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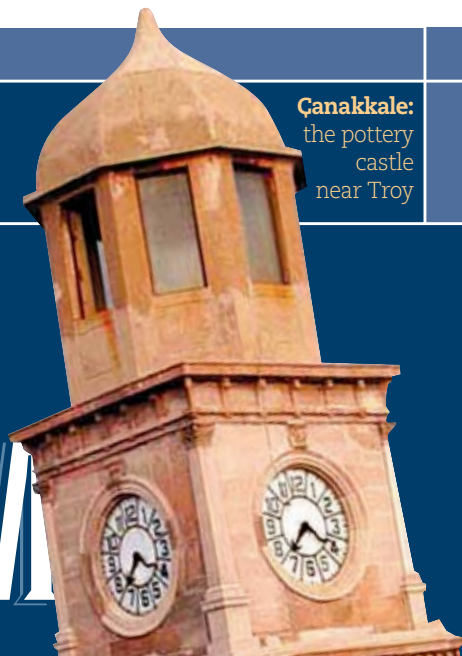


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Ganakkale:
the pottery
castle
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History professor, curator
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produced the East, now both
sides are consuming it

08 Istanbul source of
surprise and inspiration
for newly arrived
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SUNDAY'S ZAMAN

YOUR WAY OF UNDERSTANDING TURKEY

FEATURING NEWS AND COMMENT FROM
THE TIMES

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TURKISH GOVERNMENT STRIVES TO WIN HEARTS, ALEVIS WANT ACTION

YONCA POYRAZ DOĞAN, İSTANBUL

If you don't know what tea is made of, you cannot drink it, said Sadık Bakır while drinking hot tea on a chilly day inside the Gazi Cemevi Foundation, an Alevi cultural center in Istanbul's Gazi district. "The prime minister [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan] does not know what Alevism is, so how can he talk about what to do for Alevis?" he asked, adding, "He [Erdoğan] doesn't even recognize our houses of worship [cemevis]. We have to see about the reforms first, not the shows."

A retired worker who has been living in Gazi district since the 1980s, Bakır refers to the news about Erdoğan's participation on a fast-breaking dinner on Jan. 11 in honor of the Alevis most sacred month of Muharrem. Joining the dinner is a symbolic gesture compared to the historical reform package offered to Erdoğan by two of its deputies of Alevi origin, Reha Camuroğlu and İbrahim Yiğit, regarding the status of Alevis, whose population is estimated to be between 8 and 10 million in Turkey. A renowned writer of Alevi origin who wrote on Alevism as well, Ca-

muroğlu has been leading efforts to introduce reforms and drew criticism from the Alevi organizations right away because they don't believe the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) deputy alone represents the Alevi community.

Although the Alevis have been divided on how to approach their faith -- as some consider it a belief of Islam, some do not, calling it "distinct" -- they all think that Camuroğlu is not the person to represent Alevis, who have been antagonized since Ottoman times and known for their secular stance since the founding of the republic.

"Whether the Alevi faith is part of Islam or not is irrelevant to the discussion. Alevi organizations mutually agree that 'cemevis' are the worship houses of the Alevis. And reaffirming this is not so difficult," said Turan Eser, president of the Ankara-based Alevi Bektası Federation (ABF), representing 148 Alevi associations across the country.

Even a pro-AK Party Alevi leader, Fermani Altun, president of the Istanbul-based World Ahlu Bayt Foundation, which is close to the Sunni interpretation of Islam, expressed dislike over the way the rapprochement has been presented. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 05**

INVESTMENT

TURKEY GUIDES FOREIGN COMPANIES TO INVEST IN TURKEY

ANNE ANDLAUER, İSTANBUL

For companies with international ambitions, success is often a matter of knocking at the right doors and turning the right keys. To such companies that come to the door of his Beyoğlu office, French entrepreneur Frédéric Farré pledges turkey solutions for establishment in Turkey.

The founder of TURnKEY, a four-year-old company that helps foreign firms develop and establish in Turkey, Farré says that while no market is easy to access, it is especially difficult for French businesses aiming to establish themselves in Turkey. "Apart from big groups such as Renault or Carrefour, the myriad of French small and medium-sized businesses that form the heart of France's productive strength are underrepresented in Turkey," he notes. Figures speak for themselves -- of the 15,000 foreign firms present in Turkey, only 450 are French. "I felt there was a real need to accompany and advise French businesses willing to try their luck in Turkey," Farré says. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 06**

ECONOMY

TURKEY NEEDS AN EFFICIENT FOOD INSPECTION SYSTEM, MORE CONTROLLERS

BÜŞRA İPEKÇİ, İSTANBUL

The measures taken against deficiencies in food safety in Turkey have been tightened after Russia imposed a ban on the import of some vegetables from Turkey in May 2005, arguing that the products fell short of health standards. However, there were some appealing claims that products failing health standards were being sold in the domestic market due to a lack of efficient inspection, enough personnel and non-implementation of punitive sanctions.

The foods which include harmful content are being sold in Turkey. For instance, the import of paprika containing high amounts of aflatoxine -- a mycotoxin produced by the fungi *Aspergillus flavus* and a potent carcinogen -- was previously banned by Europe. However paprika with the same harmful content was sold throughout Turkey until the Council of State banned its production and those currently in the market were disposed of in 2006. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 07**

INCLINED TO VIOLENCE, POLICE OFFICERS COME UNDER SCRUTINY

AYŞE KARABAT, ANKARA

"Be nice to citizens, refrain from acts that can undermine the trust and respect of the citizens for the police," says a circular from the Ministry of the Interior that was issued this week, after the death of a number of citizens in altercations with the police. Feyzullah Ete, 26, while sitting in a park in Istanbul's Avclar district on Nov. 22, had a quarrel with police who had arrived at to investigate some complaints in the neighborhood. During the quarrel a police officer delivered a fatal kick to Ete's chest.

Three days later in Izmir, 20-year-old Baran Tursun was fatally shot in the head by a police officer after he refused an order from the police to stop. Tursun's friends who were in the car

at the time have claimed that there was no warning, but police say they chased him for seven kilometers.

Turkish citizens were not the only victims. On Sept. 18, Polish citizen Dariusz Witke committed suicide at the Kumpakı Foreign Nationals Guesthouse. Another foreigner, Nigerian Festus Okey, was shot to death in Istanbul's Beyoğlu police station.

After these and similar cases the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission discussed the establishment of sub-committees to investigate these specific events. Republicans People's Party (CHP) deputy Cetin Soysal insisted on the investigation but his suggestion was turned down. Instead the committee decided to investigate the conditions of the police. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 04**



PHOTO © BAHAR MANDAN

Remaking Tarabaşı: Social consequences of a neighborhood facelift

One of the most enticing places in Istanbul for locals and tourists alike is undoubtedly the Taksim area, where people come to shop, work and play. Its pedestrian İstiklal Street, where the old, the young, the cool, the hip, the poor, the rich, the Rasta-headed, the headscarved, the beautiful, the artist or the eccentric rapidly walk up and down, stands testimony to the ability of the city to accommodate a myriad of different lifestyles. **By E. BARIŞ ALTINTAŞ** **CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

'INDUSTRY FOR PEACE' PROJECT GOING TO AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

EMİNE KART, ANKARA

The "industry for peace" motto may not be a Turkish brainchild, but one still has to appreciate that striking examples of the implementation of this motto have been born in these lands through the efforts of a leading union of chambers, namely the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB). Today TOBB President Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu will be accompanying President Abdullah Gül, who is scheduled to depart in the evening hours for Islamabad, a center of political crisis in recent weeks. Hisarcıklıoğlu's accompaniment is not part of a typical business delegation's accompaniment of a president during an official visit. Hisarcıklıoğlu will hold talks there, but

not to provide certain profitable investment opportunities for Turkish companies; his talks there aim at introducing to Pakistani officials a project which would offer thousands of jobs for people living in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In order to thoroughly comprehend how such a project is produced firsthand, one has to look back at a landmark meeting Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in the Turkish capital in late April.

These two presidents, often at odds over how to deal with a resurgent Taliban, vowed then to work together to fight terrorism and drug smuggling and improve bilateral relations strained by the Taliban insurgency at the end of talks hosted by Turkey. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 04**



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PHOTO © BAHAR MANDAN

Where İstiklal's uncanny capacity to concentrate scores of hotels, restaurants, clubs, art galleries, bars, the good life and all the fun in a small area ends begins a neighborhood known as Tarlabası with its population of the dispossessed -- among whom are migrants, African refugees, gypsies, transvestites and transsexuals ...

REMAKING TARLABAŞI:

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF A NEIGHBORHOOD FACELIFT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For the newcomer, İstiklal makes for good sport to try not to trip while taking stock at the fine examples of late Ottoman architecture on both sides of the relatively narrow street. Where İstiklal's uncanny capacity to concentrate scores of hotels, restaurants, clubs, art galleries, bars, the good life and all the fun in a small area ends begins a neighborhood known as Tarlabası. With its population of the dispossessed -- among whom are Anatolian migrants looking for the riches of the big city, African refugees trying to get to Europe, Kurdish deportees from the Southeast, gypsies, transvestites and transsexuals -- roaming the streets thick with run-down 19th century Ottoman houses, Tarlabası is more like a carnivalesque scene than a just zapped into our world from that of Rabelais. In a less romantic light, it is a hotbed of vice spawning castaways, thieves, purse-snatchers, drug dealers, prostitutes, addicts and criminals of all sorts. It is a poor and dangerous neighborhood where garbage is never collected and the police never patrol, located right next to the heart of Istanbul.

Worse than being a threat to the city's safety, the district is a disaster waiting to happen when the next powerful earthquake -- expected in Istanbul since the late '90s -- strikes. Its century-old houses with worn facades look like they are going to crumble at any minute.

The Beyoğlu Municipality, encouraged by enormous renewal projects it recently completed in the old Cezayir Street, whose name recently changed to "French Street," the Flower Passage (Çiçek Pasajı), the Fish Market (Balık Pazarı) and Talimhane Avenue, resolved to try that municipal hand on Tarlabası. The municipality, backed by the government, or more correctly, the prime minister himself, rolled up its sleeves to deal with the problem neighborhood: Even a special law created only for this project was passed in 2005. It allows the municipality special powers that make it relatively easy to confiscate buildings of stubborn owners who might oppose a renovation plan. A tender was held and awarded to Çalık Holding, albeit eyed suspiciously by some as its CEO is the prime minister's son-in-law. Under the project, 278 buildings in the area extending over a 21,000-square-meter area will be renovated.

But what, exactly, is the plan?

Ahmet Misbah Demircan, the mayor, says the Tarlabası project is about renovating buildings in accordance with the

historical pattern of the area, but at the same time is designed to take the neighborhood out of its anachronistic existence and bring it back to our century. He is excited about the project because it is going to be the most tremendous one the Beyoğlu Municipality will have undertaken so far. The project is not only about Tarlabası, it is about reviving the historical Beyoğlu area.

Identifying the problem

For the longest time, Tarlabası was a customary question. Everybody was used to it simply "being there" as a wretched quarter, habitually ignoring the state it was in. The idea to do something about Tarlabası was put forth by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan even before Demircan was voted into office. Erdoğan said he would do everything within his power, including changing the law if necessary, to help solve the Tarlabası problem. And so the new mayor made it a priority.

The way the municipality sees it, the apartments of Tarlabası are too tiny to be made into offices; the streets are too narrow to drive or park on -- hardly appealing for any business to rent an office in the area whilst an opportunity awaits to build an office over a 200-square-meter area at a place which is only 20 minutes outside the city center by driving. In other words, life around Tarlabası has changed and the place has failed to keep up with the pace.

For the owners of the project, Tarlabası is simply not equipped to deal with, or even tolerate, the ways of the modern world. "This is why it was left to underprivileged people," Mayor Demircan explains.

Demircan is quick to note that urban centers in most Western countries either have or have had in the past similar problems. In most cases, transformation projects around the world have been about reconstructing the environment to meet the changing needs of the city around it. In that vein, Tarlabası would be turned into a place to the newcomers of our modern lives, such as automobiles. This is why the municipality wants its architects to preserve the history, but at the same time modify the physical conditions of Tarlabası to meet Istanbul's needs. The project is about expanding spaces to increase the economic value of the place.

Demircan says investors are usually not interested in Tarlabası houses because owning a building in the area would necessarily involve dealing with the Culture Ministry's Board of Monuments, which imposes restrictions on construction or restorations in order to protect the historic and cultural legacy

of the city. The special law passed to make the Tarlabası project possible also allows the municipality to talk about preserving the history not with the Board of Monuments, but with the Restoration Board under it. The difference between the approaches of the two boards is massive: The former is obsessed with preserving the historical aspects of a single edifice or edifices within a limited area, while the latter favors a more holistic approach to problems considering the consistency of not particular parts in a region, but all of it, which actually broadens the Board of Monuments' perspective. The future of the 278 buildings to be restored in the region was decided through this mechanism.

The project and the people

Most of the homeowners are thrilled about the project, the mayor says. The talks they have had so far have been very fruitful.

Indeed, most homeowners in the area are overwhelmed with the sheer infeasibility of investing in their houses all alone -- no matter what sweet childhood memories they might have in their rooms. However, with organized and powerful municipal backing, making something out of the house, or at least selling it to the municipality at a good price, can be possible.

As we entered the narrow streets of Tarlabası, crammed with uncollected garbage -- a situation that makes passing through a highly difficult task if not an impossible one, particularly when one is holding one's nose to ward off the stench -- a woman approached us, asking whether we could be journalists. Selma Onan (48) shared with us her story, "I have a home here, but I cannot touch it because I don't want to deal with the Board of Monuments." She said she is ready to either sell her house, or even invest in it, when the project with the municipality starts.

She said she has been with the municipality, where anyone can walk in and check the legal status, cadastre and land registry information on their property at workstations placed in the entrance area of the building.

What about them?

Many homeowners express full support for the project, but like Onan herself, many do not live in Tarlabası. Those who do are not only skeptical, but also nervous about the project. Most of them are migrants, sex workers

or other social outcasts -- excruciatingly poor and insecure.

"I've lived here for three years," says Mehmet Karan (32), who works nearby. "I pay YTL 300 for my rent, and I don't have to pay to get to work. I really don't know what I would do if I was told to go. It is OK with the homeowners, but nobody cares if you are renting an apartment."

The mayor does not agree. He says there will be a place for everyone in the new Tarlabası. "Nobody is telling anybody to leave. They just need to change and adapt themselves to the new environment. It happened that way when we worked on the Fish Market project. Storeowners there were worried about what would happen to them; now they have gotten a little uppity themselves and in fact the quality of service has improved. They have become bigger businesses after the project," Demircan points out.

The chambers of architects and city planners, civil society groups and many academics do not agree, accusing the municipality of conducting a relentless policy of gentrification; a phenomenon in which low-cost, physically deteriorated neighborhoods undergo physical renovation and an increase in property values, along with an influx of wealthier residents who eventually displace the prior residents. Although turning Tarlabası into a safe place is a concern the critics share, shifting the source of the crime to a new location is not the right solution. The municipality says it has to do what it has to do and also promises financial aid to those who rent apartments, but the critics don't find that satisfactory.

Speaking on the issue in an earlier statement to Radikal daily, Bediz Yilmaz from Mersin University's public administration department said, "Here it seems like homeowners partially are given a chance to make use of the project, but they too can be deprived of what they have in their hands in such an environment where everybody is after profiting from increasing property values." According to Yilmaz, those who don't own property are going to go eventually.

A similar process has taken place in many other areas of Istanbul during other renovation projects. "With this project, the capital says to the poor: You are too poor and too ugly to live in the center of the city, in these beautiful places. Get out of our sight, you ruin our aesthetic pleasure and leave these beautiful buildings to people who will appreciate their true value," Yilmaz explained the process from the critics' view.

Yilmaz made another point: "What needs to be done is staging a battle against poverty. You can't drive away the poor very far as long as you don't eliminate poverty."

"We are not evacuating the real owners of that place. You can't say that all of them are migrants or rent-paying tenants. Tarlabası is a centuries-old region, and it has families that have lived there for 50 -- even 100 -- years. In the meantime, the tenants have to go while the project is going on. They might come back later on if they are able to afford that."

The truth is, they probably will not. However, placing the responsibility of all social ills and poverty the country is enduring on the shoulders of a single mayor is not entirely honest left-wing politics, either. The problems of Tarlabası cannot be taken in a context detached from the country it is a part of, and not turning an area into a neighborhood appealing to the well off is not going to solve them.



PHOTO: ALI AKCOBAN

A new flavor for politics and society: quail

The new flavor of the week for political and social circles in Ankara is quail. The game bird, which turns out to be one of President Abdullah Gül's favorite foods, is also high on the list for Arabs, who prefer Turkish quail to Spanish and French quail, on the basis of its 'halal' status

ERCAN YAVUZ ANKARA

Quail looks to have risen to the top of Ankara political and social circle menus, following a dinner invitation by Sait Acba, Parliament's Planning and Budgetary Commission head, to members of Parliament to enjoy a quail feast. Those tasting the bird -- for perhaps the first time -- in Parliament's restaurant were also introduced to the various health benefits of eating quail meat. While many people already know much more about the benefits of quail eggs than about its meat, interest in Turkey towards quail as a meal is rising, along with demands from abroad for Turkish quail.

Along with the rising interest in quail as a food, many well-known politicians and artists have publicly attributed their own good health to the consumption of quail meat and eggs. President Abdullah Gül reportedly first encountered quail eggs during his tenure in the Foreign Ministry and has made it an important part of his diet since then, even requesting that quail eggs be placed on the official Cankaya presidential palace menu since being elected president. Sadik Songur, who keeps the names of his customers secret, says that many well-known Turkish artists and even ambassadors from various countries come to the garden of his farm to have feasts of barbecued quail.

The primary source for quail meat in Ankara is Belsa Quail. This company, started by retired military officer Sadik Songur, provides quail meat and eggs for Ankara from its small but very clean farm in the Golbasi section of Ankara. Songur is an entrepreneur who studied quail-processing techniques at Kayseri's Erciyes University after retiring from the military and decided to enter the market by forming his own quail processing facilities.

Part of what makes Songur different in his sector is that he is still connected to academic resources for information about his animals. His farm receives consultation from professors at Ankara University's veterinary faculty, and from the agricultural faculty. His Beysa Quail Farm has more than 30,000 quail and produces around 10,000 eggs daily. Almost all of Ankara's demand for quail eggs is met by his farm. The new breeds found on the Beysa farm are heavier than normal quail breeds. Songur's daughter is involved in the operation, too, as a produce engineer in charge of hygiene at the farm.

Arabs demand Turkish quail

Songur explains that the world leaders in quail production are Spain, France, Japan, India, and the US, but that the greatest quail consumption actually occurs in the Arab world. In some nations, salted preserves and various cold foods made using quail eggs can be the most expensive items on the table, ex-

plains Songur, who adds that Arab nations in particular consume many quail eggs and that, up until now, Spain and France have supplied these eggs. Songur notes that some of the Arab countries have lately been researching the possibility of purchasing their quail eggs and meat from another Muslim country. During the course of this research Songur was contacted and he was even offered the opportunity to start his own quail farms in Dubai and Qatar. One significant factor behind the recent attention the Arab world has been paying to Turkey's quail industry is the Islamic requirement that animals be slaughtered in accordance with the standards of Islamic law. When slaughtering practices meet the Islamic criteria, the meat is referred to as halal (permissible). Turkey is thus especially well suited to meeting the quail needs of the Arab world.

Songur asserts that the Turkish people have not yet awakened to the full possibilities offered by quail meat and eggs, noting that quail is still seen as an expensive delicacy in Turkey. He comments: "We sell one quail for YTL 2. Per kilo, it is cheaper than red meat. It is as delicious as red meat, and as healthy as white meat. In terms of the health benefits of the yolk of quail eggs, they are almost endless. Since our family entered the quail production business, not a single one of us has gotten a cold because we eat quail eggs every morning. These eggs are also one of the most important foods in child development."



Interest in Turkey towards quail as a meal is rising everyday.

AYŞE KARABAT
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YOUNGSTERS WHO ARE ACTUALLY OLD

When I listen to foreign observers mentioning the "great potential" of Turkey, the one that rest not in its natural resources, but also in its dynamic youth, I cannot keep myself from smiling bitterly and saying, "Is that so?"

According to the 2007 UNDP development report, Turkey has the 17th biggest economy of the world but ranks 84th out of 177 countries on the human development index (HDI) based on life expectancy, adult literacy and economic indicators such as GDP and purchasing power parity.

Mahmud Ayub, UNDP resident coordinator in Turkey, cautioned that Turkey would be doing more poorly if other measures such as gender had been included in the index. "What really pulls down Turkey's index is the gross [school] enrollment ratio," he said.

According to Ayub, "If the HDI is adjusted for gender inequality, the ranking of Turkey would come down to 111 instead of 84."

But not only the statistics are making me worry; the perception of our youngsters is my real concern.

Nowadays I am really doing my best to understand the youth. On one hand this means I am getting old, but on the other hand, when I see the conditions of youngsters I am happy to not be one of them.

For my generation -- and I mean the ones who are at their 30s now -- there were two main factors. Politically we were children of the 1980 coup d'état. We forced to be not even apolitical, but de-political. We have been taught that there is only one "correct ideology," which is of course the official state ideology. We were brainwashed with the "official history." We were made to forget to ask questions. The second element of our teenager days was economic; in those days Turkey was introduced to brutal economics under the name of a liberal economy. Our elders were telling us there was a corner in front of us and we had the chance to turn it. When we succeed, everything will be fine for us -- we should not lose time by helping others to turn the corner. But despite that, our competition conditions were relatively fair -- when we compare them to the conditions of today.

It is more violent now. The youth may have broader access to education than my generation did, but this does not mean the education is good.

Most of the youngsters who attend state schools and lack the support of means like private courses and teachers know very well that their chance at "turning the corner" is very low. At least in my generation the hope for turning the corner was higher and more accessible.

But this pessimism is not only relevant to the poor or less-developed areas.

When my generation was asked about what we'd like to be, we had an answer to give. Some of us said doctor or teacher, some of us said rich, or a model or soccer player. Whatever it was, we had an aim.

Nowadays most of the youth don't. They accept the fact that dreams are not paid back, because it is not dependent on effort. It depends on many other conditions but not really to their own successes. Some of them who have better conditions and possibilities than others have the same attitude. To be successful they are working non-stop; they don't have time to develop themselves as human beings and they prefer to obey the running-from-one-course-to-another program designed by their parents. In short, whether rich or poor, whether in better or worse conditions, most of the youth have lost their appetite for enjoying life -- they just see it as burdening.

Politically they are different from my generation, too. Some of them are not interested in what is going on around the world, not because they have been forced to like we were, but because they really don't care, since they have this belief that they cannot change anything. This actually makes these youngsters very, very old. Some of them prefer to side with the powerful, or the one that seems powerful: chauvinism. They feel so worthless and so weak -- this is why they are becoming a part of this new trend and are ready to pay the price for hating the other. They are ready to sacrifice one of the most important pillars of being young; being different. The ones who care about the world are pessimists, too; they think that nothing is going to get better.

In short, the huge potential of Turkey as having a young population is really not so, because with this attitude our young generation is actually the oldest generation of Turkey. They urgently need an anti-aging program -- mentally, socially, individually and spiritually.

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VIOLENCE-INCLINED POLICE OFFICERS COME UNDER SCRUTINY

Reports of excessive use of force by police officers have been on the rise. Some point to the work conditions of the police, and some blame the structure of the security organization. But everyone agrees that society has to do something about it

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to information from the rights commission, during the last five years 122 police officers committed suicide, 896 underwent psychological treatment, 1,300 were dismissed and 378 resigned. The committee believes that there is a direct link between the excessive use of force on the part of the police and their difficult working conditions.

Onder Aytac, a lecturer at the Police Academy in Ankara, argues that the poor working and living conditions of the police are the primary reason behind these tragic episodes of violence.

"The violations of human rights by the police must, of course, be discussed. This is a pre-condition of a democratic state. But these discussions should be done to improve the attitude of police, not for lynching the whole security organization because of the wrong acts of a few," he says. He adds that recently -- especially in the last five years -- there have been many positive developments regarding the attitude of the police force to human rights and that society should be aware of these facts.

Hüsnü Öndül, the chairman of the Human Rights Association (İHD), says the methods may have changed but the abuses on the part of the police are systematic, intentional and wide-spread. Öndül suggests that the "zero-tolerance" policy against torture that was adapted by the state as a result of Turkey's EU-accession process has showed results. He says some torture methods, like caning, that are known to leave scars have been abandoned but that new methods have taken their place. "Blindfolding, forcing prisoners to stand on one leg for hours and hours, baths of extremely cold water, forcing prisoners to remain naked and not allowing prisoners to use the toilet, these methods are seen everywhere and they are learned techniques," he adds.

He adds that after the shortening of detention times in Turkey the place of torture was changed, too. "According to our statistics, since 2004 there has been an increase in torture that was done outside of official detention centers. It can be in the police car, it can be in a desolated place before reaching the detention center," he explains.

Some of the events that have been reported in the media recently seem to prove Öndül correct. For example, on Oct. 14, Sertan Celik was beaten by traffic police because he did not turn down the volume of his music; on Oct. 7, 19-year-old Ferhat Gercek was shot and paralyzed after a quarrel with police that arose because he was selling a political magazine; on July 29 lawyer Muammer Oz in an identity control resisted to police and his noise was broken. Journalist Serkan Tekpekci was forced to get into a police car, beaten up and thrown



PHOTO: KURSAT BAYHAN

out of the car. A transsexual was attacked while passing in front of the police station in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district on June 5. Mustafa Kükce, who was under detention on suspicion of robbery, died in custody on June 17 after being taken to three different police stations.

Öndül says those suspected of robbery or sexual offenses are the most likely to be victims of excessive force.

Aytac says that in Istanbul daily 15,000 people engage in robbery. In Istanbul there is one police officer for every 450 people. For comparison, in Luxemburg there is one police officer for every 214 people and in France the ratio is one to 236. Aytac also points out that the police are always confronted with criminals and this fact is bound to affect their behavior.

"Their working conditions are very difficult. They make around YTL 1,250 monthly. A police officer sometimes works 16 hours without stopping. They don't have time for themselves or for their families. They don't have any unions or union-like organizations to protect their rights," Aytac says.

CHP deputy Soysal is agrees about the hard

conditions the police face but he says whatever the conditions, the police force should be able to keep itself under control and the police officers should get all the help that they need. He adds that the training and education of the police is extremely important and that the subject of this education should not be limited to the use of guns and physical strength but should also improve their humanity, intelligence and skills.

Aytac thinks that the training of police in Turkey is very good and becoming better. He says only 5 percent of the 200,000 policemen in Turkey did not attend high school.

"Ninety percent of the policemen working the streets are educated beyond high school in the vocational police schools for two years. High-ranking officials are mostly university graduates, especially the younger generation," Aytac says. He emphasizes that there are also clashes

between the young generation and the older generations on the force.

"The young generations who are well educated are not in a position to spread the 'good cop' behavior yet. The 'bad cops' are limited in numbers now. They are cleaned from the organizations but there are also some people in the organization who made a fuss about this cleaning," Aytac says.

Öndül points out that one of the reasons of this ill treatment is the judiciary. "The policemen who violate human rights are not punished. With this mentality it is very difficult to prevent these events," he says.

Aytac also underlines the importance of the judiciary. "If there is any claim of abuse, it should be brought before the court immediately. The decision should be made very quickly. This is not the case at the moment. If a policeman exceeds the law, he should be dismissed from

the force and punished. But if there is no violation of the law, he should return to his job as soon as possible," he says.

Soysal, Öndül and Aytac all agree on one thing: Civil society should be helpful to the police forces and monitor them. But there are difficulties in this field, too.

In an initial report from a cooperative project between the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and the European Commission, it is pointed out that civil society faces some difficulties in attempting to participate in the democratic monitoring of security sector organizations. The paper says that the NGOs working in the field of human rights do not have the necessary technical capacity for monitoring. The report also include the media in its analysis: "Most of the media organizations in Turkey have very close relations with their sources, who are primarily state authorities and security sector bureaucrats, but this closeness leads to limitations of the media's capacity to ensure democratic control of the security establishments. This leads to an increase in anti-democratic practices."



Onder Aytac



Çetin Soysal



Hüsnü Öndül

Industry going to Afghanistan, Pakistan for peace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brought together by the Turkish government, the pair issued a joint statement called the "Ankara Declaration," which stresses mutual commitment to fighting terrorism. This was the first meeting between Karzai and Musharraf since September, when they were brought together by US President George W. Bush to try to ease tensions.

Then the two also agreed to set up the Joint Working Group, including Turkey, to monitor progress on bilateral issues. Turning to recent weeks, another landmark meeting hosted in Ankara draws one's attention: Last month, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas were hosted in Ankara by Gül at the seventh meeting of the Ankara Forum for Economic Cooperation and signed an agreement to set up joint industrial zones in the West Bank. The agreement paves the way for the establishment of industrial zones, first in Tarqumia and then in Jenin, under the leadership of TOBB.

The initial project, launched by Gül in 2005 when he was serving as foreign minister, initially called for the reconstruction of the Erez industrial zone on the northern tip of the Gaza Strip, but that project was frozen after Hamas gained control of the region. The project is part of Ankara's efforts to facilitate peace in the Middle East via a dialogue-and-coordination mechanism bringing together Israeli, Palestinian and Turkish businesspersons called the Ankara Forum.



PHOTO: DAP

Gül, who has stood firm behind the Ankara Forum, is lending full support to the "Istanbul Forum" which was established in October in Istanbul at a meeting between Hırsarkılıoğlu and his counterparts from Afghanistan and Pakistan. A memorandum of understanding for working on economic projects which will increase welfare in the region and offer local solutions to local problems were signed then by the three parties involved.

The October meeting came following the first meeting of a three-way committee -- the Joint Working Group established by the Ankara Declaration of April 30, 2007 -- hosted at the Foreign Ministry in August. At the August meeting the Turkish side also offered to hold meetings between the two countries' top bodies of chambers of commerce and industry at the invitation of TOBB. The projects involving Afghanistan and Pakistan

could well go beyond the creation of industrial zones near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Given Sak, executive director of the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), told Sunday's Zaman.

Sak is a key figure who is among the architects of TOBB projects concerning both Israel and Palestine as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"It is for sure that if realized, the planned project will create thousands of jobs for Afghanistan's and Pakistan's peoples," Sak said. "Nonetheless, what matters more than that is the process itself. While realizing the project, Afghanistan and Pakistani people will have to work together in cooperation. There is nothing more effective in creating a synergy between the two parties than creating this synergy when those two sides work for the same goal. Honestly, I care about the process so much," he stressed.

PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN



TOBB's Rifat Hırsarkılıoğlu (second from L) and the presidents of Turkey, Israel and Palestine celebrate an agreement to set up industrial zones in the West Bank earlier this month. The project is a significant example of industry put at the service of peace efforts and is expected to be a model for a similar TOBB initiative in Afghanistan.

Government strives to win hearts, Alevi want action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Camuroglu is a deputy from İstanbul, and he never set foot in our organization. He doesn't consult with Alevi," Altun said.

Altun also said the government hasn't announced any plans yet, and this was confirmed in his meeting on Nov. 28 with Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek. According to Altun, Çiçek told him that he is not aware of any plans seeking solutions to the problems of Alevi.

"Nevertheless, if the government has a project to address the demands of the Alevi, we will definitely support it, but the government hasn't been responding to our calls for the last five years. We asked for appointments for several times to no avail," he added.

Why are Alevi so skeptical?

Another supporter of the reform project "if there is one," would be Professor İzzettin Doğan, president of the İstanbul-based Cem Foundation, defending an Alevi-Islam understanding.

Doğan said Alevi have been "surprised" because they were not expecting such an approach from the government, which has "refused" to work with the nongovernmental organizations of Alevi for so long. He added that it's understandable for the government to work with its deputy, Camuroglu, who is "an Alevi, after all."

"As I understand it, the government wants to find a solution to this long-standing problem. The move is positive. Everyone can make mistakes. If they regret these mistakes, we have to give them a chance," he said.

The Alevi community's reluctance to give the AK Party a chance is quite understandable said Cemal Sener, an Alevi intellectual and author of many books on the history of Alevi and Alevism.

"When you look at the record of the AK Party's founders, you can understand why there is such doubt. They haven't done anything positive for the Alevi. The Alevi population is greatly concerned about the government's stance when it comes to secularism. They are concerned that the dining halls in public institutions have been closed during the fasting month of Ramadan. They want to be assured of the protection of the secular republic," Sener said.

He also referred to the recent remarks of AK Party deputy Mustafa Özbayrak, who opposed a proposal to give an allocation from the Religious Affairs Directorate's budget to the Alevi. Speaking at Parliament's Planning and Budget Committee at the beginning of November, Özbayrak said Alevi are a branch of Shiites, a minority denomination of Islam, and asked what would happen if other groups, such as the Satanists, later demand an allocation.

Prejudices deteriorate relations

"Alevi are tired of prejudices," Sener said. "We have to see what the government does in practice. We don't like that our faith is used as a game in the hands of insensitive people. We will see if they are sincere."

The Gazi Cemvi Foundation's Vice President Munzur Erdoğan recalled the words of Tayyar Tas, deputy head of the Religious Affairs Directorate, who offended the Alevi when he said in 2002 that "cemevis" are "cümbüşevi," a place of entertainment, not worship.

Congregational or assembly meetings (cem), which consist of both men and women, are the essential component of Alevi worship, which takes place in "cemevi." In Anatolia, assemblies have been traditionally held on Thursday evenings, led by a "dede," a spiritual guide in the community who claims a direct blood line connection to the family of the Prophet Mohammed.

Apart from the officials' on-the-record remarks, Alevi complain about what they have to face in everyday life because of the distorted perception of the majority Sunnis about Alevi.

"Some of my neighbors ask me about 'the candle went out' [mum söndü, a non-Alevi idea that during worship ceremonies held in the evenings Alevi turn off the lights and commit incest and adultery]. I explain to them what they hear is not true; it's a lie. I tell them to come and see our worship houses during a ceremony to understand our way of devotion," said Zeynep Budak Güngördü, an Alevi homemaker from the mostly Alevi-populated Gazi district of İstanbul.

Her demand from the government is to announce on state television the time of fast-breaking during the month of Muharrem, as is done during the month of Ramadan. She said she would also like to see more articles in the newspapers about Alevi and Alevism. "I'd like to see interviews with our spiritual guides (dedes), who can explain what Alevism is."

'A step to embrace Alevi'

Speaking to Sunday's Zaman from Ankara, an AK Party deputy of Alevi origin, İbrahim Yiğit, said preparations are under way to organize a fast-breaking dinner to which Prime Minister Erdoğan will be invited on Jan. 11 in honor of the Alevi most sacred month of Muharrem.

He said the dinner will take place at the Bilkent Hotel in Ankara with about 1,000 participants, including several Alevi spiritual guides, many Parliament members and Alevi groups.



Alevi men and women perform the Semah ritual during a ceremony to commemorate Pir Sultan Abdal, a 16th century folk poet highly respected by Turkey's Alevi, in the central Anatolian province of Sivas.

Muharrem is a major Alevi fast held on the first 12 days of the month of Muharrem, or 20 days after the Feast of the Sacrifice (Kurban Bayramı). Alevi, who fast from sunup to sundown during these days, not only abstain from food but also from drinking water both day and night. They also avoid any sort of comfort or enjoyment because the main purpose of the fast is to mourn the martyrdom of Ali's (the Prophet Mohammed's cousin and son-in-law) son, Imam Hüseyin, during the battle of Kerbela.

This is only the start of a "social peace project with Alevi," said Yiğit, adding, "Alevi need to express their identity freely without reluctance."

Camuroglu mentioned a reform package to Erdoğan, who is "quite warm" to the approach, Yiğit said, adding that Erdoğan wanted Camuroglu to be his advisor on the matter.

"The prime minister promised to recognize the legal status of cemevis," Yiğit also said.

The reform package is going to take shape only after discussions with the leaders of Alevi organizations and intellectuals including Rıza Zelyut and Cemal Sener, he said, emphasizing that Alevi would be consulted.

What Alevi want

Other than their mutual agreement to demand official recognition of "cemevis" as Alevi houses of worship, Alevi ask for a share from the government budget proportional to their size.

Professor Doğan said there are about 4,000 cases pending at the European Court of Human Rights regarding Turkey's Alevi citizens, who pay taxes but do not receive religious services from the government.

"The cases are about to be finalized and it seems like Turkey is going to be punished if the necessary steps haven't been taken," he said.

Alevi also demand abolishment of the Religious Affairs Directorate because it is contradictory to the state's secular identity. Instead, they say the religious affairs of the denominations should be autonomous and get their share from the general budget.

"Our proposal to take a share from the general budget was rejected on Nov. 21 at Parliament's Planning and Budget Commission. But we will continue to push," the ABF's Eser said.

Currently the application by the ABF for money from the 2008 budget is for YTL 400 million. They assert that since the budget was increased for the coming year by 21.97 percent and the budget contains money procured from taxes which were also paid by Alevi citizens of Turkey, the unequal distribution of funds needs to be rectified.

In a report on finances presented to the leading deputies from various political parties, the ABF noted YTL 1.31 billion in 2006 and YTL 1.64 billion in 2007 were transferred to the Religious Affairs Directorate.

Another Alevi association, which has 48 branches across Turkey, Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Associations, presented a petition of its demands in 2004 to the Prime Ministry with 600,000 signatures.

"Even if the Religious Affairs Directorate remains in place, we would like a share from the general budget, but the government should be able to inspect where the money goes," said Kazım Genç, president of the association.

Referring to the media reports that about 3,000 Alevi spiritual leaders will be given salaries by the government, Genç said a "dede" cannot receive a salary because of his Alevi identity.

"Alevi communities support their dede. They are not salaried," Genç said.

Another demand is related to the religion class-

es in schools, where Alevi students and parents complain Alevism is either totally ignored or is described as an immoral, non-Muslim religion by teachers. Alevi groups want inclusion of Alevism in religion classes.

Recently, the European Court of Human Rights approved the application of a Turkish Alevi father and said the curriculum on compulsory religion courses by shaped taking a certain denomination of Islam, which is

Sunni, into consideration violates the European Convention on Human Rights.

A reciprocal call for peace

The prejudices may be one of the reasons why a great number of Alevi began publicly identifying with their faith and culture through publications, television and radio stations, and by forming various organizations.

Older generations seem to be feeling the

pain of the wounds of past massacres more deeply than the younger ones.

"The wounds of the 1993 Sivas and 1995 Gaziosmanpaşa events are still fresh," said Gazi district Bakır, 45, who continued to sip his tea.

He referred to the major incidents, one in Sivas where 37 people died from flames inside a hotel that was set on fire by fanatics who were angry that an Alevi association had invited writer Aziz Nesin to their town for a conference at the hotel. Alevi feel the government did not act quickly enough to bring to justice to all of those responsible.

The other incident was in March 1995, when someone fired a machine gun into a coffee house frequented by Alevi. Two men were killed, including an Alevi spiritual leader. Many Alevi residents of the neighborhood demonstrated because they felt the police were not serious enough in the investigation. In following demonstrations in various neighborhoods of İstanbul, more than 15 unarmed people, mostly Alevi, lost their lives from bullet wounds and other violence.

"We have to leave behind the massacres and look to the future. Today everybody can say he or she is an Alevi," said İsmail Karaer, a 27-year-old construction technician. As for all the other skeptical Alevi, he also puts emphasis on actions rather than words. "The Alevi organizations need to have more young people at every level," he said.

Ahül Bayt's Altun said: "The Alevi have been suppressed for so many years. They need a helping hand. They need an embrace. The prime minister needs to talk with the head of each umbrella Alevi organization for 10 minutes."

There are newspaper reports that Prime Minister Erdoğan is considering visiting a "cemevi." According to Alevi belief, no un-reconciled people can participate in an assembly. His steps can be of historical importance for the peace between Alevi and the state.

TODAY'S ZAMAN

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TURnKEY GUIDES FOREIGN COMPANIES TO INVEST IN TURKEY

Frédéric Farré, the French founder of TURnKEY, explains how his four-year-old company has become one of the most prominent service providers dedicated to the development and establishment of foreign firms in Turkey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TURnKEY was born out of that insight in 2004. Armed with 15 years' experience in exports for a French company, Farré moved to Turkey and started his new professional life from scratch. With a single business card in his pocket and a laptop but no business network, Farré admits the first months were anything but a breeze. Two companies called upon his services in the first year, versus 20 to 30 of them four years later.

As the company was gaining in visibility and credibility, five more members, both Turkish and French, took part in the project. The small team divides its work between Istanbul and Paris, where Farré's Turkish associate Inane Gürbüz helps his fellow business people establish their companies in France. "Our work is mission-based and our methodology is one of our great strengths," Farré explains. "Our professional expertise and credentials allow us to convince companies as diversified as Groupama (insurance), Decathlon (sporting goods), Dane-Elec (electronics) and Waterair (swimming pools)."

Farré says French but also Belgian, Italian, Spanish and recently Dutch businesspeople get in touch with him after they learn that Turkey has had a 7 percent growth rate for five consecutive years and that it is the 16th world economy with a domestic market of millions of customers. "They feel they have real potential for success in Turkey. They first ask us to analyze the market and opportunities open to them. They might further request that we guide them in their operational research for customers, suppliers and partners in that market and organize business meetings with them. That is the heart of our activity and our mission usually stops there."

An export platform for foreign firms

However, TURnKEY recently launched ImplanTurkey, a program that plays the role of an incubator, allowing French companies to have their own local sales force in Istanbul. TURnKEY provides them with a genuine export commercial platform (fully equipped workplace, daily coaching and management) and assigns them a Turkish employee dedicated to the development of their business in Turkey. "For one year into ImplanTurkey, we have been hosting companies that do not wish to dispose of a legal structure in Turkey but nevertheless need offices and employees to run their businesses," Farré says, describing ImplanTurkey as a flexible and economical formula that is quite unique in Turkey but very common in France.

"We launched ImplanTurkey after we realized that once our core mission came to an end, we couldn't do more for those companies without any legal structure. In the past six months, three companies have been benefiting from ImplanTurkey, which truly fulfilled a need and cannot be provided by the public network of economic missions and chambers of commerce," Farré says. TURnKEY actually signed its first ImplanTurkey contract with Campingaz, a French camping gear manufacturer, by recommendation of the French Economic Mission in Istanbul.

Farré initially intended to work both ways -- from France to Turkey and from Turkey to France -- but soon realized his activities would focus on the first pattern. "I discovered that it is very hard to sell



Farré says French but also Belgian, Italian, Spanish and recently Dutch businesspeople get in touch with him after they learn that Turkey has had a 7 percent growth rate for five consecutive years.

services to Turks, because Turkish business people like tangible, concrete offers. Therefore, 90 percent of our revenue comes from French companies aiming at Turkey," Farré notes. In his view, selling services is much harder than selling products. "Of course, all you need to sell services is brains and a computer, but you can be wrong in thousands of ways and make harmful mistakes all the time."

Farré says the main problem he faced was to figure out a proper business model. "I had been an employee in import-export for 15 years, selling a single product to different countries. Now I am selling services, which means putting a price on my name and credibility. It took me a year to figure out that, because you constantly need to

question yourself, search for new partners, and reinvent yourself without knowing which missions you will be undertaking in three months."

Partners more than mere suppliers

As for now, TURnKEY works with 20 to 30 companies each year. Most of them are medium-sized businesses that might not have a well-known name but are leaders in their field. Farré cites the example of Manton, a France-based company specializing in hangers and tracks which holds 70 percent of the market in Turkey. "Like other companies we helped, Manton started from nothing in Turkey. But after we guided them in their search for a supplying company, things went so

well that this 30-employee business bought shares in its Turkish supplying company," Farré says instead of branding threats of delocalization, French business people should view Turkey as a sort of alter ego or as a complement more than a competitor. "Those small and medium-sized companies that have the most interest in Turkey form the heart of France's economic net, and are the ones providing jobs to people," he notes.

TURnKEY also acts as the representative of the Federation of Mechanical Industries, which is France's biggest professional federation. "We represent different French regions. We also work with big bank networks such as PNB Paribas... Gradually, we used those networks to increase our visibility and attract potential customers. One of the lessons I have learned here is that you cannot hope to receive anything if you don't give much of yourself before."

Farré says that Turkey might be a disconcerting market for French companies and that ways of doing business sometimes differ a lot from one country to the other. "For example, Turkish business people don't hesitate to grant plenty of time to discussion, but that doesn't guarantee at all that they will eventually sign a contract with you. In France, if the manager of a company has been talking with you for hours, it usually means you can hope for a partnership to be instituted. In fact, you have to insist and devote time to discussions if you want to sign something with a Turkish partner," Farré says, adding that a mistake of foreign companies is to think that because they have the right product, there is no need to talk for hundreds of hours to decide over an agreement. "In that situation, we act as professionals helping foreign companies -- 85 percent of them French, but also Belgian, Spanish, Italian and Turkish companies -- take their first steps in the Turkish market. No economic patriotism involved. We are simply much more visible on the French market."

Farré notes that a company that thinks it will export to Turkey with assessments based on clichés (a low-quality market, a country of mere suppliers) is bound to fail. "I'll give you one example. Enter any Turkish supermarket and you are likely to realize that nine products out of 10 were made in Turkey. That means Turks are able to produce pretty much anything, from cars to computers to furniture," Farré says. "Any French exporter hoping to succeed in Turkey will have to really respond to a need and to do it in association with a Turkish partner. It cannot do it alone and needs to consider Turks as associates, not as simple distributors." Farré says that Turkey suffers from a lack of knowledge about its productive strength. "France should view Turkey as a partner to react to the emergence of very low-wage markets such as China and temptations for delocalization there. Most of the French companies I've met that didn't have any specific expertise in one field were not able to establish themselves in Turkey."

Tailored solutions for development

To advertise itself, TURnKEY counts on the expertise of its members. "I am now selling different products from several companies in a single market, while I used to sell one product for one company in various markets," Farré notes. "I also

stress that we really customize our solutions to the demands we receive. I will never earn millions with that company but the important thing is that I managed to create an environment that allows me to be even happier in Turkey than in France and to respond to a real demand."

As for TURnKEY's progression, Farré says the measuring stick of its success is the number of people that work for it four years after its inception. "I started alone and am now working with five people. Similarly, we went from a 50-meter-square office in Karaköy to a 300-meter-square office in Beyoğlu. I embarked on that adventure because I love Turkey, because I have always been impressed by Atatürk's revolution and because there is a real and underestimated potential here," he says.

TURnKEY works in collaboration with several economic missions in Turkey, including French, Finnish, Dutch and Greek as well as with the French-Turkish Chamber of Commerce in Marseille. "We are very different from each other and it is groundless to regard us as competitors," Farré stresses. "First of all, institutions would be unable to offer commercial platforms such as ImplanTurkey because they don't have room and time for that. Furthermore, our method is to carry on missions from A to Z. Everything, from prospecting to proposing tailored solutions, is done by the same person and the company only meets with one TURnKEY interlocutor. We guarantee means but not results, meaning that if the company thinks that we have overlooked the prospecting phase, we are ready to do it again for free. But that has never happened to us."

Farré says economic missions and chambers of commerce often offer a first outlook on what the Turkish market is like but that companies willing to go further in counseling and establishment in the market might consider turning to specialists like TURnKEY. Farré adds that between 300 and 400 companies contact public institutions each year, while TURnKEY receives calls from only 50 or 100 of them. "We are much more focused than those institutions and work on a case-by-case basis. For instance, we recently worked at the same time for two competing French companies producing swimming pools. Both accepted our propositions, the important point here being that we didn't propose they meet with the same partners. We offered tailored solutions to each of them."

Farré notes TURnKEY remains the only private service provider dedicated to the development of mostly French companies in Turkey. "It is not surprising since it means that those companies are willing to pay X thousands of euros just to see if they can make it here, since we do not guarantee the outcome. Most companies are not able to invest that much and for the others, we are obliged to relevance and efficiency."

TURnKEY Istanbul recently initiated the opening of an office in Moscow based on the same business model. "There lies the future of our development, for we are already doing pretty much all we can do in terms of providing relevant services," Farré says, adding that the next step would be to represent French companies in Turkey. "But that is another economic model that would mean buying, stocking and selling specific products. To remain credible, you actually need to be very good at what you are doing."

Paulson close to a deal with banks to stave off subprime rate rise threat

TOM BAWDEN NEW YORK

Henry Paulson, the US Treasury Secretary, is close to agreeing a deal with banks and regulators to freeze interest payments that are due to rise next year for many holders of high-risk subprime mortgages, which altogether represent loans of \$362 billion.

The agreement, which could be announced as soon as Monday, is intended to boost the economy by reducing defaults on subprime mortgages, which are expected to jump again in the next 12 months.

Paulson hopes that a reduction in defaults would help to prop up house prices and the value of related securities, boosting liquidity in the banking system and

reducing the severity of the broader credit crunch.

The Treasury, which has yet to finalize details of the deal, is talking with banks such as Citigroup, Countrywide and Wells Fargo, and various regulators and lobbying groups, such as the American Securitisation Forum.

These parties have agreed in principle to freeze the interest payments on a portion of the so-called adjustable rate mortgages that are due to be reset next year as their lower introductory rates come to an end.

An initial interest rate of about 7 percent is charged on a typical sub-prime mortgage for the first two or three years of its life. This is higher than mainstream home loans offered to more credit-worthy borrowers, but considerably below the 9.5

to 11 percent that the sub-prime mortgage holders are charged when their introductory rate expires.

The interest rate rise represents several hundred dollars a month in additional payments on a typical house and in many cases will push borrowers beyond their ability to repay.

Since they can no longer rely on rising house prices to finance their repayments - by remortgaging their properties and taking out the equity - lenders face a choice of freezing the introductory rate for a few more years and accepting lower payments, or repossessing hundreds of thousands of the 1.54 million subprime-financed houses that will reset to a higher rate next year.

One scenario being discussed would see starter rates for some homeowners extended to

five years, while another would increase them to seven years. Alternatively, they may be offered a new fixed rate for the remainder of the life of the mortgage, which usually spans 30 years.

The agreement is expected to target only those borrowers who it is estimated would be able to continue their payments at the present level, but not at the higher rate. Those borrowers who are expected to default anyway at the present rate and those who could afford to repay at the higher rate would not be eligible.

The mortgage rate freeze is a further sign that the American Government is becoming increasingly concerned about the possibility of a recession. Consumer spending rose by 0.2 percent in October, less than the 0.3 percent consensus forecast, while incomes in-

creased by 0.2 percent, just half the expected level, the Commerce Department said Friday.

On Thursday, President Bush's economic advisers cut their forecast for 2008 economic growth from 3.1 percent to 2.7 percent. On the same day, Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, hinted that another interest rate cut may be needed and will be considered at the central bank's next meeting on December 11.

The worsening credit crisis, a deepening housing slump and rising energy prices will probably create some "headwinds for the consumer in the months ahead," Bernanke said.

Against this backdrop, Fed policymakers will need to be "exceptionally alert and flexible", he added. © The Times, London

PHOTO: AYTEM KAYA



Facebook changes ad feature

ELLEN NAKASHIMA WASHINGTON

Sean Lane's purchase was supposed to be a surprise for his wife. Then it appeared as a news headline - "Sean Lane bought 14k White Gold 0.2ct Diamond Eternity Flower Ring from overstock.com" - last week on the social networking Web site Facebook.

Without Lane's knowledge, the headline was visible to everyone in his online network, including 500 classmates from Columbia University and 220 other friends, co-workers and acquaintances. And his wife.

The wraps came off his Christmas gift thanks to a new advertising feature called Beacon, which shares news of Facebook members' online purchases with their friends. The idea, according to the company, is to allow merchants to turn millions of Facebook users into a "word-of-mouth promotion" service.

Lane called it "Christmas ruined," and more than 50,000 other users signed a petition in recent days calling on Facebook to stop broadcasting people's transactions without their consent.

Thursday night, Facebook backed down and announced that the Beacon feature would no longer be active for any transaction unless users click "ok." Beacon is a core element of Facebook's attempt to parlay the personal and behavioral information it collects about its members into a more sophisticated advertising business, an effort to turn a user's preferences into an endorsement with commercial value.

The merging of social networking and online advertising combines two of the most powerful forces on the Internet today, and privacy advocates say it raises issues about the way personal data are disclosed for marketing purposes.

"Sites like Facebook are revolutionizing how we communicate with each other and organize around issues together in a 21st century democracy," said Adam Green, a spokesman for MoveOn.org, a liberal activist group that has launched the petition drive to pressure Facebook to stop broadcasting members' purchases and using their names as endorsements without explicit permission. "The question is: Will corporate advertisers get to write the rules of the Internet or will these new social networks protect our basic rights, like privacy?"

The site, which was started in a Harvard dorm room, has become a Silicon Valley powerhouse, recently valued at \$15 billion. It allows its users to share messages, photos and updates on their lives.

Facebook launched Beacon as part of a wider social advertising campaign Nov. 6, with 44 announced partners, including Overstock, Travelocity, the auction site eBay, the movie ticket site Fandango, Blockbuster and the shoe site Zappos. The Beacon feature is not restricted to commerce. A person's high score on an online game might also be posted for friends to see.

Facebook puts a string of code called a cookie on a user's computer, which tracks the user on Beacon partner sites. In the version that Facebook launched, a person logged into Facebook who bought, say, a movie ticket, was alerted that the Web site was sending a "story" to his profile and had a chance to opt out - both at the merchant's site and on his own page, Facebook says.

But privacy advocates criticized the opt-out feature - a pop-up box - because it disappeared after a few seconds and said Facebook should allow users to turn off Beacon and include an "opt in" feature for those who wish to receive the service. Thursday night, Facebook apparently added the "opt in" feature but still did not in-

clude a way to shut off the service permanently.

Beacon is a key part of what Facebook founder and chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg called "a completely new way of advertising online." Sometimes, ads accompany the news feeds. The ads could contain a person's photo.

Thursday Facebook issued an apology on MoveOn's Facebook page: "We're sorry if we spoiled some of your holiday gift-giving plans."

In a news release Thursday night, Facebook said "we appreciate feedback from all Facebook users and made some changes to Beacon in the past day. Users now have more control over stories that get published."

Marketers can target social ads on Facebook according to criteria such as age, gender, political views and taste in movies, Zuckerberg told media and ad executives at the launch, according to Online Media Daily.

"What's unique about Facebook is it's really turning over personal profile data to advertisers," said Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, a privacy advocacy group. "In essence, it's telling advertisers, we know exactly who your targets are, what their favorite entertainment is, the books they read, the kinds of social networks they have, what their political leanings are."

Chester's group, along with the US Public Interest Research Group, has asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether Facebook and MySpace, a rival social networking site that is also targeting members for ads, are using deceptive practices to violate people's privacy.

MoveOn has created a blog on its Facebook page for people to post comments. The wall contained more than 800 as of Thursday.

They include Tasha Valdez from Michigan, who wrote: "Oh my gosh, my cousin's entire Christmas shopping list this week was displayed on the (Facebook News) feed. That's so messed up. This has gotta stop!"

Beacon's risks go beyond ruining someone's Christmas, said Mike Rogers, editor and publisher of a gay-oriented Web site, PageOneQ. "We teach young people to be very careful about what they post and all of a sudden comes along an automated system like this. What happens if a kid is on a football team and he buys a ticket to Brokeback Mountain (a gay-themed film)?" he said, alluding to the possibility that the youth could be outed and harassed as a result.

For Lane, spoiling his wife's surprise was bad enough.

Within two hours after he bought the ring on Overstock.com, he received an instant message from his wife, Shannon: Who is this ring for?

What ring, he messaged back, from his laptop at work in Waltham, Mass.

She said that Facebook had just put an item on his page saying he bought a ring. It included a link to Overstock, which noted that the ring was priced at a 51 percent discount.

Lane, 28, a technical project manager at an online printing company, was crestfallen. He had gone to lengths to keep the ring a secret, even telling Shannon he was not going to give her jewelry this year.

Lane complained to Overstock. Company spokesman Judd Bagley said this week that on Nov. 21, Overstock abandoned its Beacon feature until Facebook changes its practice so that users must volunteer if they want to participate.

"I was really disappointed because for me the whole fun of Christmas is the surprise," said Shannon Lane, 28, who married Sean a year ago in September. "I never want to know what I'm getting." © The Washington Post, 2007

Turkey needs an efficient food inspection system, more controllers

There are around 3,000 food production and 25,000 food sales establishments in Turkey. And there are around 5,400 official inspectors. The number of personnel would only suffice to issue licenses, not for the inspection of thousands of establishments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
However this ban didn't remove all the products that include unhealthy content.

The production of bread, meat products, milk and cheese, which is usually performed under poor hygienic conditions, requires extra attention in particular. Ayse Cengiz, head of the Consumers' Association (TÜDER) Food Committee, says that they receive many complaints, particularly concerning breakfast food, fish and chicken. She also underlines that the control mechanism is the most important tool for food safety and should include all phases of food processing from production to consumption.

According to data from the Turkish Food Safety Association, 324 people died and 18,000 people were infected with Hepatitis A due to unhealthy foods in 2001.

"Food safety is an important matter since it directly concerns health, but Turkey experiences problems due to a lack of enough inspections and personnel to conduct these controls," Chairman of the Turkish Health Union (Saglik-Sen) Önder Kahveci says.

Lack of efficiency major problem in food inspections

Turkey lacks an efficient food inspection system. There are around 3,000 food production and 25,000 food sales establishments in Turkey. Kahveci notes that the main reason for the deficiency is the lack of enough personnel, adding: "There are around 5,400 official inspectors. The number of personnel would only suffice to issue licenses, not for the inspection of thousands of establishments." He also said: "For instance school canteens do not sell hygienic products, but they are never inspected. The number of personnel should be increased immediately."

Recent research, conducted by Saglik-Sen, revealed that there are 27,628 licensed food production facility and 393,112 mass

food sales and consumption places that controllers have to inspect.

In addition, research also indicated that only 212,186 of food sale and consumption facilities were inspected last year. However, Kahveci asserts that those establishments should be inspected every two months, adding, "The fact that the remaining 180,000 establishments lack inspection poses a serious threat for consumers' health."

"Hence, the number of controllers and public laboratories needs to be increased immediately, otherwise it is impossible to run an efficient inspection of food production," says Kahveci.

Efforts to increase inspection efficiency

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs have shared the responsibility for food regulation and inspection until 2005. Since then, the latter has become the sole authority so as to centralize the control mechanism. However this posed a challenge for food inspections.

Kahveci states that the Health Ministry had established a system but the Agriculture Ministry had to develop a new system during that transitory period. He adds: "The Agriculture Ministry has no experience in this field; it didn't even have laboratories. Other than controllers, the Health Ministry's other personnel, such as doctors, were able to run inspections, hence helping the process, closing the gap stemming from the lack of personnel."

The Agriculture Ministry inspects food production establishments before registering them and issues business licenses. It also conducts on-site inspections of those companies, food sales outlets and has the power to approve the use of any additives.

In addition, local municipalities conduct food inspections and the Turkish Standards Institute (TSE) issues a conformity certificate to

food importers and conducts accreditation activities for quality assurance systems.

Most of the patisseries, bakeries and candy producers are small enterprises. Considering the lack of education and economic factors, these small enterprises continue producing under unhealthy conditions.

However, Kahveci emphasizes that with an intensive and frequent inspection, food-processing establishments can be controlled regardless of their size.

What about the role of consumers?

According to Kahveci, consumers should refuse to buy and complain about unhealthy or unlabeled foods because should the people keep buying those unhealthy products, producers will remain encouraged to continue supplying such food.

Kahveci also underlines that due to low income levels and high prices of products, people continue to buy cheap, but unhealthy, products.

On the other hand, Rahime Petek Ataman, chairman of the Food Engineering Chamber (GMO), has previously told Today's Zaman that producers are as responsible as the consumers, adding: "Most Turkish farmers lack sufficient training, not taking hygienic conditions into consideration much. Some of them lack the funds to invest in hygienic projects."

The fact that inspection only concerns registered production enterprises poses a problem for food safety. A decrease in the value added tax (VAT) would help increase the number of registered companies, experts argue.

When asked whether or not the government should seek assistance from the private sector to conduct inspections, Kahveci noted that with ongoing deficiencies in the system and legislation, it is too early to include the private sector. "We first have to solve the problems with the inspection system and then laboratories run by the private sector could become an option," he said.



Local municipalities conduct food inspections and the TSE issues a conformity certificate to importers and conducts accreditation for quality assurance systems.

PHOTO: RIVAN YAVUZ

İSTANBUL SOURCE OF SURPRISE AND INSPIRATION FOR NEWLY ARRIVED FRENCH CONSUL

After serving in İstanbul for two months, French Consul General Christine Moro talks about her contentment over being in Turkey at this moment in time and lists some of the projects she intends to undertake during her years in office

ANNE ANDLAUER İSTANBUL

"Turkish-French relations are very old, rich and important. I am fully aware of the honor and responsibility that my position entails," French Consul General Christine Moro told Today's Zaman in her first encounter with the press since her assumption of duties in late September.

An experienced diplomat with nearly three decades of service in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moro made no secret of the reasons that motivated her candidacy to the French Consulate General in İstanbul at this stage of her career. "I applied for this post because I appreciate what an interesting country Turkey is, both in itself and for France," Moro says. "Turkey is a big, complex country and İstanbul is a city at the crossroads of several civilizations, which is quite rare on a world scale."

Located at the far northwestern end of İstiklal Caddesi, in the heart of historic Beyoğlu, the consulate stamps visas to France inside of 100,000 Turkish passports each year. "İstanbul is the third-biggest visa executor of all French representatives worldwide," Moro says. Most applicants request a tourist visa for leisure travel or family visits (73,000), a work visa (25,000) or a student visa (800). "For that last matter, we hold a special unit called 'Campus France' that deals with prospective students and helps them find a university and prepare for their stay in France," Moro notes. France's official representative in a district that extends from western Edirne to eastern Muğla and includes the millionaire cities of Bursa and İzmir, Moro says her task is to offer the most and best possible services to the 4,000 French citizens living in that part of Turkey.

"Those are the official figures, meaning the number of people who registered with the consulate," Moro says, adding that an unknown number of French citizens also depend on her consulate for all administrative procedures usually performed by a French prefecture or municipality on national territory.

"The French community is in permanent expansion, which is a symbol and a result of strong cultural and economic relations between France and Turkey," Moro says. The consul observes for example that a growing number of French academics and businesspeople have come to Turkey in recent years.

Moro says her duty is to develop those strong and fruitful relations and to maintain close contacts between the consulate and the French community in her district. "This is made possible not only through personal contacts but also by the numerous French associations and institutions that invite me to events they organize. Among others, I recently visited the French Lycée Pierre Loti and the French-Turkish Chamber of Commerce."

The consul highlights France's active presence in İstanbul, which includes two institutes -- the French Institute of İstanbul and the French Institute for Anatolian Studies -- an economic mission, a chamber of commerce and various associations. In that regard, Moro defines her role as one of "coordination between those institutions and services in order to ensure a certain unity of France's representation in the İstanbul region, in the framework of the action led by the French ambassador in Ankara."

Since her arrival on Sept. 27, Moro's agenda has been devoted to taking in hand the 50-employee consulate, establishing contacts with local authorities, meeting with the main actors of the French community in her administrative district and discovering other parts of it.

Among the major events of her first weeks in office, Moro listed her meetings with İstanbul's governor Muammer Güler and with the city's mayor Kadir Topbaş, followed by her participation in the 84th anniversary of İstanbul's Independence Day on Oct. 6 and the celebrations for the anniversary of the Turkish Republic's foundation on Oct. 29.

"My schedule has been quite busy in recent weeks, especially since my district extends to the Aegean Sea," Moro notes. "I left İstanbul twice to visit Bursa and İzmir, where I once again met with representatives of French institutions -- we have honorary consuls in those two towns -- the French community and local authorities."

While elaborating on the duties she has been assuming abroad over time, Moro notes she held most of her previous posts in cities within the European Union. Until recently, she was vice-director of European cooperation "which is a service of the

Foreign Affairs Ministry in charge of relations with EU countries and candidates to the EU," Moro says. "In that context, I was able to follow closely Turkey's evolution and its relations with France."

Although she admits that Turkey's evolution has raised a number of issues among international public opinion in recent years, Moro also says people have witnessed "a country asserting its democratic reality and able to overcome political crises while respecting its Constitution and democratic institutions." Moro says trust should be placed in the Turkish government and society's willingness to continue on this democratic path.

From Quebec to Bucharest, London or Bonn, Moro has worked in a number of foreign countries over the past decades and says she is always, like any diplomat, struck by the singularities of each of those countries. "When you look at the world from Paris if you are French, or from İstanbul if you are Turkish, you usually see it as divided between massive, clear-cut blocks of countries."

But Moro says she finds Turkey and its society to be particularly complex. "Because of history and geography, you get the chance to observe different social groups belonging to different cultures and traditions," Moro says, noting that İstanbul provided her with a very interesting observation point to witness that diversity.

"In İstanbul in particular, you really have the feeling of walking from one world to another as you wander around the Egyptian Bazaar, Levent, the Bosphorus Bridge, the Asian side ... İstanbul is the biggest and most diverse city in which I have had the chance to work."

In the eyes of this "history lover," as Moro describes herself, İstanbul offers many opportunities to satisfy her curiosity, despite her working under a very tight schedule: "İstanbul is a very dynamic city. It's nothing like some 'museum-cities' you encounter sometimes. İstanbul shows the same dynamism to project itself in the future as it shows to rely on its past."

Moro says she received a very warm welcome from people who acknowledged the durability and strength of French-Turkish relations despite turbulences in recent years. "People know how to distinguish wisely between the long and short-term realities, between the iceberg of good relations and the emerged part of



PHOTO: ONUR COBAN



Consul Moro highlights France's active presence in İstanbul, which includes two institutes -- the French Institute of İstanbul and the French Institute for Anatolian Studies -- an economic mission, a chamber of commerce and various associations. In that regard, Moro defines her role as one of "coordination between those institutions and services in order to ensure a certain unity of France's representation in the İstanbul region, in the framework of the action led by the French ambassador in Ankara."

point in time and to witness firsthand the dynamism of Turkish society. "I am especially eager to see the results of İstanbul's preparation for its European Capital of Culture year of 2010. ... Before that, France will host a Turkish Season in 2009. All people involved in French-Turkish relations grant a great deal of importance to that season, not only because it will present the richness of Turkey's culture, but also because we feel that Turkey is not known enough or is too simplistically viewed in France."

On her previous visits to İstanbul, Moro says she obviously enjoyed Sultanahmet's monuments such as Topkapı Sarayı, Ayasofya and the Blue Mosque, but also İstanbul's fortifications, big cisterns and the Valens Aqueduct. "Those visits were somewhat moving; for they help you realize how everyday life used to be and how people were able to find solutions to solve problems that we are still facing today, such as the issue of water." Incidentally, Moro notes, İstanbul will host the fifth World Water Forum in 2009 -- the World Water Council is based in France and presided over by a Frenchman.

Moro also spoke about some of the projects she is hoping to initiate and follow through her few years in office. She says one of her priorities is to develop decentralized cooperation between French and Turkish cities. "As for now, that form of cooperation is almost non-existent, though it is a crucial complement to inter-governmental relations." The bottom line of decentralized cooperation is to create contacts between cities and citizens as a means to overcome misunderstandings. "A good method consists of building collaborations on concrete themes such environment, urbanism, multiculturalism or problems in suburbs," Moro says.

As a final note, Moro wished to stress the spirit that will guide her action in the years to come: "In Turkey you really get the feeling that you hold in your hands a number of assets that you have to combine to diversify bilateral relations as much as possible. Richness stems from diversity and our goal is to involve as many people as possible in the most various fields of cooperation. I have the firm intention to use my term in İstanbul to initiate fruitful projects and to make sure that those projects develop long-lasting relations between parts of the French and Turkish societies."

periodical tensions," Moro says. "To use another metaphor, French-Turkish relations are akin to a very old tree. When the roots go very deep and far in the earth, it is very hard to uproot the tree."

The French consul remembers vividly the day she first set foot in İstanbul. "That day was July 12, 1998 and France had just won the football World Cup. Turks, who are very keen on football, were congratulating us everywhere we went. It was a nice first approach."

But Moro says she is delighted to be in office in Turkey at this

When did you last provide care for your face?

DILEK CIHAN GÜRAY İSTANBUL

Facial care begins with cleansing the face. You need to wash your face twice a day -- to jump-start skin secretion in the morning and get rid of dirt that builds up on your face throughout the day in the evening. However to this end, you need to choose the most appropriate product for your face.

We are always in favor of natural skin care, but unfortunately we cannot spare enough time for ourselves owing to the fact that we lead hectic lives in a consumption era. Thus we neither make fruit cures nor natural skin masks, nor do we eat a well-balanced diet. At any rate, the cosmetics sector works is working away for women day and night. You do not need to worry about your face, skin, eyes, feet or hair, because the cosmetics sector reveals a new personal care product every day, much to the appreciation of today's busy women.

Skin care begins with cleaning the skin -- because an oily face whose pores have been clogged by dirt paves the path for acne. Acne leaves its mark on the face and prevents deep pores from being tightened in the short-term -- moreover, these become more apparent if you do



not apply the necessary care. Personal care products generally help users clean their skin without disrupting its pH balance. They both cleanse skin of dirt and prepare it for further care (such as application of facial care creams or makeup).

You need to clean your face in the morning to start up the skin secretion process and in the evening to get rid of the dirt and grime that builds up all day. There are lots of products on the market for this purpose, from face cleansing gels to lotions. Even the

products to cleanse the face of make-up help purify your face. But different products should be used for each skin type. Sometimes it is more apt to clean oily skin with a cream; whereas a woman with dry skin needs to wash her face with water. You need to clean your face according to its needs. Have your skin analyzed by an expert and use the most proper product for your skin: If you products prepared for dry skin on your oily face, you may encounter unexpected results. On the other hand, there are products which

can be used on all skin types. If you do not like using pure water to clean your face, then you may use creams, toners or hydrating products. Yet if you insist on using water during the cold winter days, then you should wash your face with a soft product and apply cream on it daily so as to protect your face against the negative effects of the cold.

Pay attention to these points while washing your face:
* Apply the cleansing product over your entire face, including your hairline and eyebrows. Otherwise these parts may become oily and scruffy.
* You should always apply toner with a cotton ball after washing your face.

* Avoid harsh and forced movements while cleaning your skin.

Some of the many skin cleaning products available on the market are as follows:

- Kinerase sensitive foam cleanser
Sold for YTL 62
- Darphin face cleansing emulsion
Sold for YTL 69
- Loreal Pure Zone cleansing foam
Sold for YTL 14 Nivea Visage face cleansing cream
Sold for YTL 12.98



FlorMar Terracotta collection Glossy Tubes

Creating a glamorous effect with their wet and glowing appearance FlorMar Glossy Tubes will be an indispensable item with its special shades, luscious fruit flavors and easy-to-use packaging, a tube with a brush. Insuring extra shine, FlorMar Glossy Tubes with a long-lasting effect provide an enhanced shine when applied over lipstick. Price: YTL 8.00. **Selection Terracotta eye shadow:** Including pure pigments, this eye shadow provides your eyes with a long-lasting and bright appearance, catching the light with micro-pearl particles. It protects your eyes against harmful UV rays with its special ingredients. The price of FlorMar Selection is YTL 13.50.

The magic female touch on neckties



Designer Aysim Karakoc

Ties are the most unnecessary yet also the most significant and striking feature of a man's wardrobe. Therefore, Designer Aysim Karakoc believes that men in important positions have to pay extra attention to their choice of tie because a tie may serve as a medium to give messages

GÜLİZAR BAKI İSTANBUL

Aysim Karakoc is a stylist who designs and sells customized ties in Ankara. She has several famous customers from political circles including Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Foreign Minister Ali Babacan, Süleyman Demirel, the late Bülent Ecevit, former head of the Supreme Court of Appeals Yekta Güngör Özden, deputies, diplomats and bureaucrats. In other words, she mainly serves Ankara's political society.

The term "pisti olmak" (wearing the same clothes as someone else at the same time, albeit coincidentally) is not only valid for Istanbul's high society. Similar occasions occur among Ankara's political circles as well. For instance there are deputies who wear a matching suit or ministers with matching ties. President Abdullah Gül matched his bodyguard while serving at the Foreign Ministry a few months ago. Some newspapers claimed that the bodyguard was asked to change his tie, while others argued that Gül and his bodyguard bought the same tie together. All these led to the birth of the customized tie period in Ankara. Karakoc was the initiator of this current, and the ties she designs are very popular among the political environs in Ankara. She has a little shop at the Dedeman Ankara Hotel where she produces customized ties made of Turkish patterns and cloths.

Ties, a matter of state

Ties are the most unnecessary yet also the most significant and striking feature of a man's wardrobe. Therefore, Karakoc believes that men in important positions have to pay extra attention to their choice of tie because a tie may serve as a medium to give messages. As an example, Erdoğan wears a tie that represents the Turkish flag whenever he goes abroad or attends a very significant

international meeting. During his meetings with a foreign statesman he prefers patterns, colors and cloth representative of Turkish culture. For this reason, there has been a sudden increase in demand for red-white lined ties. All the brands have produced such ties.

Karakoc says that those in positions that represent the state have to consider their apparel as well as their speech and movements carefully. Such individuals may send messages with their ties because they serve as models. Former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan wore yellow-dark blue Versace ties, initiating a trend during his prime ministry. Karakoc says that a Turkish prime minister should not wear foreign brands, but rather clothes representing one's own country, introducing them to the masses.

In addition, Karakoc also praises the recent style of politicians -- including Erdoğan -- in terms of clothing and ties. She also notes that politicians have been fairly casual between 1970 and 2000, being careless about tie choices, adding: "During this transitory period, people have been very casual. The necktie was considered a mere tie. It was also regarded sufficient to wear it while signing something, for instance. They have all worn ordinary student-type ties." She also said that politicians are now careful about their apparel and match their shirt and tie with the atmosphere of the event they are at. Karakoc adds that Erdoğan and Babacan are sensitive to how the tie will look on TV and in photographs.

Karakoc is currently preparing a tie collection composed of Turkish patterns. She uses the spot motifs of "cinemani" on Iznik tiles and ivory patterns as well as those on Turkish carpets. She will be giving small booklets including information on the meaning and history of the motifs used.



Nivea rejuvenates with DNAge

Skin-care expert NIVEA rejuvenates hands and bodies with its new products in the DNAge series. NIVEA Body DNAge Anti-aging Body Care Lotion and NIVEA Hand DNAge Cell Renewal Anti-aging Hand Care include folic acid, which increases surface skin cell renewal, and creatine, a good source of energy for cells. Increasing the amount of folic acid in the skin when utilized for four weeks regularly, the products support healthy cell renewal in areas where aging has started influencing skin, providing skin with a younger look. Protecting skin from the early effects of aging caused by sunlight via the protective factor they include, the products offer effective care with moisturizing. For more information visit www.NIVEA.com.tr



Beauty is affordable with Watsons makeup set

Makeup sets are now offered at moderate prices from Watsons, where you can find anything you look for regarding cosmetics and personal care at the lowest price. Providing everything necessary for your makeup in one single set, the Beauty Always Make-up Set is only YTL 9.99. Some of the other sets available: Defining Style Makeup Train Case Set: YTL 29.99 International Beauty Makeup Set: YTL 29.99

Vintage-look compacts from MAC

Royal Assets rouge and eye shadow palettes have been packed uniquely as an addition to MAC cosmetic's special New Year Collection. These exquisite items are almost like museum pieces in their resemblance to antiques. The shadow and blush palettes will be the favorites of collectors -- coral, pink and red for lips; hot, cold and smoky for eyes. Boxes of the special palettes offered in six different colors are presented in golden and silver tones with ceramic embossing on top. The products will be available at MAC stands for one month only, so don't miss out! Mac Cosmetics Bagdat Cad. No: 326/2Erenköy, İstanbul Tel: (216) 411 6018



Bulgari brings purity with new perfume Rosee

L'Eau de Toilette Rosee and Rose Essentielle Eau de Parfum are filled with the most valuable rose scents used in perfumery -- Ottoman Rose and Prelude Rose. Glorious notes of perfume are expressed in the fruity scents of L'Eau de Toilette Rosee. It is composed of the graceful dance of sophisticated but gentle aromas. The product is presented in its new bottle of gold and faint pink shades, representative of purity. The perfume will be introduced in December 2007.



New colors from FlorMar True Color Glitter Eyeliner

Ladies' looks will be perfect during the New Year with new silvery black, silvery gold and shimmering copper shades from FlorMar. Practical and shimmering, True Color Glitter Eyeliner reveals the light in your eyes and adds a unique pizzazz to your looks with its iridescent colors. Price: YTL 8.90

CULTURAL AGENDA

PERFORMING ARTS

The Istanbul State Opera and Ballet will stage Puccini's three-act opera "La Rondine" on Dec. 4, Herold and Lanchberry's ballet "La Fille Mal Gardée" on Dec. 5 and Verdi's opera "Macbeth" on Dec. 6 at the Atatürk Culture Center (AKM).

The Ankara State Opera will stage Puccini's opera "Madama Butterfly" on Dec. 3, Mozart's "The Abduction from the Seraglio" on Dec. 5, Tchaikovsky's ballet the "Nutcracker" on Dec. 6 and Saygun's opera "Ozsoy" on Dec. 8 at the Ankara Opera House.

The Istanbul-based Cıplak Ayaklar Company will stage a modern dance show titled "Ön Ayak" at the Enka Auditorium on Dec. 4 at 8:30 p.m.

The Fire of Anatolia dance troupe is scheduled for performances at Ankara's Anadolu Show Center on Dec. 6 and at Istanbul's Bostana Show Center on Dec. 9. Tickets at www.biletix.com

CONCERT

Croatian pianist Dejan Lazic will give a recital at Istanbul's Lütfi Kırdar Grand Hall on Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. as part of a program called Istanbul Recitals.

Russian pianist Dmitri Alexeev is scheduled for a concert at Istanbul's Cemal Resit Rey (CRR) Concert Hall on Dec. 5 at 8 p.m.

EXHIBITION

Ankara's Gazi University Painting and Sculpture Museum hosts an exhibition of paintings by artist Kayhan Keskinok through Jan. 20, 2008.

An art exhibition titled "Öngörüler" (Foreights), showcasing the work of 59 famous Turkish artists, runs through Dec. 30 at Istanbul's Besiktas Çağdaş art gallery at the Mustafa Kemal Center in Akatlar. Tel.: (212) 351 93 90

Istanbul's Sakıp Sabancı Museum hosts the "Abidin Dino -- A World" exhibition until Jan. 27, showcasing the life and work of Dino as a painter, caricaturist, illustrator, filmmaker and writer.

An exhibition titled "Collected Visions," featuring a selection of contemporary artwork from the JP Morgan Chase art collection, is on show at Istanbul's Pera Museum through Jan. 6.

FESTIVAL

The sixth edition of Istanbul's Pera Fest, featuring ethnic music concerts and dance shows, will run Dec. 3-18 at venues such as the Lütfi Kırdar Convention Center, the Pera Museum and Garajistanbul. www.piproduction.com.tr

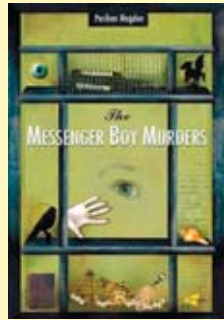
The Bursa International Silk Road Film Festival will run Dec. 7-13, featuring more than 50 movies at several theaters including the Tayyare Culture Center, the City Museum and Burç Movie Theater.

Akbank Short Film Festival, scheduled for Dec. 3-13 in Istanbul, will screen 91 short films from 29 countries at the Cervantes Institute and Akbank Art Center. Admission will be free of charge.

The Istanbul International Animated Films Festival will run Dec. 4-9 at the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art movie theater, featuring around 300 animated movies from around the world.

The third Mountain Films Festival will take place Dec. 3-9 at the AKM and the French Culture Center in Istanbul, screening a total of 52 films on mountaineering. Admission will be free of charge.

'THE MESSENGER BOY MURDERS'



MARION JAMES ISTANBUL

It seems to be that to win awards as an author in Turkey you have to be able to write in a Kafkaesque style. Up must be down, black must be white, if possible characters must be lost in a confusion somewhere in between truth and reality.

Now, my personal taste is for more of a straightforward story. Yes, please, include unexpected twists. But my mathematical mind and flair for organization means I prefer the real world, to an uncomfortable imaginary world where the only rule is that there are no rules.

So, if I am to read a book full of psychological imagery, it is probably best to choose one by an expert in psychology. Perihan Magden is a graduate in psychology from Bogaziçi University, one of Turkey's most prestigious universities. "The Messenger Boy Murders" is her first novel, and it launched a career that has included a novel being made into a film ("İki Genç Kız" -- "Two Young Girls"). Magden is currently a popular columnist in the Turkish daily paper Radikal.

The blurb on the back cover prepares the reader for stepping into a psychologist's world. "The Messenger Boy Murders" is a swift, darkly comic and entertaining novel about the multiplicity of human character and our exasperating yet essential flaws and contradictions.

I love an exercise that writer JB Thompson gets budding writers to do in her course "Let's Do Lunch." She gets you to consider all the people you know, and then examine how different they are. From yourself, and from each other. She then says, "This is what we as writers have to do with our characters. We're not taking the dough of our cast list and pressing out people with a cookie cutter. Each character has to be as unique as the people you know. ... Whatever the relationship between our characters, it has to be as real as the characters themselves. We have to remain true to the personalities of our people in the context of their interactions with each other."

She then challenges the reader: "Read a book. And when you do, take an especially close look at the characters. Do you see them as real people? Are

they different enough that they stand apart from each other? Has the writer succeeded at making them as unique as they can be?"

Magden succeeds in producing a cast list of characters each totally different from each other -- a dwarf in love with his traveling companion monkey, an Indian servant with a Chinese name, a second-hand book seller, a young man expelled from school due to outrageous behavior -- and then, in that oblique Turkish way, she defies all of JB Thompson's rules in creating a group of cookie-utter characters so different from the others, and so unexpected.

The messenger boys of this city are identical: all genetically engineered, all beautiful, all perpetually young. No one paid any heed to the subtle differences between them -- "messenger boys are like mail boxes, they are so common you just don't notice them" -- or even how many there were, until a serial killer started to murder them, one by one.

Is "The Messenger Boy Murders" a sci-fi novel, or a Psychology 101 textbook, written in allegorical style? You decide.

The word psychology is derived from the Greek word psyche, meaning "soul" or "mind." It is the study of the mind. One of the founders of modern psychology, a German named Wundt, carried out research on structuralism, which involved describing the structures that compose the mind. This perspective relied heavily on the analysis of sensations and feelings through the use of introspection, a highly subjective process.

Magden's main character, Stavrogin, narrates the story, which gives plenty of room for introspection. He confesses his weaknesses to us, as well as his dreams and his darkest secrets.

One psychology textbook describes denial in these terms: "The psychological tricks that people use to ignore a festering problem in their own households are the same ones that they need to live with everyday human dishonesty and betrayal, their own and others." When Stavrogin, expelled from school, returns home, he finds "a black cloud hanging over the city, but it was an unspoken rule for the inhabitants never to discuss evil happenings. If something was going wrong, everyone waited patiently until the evil ended before talking about it. So in this city where there were at most three murders a year, to hear of serial murder -- moreover of messenger boy murder -- was no trifling matter."

Stavrogin begins to investigate the murders. More correctly, he doesn't chose to do so, but is informed he is doing so by Jacob, the second hand book seller. And Jacob sends him witnesses to tell him their stories, so it

seems like he is investigating the murders. But is he really, or is he being manipulated by the bookman? "I seemed to be going mad. It was as if I was a puppet in Jacob's play."

Every amateur psychologist knows of theories about one's mother. We are not disappointed here, with the description of Stavrogin's mother's servant: "Wang Yu was like a bad copy of my mother... At first Wang Yu hated my mother, but hating her, he learned her moods so well that in the end her moods became his own. In this way Wang Yu split down the middle: to the world he played my mother; while to my mother he played a 13 year old child."

Similarly, we all recognize the most popular coping mechanisms: "There definitely is a connection between chocolate and happiness -- definitely." "Her insides were covered with wounds, unhealed wounds. And by drinking she only poured salt on her wounds. But then, who amongst us wasn't?"

But Magden as an expert takes us further than the superficial psychological knowledge we all have gained from watching shows such as Oprah. For example, developmental psychology is the looks at human growth and development over the lifespan. Theories often focus on the development of cognitive abilities, morality, social functioning, identity, and other life areas. "Until the ago of two the messenger boys are raised in the laboratory like some rare flower... Later the older ones show the little ones how to be precise and so on -- they teach them all the finer points of the art of being messenger boys."

One of the messenger boys presents textbook symptoms of schizophrenia: "It occurred to me that his soul seemed to fluctuate between that of a messenger boy's and a child's. He was in torment, restless, unhappy."

We end up almost with the impression that Perihan, having explained to us the art of diagnosis, then rejects the whole science: "In fact it was abundantly clear to me that what she needed was peace of mind, not luck. But pinning names on other peoples' needs always sounds wrong to me."

One character advises Stavrogin, "Don't allow life's secrets to infuriate you; because what makes life beautiful, what makes life precious is its secrets. Wait, and life will open its secrets one by one in front of you."

"The Messenger Boy Murders," like life, unfolds its secrets one by one. What is the ultimate secret? Well, now, that would be telling!

"The Messenger Boy Murders" by Perihan Magden, Published by Milet, ISBN: 978-184059364-8, 6.99 pounds in paperback



PHOTO: KURSAT BAYHAN

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Crime Fiction

The sinking of a cargo ship and the slaughter of the crew seemed a senseless act of violence. But Cleo Rice knows the truth and is determined to expose the culprit. This title brings more thrilling suspense from the number-one bestselling author of "Body Double."

'KYRGYZSTAN'

by Laurence Mitchell
Published by Bradt
15.99 pounds in paperback
Travel

This book provides an invaluable resource for the expat in Kyrgyzstan, covering the wide range of travel options including trekking and horse-back trails, local buses, shared taxis. It also features intrepid overland routes to China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.



Eldem: The West produced the East, now both sides are consuming it

SEVİNÇ ÖZARSLAN | İSTANBUL

The East has always been a great product for the West, a product that has served the West in art, literature and politics. The consumer societies that emerged with industrialization in the 19th century began to see the East as an image for consumption, and this perspective carries on into today. Images of the East have been used in advertising billboards, the tourism sector, caricatures, exoticism on cigarette packets, eroticism and to explain the differences between lifestyles and cultures. For this reason, when Westerners hear about "the East" they think of deserts, sand, palm trees, Bedouins on camels, concubines and women swathed in headscarves.

History professor and curator Edhem Eldem has researched the role the East has played in advertisements that sparked the Western consumption culture. He has brought together a variety of posters, cartoons and even books for an exhibition currently on display at Istanbul's Ottoman Bank Museum called "Consuming the East." Eldem based the exhibition's theme on the central question of "How is the East marketed in the West, and what kind of an image does it have?"

The backbone of this exhibition, which will run through March 2008, is composed of 53 posters taken from the Abderrahman Slaoui Foundation in Casablanca. The striking distinction of these posters is their depiction of places like Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and other African countries as mysterious spots, with beaches, ruins, harems and history which all serve to create the image of the East as a "very different place from the West." One of these posters, printed in 1950, shows a Bedouin eating in front of his tent in the middle of the desert looking up, amazement in his eyes, at an airplane flying overhead. This advertising poster, which belongs to Air France, is meant to give the message to customers that North Africa is a mysterious place, waiting to be discovered. Istanbul shows up among these posters depicted with the silhouette of the Sultanahmet Mosque in the background and a veiled woman walking in front.

Eldem's exhibition is built upon four main themes. The first theme is exoticism, or the outward reflection of feelings of foreignness and a distinct atmosphere. Westerners seem to focus on the mystery of the East in order to explain what kind of a place it is. The products aimed at consumers in this exhibition all display items which have been identified with the East. The message entailed herein is brief: "The East is a place very different from ours."

The second notable theme at the exhibition is ethnography. In other words, the West says not only the actual environment but also the language, religion, culture and lifestyles of people in the East are "different from ours -- we are modern, they are traditional." Eldem notes that the image of woman is frequently used for this purpose. "We come across images of harems and concubines, particularly in ads for cosmetic products. These images are sometimes scientific, sometimes only pretending to be scientific and other times nothing more than caricatures."

The third theme of the show is eroticism, with a nod to the Western sexuality embodied in the East -

History professor and curator Edhem Eldem explores how the East is marketed in the West and the Western consumption culture in the exhibition 'Consuming the East,' on display through March 2008 at Istanbul's Ottoman Bank Museum



Professor Edhem Eldem poses for a photograph in front of posters on display at the exhibition "Consuming the East."

- the image of a concubine stretched out on a sofa, with a black man fanning her. These sorts of images feed the Western image of the East as being a place where harems are created, a sexually charged geography where fantasies are produced. Eldem notes that at this point there is a problem, pointing out that when Westerners describe the East, they forget to deal with dimensions of time and change. He says: "The 1001 tales are a body of stories which evolved slowly between the seventh and 15th centuries. So looking backward from the 19th century, you are looking at

stories which have at least five to six hundred years of history. If you turn these stories into some sort of proof of life in the East during the 19th century, it means you have created a portrayal problem, a falsification problem. But these erotic image ingredients are still being presented as though they are an accurate representation of 19th century Eastern or Iranian culture."

The fourth theme is, as far as Eldem is concerned, the layers of historical fabric in the East. The image of the East as being the point at which stories from the Bible take place, the prestigious

and glorious past of Egypt, the Arabian caliphates, the Ottomans, the Roman Empire, and the like. Eldem says: "Westerners are aware of the historical fabric of the East. And this fabric is generally used in consumerism. For example, when the West tries to explain what a trip to Palestine would entail, they choose Bethlehem to describe it because this is the birthplace of Jesus Christ. This historical city, which carries so much spiritual meaning for the West, has become an ingredient for consumption."

Eldem notes that while the West uses these geographical points in the East for their own culture of consumption, there is a major falsification problem going on, which is problematic. He points to the book "The Life of Jesus," in which it is said that the village where Jesus was born (Bethlehem) is still the same as it was before. Eldem goes on to explain: "In other words, the West is drawing the image of a place where history has been frozen. Unlike European history, as it is presented in the West, this is a history which does not change or move forward -- it stands still."

No political aims

Eldem says he did not have any political aims in preparing the exhibition, noting that no matter what the purpose of the works on display, each one is a wonderful example of creativity. The use of colors in the posters, the depictions, the images, have all been put together by professional artists. Many of these artists were people who actually moved to places like Tunisia and Morocco and wound up spending the majority of their lives there -- which is why Eldem does acknowledge that the pieces that make up the exhibition cannot be summed up as simply giving the message of "the East is undeveloped, we are superior." He says: "There is a sort of psychology that exists in our culture of 'The West badmouths the East,' and our response of 'Oh, what a shame, how innocent we are.' Of course the pieces in this exhibition do contain messages of superiority, but the issue isn't really that simple."

Eldem notes that the complexity of the issue is underscored in the last section of the exhibition, which focuses on the East, in particular on Turkey. Eldem says: "The West's Orientalist view of the East still continues today and will continue to do so. In the end, something called 'the East' was invented and became popular. Previously, the West used to create its own images of the East, for its own consumption. But what is changing now is that both sides are producing these images. For instance singer Sertab Erener, who brought Turkey its first ever Eurovision win, put on a completely Orientalist stage performance at the competition. But this has now reached a point where there is a certain expectation from Turkey on this front -- that is, in the event that Turkey doesn't create an Eastern image in tourism, Westerners are not satisfied. What we see is that Turkey now has all of the various 'cartoonifications' and images that they have criticized the West for. ... We are producing our own Orientalism right here in the East. We have started doing the very same thing that Europe has done for hundreds of years. So maybe we need to take a look at ourselves before we criticize the West."



Nov. 24

■ Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan called for expanding the democratic rights of Kurdish citizens to erode support for separatism and finish off the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in a speech he delivered at his party's meeting in Kızılcahamam, Ankara. "Terrorism loves the climate of oppression... Now it is time to act with reason and common sense," he added.

■ The European Union's Enlargement Chief Olli Rehn took up with the Turkish authorities the case of a German minor held for seven months without trial in Turkey on a rape charge. The case caused a political storm in Germany, with the Berlin government pledging to support the 17-year-old schoolboy if he appeals to the European Court of Human Rights about his treatment by the EU candidate country. Rehn told the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat he had raised the case of the boy, Marko W., with Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan on human rights grounds and met with the German EU ambassador to discuss the issue.

■ Top Turkish and US military officials held talks on joint efforts to combat PKK bases in northern Iraq in the second such meeting this week. Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Yasar Büyükanit and the commander of US forces in Europe, Gen. Bantz Craddock, discussed "cooperation issues in the joint struggle against the PKK terrorist organization, including intelligence sharing," the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) statement said.

■ A PKK terrorist was killed and a soldier was wounded during a clash in the southeastern city of Şırnak.

Nov. 25

■ Turkey is "very pleased" that Syria decided to attend a US-hosted Middle East conference this week and hopes it will pave the way for fresh peace talks, Foreign Minister Ali Babacan said before flying to the Annapolis conference in the US.

■ Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, arrived in Turkey for a five-day trip.

■ The police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of people demonstrating in the southeastern city of Diyarbakır in favor of PKK terrorists. About 40,000 people attended a rally organized by the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP) to denounce legal action seeking the group's closure.

■ In remarks broadcast on Kanal 7 television, a senior member of the European Parliament, Joost Lagendijk, said in a visit to Ankara that he warned Turkey's only pro-Kurdish party, the DTP, against failure to distance itself from the outlawed PKK, noting that otherwise the party itself would be a victim of the PKK's violent strategy.

■ Government spokesman and Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek reiterated that Turkey contacted the authorities of relevant countries for the speedy extradition of suspected criminals but these contacts have not produced tangible results yet. "We got in touch with the Iraqi administration and officials of several other countries for extradition of some suspects in these countries. Yet, we have not gotten tangible results up until now," Çiçek said in televised remarks.

Nov. 26

■ The Beyoğlu 7th Criminal Court of First Instance ruled that a lawsuit filed against Cengiz Yıldız -- a police officer who allegedly shot and killed Nigerian Festus Okey during an interrogation in Istanbul's Beyoğlu police station on Aug. 20 -- be tried in the Beyoğlu Assize Court.

■ Prince Charles visited Konya as part of a five-day visit to Turkey. The 59-year-old prince, accompanied by his wife Camilla, visited the Mevlana Museum in Konya and then the Mevlana Culture Center to watch a sema (whirling dervish ceremony).

■ The Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into a demonstration held on Nov. 25 by the DTP in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır. During the demonstration, the DTP's acting party leader slammed the stance adopted by the government toward his party and DTP supporters chanted in favor of the jailed leader of the outlawed PKK, Abdullah Öcalan.

■ President Abdullah Gül gave a speech at a meeting of the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) to promote İzmir's candidacy for EXPO 2015. Gül said he strongly believes Turkey and İzmir deserve to host EXPO 2015, adding that the Turkish government fully supports İzmir's candidacy.

Nov. 27

■ President Gül noted with pride that Turkey has avoided sacrificing democracy and freedom in its fight against terrorism and that

EVENT OF THE WEEK



PHOTO BY MEHMET KAMAN

Turkey wakes to a dark Friday with news of tragic plane crash

An Atlasjet plane that crashed on a mountain in southwest Turkey killing all 57 people on board in the early hours of Friday caused intense grief, sorrow and shock across the entire country. The 165-seat MD 83 plane, manufactured by McDonnell Douglas, crashed right before it was due to land in the city of Isparta. It had departed from Istanbul with 50 passengers and seven crew members. The crash occurred outside Keçiborlu, a town some 12 kilometers from Isparta's Süleyman Demirel Airport. Officials said there was no indication of sabotage in the

disaster, which occurred in good weather minutes before the plane was scheduled to land. Pieces of wreckage and personal belongings, including suitcases, clothing and magazines, were strewn across the hillside. Rescue workers in bright yellow jackets entered the plane's fuselage, which lay amid boulders and pine trees. Investigators found the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, the civil aviation authority said. Weeping relatives approached the crash site, but were turned away by soldiers and other officials, who sought to comfort them. Among the passen-

gers were six academics from the Boğaziçi and Doğu universities who had planned to attend a conference at Süleyman Demirel University in Isparta. Medical personnel working at the crash site in Isparta's Keçiborlu district collected body parts from the wreckage and placed them in body bags. The bodies of victims were released to relatives after they were identified through DNA testing. In the past 48 years of recorded Turkish flight history there have been 1,140 people killed in air-related accidents, including the latest loss in the Isparta Atlasjet crash.

this has resulted in the isolation of terrorism. "Speaking in general terms, strengthening democracy in Turkey helps our fight against terrorism," Gül went on to say at a press conference in Paris, where he was wrapping up a visit to France to rally support for Turkey's bid to host the global EXPO 2015 fair.

■ The Turkish government drew up an alternative list of nominees for judicial posts at the European Court of Human Rights. The new list, which came almost two months after rejection of its first list by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), included Professor Rusen Ergeç of the Free University in Brussels, whose name was also on the first list; Professor İsl Karakas, deputy dean of Istanbul-based Galatasaray University's law faculty; and Associate Professor Ali Ulusoy, deputy dean of Ankara University's law faculty. The list is expected to be introduced to PACE next month.

■ Former DTP leader Ahmet Türk said during a parliamentary group meeting that his party could leave Parliament permanently if "political lynching" persists against them, leaving them no room to express their views.

■ The Constitutional Court announced that a petition by the Republican People's Party (CHP) to annul an amendment approved by a referendum on Oct. 21, changing two articles of the constitution, does not fall within its jurisdiction. The Constitutional Court declared

that they had rejected the petition because the mandate of the Constitutional Court does not cover the issue.

■ US Ambassador Ross Wilson hosted a breakfast meeting for a visiting US congressman and Kurdish politicians from different political parties, except the DTP. The issue of a democratic solution to the Kurdish issue was discussed.

Nov. 28

■ Foreign Minister Ali Babacan expressed "cautious optimism" after a US-sponsored Middle East peace conference restarted talks between Israelis and Palestinians, appealing to Palestinians to end a bitter division and to give the peace efforts a chance. Babacan was speaking to reporters after the international gathering of nearly 50 countries and international organizations in Annapolis.

■ At the first of his new series of "intellectual lunches," President Gül dined with two acclaimed professors at Çankaya presidential palace, one of whom suggested establishing a department to improve relations with the Turkic states of central Asia, while the other drew the president's attention to the importance of founding cultural centers to conduct research on Anatolian Sufism.

■ The ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) gave a green light to stripping deputies of their immunity for crimes committed against the "indivisible integrity of the state," while it

remained opposed to the constitutional amendment package proposed by the ultranationalist Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) with similar promises.

■ The Istanbul Stock Exchange (IMKB) was unable to start its first session because fiber-optic cables leading to the IMKB snapped during road work in the İstinye district of Istanbul.

■ A car belonging to Edip Daniel Savcı, a priest from Turkey's Syriac Christian community, was found abandoned near the town of Midyat in Mardin province. The kidnappers allegedly called Syriac Culture Association head Yohanna Aktaş and demanded 300,000 euros in return for Savcı's release.

Nov. 29

■ A Supreme Military Council (YAS) meeting began at General Staff headquarters and presided over by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan considered several items, including severing the ties of some officers with the military and preparations for the country's transition to a professional army.

■ Germany extradited two members of the outlawed PKK sought by Turkey and sought the handover of a German citizen of Turkish descent being held in Turkey for suspected links with al-Qaeda.

■ The US Embassy in Ankara cancelled a planned luncheon with four southeastern deputies from the ruling AK Party and Ufuk Uras, leader of the Freedom and Democracy Party (ÖDP), after the AK Party deputies said they could not attend. The US Embassy came under intense criticism for attempting to meddle in Turkey's domestic affairs.

■ Türk Telekom and the Turkish Telecommunication Workers Union (Türkiye Haber-İs) arrived at an agreement, putting an end to a strike that had lasted 44 days. Previous talks between the parties had been slowed down by disagreements over wage increases and the scope of trade union membership.

Nov. 30

■ A Syriac Orthodox priest who was kidnapped in the southeastern city of Mardin on Nov. 28 was released in Batman, Mardin Governor Mehmet Kılıçlar announced.

■ Prime Minister Erdoğan said that the government gave authority to Turkish forces on Nov. 28 to launch a cross-border operation to tackle the outlawed PKK based in northern Iraq. "We made a decision at the Cabinet meeting on Nov. 28 and, with the president's approval, the Turkish Armed Forces [TSK] were authorized regarding a cross-border operation," Erdoğan said in televised remarks.

■ Seven Turkish citizens kidnapped on Nov. 11 in the eastern province of Van, about 10 kilometers from the Iranian border, were released. The seven people, including two members of the state-sponsored village guard, were allegedly about to smuggle goods from Iran to Turkey when they were kidnapped after resisting a PKK attempt to extort money from them.

■ A two-day meeting of YAS was concluded. The council decided on the expulsion of 31 officers who have "drug addictions or immoral social conduct that violates the fundamental structure and discipline of the Turkish Armed Forces" and seven others who were observed to have "attitudes and behavior suggestive of religious fundamentalism."

■ An Atlasjet MD-83 plane crashed on its approach to the Isparta airport, killing all 57 people on board. An investigation at the scene of the crash is underway.

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Commander's headscarf allergy baffles all

A member of the Turkish military, whose members pay utmost care not to encounter the headscarf-wearing first lady in protocols, baffled everyone when he forced a 16-year-old girl wearing a headscarf to step down from the stage where she was waiting to receive her award for a composition she wrote for Teachers' Day on Nov. 24. During the program organized in the Kozan district of Adana, Tevhide from Kozan's imam hatip school (a vocational religious educational establishment) was waiting to receive a prize when the religious city's director of education, Mutlu Canbolat, escorted her from the stage. Canbolat acted upon the cries of "Get that off the stage!" from Garrison Commander Maj. Hüseyin Çopur and Kozan Governor Aydın Tetikoğlu. In tears, Tevhide asked Canbolat why he was pulling her off the stage. The entire audience, consisting of teachers and students and their families, joined Tevhide and left the hall immediately. The parliamentary Human Rights Commission launched an investigation into the incident, and the act was criticized by the two senior members of the European Parliament, Joost Lagendijk and Cem Özdemir, who termed the commander's action a "mistake".



PHOTO BY BRAHİM ÇINAR



Canakkale's historic Clock Tower



Canakkale's Martyr's Monument

To see the best of what Canakkale has to offer there are few better places to start than the waterfront. If you're traveling from İstanbul by boat you will probably arrive by Eceabat on the Thracian side of the Dardanelles in a ferry not dissimilar to those in İstanbul. Hop off the bus as soon as the boat docks. Many hotels overlook the water, so you won't have far to walk with your bags



Canakkale's Trojan Horse



Canakkale's waterfront



Artillery at a Canakkale museum

tea gardens along the way. The focal point of activity is, of course, the port, where boats arrive and leave not just from Eceabat but also from Kilitbahir and more distant Gökçeada (the "Windy Isle"). Just inland the main local landmark is a clock tower dating back to 1897 which was paid for by Vitalis, an Italian consul and local merchant. What remains of old Canakkale clusters in the narrow streets nearby and is slowly being restored to provide premises for lively bars and cafes. Look out for the café in the inviting courtyard of the Yalı Han, and for the rebuilt Aynalı Çarşısı, once famous enough to be immortalized in song. Here, too, you will find the Kervansaray Hotel in a renovated pasha's house which dates back to 1903.

When it comes to the town itself, sightseeing pickings are slim, although the Archeology Museum does house some of the finds from Troy. Until recently it also showcased some fine examples of Canakkale-ware, a kitschy, clumpy style of 19th-century pottery that favored brown, green and yellow glazes -- a statue-sized model of a favorite design adorns Cumhuriyet Bulvarı. Lovers of Iznik and Kütahya pottery tend to turn up their noses at Canakkale offerings, regarding them as too crude to be taken seriously. But fashion is fickle, and nowadays genuine Canakkale ("Pottery Castle") pottery fetches high prices. If you're lucky you may dig out the odd original piece in a local antique shop. The finest collection on public display is housed in Antalya's Suna and İnan Karac Kalesi Museum.

Chances are you will be rushing to visit Troy and the Gallipoli battlefields, but if time permits it's well worth taking the ferry across the Dardanelles to Kilitbahir to explore the second of Mehmet the Conqueror's fortifications, a strangely heart-shaped castle given a tall tower by Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent in the 16th century. Walk around the walls and you'll find bunkers left over from the Gallipoli Campaign, which confirm how foresighted Fatih Mehmet was when he picked his location.

As you cross the water you will see, picked out on the hillside, a verse written by Necmettin Halil Onan to commemorate the bloody struggle of 1915 that ended with an estimated 55,000 Turkish and 36,000 Allied deaths. Translated, it means: "Traveler, halt! The soil you heedlessly tread once witnessed the end of an era. Listen! In this quiet mound there once beat the heart of a nation."

Given the importance of the stretch of water that separates Canakkale from Kilitbahir, it's hardly surprising that it has spawned any number of curious fables. The first such story explains why the Dardanelles is also called the Hellespont (Helle's Bridge) and involves the Golden Fleece, in search of which Jason and the Argonauts later traveled the length of the Black Sea. Bribed by a scheming step-mother, an oracle had ordered the king of Thessaly to sacrifice his eldest son. At the last moment the god Hermes answered the real mother's prayers and sent a golden-fleeced ram to carry her son and daughter to safety on the Asian side of the straits. Unfortunately mid-flight Helle tumbled off and drowned, whereupon the straits were renamed after her.

Better known is the story of the lovers Hero and Leander. Leander was a young man from Abydos, near Canakkale, Hero a priestess from Sestos (Kilitbahir). Every night she would set a light in her window and Leander would swim across to visit her. Then one night a storm blew out the light and Leander drowned. Grief-stricken, Hero threw herself from a tower and died. Until 1810 Leander's was assumed to be a fictitious feat, but then the great romantic, Lord Byron, arrived in Canakkale and proved otherwise. Since then many other swimmers have emulated his accomplishment. Local travel agencies can help you make the necessary preparations if you think you'd like to have a go too.

Whatever you do during the day, you should make sure to take a stroll along the waterfront in the evening when all sorts of stalls selling edibles, drinkables and craft goods suddenly put in an appearance. Here, too, you will be able to admire the huge wooden horse created for the recent Hollywood version of the Troy epic and then bequeathed to the locals.

CANAKKALE

the pottery castle near Troy

PAT YALE CANAKKALE

It's a town that straddles a wide strait of water along which ships stream from morning to night. So great is its strategic importance that mighty medieval castles guard both its shores. Its waterfront is lined with cafes and tea gardens. And, no, it isn't İstanbul -- it's Canakkale, the city that guards the Dardanelles and access from the Mediterranean to the Marmara and thence via the Bosphorus to the Black Sea.

Canakkale is not, at first sight, a beautiful town, having lost most of its old buildings to earthquakes and war damage, but it does boast one of Turkey's most stunning settings, so it's a shame that most people barely give it a glance in their rush to reach the Gallipoli battlefields and the ruins of nearby Troy.

To see the best of what Canakkale has to offer there are few better places to start than the waterfront. If you're traveling from İstanbul you will probably arrive by boat anyway, crossing from Eceabat on the Thracian side of the Dardanelles in a ferry not dissimilar to those in

İstanbul. Hop off the bus as soon as the boat docks. Many hotels overlook the water, so you won't have far to walk with your bags.

Once settled, your first stop should be the Military Museum. You may think that things military are hardly your scene, but this one is right on the waterfront and centered on the first of the two castles -- originally the Kale-i Sultaniye and now the Çimenlik (Grassy Spot) Kalesi -- that gird the straits. You won't be surprised to learn that it was built for Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 while he was planning the siege of Constantinople (İstanbul); to this day its walls are as sturdy as those of Rumeli Hisarı. Inside it contains a so-so collection of pictures of Atatürk and of the Gallipoli Campaign, better known to the locals as the Canakkale War.

It's worth coming to the museum just for the view across the straits to Kilitbahir and the second castle. But while you're here you may want to visit the small Picture and Photography Gallery, one of the few places where you can still get an idea what the town used to look like before it was swamped by modern development. In

the grounds there is a replica of a famous mine-laying ship, the Nusrat. During the Gallipoli Campaign the British and their allies cleared the straits of mines, but during the night the mariners of the Nusrat ventured back to relay the mines which then blew up three Allied ships. The original Nusrat is preserved in a park in Tarsus.

A short walk south of the museum is the San River with a sprawling market on its banks a little way inland. Alternatively you can stroll north along the waterfront, pausing in the many little

TIPS

WHERE TO STAY

Kervansaray Oteli Tel.: (286) 217 8192

Anzac Hotel Tel.: (286) 217 7777

Hotel Artur Tel: Tel.: (286) 213 2000

HOW TO GET THERE

Buses connect İstanbul and İzmir with Canakkale.



A PARTNER FOR DEALING WITH IRAN?

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI*

The effort to resolve by negotiations North Korea's defiance of the global nonproliferation regime may yet prove successful. If so, does that experience offer a guide for coping with the challenge posed by Iran's expanding nuclear program? Would a comprehensive dialogue on this issue between America and China be useful?

If, indeed, the prolonged negotiations with North Korea result in a constructive resolution of the dangers posed by Pyongyang's open pursuit of nuclear weapons, it will have been largely due to decisive changes in the public postures of both the United States and China. America belatedly committed itself to, and then actively promoted, serious and prolonged multilateral negotiations among five concerned states and North Korea's rulers. Even more important, China's abandonment of its initial reticence eventually proved vital to convincing Pyongyang that its own political intransigence could become suicidal.

I recently visited China, where I had the opportunity to engage Chinese leaders in wide-ranging private conversations. I returned with two strong impressions regarding China's attitude toward the Iranian problem. The first is that the magnitude of China's internal transformation makes it vulnerable to global political and economic instability. China is especially worried about the consequences of any major eruption of violence in the Persian Gulf. This concern is palpable and justified if one considers the likely financial and political effects of a major US-Iran collision. Thus China, despite its meteoric rise toward global pre-eminence, currently is geopolitically a status quo power.

Second, the Chinese strongly advocate that in dealing with Iran the United States be guided by strategic patience. Unlike the North Koreans, they

note, the Iranians have denied any intent to acquire nuclear weapons. Accordingly, they argue that Iranian denials (despite their doubtful credibility) create openings for contriving a face-saving arrangement for an internationally sanctioned, non-threatening Iranian nuclear program.

In China's view, the United States should avoid being drawn into tit-for-tat salvos with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, since that strengthens Ahmadinejad domestically; America should also stop insisting on preconditions for negotiations that effectively demand that the Iranians publicly concede that they have been lying. Instead of contesting the veracity of Iranian proclamations, the focus should be on jointly negotiating a formula that effectively forsakes the allegedly unwanted nuclear weapons option.

Once it is more active in the negotiating process with Iran, China could help break the stalemate. It has a relatively cordial relationship with Tehran, whose rulers are not united but are increasingly isolated. Beijing and Tehran do not want their economic relationships disrupted; Iran supplies much-needed oil to China, and China supplies equally needed weapons and industrial products to Iran. But China's willingness to play a constructive role requires that the United States be guided by strategic patience. The Chinese fear that US impatience to ratchet up sanctions may be somewhat motivated by the conviction that before long the sanctions will be proved ineffective and "other options on the table" might come into play.

Russia's uncertain role should be noted. Russia has been in talks with Iran and professes strongly that it desires a peaceful solution. These affirmations should not be dismissed out of hand. A conflict in the Persian Gulf might adversely affect Russia's interests, but its negative effects on Russia

are inherently speculative. Any serious conflict will have international ripple effects, and Russian leaders have to assess that eventuality with prudence.

Nonetheless, Russia is an increasingly revisionist state, more and more openly positioning itself to attempt at least a partial reversal of the geopolitical losses it suffered in the early 1990s. Cutting off direct US access to Caspian and Central Asian oil is high on the Kremlin's list. Moreover, longer-term geopolitical threats are seen by Moscow's elite as involving potential Chinese encroachments on Russia's empty but mineral-rich eastern areas and American political encroachments on the populated western areas of Russia's recently lost imperial domain.

In that context, the outbreak of a political conflict in the Persian Gulf may not be viewed by all Moscow strategists as a one-sided evil. The dramatic spike in oil prices would harm China and America while unleashing a further wave of anti-American hostility. In that context, Europe might distance itself from America while both Europe and China would become more dependent on Russia's energy supplies. Russia would clearly be the financial and geopolitical beneficiary.

The stakes of a serious crisis in the Persian Gulf are thus far reaching. They could cause a more dramatic shift in the global distribution of power than even the one that occurred after the Cold War ended. Given this, a comprehensive, strategic dialogue between the United States and China regarding the relevance of their shared experience dealing with North Korea to the potential crisis with Iran could be timely and historically expedient.

**Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, is the author most recently of "Second Chance: Three Presidents and the Crisis of American Superpower." ©The Washington Post*

THE TRANSATLANTIC MUSLIM DIVIDE

MARCIA PALLY*

Compared with the tension that exists in Muslim communities across Europe, America's Muslims are a more contented lot.

A recent Pew Forum study found Europe's Muslims to be "markedly less well off than the general population, frustrated with economic opportunities and socially isolated," while most American Muslims say that "their communities are excellent or good places" to live; some 71 percent say they can succeed in the US if they work. Both income and college graduation levels match the national norms. Of American Muslims, 63 percent report no conflict between religious devotion and living in modern society.

Although 53 percent of US Muslims think that life is more difficult since the terrorist attacks of 2001, most think that this is the fault of the government, not their neighbors. Indeed, 73 percent said they had never experienced discrimination while living in America. Moreover, 85 percent said suicide bombing is rarely or never justified, and only 1 percent said violence to defend Islam was "often" permissible. In Europe, significantly higher percentages of Muslims believe that suicide bombings are "often" or "sometimes" justified.

"What emerges," according to Amaney Jamal, an adviser to Pew, "is the great success of the Muslim American population in its socioeconomic assimilation." Yet "assimilation" is not what succeeds. "Assimilation" means dissolving into the mainstream, but Muslim-Americans do not, remaining devoutly Muslim in a country overwhelmingly Christian.

America's Muslims do not so much assimilate as participate in economic, political, educational and social life. This might reflect a self-selection process: only the most educated Muslims immigrate to America, as poor social services allow only the best-prepared to survive. Yet even middle-class Muslims in Britain become alienated, and, unlike the Muslim poor in Europe, poor Muslims in America don't express alienation or sympathy with al-Qaeda.

It can be argued that only those poor eager for the harsh but open possibilities of American life immigrate to the US. Yet this doesn't explain why these poorer immigrants remain religious; wanting to succeed US-style, they should want to be quick to "assimilate."

Why do US Muslims do well while remaining devout and distinctive-looking? Why can they participate without assimilating?

Two factors seem significant: first, relatively porous economic, political and educational arenas that allow immigrants entry to these key areas of American life. Despite the discrimination and poverty that immigrants often suffer initially, barriers to economic and political participation are relatively low.

The second factor is America's pluralistic public sphere, an arena not without religion but with many religions, which are visible and active in civil life as the basis for institutions, publications and symbols that influence values and conduct. The US is not a secular society;

it is a religiously pluralistic one with secular legal and political structures.

Indeed, America's secular institutions were designed to support pluralism. They allow people of many creeds to work in them -- a workplace of multiple faiths. The prohibition against a state religion together with freedom of conscience preserves the plurality of religion in civil life. This design was crafted not only from enlightened principle but from necessity: America needed to persuade people to cross the ocean and endure the hardships of the frontier and, later, industrialization. Freedom to practice one's religion was an advertisement for America.

The benefit of that accidental generosity was the American deal: immigrants have to participate in the economic and political frays of the nation, but without much of a social service safety "net." On the other hand, they can get in.

And they can keep not only their private faith but practice it publicly. Tolerance for other people's religion is the price paid for tolerance of one's own. Prejudice has tended to fall as participation increases. It has been in no one's interest to disturb this live-and-let-live pragmatism for very long.

One result of the deal is the paradoxical-sounding "familiarity with difference." Because immigrants participate in America's economic and political arenas, Americans are used to different sorts of people and so distinguish those differences that might damage the country from those that will not. Americans, indeed, are familiar with difference, or at least they tend not to panic. Even after 2001, there were only a few anti-Muslim incidents.

Europe, however, demands greater assimilation and offers a less porous economy and politics. This means less participation and thus less familiarity with difference on the host country's side. On the immigrants' side, there is more resentment against the host, more lassitude about the economy and politics, possible violence or an insistence on maintaining symbolic differences -- ironically, in a society less able to accept them precisely because of its discomfort with difference.

This is Europe's headscarf debate in a nutshell. It speaks to none of the barriers to participation or to immigrant responses to them, but demands symbolic assimilation.

Such demands are a dead end. To get out of it, greater entry into the economy and politics is needed, but also less demand for quick-fix assimilation. All the religions that descend from Abraham have internal mechanisms for change that allow them to reckon with new circumstances in ways that the confessional community can respect. Both fundamentalism and the demands of assimilation -- be like us, now! -- preempt these mechanisms.

They should be allowed to work. But Europe demands assimilation before participation in an economy that immigrants can't get into anyway. This, sadly, is a road to the ghetto.

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THINK TANK CAFÉ

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STRATEGIC SHALLOWNESS

The fashionable concept of the day is "strategy." The importance of this concept is further emphasized with "depth." It is believed that when such an attribute is attached to an initiative, things are done with more wit and preciseness. What could the opposite of "strategic depth" be? Maybe "strategic shallowness." Such a concept must be the product of lack of realism in understanding the "problem," good judgment in assessing relevant data and a fair calculation of returns for any or every initiative taken for a "solution."

Let us now evaluate how much strategic depth our policies concerning the "Kurdish problem" have had so far.

1 - Anatolia was homeland for the Kurds as well as the Turks and other ethnicities that made up the citizens of Turkey. Since the mid-1920s their existence began to be repressed and cultural identity denied as official policy. After the 1971 putsch, any expression of Kurdishness met with disproportionate punishment, leading to the formation of a radical Kurdish ethnic identity. Exclusive nationalism based on Turkishness allowed only assimilation. Instruments of integration (pluralist democracy, economic welfare, dismantling of traditional institutions that upheld the Kurdish tribal and feudal system, equal opportunity to education and to the job market, etc.) were never sufficiently available. When assimilation policies increasingly became coercive, organized and armed reaction set the tone of Kurdish resistance that has been going on since the '80s. The rulers of Turkey never understood the rea-



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sons for this reaction, instead they just labeled and dealt with the end result: political violence. Violence begot violence and the spiral consumed hundreds of billions of dollars and 40,000 lives, stunting southeastern Turkey, which so needed to be developed for better integration.

2 - The leading Kurdish organization that has adopted violence for political ends is the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). During years of Kurdish repression, this organization has stood up for Kurdish identity and representation. That is why it has gained widespread support and respect from different Kurdish circles. However, despite the organization turning terrorist, there are few PKK sympathizers who can entertain the thought of living under the rule of this ruthless, Stalinist organization that rules by terror. Meanwhile, Turkish rulers never adopted a policy of separating the PKK from the wider Kurdish people simply by meeting reasonable demands that are part of the human and minority rights that Turkey has to honor in order to be a member

of the European Union -- as it aspires to be.

Apart from that, the Turkish governments never allowed Kurdish political organizations to emerge that would take the lead of the majority of the Kurds who did not accept the PKK's monopoly over Kurdish affairs. So the bulk of the Kurdish citizens of Turkey got caught up in between a repressive government and a violent organization that did not allow the materialization of peaceful and democratic politics. The obvious reason for this self (or officially) made impasse was official denial of the existence of Kurds in this country.

3 - Today a solution to the PKK is sought in northern Iraq. The public is instilled and excited by the war drums for the eradication of the PKK in Iraq. This is a spurious belief within which the establishment has trapped both itself and the public alike. Attacking PKK camps in northern Iraq is like cutting the branches of a tree hanging out into a neighbor's garden while the trunk and roots of the tree are in our own. The "Kurdish problem," which can be expressed as implementing deliberated methods of "integration," has to be addressed if a lasting solution to PKK violence is to be found. Even when this belated approach is adopted, a Kurdish fringe group, be it the PKK or a splinter group, may continue with violence. But then it would not find a constituency to represent or to receive meaningful amounts of support from.

4 - The constitution of Iraq has guaranteed the existence of an autonomous Kurdish entity since the 1970s. Saddam Hussein guaran-

teed that this right remained on paper. However, allied forces including Turkey, following the first Gulf War, made this possible through a long operation called Sledgehammer that denied north Iraq above the 36th parallel to the forces of Saddam. Since the US invasion of Iraq, the Kurdish entity has expanded its autonomy into virtual independence with a separate government, flag and army.

What is called the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in north Iraq is an Iraqi reality that is not only accepted by the international community but also by regional states. The problem is whether Turkey will accept this fact as a matter of realpolitik or not. If Turkey insists in refusing to accept everything that bears the name "Kurdish" and does not refrain from expressing its distaste for the existence of this entity, the PKK will receive covert, if not overt, consent from the Iraqi Kurdish people and administration against a "hostile" power. Until Turkey formally acknowledges the Iraqi KRG and its being an equal member of the government of the Iraqi Federation, the PKK will find safe haven in north Iraq. Now that one of the resolutions from the extended meeting of the officials of Iraq's neighboring countries recently held in Istanbul is keeping Iraq in one piece in a federal format, the near future harbors a revolutionary change in the Turkish official mentality concerning the Kurdish problem. If not, the continuation of the status quo will be more damaging than the change aborted by strategic shallowness that has so far deprived Turkey of its foresight.



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'IMMUNITY' NEEDS TO BE REVISED

There is something peculiar about the concept of immunity for Turkey's deputies. Widely defined, it gives them not only full legal protection for expressions stated in Parliament, but also keeps them safely away from the hand of the law in the event they face a criminal trial.

It goes without saying that this anomaly helps breed contempt for the entire political corps, gives ammunition to all those who do not believe in democracy and is seen as a natural privilege for deputies who sometimes act as patronizingly as they can before the law.

On the other hand, when asked, some politicians say that in what they believe is a highly politicized and polarized judiciary system "narrowed down" immunity would be misused against them by anti-democratic circles. They understandably point out that it is not only them but also many others who are set "above the law."

Currently there are over 70 cases pending against deputies on the shelves of Parliament. The immunity of 54 deputies must be lifted by a vote of Parliament so that they can defend themselves against prosecutors. Reports make it clear that a significant number of those cases involve embezzlement, bribery, forgery, swindling, etc. These cases show that some deputies' behavior obviously has nothing to do with decent conduct.

Authorities simply have to wait until Parliament has the conscience to deal with those cases, some of which may even demand immediate arrests to prevent a hassle with evidence. It is a long wait.

On the other hand, there now seems to be a rush to lift the immunity of some pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP) deputies, taking a 180-degree turn from the previous stance. DTP deputies are now under investigation for expressions they used in their conduct as politicians -- however provocative and harsh these may be. Ahmet Türk and Aysel Tuğluk have been accused of using Kurdish in a communiqué on March 8, Women's Day. Naim Geylani, a Hakkari deputy, is accused of the same "crime" in his pre-election campaign and -- most interesting of them all -- Tarafettin Halis for calling Tunceli province by its original name, Dersim.

It is certainly a dilemma for the Justice and Development Party (AK Party). If it only handicaps these cases, it will be an unfair act and be perceived as discrimination. The opposition continues to pressure having all the cases on the table, but it is feared that AK Party deputies might be "reluctant" to vote in favor of implementing the law.

At the same time, a Democratic Left Party (DSP) deputy, Tayfun İcî, has reminded Parliament of an old proposal that says deputies who are accused of crimes as stated in the (rather blurred) Article 76 of the Constitution should go willingly to face the law and, if/when acquitted, return to Parliament. This proposal, which narrows the scope of immunity, makes closed ballots obligatory, puts a deadline of three months to deal with cases and stops the ridiculous rule of bringing immunity even on "crimes" before the elections, sounds reasonable. But it will not solve the problem because the line between free speech and "speech crime" in the legal texts (the Turkish Penal Code (TCK), the Political Parties Law, etc) the article refers to is very unclear.

And what about the other severely problematic immunity granted to bureaucrats? An age-old law, protecting civil servants and the top echelons of the military, is still in effect. The Susurluk case, the Dink case and the Semdinli case are all reminders that immunity is a general problem that transcends politicians.

The solution should be simple, and one truly wonders whether the AK Party will deal with it seriously in the context of the new draft constitution. It should strictly expand the spectrum of free speech as problematic articles like Article 301 and others are amended, peaceful demands on administrative reform (including discourse on federalism, confederalism, separatism) are protected and the usage of languages other than Turkish is allowed outside Parliament. All other areas must be open to the scrutiny of law: A deputy involved in drinking and driving must be treated the same way as any other citizen, for example. At the same time, bureaucrats must face the same, fair conditions and submit to the law.

Perhaps the AK Party is aware of the deeply disturbing double standards that favor the elite, which we will be able to see in efforts toward the new constitution.

NO COMMENT

JAKARTA AP



AK PARTY SHOULD SOLVE HEADSCARF PROBLEM NOW



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Enough is indeed enough. Why doesn't everyone in this country mind their own business and make sure that they are competently doing their job instead of wasting this country's precious energy and resources in shadow boxing? I cannot comprehend how a military officer and his "obedient" civil servant followers dare play with the dignity of a young girl in front of hundreds of people, including her fellow pupils, friends, teachers and family. Do we have an underclass in this country or not?

The Justice and Development Party (AK Party) has long said it has been looking for consensus on this issue. They now say that although there is a consensus in the public, there is no institutional consensus. I must say that they are introducing new terms to the political scene instead of doing their job. What is institutional consensus? Is that a covert way of saying that the military does not approve of lifting the de facto ban on the headscarf? If Turkey is a democracy, we must discuss these issues instead of sweeping them under the rug. Hundreds of thousands of young girls have been suffering at the hands of unidentified Islamophobic rulers and a democratically elected government that cannot do anything about it.

These Islamophobes do not have any high moral ground in society, nor do they have any moral support from intellectuals. In a post-July 22 Turkey, we must tackle these undemocratic old elite who abuse everything to maintain their privileges and by keeping silent or by heedlessly waiting, we only serve their purposes. Why don't we directly challenge them in the public sphere and show everyone how their childish arguments melt down when faced with truth. Why don't we ask academics, intellectuals, the media, etc to organize seminars, conferences and so on and see if and to what extent the claims of this Islamophobic old elite are justified?

We can start by asking a constitutional organ of the state -- the Directorate of Religious Affairs -- if the headscarf is a religious obligation or not. We know the answer they reiterated: It is a religious obligation without a doubt. Yet let us ask them publicly while the spotlight is focused on the issue.

We should also ask these Islamophobic old guards what they mean by the headscarf being a political symbol -- which particular style of the headscarf is a political symbol and which is not? When asked this question, they reply by saying they aren't stylists and designers. So, why have they been trying to design the society. Why have we been listening to their harangues on the benefits of a western dress code? Would they stop harassing young girls if they dress like their grandmothers? If so, why don't they let these grandmothers enter certain "public areas?"

If it is a political symbol, how come we see headscarved women in every party? If it is a symbol of Islamism, why had this old guard suddenly fallen in love with the Islamist Necmettin Erbakan, just before the July 22 elections?

The AK Party and all other democratic individuals and institutions in the country should find these Islamophobes wherever they are hiding and challenge them on this very important issue. If we can do this, then they will not be able to patronize us as by questioning what the true intention behind attempts of preparing a new constitution are. If we want a country where no one belongs to an underclass or a second class, we of course need a fully democratic constitution prepared in tune with the spirit of the time and in line with modern democratic constitutions. Nowhere in the democratic world would a young girl suffer the indignity that Tevhide Küçük suffered at the hands of Turkish officials last week.

She is not "a sheep by the Tigris River," but she is more, a human. Although she did sheepishly listen to witch-hunting officials and came down from the stage without any protest. Yet, in a country in which everyone remains silent and in a world where some Westerners stage a "crusade by silence" on the issue while they are not afraid to make a lot of noise on others topics, what should we expect from a tiny little girl?



ANDREW FINKEL

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KUZGUNCUK FIGHTS BACK

I have lived in the same Bosphorus neighborhood of Istanbul now for (is it really?) nearly 20 years, and I walk down the same main street often several times a day. I have come to realize that even moving at full speed to catch the ferry, I am not so much going somewhere as engaging in a ritual.

There are in my neighborhood what I think of as public friends, whose function, like the greeter in an American supermarket, is simply to say hello. They sit outside the coffee houses pretty much all the time except when there's a gale, and I have gotten to know them pretty well over the years. These are the people -- along with the barber where I go for the occasional shave and the greengrocer who stands rubbing his hands in the cold late at night and the taxi drivers at the rank and the man perpetually leaning out of his small living room window watching the world go by whom I once rudely ignored when he was in the street because I didn't recognize him with legs -- whom collectively I think of as my neighborhood.

Statistically, they probably only make up a small percentage of the district, but these are the ones who notice when I've been away for a week or ask after the family or simply return my nod "hello." Every now and then I stop to think that I haven't seen for some time the dark-haired fellow with a scar down his face who used to sell the betting slips, and I still miss Tatyos -- the ambulatory dry cleaning man -- or "Lekeci Tatyos" as we used to call him, "Tatyos, the spot remover," who would pick up the suit from the front door, take it off to the next neighborhood and bring it back when it was done. He died not too long ago, as did Nesim, whom I still do not think of as a beggar even though he cadged the price of a pack of cigarettes off me every time we met. Also gone is Muzaffer I, the barber who used to pretend to chase my daughter down the street when she was a toddler with the spray he used to dampen down hair. He would wheeze as he ran. I guess he smoked too many cigarettes. And departed is Muzaffer II, and I am not sure what he did -- but he was described to me as having "magical fingers," and indeed I once sat down outside the bakery on a rickety chair where he managed to massage away a knot in my back which had been plaguing me for weeks.

If all this sounds quaint, then I confess it is much too quaint for our own good. My own sense of living in a community is clearly shared by all and sundry. For the last few years, it has become far more difficult to navigate the streets of Kuzguncuk (that's the name of the neighborhood) because of a growing menace. It all started quietly, even before we moved in, when TRT began filming an East Enders-type comedy soap opera in the streets. No one complained -- some even thought it was good for house prices. However, from small seeds, monsters grow. Suddenly, they were filming a series that starred a monkey and then came a series set in the bakery (appropriating an independent kebab shop for the purpose), then came the pop video crew dancing away on the steps outside my window.

The problem is not just that I don't want to live on a film set -- nor that the producers don't seem to want to remunerate us for our inconvenience by paying a fee into a community chest that we could put to noble use, nor even that I now risk tripping over electric cables or upsetting an umbrella light reflector every time I fetch a bottle of milk. Nor that the crews stop the traffic, leave rubbish and just generally disrupt our lives. It's that they seem bent on destroying the very sense of community they are trying to film.

But Kuzguncuk is fighting back. The very neighborhood I call home has been busy collecting signatures in a petition to make the film crews obey some basic rules of courtesy. It's a good story. I just hope no one tries to turn it into a film.

MOVIE GUIDE



EASTERN PROMISES

ISTANBUL: Sisi Megaplex Cevahir: 11:00 15:15 17:30 19:45 22:00
Caddesbostan AFM: 11:20 13:50 16:20 18:50 21:20 Fr/Sat: 24:00 ANKARA: Ata On Tower: 11:00 13:00 15:15 17:30 19:45 22:00 Fr/Sat: 24:00 ANTALYA: Cinebonus Migros: 11:15 13:15 15:30 17:30 22:00 Fr/Sat: 24:15

MARADONA: LA MANO DE DIOS

ISTANBUL: Levant Cinebonus Kanyon: 11:30 14:00 16:30 19:00 21:30 Fr/Sat: 24:00 Koyutajı Cinepi: 11:15 13:30 16:00 18:30 21:00 Fr/Sat: 23:30
ANKARA: Cinebonus Arcadium: 11:00 13:40 16:20 19:00 21:40 Fr/Sat: 24:00
IZMIR: Cinebonus Konak Pier: 10:30 13:15 16:00 18:45 21:30 Fr/Sat: 24:15 ANTALYA: Cinebonus Migros: 11:45 14:15 16:45 19:15 21:45

BEOWULF

ISTANBUL: AFM Istinye Park IMAX: 11:00 13:45 16:30 19:10 21:45 Fr/Sat: 24:30 Caddesbostan AFM: 10:30 12:10 13:45 15:20 17:00 18:40 20:15 21:50 Fr/Sat: 23:30 ANKARA: Ankamall IMAX: 11:00 13:40 16:20 19:00 21:40 Fr/Sat: 24:15 Cinebonus Bilkent: 11:00 12:00 13:20 14:40 16:15 19:00 20:20 21:45 Fr/Sat: 24:15 IZMIR: Cinebonus Konak Pier: 10:30 13:15 16:00 18:45 21:30 Fr/Sat: 24:15 ANTALYA: Cinebonus Migros: 11:15 13:45 16:30 19:15 22:00 Fr/Sat: 24:15

ZEYNEP'İN SEKİZ GÜNÜ

ISTANBUL: Sisi Megaplex Cevahir: 11:00 13:45 16:30 19:15 22:00 Kadıköy Cinebonus Nautillus: 12:45 15:15 18:30 21:15 ANKARA: Kızılay Büyüklü Fener: 11:20 13:50 16:20 18:50 21:20 IZMIR: Cinebonus Balçova Kipa: 10:45 13:30 16:15 19:00 21:45 Fr/Sat: 24:30

ISLAND OF LOST SOULS

ISTANBUL: AFM Istinye Park: [Tr] 12:00 14:20 16:40 19:10 21:20 Fr/Sat: 23:45
Atasehir: [Tr] 11:00 13:15 15:00 16:45 18:45 21:00 Fr/Sat: 22:45 ANKARA: Armada: [Tr] 11:45 13:45 15:45 17:45 19:45 21:45 Fr/Sat: 22:45 IZMIR: Karsyaka Deniz: [Tr] 12:15 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:00 ANTALYA: Cinebonus Migros: [Tr] 11:30 14:00 16:30 19:00 21:30 Fr/Sat: 24:00

Gregorian Calendar: 02 December 2007 C.E. Hijri Calendar: 22 Dhul-Qadah 1428 A.H. Hebrew Calendar: 22 Kislev 5768 calendar@todayszaman.com

Today is the first Sunday of the Advent season. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas, Dec 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, and Dec. 23 in 2007. Advent, which means "coming" or "arrival," marks the beginning of the Western Christian ecclesiastical year. It was originally observed with fasting and penitence as a period during which converts to Christianity prepared themselves for baptism. The Orthodox Christian churches do not have an Advent season, celebrating instead a Winter Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and reflection ending on Christmas Eve.

Persons and the Exploitation of Others by the UN in 1949. The day aims to promote the eradication of old forms of slavery and to guarantee that new forms of exploitation and oppression are not allowed to arise.

Today is National Day in Laos. This day commemorates the declaration of the republic in 1975. On that day the country officially ended its long-standing civil war. King Savang Vatthana abdicated in the face of the armed rebellion of the communist Pathet Lao and the country adopted a republican form of proletarian internationalism.

Today is National Day in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This day marks the anniversary of the day in 1971 when a federation of seven sheikhdoms in the southeastern Arabian Peninsula, known as the Trucial States, declared independence from the UK and became known as the UAE.

On this day in 1956, Fidel Castro and his small army of 82 soldiers arrived in Cuba with the intention of establishing an armed resistance movement in the Sierra Maestra. After the landing, the military leader of Cuba, Fulgencio Batista,

launched a campaign of repression against the opposition, which only served to increase support for the insurgency. Castro's rebellion ultimately reached success on Jan. 8, 1959, when his forces entered the capital and assumed power.
On this day in 1823, US President James Monroe, in his annual message to Congress, enunciated the doctrine that bears his name and that was long hailed as a definitive statement of US policy. "In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part. ... We should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety," reads the Monroe Doctrine.

Today is the 25th anniversary of the first artificial heart transplant. On this day in 1982, Barney C. Clark, 61, became the first recipient of a permanent artificial heart. The operation was performed at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Near death at the time of the operation, Clark survived almost 112 days after the surgery. He died on March 23, 1983. By Kerim Balci

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VIDEO GAME REVIEW: 'MASS EFFECT' A BRILLIANT TURN AT SCI-FI ESCAPISM

MATT SLAGLE

Video games like "Mass Effect" don't come around too often, and this new science fiction epic is so good it's basically sucking away all of my free time. Action addicts who'd rather shoot first and think later may find it somewhat pedantic, but "Mass Effect" is a wonderful example of dorky digital storytelling.

It's a space opera in the "Star Wars" tradition, sans the constant limb chopping and the pubescent romantic dialogue. What we have here is a distinctive universe where the Milky Way becomes a staging ground for intergalactic political intrigue, some interspecies romantic flings, and, of course, battles with aliens. If you prefer aliens of the E.T. variety, fret not: there are plenty of boring, friendly creatures to chat with, too.

The back story is interesting even if you've been through the usual gamut of interstellar epics like "Star Trek" or "Battlestar Galactica." In "Mass Effect," humans have only recently begun to find their place in a considerably larger galactic community. That's right: We arrogant humans hardly matter. There are more than a few creatures who'd like it to stay that way. Namely, the species chief villain, Saren Arterius. As a rogue special agent gone bad, he's on a quest to aid a race of artificially intelligent creatures called Geth and destroy all intelligent life in the universe. Sadly, we hardly ever see him during



the game. Beyond that, unleashing a race of monsters turns out to be dumb decision -- at least if you have any say in the matter.

As human Commander Shepard, you engage as a planet-hopping, alien-quashing superagent, called a Spectre, who goes sniffing around the vacuum of space for Kryik. Like those endearing Choose Your Own Adventure books, "Mass Effect" gives players many paths to follow by selecting from one of several responses during even seemingly mundane conversations. There's a ton of dia-

logue here, and it's all well-done and relatively interesting by video-game standards.

My earlier caveat to action gamers is warranted because this isn't a title where you'll want to run into the fray like some trigger-happy maniac. You'll die. "Mass Effect" battles are what it would be like if you could play chess, Dungeons and Dragons and rock-paper-scissors at the same time. There is a more role-playing elements, which is cool because you can really tweak Shepard and your computer-

controlled companions for the many missions. Planning, strategy and skill-point allocation far outweigh fast reflexes, that's for sure.

The graphics are superb on the Xbox 360, with some of the most realistic-looking aliens around. The dialogue sequences are shot like big-budget movies and feature some wondrous backdrops. With games like this lasting for weeks and weeks, why even bother with commercial-filled television space dramas you can't control? Three-and-a-half stars out of four. Dallas AP

TV GUIDE

E2
08:00 Married with Children
09:00 The King of Queens
10:00 Rachael Ray Show
12:00 Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 The O.C.
14:30 Sirei Al Atlanta - Napoli (Live)
18:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien
20:00 The Closer
21:00 The King of Queens
21:30 The Death Do Us Part
22:00 Masters of Science Fiction
23:00 Mad Men
24:00 The King of Queens
00:30 The Death Do Us Part
01:00 Poker Royale
02:00 High Stakes of Poker
23:00 Mad Men
04:00 Masters of Science Fiction
05:00 The Closer
06:00 The King of Queens
06:30 Late Night with Conan O'Brien

MYMAX
08:00 Medical Investigation
09:00 InHally
09:30 Veronica Mars
11:30 Dinner For Five
12:30 So Chic
13:00 Still Standing
14:00 Fame
14:30 Crash Test Mommy
15:00 Behind The Label
15:30 The Comeback
16:00 Mini Series: The Last Room
17:00 Make Me A Supermodel
18:00 E-Ring
19:00 Friends
20:30 Flaunt
21:00 Brothers & Sisters
22:00 The Bachelorette
22:30 Sex & The City
00:00 Mini Series: The Last Room
01:00 Grand Designs
02:00 Make Me A Supermodel
03:00 Third Watch

GOLDMAG
06:30 Goldmagazine
06:50 In Life
08:50 In & Out
10:35 Splendor in the Grass
12:40 Stand and Deliver
14:25 Heart and Souls
16:15 The Conversation
18:15 Duets
20:15 Jackie Brown
22:45 Black Sheep
00:15 Rumble Fish
01:50 Friday the 13th: A New Beginning
02:35 Duets
05:15 Memphis Belle

MOVIEMAX
07:20 Vanity Fair
09:40 See & Arnold Run
11:10 Inside the Actors' Studio: Dustin Hoffman Part 1
12:10 Saving Face
13:45 Waiting...
15:20 Mission: Impossible III
17:30 Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World
19:15 Inside the Actors' Studio: Dustin Hoffman Part 2
20:30 Performe: The Story of a Murderer
23:10 The Ringier
00:50 Deepwater
02:25 Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World
04:10 Saving Face
05:45 Waiting...

MGM MOVIES
08:50 Casanova Brown
10:58 Steve Rude Parades
12:35 Return to Paradise
14:10 Tomahawk Trail
15:20 The World of Henry Orient
17:10 Teachers
19:00 The Return of the Musketeers
20:45 Khartoum
23:00 The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes
01:05 Mission of the Body Snatchers
03:00 Piranha
04:35 At Close Range

ACTIONMAX
08:00 A Face to Die For-- The Face
09:40 The Chase
11:20 Before He Wakes
12:55 Enterprise
13:45 Enterprise
14:35 Star Trek: Nemesis
16:35 Blind Justice
18:15 American Flyers
20:10 Last Light
22:00 The Owl
23:00 The Boost
01:10 The Thief & the Stripper - Strip 'n Run
02:40 Hybrid
04:10 Waterborne
05:30 The Devil Game

HALLMARK
07:30 Ford: The Man and the Machine
09:30 Diamond Girl
11:15 The Hollywood Mem's Mystery
13:00 By Dawn's Early Light
14:45 Ford: The Man and the Machine
16:30 Diamond Girl
18:15 The Hollywood Mem's Mystery
20:00 Harry's Case
21:30 Escape: Human Cargo
23:15 Intelligence
00:15 Harry's Case
02:45 Escape: Human Cargo
04:00 The Baron and the Kid

COMEDYMAX
07:30 Reba
08:30 Frasier
09:30 War of Wives
11:00 Ugly Betty
12:00 Men, Women & Dogs
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
14:00 Will & Grace
15:00 Yes Dear
16:30 The Game
17:00 Ugly Betty
18:00 Notes from the Underbelly
19:30 Frasier
19:30 Everybody Hates Chris
20:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
21:30 In Case of Emergency
22:00 Ugly Betty
23:00 Weeds
00:30 Will & Grace
01:30 Yes Dear
03:00 Men, Women & Dogs
03:30 The Game
04:00 Home Improvement
04:30 Dave's World

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers and empty cells. Includes 'HARD' and 'EASY' labels and a 'HOW TO PLAY?' section.

Sudoku solutions for 'HARD' and 'EASY' levels.

MR. DIPLOMAT!

Mr. Diplomat comic strip panels with dialogue about diplomacy and espionage.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

Crossword clues and solutions. Includes 'Across' and 'Down' sections with numbered clues.

TRAVELERS' S.O.S. section listing contact information for various embassies and consulates.

Computer to guide Navy jet on bombing missions

PETER PAE LOS ANGELES

It was considered a stunning turn in warfare when a remotely controlled aircraft on a reconnaissance flight over Afghanistan spotted a Taliban convoy and fired a jury-rigged Hellfire missile, striking and destroying the target.

The headline-grabbing flight in late 2001 -- though rudimentary and under remote human control -- marked the first search-and-destroy mission by a flying drone, and it propelled robotic warfare from the pages of science fiction to the battlefield.

Now, behind barb-wired fence and double security doors in Palmdale, Calif., Northrop Grumman Corp. engineers are building what could become the ultimate flying robot: a jet fighter controlled by a computer. It would take off from an aircraft carrier, drop a bomb on an enemy target and then land back on the carrier, all autonomously.

The first carrier test flight of the X-47B -- including a shipboard take-off and landing -- is slated for late 2011. If successful, the flight could redefine naval aviation, analysts said.

"If you were to think of major milestones in aviation history, it will be on the shortlist," said John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a defense and space policy research Web site.

The Pentagon and the US intelligence agencies have long used flying drones to survey a battlefield or spy on the enemy. They are typically equipped with powerful cameras and are controlled remotely by humans much like hobbyists flying model aircraft, though the military versions are controlled from far-greater distances.

But no aircraft, besides those in science fiction movies, have been able to carry out a combat mission, controlled entirely by a computer.

Moreover, landing on an aircraft carrier plying the ocean at 30 knots (or 34.5 mph) and pitching with the waves is considered an extremely difficult feat for even the most-seasoned pilot.

"The performance of the aircraft isn't an issue anymore," said David Ochmanek, senior defense analyst at Rand Corp. of unmanned



Northrop Grumman employees work on an X-47B at a company assembly facility in Palmdale. The robotic plane is scheduled to take to the sky in 2011.

planes. "The sole remaining issue that hasn't been addressed -- because it is so difficult -- is landing them and having them take off."

The Navy, with its checkered experience with remote-controlled aircraft, has taken a cautious approach to the development of the X-47B. In the 1960s, the Navy tried unmanned helicopters developed to hunt Russian nuclear submarines.

These drones were controlled from ships. But the Navy lost half of them, mainly because of problems with the electronic equipment that controlled the copters. The program eventually was scrapped.

If the X-47B can demonstrate reliability in taking off and landing on carriers during the 2011 sea trials, "it would have significant repercussions for naval operations," Pike said. The aircraft would be able to fly farther and stay aloft longer than piloted planes, which are limited by human endurance. It would also allow a \$4 billion aircraft carrier with a crew of 5,000 to stay farther from harm's way.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, Navy fighter pilots have had to fly longer missions lasting up to 10 hours, or about as long as the pilot's body can endure without faltering. Unmanned planes would be able to fly missions lasting up to 50 hours or longer, limited only by fuel capacity.

Moreover, the planes would be able to fly the most dangerous missions, such as first strikes to destroy radar installations and antiaircraft missiles in enemy territory, paving the way for piloted fighter and bombers to strike less-dangerous targets.

Winning the \$635.8 million X-47B contract to develop the last August was important for Northrop Grumman, said Loren Thompson, a military policy analyst for the Lexington Institute.

It validated the Century City, Calif.-based defense contractor's "major long-term bet on unmanned aircraft," Thompson said. "They believe it is the wave of the future."

The company, better known for building the

B-2 stealth bomber, has been pushing hard to develop the nation's most-advanced robotic aircraft.

In the past decade, Northrop has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in developing unmanned planes, including spending \$140 million to acquire in 1999 a small San Diego company that was building the high altitude Global Hawk spy plane.

Northrop, the nation's third-largest defense contractor, also builds military ships and is one of the largest federal information technology contractors.

Unlike drones that are controlled remotely by humans, Northrop aircraft such as the Global Hawk, fly under the control of an onboard computer. The plane's mission is preprogrammed into the computer so it takes off, completes its flight and then lands, all autonomously. Humans still monitor the mission and have the ability to alter its flight path or destroy it if it goes off course.

Still, the plane is likely to raise several thorny legal questions as it nears the possibility of carry-

ing out combat missions later next decade, including the liability of killing noncombatants because of a programming error or a computer glitch.

The X-47B is being modeled after the Global Hawk in the way it is controlled, though the X-47B's sleek, kite-like shape appears more menacing than the spy plane with its plank-like wings, which are designed to let it fly at every high altitudes at low speeds. The six-year Navy contract calls for Northrop to build two X-47Bs that would be used to demonstrate the ability of pilotless planes to fly off of aircraft carriers. If successful, the Navy plans to develop a combat version of the aircraft in 2013 with the goal of having an operational wing by 2020.

The Navy also is looking at multiple roles for the plane including reconnaissance and anti-submarine missions. Analysts said the Navy could buy 150 to 200 aircraft, a contract potentially worth tens of billions of dollars.

About 200 engineers and technicians are working on the program in Southern California at Northrop Grumman facilities in El Segundo, Rancho Bernardo and Palmdale, Calif., where the planes will be assembled. The work force is expected to grow to about 400 as the program expands.

Many of the engineers are familiar with carrier operations, having helped develop such Navy carrier aircraft as the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

The first test flights of the X-47B are expected to be conducted at a military airfield in early 2009 before it begins sea trials in 2011. Scott Winslip, the X-47B program director for Northrop, believes the plane will be able to land on a carrier with more precision than a human-piloted plane.

Numerous sensors on the plane can gauge its distance and position while landing with far more accuracy than a pilot's eyeball. At the same time the computer can make adjustments far faster.

In computer simulations, the X-47B, using algorithms developed for the aircraft, was able to successfully land 8,000 times, never missing a landing point by more than 9 inches, Winslip said, adding, "If we're successful, it's going to change the way Navy operates." © Los Angeles Times, 2007

PHOTO: LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Putin's party heads for landslide as Russian voters go to polls

CONOR SWEENEY MOSCOW

Campaigning for Russia's parliamentary election ended on Friday with President Vladimir Putin's party on course for a landslide victory and opposition groups voicing fears of widespread ballot-rigging. Putin is leading the United Russia party into today's vote and will use the big majority it is expected to win to cement his grip on power even after he steps down from the presidency at the end of his second term next year.

Most Russian voters credit Putin with restoring stability and economic growth after the chaos of the 1990s. Opinion polls indicate his party will pick up about 60 percent of the vote today, with its nearest rivals trailing far behind. One of Putin's most vocal critics, former chess champion Garry Kasparov, said the vote would be illegitimate because, he said, the Kremlin would rig the result.

Officials deny any such rigging campaign and Putin has said he expected the election to be fair and transparent. Kasparov, who served five days in prison this week for organizing an illegal demonstration, urged voters to spoil their ballot papers today in protest. "We must show people that these elections are

absolutely illegal and illegitimate," Kasparov told a news briefing. He is not running in the election and his opposition coalition does not have widespread support.

Four-party parliament?

Opinion polls show the Communists are the only party other than United Russia assured of exceeding the 7 percent threshold to qualify for seats in parliament.

But Russian pollsters have said they believe last-minute shifts in voter intentions should give two other parties, the pro-Kremlin Fair Russia and the nationalist LDPR, just enough votes to sneak into parliament. Kremlin opponents and non-governmental groups say they have registered large numbers of violations of election rules. They have reported dozens of cases of people being told by their employers to turn up for work today where managers will check if they voted, and of people being registered to vote in more than one polling station.

Western governments are concerned that Europe's main ODIHR vote monitoring watchdog -- widely regarded as the yardstick for elections in ex-Soviet states -- will not be at the vote. The body pulled out, citing obstruction from Moscow. A senior member of the United Russia Party said it was not up to foreign observers to determine if the election was fair. "It is not foreign election observers who guarantee democracy in Russia, but first and foremost it is the will and political culture of the people," said Lyubov Sliska, Deputy Speaker of the State Duma lower house of parliament.

Western diplomats said the absence of ODIHR monitors would make it hard for them to assess the election. "We normally wait for the ODIHR report and then align ourselves with it, but without it, we're in a difficult position," said one diplomat. United Russia leader Boris Gryzlov urged people to turn out to vote. "In effect this will be a referendum, a referendum in support of Vladimir Putin," he said.

"It was important that all those who believe in the new Russia should come to the polling stations and vote for the country's future," Gryzlov said. Turnout at the last parliamentary election in 2003 was just under 56 percent. The opposition Yabloko Party, one of several expected to fall short of the threshold for seats, wrapped up its campaign with a rally of about 300 people in Moscow. "We live in a country without independent courts, without independent political institutions and without a free press," party leader Grigory Yavlinsky told his supporters. Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

TODAYS ZAMAN



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SPORT



Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka, Messi on FIFA shortlist

FIFA has named Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, Brazil's Kaka and Argentina's Lionel Messi as the three finalists for the 2007 World Player of the Year award. The winner, who will succeed Fabio Cannavaro of Italy and Real Madrid from last year's competition, will be announced at the FIFA World Player Gala in Zurich on Dec 17. Lucerne, Reuters

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007

SKIING

Walchhofer shines to end US winning streak

Michael Walchhofer of Austria edged Steven Nyman by 0.05 seconds to win a men's World Cup downhill on Friday, breaking the American men's four-year victory streak on home snow. Walchhofer's win ended an embarrassing slump for Austria's men, who had failed to win a single World Cup race this season until now. The last Austrian man to win a race was 2006 overall champion Benjamin Raich, who clinched the season final slalom at Lenzerheide, Switzerland, last March. Walchhofer benefited from slightly lighter snowfalls to complete the Birds of Prey downhill in 1 minute, 13.74 seconds to collect his 12th career World Cup victory, his ninth in downhill. Nyman committed a mistake on the lower half of the course which cost him the win and the 25-year-old from Provo, Utah, was forced to settle for second place. **Beaver Creek, Colorado AP**

GRIDIRON

Three people detained over Taylor's killing

Police have detained at least three people in the Fort Myers area for questioning in the death of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor. A law enforcement official in Lee County confirmed the men from the Fort Myers area were in custody, but requested anonymity because the investigation is being handled by Miami-Dade County police. Miami-Dade police would not confirm if anyone was in custody for the shooting death of Taylor, who was attacked at his Miami area home Monday and died a day later. Police only said detectives were in the Fort Myers area for an unspecified case. "Our detectives are out there in Fort Myers conducting an investigation, gathering information and at this particular time they are not comfortable releasing any information regarding their investigation," police spokesman Robert Williams said. "As soon as information develops that will not jeopardize their case, they will release information." The Miami Herald, which first reported the development on its Web site, said investigators believe the suspects learned of Taylor's house through someone who unwittingly set up the burglary by bragging about his wealth. **Miami AP**

SOCCER

Redknapp: Arrest jeopardizes chances

Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp believes his arrest this week as part of an investigation into soccer corruption has ended his chances of becoming England coach. Redknapp, who was linked with the post after Portsmouth's strong performances over the past year, was questioned by police on Wednesday. He denied all involvement at a news conference the following day, but told BBC Radio on Friday that he no longer thought he was a candidate to succeed Steve McClaren, who was fired last week when England failed to qualify for next year's European Championship. "I'm not saying I would have got the job, but ... all this rubbish and disgusting treatment I've had has changed it all really," Redknapp said. "I'm not saying I was chasing the job. I love the job I do here, so it wasn't a case of me wanting to leave here. But it was nice that people were talking about how well I'd done and how good I am at my job." **Portsmouth AP**



Live on NTV today

16:00 Fener Oulker-Darüsssafa (basketball)
18:00 Valladolid-Villareal

FOX TV

17:00 Liverpool-Bolton

Lions and Eagles return to domestic league action

OKAN UDO BASSEY ISTANBUL

The Galatasaray Lions and Beşiktaş Black Eagles have had little or no time to savor their victories in Europe this week before returning today to another front -- the Turkish Super League (week 14). The domestic league-leading Lions entertain Istanbul Büyükşehir Belediyespor in a mini Istanbul derby, while the Black Eagles host third-from-bottom Caykur Rizespor.

The Beşiktaş Eagles were almost dead and buried during their UEFA Champions League Group A match against French side Olympique Marseille on Wednesday, with the score 1-1, before pulling out a dramatic last minute victory to win 2-1 and keeping their chances of advancing from the tough group alive.

Similarly, the Galatasaray Lions needed to win at Greece's Panionios in their UEFA Cup Group H match on Thursday, after losing their first two matches, to stay alive. But in the first half Lions failed to fire a single shot at goal. However, with veteran striker Hakan Şükür brought in to replace injury-prone Swedish midfielder Tobias Linderoth in the second half, the Lions ran riot and won 3-0 to revive their hopes of survival. This



Galatasaray players Shabani Nonda (L) and Arda Turan during their practice session in Istanbul.

means the Lions and Eagles are brimming with confidence ahead of their encounters league today. Less than 24 hours after their rough and tumble game at Panionios, the Lions were back at work on Friday with their attention fixed on today's game during their training sessions.

Rising star Serdar Çalik, who scored away against Trabzon last Sunday and against

Panionios on Thursday, was the center of attraction. Practice might not have been a fun place to be on Friday and Saturday had the Lions dropped points at Panionios. But there's nothing like a win to raise team spirit, especially in a must-win situation.

The Lions, the only defeated team in the 18-team league, aim to continue their win-

ning ways against Istanbul Büyükşehir Belediyespor today. After edging Trabzonspor 1-0 away last weekend the Lions now want to send their tiny neighbor home empty-handed today. With Shabani Nonda and Şükür fully recovered from their injuries, the Galatasaray strike force has been strengthened and that should be bad news for Büyükşehir Belediyespor. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m. and the match will be refereed by Hüseyin Göçek.

The Beşiktaş Eagles also think they have turned the corner after beating Gençlerbirliği Oftaspor 1-0 in Ankara last Saturday and Olympique Marseille on Wednesday. If Brazilian goal machine Bobo can find his form and Argentine playmaker Matias Delgado provides those perfect passes, then the Eagles need fear no evil against minnow Rize. The match starts at 7:00 p.m. and the referee will be Zafer Önder İpek.

Also today surprise co-leader Sivasspor faces Ankaraspor in the capital at 7:00 p.m. The other league matches today pit Kayserispor against Gençlerbirliği Oftas and Vestel Manisa against Gaziantep. The two games start at 2:00 p.m. In the only league match played on Friday, Gençlerbirliği beat visiting Trabzonspor 2-1 at Ankara's 19 Mayıs Stadium.



PHOTO DATA

Champions League opened to smaller teams

UEFA is opening up the Champions League to more clubs from smaller countries and moving the annual showcase final to a Saturday.

In a number of changes to the competition approved on Friday, UEFA also said three English, Italian and Spanish clubs will qualify automatically for the Champions League starting in 2009. Under the current format, only the top two teams from the English Premier League, Italy's Serie A and Spain's La Liga are guaranteed a spot in the group stage.

That season's final in 2010 will then be held on a Saturday for the first time, instead of its traditional Wednesday date.

UEFA's executive committee said six of the 32 places in the group stage would be reserved for champions from Europe's less competitive leagues, to bring more countries into the continent's top club competition.

UEFA President Michel Platini vowed to protect the interests of smaller nations when he was elected to lead European soccer's governing body earlier this year.

The list of teams entering the Champions League "should be more democratic," Platini said.

Teams from Europe's less wealthy leagues "will get more money by entering and add value to the Champions League," he said.

Third-place and fourth-place clubs from the big three countries have been almost assured of a qualifying place because they usually had to play teams from weaker countries.

As of 2009, however, the fourth-placed team will be pitted against second-placed teams from stronger countries such as the Netherlands or Portugal.

The UEFA Cup, Europe's second-tier club competition, was also overhauled to have 48 spots in the group phase, up from the current format of 40.

The tournament will now have twelve groups of four teams, where the top two in each group move on to the knockout rounds. The current format is comprised of eight groups of five.

The unheralded Intertoto Cup, a summer tournament for final places in the UEFA Cup, has been abolished.

UEFA also announced that it would spread out the matches in the first knockout round of the Champions League over four weeks instead of two in a move to maximize live television opportunities. **Lucerne Switzerland AP**

JACKSONVILLE HAS A CHANCE TO TIE FOR FIRST

The Indianapolis Colts hope they got their 10-day break at just the right time. They may need every healthy body to hold off charging Jacksonville in the American Football Conference South.

"We aren't as sharp as we need to be because we haven't been together and haven't been practicing as much and as well as we need to," says coach Tony Dungy, whose Super Bowl champions have been without a raft of important players. The notable absentees include Marvin Harrison, their best wide receiver, and starting offensive tackles Tony Ugo and Ryan Diem.

So after being off since Thanksgiving, the Colts go into today's game at 9-2, just a game ahead of the 8-3 Jaguars. The Jags have won three straight and four of five in a division

Indianapolis considers its property -- the Colts have won it for four straight seasons.

Jacksonville's success has been due in part to the return of David Garrard, who sprained his left ankle in the first meeting with Indy, a 29-7 Colts victory on Oct. 22. He was back for two games, throwing three TD passes in wins over San Diego and Buffalo and continuing a remarkable mistake-free run. Garrard has yet to throw an interception this season in 209 attempts.

The weekend started Thursday night with Dallas winning its sixth straight game with a 37-27 victory over the Packers. The Cowboys improved to 11-1 and the Packers, who lost Brett Favre to an injury early in the second quarter, fell to 10-2.

In other games today, the New York Jets

are at Miami; Houston at Tennessee; Detroit at Minnesota; Buffalo at Washington; Atlanta at St. Louis; San Diego at Kansas City; Seattle at Philadelphia; San Francisco at Carolina; Denver at Oakland; Cleveland at Arizona; the New York Giants at Chicago; Tampa Bay at New Orleans; and Cincinnati at Pittsburgh.

New England is at Baltimore on Monday night. A win for Jacksonville would put it in a flat tie with Indianapolis because it would mean the Jaguars split their two games with the Colts. That would leave a battle for the division title in the last four games, and Indianapolis seems to have a slightly easier schedule. But the Colts also are playing for a first-round bye; top seed in the AFC seems unreachable because they are two games behind unbeaten New England and lost to the Patriots. **New York AP**

Most Turkish amputees injured in PKK clashes

On the Turkish amputee team at the recent Eighth World Amputee Soccer Championship in Antalya, 14 out of the 21 players were veterans who were injured in clashes with the PKK. They all told us that they were in Antalya for their nation. Their slogan is "Everything is for the homeland!" There was no monetary reward for them to be in Antalya. We will not provide their names here, but every one of them had different problems. Some on the team were only able to go to the tournament because of support from relatives or friends. Others had to plead for permission from their employers. One of them said that YTL 500 will be deducted from his monthly salary because he was absent from work during the tournament. He was seriously considering how he would make it through the end of the month.

These players, who bear the Turkish flag on their chests with pride, were lions on the field despite their problems. The legendary win against

England was certainly worth watching. The team was admired at the game where they defeated the Iranian team 1-0. Their joy when they won against the second best in the world, Brazil, was something viewers of the game will never forget. Third place in this tournament was a huge success given that amputee soccer is still in its infancy in Turkey. We watched the Turkish national team's game with Norway along with the amputee team. They were upset when Norway scored a goal. Some were so excited during the game that it seemed like they wanted to run onto the field to cheer the team on. One of them jumped up right before Emre kicked the ball and screamed "Hit it!" Those in the hall were already hugging each other to celebrate the goal before the ball even grazed the net. The small hall went wild following Nihat's goal. The joy in their eyes was indescribable. They were very tired by the end of the match as if they had played in it themselves.



Soccer players of war

From Iran to Brazil, Uzbekistan to Sierra Leone, there are a group of amputees eager to embrace life and maximize their potential through sport. They have one thing in common, bad memories. Some are victims of war while others were injured in accidents. These are their stories of tragedy and triumph

BEHRAM KILIC ANTALYA

Antalya hosted the Eighth World Amputee Soccer Championship on Nov. 11-20. Turkey, Brazil, Russia, Sierra Leone, France, England, Liberia, Ghana, Uzbekistan, Iran and Ukraine participated in the tournament. Uzbekistan won the world championship after beating Russia 2-1 in the final game. Turkey finished third.

Nearly 150 players from 11 countries recounted the stories of how they had become disabled. Adem Püskül from Turkey lost his leg in the explosion of a mine laid by the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in 2002. Uzbek Agzam Ismatov was serving in the Soviet army that invaded Afghanistan in 1984; he also lost his leg in a mine explosion. Iranian Cafer Asgari experienced the same in the Iran-Iraq War in 1982. The story of Mezhiev Adam from Russia is a little different; he did not realize that the object he had grabbed was a grenade. The detonation of the device killed three, leaving him legless. Liberian Richard Amo was captured in a civil war by the opponent forces; his leg was severed.

Not all of the disabled people we will focus on lost their legs in wars; for instance, French Labhilil Nebil is an amputee because of a car accident. Briton Sean Kelly is a cancer patient; doctors had to amputate his leg because of his condition. Joseph Amu from Ghana lost his leg because of polio. Brazilian Claudio Irineu da Silva is a professional soccer player; he was injured in a game, and his leg had to be amputated because of insufficient treatment for his injury. Sadik Amin from Iran is a soldier; he lost his arm when he was training new recruits on how to use a grenade.

All lost their legs or arms for different reasons. They could not comprehend their loss at first and many had to undergo psychological treatment. Years later, they met on the soccer field, ready to reach beyond their disabilities and compete for their countries.

Amputee soccer, first seen in Seattle in 1980, is slowly emerging in Turkey. We took a stroll in the teams' camps in Antalya to learn more about this sport where the legless serve as field players and the armless as goalkeepers.

Abdülcelil Süküirov used to play for the Uzbek junior national team. He also played on the junior team of Pahtakar, which won seven titles in the local league. He collided with a member of the rival team in a game in 1989. He was taken to the hospital in great pain with his knee badly swollen. There was no MRI device available to show the extent of the damage. He had to have his leg amputated because of insufficient treatment by his doctors. Today he is 35-years-old. He went through a difficult period after his amputation. Then one day he found out about amputee soccer. Since he has started playing again he has been happy to be making new friends and traveling to different countries. Süküirov says amputee soccer has been in his country since 1990, also adding that there are four amputee teams in Uzbekistan.

The Russian amputee team is the best in the world, though they lost their most recent game against Uzbekistan. The team, which made it to the finals in all of the tournaments so far, has

won four world championships. Vladimir Sicoev, cited as the best amputee player, serves as the captain of the Russian team. He does not know the number of goals he has scored so far, and he disagrees with those who see him as the best player. Sicoev lost his leg at age 10. "I had some problems with my leg. Medicine was not very advanced then. The only option was to amputate my leg," he said. There are three Muslims on the Russian team; Ramazanov and Timur are from Dagestan. Goalie Ramazanov lost his hand in a workplace accident.

The civil war in Liberia broke out in the 1990s. Richard was just a child at the time. "I was 4-years-old. We were caught between two fires. My mother was injured and my dad died. I lost my leg," he recalls. Liberia has a large population of amputees. Today the country is a democracy after a 14-year internal war. The players on Liberia's amputee league note with pride that the country is run by a woman, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the president elected in the first election after the war. There is another election coming up. The country enjoys a long-awaited peace now. Unlike his teammates, John Kerkulah from the Liberian amputee team lost his leg in a motorbike accident, but his injury was also related to the war -- he fell from the bike while fleeing from a conflict zone.

Sierra Leone was the most colorful team in the recent tournament. They fascinated every-



PHOTO: ZAMAN, MAYDA



PHOTO: BEHRAM KILIC

History of amputee soccer

Amputee soccer was invented in the city of Seattle in 1980. A US national named Don Benette hit a basketball that was flying toward him while he was walking with crutches. Inspired by this event, Benette formed the first amputee soccer team named White T-Shirt. The game subsequently spread through the Soviet Union, Africa and England. The sport is played by amputee players with the help of walkers and other similar devices. The field for amputees is 55-70 meters long and 30-60 meters in width. Penalty kicks are done from a 7-meter distance. The goal's width is 5 meters and a team consists of 14 players.

Uzbekistan won the World Amputee Soccer Championship after beating Russia 2-1 in the final. Turkey finished third in the tournament that took place in the Turkish Mediterranean city of Antalya last month.



PHOTO: HALLI, ÖZCAN



SUNDAYS ZAMAN

Morrissey sues music magazine

Former Smiths frontman Morrissey is suing music magazine NME for defamation after it printed an article in which he discussed his views on immigration in Britain. The magazine criticized the 48-year-old singer for allegedly saying Britain had lost its identity as a result of higher levels of immigration than other European countries. London, Reuters

Spice Girls kick off world tour

Britain's Spice Girls kick off a world tour in Vancouver today, hoping they can live up to the months of hype surrounding the return of "girl power." The sassy quintet best known by their nicknames -- Posh, Baby, Sporty, Ginger and Scary -- were one of the biggest bands of the 1990s, selling a total of 55 million albums worldwide and trading on their self-assertive style and street fashion.

But their success was short-lived, with Geri "Ginger Spice" Halliwell walking out on the band in 1998, just four years after it was formed. The remaining band members went their separate ways after releasing the album "Forever" in 2000. The Spice Girls have sold more than 750,000 tickets for their 40-date world tour, according to reports, and more dates may yet be added. Recent demand for their music, however, has been disappointing, with their recent charity single "Headlines" selling only a few thousand copies in its first week and their "Greatest Hits" album failing to reach number one in Britain.

"All of them have been dismayed by the fact that their first single, Headlines, has been a flop," reported the Daily Mail newspaper, which like other tabloids has focused on what it said were strained relations between the band members. Each Spice Girl is expected to make as much as 10 million pounds (\$20 million) from the tour and spinoff ventures, including advertising and record releases.

But at the time of the reunion announcement in June, the band members were talking about fans, not finances. "For me it's about celebrating the past, enjoying each other, it's about our fans," Halliwell, renowned for wearing a tight pair of Union Jack hot-pants, told a London news briefing. "It felt the right time -- it's kind of now or never." London Reuters

STUDY: SHIFT WORK MAY CAUSE CANCER

Shift workers and firefighters have a higher risk of cancer than the general population and such work should be classified as probably or possibly carcinogenic, the International Agency for Research on Cancer said. A team of 24 scientists who sifted through the evidence said more studies must confirm the link, but found that shift work that disturbs the body's internal clock appears to have cancer-causing effects, too. This internal clock regulates circadian rhythms, a complex system that signals cells to produce various hormones at various times.

"Shiftwork that involves circadian disruption is probably carcinogenic to humans," the French-based IARC, the cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), said in a statement. "Occupational exposure as a firefighter is possibly carcinogenic to humans," it added.

The statement, published as what the IARC calls a monograph, could affect a significant number of people.

"Nearly 20 percent of the working population in Europe and North America is engaged in shiftwork. Shiftwork is most prevalent in the health-care, industrial, transportation, communications, and hospitality sec-



PHOTO BY

in tumor cells. Other studies provide evidence that firefighters, who breathe in smoke, chemicals and dust and who also work shifts, have a higher risk of cancer and heart disease. The shift work findings may all have to do with the body's response to light.

The brain's pineal gland produces the hormone melatonin after the body is exposed to either sunlight or artificial light and then darkness, and production is disrupted when people are up at night with the lights on.

Melatonin also acts as an antioxidant protecting DNA from the type of damage that leads to cancer and heart disease.

"Melatonin does a lot about regulating the body's cycle. But I don't think we know how to tinker with the melatonin system ... yet," Cogliano said. "We are always going to have night workers and shift workers. Some jobs must be done around the clock like nurses. We need to know how to reduce the risk." Other experts have pointed out that shift workers may have other behaviors that raise cancer risk, such as a higher tendency to drink alcohol or to smoke, or get less sleep. Washington Reuters

tors," the IARC said. But the IARC's Vincent Cogliano said the evidence was not yet clear enough for anyone to take any action. "I don't know if this is ready for an employer yet because I don't think we understand fully what it is about shift work that might be causing cancer," Cogliano said in a telephone interview. First, he said, more study was needed. Then

we would like the national health agencies to look at it and see what kind of action is appropriate.

Cogliano said this was the first time the IARC had examined shift work as a possible cause of cancer, and said the agency would return to the issue in perhaps five years, when more research had been done. The monograph will be published in the

December issue of The Lancet Oncology medical journal, but the conclusions are based on years of published research. In 2001, a team at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle found that women who work night shifts may have a 60 percent greater risk of breast cancer.

Several tests in mice show that circadian clock genes are disrupted



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