

## BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

### TURKEY

Weekly Report on Turkey's Political, Geo-Strategic, Economic and Social Issues,

Period: 16<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.

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## **SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

### **SUMMARY-POLITICAL NEWS**

Turkey's main opposition party is preparing to apply to the Constitutional Court for a partial annulment of two bills signed on May 12 agreement between Russia and Turkey on the establishment of a nuclear power plant in the Mediterranean hamlet of Akkuyu on the grounds that "a contract agreement" between the two countries had been turned into an international agreement, preventing the issue from being subject to national judicial supervision.

Under the amendment to the anti-terrorism law, "stone-throwing children," whose involvement is minor during demonstrations launched in support of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, will receive shortened prison. The amendment was passed by Parliament early Thursday. According to the amendment bill, Minors will no longer be charged with being members of a terrorist organization or making propaganda for terrorists, and their cases will be handled by juvenile courts instead of high criminal courts. The Turkish state-run news agency says a court has indicted 196 people on charges of plotting to bring down the ruling government.

The head of the Central Bank of Turkey said on Thursday that the rate of women's participation in working life was lower in Turkey than that in European countries. Governor Durmus Yilmaz said the rate of women's participation in working life was 28 percent in Turkey.

### **SUMMARY-GEO-STRATEGIC NEWS**

The Peace Research Institute Oslo said the reunification of Cyprus would give financial gains to Turkey of more than 17 billion euros a year. Turkey stands to make huge financial gains to transform this region into one of lasting peace and stability, with benefits for tourism, transport, financial services and energy, the Cyprus office of the institute said in a report.

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou Wednesday urged Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots to "seriously study" the new package of proposals put forward last week by Greek Cypriot President Dimitris Christofias. The package put forward by Christofias proposes that the port of Famagusta in Turkish Cypriot be opened to direct trade under European Union auspices in exchange for the return of the nearby resort of Varosha to its displaced Greek Cypriot inhabitants. The Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders debated on Thursday property issue.

Turkish President Abdullah Gül had paid two-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart, Hosni Mubarak, on Wednesday. The Turkish and Egyptian presidents hold bilateral talks on a number of issues, including the Middle East peace process and Turkish-Egyptian relations. The annual trade volume between Turkey and Egypt was \$3.26 billion last year. Although observers consider the two states "rivals" in the region, Turkey and Egypt repeatedly rejected such speculation.

Turkey on Wednesday launched its second reconstruction team in Afghanistan, a sign of Ankara's continued commitment to assist Afghan authorities with reconstruction efforts and help enhance development and stability in the war-torn country.

Israel set to deliver four more surveillance drones to Turkey. The delivery of four Heron type unmanned surveillance planes, the remaining lot in a \$180 million deal for 10 Israeli drones for the Turkish armed forces, is scheduled for early August, military sources said on Wednesday.

Turkish and Turkish Cypriot authorities have signed a \$450 million agreement to transport 75 million cubic meters of water from Turkey to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) annually.

As scientists keep discussing whether the increasing carbon dioxide emission all over the world would speed up global warming, a Turkish academician known for his studies on hydrogen and hydrogen technologies said that Turkey was currently in a much better position in terms of carbon dioxide emission compared to many European countries.

In an interview with the Anatolia news agency, Prof. İbrahim Dinçer from Canada's University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) said that Turkey's carbon dioxide emission per person was 4 times less than European countries such as Germany and Britain. Dinçer said carbon dioxide emission was 20 tons per person in many parts of Europe while it was around 5 tons in Turkey.

Syrian President Assad reaffirms Turkey's role as mediator with Israel. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has insisted that Turkey is his country's best hope for a mediator in possible peace talks with Israel, even after Ankara's ties with the Israeli state came to a standstill following a deadly raid on an aid ship that killed eight Turks and one American.

#### **SUMMARY-ECONOMIC NEWS**

Indian company Dabur is “in advanced talks” to buy Turkish personal care (cosmetics) company Hobi Kozmetik for its first overseas acquisition, according to the Economic Times of India.

Turkey and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic have signed an agreement on the construction of a natural gas pipeline. The projected pipeline will be constructed between Turkey and Nakhchivan. Its will be between 180 and 200 kilometers long. The pipeline will transport Azerbaijani gas to Nakhchivan via Turkey. The capacity of the pipeline will be determined according to needs of Nakhchivan.

Turkish Central Bank Governor Durmus Yilmaz said on Thursday The problems that European economies faced pose a remarkable risk for Turkey, because the European Union is the biggest market for Turkish exported items.

#### **SUMMARY-SOCIAL NEWS**

Six people from the same family were killed Wednesday when floodwaters swept away their house in Saçlık village of the eastern province of Erzurum

**SUMMARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNAL BOOK REVIEWS**

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The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World.

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href="http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=31701429&site=ehost-live">The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World.</A>

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Section: Reviews & Responses: Recent Books on International Relations

Middle East

The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World

The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a Pivotal State  
in the Muslim World.

BY GRAHAM E. FULLER.

U.S. Institute of Peace, 2007, 160 pp. \$14.95.

After several opening chapters setting out Turkey's Ottoman, Kemalist, and Cold War legacies, Fuller turns to an appraisal of the ruling Justice and Development Party and its relations with the Muslim world. Next comes a chapter surveying the factors making for Turkey's regional standing, followed by eight short chapters treating Turkey's ties with neighboring states as well as Europe, Eurasia, and the United States. This serves well to demonstrate Turkey's multifaceted foreign relations. Fuller sees Turkey as returning to play an important role in Middle Eastern and Eurasian politics after a long period of "abnormal isolation." He also projects a likely downgrading of Turkey's ties to Washington, mostly as a natural result of the changing geopolitical reality but also in part stemming from U.S. actions and assumptions. Fuller offers a generally positive appraisal of Turkey's foreign policy performance, and he suggests that the United States can and should accommodate itself to this new reality.

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By L. Carl Brown

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### **SUMMARY**

#### The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a pivotal state in the Muslim World

In an article, the writer G. Fuller has evaluated and reviewed the changing foreign policy of Turkey. His evaluation is based on the following points:

- 1)-The Growing Relations of Turkey with the Muslim World is a big change.
- 2) - Turkey has multifaceted relations at regional level including Europe, Eurasia and the United States.
- 3)-At present, Turkey is playing an important role in Middle East and Eurasian politics after a long time of abnormal relations.
- 4)-The changing geo-political situation and the changing role of Turkey is putting a negative effect on her and USA relations. So it's up to the USA to maintain well relations with Turkey by accommodating herself with the changing policies of Turkey.

#### Europe's Eastern Promise

Here the writer Ronald D. Amuse has indicated a prevailing threat to Eurasia from Russia and the Middle East and urged the Western States to combat this danger by fulfilling their promise with Eurasian states. In the writer's view, the growing influence and relations of Russia and the Middle East with the Eurasian states including Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are posing security and economic threat to the combined ideas and aims of the West. In the future hopefully the Eurasian states become more integrated with a great influence of Russia and the Middle East and this thing will also put influence on the other states adjacent to Eurasia. So the USA, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should reevaluate their political stance regarding Eurasia and should allow these states in the European Union. Otherwise the West will pay an unbearable cost in form of Russia and the Middle East.

## **POLITICAL NEWS**

### **Turkey's main opposition to take nuclear plant bill to top court**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

ANKARA - Hürriyet Daily News

Turkey's main opposition party is preparing to apply to the Constitutional Court for a partial annulment of two bills establishing a nuclear plant in the south and a restructuring of the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

The Republican People's Party, or CHP, collected the required number of signatures on Thursday to take some parts of the bill to the top court.

The CHP is taking the May 12 agreement between Russia and Turkey on the establishment of a nuclear power plant in the Mediterranean hamlet of Akkuyu to court on the grounds that "a contract agreement" between the two countries had been turned into an international agreement, preventing the issue from being subject to national judicial supervision.

The CHP said the situation constituted a violation to the rule of law and the principle that all judicial and administrative procedures were subject to the principle of judicial control.

The party is also objecting to some parts of the bill on the restructuring of the Turkish Foreign Ministry as they have opposed a provision that states "ambassadors in the countries they serve represent the president and the government."

The CHP is demanding the exclusion of the word "government" from the clause.

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### **'Stone-throwing children' in Turkey to receive lighter sentences**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

ANKARA - Hürriyet Daily News

Minors convicted of involvement in violent protests, a group that has become commonly known as "stone-throwing children," will receive shortened prison terms under an amendment passed by Parliament early Thursday.

The law reduces or waives jail sentences for youths convicted of throwing stones at police during demonstrations supporting the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. Under the amendment to the anti-terrorism law, minors will no longer be charged with being members of a terrorist organization or making propaganda for terrorists, and their cases will be handled by juvenile courts instead of high criminal courts.

"If you accept that participating in a meeting or protest is the same as being a member of a terrorist organization, this shows that you do not have the willpower to solve the problem," deputy Ali Rıza Öztürk from the main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, said Wednesday during discussions on the bill.

The ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, initially proposed the measure in late 2009 as part of its Kurdish initiative, but it was shelved after a fatal attack connected to the PKK, the Associated Press reported. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

Deputies from the AKP, the CHP and the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party, or BDP, all lent their support to the bill, which states that children who commit the same crimes as adults cannot be tried in the same courts.

Under the revised law, minors who attend protests bearing firearms, explosives, stones, weapons that can cut or penetrate or rods made of wood, plastic or metal will now face prison terms of six months to three years, down from two to five years. The use of explosive and flammable substances or firearms will, however, result in a minimum of a year in prison.

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### **Turkey rights report neglects headscarf ban, sparks reactions**

Turkish minister faced reactions after the official report that neglected the ban on rights of girls and women who wear headscarf during U.N. meeting.

Thursday, 22 July 2010 12:26

#### **World Bulletin / News Desk**

Turkish minister, who is the second female minister in the cabinet, faced reactions after the official report that neglected the ban on rights of girls and women who wear headscarf during U.N. meeting on women-men equality.

Turkish State Minister Selma Aliye Kavaf attended a United Nations (UN) meeting within the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and defended Turkey's relevant report titled "6th Term Report".

Speaking to the CEDAW delegation, Minister Kavaf said that Turkey had the determination to deal with discrimination against women and to facilitate the equality of women and men, according to Anadolu Agency.

Touching on girls' problems in the educational sector of Turkey, Kavaf said that "problems for girls continue, however, Turkey has made great progress in educating girls in the past several years".

But she did not mention the problems of headscarved female students.

Kavaf-lead Turkish delegation defended the report that says "There is no pressure on the women about their wearings in Turkey." But a Turkish lawyer opposed the remarks.

#### **Rights of headscarved students**

Lawyer Fatma Benli offered another report on violation of rights of headsacrved students and women to the CEDAW. The report consisted of signatures from 71 Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

NGOs said that with such "violations", Turkish state did not fulfill its responsibility to the agreement that Turkey signed.

After the session of CEDAW, Benli said that such remarks which was cited by Turkish Parliament Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men, did not reflect the truth.

Thousands of female students were disfranchised from their education rights, she said.

On the opposition, Kavaf confirmed that such ban did not legally under the Constitution but it was in the practice.

Turkey still insists on imposing headscarf ban as a country whose population is 99 percent Muslim and majority of women wear headscarf as a religious practice.

Meanwhile, Minister Kavaf said that the Constitutional amendment package adopted at the Turkish Parliament in April-May 2010 carried crucial changes from the perspective of women and men's equality.

#### **Obstacles in work life**

In reference to women's employment in Turkey, Kavaf said that the amount of women employed was low compared to the amount of men employed in Turkey.

While the participation of women in Turkish labor force in 2005, the year of our previous report, was 23.3 percent, this figure jumped to 26 percent in 2009, Kavaf underlined.

But Benli said she was a lawyer but she could not enter the courts for trials because of wearing headscarf. Also, headscarved women were disfranchised from work opportunities.

Turkey imposes also the ban at all public domain.

Turkey's ban on headscarves at universities dates back to the 1980s, but was significantly tightened after Feb. 28, 1997, when army generals with public support ousted a government they deemed too Islamist. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) attempted to lift the ban earlier last year, a move that was cited as evidence when a closure case was filed against the party on grounds that it had become a focal point of "anti-secular activities."

Later, Minister Kavaf answered questions from CEDAW members and delegation. Officials from Justice Ministry, Interior Ministry, National Education Ministry, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Health Ministry, Security General Directorate and General Directorate of Turkish Employment Agency also participated the session.

The TCK Women's Platform and CEDAW Civil Society Implementation Board together comprise 20 women's NGOs, six influential women's platforms active nationwide, and 135 local and other women's organizations. The groups will participate as the Women's Organizations Delegation to the CEDAW Reviewing Turkey session, hoping to bring women's voices on gender issues to the gathering. Meanwhile, the government delegation will be led by the state minister responsible for women and family, Selma Aliye Kavaf, who will present the government's report.

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### **Report: 196 indicted in alleged Turkish coup plot**

The Turkish state-run news agency says a court has indicted 196 people on charges of plotting to bring down the ruling government.

The Anatolia news agency says the 968-page indictment approved by an Istanbul court Monday accuses the suspects of involvement in an alleged conspiracy in 2003 to create chaos and pave the way for a military take over.

The suspects include some 30 serving or retired military officers. Most were detained in February -- but subsequently released pending trial -- after a national newspaper published allegedly leaked copies of documents detailing their plans.

19 July 2010, Monday

### **AP WITH TODAY'S ZAMAN ANKARA**

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### **Rate of Women's Participation in Working Life Lower in Turkey than Europe**

The head of the Central Bank of Turkey said on Thursday that the rate of women's participation in working life was lower in Turkey than that in European countries.

Governor Durmus Yilmaz said the rate of women's participation in working life was 28 percent in Turkey.

"This is a low rate when compared with European countries," Yilmaz told the World Management Congress in the central province of Konya.

Yilmaz said participation in labor force was over 70 percent in developed countries in



2009, and it was around 60 percent in east European countries.

The rate of participation in labor force was 49 percent in Turkey in 2009, the Central Bank governor said.

Yilmaz said reforms regarding labor force market would contribute to sustainable growth and permanent rise in employment.

The governor referred to the project to establish centers to raise expertise vocations in Turkey, and said this project and alike would raise qualified hundreds of thousands of young people, contribute to rise in employment, and ensure a permanent growth rate.

Yilmaz defined one of the most important problems of the labor force market as unregistered employment, and said the rate of unregistered employment was 43 percent in Turkey.

"Such implementations cause unjust competition and hamper productivity of our economy," Yilmaz said.

Yilmaz underlined importance of implementing regulations to cut down labor force costs to counter unregistered employment.

The governor defined overall factor efficiency as the third factor affecting potential growth rate, which could be ensured with eliminating uncertainties and restoring macroeconomic stability.

Yilmaz said the precondition for macroeconomic stability was public finance discipline and price stability.

"Economic prosperity can be raised only if sustainable growth is ensured," Yilmaz said.

Yilmaz also said sustainable growth referred to an economic growth in which price stability was not harmed and growth figures close to potential growth level were sustained.

Thursday, 22 July 2010

USAK PUBLICATIONS

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## **GEO-STRATEGIC NEWS**

### **Rival Cypriot leaders meet amid controversy**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

NICOSIA, Cyprus - Daily News with wires

HURRIYAT

Rival Cypriot presidents hold new round of UN-led reunification talks for the divided Mediterranean island, but a recent statement by the Greek Cypriot president marks the stumbling of the reunification talks. Derviş Eroğlu discusses property issues with Dimitris Christofias, who blames the Turkish Cypriot side for hampering the peace process

The Greek Cypriot president's recent indication that his side had hardened its stance, making a peace deal unlikely in the near future, overshadowed the latest meeting of the Cypriot presidents Thursday.

During an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Greek Cypriot President Dimitris Christofias said Turkish Cypriot President Derviş Eroğlu had shifted his position despite his statements calling for a peace agreement before the end of the year. He also urged Eroğlu to accept Greek Cypriot proposals, which he said would swiftly bring about an accord.

It was the first time Christofias has publicly spoken out against Eroğlu since the Turkish Cypriot replaced moderate Mehmet Ali Talat in an election last April – a move likely to further complicate already tangled negotiations.

On Thursday, the two rivals met at the buffer zone in the divided capital of Nicosia to discuss their proposals regarding the property issue. “We will continue negotiating the property issue in our upcoming meetings,” Anatolia news agency quoted Eroğlu as telling reporters after the meeting.

Eroğlu said that he and the Greek Cypriot leader had laid down proposals in line with the interests of their peoples. This was the fifth meeting between Eroğlu and Christofias.

### **Protracted dispute**

Cyprus was split into an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south and a Turkish Cypriot north in 1974 when Turkey intervened in response to a coup by supporters of a union with mainland Greece. Turkish Cypriots declared themselves an independent republic in 1983 but only Turkey recognizes it. Turkey also maintains 35,000 troops there.

"It's perfectly clear that the hardening of the other side's stance completely contradicts statements by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership that they want a settlement to be achieved by the end of the year," Christofias said Wednesday.

The protracted dispute is hampering Turkey's beleaguered bid to join the European Union and obstructing closer EU-NATO cooperation.

Nearly two years of United Nations-facilitated peace talks have produced limited progress, and the election win by Eroğlu, considered a hardliner, roused fears that his long-standing advocacy of a separate Turkish Cypriot sovereignty would lead talks to a grinding halt.

Talat and Christofias had envisioned a partnership based on a single-sovereign federation. Eroğlu has accused Greek Cypriots of unfairly portraying him as a separatist while insisting that talks cannot carry on forever – a view echoed by the Turkish government. Addressing crowds during celebrations of the 36th anniversary of the Turkish intervention in Turkish-held Nicosia on Tuesday, Eroğlu spoke of a "natural timetable" for the talks to wrap up by the end of the year.

But Christofias described calls for a deadline to the talks as a Turkish bid "to apportion responsibility" for the lack of progress.

Instead, he urged Eroğlu to accept Greek Cypriot proposals on key issues of property lost during the war, territorial adjustments and the fate of Turkish mainlanders who have settled in northern Cyprus.

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### **Turkey to gain financially from Cyprus deal, group says**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

ATHENS – Bloomberg

HURRIYAT

The reunification of Cyprus would give Turkey a “peace dividend” of more than 17 billion euros a year, the Peace Research Institute Oslo said Thursday.

Turkey “stands to make huge financial gains from the transformation of the Turkey-Cyprus-Greece region into one of lasting peace and stability,” with benefits for tourism, transport, financial services and energy, the Cyprus office of the institute said in a report.

The estimated peace dividend, comprising cost savings of 5.1 billion euros and increased revenue of 12.3 billion euros, which is equivalent to 3.5 percent of Turkey's gross domestic product, does not include an estimated 33 billion euros in gains from direct foreign investment, according to the report.

The reunification of the two Cypriot communities would enable Greece to cut 2.3 billion euros of military spending a year, increase tourism revenue by 110 million euros and boost direct foreign investment by 19.8 billion euros a year, the institute said.

Greek- and Turkish-speaking communities in Cyprus have been divided since Turkey's 1974 intervention in the northern third of the island following a coup staged by supporters of a union with Greece.

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### **Greece backs Greek Cypriot proposals to jumpstart UN talks**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

LARNACA, Cyprus – Agence France-Presse

HURRIYAT

Greece voiced support for Greek Cypriot proposals to jumpstart talks on reunifying the Mediterranean island after Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots accused their rivals of derailing a U.N.-backed year-end target date for a deal.

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou Wednesday urged Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots to "seriously study" the new package of proposals put forward last week by Greek Cypriot President Dimitris Christofias.

"This shows that President Christofias is one step ahead in initiatives to solve the Cyprus problem," Papandreou told reporters after they met at the Larnaca airport.

The package put forward by Christofias proposes that the port of Famagusta in Turkish Cypriot be opened to direct trade under European Union auspices in exchange for the return of the nearby resort of Varosha to its displaced Greek Cypriot inhabitants.

Christofias also proposes that in U.N.-brokered talks on reunifying the island the questions of restoring property to the displaced and adjusting the amount of territory under Turkish Cypriot administration be combined with the issue of immigration control after any deal.

He is also pushing for the key issue of security to be dealt with at a U.N.-chaired international conference with participation by the European Union, as well as Greece, Turkey and former colonial power Britain, rather than at a meeting of the last three as proposed by the Turkish Cypriots.

"If these measures are accepted it will change the climate and lead to positive results," Christofias said on Wednesday.

### **Ankara's warning**

During a visit to Turkish Cyprus on Tuesday, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek accused the Greek Cypriots of lacking the necessary political will for a settlement. "This is not a process that can go on forever," he warned after talks with Turkish Cypriot President Dervis Eroğlu. "If the Greek Cypriots and their supporters cannot reach a solution by the end of the year, everyone will continue to follow their own paths," he said.

But Christofias countered that it was not his government that was blocking progress in reunification talks but the Turkish Cypriots and their backers in Ankara, which he charged was "hardening its stance."

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon has warned the two sides that time is running out for a deal but has expressed confidence one can be reached in the coming months.

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### **Turkish, Greek Cyprus discuss property issue**

The Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders debated property issue.

Thursday, 22 July 2010 17:53

#### WORLD BULLETIN

The Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders debated on Thursday property issue.

President Dervis Eroglu of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) and Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias met at the buffer zone in Lefkosa and took up their proposals regarding property issue.

"We will continue negotiating property issue in our upcoming meeting," Eroglu told reporters after the meeting.

Eroglu said the Greek Cypriot leader and he laid down proposals in line with the interests of their peoples.

This was the fifth meeting between Eroglu and Christofias.

Eroglu's predecessor Mehmet Ali Talat and Greek Cypriot leader Christofias got together 71 times under the extensive settlement talks, which began on September 11, 2008. Their last meeting took place on March 30.

Dervis Eroglu was elected the new president of TRNC on April 18, and has held five meetings with Christofias so far.

The next meeting of the leaders will take place on July 28

Reuters

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### **Gül in Egypt to discuss Middle East peace process**

Turkish President Abdullah Gül had talks with Egyptian officials and attended the graduation ceremony of a military school during his two-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart, Hosni Mubarak, on Wednesday.

President Gül first met with Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif and then attended a military parade on the occasion of a graduation ceremony of the Egyptian Military Academy. Mubarak also accompanied Gül to the ceremony. The graduation ceremony featured a presentation of Egyptian army technology and equipment, while many helicopters, tanks and motorcycles took part in the military parade bearing both Egyptian and Turkish flags.

At the end of the ceremony, Mubarak and Gül handed out medals to those students who graduated from the academy with honors.

The Turkish and Egyptian presidents then headed to the presidential palace to hold bilateral talks on a number of issues, including the Middle East peace process and Turkish-Egyptian relations.

The annual trade volume between Turkey and Egypt was \$3.26 billion last year.

Although observers consider the two states "rivals" in the region, Turkey and Egypt repeatedly rejected such speculation.

While Mubarak visited Turkey twice last year, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has paid numerous visits to Egypt in the past year. Turkey and Egypt have decided to increase military cooperation, including education and training for their military

personnel. Chief of General Staff Gen. İlker Başbuğ was in Egypt in late May to boost military cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Turkish Airlines (THY) started direct flights to Egypt's city of Alexandria to promote tourism between Egypt and Turkey a month ago.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has called on Egypt several times to end the crippling siege on Gaza and ease restrictions on food and goods entering the Gaza Strip. Egypt partially lifted the joint Israeli-Egyptian blockade last month following the deadly Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara. Egypt fears that Hamas militants may instigate instability in Egypt, and also faces Israeli pressure, and thus has kept the border closed. Gül was also expected to discuss Egypt's contribution to easing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza during his talks with Egyptian officials. President Gül returned to Turkey late on Wednesday.

22 July 2010, Thursday

TODAY'S ZAMAN İSTANBUL

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### **Turkey steps up assistance to Afghanistan with new PRT**

Turkey on Wednesday launched its second reconstruction team in Afghanistan, a sign of Ankara's continued commitment to assist Afghan authorities with reconstruction efforts and help enhance development and stability in the war-torn country.

The official opening of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in the northern province of Jowzjan came a day after a major international conference in Kabul endorsed plans for Afghan forces to be in charge of security by 2014. "This is a very good beginning between friends. Turkish-Afghan friendship dates back in history, and it will continue forever," Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said during the opening ceremony in Sheberghan, the capital of Jowzjan. "Serving Afghanistan is no different than serving Turkey," Davutoğlu remarked, adding that his own family roots stemmed from Greater Khorasan, a historic region that covered parts of modern day Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Turkey, a key contributor to international efforts to help reconstruction in Afghanistan following a nine-year war with the Taliban and other insurgent groups, has opened 34 schools and a hospital in northern Afghanistan, Davutoğlu also said, pledging that Turkish efforts would continue.

The Turkish PRT in Jowzjan will assist Afghan authorities' efforts in the development and training of Afghan personnel, including security personnel, to improve their capacity to deal with day-to-day challenges. The Jowzjan PRT is built on the same model used in Turkey's existing PRT in the province of Wardak. That PRT, led by a civilian and protected by military forces, has been functioning since 2006. More than 30 PRTs function across Afghanistan.

Officials say the Jowzjan PRT will focus on providing humanitarian assistance and helping Afghan authorities with capacity-building, development and reconstruction. The establishment of a second Turkish PRT was requested and approved by the Afghan authorities, said Turkish officials.

The Turkish PRT in Jowzjan will be led by a civilian coordinator appointed by the Foreign Ministry. Its civilian elements include representatives from the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA), the Interior Ministry, Education Ministry, Health Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry.

International assistance is vital as Afghanistan struggles to put an end to escalating violence and finally take charge of security in all provinces by end of 2014, as agreed during Tuesday's international conference. Speaking at the conference, Davutoğlu said Turkey supported the transfer of power to the Afghan government and the plan to reintegrate insurgents into Afghan society. "An Afghan-led and steered peace and reconciliation process should culminate in enhanced national unity and solidarity throughout the country," Davutoğlu told the conference.

The conference also agreed that the Afghan government would be given greater responsibility for its own affairs in exchange for guarantees that it will improve standards and accountability. According to the conference's final statement, participants gave strong support for channeling at least 50 percent of development aid through the government within two years, up from the current 20 percent, in exchange for more accountability and a crackdown on graft.

While the international community recognizes that Afghans must increasingly take charge, corruption remains a major concern. Graft feeds frustration with the government thereby boosting support for the insurgency.

Turkey also announced that it would contribute \$2 million to the United Nations to support preparations for Afghanistan's upcoming parliamentary elections, planned for September, which, Davutoğlu said, would help consolidate nationwide unity and solidarity by enabling the representation of all segments of society. "No effort must be spared with a view to holding the elections in a fair and transparent manner and on Sept. 18 as planned," he said.

22 July 2010, Thursday  
todays zaman

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### **Israel set to deliver four more surveillance drones to Turkey**

The delivery of four Heron type unmanned surveillance planes, the remaining lot in a \$180 million deal for 10 Israeli drones for the Turkish armed forces, is scheduled for early August, military sources said on Wednesday.

The drones are set to arrive in the southeastern province of Batman on August 1 or 2 together with associated ground control systems and support equipments.

A group of Turkish military personnel returned to Turkey after concluding talks and preparations in Israel for the shipment of the remaining drones.

A team of six Israeli experts has arrived in Turkey for the maintenance of the UAVs which is set to be followed by another large group of Israeli military personnel, set to

arrive in the first week of August.

Turkey received the first six-drone lot in February this year as the country earlier announced that its first indigenous UAVs, popularly known as the Anka (or the Phoenix) have made maiden flight as sources say the Turkish-made drones would remarkably reduce dependence on foreign technology.

21 July 2010, Wednesday  
TODAYS ZAMAN

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### **Turkey, KKTC sign \$450 mln water deal**

Turkish and Turkish Cypriot authorities have signed a \$450 million agreement to transport 75 million cubic meters of water from Turkey to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) annually.

The intergovernmental framework agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek and KKTC Prime Minister İrsen Küçük during a ceremony in Lefkoşa on Monday. Turkish Cypriot President Derviş Eroğlu also attended the ceremony.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Eroğlu said securing enough water and electricity were two strategically important goals for the KKTC and added that the KKTC would develop faster thanks to the water brought from Turkey. The Turkish Cypriot state is currently self-sufficient in regard to electricity, said Eroğlu, but it is likely to be in need of electricity transferred underneath the Mediterranean Sea given its growing economy, especially the tourism sector.

The water transfer project between Turkey and the KKTC envisages the transport of water via pipes from a dam to be constructed on the Dragon Stream in the southern Turkish town of Anamur. The water will be transferred to the Geçitköy Dam near Girne (Kyrenia) in the KKTC. The project, which will be completed in four years, will be funded by Turkey.

Küçük noted that the 75 million cubic meters of water to be transported from Turkey would transform the KKTC's appearance, while Çiçek said that the water project would provide a remarkable resource for Turkish Cypriots and to all the people of the island as well if a lasting peace could be established.

The KKTC has been in reunification talks with the Greek Cypriot administration. The Greek Cypriots have been a member of the European Union since 2004 but membership benefits do not apply to the Turkish north.

21 July 2010, Wednesday  
TODAY'S ZAMAN İSTANBUL

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### **Turkey's carbon dioxide emission 4 times less than Europe**

As scientists keep discussing whether the increasing carbon dioxide emission all over the world would speed up global warming, a Turkish academician known for his studies on hydrogen and hydrogen technologies said that Turkey was currently in a much better position in terms of carbon dioxide emission compared to many European countries. In an interview with the Anatolia news agency, Prof. İbrahim Dinçer from Canada's University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) said that Turkey's carbon dioxide emission per person was 4 times less than European countries such as Germany and Britain.

Dinçer said carbon dioxide emission was 20 tons per person in many parts of Europe while it was around 5 tons in Turkey.

Describing the level in Turkey as "reasonable", Dinçer said, "Due to our current technological development and economic expansion, carbon dioxide emission is likely to increase in the next 5-10 years".

The academician noted that precautions should be taken and quotas should be imposed now in order to be able to deal with the upcoming increase.

Expressing the necessity for creating an inventory, Dinçer also said strategic policies and road maps on the utilization of energy resources should be developed.

Noting that studies concerning the environment should not be limited with the government's efforts, Dinçer stated that NGOs and universities should work on the matter as well.

Calling on everybody to act responsibly, Dinçer said systems should be given a more environment-friendly structure, energy should be used in a more accurate and productive way, moreover, greater importance should be attached to energy security.

20 July 2010, Tuesday

TODAYS ZAMAN

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### **Syrian President Assad reaffirms Turkey's role as mediator with Israel**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has insisted that Turkey is his country's best hope for a mediator in possible peace talks with Israel, even after Ankara's ties with the Israeli state came to a standstill following a deadly raid on an aid ship that killed eight Turks and one American.

“The interceding role in indirect talks [with Israel] belongs to Turkey. Other countries can play only a supportive role, not an alternative one,” Assad told a group of Turkish journalists in an interview in Damascus. “We are fully confident that Turkey will successfully fulfill this role. If we had found a more successful negotiator, we would have gone to them,” he added.

Earlier this month, Assad was quoted as saying that the crisis between Israel and Turkey in the wake of the Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara could affect the stability of the Middle East and undermine Ankara's role in the region's peace process. “If the relationship between Turkey and Israel is not renewed, it will be very difficult for Turkey to play a role in negotiations [to revive the Middle East peace process],” he said during a visit to Spain.

In the interview, the Syrian president called the Israeli raid an “act of terror” and backed Turkey's demands for an apology, compensation for families of the victims and establishment of an international investigation. On the topic of peace efforts, Assad suggested that resumption of talks with Turkish mediation could be difficult if Turkey's demands are not met. “Turkey has made a few attempts lately to resume its role [as mediator], but now blood has been shed,” Assad said, “Turkey cannot give up on the blood of its nationals for the sake of mediation. Otherwise, it might lose its weight and credibility.”

When asked whether the Israeli fulfillment of Turkish demands was a Syrian condition for the resumption of talks, he said it was a condition for Turkey, not for Syria. “Turkey may resume its role as mediator, but it should not give up on its rightful demands for an apology, an investigation and compensation,” Assad replied.

The Syrian president also said he presses every foreign leader he meets to pressure Israel on peace efforts, but denied a report in the Turkish media that he had asked a Western leader to assume the role of mediator, underlining that he also explains how vital Turkey's role is in peace efforts in each and every one of these meetings.

The Turkish-mediated talks between Syria and Israel collapsed when Israel launched a deadly offensive in Gaza in the winter of 2008-09, killing about 1,400 Palestinians during the three-week operation. Relations between Turkey and Israel have deteriorated further since then, and reached a new low following the May 31 raid. Turkey is now demanding



an official apology and an international investigation into the incident, saying otherwise relations will not get back to normal.

On the issue of terror, the Syrian leader said he backed the possible disarmament of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) so that it could transform itself into a political actor, and added that any campaign against terrorism should include political and social measures along with military ones.

Assad also said not all US President Barack Obama's views regarding the Middle East were shared by other institutions in Washington, and warned that a continued stalemate in protracted disputes in the Middle East could lead to a war.

He backed Turkey's possible membership in the EU as well, and said Turkey recently increasing its ties with its neighbors in the Middle East would be a supplement, not an alternative, to its relations with the EU.

I'm not following the details concerning this operation. The issue is not about capturing 10 or 100 terrorists. What matters is the principle. Our cooperation with Turkey in the security field is not new; we have coordinated for many years. Intervening when there are preparations for a terrorist attack or for infiltration is a dimension of this cooperation. Within this framework, the two countries hold security cooperation meetings twice in a year. The efficiency of this cooperation has been proven so far. We started new discussions on expanding the security cooperation at meetings of the high-level strategic cooperation council which we launched nine months ago. Negotiations on a new agreement are continuing.

*As two countries who have signed a strategic partnership agreement and who both suffer due to the Kurdish issue, what kind of joint polices can be developed? How does the Kurdish issue appear when looking from Syria?*

Terror is not solely a security or a military issue. Therefore, we need to do more than just fight the terrorist. Looking into ways of being protected from terror is a must. If one terrorist is captured, then 10 terrorists may emerge in his wake. Thus this pursuit is not enough; this is an essential but limited process.

There is a need for thinking about political and social measures besides measures in the security field. We should take the issue as a social phenomenon for aiding in the fight against terrorism.

We, as Syria and Turkey, see that Kurds are a part of our society. They are neither guests who have temporary residence nor tourists. But we don't want the West to use the Kurds against us either. We see that terrorist activities in Turkey have intensified following the Mavi Marmara raid. Our experience with Kurds in Syria shows us that they are patriots. I'm not looking at the negative side of the issue; I have to look at the positive side. We see 10, 20 or 1,000 terrorists; however, we forget about our 1 million patriotic Kurdish citizens.

If we improve our relations with these people who have contributed to building our countries, we will be better able to isolate terrorism.

*Are you talking about a Kurdish initiative in Syria?*

We are talking about resolving problems within the national framework. We don't want steps under the mask of an "initiative" which would take us to other points.

*Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani has said that the PKK should lay down arms; that the goal of "Greater Kurdistan" is a dream and that Iraq will remain whole. Do you agree with these thoughts?*

If the PKK lays down arms and becomes a political party, this would be a positive development. As long as there are no weapons and terror, countries in the region, including Turkey, can have dialogue with it. If it lays down arms, we can also welcome back 1,500 Syrian-origin terrorists within the PKK.

As for Kurdistan, will it get separated from Iraq or will it contribute to Iraq's unity? Some are talking about a federation. There are a lot of examples around the world. However, we are against an ethnicity-based federation. Can Iraq build a federal structure beyond ethnic and sectarian lines? We don't see such a possibility.

*In a statement delivered during your visit to Madrid earlier this month, you said the deterioration of ties between Turkey and Israel made the continuation of Turkey's role as a mediator between Syria and Israel difficult and this has led to a lot of debates in Turkey. Do you believe that Turkey's mission of mediation has come to an end?*

This is not what I said at the press conference in Madrid, but some mistakes within the Turkish news reports about this issue need to be corrected. First: I want the confidence between Syria and the Turkish government to be confirmed. Within that statement in Madrid, it was stressed that there is no other country who could replace Turkey in mediation between Syria and Israel. I have said in the past too that it is Israel who doesn't want this role (to be played by Turkey). Israel, particularly the Netanyahu government, has been trying to distance Turkey from mediation in the last few months.

*Do you believe that the attack on the Mavi Marmara actually targeted this role of Turkey?*

The process targeting Turkey's initiatives started before the Mavi Marmara incident. The raid on the Mavi Marmara was terror, targeting innocent Turkish people. Israel was extremely annoyed by the successful role played by Turkey within the peace process because Turkey had assumed a completely neutral role without favoring any side and the West had supported and encouraged this role by Turkey. Turkey had made a few attempts recently to resume its role [as mediator], but now blood has been shed. Now Turkey cannot give up on the blood of its nationals for the sake of mediation. Otherwise, it might lose its weight and credibility.

Additionally, the Turkish press reported that we asked a Western leader who was visiting Damascus to restart the mediation process with Israel. Yes, I'm asking everybody coming to Damascus to put pressure on Israel for peace. But I'm also telling every visitor about the importance of Turkey's role. I want you to understand that Syria's policy is stable and that it does not ebb and flow.

The fact that there have been problems between Turkey and Israel doesn't mean that we will give up peace negotiations. Turkey may resume its role as mediator but it should not give up on its rightful demands for an apology, investigation and compensation. It is critical that Israel fulfill its duty regarding Turkey.

*Is this Syria's condition for restarting peace talks?*

This is not a condition of Syria; this is a condition of Turkey. This is Turkey's right. We are sure and confident that Turkey will assume a successful role. If we had found a mediator who is more successful than Turkey, then we would approach it without hesitation. If we had found a competent party for getting our territories back and for maintaining peace, we would have told this to Mr. [Prime Minister Recep Tayyip] Erdoğan. However, we haven't, so far, found a better mediator.

*How do you see Turkey's role right now? Will you wait for the normalization of relations between Turkey and Israel?*

Very clearly, the main role in the indirect talks belongs to Turkey. Other countries' roles are not alternative but are supportive. About waiting, at the moment there is unfortunately no will for peace within the current government in Israel.

*What do you say about suggestions claiming that Turkey's foreign policy axis has shifted?*

Turkey's relations with the West and the EU are important both for itself and for us. Since we are neighbors, Turkey's EU membership will have a particularly positive impact on us. Turkey's relations with the near region are not an alternative to but are supportive of its relations with the EU. It is obvious that some countries in Europe have been stalling on Turkey. If Turkey gets stronger in the region, then its hands will become stronger in negotiations with the EU. Maybe then the EU will ask Turkey to come in, because it needs Turkey.

17 July 2010, Saturday  
TODAYS ZAMAN

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## **ECONOMIC NEWS**

### **India's Dabur poised to buy Turkish cosmetics company**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

ISTANBUL - Hürriyet Daily News

Indian company Dabur is "in advanced talks" to buy Turkish personal care company Hobi Kozmetik for its first overseas acquisition, according to the Economic Times of India.

The company has been in talks with several overseas companies, but Hobi Kozmetik is the frontrunner," a Dabur representative told the newspaper, according to a story published Thursday.

"We are close to finalizing an acquisition overseas," the newspaper quoted Mohit Burman, director of Dabur India, as saying. "But we are talking to more than one company, and I cannot divulge any name."

Hobi Kozmetik makes shampoos, hairstyling, haircare, skincare and bath and shower products for women, men and children under the brand names Hobby and New Era and has a presence in more than 30 countries. The Indian newspaper said Hobi's annual revenues stand at around \$21.14 million.

Dabur is aiming to raise around \$422 million to fund acquisitions, another company executive told the newspaper, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Hobi Kozmetik, established in 1974, holds more than a 40-percent share in Turkey's hair gel market and has a substantial market share of hair care and skin care products, according to the company's website.

In an interview last month, Sunil Duggal, the chief executive of Dabur, said Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, Turkey and Indonesia were key markets for the company, adding that hair, oral and skin care would be its focus areas.

"Overseas acquisitions in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia have become an increasing trend among Indian companies as they get easy access to unexplored markets

and also because there are very few acquisition targets locally,” the Economic Times said.

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### **Turkey, Nakhchivan sign natural gas deal**

Turkey and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic have signed an agreement on the construction of a natural gas pipeline.

signing ceremony attended by Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yıldız was held on Saturday in Nakhchivan. Delivering a speech at the ceremony, Yıldız said the agreement on the natural gas pipeline would boost ties between the Turkey and Nakhchivan. The projected pipeline will be constructed between Turkey and Nakhchivan. Yıldız said its will be between 180 and 200 kilometers long. The pipeline will transport Azerbaijani gas to Nakhchivan via Turkey. The capacity of the pipeline will be determined according to needs of Nakhchivan, Yıldız said.

The minister said that relations between Turkey and Nakhchivan have been improving. “Turkish Airlines Turkish Airlines [THY] flies there three days a week. The number of flights will increase. Economic relations will be boosted,” he said. The deal was signed by the state-owned Turkish Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) General Manager Fazıl Şenel and State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) General Manager Rövnaq Abdullayev. İstanbul Today’s Zaman

19 July 2010, Monday

TODAYS ZAMAN

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### **Problems in European Economies Risk for Turkey, Turkish CB Governor Warns**

The problems that European economies faced pose a remarkable risk for Turkey, Turkish Central Bank Governor Durmus Yilmaz said on Thursday.

"Taking into account that the European Union is the biggest market for our exported items, setbacks the Union is tackling with constitute a risk for our country," Yilmaz told the World Management Congress in the central province of Konya.

Yilmaz said Turkey had shown a major resistance to the global economic crisis thanks to its floating currency rate, sound monetary policy and a well-established banking system as well as strict financial discipline.

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### **SOCIAL NEWS**

#### **Flood in eastern Turkey kills six from same family**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

ISTANBUL - Daily News with wires

HURRIYAT

Six people from the same family were killed Wednesday when floodwaters swept away their house in Saçlık village of the eastern province of Erzurum

Health Minister Recep Akdağ paid a visit Thursday to the eastern province of Erzurum, where six people from the same family were killed the day before when floodwaters swept away their house.

The Kocabaş residence, which was built on a creek bed in Saçlık village in Erzurum’s Horasan district, was destroyed at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday following torrential rains in the area.

Keziban Kocabaş, 46, Aysel Kocabaş, 18, Cüneyt Kocabaş, 12, Sezer Kocabaş, 10, Yusuf Kocabaş, 7, and Mahide Kocabaş, 62, died in the disaster. Keziban Kocabaş' husband, Ziya Kocabaş, 49, and two of the couple's sons were working in a nearby field and were thus spared.

8-year-old child from the same family was saved from floodwaters by rescue teams, Akdağ said Thursday.

"For which one of them would I be sorry? What kind of a pain is this?" Ziya Kocabaş said of his family members following the tragic incident.

Highlighting the problematic location of Saçlık, the health minister said the village "will probably be moved to another place." He also said he had met with Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek and ensured that aid would be sent to the village from Prime Ministry funds.

The heavy rainfall that affected Erzurum also caused another flood that swept away a portion of the road connecting the towns of Köprüköy and Karayazı, leaving motorists stranded on both sides. Seventy houses in Erzurum were also flooded.

Village headman Vahyettin Kaya said the rainfall was not that heavy in the village, but added that the area had been hit by water coming down from the mountains and the pieces of rock it dragged along.

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## COMMENTARY

### **Why will I vote 'yes' in referendum**

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

MEHMET ALİ BİRAND

HURRIYAT

The Sept. 12 referendum is becoming progressively more political.

It changes into a vote of confidence rather than a constitutional amendments issue.

And everybody has a justification.

Those who don't have a justification create one.

- One part says that the draft is to pave AKP's way and destroy judiciary obstacles.

According to their accounts, after getting rid of the military aspect that protects the secular system it's now time to get to the judiciary. This way the administration is able to bring in people who are appointed by the administration party, thus making decisions as they please.

- Once more the military will experience a bash, and no one can defend the secular system. At the very least pressure by the military is decreased.

- Proletarians view everything from their point of view and state that these amendments won't affect them and are only an extension of the Sept. 12 constitutional spirit.

- And a different segment, foremost the Kurds oppose stressing that amendments are very artificial and insufficient. According to them, there needs to be a brand new constitution prepared and not a superficial one, which they will veto anyway.

- The opposition has completely political concerns. They want Erdoğan to nuzzle no matter what. They insist on a NO vote because it would mean that the administration party would lose charisma and go into the elections on the downbeat.

But to tell the truth, the math in mind is to teach Erdoğan a lesson and take the wind out of his sails before general elections.

That's how it goes in politics.

Whoever collects more votes and hurts the opponent, wins.

There is a rationale to it all.

But I do too have a rationale of my own.

I am sick and tired of waiting. I'll vote YES

I will vote YES in the Sept. 12 referendum.

I'm sure that those who'll say NO have reasonable explanations. And I can join some of their justifications. But none are as strong as to miss out on an important opportunity.

See why...

- For 30 years I have written books to get rid of military coups, written columns, done chats, TV programs and struggled to make the military stay out of politics. Until now nobody took or could take any concrete step in this direction. I waited for years, and just as I was about to give up hope I encountered this amendment. This draft may be insufficient. But even if it is symbolic, those who plan a coup will have to think twice or more before taking action. For me this step is extremely vital on our way to becoming a democracy. I also see the difficulties in conducting further constitutional amendments. Thus I want to suffice with what I have. If one day someone else steps forward who can do better, he is more than welcome.

- I never believed that these amendments would put the judiciary under AKP's command and now with amendments from the Constitutional Court I won't believe it at all.

Besides, the judiciary needs to be the protector of the law, not the secular system.

Protecting the secular system should be the responsibility of the society.

- If there are people who want to teach Erdoğan a political lesson, they should do so in general elections. I too have my suspicions and concerns regarding the prime minister. I'm also at unease in respect to some of his politics and approaches, as I wrote in my article yesterday. I am very tired of the AKP, but the message should not be sent on Sept. 12. I believe the two subjects should not be confused but separated from one another. In short, I wouldn't want to confuse the referendum with general elections and miss out on a chance we obtained, no matter how insufficient it may be. I'd betray myself if I was unable to get the message across now that the time for military coups has passed making our lives difficult and pushing us constantly back for 50 years.

That's why I will vote YES.

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### **Cyprus deal: Now or now**

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

YUSUF KANLI

HURRIYAT

Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek, who is also responsible for Cyprus affairs, said at a ceremony in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus marking the 36th anniversary of the 1974 Turkish intervention in the island, that there either will be a Cyprus settlement by the end of this year, or the "two separate peoples, two democracies and two states," of Cyprus will go their separate ways.

"This way or the other the Cyprus problem will soon be resolved. We have been working hard for a resolution of the Cyprus problem. But, we are not for a settlement at any cost. Turkey never ever aspired and will not foresee a settlement that will provide a return [to northern Cyprus of the Greek Cypriot former residents who fled to southern Cyprus after the Turkish intervention]. There are two separate peoples, two separate democracies, two

separate states on Cyprus. There will be either a settlement on Cyprus by the end of this year, or the two states on the island will walk separate ways,” said Çiçek in a nutshell explaining Turkey’s position regarding the Cyprus talks process which appears to be heading nowhere but yet somehow the hope of a miraculous success somehow cautiously maintained.

Without any doubt from the United Nations Secretariat, the United States to the European Commission pressure is building on the leaders of the two peoples of Cyprus to speed up the UN-sponsored direct negotiations between themselves for resolving the almost fifty-year-old problem of power sharing between their two peoples of the eastern Mediterranean island in a lasting bi-zonal and bi-communal federation.

There is frustration in the international community with the Cyprus talks’ process dragging on intermittently since the mid 1960s without a compromise deal. There is frustration in the two peoples of the island. Despite the cautious optimism shared by some that there might finally be a compromise deal soon, vast majority of the two peoples of the island no longer believe the direct talks’ process might conclude successfully and a new partnership state might be established on the island.

While in the Turkish Cypriot side stern warnings are being raised that there ought to be a resolution by the yearend or the two “separate states and peoples” should be allowed to walk their separate ways, in the Greek Cypriot side questions are being asked should the current talks end inconclusively like the many past rounds of talks whether the northern Turkish Cypriot part of the island evolve into a Taiwan-like status or with the support of some major international players walk along a process like the Kosovo example and become a full fledged international entity. Furthermore, in either case, would the Turkish Cypriot state find itself a place in the EU?

Such questions, of course, might prod the Greek Cypriot side to give up their much-accustomed intransigence barring creation of a new partnership republic on the island on the basis of political equality of the two sides and undiluted bi-zonality and bi-communality – which requires limitation of the number of Greek Cypriots who may resettle in northern Cyprus and in resolving the thorny property aspect of the problem opting for a global exchange and compensation scheme rather than reinstatement of pre-1974 property rights.

Despite immense Greek Cypriot propaganda and efforts of the domestic opposition to portray new Turkish Cypriot President Dr. Derviş Eroğlu as a hard liner not as pro-settlement as his predecessor Mehmet Ali Talat, over the past few months since the northern April presidential vote, Eroğlu has proved his sincere wish for a just and lasting accord based on political equality of the two constituent peoples and states. He not only has been calling for a speedy process and a timetable for the talks with a vision to strike a deal by the yearend, but to demonstrate his goodwill even agreed to engage in talks on the thorny property issue and presented the Greek Cypriot side a comprehensive proposal on the issue. Demetris Christofias, the Greek Cypriot leader, on the other hand, has been dragging his feet, refusing a timetable for the talks and demanding handling of the property issue together with the refugees and territorial aspects of the problem that together with the 1960 Guarantee and Alliance system ought to be discussed in the presence of guarantor powers Turkey, Greece and Britain, as was the case during the Annan Plan process.

If there will be a Cyprus deal “now or now” it appears that time has come to consider seriously convening a conference of the founding parties of the 1960 republic – that is a conference participated by apart two peoples of the island, guarantor powers Turkey, Greece and Britain – with the UN sponsoring such a conference and some major powers, including the EU and the P5 sitting as observers.

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### **Nagorno- Karabakh: The standoff continues**

**AMANDA PAUL**

Once again Azerbaijan and Armenia have gone through the motions. Each time the two sides meet it is the same: Beforehand there is fresh optimism that this meeting could be the meeting where real progress towards a peace deal is made.

Unfortunately the outcome is nearly always the same -- another Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) press statement declaring that good discussions took place but no breakthrough. This meeting was no exception: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Armenian counterpart, Edward Nalbandian, met on the fringes of the OSCE Informal Ministerial Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan. There was no breakthrough. Indeed there was very little (if any) progress at all. There was not even a joint press statement. Each side blamed the other. Nalbandian called Mammadyarov’s approach destructive. Mammadyarov said he believed that Armenia has no desire to reach an agreement.

The two leaderships need to reach an agreement on a set of “Basic Principles.” The basic principles were unveiled in June 2006 by the French, Russian and US co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group that is mediating a solution to the conflict. They were revised in late 2007 and late 2008, adopted one year ago on the sidelines of the G8 summit in L’Aquila and reaffirmed last month at the G8 meeting in Canada. The principles foresee the return to Azerbaijan of the seven territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh currently occupied by Armenia; interim status for Nagorno-Karabakh that provides guarantees of security and self-governance; a land corridor linking Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia; future determination of the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh through “a legally binding expression of will”; the right of all internally displaced persons and refugees to return to their former places of residence; and international security guarantees that would include a peacekeeping operation.

Azerbaijan continues to say they have accepted the revised principles and that it is now up to the international community to put greater pressure on Armenia, citing that the longer Armenia continues to control Nagorno-Karabakh and occupy the seven surrounding Azerbaijani provinces, the harder it will be to change the status quo and achieve peace with this sovereign Azerbaijani territory remaining a vital bargaining chip for the Armenians in negotiations regarding the future status of Karabakh. Prolonging the status quo is only favorable to the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh regime and those that support it.

This lack of movement and continued occupation of its lands has resulted in Baku becoming increasingly fed up, which in turn has resulted in an increase of “war talk” from its leadership. War would blow the South Caucasus apart, spilling over into the entire region.

In Almaty the Minsk Group co-chairs, together with the French and Russian foreign ministers, stated that efforts made so far by the two parties have not been sufficient to



overcome their differences and urged a greater spirit of compromise. Nice words, but that is all they are because they are not backed up with concrete actions and therefore seem to fall on deaf ears.

I am not optimistic -- rather the opposite. With the talks in stalemate it is not unlikely that tension on the ground will increase and there will be further violations of the cease-fire line, not less. So far this year 19 lives have been lost, the same number for the whole of 2009. The international community needs to do more but yet the apparent danger of the conflict still seems to be underestimated -- as it was almost two years ago in Georgia. It would seem that unless open war breaks out, Karabakh will continue to be low on the West's priority list given there are a number of other actual or potential conflicts (Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran) that are viewed as more important in the short to medium term. This was clearly demonstrated by the West's response to the recent escalation in hostilities. The EU issued a statement calling on both parties to respect the cease-fire and sent EU Special Representative Peter Semneby to the region. Furthermore, coming in the aftermath of an announcement from the EU's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, that the role of the EU special representative may be scrapped, this is viewed in the region as symbolic of the EU's interest. The US had a similar response. During US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton's recent visit to Azerbaijan and Armenia, she went no further than repeating the standard lines of how the conflict should be resolved peacefully. No new steps were proposed, nor did she suggest the US beef up its role.

The West must abandon the silence of quiet diplomacy and instead start to make some noise, including having a regular and effective presence in the region. While it is reasonable to tell Azerbaijan that its continued talk of war is counterproductive, at the same time Armenia needs to be told that its continued occupation is unacceptable and unsustainable. It simply cannot go on forever. If nothing is done, nothing will change and a continued stalemate (or worse) will be the result.

21 July 2010, Wednesday

TODAYS ZAMAN

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### **The Turkey-Armenia border and Baku's response preparation**

#### **HASAN KANBOLAT**

From Sept. 11-17, a humanitarian assistance exercise will be held by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC), which functions under the umbrella of NATO, in Armenia for the first time.

Turkey will take part in the exercise, and Turkish representatives will be present on-site at the exercise's headquarters. While Georgia is taking part in the exercise, Azerbaijan is not.

The EADRCC, under the auspices of NATO, is conducting a series of humanitarian exercises in Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) member countries that are non-NATO members under the banner "consequence management field exercise." This year, the EADRCC has planned its exercise on the premise of an earthquake in Armenia. On Dec. 7, 1988, there was a massive earthquake which claimed the lives 20,000 people. The drill set to take place will take place under the scenario of an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale in the Kotayk province, just north of Yerevan. According to initial drill reports, 12 people lost their lives and 17,000 are injured. The provincial infrastructure is destroyed and dangerous industrial waste is scattered about. The drill,

implicitly, draws onlooker's attention to the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant. Metsamor is both Turkey and the South Caucasus' nightmare. It is located 40 kilometers from Yerevan and only 16 kilometers away from the Turkish city of Iğdır. Metsamor, which is a former Soviet-style nuclear power plant, is located in an earthquake zone. In 1988, the nuclear power plant received a great deal of damage and was rendered unable to produce power. However, following the tenfold increase in the need for energy in the aftermath of the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani land, the plant was activated once again. The EU has requested that the plant, which has had 106 accidents since its inception, be shut down. However Armenia will not shut down Metsamor, citing its increasing energy needs. Turkey's lack of pressure on both the EU and Armenia is one of the reasons why Yerevan has not shut down the plant.

The "Armenia 2010" drill aims to examine the level of cooperation among NATO and EAPC member countries in post-earthquake aid and fighting dangerous waste.

There are preparations underway to open the Armenia-Turkey highway if the need arises for the transport of vehicles that are taking part in the exercise. This situation has only boosted the expectation that the Turkey-Armenia border may be opened during the fall of this year. Relations between Armenia and Turkey directly affect Turkish domestic politics. With that being said, in the critical year up ahead, starting with the Sept. 12 referendum until the general elections in 2011, the expectation that Turkey will open its borders with Armenia without Armenia's withdrawal from Azerbaijani soil would be unrealistic. Thus, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu put an end to any expectations with his statement. Baku may be pleased with Davutoğlu's statement that the border with Armenia will not be opened, but its concern over the matter remains. This is why Azerbaijan is in no rush to fill the seat of Ambassador to Ankara Zakir Hashimov, who is headed to Astana, Kazakhstan, for his next post. Azerbaijan's new ambassador to Ankara, Faik Bagirov, is in no rush to assume his position in Ankara, citing his daughter's pending wedding. Bagirov is experienced in both the Middle East and Arab worlds, having served as the former ambassador to Cairo. He knows Turkey because he served as a consul general 10 years ago for a four-year term. Baku is sending one of its most seasoned diplomats to Ankara.

Ankara does not have the opening of the Turkey-Armenia border on its agenda. So then why did NATO select Armenia for the exercise? The Euro-Atlantic world is slowly but surely trying to include Georgia and Armenia in its fold. This is the main reason behind the pressure for the opening of the border gates. However, in order for Armenia to be taken into the Euro-Atlantic world, it must first withdraw from its neighbor's soil.

20 July 2010, Tuesday

TODAYS ZAMAN

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### **Turkey's EU membership bid: Flogging a dead horse?**

AMANDA PAUL

The EU opened accession talks with Turkey in 2005, but the process has moved slowly amid considerable opposition from a number of EU member states and the increasingly sluggish reform process in Ankara.

The lack of progress has resulted in growing concerns from some circles that the EU is pushing Ankara away from the West. Last month US Defense Secretary Robert Gates accused the EU of "refusing to give Turkey the kind of organic link to the West that

Turkey sought,” an argument that was later endorsed by Italy’s Foreign Minister Franco Frattini. While EU prefers the US not offer such advice, Washington has a point. Ongoing statements from France and Germany insisting that Turkey does not belong to Europe and should settle for a special partnership rather than full membership are unhelpful and will never be embraced by Ankara. The point is that the EU did offer Turkey full membership and they should honor this commitment. On the other side, Turkey asked for full membership and it should also do its fair share of the work. The recent visit of EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and European Commissioner for Enlargement Stefan Füle to Turkey was supposed to reassure Ankara over its troubled membership bid. Ashton and Füle met with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and chief EU negotiator Egemen Bagis. At the joint press conference, Mrs. Ashton said that trust and friendship were the foundation of the relationship between Turkey and the EU given that both share the same goals for peace and prosperity. Very nice words, but then that is what this relationship is increasingly about -- words rather than actions.

So one visit by Ashton to Turkey and we are supposed to believe that everything will be ok? Perhaps I am being too cynical, but she will convince nobody working on this issue. While Mrs. Ashton’s comments are welcome, at the end of the day it is not her who will decide. It is the 27 member states (and at the very end the European Parliament). They are the ones taking part in the various council meetings and working groups and it is they who have the power to block or open a chapter. If even one country decides (for whatever reason) a chapter should not be opened, it won’t be. The French and the Greek Cypriots are already responsible for the blocking of numerous chapters. While the Greek Cypriots have legitimate reasons for their actions given Turkey’s ongoing failure to extend its customs union with the EU to the Republic of Cyprus, the French do not.

The European Commission does its best. It has always been a strong supporter of Turkey’s accession and tries to encourage both sides but it cannot force Turkey to meet benchmarks nor can it force the 27 members to open

The European Commission does its best. It has always been a strong supporter of Turkey’s accession and tries to encourage both sides but it cannot force Turkey to meet benchmarks nor can it force the 27 members to open chapters. All the commissioners who have been responsible for Turkey have done a good job. However, with each one the task has become more difficult: Günter Verheugen was there during the “golden days” when Ankara met the Copenhagen Criteria and was accepted as a candidate country; Olli Rehn was the one who witnessed the start of souring of relations; and Füle is the one trying to flog a dead horse. Nobody should envy his task, and quite how he is going to find ways to accelerate the negotiations and “gear up” the admission process -- as he stated during the visit -- is a mystery to me.

Last month, talks began on the food safety chapter, bringing the total number of chapters Turkey has managed to open to 13 out of 35. At this rate, Turkey will open only one chapter per presidency, and even then the chapters will run out unless there is a solution to the Cyprus problem, which seems highly unlikely at the present juncture. Relations would enter a sort of “virtual” stage, which could last for years and might represent an unofficial end to Turkey’s EU bid. This would be tragic but unless some sort of miracle happens it is not inconceivable.

At the same time, Turkey and the EU will continue to cooperate in many different areas of mutual importance. Davutoglu would like to boost ties with the EU on regional policies, including Ankara having a role in EU foreign policy decision-making -- highly unlikely. While Ashton may have congratulated Turkey on its active foreign policy in and around its neighborhood, it seems that Davutoglu's "zero problems with neighbors" approach is losing some of its luster in light of Turkey's involvement in the Mavi Marmara incident, the failed rapprochement with Armenia and Turkey's decision to vote against fresh UN sanctions on Iran over its controversial nuclear program. While Turkey insists it must remain involved in any future talks with Iran -- and there is concern that Iran will use Turkey as a precondition for talks to resume -- many in the West do not favor this. There is growing concern that Turkey's involvement only serves to water down the effect of the international community, but for Turkey and particularly Davutoğlu this is a matter of personal prestige.

Ashton's and Fule's visit was little more than an EU PR exercise and will change nothing. The truth is the EU has no appetite for Turkey and at the same time, with elections on the horizon, Erdoğan will do nothing that will endanger his popularity. The dead or almost dead horse will continue to be flogged.

18 July 2010, Sunday

TODAYS ZAMAN

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