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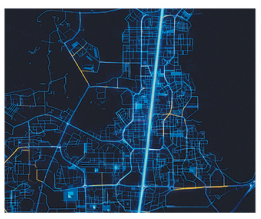
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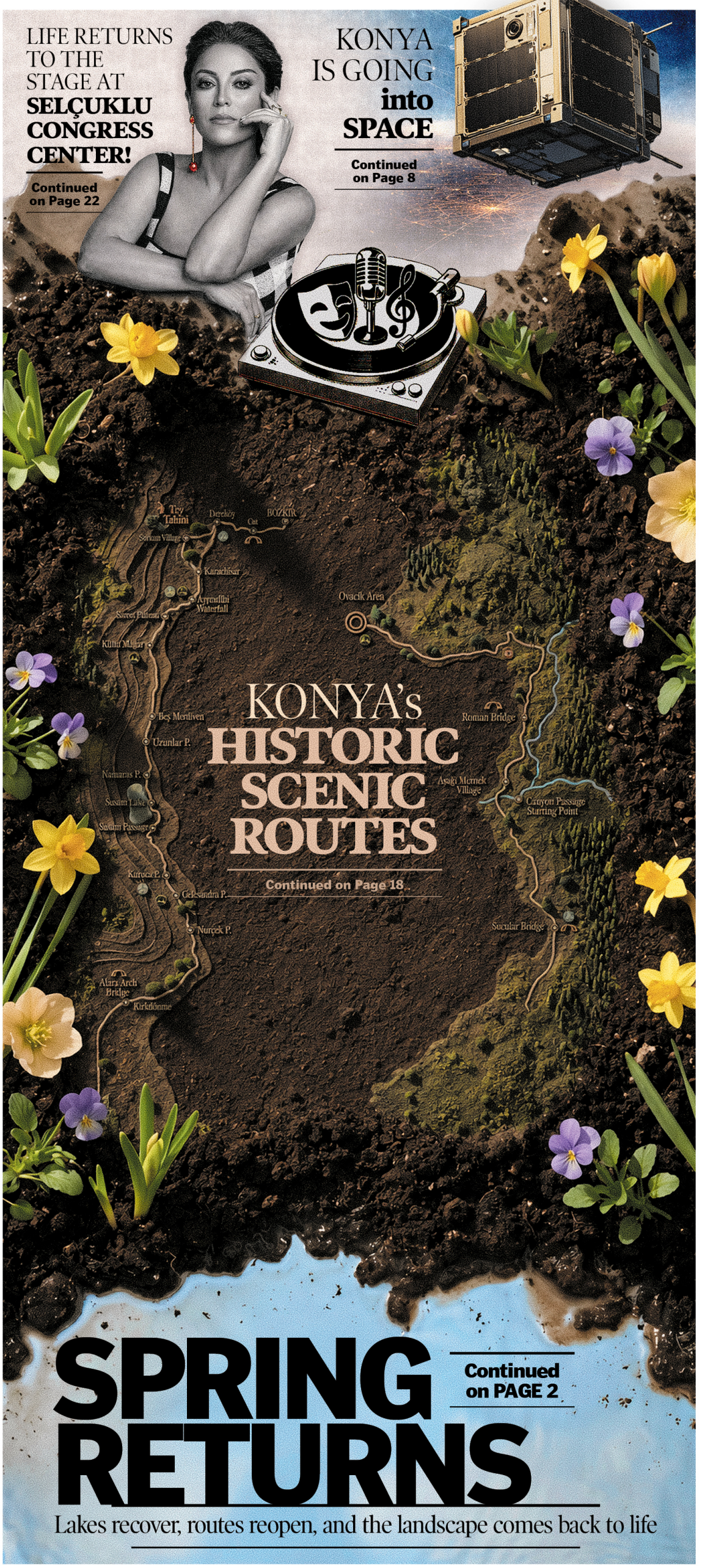
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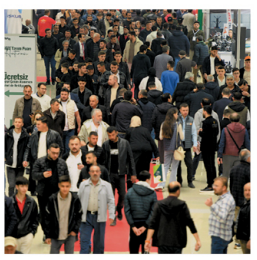
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By **Doğa İşkan**

Recent Rains Revive Water Resources in Konya

Lakes and Reservoirs recover

Recent winter and spring rainfall in Konya has brought relief to a region long affected by drought, leading to a noticeable increase in water levels across lakes, streams, and reservoirs. The improvement is being seen as a positive development for both biodiversity and agricultural sustainability

Çavuşçu Lake, located in the Ilgın district of Konya, had nearly dried up last year due to severe drought conditions. However, with the recent rainfall, the lake has started to hold water again. Covering an area of approximately 27 square kilometers, the lake is gradually regaining its ecological function.

Experts note that the rising water level has already begun to restore habitats for migratory birds, making the lake an important stop once again along migration routes.

REGIONAL LAKES SHOW SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

The recovery is not limited to Çavuşçu Lake. Across the Konya basin, several important water bodies have shown signs of improvement, including:

Wetlands in Ilgın

Düden Lake in Kulu

Beyşehir Lake, Türkiye's largest freshwater lake

Reports indicate that water levels in these lakes have increased following recent precipitation, offering renewed hope for regional water security.

STREAMS AND GROUNDWATER REPLENISHED

The rainfall has also contributed to the replenishment of streams and underground water reserves. According to specialists, consistent seasonal precipitation plays a crucial role in recharging groundwater, which is essential for long-term drought resilience in the Konya Closed Basin.

ECOSYSTEM SHOWS SIGNS OF REVIVAL

The rise in water levels is helping damaged ecosystems recover. Wetlands that had been severely affected by drought are now beginning to support wildlife again. The return of bird species to these areas is considered a strong indicator of ecological recovery.

Authorities emphasize that while the recent rainfall is encouraging, sustainable water management and conservation practices remain essential to protect these resources in the long term.

Çavuşçu Lake Revived

Pelicans Return

Çavuşçu Lake in the Ilgın district of Konya has started to host migrating great white pelicans again after regaining water. The lake, which dried up last year due to drought, has once again become an important habitat for many bird species thanks to its shallow structure, while great white pelicans feed and rest here before continuing their migration journey.

Çavuşçu Lake in the Ilgın district of Konya hosted great white pelicans on their migration route. The lake, which dried up last year due to drought, has become one of the important stops for migratory birds after regaining water. The lake, notable for its shallow structure, provides a habitat for many bird species. Great white pelicans continue their migration journey after feeding and resting in the lake.

The friendship between Turkey and Bangladesh has gained a remarkable dimension in recent years, highlighted by the strong ties established between Konya and Sylhet

A Friendship Bridge from Konya to Bangladesh

The sister city protocol signed on April 12, 2012, marked the beginning of a process that deepened not only official relations between the two cities but also cultural and spiritual interaction

(Prepared by the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Konya)



Sylhet, one of Bangladesh's prominent cities, stands out with its historical and spiritual identity, while Konya is known as the spiritual center of Anatolia. Hazrat Shah Jalal (r.a.), one of Sylhet's most important figures, is regarded as the "Guardian Saint of Sylhet" and a significant representative of the Sufi tradition. The similarities between his spiritual worldview and the intellectual climate represented by Rûmî demonstrate that the connection between the two cities is not only diplomatic but also grounded in a shared spiritual heritage.

These ties are reinforced with tangible projects as well. Under the leadership of the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Konya, 100 saplings were planted in the Mevlana Memorial Forest. A memorial forest consisting of 2,000 saplings has also been established, symbolizing the growing friendship between the two countries.

Significant initiatives have also been undertaken in education and culture. The first of these was a basic-level online Bengali language course specifically designed for participants from Konya, aiming to enhance communication between the two communities. Certificates were presented to participants at the conclusion of the program alongside the Ambassador. Due to growing demand, the program continues to be offered online and free of charge to all interested participants.

In addition, to promote Bangladeshi culture, traditional "Milk Tea" workshops have been held at Beyşehir Selçuk University, local teachers' houses, and online platforms. These events bring together tastes and customs from different regions, strengthening cultural exchange.

Since 2024, the annual "Bangladesh Water Lily Day" in Beyşehir, held every June, has become one of the most colorful examples of this collaboration. The initiative was first proposed by the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Konya, Deniz Bulkur, and is organized jointly by the Honorary Consulate and Beyşehir Municipality.

The water lily emblem was adopted shortly after independence in 1971. At its center lies a water lily, flanked by rice stalks on either side. Above the lily are four stars and three interlaced jute leaves. The water lily, Bangladesh's national flower, represents the many rivers flowing throughout the country. Rice, a staple food, symbolizes the nation's agriculture. The four stars represent the four founding principles of the Bangladesh Constitution: nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism.

Deniz Bulkur, Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Konya, who lived in Bangladesh for many years, has played a key role in passing the historical and cultural bonds of friendship between the two countries to future generations. Recognizing the symbolic significance of the white water lilies grown in Beyşehir as Bangladesh's national emblem, Bulkur initiated discussions that led to the establishment of the Bangladesh Water Lily Day event.

All these developments show that the sister city relationship between Konya and Sylhet is more than just a protocol; it has transformed into a living, growing friendship that spans education, art, nature, and cuisine. The Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Konya affirms its commitment to strengthening the friendship bridges between the two countries, passing this valuable legacy on to future generations, and enhancing cultural cooperation.



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Biryani


Paratha


Haleem

Bangladeshi dishes most similar to Turkish Cuisine

Familiar flavours from a distant land

(Prepared by the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Konya)


Shingara


Korma


Bhuna

Thanks to the country's fertile rivers and vast agricultural lands, fish and rice form the basis of daily nutrition.

At the same time, the cuisine offers a wide variety through its street foods, desserts, and different cooking techniques. Although Bangladeshi cuisine is known for its rich use of spices, it shares similarities with Turkish cuisine in terms of rice dishes, meat meals, pastries, and syrup-based desserts.

One of the most well-known dishes in Bangladesh is Biryani, prepared by cooking spiced rice together with meat. It resembles dishes such as meat pilaf or stuffed pilaf in Turkish cuisine.

Another notable dish is Korma. It is reminiscent of yogurt-based meat dishes in Turkish cuisine.

Tea culture is highly developed in Bangladesh, and snacks are commonly prepared for tea time. It resembles the popular Turkish snack "pişi".

Another dish combining rice and legumes is Bhuna Khichuri, made by cooking rice and lentils together with spices. In this sense, it resembles the Turkish dish mercimekli pilav (rice with lentils).

Fish plays a very important role in Bangladeshi cuisine. This fish dish, cooked with mustard sauce, resembles fish stew or sauced fish dishes in Turkish cuisine.

Bhuna is another dish in which meat is slowly cooked with spices for a long time. It is quite similar to Turkish dishes such as kavurma or sac tava.

Paratha is a layered flatbread cooked on a griddle. It resembles Turkish breads such as katmer, bazlama, or gözleme.


Hilsa Curry

Haleem is a thick dish made by slowly cooking wheat, lentils, and meat together. It is quite similar to the Turkish dish keşkek

Similarities can also be found in desserts. Rasgulla is a syrup-based sweet made from soft cheese balls served in syrup.

In conclusion, although Bangladeshi and Turkish cuisines developed in different geographical regions, they share many similarities in terms of ingredients and culinary traditions.

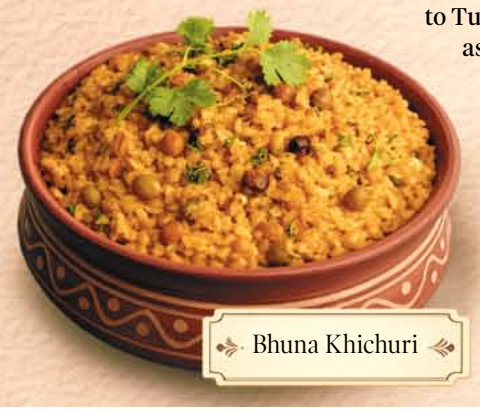
In Bangladesh, food is not only a part of daily nutrition but also an important element of cultural and social life.

Although Bangladeshi and Turkish cuisines developed in different parts of the world, they share many common points in terms of ingredients and culinary culture.

As the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Konya, our aim is to introduce the unique flavours of Bangladeshi cuisine, contribute to a better understanding of these tastes, and encourage people to try these different yet familiar dishes at their own tables.

One of the most beautiful ways to discover different cultures is to meet at the table.

Located in South Asia, Bangladesh has a rich and deeply rooted culinary culture. Largely influenced by the historical food traditions of the Bengal region, Bangladeshi cuisine stands out for its extensive use of rice, fish, vegetables, and spices


Bhuna Khichuri


Rasgulla

A MASTERPIECE IN THE FLOW OF TIME...



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WE INVITE YOU TO DISCOVER A REFINED EXPERIENCE
AND WELCOME YOU AS OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

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Konya Agriculture Fair 2026 Demonstrates

Strong Performance and Record Participation

The 22nd Konya Agriculture, Agricultural Mechanization and Field Technologies Fair, held between April 7–11, 2026, in Konya, Türkiye, once again proved its position among the leading agricultural fairs in both the country and the world



The event attracted more than 200,000 visitors over five days, bringing together farmers, industry professionals, investors, and international stakeholders under one roof. With participation from hundreds of domestic and international companies, the fair showcased a wide range of agricultural innovations, from advanced tractors and combine harvesters to modern planting and irrigation technologies.

Throughout the fair, participants had the opportunity to explore the latest developments in agricultural mechanization and sustainable farming solutions. The event also played a key role in strengthening business networks, as numerous new partnerships and commercial agreements were established. The strong turnout and high level of engagement highlighted the growing importance of Konya as a central hub for agricultural production and technology. Overall, the fair delivered a highly successful performance, reinforcing its reputation as a major meeting point for the global agricultural sector.

The Konya News

The Konya News Editor-in-Chief Kerem İşkan

Visits Interior Minister Çiftçi



Minister Çiftçi, who was appointed as the Minister of Interior by the Presidential Decree dated February 10, 2026 and numbered 2026/51, assumed office on February 11, 2026. Kerem İşkan, Editor-in-Chief of The Konya News, paid a courtesy visit to Interior Minister Çiftçi, who is also a fellow citizen. During the visit, Kerem İşkan wished Minister Çiftçi success in his new position and conveyed his congratulations.

During the meeting, which took place in a sincere atmosphere, views were exchanged on Konya and the country's agenda. Kerem İşkan stated that they believe Minister Çiftçi will achieve successful work in the important duty he has undertaken.

Savatra Brought First Place!

A Photographer from Konya Became World Champion

Tahir Ceylan, Member of the Board of Directors of the Turkish Photographic Arts Federation and President of the Anatolian Seljuk Photography Association, won the world first prize with his work "Star Exposure," which he photographed at the Savatra Ancient City in Konya, in the "Photo of the Year Competition 2026" organized by the UK-based Current World Archaeology



The universal language of photography combined with the thousands-year heritage of Anatolia and achieved an international success. In the "Photo of the Year Competition 2026" organized by "Current World Archaeology" (CWA), one of the most respected archaeology platforms in the world based in the United Kingdom, Tahir Ceylan, Member of the Board of Directors of the Turkish Photographic Arts Federation (TFSF) and President of the Anatolian Seljuk Photography Association (ASFOD), became the world champion.

The competition, held under the sponsorship of Hidden History Travel & Archaeology, hosted thousands of professional photographs submitted from around the world this year and described as "windows opening to the past." In the marathon where works presenting new and striking perspectives on ancient heritage sites were carefully examined, Tahir Ceylan's work titled "Star Exposure," photographed at the Savatra Ancient City in Konya, reached the first-place podium with the perfect harmony of aesthetics and technique, following the evaluation of famous archaeologist and jury member Adam Stanford.

The competition jury described Ceylan's work as "a masterpiece revealing the richness and depth of the ways we experience the past." The photograph, which combines the silent witness of the Savatra Ancient City located at the foothills of Bozdağ National Park in Konya's Karatay district with the endless movement of the sky, established a visual bridge extending from the ancient period to the modern age.

Savatra, which became the subject of the news and was crowned with the world first prize, is known as one of the most strategic centres of the ancient Lykaonia region. The city, which minted coins bearing the inscription "ΣΟΑΤΡΕΙΣ" in its own name in the 1st century BC and had the privilege of establishing a mint during the reign of the Roman Emperor Trajan, announced the autonomous spirit it possessed throughout history to the world this time through the lens of Tahir Ceylan.

KONYA IS GOING into SPACE

"CUBE SATELLITE" PROJECT

MAYOR ALTAY: "WE ARE DOING A WORK THAT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY TO BUILD ITS OWN SATELLITE"

The "Cube Satellite" project, which is the first of its kind in Türkiye, is being implemented through the cooperation of Konya Metropolitan Municipality and Necmettin Erbakan University. Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay said, "At a time when other cities are dealing with basic municipal services, as Konya Metropolitan Municipality we are talking about building a satellite, launching it, and using this technology. As the first municipality to build its own satellite, we are doing a work that will go down in history in Türkiye."

With the protocol signed between Konya Metropolitan Municipality and Necmettin Erbakan University (NEÜ), the Cube Satellite Project, which will be built with domestic and national resources, will be implemented.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay stated that they have made an important beginning in terms of the history of municipalism and said that they have taken the first steps in building a satellite together with Necmettin Erbakan University.

"HOPEFULLY THESE SIGNATURES WILL SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER CITIES AND UNIVERSITIES"

Emphasizing that at a time when other cities are dealing with basic municipal services, Konya Metropolitan Municipality is talking about building, launching, and using a satellite, Mayor Altay said, "Hopefully these signatures will set an example for other cities and universities. The students trained at our university will accomplish very important work in Türkiye's journey into space."



Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor
Uğur İbrahim Altay

THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY TO BUILD ITS OWN SATELLITE

Mayor Altay said, "As the first municipality to build its own satellite, we are doing a work that will go down in history in Türkiye. As Konya Metropolitan Municipality, we attach great importance to inter-institutional cooperation."

"WE ARE MAKING AN IMPORTANT START IN SMART CITY APPLICATIONS"

Mayor Altay reminded that Konya Metropolitan Municipality has always been an example in smart city applications in Türkiye, saying, "In the Smart City Index studies conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, our Metropolitan Municipality has ranked first in smart city applications for the last 4 years. Today, together with Necmettin Erbakan University, we are making an important start in smart city applications."

"OUR STUDENTS WILL BE TRAINED AS PART OF A REAL PROJECT"

Prof. Dr. Ömer Faruk Keser, Head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering at NEÜ Faculty of Aviation and Space Sciences, also emphasized the importance of the project for students, stating, "In this work, our students will be trained not through hypothetical studies or experimental work conducted in laboratories, but as part of a real project. It is planned to place our satellite into a polar orbit at low Earth altitude."



With the satellite project to be implemented within the scope of the protocol between Konya Metropolitan Municipality and NEÜ, it is aimed to use the data obtained from the cameras and sensors to be integrated into the satellite in municipal projects and services. In addition, with the project, which includes design, production, integration, and testing processes, it is aimed to establish an infrastructure and contribute directly and indirectly to educational activities in order to develop an R&D culture in this field.

By **Ertuğrul Yıldırım**

TURKOLOGY STUDENTS IN MAURITANIA WELCOMED ALTAY

UCLG and Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay met with students of the Department of Turkology at Nouakchott University in Mauritania, where he was present for the UCLG Africa General Assembly. Welcomed with great enthusiasm by the students, Mayor Altay stated that he was deeply impressed by what he saw and said, "Türkiye is a great and strong country. The Turkish language is also an important language worldwide. Your intention to learn it and to conduct academic studies in this field is truly valuable."

Providing students with information about Konya's deep-rooted civilizational past and cultural heritage, Mayor Altay expressed his great pleasure in being together with students in Mauritania who are interested in the Turkish language and culture.

Mayor Altay also added that students to be selected by the Embassy of Türkiye in Mauritania will be hosted in Konya with the support of the Metropolitan Municipality.

During the visit, a Mauritanian student named Yuma recited the Turkish National Anthem.





SISTER CITY PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF NOUAKCHOTT

As part of Mayor Altay's visit to Mauritania, a sister city protocol was also signed with the Municipality of Nouakchott.

Speaking before the signing ceremony, Mayor Altay emphasized that Mauritania is a very valuable country for Türkiye, stating, "This is a very important Islamic land. Konya is also an important Islamic city. Hopefully, this signature will be a very important step in strengthening brotherhood."

Following the speeches, Mayor Altay and President Malick signed the protocol that established Konya and Nouakchott as sister cities.





BICYCLE MUSEUM IN KONYA, THE 2026 EUROPEAN CYCLING CAPITAL

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay stated that he is pleased that Konya, which holds the title of 2026 European Cycling Capital, is associated with youth and sports and is a pioneer in this field.

The opening of the Velespit Museum, implemented by Konya Metropolitan Municipality as part of the 2026 European Cycling Capital Year, was held before the month of Ramadan.

"THIS IS NOT A COINCIDENCE; IT IS THE RESULT OF UNIQUE CONSISTENCY AND EFFORT"

Reminding that Konya is a city set as an example in the world with its bicycle lane network exceeding 680 kilometres, Mayor Altay said, "This network has transformed cycling beyond being a means of transportation into a city culture. With the exemplary projects we have implemented and major organizations such as the Islamic Solidarity Games, our Konya, which became the World Sports Capital in 2023, has now crowned this accumulation with the title of 'European Cycling Capital.' This is not a coincidence; it is the result of unique consistency and effort."

"THE FIRST FACILITY OF ITS KIND IN TURKEY"

Mayor Altay said, "The Velespit Museum is the first facility of its kind opened in Turkey. The name 'Velespit' also comes from what the people of Konya call a bicycle."

"KONYA IS NUMBER ONE IN THIS FIELD"

Gian Francesco Lupatelli, President of the Federation of European Capitals and Cities, who attended the program, reminded that the title of European Cycling Capital was held by Manchester last year and said, "This year it continues with Konya, and Konya is number one in this field."

"IN KONYA, CYCLING IS ADOPTED AS A WAY OF LIFE"

Konya Governor İbrahim Akın also stated that Konya is one of the leading cities in sports as in every field, saying, "In our Konya, cycling is adopted as a way of life beyond being a means of transportation. With its bicycle lane network exceeding 680 kilometres, our city, which has the longest bicycle infrastructure in Turkey, integrates the title of bicycle city with a sustainable urbanism approach."









Interview by
Kerem İŞKAN

The Konya News Editor-in-Chief Kerem İşkan hosted a very valuable guest who holds a special meaning for Konya on the Ramazan Geceleri program broadcast on Kanal 42. In fact, in this meeting, the question of who is the host and who is the guest takes on a different meaning. Because our guest is a distinguished individual whose roots extend to Konya, who moved to Medina with his family when he was only two years old and has spent most of his life there.

A Bond Shaped by Faith

One Heart,

Kerem İşkan: Welcome.

Mustafa Kanbaş: Thank you, Mr. Kerem, how are you?

Kerem İşkan: Thank you very much. You did not turn down our invitation, and despite your busy schedule, by coming to our studio you truly brought Medina here. An incense burner with its wonderful scent, Arabic coffee, Medina dates, and most importantly, you... Welcome again. First of all, let us begin by listening to your life story. You go to Medina at the age of two. Why did your father make such a migration decision?

Mustafa Kanbaş: First of all, I wish you a blessed Ramadan. My father was a hafiz and a madrasa student. In the early 1970s, both the political atmosphere of that period was becoming restrictive and, since he was a tradesman, he began to drift somewhat away from knowledge and the Qur'an. If he had continued in trade at that time, he would have become a very large industrialist today, but trade was taking up too much of his time. While my father was thinking, "Where should I go to renew my knowledge? To Baghdad, Damascus, or Egypt?", he went to Dişçi Mahmut Efendi. He said, "Hodja, I feel constrained. I am losing my memorization of the Qur'an, what should I do?" Mahmut Efendi made a bibliomancy from the Qur'an (opening a page at random), and the verses of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) appeared. He said "Mashallah" and added: "If you are to go abroad, you should go to Medina, but if you stay within Türkiye, do not leave Konya." Although Medina had never been in my father's mind, he made his decision upon this advice. At that time there was no residence permit; at the beginning of 1976, he boarded a bus with a passport and went to Medina. I had not even completed my second year at that time. My father was not actually planning to stay permanently; he would renew his knowledge and return. However, he saw the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) in his dream. The Prophet refused his request to meet and said, "Go and bring your children." Upon this, my father returned to Konya at the end of 1976 and took us there with the intention of performing umrah. When King Faisal was martyred and Khalid succeeded him, residence permits were issued. With a sponsorship system, we received our first residence permit in 1977. Thank God, we have been there ever since.

Kerem İşkan: What was life in Medina at that time?

Mustafa Kanbaş: Life was so simple and full of blessings... The surroundings of the Haram were all waqf properties; foundations belonging to Turks, Egyptians, Moroccans, Pakistanis... I started kindergarten at the age of five, then primary school. My father started me on memorization of the Qur'an at the age of six. When enrolling in primary school, they initially did not want to accept me because I was Turkish. Our teacher was Muhammad Sıddık al-Meymeni; his mother was from Bursa, and he himself was Arab. He did not have a single stutter in the Qur'an. My father said, "This child has memorized two juz," and put me forward. When I recited fluently, the teacher admired it, took money out of his pocket and gave it to me, and I was accepted into the school that way.



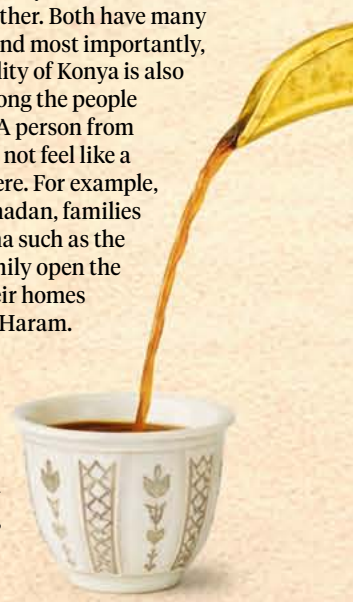
As you grow up there, you adopt the customs of Medina. Most people think I am Arab, not Turkish. There was a level of trust that you cannot see today. A jewellery shop would not be closed when the call to prayer was recited. They would stretch a cover made by joining two pieces of cloth in front of the shop, place a stone on it so it would not fly away, and go to prayer. People refrained from stealing out of respect for the city of the Prophet and the House of God; no one would even take money lying on the ground.

Kerem İşkan: I believe you also passed by a very valuable figure, Ali Ulvi Kurucu, during your primary school years.

Mustafa Kanbaş: Yes, my school was right next to the Haram. On my way to school, I would pass by the Arif Hikmet Library. The director of the library was Ali Ulvi Kurucu. Very important figures would come to his gatherings. If someone showed even the slightest lack of manners, or spoke disrespectfully about the Prophet, he would not tolerate it and would set them straight. Every morning, I would pass in front of him, go inside, kiss his hand, and take a piece of candy. At that age, going to school after kissing his hand was more valuable to me than worldly possessions.

Kerem İşkan: We said at the beginning of the program, "Konya is very similar to Medina." You have spent your life among the locals there. What does it mean to be a native of Medina?

Mustafa Kanbaş: Those who are born and raised within the boundaries of Medina are called the people of Medina. The two cities are truly similar. Both are like flat plains; you can see from one end to the other. Both have many mosques. And most importantly, the hospitality of Konya is also present among the people of Medina. A person from Konya does not feel like a stranger there. For example, during Ramadan, families from Medina such as the Dakkak family open the doors of their homes around the Haram. After iftar, whoever is hungry—Turkish, Afghan, Pakistani—enters, eats, drinks tea, greets, and leaves.



> **"No one asks, "Who are you?"**



The Konya News

Between Konya and Medina

Two Cities

Kerem İşkan: So, which Konya dish do you miss the most in Medina? Etliekmek?

Mustafa Kanbaş: Of course, etliekmek. But a culture from here has also gone there. One of the dishes of Medina cuisine is what we call stuffed grape leaves, "dolma." Su böreği is definitely present. Even höşmerim exists, but it is prepared with Medina-style spices. Arabs also have 20 types of rice; Mandi, Madbi, Bukhari, with chickpeas... But I always tell friends: saying "I cannot find food here" would upset the Prophet. One must adapt to the culture there and be grateful for the blessings. Whoever comes to Medina is the guest of the Prophet and should be served with a smiling face. The reward and the sin there are multiplied tenfold.



Kerem İşkan: How do you perform your worship? Do you pray in the Haram?

Mustafa Kanbaş: I try to perform the evening and night prayers in the Haram. In the past, during crowded periods, the people of Medina would not go to the Haram. In order to make space for visiting pilgrims and not disturb them, they would perform their prayers in neighbourhood mosques or at home. The same applies to the people of Mecca; for example, on the Day of Arafah when pilgrims are at Arafat, it is like a holiday for the people of Mecca—they go and worship comfortably at the Kaaba.

Kerem İşkan: We have a mutual acquaintance in Medina, "Fırtına İsmail." He even has photos with our President...

Mustafa Kanbaş: Our elder İsmail Özcan. He devoted himself to worship and left trade. No one even knows his name is İsmail. He moves so fast that they call him "Fırtına" (Storm). Even his shoes are special—they must be slippery so he can move quickly. We leave the shop together; by the time I reach the Haram walking, he has already distributed all the pastries and returned. He also speaks very comfortably and sincerely with our President. He speaks the truth without hesitation.

Kerem İşkan: I also want to ask about this Arabic coffee you brought. There seems to be a special ritual in how you pour it from the dallah into the cup.

Mustafa Kanbaş: Yes, you hold the pot (dallah) in your left hand and the cup in your right. There must be a special dripping sound while pouring. Only a small amount is poured into the cup; filling it completely is considered impolite. It contains coffee beans and cardamom, and it boils for about 45 minutes. It is drunk before meals, not after, to prepare the stomach. If you do not want more, you gently shake the cup, which means "thank you, I do not want more."

This coffee holds great importance in Arab culture. When you go to ask for a girl's hand or to make a request, the host offers coffee. If you have a request, you do not drink the coffee but place it on the table. The host asks, "Why are you not drinking?" You state your request; if it is accepted, you drink it with pleasure. If your request will not be fulfilled, the coffee is not drunk. It places a heavy responsibility on the other party.

Kerem İşkan: Visits to Medina have reached record levels in recent years, and visas have become easier. Transportation has also changed...

Mustafa Kanbaş: In the past, visas were very difficult and would take months. Now you can get a visa within 24 hours. Türkiye is very strong in the region, and the Saudi people love Türkiye. In the past, traveling by road was very common. I got a city driving license at 15, and when I turned 18, I would travel the 2,200-kilometer Medina–Konya route via Jordan and Syria in 1.5 days with my own car. Now, with the improvement of security on the Syria route, road travel has become active again.





Kerem İşkan: You have been in Medina for many years, working as a sworn translator. You host state officials and even our President. We know you do all these services with love and without charge. Finally, what would you recommend to visitors coming to Medina?

Mustafa Kanbaş: Medina has many names; Taba (beauty), Darüsselam, Ardullah (the land of God), and Lemmame (the one that gathers and reunites)... You may not see your relatives in Europe, but Medina brings you together with someone you have not seen for 10 years.

My advice is this: when we come to Medina, to the presence of our Prophet (peace be upon him), we should wear our best clothes. One should not come in slippers or careless attire. Just as we prepare ourselves when visiting a state leader, we should also wear our finest fragrances and cleanest clothes when visiting the Prophet. We should not show less care to Medina than we do when going to Europe with branded clothing.

Kerem İşkan: Scholars from Konya used to frequently travel to Medina as well, right?

Mustafa Kanbaş: Of course... Tahir Büyükkörükçü Hodja would spend six months of the year in Medina and six months in Konya. When he came, we would carry containers of sweet zamzam water to his house every morning. One day I did not go to the morning prayer; I parked the car and slept, but they thought I had come from the mosque. When I brought the zamzam home, Tahir Hodja did not offer me candy from the bowl at the door as usual. He said nothing, just held my ear and said, "Do not abandon prayer!" It was impossible for him to see that I had not gone to the mosque, but he had sensed it. May God have mercy on him.

Kerem İşkan: Thank you very much for this wonderful conversation. Those who enjoyed Mr. Mustafa's talk can visit Diyar-ı Hurma in the Textile Market. They are there not for trade, but to host guests. If time permits, we would like to host you again.

Mustafa Kanbaş: Inshallah, thank you.

> "The migrations from Konya to Medina in the past hold an important place in the city's memory. Among these migration stories frequently told by our elders are important figures such as Ali Ulvi Kurucu. Even today, the expression "Konya is very similar to Medina, and Medina is very similar to Konya" is often mentioned. So how true is this similarity? What kind of connection exists between Konya and Medina?

2,157 TONS OF WASTE RECYCLED in Karatay

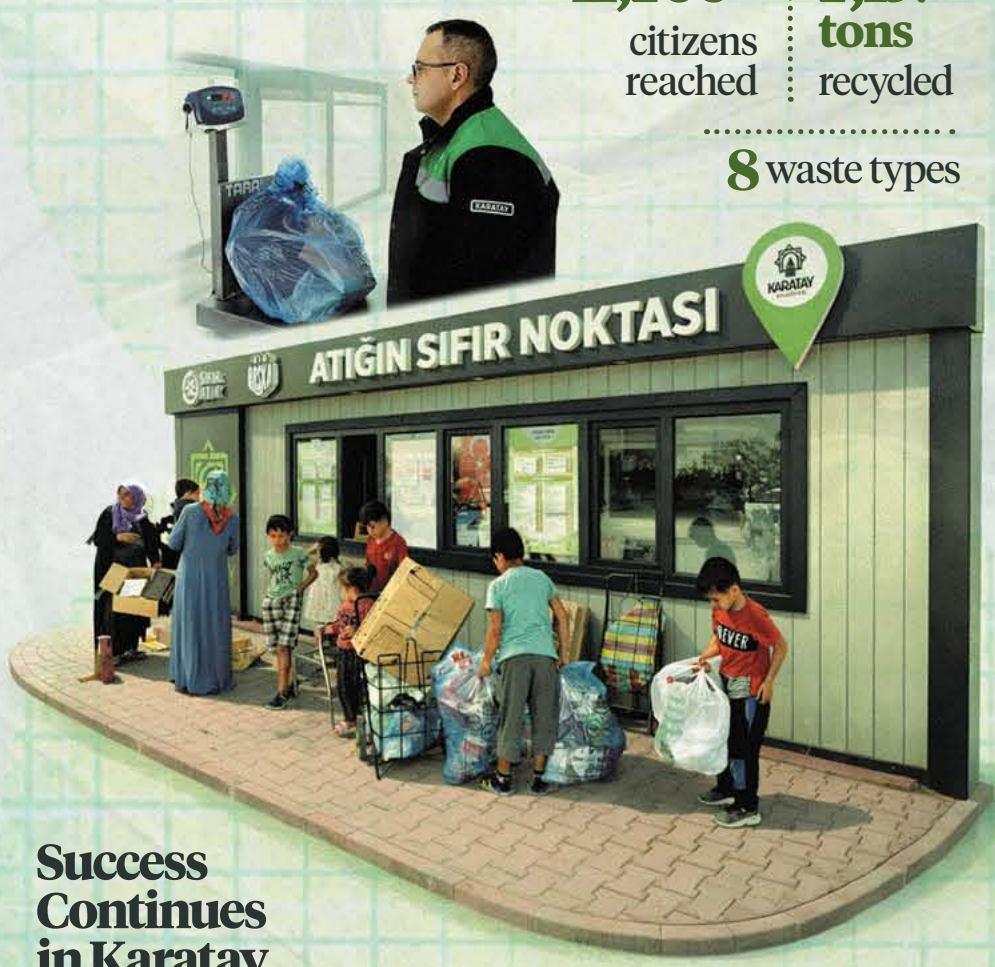
Success Continues in Karatay Municipality's ZERO WASTE PROJECT

4 collection points

11,200+ citizens reached

2,157 tons recycled

8 waste types



Within the scope of Karatay Municipality's "Zero Point of Waste" project, 2,157 tons of waste have been recycled since 2022, while the project has reached more than 11,200 citizens, making a significant contribution to both the environment and the economy

The project, implemented by Karatay Municipality to spread zero waste awareness, bring recyclable waste into the economy, and protect the environment, continues successfully. Within the scope of the works carried out throughout the district, thousands of citizens are included in the project and contribute to recycling processes.

POINTS ARE EARNED WITH 8 DIFFERENT TYPES OF WASTE

Within the scope of the project, citizens earn points by delivering 8 different types of waste—glass, paper-cardboard, waste batteries, electronic waste, plastic, vegetable waste oil, mixed waste, and metal—to the centres and can redeem their accumulated points from the reward pool.

THE PROJECT PROVIDES SERVICE AT 4 POINTS

The application, which was launched at two points in 2022, has been expanded in line with increasing interest and has been providing service at four points as of 2024: Traffic Park, Aslanlı Barracks, Fetih Street, and Sedirler Street. While an average of 70-80 tons of waste is collected monthly at four points, registration and delivery processes are carried out in a coordinated manner.

SIGNIFICANT GAINS SINCE JUNE 5, 2022

According to the results obtained within the scope of the "Zero Point of Waste" project since June 5, 2022, a total of 2,157 tons of waste has been recycled. In this way, the cutting of 23,839 trees has been prevented, and the recycling process has provided an economic added value of over 10 million TL to the municipality.

In addition, savings of 1,532,000 litres of oil, approximately 8 million kWh of energy, and 29,656 cubic meters of water have been achieved; 278,476 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions and more than 25 million cubic meters of water pollution have been prevented.

KILCA: "OUR CITIZENS SHOW GREAT INTEREST"

Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca emphasized that spreading zero waste awareness is of great importance for the environment and future generations and stated that the people of Karatay have shown strong support for the project.

Mayor Kılca said; "We continue our work with determination and give great importance to zero waste efforts with the aim of protecting our natural resources and leave a more livable environment for future generations. The interest shown by our citizens in the project pleases us. While spreading recycling awareness with the 'Zero Point of Waste', we also bring waste into the economy. The results reveal that our efforts have found a strong response in the field. By increasing our environmentally friendly practices, we will continue to produce for a sustainable future."





Green Area Investments in Karatay Continue Unabated















AFFORESTATION WORKS CONTINUE IN A PLANNED MANNER

A new 12,500 m² area was afforested in Fevziçakmak Neighbourhood. A large number of trees were also planted in Çimenlik, Akabe, and Şeyh Ulema neighbourhoods. Within the scope of 2026 planning, a new afforestation area of 15,000 m² in Fevziçakmak Neighbourhood and 55,000 m² in the Animal Shelter area will be created. In addition, it is aimed to plant 200 plane trees and 8,000 roses in Karaaslan Neighbourhood.

GREEN AREAS ATTRACT GREAT INTEREST

Lavender gardens, rose park, and picnic areas, which are among the attraction centres of the district, hosted a total of 837,000 visitors in 2025. Both citizens of Karatay and guests coming from outside the city enjoyed spending time in nature in these areas.

RECORD INVESTMENTS IN PARKS AND AFFORESTATION

The number of parks has reached 384, afforestation areas 90, and green space per capita has reached 16 m².Karatay Municipality continues to improve the quality of life in the district by maintaining its environmental and green area investments in a planned and sustainable manner. Thanks to park, recreation, and afforestation projects in the district, citizens meet in social areas intertwined with nature.

With Çimenlik Neighbourhood Park (15,783 m²), Kalenderhane Park (1,900 m²), Keçeciler Neighbourhood İyigönül Park (1,267 m²), and Karaaslan Neighbourhood İyneldede Park (1,120 m²), which were completed in 2025, modern social living areas have been brought to the neighbourhoods. Parks have been made more functional with comprehensive renovation works carried out in children's playgrounds, fitness areas, and running tracks.

A NEW PERIOD HAS STARTED IN HOBBY GARDENS

10,510 applications were made for the 2025–2029 period for Karatay Municipality's hobby gardens application. With the lottery held in the presence of a notary, the new beneficiaries of the parcels in Saraçoğlu and Karaaslan hobby gardens were determined.







a living heritage

Discover Sille's Three Museums





FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HERITAGE: SILLE MUSEUMS ATTRACT A FLOOD OF VISITORS

Aya Elenia, Time and Sille Museums located in the historic Sille Neighbourhood, which have been revived through restorations carried out by the Selçuklu Municipality, contribute significantly to Konya tourism with their intense visitor traffic.

Sille, one of the oldest settlements in Konya and home to many civilizations throughout history, attracts the attention of thousands of local and foreign tourists every year. In this context, Aya Elenia, Time and Sille Museums stand out among the prominent visiting points for history and culture enthusiasts who want to closely observe the traces of the past.

"SILLE MUSEUM" SHEDS LIGHT ON THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PAST OF KONYA AND SILLE

Sille Museum, brought to the Historic Sille Neighbourhood by the Selçuklu Municipality, takes its visitors on a journey through the historical and cultural past of Sille. The museum, which keeps the historical texture of Sille alive, reveals the historical and cultural values, handicrafts and folkloric structure of Sille. Located at the entrance of Sille and drawing attention with its stone architecture unique to Sille, this original structure has an area of 750 square meters and consists of two floors. On the upper floor of the museum, there are pottery and carpets of Sille dating from the 18th to 20th centuries, as well as clothing, kitchen and bath culture artifacts.

TURKEY'S FIRST AND ONLY "TIME MUSEUM" IN SELÇUKLU

Turkey's first Time Museum takes its visitors on a journey through time with many artifacts related to the concept of time. Established in the Sille Chapel and whose restoration was completed in 2012 by the Selçuklu Municipality within the scope of loyalty to history, with the aim of developing tourism and protecting historical and cultural heritage, the museum exhibits hundreds of years-old time-measuring instruments from the Ottoman and Republican periods. Among the remarkable artifacts of the museum are specially designed clocks from the Ottoman and Republican periods, calendars arranged by muvakkits and prepared for general use, pocket and desk calendars, and handwritten and printed calendars used in official institutions. The museum contains a 170-year-old clock and a 200-year-old calendar.

THE OLDEST STANDING CHURCH IN THE WORLD; AYA ELENIA

Aya Eleni Museum is known as the oldest standing church in the world. Visitors to this place of worship, which was built in 327 by Helena, the mother of Byzantine Emperor Constantine, and now functions as a museum, have the opportunity to witness history.

The church, which has withstood the years and survived to the present day, was built with properly cut Sille stone. Above the inner door of the historical structure, there is a repair inscription written in Karamanlidika with Greek letters, providing information about the structure. Inside the church, which has a main dome supported by four piers and consists of three naves, there is a wooden pulpit decorated with plaster and a wooden plastered iconostasis separating the apse from the main space.

Aya Elenia, Time and Sille Museums can be visited six days a week, except Mondays, between 09:00 and 18:00.





The Konya News

Larger than 50 CITIES

A metropolitan-scale district at the heart of Konya

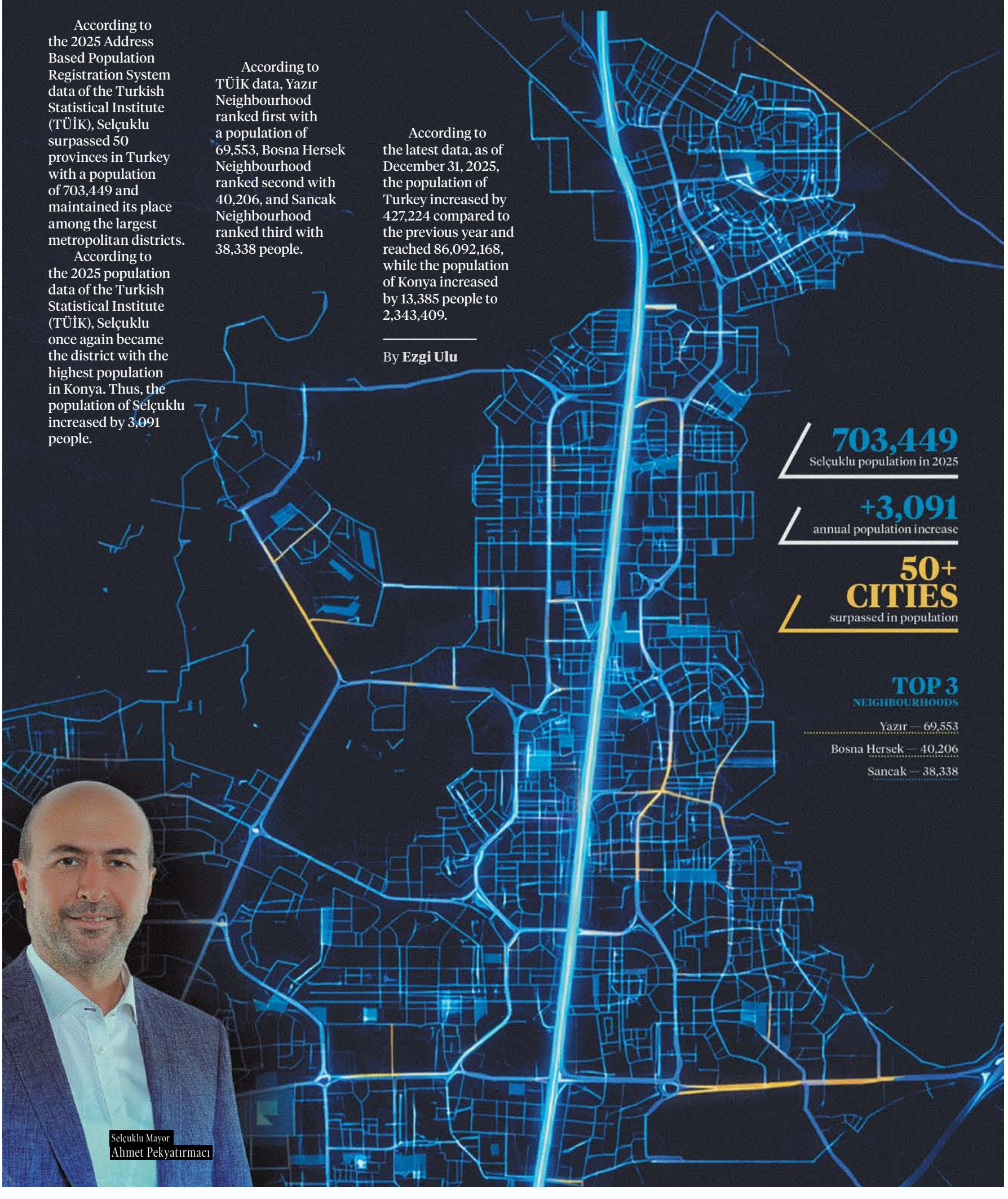
According to the 2025 Address Based Population Registration System data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), Selçuklu surpassed 50 provinces in Turkey with a population of 703,449 and maintained its place among the largest metropolitan districts.

According to the 2025 population data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), Selçuklu once again became the district with the highest population in Konya. Thus, the population of Selçuklu increased by 3,091 people.

According to TÜİK data, Yazır Neighbourhood ranked first with a population of 69,553, Bosna Hersek Neighbourhood ranked second with 40,206, and Sancak Neighbourhood ranked third with 38,338 people.

According to the latest data, as of December 31, 2025, the population of Turkey increased by 427,224 compared to the previous year and reached 86,092,168, while the population of Konya increased by 13,385 people to 2,343,409.

By **Ezgi Ulu**



Selçuklu Mayor
Ahmet Pekyatırmacı

MERAM'S LARGE-BUDGET TRANSFORMATION PROJECT; Suriçi Bazaar

The stages of the Sahibata Neighbourhood Suriçi Urban Transformation Project, the new attraction centre in the heart of the city covering a total area of 163 thousand square meters, are being completed one by one and put into service



The "First, Second and Registered Block" stages of the project, which consists of 6 separate stages, have been completed. In the Suriçi Bazaar Project, which will be one of the most beautiful, most precious, most prestigious and attractive places of the city, modern living spaces and green areas have been brought to the region on one hand, while on the other hand the ancestral heritage structures have been brought to light again.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS IN KONYA'S HISTORY



With a cost exceeding 5.5 billion TL, Suriçi Bazaar, which is one of the largest projects in the history of Meram and one of the most important projects in Konya to date, has also become an example for Türkiye in terms of both its cost and scope and the reduction of construction density.

On the other hand, serious archaeological excavations were also carried out in the region within the framework of the project. Suriçi, where meticulous work has also been carried out to protect these treasures, is a major and important transformation area not only for Konya but for the whole of Türkiye.

SURİÇİ; A MODERN SILHOUETTE, A LIVING HISTORY

Suriçi Bazaar now serves the city as a new centre of trade, tourism and life. The area, which has gained the appearance of an open-air museum with its historical bath, tile furnaces, Roman road and structures, has begun to become an attraction centre for domestic and foreign visitors. On the other hand, Suriçi, which bears the traces of all civilizations from Rome to Byzantium and from the Seljuks to the Ottomans, has once again become the heart of Konya with the works carried out. With all these features, Suriçi has become the symbol of a city vision that protects its past and looks to the future with confidence.

THE ELEGANCE OF THE PAST MET THE VISION OF THE FUTURE AT SIRÇALI HOTEL

The historical registered buildings previously located in this area have been revived with the works of Meram Municipality. These buildings now serve the city and the tourism of the city as the 'Sırçalı Hotel'. Serving with 21 rooms and a bed capacity of 50 people, the hotel takes its name from the Sırçalı Madrasa, which carries the elegance of Seljuk tile art. In every stone, the hotel reflects to its guests the elegance of the "sır çalma" art with aesthetic touches. The Courtyard Café located here also makes an important contribution to the social life of the city.

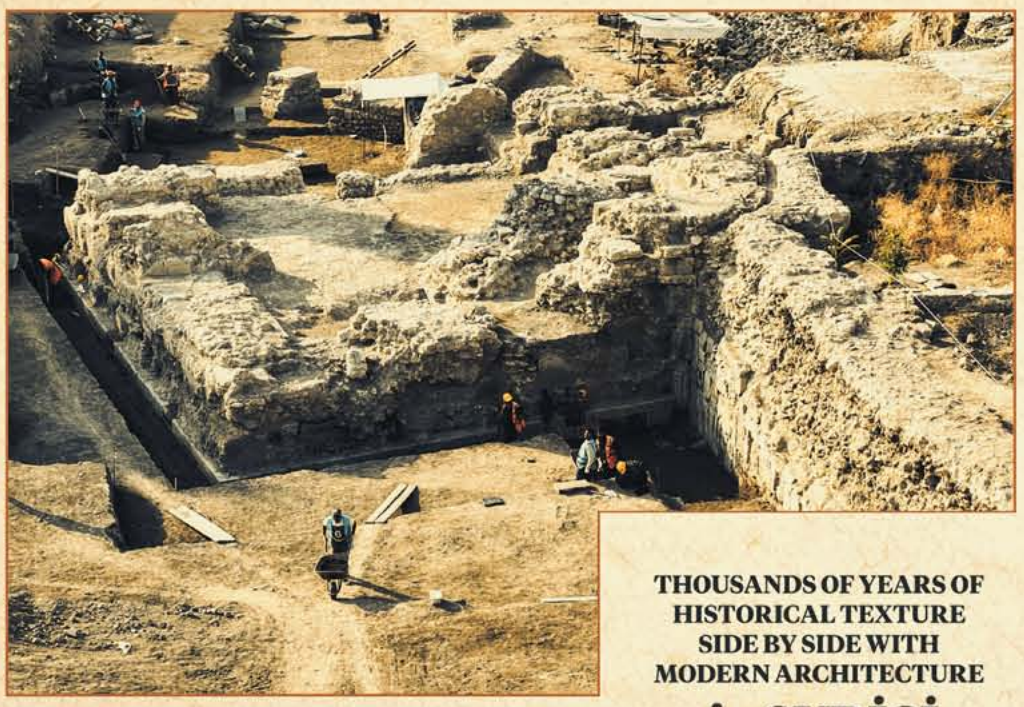


The Konya News





MODERN SILHOUETTE, LIVING HISTORY



THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORICAL TEXTURE SIDE BY SIDE WITH MODERN ARCHITECTURE *in SURİÇİ*

In addition to workplaces, offices and shops, many historical and social areas have also been brought to the city in Suriçi.

One of the most striking points of these is the geodesic glass dome similar to the Louvre Museum in Paris. The dome protects the largest bath ruin of the Seljuk period located beneath it and hosts both history and modern architecture. The Seljuk Period Ceramic Furnace and its workshop, which is of great importance for Konya, the capital during the Anatolian Seljuk Period, and which is a first, was also uncovered here. It has been understood that the kitchen vessels used in the Seljuk Palace were produced in this ceramic workshop in the historical furnace.

WITH EVERY STRIKE OF THE PICKAXE, A NEW WORK WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY

During the works, a church ruin belonging to the Byzantine period and many other structures were also identified. A ceramic furnace from the Seljuk period, a clay pool, a glaze furnace, a glaze cracking basin, and church ruins belonging to the Seljuk and Ottoman periods were encountered. Again, on a different block, church structure ruins, restored bath and commercial building ruins uncovered during previous excavations, and Seljuk period tiled wall remains were found. At the same time, the remains of the Ancient City of Iconium and floor mosaics, for the first time in Konya, were revealed in this excavation.





AN AREA SURROUNDED BY HISTORY ON ALL SIDES

Considering the Sahip Ata Complex, Mosque and Bath – Alaaddin Hill and Mosque – İhtiyarettin Mosque – Nasuhbey Dar'ül Huffaz Mosque – Sırçalı Madrasa – Bedesten, which are already located in and around the Suriçi region, the heart of the city, the region is an important attraction centre in terms of history, culture and tourism.



KONYA'S HISTORIC AND SCENIC ROUTES

Konya, both in its city centre and districts, is home to countless historical treasures and undiscovered beauties.

Having served as the capital of the Anatolian Seljuks and carrying the identity of Darü'lMülk, Konya is deeply associated with peace and tranquility through figures such as Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, Sadreddin Konevi, and Shams of Tabriz.

For history enthusiasts, Konya offers globally significant destinations such as Çatalhöyük Neolithic Site, one of the oldest settlements in human history with a past dating back ten thousand years.

For travellers and nature lovers, Konya presents unique routes to explore natural and cultural wonders such as Salt Lake, Beyşehir Lake, Akşehir, Taşkent, Ermenek, Zeyve, the world-famous "Evil Eye" Meke Crater Lake, and Tınaztepe Cave.

In addition, Konya hosts several remarkable trekking routes for nature enthusiasts, including the 405-kilometer Keykubad Migration and Caravan Route, the 102-kilometer Zengibar Historical Walking Route, and the approximately 800-kilometer Sufi Trail, which stretches from Istanbul to Konya and is considered one of the longest marked walking routes in the world.

KEYKUBAD MIGRATION AND CARAVAN ROUTE & ZENGIBAR WALKING ROUTE

With the warming weather, for those who wish to explore breathtaking historical and natural landscapes, we would like to introduce two of the most remarkable routes: the Keykubad Migration and Caravan Route and the Zengibar Walking Route

KEYKUBAD MIGRATION AND CARAVAN ROUTE

Consisting of multiple stages and rich in historical and natural beauty, the Keykubad Migration and Caravan Route was opened to tourism by Konya Metropolitan Municipality in 2025.

Developed in cooperation with the Governorships of Konya and Antalya, this route brings together thousands of years of Anatolian history, culture, and nature.

Along the way, restored caravanserais, stone-paved roads, and ancient cities guide hikers and cyclists through breathtaking landscapes—from the massive cliffs of Mavi Boğaz Canyon to the vibrant Aygırdibi Waterfall, from the clear waters of Alara River to the mysterious ruins of the ancient city of Colybrassus.

ZENGIBAR WALKING ROUTE

The Zengibar Route, which has been visited and documented by travellers throughout history, offers unique experiences for nature lovers and hiking enthusiasts.

This 102-kilometer historical route, covering the districts of Hadim, Taşkent, and Bozkır, was developed by Konya Metropolitan Municipality to enhance tourism diversity and bring the city's cultural and natural richness into tourism.

Named after Zengibar Castle, dating back to the Roman period, the route includes valleys, canyons, dams, ancient roads, plateaus, passes, ancient cities, cisterns, historical bridges, forests, caves, endemic plants, and vineyards.

ISAURIA ROUTE

The Isauria Route and the Zengibar Route largely overlap and complement each other as ancient pathways.

JOINING THE ROUTES

Those who wish to explore these unique routes can participate not only in municipal tours but also in various volunteer hiking groups that organize trips on different days and routes.

Joining these groups does not require strict conditions—being healthy, loving nature, and enjoying walking are sufficient.

By **Mustafa Akgöl**









































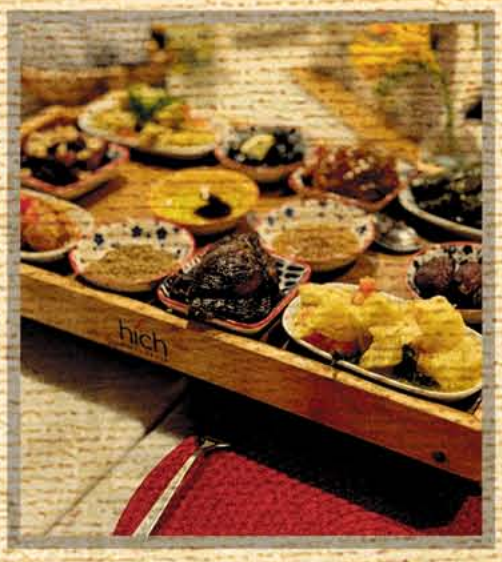
9 BRANDS, 24 FACILITIES
A DISTINCTIVE SERVICE APPROACH, HERE.

We produce for Meram, adding value to Meram.
With our service approach extending from taste to comfort, from cultural heritage to every moment of life, we bring together sustainable quality; delivering exceptional experiences to thousands of guests.

PELİTAŞ
İNŞAAT HİZMET TAAHHÜT TUR. ORG. TANITIM SAN. VE TİC. A.Ş.











Hich Hotel impresses with its cuisine

By **Sıla İşkan**

Managed by General Manager Gizem Kurt, the hotel clearly reflects a feminine touch in every detail—from its warm atmosphere to its carefully curated design. The aesthetic of the venue is both charming and sophisticated, creating a memorable setting for visitors.

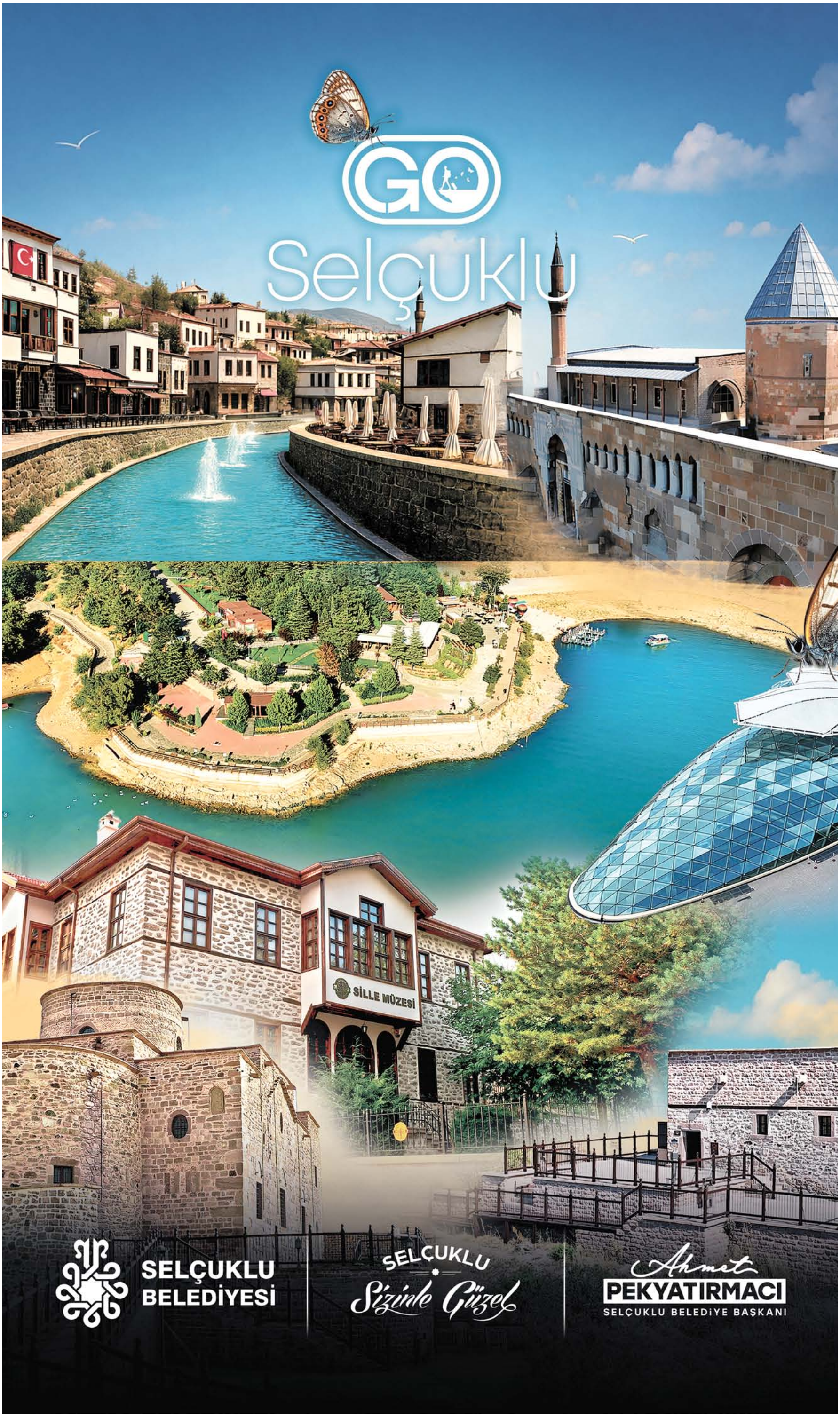
One of the most striking aspects of Hich Hotel is its rich and diverse cuisine. The kitchen presents a wide selection of dishes, bringing together traditional flavours and contemporary interpretations. Guests can enjoy this culinary experience through the hotel's restaurant and café concepts, both of which provide a welcoming and stylish environment.



General Manager of Hich Hotel **Gizem Kurt**

Located in the heart of Konya, within walking distance of the Mevlana Museum, Hich Hotel offers a unique experience that blends tradition, elegance, and refined hospitality

Hich Hotel has also gained international recognition, holding the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award for 12 consecutive years (2014-2025), a testament to its consistent quality and guest satisfaction. With its central location, impressive design, and outstanding cuisine, Hich Hotel is a must-visit destination for anyone traveling to Konya.


GO
Selçuklu
SİLLE MÜZESİ
SELÇUKLU BELEDİYESİ
SELÇUKLU
Sizinle Güzel
Ahmet
PEKYATIRMACI
SELÇUKLU BELEDİYE BAŞKANI

SELÇUKLU CONGRESS CENTER

MARCH – APRIL
2026 EVENTS



March 7
21:00
Sami Savni Özer
CONCERT



March 11
21:00
Le Trio Joubran
WORLD MUSIC CONCERT



March 13
21:00
"Two-Person Play"
THEATRE



March 25
21:00
Funda Arar & Kubat
CONCERT



March 29
19:00
"Burda Olan Burda Kalır"
TALK SHOW THEATRE



March 31
14:00
B-Prescription Training Meeting
(PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE)



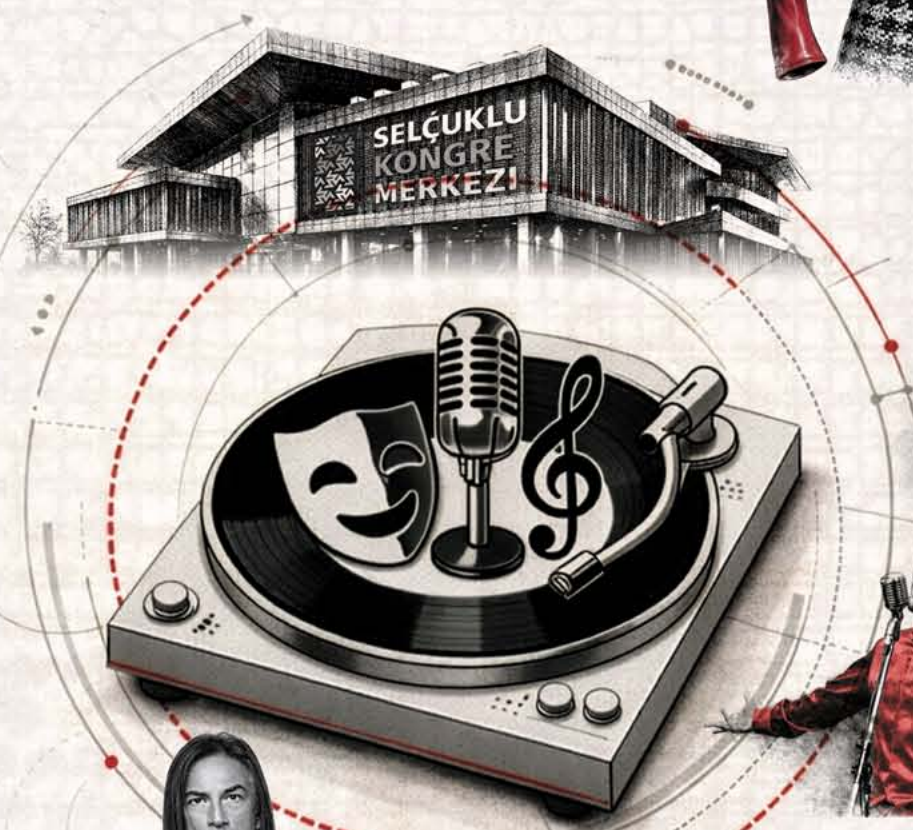
April 1
20:00
Yeni Türkü
CONCERT



April 3
20:00
Muazzez Ersoy
CONCERT

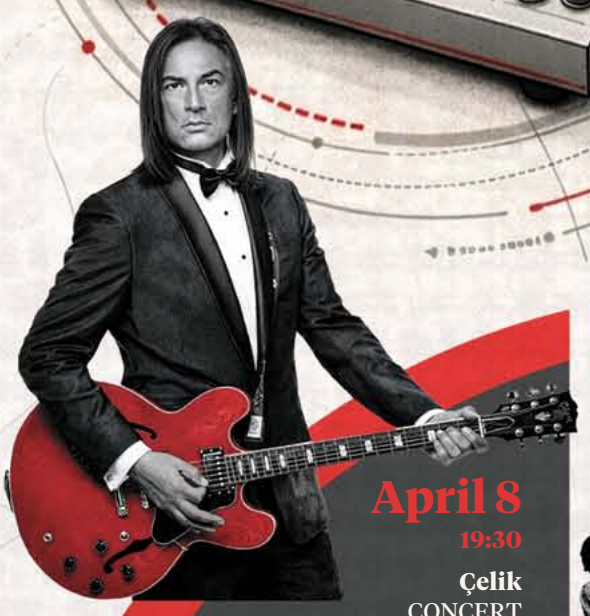
April 4
20:00
Fazıl Say
PIANO CONCERT





April 5
20:00
Cem Adrian
CONCERT



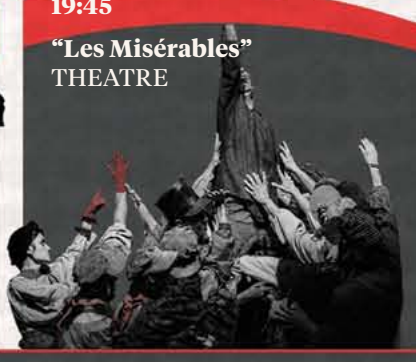


April 7
20:30
Demet Akalın
CONCERT



April 8
19:30
Çelik
CONCERT

April 12
19:45
"Les Misérables"
THEATRE



April 12
20:30
Teoman
CONCERT



April 17
21:00
Zara
CONCERT

April 29
20:00
Erol Evgin
CONCERT



April 18
20:30
Sıla
CONCERT





April 15
21:00
Aşkın Nur Yengi
CONCERT

April 30 20:00
Erdal Erzincan & Ender Balkır
CONCERT



KARATAY MEVLANA ROSE PARK

Capture the Harmony of Colors in Karatay

With tens of thousands of rose saplings and hundreds of varieties, this fragrant, vibrant location is a natural studio for unforgettable photos and beautiful memories.

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KARATAY BELEDİYESİ

Hasan KILCA KARATAY BELEDİYE BAŞKANI

The Konya News

Champions KONYA BBSK

KONYA BBSK 1987

Congratulations to our players and coaches.

Bravo Team!

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Sports Club has become champions in the İsmail ÖRGE U16 Men's League

