city texture with an identity will emerge.









The Project has 3 Different Phases

Şükran Neighbourhood Urban Transformation Project, which Konya and Meram are eagerly waiting for, continues at full speed. The project, which will be one of the most prestigious regions of Konya when completed, is carried out in three separate stages. Meram Municipality Mayor Mustafa Kavuş, who made statements about the point reached in the project and the work done, pointed out that "Şükran Neighbourhood Urban Transformation Project is one of the most prestigious projects in Meram and Konya. A uniquely beautiful project is being implemented in the region. Together with the Housing Development Administration, the first phase of the project, which consists of 116 shops and 182 offices in a construction area of 47.000 square meters, will be grounded in a short time. In the second phase of the project, work continues in an area of 60.000 square meters. In the third stage, the historical buildings will be gathered in a single island in the area they describe as the registered building project area, and these works have nearly come to an end."

The Konya News

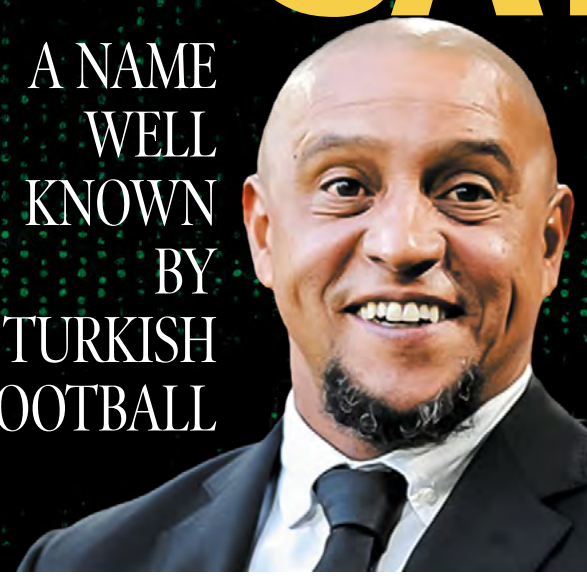
Brazilian Star Roberto Carlos gave a speech for The Konya News

"IF THERE WAS AN OFFER FROM KONYASPORT, I WOULDN'T SAY NO"

News by: İBRAHİM BÜYÜKEKEN



A NAME WELL KNOWN BY TURKISH FOOTBALL



Worldwide known, Brazilian star Roberto Carlos had played for Real Madrid for a while and also played for Fenerbahçe for years and finished his football career here. A worldwide known footballer from Brazil, Roberto Carlos was a coach in our country after his career as a football player. He had coached Sivassport for two years and after that he coached Akhisarsport. Lately, he has dedicated himself to civil society initiatives.

Worldwide known, Brazilian star Roberto Carlos, who had played for Real Madrid for a while and also played for Fenerbahçe for years, said that "I am following Turkish football closely. I was the coach of different teams in Turkey. One day, if there was an offer from Konyasport, I wouldn't say no." Regarding this issue, he stated that "in those years when I was playing football and was the coach for different teams, my path crossed with Konyasport from time to time. There were the matches we won and lost against Konyasport. Konyasport had a huge breakout with Aykut Kocaman. For two years in a row they joined UEFA European League and won the Turkish and Super Cup which was a great success. One day, if there was an offer from Konyasport, I would really think about it. I wouldn't say no. Konyasport is a big and institutional football club. There are Brazilian footballers, too. In the past, I was the coach for Sivassport and Akhisarsport. If there was an offer, I would be the coach of Konyasport, too. Why not? I love Turkey and Turkish football very much. I had the chance to know Turkish football closely. I was both a coach and a footballer. I really had good days in this country. I love the humanity of Turkish people and their approach to football. It has always been a privilege and an honour for me to work in Turkey."



ONE OF THE BEST LEFT-BACK IN HISTORY

He gave up football and started to be a coach but his talent in the football pitch cannot be forgotten. Not only today, maybe, he is one of the best left-back in history. If there were a questionnaire about this, he would be on top of the list. He played for Fenerbahçe. Later, he went to Brazil and Russia. After that, he came back to Turkish Super League as the coach of Sivassport. Lastly, he was the coach of Akhisarsport.



