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# The Konya News

Monthly

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*This river flows in Konya!* 14

18 *Some Rituals and Rules in Mevlevi Cuisine*



*Mayor Altay:*

# "It Is Not Possible to Establish World Peace If Sanctions Are Not Applied to Israel, Who Committed a War Crime"




UCLG and Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay gave important messages at the "Intergenerational Dialogue" and "Presidential" sessions held within the scope of the UCLG Annual Consultation Meeting in Barcelona. Addressing the municipalities of the world, Mayor Altay pointed out that "the sustainability of the cease-fire in Gaza should be among our priorities. I believe that it is not possible to establish world peace unless sanctions are imposed on Israel, which has been found to have committed war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, and on Netanyahu, who has been convicted of these crimes. On the other hand, we want the efforts to end the war between Russia and Ukraine to be concluded as soon as possible. Because if we cannot ensure peace in the world, it is not possible to protect our cities."



**Kerem İŞKAN**
Executive Editor

## What to do in Konya?

Konya is a city located in the heart of Anatolia and fascinates with its history, culture and spiritual atmosphere. Konya, home to the Mevlana tomb, is a centre of attraction that welcomes millions of visitors every year.

**Mevlana Museum and Tomb:** The first place that every visitor to Konya must see is the Mevlana Museum and Tomb. This social complex, built in the 13th century, offers a unique opportunity to understand Mevlana and the Mevlevi philosophy. Mevlana's personal belongings, manuscripts and works related to Mevlevi order are exhibited in the museum. The tomb contains the graves of Mevlana and his family. The atmosphere of the complex has a very peaceful and spiritual atmosphere.

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## We protect our nature

Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, said, "We support nature-friendly, sustainable production in the field of fashion and textiles, and we protect both consumers, producers and our nature with the waste crisis we are trying to prevent."



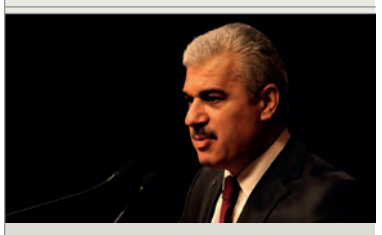
## Emergency action plan is for drought and sinkholes

Wrong product selection and faulty irrigation in the Konya Plain are literally drying out the city. The rapid withdrawal of groundwater causes sinkholes formed by ground collapse and deep cracks on the surface.




## Strong Finance Rating for Konya From International Credit Rating Agency Fitch

International credit rating agency Fitch Ratings increased the long-term credit rating of Konya Metropolitan Municipality. Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay said, "We consider the positive increase in the credit rating score as an important step reflecting the success of our municipality in financial management and sustainable growth targets."



## 'Konya: "A City of Peace'

Konya Governor İbrahim Akın stated that "there was a decrease in crime rates as a result of the security works carried out in 2024. It was announced that there was a significant decrease in crimes against persons and property."



## Tourism revenue increased in 2024

Turkish Statistical Institute shared tourism statistics data for the October-December period, the last quarter of 2024.

Continued on Page 8

"The only place where money is no good"
"Rose *in Konya!* Kitchen"

Continued on Page 16–17




# WE ARE THE 2nd LARGEST OIZ IN THE COUNTRY

Memiş Kütükcü, who has been serving as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Konya Organized Industrial Zone (KOS) since 2013, handed over his duty to Konya Chamber of Industry (KSO) President Mustafa Büyükeğen. Memiş Kütükcü made a presentation evaluating his 12-year tenure and underlined that they invested 12 billion liras in the region in 12 years.

Kütükçü said, "During our term of office, we opened our 4th, 5th and 6th expansion areas to investment and increased our Konya OIZ from 12 million square meters to 31 million square meters. Thus, our OIZ became the second largest organized industrial zone in Turkey. "In addition, the number of factories in the region, which was 444 when we took office, reached 757, and our employment, which was 35 thousand, reached 65 thousand."





# We Produce 15% of Flour in Turkey

The ordinary general assembly of the Central Anatolian Flour Industrialists Association, headquartered in Konya, was held. At the general assembly, which was held with intense participation, the current president, Hüseyin Emre Tekbaş, was re-elected as president by receiving the votes of all delegates.

Central Anatolia Flour Industrialists Association President Hüseyin Emre Tekbaş, in his speech after the election, said, "Today, our association has an important position within the sector. 15 percent of Türkiye's flour production is provided by our members, and this is confirmed by the fact that our 6 members are among Turkey's 1,000 largest industrial enterprises."

Tekbaş said that "In recent years, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and TMO have intervened on behalf of the sector. We lived through a period when they were influential in determining direction. During this process, we paid great attention to making balanced and fair decisions in our consultations with decision-making bodies. In this respect, we would like to thank the Ministry and TMO for their positive approach. For us, serving our members and our industry has been our greatest goal. "I would like to underline that we will continue our duty fully with this meticulous and responsible approach."





Kerem İŞKAN
Executive Editor

## What to do in Konya?

**Alaeddin Keykubat Complex:** One of the most important works of the Anatolian Seljuk State, Alaeddin Keykubat Complex is one of the symbols of Konya. The social complex consists of Alaeddin Mosque, Karatay Madrasah, Şifaiye Madrasah and Sırçalı Madrasah. Each building displays the best examples of Seljuk architecture. Especially the turquoise tiles of Sırçalı Madrasa are quite impressive.
**Sille:** Sille, one of the natural beauties of Konya, is a place worth seeing with its waterfalls, historical houses and churches. You can take nature walks, have a picnic and visit historical churches in Sille, also known as Green Valley.
**Çatalhöyük:** Çatalhöyük, a settlement from the Neolithic Period, is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Archaeological excavations in Çatalhöyük provide important information about the lifestyle of Neolithic Period people.
**Konya Cuisine:** Konya cuisine is one of the richest cuisines of Anatolian cuisine. Tandoori kebab, etliekmek (bread with meat), okra soup, höşmerim (a kind of halvah made with flour and heavy cream), sac böreği (a kind of flatbread with filling) and Konya Wedding dishes are among the most popular tastes of Konya cuisine.
Konya is a city that appeals to all kinds of travellers with its history, culture, natural beauties and delicious cuisine. If you want to make an unforgettable trip in Rumi's footsteps, don't forget to add Konya to your list!
**Travel Tips in Konya:**
• The most ideal seasons to visit Konya are spring and autumn.
• You can use public transportation to get around the city comfortably.
• There are many hotel and hostel options for accommodation in Konya.
• To shop in Konya, you can visit the souvenir shops at Mevlana Gate.
• You can go to the restaurants around the Mevlana Tomb to taste the local flavours of Konya.

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# Let's Shape Our Future Together

Regional Career Fairs, organized by the Presidential Human Resources Office since 2019 and shaped around the theme "Talent is Everywhere", are a critically important platform that brings university students and graduates together from all regions of Turkey with leading public and private sector representatives.

As Selçuk University, we are proud and excited to host the Central Anatolia Career Fair (İKAF'25) in 2025. This organization, which will be held on 20-21 February 2025 at Konya Selçuklu Congress Center, under the leadership of our Governorship and with the contributions of 16 valuable universities, different professional chambers and stakeholder institutions from the Central Anatolia Region, aims to support our students and graduates to take firm steps in their career journeys.

On this occasion, I invite all institutions and organizations in the region to contribute to IKAF'25 to support the future of our youth. I believe that our young people, who are the guarantee of our future, will contribute to the development of our country as strong and well-equipped leaders of Turkey with the experience and knowledge they will gain at this fair.

## *Destanların Dansı was on Anadolu Stage on February 16th*

The magnificent journey of the Turkish people from Noah's Flood to Dede Korkut, from the Four Elements to Nevruz, from Sari Gelin to Tomris, from Cevanshir to Alparslan, from epics to heroes, from bards to poets, from pain to victories and common bonds, impressed its fans with the show " Destanların Dansı " at the Seljuk Congress Center Anadolu Stage on Sunday, February 16th.




# Award-Winning Play "Ağaçlar Ayakta Ölür" at Anadolu Stage

On Friday, March 14, 2025, at 21:00, the award-winning emotional comedy "Trees Die Standing" meets its audience with its master cast for those who know very well what the love of grandchildren and the longing for separation are. A family who lost their children in a plane crash has only their grandchildren. However, the grandfather, who is loyal to his traditions, severs his ties with his grandson after he sees him stealing. Years later, the grandmother wishes to see her grandson one last time before death due to health problems. However, since the grandfather does not know where his grandchild is, he appeals to the Make-A-Wish Association to find someone to play the role of the grandchild to fulfill his wife's wish. Grandma, who accepts this game played on her without questioning and prefers living in a lie to the bitter truth, will be devastated when the real grandson appears. In this play, written after the Spanish Civil War, author Casona emphasized that embracing goodness is a necessity even in the world of lies. A different version of the play, which was first staged by Macide Tanır at the State Theatre in our country, was also shown as a movie starring Yıldız Kenter. Nevra Serezli returned to the stage after 11 years with this play and won seven different awards.




## *Wind of Culture and Art in Konya*




Thousands of citizens in Konya had the opportunity to participate in dozens of cultural and artistic events, such as theatre, concerts, comedy, and stage performances, in February. Culture and art events continue unabated in Konya in March, too. Selçuklu Congress Centre, the city's meeting point for cultural organizations, will have the opportunity to participate in dozens of cultural and artistic events, theatres, concerts, comedy show and stage performances, in March. One of them is Çimen Show. "Çimen Show" meets its audience for a fun-filled evening with Cem İşler & Fazlı Polat. Çimen Show will be on Konya Stage on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 21:00.

## *Buray meets his fans with his popular songs*




"Buray", who wins hearts with her hit songs with her acoustic rhythms and unique vocals, is coming to meet her fans. The successful singer is coming to sing her popular songs at Selçuklu Congress Centre Anadolu Stage on Saturday, February 22, at 20.30.

## *Doğu Demirkol on Stage*




"Doğu Demirkol" is coming to Konya to meet his fans for a joyful evening. Doğu Demirkol, who is inspired by his own life and every humorous event in these lands in his one-man show that he performs in Turkey, Europe and America and in different cities of the world, continues to meet his audience this season. Doğu Demirkol will meet his fans with his one-man stand-up show at Selçuklu Congress Centre on Saturday, February 22, at 20.00.

## *Kafka's "The Trial" returns to the labyrinths of modern life again*

British author Tom Basden's darkly humorous adaptation of "Joseph K." meets theater lovers on Friday, March 21, 2025 at 21:00 at Anadolu Sahne. While Joseph K is about to celebrate his 30th birthday with the pizza he ordered for home, the two men who delivered his pizza inform him that he is under arrest. Joseph K has no knowledge of what his crime is, but he has to clear himself. As Joseph attempts to regain his threatened freedom, he enters into a battle with an invisible and irrational justice system. In the darkly humorous adaptation of British author Tom Basden's, Joseph K. Franz Kafka's case, which has not expired despite being over a century old, is left in the labyrinths of the modern world to be retried.



# Ramadan Mubarek

Torku

Naturally from Us

## *Mayor Altay:*

# "KONYA IS ONE OF THE 7 EUROPEAN CITIES THAT MADE IT TO THE FINALS IN THE 2025 EUROPEAN SMART TOURISM CAPITAL COMPETITION"

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay announced that Konya is among the 7 cities from Europe that are on the list for the 2025 European Smart Tourism Capital award, with the new investments they have made in the field of tourism as Konya Metropolitan Municipality and the smart city technologies they have implemented.




Konya is among the 7 cities on the list for the 2025 European Smart Tourism Capital award. The European Union (EU) Commission has announced the names of the cities on the shortlist for the "2025 European Smart Tourism Capital" award. Accordingly, among a total of 21 candidate cities from 10 countries, Brussels from Belgium, Genoa and Turin from Italy, Konya from Turkey, Lahti from Finland, Lviv from Ukraine and Porto from Portugal became the finalists selected for the European Smart Tourism Capital.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay stated that Konya is a city with ancient values in terms of history and culture with its thousands of years of history and said that they are working to maximize the tourism potential of Konya by introducing these values to Turkey and the world.



> "Stating that they will continue to increase their work in this field, Mayor Altay said that the candidacy will further increase Konya's recognition in the international arena."



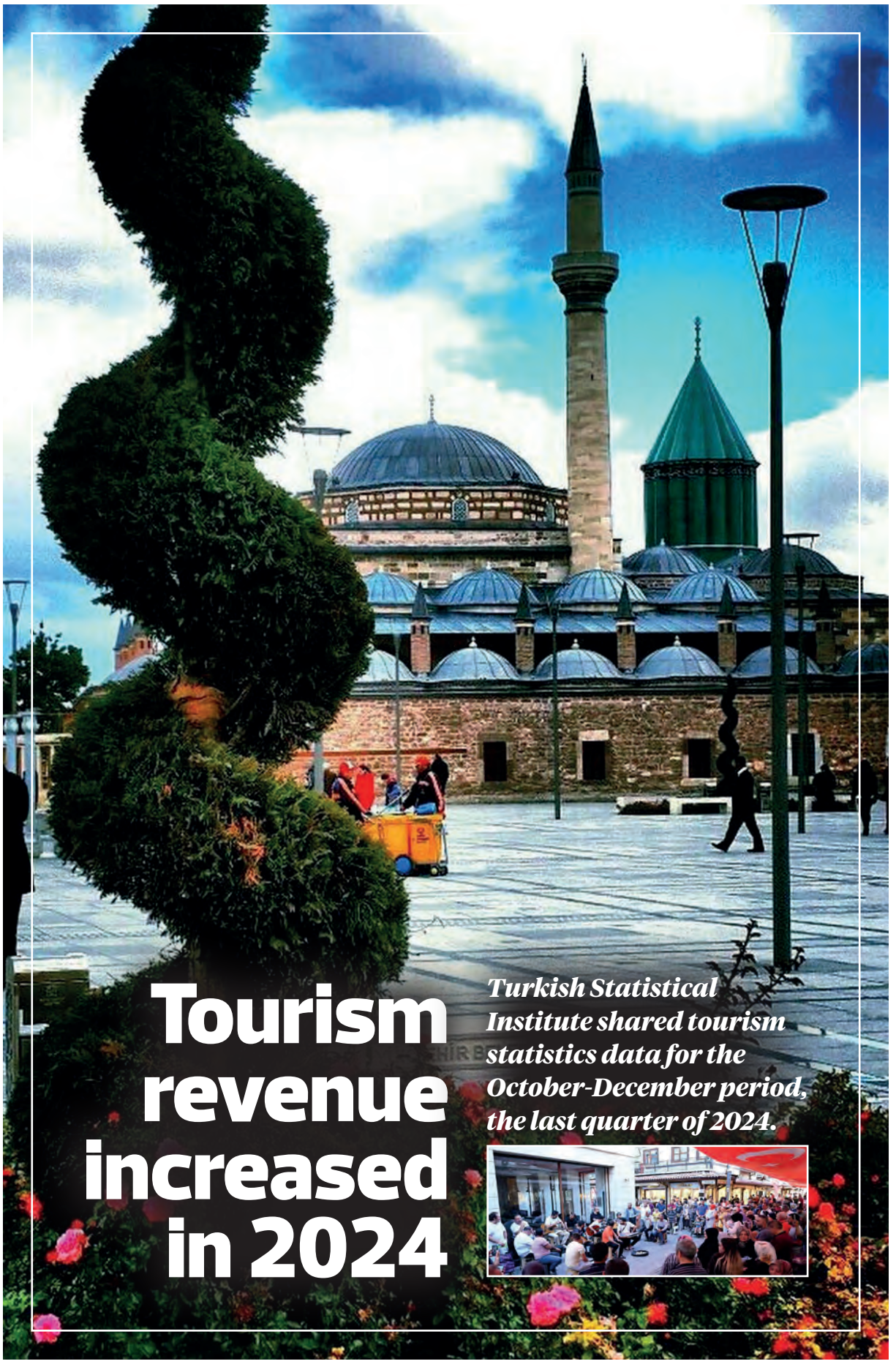
Stating that they are working to further strengthen Konya's tourism infrastructure, Mayor Altay said, "The new investments we have made as the Metropolitan Municipality in the field of tourism attract great attention. We see that the interest in our city is increasing with works such as Çatalhöyük Promotion and Welcome Centre, which contribute to the promotion of Çatalhöyük which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, Dârülmülk Exhibition Palace, Stone Building Digital Promotion Centre, Warehouse No: 4, Konya Panorama Museum and Türbeönü Bazaars. At this point, the smart city technologies we have implemented play an important role in making tourism more sustainable by better understanding the needs of guests visiting our city. As Konya, being included in the list for the 2025 European Smart Tourism Capital award is an important indicator to see the results of our work. This candidacy will further increase the international recognition of Konya. "Our aim is to promote our city in the best possible way and to consolidate our place among the leading cities in tourism."

The 2025 European Smart Tourism Capital finalists will present their proposals to the jury on 26-27 November. The city, which will be determined as the European Smart Tourism Capital, will receive comprehensive promotion and brand support.

Last year, Dublin from Ireland received this award in the European Smart Tourism Capital Competition, which has been held since 2018.

The European Smart Tourism Capital is an EU initiative that rewards cities for their innovative approaches in areas such as accessibility, digitalization, sustainability, cultural heritage and creativity.





# Tourism revenue increased in 2024

***Turkish Statistical Institute shared tourism statistics data for the October-December period, the last quarter of 2024.***



Tourism revenue increased by 8.3 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year, reaching 61 billion 103 million 419 thousand dollars. Tourism income from visitors was 60 billion 497 million 18 thousand dollars, and tourism income from transfer passengers was 606 million 401 thousand dollars. 17 percent of visitors' tourism income was made up of citizens residing abroad who visited our country.

Visitors organize their travels as personal or package tours. Of this year's income from visitors, 43 billion 92 million 544 thousand dollars were personal expenses, and 17 billion 404 million 474 thousand dollars were package tour expenses.

### *The number of visitors increased by 11.6 percent compared to the same quarter last year*

The number of visitors departing from our country increased by 11.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter of the previous year, reaching 13 million 917 thousand 894 people. 17.4 percent of the visitors were citizens residing abroad, with 2 million 416 thousand 884 people.

The average nightly expenditure of visitors staying overnight in our country in this quarter was 97 dollars.



The average nightly expenditure of citizens residing abroad was 60 dollars.

### *The number of visitors increased by 9 percent in 2024*

The number of visitors leaving our country increased by 9 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year, reaching 62 million 232 thousand 447 people. 15.4 percent of these, 9 million 599 thousand 727 people, were citizens residing abroad.

The average nightly spending of those who stay overnight on an annual basis was 97 dollars, and the average nightly spending of citizens residing abroad was 63 dollars.



# *Konya's famous dish, a source of healing*

Konya's delicious dishes continue to make a splash both in the world and in Turkey. Famous gourmet Vedat Milor stated that Konya's famous okra soup strengthens the immune system.

Konya, one of the most important cities in Turkey's gastronomy after Gaziantep and Adana, also attracts attention with its rich culinary culture. Famous gourmet Vedat Milor gave advice on consuming okra soup in Konya, where there are dozens of delicacies including etliekmek, tirit and oven kebab. Okra soup is both delicious and healing. That meal, which Vedat Milor also recommends, will both heal your body and make you eat it every day with its taste.

### *STRENGTHENS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM*

Okra soup, which is among the famous delicacies in Konya, has become indispensable for the famous gourmet Vedat Milor. The benefits of okra soup, which is known to strengthen immunity during winter months, are countless. Okra soup, one of the most consumed delicacies in Konya during the winter, strengthens the immune system and also facilitates digestion. Vedat Milor said that "Okra soup reduces cholesterol and minimizes the risk of cancer. It is also a meal rich in vitamin C and beta carotene. I recommend that you consume it abundantly, especially during the winter months."



The Konya News

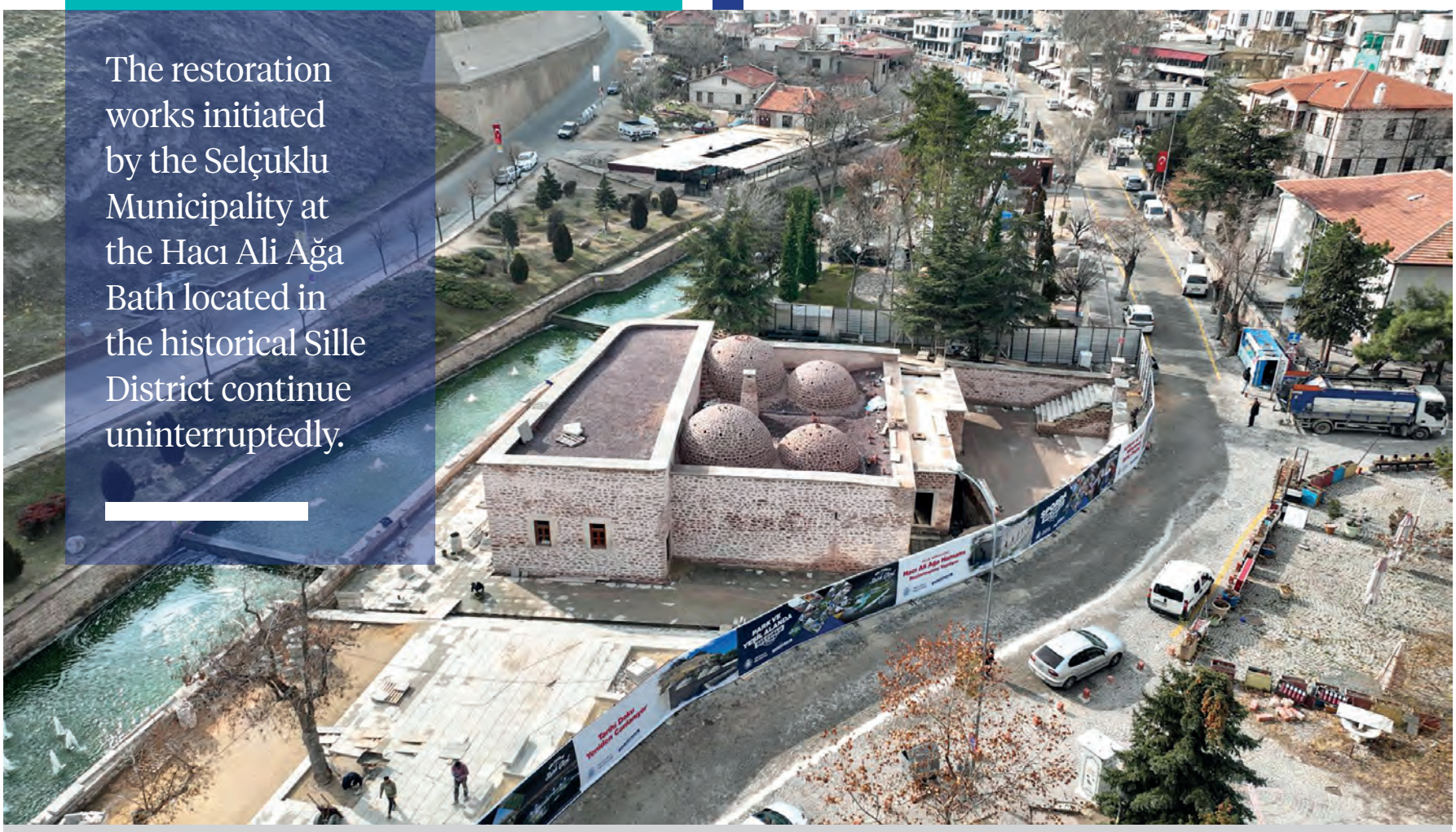


# Selçuklu Protects its History

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırcı said, "We will continue to keep Sille tourism alive with the work we carry out within the scope of loyalty to history."

With the restoration works carried out by Selçuklu Municipality in Sille, which has a rich historical and cultural heritage, historical assets are being revived in accordance with their original form. It is planned to transfer these structures, which have survived to the present day, to future generations in the most accurate way, with the works that have made Sille an important center of attraction. In this context, the restoration works of the Sille Hacı Ali Ağa Bath, which has been initiated and has reached a completion rate of over 80 percent, are continuing meticulously. Sille Hacı Ali Ağa Bath consists of a construction area of 525 m² on a land area of 726 m². Once the restoration work on the basement and ground floors is completed, the building is planned to serve as a welcoming and tourism information office.

The restoration works initiated by the Selçuklu Municipality at the Hacı Ali Ağa Bath located in the historical Sille District continue uninterruptedly.





***"We protect our cultural and historical heritage"***

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırcı said that "We have carried out many restorations, street and construction works in Sille, which has thousands of years of historical and cultural history. We continue to beautify and add value to Sille, one of the important tourism destinations of Konya's rapidly developing city, which is at the focal point of history. We have unearthed many historical buildings, especially religious buildings, and restored their historical identity through restorations up to now. With the completion of the

> "In this context, the restoration works of the Sille Hacı Ali Ağa Bath, which has been initiated and has reached a completion rate of over 80 percent, are continuing meticulously. Sille Hacı Ali Ağa Bath consists of a construction area of 525 m² on a land area of 726 m²."

meticulous work, this special building located at the entrance of Sille will be used as a "Tourism Information Centre" to contribute to tourism activities and will make very important contributions to us at this point. In addition, the centre will provide an exhibition area and a cafeteria where local and foreign visitors can have a pleasant time. We will continue our work to revitalize our cultural and historical heritage and pass it on to future generations, and we will protect this historical heritage."

# "New Tourism Destination in Meram"

## 1 MERAM BAĞI

This travel-tourism and history axis of Anatolia's most unique beauty begins with Meram Vineyards. The historical Meram Vineyards are being revitalized with the work carried out on an 18.000m2 land located at the intersection of Meram Municipality's Yeni Meram Street and Yaka Street. Inside the vineyard, there is a Café, a stone building reflecting Meram's past, 200-year-old acorn trees, more than a thousand grape vines and nearly two hundred fruit saplings. Guests will be able to pluck and eat the fruits that add insatiable flavour from the fertile lands of Meram, from their branches in season. In autumn, molasses and bulgur are boiled in the vineyard and served to guests.



## 2 LAVENDER GARDEN

Lavender Garden, established by Meram Municipality on a 20 thousand square meter land in Dere District, just west of Meram Bağı, offers its guests moments of insatiable beauty. The Lavender Garden, which was designed on an area of 10 thousand square meters, has a wooden scaffolding path, a marble fountain, seating benches, an observation terrace, swings, a healthy life track and rose arches.



## 3 GIRLS' ROCK

Girls' Rock, located above the picnic and recreation areas in Meram Dere District, has a feature reminiscent of the fairy chimneys in Cappadocia. In order to bring the Girls' Rock, which has been a centre of attraction in Konya for centuries with its beauty and legends, to tourism, Meram Municipality has made landscaping and lighting, further increasing the beauty of the region.



## 4 AYDIN ÇAVUŞ HILL

Aydın Çavuş Hill, where you can see the whole of Konya from a bird's eye view in the most beautiful way from the forest area in the unique clean air of Meram, has been re-projected by Meram Municipality. Aydın Çavuş Hill, which is the address of peaceful conversations with its restaurant and café accompanied by an extraordinary view, is among the must-visit places for both Konya residents and guests from out of town.



## 5 TAVUSBABA TOMB AND MOSQUE

Tavusbaba Tomb and Mosque, located right at the foot of Aydın Çavuş Hill, are one of the most beautiful and striking parts of this tourism region. Tavusbaba, who is in the tomb, came to Konya from India and settled in Konya due to the respect shown by the Seljuk sultans to the cultural men and Sufis. Although his birth and death dates are unknown, it is known that he lived during the time of Rükneddin, one of the Seljuk rulers. Tavusbaba came to this hill during his time and had a mosque built here. The mosque is still open for worship on the hill. The masjid is a historical work made of wood and has brought the architectural features of that day to the present day. Thanks to the work of Konya Metropolitan Municipality and Meram Municipality, its surroundings have gained a new face.



## 6 MERAM BRIDGE

Historical Meram Bridge, one of the rare sites with its architecture, aesthetic appearance and natural beauty, is located right below the Tavusbaba Tomb. Located over the stream flowing among the grand trees surrounding it, the bridge was built over the Meram Stream in the 13th century during the Seljuk period, and is approximately 30 meters long and 5 meters wide. There are railings made of large stone blocks on both sides of the five-arch bridge built of cut stones.



## 7 MERAM CITY AND LIFE CULTURE MUSEUM

Two traditional Konya houses belonging to Meram Municipality, located opposite each other in a single courtyard, and the vineyard land behind it were designed as the City and Life Culture Museum by Meram Municipality. The museum reflects Meram's unique deep, subtle and elegant culture in the most beautiful way. Visitors can closely witness everything about Meram, such as being born in Meram, being a child, becoming a bride and groom, becoming parents, dying, kitchen, vineyard, garden, seasons and social ceremonies. The museum also offers short-term and simple experience areas for visitors, such as breaking vineyards, baking tandoori bread, making shebit (a kind of bread), and making butter.



## 8 80 THOUSAND AROUND THE WORLD PARK

In the 80 Thousand Around the World Park, which is a first in Turkey by incorporating three different concepts, there are 120 miniature works, 50 moving and vocal dinosaurs and models of fairy tale and television heroes. While life-size dinosaurs that can move and make sounds open the doors of a different world to visitors, miniature works that come to life with our thousand-year-old state tradition and our understanding of architecture and art are exhibited in the Cihan-ı Turk section. At Cotton Candy Fairy Tale World Park, children meet fairy tale heroes. It offers its visitors the opportunity to have a good time with its playgrounds, cafeteria and restaurant.



## 9 MERAM DUTLU NATIONAL GARDEN

Meram Dutlu National Garden, which provides services in many areas from picnic areas to children's play groups as well as hosting social and cultural activities, welcomes its guests in an area of approximately one million square meters. Meram National Garden has colourful and interesting areas such as a 40.000m2 children's playground, a 10.000m2 vineyard, a 10.000m2 pond, a fish restaurant, an Ottoman Garden, a masjid, social facilities, a scent and jam rose garden.





**HISTORICAL HERITAGE MEETS THE FUTURE**

# A PROJECT TO PRESERVE THE SPIRIT OF KONYA: TÜRBE ARKASI IS BEING RENOVATED

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay and Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca visited the Türbe Arkası Urban Renewal Project within the scope of the Darülmülk Project, one of the largest revival projects in Turkey.





Renovation works have started on the Türbe Arkası Urban Renewal Project, which is one of the most important pillars of the Darülmülk Project, one of Turkey's largest revival projects, and carried out by Konya Metropolitan Municipality and Karatay Municipality.

***THE AREA BEHIND THE RUMI TOMB HAS BEEN DECLARED AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA***

According to the Presidential decisions published in the Official Gazette with the signature of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the area behind the Aziziye District Rumi Tomb was determined as the "Urban Renewal Area". The decision in question was made in accordance with Article 2 of the "Law No. 5366 on the Renewal, Protection and Sustenance and Use of Deteriorated Historical and Cultural Immovable Assets". On the other hand, a special texture was added to the city in the region transformed by the Metropolitan Municipality with the demolition of Mevlana Bazaar and Gold Bazaar. Türbe Önü Bazaars, which were opened by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, have become one of the symbolic centres of Konya.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay and Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca also examined the ongoing works behind the Mevlana Tomb and received information about the latest situation.

***"AS KARATAY MUNICIPALITY, WE ARE CARRYING OUT ONE OF TURKEY'S LARGEST TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS"***

After visiting the area, Mayor Altay said that they are working very intensively to reveal the ancient history of Konya within the scope of the Darülmülk Project.

Mayor Altay said that "We carry out one of the largest transformation projects of Turkey with Karatay Municipality in an area of 100,000 m² located between the back of Mevlana Tomb and Ali Ulvi Kurucu Street, and the expropriation works are being carried out by Karatay Municipality. Approval of the projects has been completed. We started this project as our Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Konya Metropolitan Municipality and Karatay Municipality. Currently, both the restoration of historical monuments and the work of the bazaar have begun. Hopefully, in the spring months, we will start the construction of the Mevlevi Lodge next to the Mevlana Tomb."









*Türbe Önü Bazaars, which were opened by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, have become one of the symbolic centres of Konya.*




***WE TRANSFER KARATAY'S ANCIENT PAST BEYOND CENTURIES***

Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca also gave information about the work carried out on historical buildings. Kılca stated that "Karatay Municipality carries out many projects in order to bring rich cultural assets to tourism and to deliver them to future generations. As a municipality, we restore and revive the historical buildings that reveal the identity of Konya and Karatay."

Kılca said that "It is extremely important for us to protect the most important structures of the traditional architectural texture. We identify the houses of Konya that have historical architectural features and have been damaged over time, one by one, and protect them first. Then, after the approval of the projects we have prepared, we start restoration work for these houses, which reveal the identity of Konya and ancient Karatay. As Karatay Municipality, we are working in many points of our district in this context. It is extremely important to preserve our history and transfer such structures to the future. Thanks to such projects, we are transferring the ancient past of Konya and Karatay beyond centuries."

***AN IMPORTANT PROJECT IN THE HEART OF KONYA***

Mayor Altay stated that "In the next few years, a new centre with social facilities and commerce will emerge where visitors coming to Konya will be able to meet all their needs. In addition, this important project in the heart of Konya will be completed with the Archaeology and Ethnography Museum, which we will build with Ministry of Culture and Tourism. As we always say in Konya, the culture of working together has very important benefits for the city. This project is one of the best examples of it. I would like to thank Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca and his team for their support to the project. Hopefully, starting from spring, we will witness the increase in the work within the scope of the project here. "I hope it will be beneficial for our city."

***"WE SEE A REFLECTION OF THE KONYA MODEL MUNICIPALITY HERE"***

Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca said, "After it was declared as an urban renewal area by our President, a new work has started here together with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Metropolitan Municipality. Our project work is over, now we have started the construction work. There are many urban renewal buildings that will be built by both the Metropolitan Municipality and our municipality. Here we actually see a reflection of the Konya Model Municipality. Within the scope of the Darülmülk Project, places will be created for all visitors to our city. I hope that these works will be beneficial to our city and our country."



# This river flows in Konya!

*It has a turquoise colour and a length of 260 kilometres.*





Göksu River fascinates people with its turquoise colour even in winter months. The river, which passes through the borders of Bucakkışla village, 45 kilometres from the centre of Karaman, brings together nature and history lovers at the point where it meets the historical Bıçakçı bridge, thought to be built in the 14th century.

Giving life to the areas he passes through during his long journey, Göksu offers an impressive atmosphere for nature lovers with the views it creates in the canyons.



*Giving life to the areas he passes through during his long journey, Göksu offers an impressive atmosphere for nature lovers with the views it creates in the canyons.*





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



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



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

40
KIRKİKİNDİ
RESTORAN

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

+90 (332)
**235 40 40**

# “Rose Kitchen„

## “The only place where money is no good” *in Konya!*



The ‘Rose Kitchen’, established for, people with intellectual disability known as the “Roses of Konya”, in Konya’s historical Bedesten Bazaar, continues to serve those in need with hot meals cooked by volunteer chefs every day.











### *MONEY IS NO GOOD IN ‘ROSE KITCHEN’, ONLY HELP AND KINDNESS*

Mevlüt Ayvazoğlu, the founder of the ‘Rose Kitchen’ and who deals with the people with intellectual disability one by one, stated that “We have no commercial purposes here. This is the only place where money is no good. We provide food to those in need. Some philanthropists provide all our needs. People from Konya have started to learn. We receive calls and messages from France, England etc. People say, ‘Give food on behalf of us too.’ We provide food to these people in need with the support of the donors.”

### *VOLUNTEER COOKS GROW THE KINDNESS MOVEMENT*

Sema Aydın, who cooks for the soup kitchen voluntarily, said, “We are volunteer people. We want this work to go even further. I hope there will be more nice and sensitive people.”

### *AYVAZOĞLU INVITS ROSES TO DINNER EVERY DAY*

Mevlüt Ayvazoğlu said that “they invite the “ROSES” every day and they all come with smiles on their faces, eat their food and leave.”

Ayvazoğlu stated that “these people interact with each other and when I go to the market, 40-50 people follow me. They think I will take them to dinner or meet their needs.”

# Some Rituals and Rules in Mevlevi Cuisine

*"May the table be sweet, give the blessings of God, and be the light of faith to those who eat. The beloved of Hazrat Mevlana, the secret of the Ateşbaz-I Veli, the noble Imam of Ali; Let's say Hu..."*

In Mevlevi Lodges, meals were eaten on the floor. During mealtimes, short round wooden tables are set on three-legged chairs in the kitchen (this is called "Somat"), with hides around them. A long piece of cloth was wrapped around the table to serve as a napkin. The spoons were arranged with their handles on the right side and face down, and a pinch of salt was placed in front of everyone. Placing the spoons in this way symbolized that they were praying and thanking. During crowded meals, a table called "Elif-i Somat", made of long leather like the letter "elif", was set up. In addition, "Canlar" (students), who was responsible for offering water, would prepare the jug and water glasses.

After all the preparations were completed, one of the "Canlar" would invite everyone to dinner by shouting "Huuu, Somata salaaa" loudly in the corridor where the cells were located. Dervishes who came to the dinner invitation would enter by bowing their heads and start eating together when the sheikh arrived. If water was requested during the meal, it would be pointed out to the people responsible for it. The person who distributed water would kiss the glass and give it to anyone who wanted it, and the person who asked would drink the water by kissing the glass. While someone was drinking water, those eating would stop eating and wait for the dervish who drank the water to drink. After the drinker put down the glass of water, the most senior person at the table, starting with the sheikh, would say "May God bless you" and pray, and the meal would begin again.




According to the Mevlevi culinary tradition, the food is taken off the stove after cooking. Kazancı Dede opens the lid of the food coming off the stove and prays like that

"May the table be sweet, give the blessings of God, and be the light of faith to those who eat. The beloved of Hazrat Mevlana, the secret of the Ateşbaz-I Veli, the noble Imam of Ali; Let's say Hu..."

He would say "Hu..." together with the Dervish and the Souls present. Before starting the meal, a pinch of salt placed in front of them was taken with their index fingers, and the meal, which started with soup and was called "lokma", was eaten together, in an order and system, without any conversation, provided that everyone took it from their own front.

During meal changes at the table, the meal would be eaten accompanied by prayers recites by the Sheikh and the chief cook, and after finishing the meal, one would stand up with a pinch of salt, just as the meal was started. Meanwhile, the sheikh says, "We are the Sufis of the Way, we eat from the table of God, Oh my Lord! He recites an Arabic-Persian prayer meaning "Make this bowl and table permanent..." and then recites the Fatiha. In the continuation, the sheikh says, "The name of honor, the blessing of goodness, the blessing of Halilül-Rahman. Alhamdilillah, ash-shukru li-llah. May God give you His blessings, be the light of faith to those who eat, may they be in peace, may there be abundant joys. Let's say "Dem-i Hazret-i Mevlana, Sirr-ı Ateş-baz-ı Veli, Kerem-i Ali, Hu..." prayers are made and everyone says "Hu...!".

While prayers are being said, those at the table place their hands aside with their fingers bent inward, as if they were holding the table. Afterwards, the sheikh would pray by bowing his head (greeting his head) and then he would go to the kitchen in the same way at the door. If the meal was an important meal, the usher would offer coffee. Another table tradition in Mevlevi cuisine is that the person who is full turns his spoon upside down and waits before leaving the table.

When the sound of the spoons faded away, even those who wanted to continue eating with the voice of the second senior at Somat, "Bismillah, thank you", would put their spoons back to their original state, hold their fingers on the edge of the table with both hands, bow their heads forward and wait. "Canlar" (students) would leave everything in their hands and wait on the sidelines, with their arms crossed, their feet together and sealed, their heads bowed to their hearts. Another ritual performed when getting up from the meal is to greet the brethren leaving the table by placing their hand on their heart and greeting the brethren at the other table with their faces turned towards them as they go out the door.

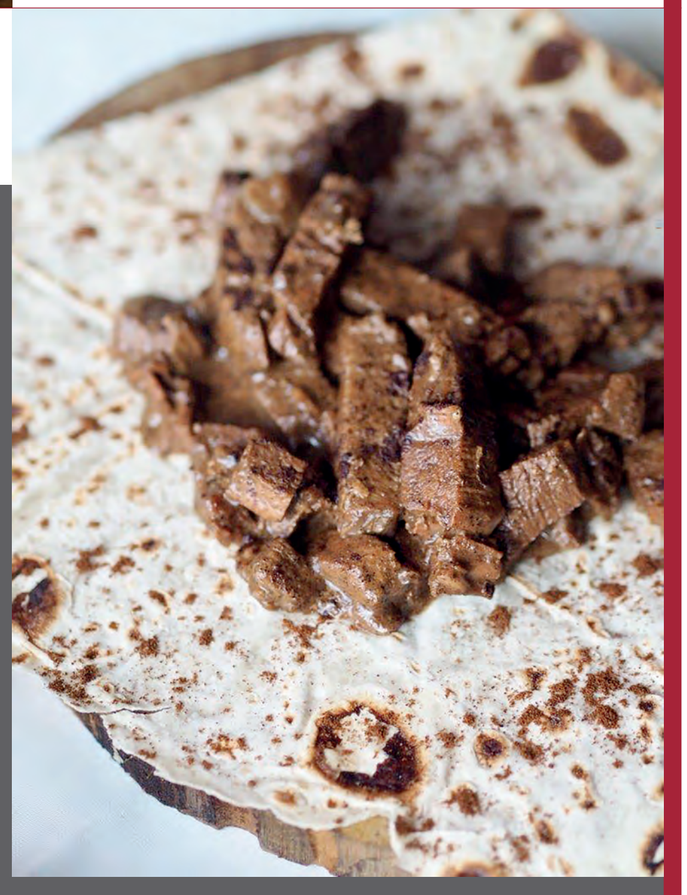


*Meals are prepared and eaten with a Sufi ceremony in Mevlevi dervish lodges, and each meal has a representation and description.*



Another thing that is important in Mevlevi cuisine and is done with a certain ritual and requires good manners is cooking lokma. Lokma rice is a pilaf that is cooked on certain days of the week (usually Fridays and sometimes Mondays) using ingredients such as meat, onion, chickpeas, coriander and peanuts. While cooking lokma, the kitchen door would be locked and only Kazancı Dede and the people in the kitchen would be in the kitchen. The ingredients used while cooking lokma are placed according to number by Kazancı Dede. Since everyone in the kitchen must contribute to the meal, everyone adds their share of these ingredients to the lokma and prays until it is cooked.

Meals are prepared and eaten with a Sufi ceremony in Mevlevi dervish lodges, and each meal has a representation and description. For example; in human life, soup represents water, meat and vegetables represent soil, creamy rose pudding symbolizes the love of God, pastrami and eggs represent generation, rice and pastry represent fire, chickpeas boiling in a pot represent the patience of a person in trouble, slurry symbolizes the union of the lover and the loved one, egg white and yolk represent the non-mixing of faith and disbelief. In short, Mevlevis attach many symbolic meanings, depictions and religious motifs to the ingredients of the food and the method of cooking it. In this way, they transform food, which is actually a worldly necessity, into a form of worship.





# Hedef Filo becomes the local solution partner of companies with its Konya Office

Hedef Filo, one of Turkey's leading fleet rental companies, continues to offer fast, flexible and professional solutions to businesses in the region by completing its structuring in Konya. It aims to facilitate operations by offering private fleet rental services to companies in Konya, one of the cities where both commercial activities and logistics networks are dense.



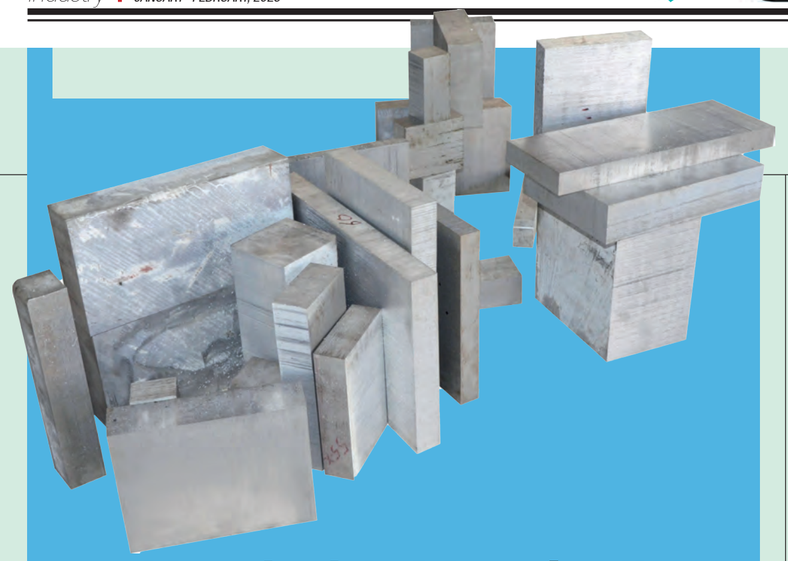



The Konya team, led by Southern Anatolia Regional Manager Tuba Aladağ, provides long-term car leasing solutions to businesses from every sector. Hedef Filo, which offers capital savings, operational convenience and flexible payment opportunities to companies operating in the field of trade and production, especially in Konya Organized Industrial Zone, provides great advantages to its customers by quickly responding to fleet leasing demands in the region.

We talked to Southern Anatolia Regional Manager Tuba Aladağ about Hedef Filo's structuring in Konya, the advantages it offers to businesses and the place of fleet leasing in the sector. Tuba Aladağ gave information about the structures in Konya. "As Hedef Filo, we have a wide service network throughout Türkiye and Konya constitutes an important pillar of this strategy. As one of the cities at the centre of trade, industry and logistics, strengthening our presence in Konya is a critical step both to provide faster service to our existing customers and to grow by collaborating with new companies. While we offer long-term car rental solutions to companies in the region with our office in Enntepe, we aim to make the fleet management of businesses in different sectors, especially in Konya Organized Industrial Zone, more efficient. "We have a wide customer portfolio in the region, and we continue to support businesses to make their fleet management more efficient."





# Karabekir Metalurji produces moulding materials with secondary aluminium

Konya-based Karabekir Metalürji, which produces alloy aluminium materials used in moulding and model making with local means, continues to offer its products to its customers at reasonable prices despite the high inflation experienced in the past period.





Founded in Konya in 2010, Karabekir Metalürji carries out the heat treatment of aluminium spare parts used in the automotive industry, as well as the hardening, stress relieving and annealing processes of the aluminium spare parts produced.

Karabekir Metallurgy Production Manager Yavuz Dedeoğlu gave information about the company's activities. "In 2016, we implemented a project that had never been tried before in our country and carried out the first aluminium billet (slab) casting using secondary aluminium with our own means. Today, as Karabekir Metalürji, we cut the billets we produce into desired sizes in line with the demands of our customers and ship them to many cities in our country. The segments we target are mostly machine model manufacturers, blow moulders and plastic injection and thermoform mould manufacturers. We also serve our customers who demand harder materials by applying heat treatment to parts up to certain sizes."

## *Kent Trailer received the second important dealership*

Konya-based Kent Trailer, a leading company in its sector, will sell tankers and cement trailer under the MAS brand. A dealership agreement was signed between the two companies.



Kent Trailer, which has become an important company in the trailer industry since the day it was opened, is also expanding its dealership network. Kent Trailer, which made a dealership agreement with MAS Trailer, Turkey's leading tanker and trailer manufacturer, also became the company's first domestic dealer.

Kent Trailer Chairman of the Board Mehmet Ateş made a statement on the subject. "We will never compromise on selling quality products. We will continue to expand our collaborations with trustworthy companies. In this context, trailer and ADR-certified aluminium tankers have been added to our sales products. By becoming the dealership of MAS Trailer, we will bring quality products to our friends and customers."

***"We are proud of our cooperation with Kent Trailer"***

MAS Trailer Chairman of the Board of Directors Sıtkı Çınar said, "After establishing the dealership network in Cyprus and Georgia, we started the domestic dealership attack by giving a dealership to a company in the country for the first time in the first days of the new year. We signed the dealership agreement with Kent Trailer. We are happy to be a dealer with an important company in our industry."



# 292 of the 490 bird species visiting Turkey were observed in Konya

292 of the 490 bird species visiting Turkey, which is on the migration routes of birds due to its geographical location, were observed in Konya.

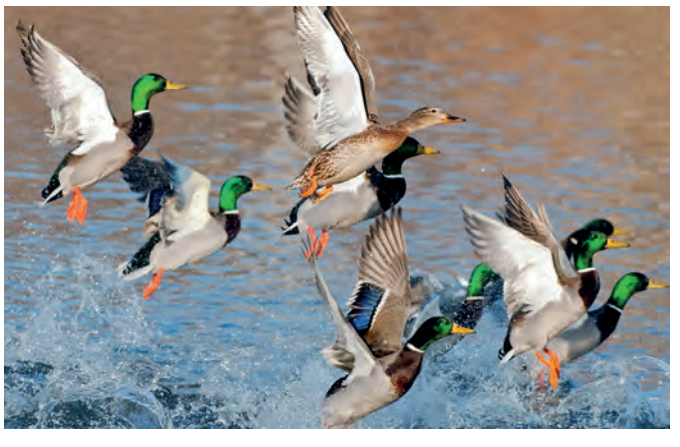
In order to monitor water bird populations and changes in wetland ecosystems in the long term, Mid-Winter Water Bird Counts (KOSKS) are carried out across the country under the coordination of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMP).

Counts are carried out in order to protect wetlands and waterfowl, and to determine the numbers of birds and where they gather most.

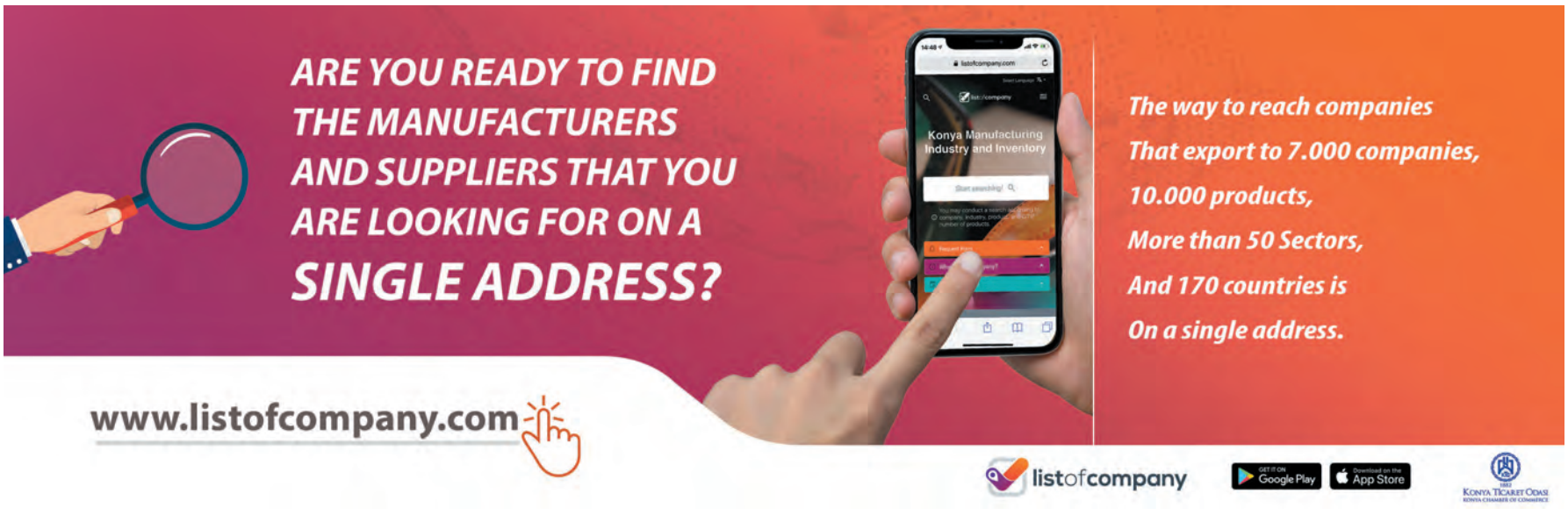
According to the data revealed after the counts and observations carried out by the DKMP 8th Regional Directorate teams in 8 wetlands, approximately half of the bird species migrating through Turkey are seen in the wetlands in Konya.

DKMP 8th Regional Director Orhan Çatalçam said that they carried out censuses with the participation of general directorate staff and bird experts to protect wildlife and wetlands in the country.

Stating that they carried out the counts in January and February, when the migratory activity of bird species is lowest, Çatalçam said, "Wetlands are currently one of the most endangered areas in the world. In order to protect the water birds in these wetlands, we determine how many there are and where the populations are concentrated."



Stating that especially bird species that migrate by gliding pass over Turkey, Çatalçam said that "Some of the migrating birds prefer our country for breeding grounds and some for wintering. Approximately 490 bird species have been identified in our country so far. 292 of them were observed in Konya. That means almost half of them stop by Konya. Last year Approximately 300 thousand birds of 42 species passed through Konya. There may be differences in these numbers from year to year. For example, while last year there were around 5-10 flamingos in the Akgöl reeds, this year around 300 flamingos were observed. Increasing wetlands is of great importance for water birds."



The Konya News






# PEMAeco Club

***1. What is Pemaeco? Can you briefly tell us about your club?***

- Promoting Ecological Mindful Awaraness club was founded by students of PEMA College who are sensitive to the environment and animal rights. A club that aims to help the environment, people and, when necessary, animals. Our aim is to beautify and contribute to Turkey and Konya. We want to develop our club and ensure that the students who come after us continue our activities.

***2. What are your club's activities?***

- We realized our first project, the Zero Waste Project, together with Selçuklu Municipality. We received a training about zero waste at Selçuklu Municipality. We visited the municipal recycling center. We had interviews with experts in their fields there. Our current project is that we are organizing a book campaign with our friends at our school for the library of Antakya High School, which was affected during the earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş in Turkey.

***3. What projects and ideas do you want to realize in the future?***

- Our next goal is to work together with centers such as DOSD Meram and SOBE operating in Konya. On the other hand, with our mission to protect animals, we want to visit animal shelters and obtain materials that may be needed, such as dry and wet food. We aim to help animals continue their lives in a warmer and protected environment. We would like to expand our club. Outside of school, we aim to inform our friends living in Konya about our activities and goals, by sharing information to protect the world and our ecosystem, so that they can be informed on this subject.



# Konyaspor IS A BIG community



### *"We got hurt a lot in 6 matches"*

Uçar said, "We, as Konyaspor, are trying to exist in this league as fairly as we can. If another team had experienced the refereeing mistakes we have experienced so far, it would not be easy to overcome. I recently talked about some injustices at the press conference. Turkish Football Federation President İbrahim Hacıosmanoğlu also confirmed that the operation was carried out in the live broadcast he attended yesterday. Konya is a deep-rooted and big community. We were hurt a lot in 6 matches. What we experienced that day is not a mistake. It is not me, but also the TFF President says this. Konyaspor community is such a big club that no one can carry out an operation."

### *"I am more ambitious"*

To the question "Are you going to resign?", Uçar said, "Similar questions were asked last week. We are not very successful, but the TFF President confirmed yesterday that there are many mistakes made against us in the matches you mentioned. As Konyaspor, we need to be in a better position. We will try to be in better places. On the contrary, I am even more ambitious. I talked about some operations, and it was confirmed yesterday. I will continue. Everybody in our management is trying to do something."

# *Konya is Proud of The National Athlete with the Gold Medal*




Another historical success from Meram Belediyespor. The club's successful taekwondo athlete, Saliha Küçüksolak, made the district proud again by winning the gold medal in the 24th Balkan Championship, which was held in Oradea, Romania, on 28-29 November 2024, where 475 athletes from 8 countries competed.



# *Konya's pedals made history in Antalya!*

### *6 medals at once!*

Konya Büyükşehir Belediyespor Cycling Team achieved great success by winning 3 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals in the international races in Antalya.

### *SILVER MEDAL AT GRAND PRIX ASPENDOS UCI 1.2*

In the 130-kilometer Grand Prix Aspendos UCI 1.2 race, which was included in the UCI activity program and participated by 66 athletes, Konya Metropolitan Municipality athlete Samet Bulut came in second and won the silver medal with his great performance.

### *RAMAZAN YILMAZ GETS GOLD MEDAL AT THE INTERNATIONAL CLEOPATRA BEACH CRITERIUM*

In the International Cleopatra Beach Criterium race organized by the Turkish Cycling Federation, Ramazan Yılmaz came to the top by winning the gold medal with a great team work on the 42.5-kilometer track, where 82 athletes from 5 countries competed.

### *KONYA METROPOLITAN STORM AT TOUR OF PEDALIA*

Konya Metropolitan Municipality athletes achieved great success in the 3-day Tour of Pedalia race in Antalya. Burak Abay ranked first in the general classification by taking first place on the first day and holding the leadership on the second day. In the last stage, Burak Abay, who came third in the 25-kilometer criterion race, won the gold medal by coming first in the general classification. Samet Bulut came second and won the silver medal.

