

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PM Davutoğlu visits London- TRT English	1
Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu visits Qatar- TRT English	1
Davutoğlu holds talks with Cameron- TRT English.....	2
Turkey to fight terrorism, racism with UK: Davutoglu- Yeni Şafak.....	2
THY - world's 5th best airline- TRT English.....	3
Davutoğlu's Davos contacts- TRT English	3
Suicide attack targets Turkish delegation in Somalia – TRT English	3
Davutoğlu: Turkey has no claims to sovereignty over any country-TRT English	4
Rise of anti-Semitism related to racism: Turkey's UN envoy- Yeni Şafak	4
Turkey declares day of mourning for Saudi king- Anadolu Agency	5
Turkish EU Min.: UN structure does not reflect reality- Anadolu Agency	5
UK foreign minister appreciates Turkey's role in preventing flow of foreign fighters- Daily Sabah	5
Turkey to see drop in inflation in 2015: Deputy PM –Anadolu Agency	6
Erdoğan resumes African tour, heads to Somalia, Djibouti- Daily Sabah	7
PM says no one arrested for journalistic activities in Turkey- Daily Sabah.....	8
Moving on with the African expansion- Yasin Aktay, Yeni Şafak.....	9
Turkey's role in Somalia: A model of solidarity in tough times- Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Daily Sabah	11

Taking the EU seriously- Etyen Mahçupyan, Daily Sabah..... 13

Turkey in Africa- İbrahim Kalın, Daily Sabah..... 14

Sovereignty belongs to the nation unconditionally- Markar Esayan, Yeni Şafak 16 |

Switzerland, India and Turkey: Interest rates and a new economic model- Cemil Ertem, Turkey Agenda..... 17

PM Davutoğlu visits London- TRT English 20 January 2015

Davutoğlu attended a signing ceremony of a cooperation agreement between İstanbul and London Stock Exchange. Davutoğlu addressed a forum titled “İstanbul: Regional Center, Global Actor” organized by İstanbul Stock Exchange and Turkish Exporters Union in cooperation with İstanbul Financial Center Initiative. In his speech, Davutoğlu stressed that İstanbul's historical economic power and London's modern structure will contribute to economies of the two countries and strengthen European and global economies.

On an economic transformation action plan put into practice by the government, Davutoğlu said that the economic structure in Turkey has changed and use of technology will be increased in the new structure. Stating that Turkey has attained a 3% growth, Davutoğlu pointed out that this growth will further increase.

Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu visits Qatar- TRT English

20 January 2015

Cooperation in fight against global terrorism is on the agenda. Besides terrorism, Çavuşoğlu's dossier includes the stage reached in the region after the Arab Spring. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu was first received by Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani this morning. Regional developments as well as bilateral relations were taken up at talks.

It was stated at talks that Turkey-Qatar High Level Strategic Committee will convene in Turkey or Qatar this year and steps should be taken to improve economic relations between the two countries.

As 2015 has been declared Turkey- Qatar Year of Culture, it was stated that cultural activities to be organized within this scope will contribute to bilateral relations.

Fight against ISIL, the latest situation in Syria and Iraq and the process that started with Paris attacks are expected to be taken up during Çavuşoğlu's Qatar contacts.

Davutoğlu holds talks with Cameron- TRT English 21 January 2015

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu met with British Prime Minister David Cameron in London. Davutoğlu stressed at talks that were first open to press coverage that deep rooted relations between the two countries will also continue regarding counter terrorism. Cameron for his part said that they agree with Turkey on many global matters, Russia-Ukraine crisis in particular.

At talks held behind closed doors, Davutoğlu and Cameron took up issues like rising Islamophobia and xenophobia in

Europe. Davutoğlu then met with representatives of Goldman Sachs investment funds and called on these institutions that have a \$ 7 trillion volume to make investments in Turkey. Davutoğlu lastly met with representatives of Turkish community in London.

Turkey to fight terrorism, racism with UK: Davutoglu- Yeni Şafak 21 January 2015

Turkey and Britain will stand shoulder-to-shoulder against challenges such as terrorism and racism, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Tuesday.

"The future of our continent now faces challenges like terrorism, racism and other type of challenges," Davutoglu told the press before attending a private meeting with his British counterpart David Cameron at 10 Downing Street, the British Prime Ministerial Office.

"No matter where the crisis exists, whether it is in the Middle East, Syria, Iraq or Ukraine or any other part of the world, more and harder efforts are needed," he added.

The British premier: "Trade is growing, and investment in each other's countries is very positive. Turkey and Britain should stand together against Russia during the ongoing crisis in Ukraine's east. As both members of NATO, we need to discuss the importance of standing up to Russia over Ukraine."

**THY - world's 5th best airline-
TRT English
21 January 2015**

Turkish Airlines has been selected the world's fifth best airline in an international survey. 90 thousand passengers took part in a survey conducted by online travel agency eDreams. The passengers were asked questions about service, comfort, cleanliness, service offered for children and luggage services. Turkish Airlines ranked 5th with 4,15 in an evaluation over 5 points.

**Davutoğlu's Davos contacts- TRT
English
22 January 2015**

As the first Prime Minister to attend Davos summit since 2009, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu delivered a speech at a special session titled "Turkey's vision for G20." Davutoğlu explained priority topics of Turkey during G20 term-presidency.

Stating that G20 should not be a club of elites, Davutoğlu said the Forum should be more inclusive and should lean upon the least developed countries. Prime Minister Davutoğlu said during Turkey's term-presidency economy will be evaluated with social and political fields lasting solutions will be found. Stating that Turkey is a successful example for the region, Davutoğlu called on everyone to act together on terror and all extremes.

After his speech, Davutoğlu made bilateral contacts with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Austrian Deputy Prime Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner. Davutoğlu also met Arab intellectuals at dinner and expressed his views on various matters from Turkish-Arab relations to regional and international issues.

Speaking on Iraq, Davutoğlu said they tried to strengthen relations between all sides regardless of their sects and noted that when they came together with Shi'ite, Sunni, Turkmen, Kurdish and Arab populations they felt the same feelings and have always stood by Iraqi people.

On Palestine, Davutoğlu said "Without unity among Palestinians, the Palestine issue cannot be resolved."

On Egypt, Davutoğlu said "Administrations that come to power via military intervention are not legitimate in our eyes. Indeed, we have certain disagreements with Egypt. Our views on Egypt, which is the spine of stability in the region are clear. If Egypt is strong the region will also be stronger. But, stability of Egypt is determined by the will of the nation."

**Suicide attack targets Turkish
delegation in Somalia – TRT
English
22 January 2015**

Turkish delegation came under a bomb attack in Somalian capital Mogadishu ahead of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's planned visit to the country on Friday. No one in the delegation was reportedly killed or injured in the suicide bombing. Somalian police told Reuters that the attack was carried out by a bomb-laden vehicle.

Currently holding contacts in Ethiopia as part of his Africa tour, President Erdoğan is planned to proceed to Mogadishu after concluding his contacts in Djibouti on Friday.

Davutoğlu: Turkey has no claims to sovereignty over any country- TRT English
23 January 2015

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu who is in Davos as part of the World Economic Forum, met with representatives of the business world at dinner. Davutoğlu replied to reporters' questions after dinner.

Davutoğlu said that Turkey has no claims to sovereignty over any country. "We want peaceful coexistence in the region" he said. On the EU, Davutoğlu said that Turkey is doing its best to join the Union and they will complete all chapters in two years if no political obstacles are raised.

On a question on journalists under arrest in Turkey, Davutoğlu pointed out that the journalists have not been arrested due to journalism activities. "Tell me the name of a journalist under arrest and we will visit him together" he said.

Rise of anti-Semitism related to racism: Turkey's UN envoy- Yeni Şafak
23 January 2014

The rising tide of anti-Semitism is related with a rash of racism and xenophobia throughout the world, Turkey's UN envoy said Thursday. "Turkey categorically condemns all sorts of discriminations, and calls for tolerance and enhanced understanding between religions and cultures," Halit Cevik, permanent representative of Turkey to the UN, said at an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly on the rise in anti-Semitic violence worldwide.

Calling anti-Semitism "alien phenomena" in Turkish history and culture, Cevik said Turkey never let anti-Semitic sentiments penetrate its territory and political culture even during the term's heydays in Europe during the Second World War.

"Turkey has throughout history proved its will to fight against anti-Semitism and has been a safe haven for Jews throughout the centuries," said Cevik, adding that the Ottoman Empire presented an inclusive atmosphere in which Jews preserved their language and culture, and in turn made important contributions to the Ottoman state. In one instance, thousands of Jews expelled from Spain by the Inquisition in late 15th century were welcomed by the Ottoman Empire, where they settled in a number of cities. Under Ottoman rule, religious groups were allowed to establish their own self-governing communities, each retaining its own religious laws, traditions, and language under the general protection of the sultan, according to American historian Stanford J. Shaw.

"The rise of anti-Semitism is part of a broader phenomenon of rise in racism and xenophobia throughout the world, including the worrying growth in Islamophobia," Cevik said. He stressed that Turkey's stance in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was not directed at the Jewish people either in Israel or in elsewhere, "but solely against the conduct and practices of the government of Israel in disregard of the fundamental rights and

freedoms of the Palestinians. Neither Turkey's criticism nor the rightful indignation among Turkish public in the face of Palestinian suffering has any relation with Jewish people anywhere in the world," he said.

Turkey and Israel have experienced a major rift in relations in recent years over a raft of issues mainly surrounding the latter's policies and practices in occupied Palestinian territories.

Turkey declares day of mourning for Saudi king- Anadolu Agency **23 January 2015**

Turkey has declared Saturday a day of national mourning for Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who passed away early on Friday at the age of about 90.

The Turkish Prime Ministry issued a statement on Friday: "We declare Saturday, Jan. 24 a day of national mourning for Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere condolences to the people of Saudi Arabia, and the Muslim world. May God's mercy be upon him."

The national flag will be flown at half-mast across Turkey and at foreign delegations on Saturday, it added. Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz has been declared as the new king of the oil-rich Gulf monarchy and Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz as the new Crown Prince.

Turkish EU Min.: UN structure does not reflect reality- Anadolu Agency

23 January 2015

The structure of the UN does not reflect the realities of today, said Turkey's EU Minister on Friday. Speaking at a forum debate titled "A Multipolar World?" in the Swiss city of Davos, Volkan Bozkir said: "If you do not change the structures which are irrelevant with today's realities, then the U.N. is not a success story."

The main structure of the United Nations was established after World War II. Members of the U.N. Security Council, which have the power to veto, are in effect the winners of the war.

"This system, which has been established for other scenarios, is not helping us with the new situations in the world," added Bozkir. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called Thursday for the reform of the United Nations.

UK foreign minister appreciates Turkey's role in preventing flow of foreign fighters- Daily Sabah

23 January 2015

Turkey's role in ebbing the flow of foreign fighters joining the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) has been praised by the U.K.'s Minister of Foreign Affairs Philip Hammond, who said that Turkey is "doing a great job" in hindering the flow from European countries. Hammond underlined the critical position of Turkey in the fight against the flow of foreign fighters and appreciated the country's role, calling it "a remarkable effort." Pointing out the

urgency of the situation and Turkey's challenge in stemming it, he said: "We have to help them by making sure that we deal with the transit points, we deal with our own ports of exit. But the Turks are doing a great job."

Considering what Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said about the complexity of the Turkish-Syrian border yesterday, Hammond pointed out the same fact: "The Turkish prime minister this morning has said, correctly, that he can't seal the border between Turkey and Syria. It's too complex a border for that."

In an interview with The Times, Davutoğlu said that sealing off the 937-kilometer border was not only unworkable, but would only lead to further criticism as refugees would not be able to flee the violence. "We can close the border, but who will save the refugees, who will give them a safe haven?" he said, and added: "It's a 937-kilometre border, it's impossible to do. We can't put a soldier on every inch."

Turkey continues to maintain its determined attitude in the fight against the flow of foreign fighters. Addressing a weekly briefing at the headquarters of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Ankara on Wednesday, spokesman Tanju Bilgiç said Turkey had so far deported 1,056 people who had come from abroad and tried to enter Syria illegally. "We have a list that contains 7,833 people from 90 countries who are suspected of trying to join ISIS," Bilgiç said.

Almost a quarter of foreign fighters who have been recruited recently by ISIS are of European nationality. According to data

given released by the EU's law-enforcement agency Europol, it is estimated that there are between 10,000 and 12,000 foreign fighters in the ISIS terrorist group.

Turkey's cooperation with the U.K. in preventing the flow of foreign fighters, meanwhile, is getting stronger with each passing day. Indicating that Turkey and Britain will stand shoulder-to-shoulder against challenges such as terrorism and racism, Davutoğlu said: "The future of our continent now faces challenges like terrorism, racism and other type of challenges," before attending a private meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street, the British Prime Ministerial Office.

During his visit last month, Cameron called for more intelligence sharing between the two countries to block the flow of foreign fighters, including British citizens, into Syria to join ISIS ranks.

He said: "Whether it is about stopping people coming through Turkey to Syria or Iraq to fight for [ISIS], whether it is about making sure we deal with people when they return; whether it is the highest level of intelligence cooperation that we can possibly achieve between our countries. This is all about making sure people are safer in Turkey and in the U.K. We are already strong and should get stronger."

Turkey to see drop in inflation in 2015: Deputy PM –Anadolu Agency

24 January 2015

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan said Turkey would reduce its inflation rate to 5-6 percent due to the decline in oil prices in 2015. "If the oil prices keep declining through this year, to see 5 percent inflation rate will not be a dream for us," Ali Babacan said Friday, speaking to The Anadolu Agency in the Swiss city of Davos where the annual World Economic Forum is currently held. Babacan also said the oil price slump would also help Turkey reduce its current account deficit.

"The account deficit is also healing. We closed 2013 at 7.9 percent (in proportion to GDP), we will be closing 2014 at 5.6 percent. 2015 will be a better year than (2014) economically," he said.

Turkey's current account deficit has shrunk by 32 percent to reach \$38.7 billion between January-November 2014, from \$56.7 billion in the same period of the previous year. While Turkey's inflation rate was 8.17 percent in December 2014, its growth rate is projected to be around 3 percent for 2014.

Erdoğan resumes African tour, heads to Somalia, Djibouti- Daily Sabah **24 January 2015**

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is scheduled to visit Djibouti on Saturday and Somalia on Sunday despite a deadly car bombing near a hotel in the Somali capital on Friday where a Turkish delegation was staying. Following his Ethiopia trip on Thursday, Erdoğan was first going to visit Somalia, however his trip has been delayed after the president decided to join the

funeral ceremony for Saudi Arabian King Abdullah. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on Friday confirmed that Erdoğan had postponed his official visit to the country. "President Mohamud has confirmed that the visit of President Erdoğan has been postponed. This is due to the death of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia," Somali presidential spokesman Daud Aweis said. In Davos, Switzerland Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğan said three Somalis were killed in the attack that targeted the hotel in Mogadishu.

Erdoğan denounced the attack during a speech he delivered at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. "There was again a terrorist act in Somalia today. In whose name are they doing this? If it's in the name of Islam, I am a Muslim and there is no such thing in Islam. Firstly, a Muslim cannot commit suicide," Erdoğan said. "In our religion there is no such thing as going and killing people."

Turkey slams 'biased' EP resolution- Daily Sabah **24 January 2015**

The latest resolution adopted by the European Parliament on Jan. 15 pertaining to the Freedom of Expression in Turkey, which found it to be lacking in the country, demonstrates that Europe is basing its decisions on biased and unreliable information as far as Turkey is concerned, Afif Demirkıran, co-chair of Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, argued in a press release. Demirkıran, supporting the belief that Turkey has achieved a great deal in the name of invigorating democracy, suggested that: "Turkey constantly takes new steps in order to develop freedom of expression and freedom of the media; and

our government demonstrates a strong interest in this subject matter," He also underscored how the European mindset has double standards in its assessment of developments in Turkey. The European Parliament, which has expressed worries over the so-called "diminishing tolerance of public protests and a critical media," alluding to the arrests of journalists in the Dec. 14, 2014 operation, has also apparently been misdirected by sources that aim to defame Turkey. The media affiliated with the Gülen Movement, whose members face charges of being engaged in various crimes outside of their journalistic activities, has misinformed the public that the operation was targeting media, according to Demirkıran.

In the European Parliament resolution, the expression "a very large number of jailed journalists" is used to describe a total of seven journalists, one of whom is detained, and six are convicted because of violent crimes. This, Demirkıran says, suggests that the resolution does not reflect the facts, and is aimed at manipulating public perception.

"It should be noted that being a journalist does not give a person immunity or the right to act against the law. This is the case all over the world. Moreover, in Turkey, there is not a single journalist imprisoned because of crimes related to freedom of expression." Demirkıran further said, refuting the belief that Turkey is a country that jails journalists. Touching upon the double standards that Europe applies to Turkey, Demirkıran also exemplifies the arrests that came after the deadly attacks in France due to messages shared in social media. While they are deemed crimes, says Demirkıran, all xenophobic and

Islamophobic utterances, including insults, are evaluated as freedom of expression, which raises eyebrows over European perceptions of freedom of expression.

PM says no one arrested for journalistic activities in Turkey- Daily Sabah 24 January 2015

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, replying to questions at a dinner in the Swiss city of Davos Thursday, said to be realistic when accusing Turkey of arresting journalists and that no journalist in Turkey was arrested due to journalistic activities. When a journalist asked Davutoğlu to release the arrested journalists in his G20 term presidency, Davutoğlu said that all the accusations against Turkey are baseless and added: "Those who alleged that journalists are imprisoned in Turkey should give me their names. These are judicial cases. As prime minister, I have no authority to arrest or release someone. It is the duty of the courts. You know that you cannot ask this kind of question of an EU minister since they do not have such authority. The same goes for Turkey, too."

He also counted only seven journalists in prison Turkey and the reason for their imprisonment is not journalistic activities. Davutoğlu directly addressed the journalist who asked the question and said: "Please, give me the name of your journalist friend. I assure you that we will go to visit him or

her together to show my support for journalism. I was a columnist in the 1990s and I know what media freedom means very well. Although I have no authority to arrest or detain someone, I would like to find out who is your journalist friend."

Even though Turkey came under criticism with claims that there are dozens of journalists under arrest in the country, Turkish officials said that there are only seven journalists who have been arrested and the reason for their arrest is terrorist activities. Most journalists who were later released were allegedly arrested by Gülen Movement-linked judges and prosecutors and apart from those whose crimes were justified by Turkish courts were later released. The Gülen Movement, which allegedly infiltrated key government institutions, is accused of trying to topple the elected government, and they are accused of carrying out a smear campaign against Turkey in international platforms.

Calling for a reform of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC), Davutoğlu gave the crises in Palestine and Syria as examples of unsolved problems stemming from the veto rights of five permanent countries in the UNSC.

"We suggest that there is a need for UN reform," Davutoğlu said, adding that Turkey has no problem with the permanent states, but the current structure is not able

to respond to the on-going crisis.

The UNSC having five permanent members has been criticized by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who said: "The world is bigger than five." Turkey has previously been a non-permanent member of the UNSC in 1951-1952 and 1954-1955 as well as in 2009-2010 when it was elected with a resounding 151 votes. Last year in September, Turkey once again competed to gain non-permanent member seat on the council. Competing with Spain and New Zealand, Turkey lost to Spain in the third round. Other seats on the council were taken by Angola, Malaysia and Venezuela with no competition from other states. Touching on the importance of an international crisis management mechanism, Davutoğlu said the council should include all of humanity.

Moving on with the African expansion- Yasin Aktay, Yeni Şafak

24 January 2015

ADDIS ABABA. After declaring 2005 as "the year of Africa", Turkey started to bring to fruition the African expansion in the real sense. Since 2002, Turkey has increased its number of embassies in Africa to 39, and later on, increased the trading volume only with Sub-Saharan Africa up to 7.5 billion dollars, which used to be a billion before this development.

At the moment, the continent of Africa contains the fastest-growing economies. According to the IMF data, 10 of the 64 fastest-growing countries in the world reside in Africa. Thus, Africa now attracts the attention of developed economies in a different way. We say different, because in the past, Africa had only been evaluated as a continent whose rich underground resources could be exploited by the developed economics of nowadays.

While the underground and terrestrial resources were being exploited recklessly, not even a glimpse of concern had been shown in the sense of developing the continent. As the developed world continued establishing its communities full of prosperity by exploiting Africa's resources, they didn't leave those countries alone; rather, by interfering with their administrations, borders and almost everything, they were preventing them from developing.

In the meantime, they voiced the question "Why has no development or advancement happened in the world outside the West, but it only happened in Europe?" like an academic intellectual question. There is a slyness, and intention of establishing an expression behind the way the question had been directed. Of course, by relating the answer to culture, mentality and religious beliefs, they continued to legitimize their exploitation relations.

As for today, even though the same developed world continues its same cultural arrogance and ambition to intervene, the world is not the same, and in total, Africa is experiencing a serious awakening process.

As for Turkey, despite regarding Africa as a piece of economic expansion, the country presented an important difference by not only staying within this frame. With the support given to Somali, whose administration and economy had completely collapsed, in a sense the country had been completely re-constructed.

While establishing a relation with African countries over TİKA, or the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, which opened 9 offices throughout Africa, helping them in developing is regarded now as carrying importance. By means of water-wells, agricultural development projects and health care services, which had been conducted via TİKA and NGOs, Turkey shows its difference in the sense of interest towards Africa. As a matter of fact, following its financial aid that exceeds 1 billion dollars towards the continent, Turkey is among the top donating countries.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan once again shows his persistence on the matter of African expansion by means of realizing the second part of his trip, which he conducted in Western Africa a short time ago, in Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti. By being the first and only world leader to visit Somalia during a time when Somalia is dealing with starvation and civil war, Erdoğan enshrined himself in the heart of, not only the Somali community, but also, the African community.

During his speech at Addis Ababa University, while receiving an honorary PHD, his "Our interest towards Africa is not like the others' that set its eyes on the diamonds and underground richness of this continent. Before anything else, our

interest is a humanistic one” statement once again presented Turkey’s difference.

Also, while explaining his reason for giving an honorary PHD to Erdoğan, the university rector stated that, “Erdoğan was entitled to his exceptional leadership because of the democratization, human rights and economic development he achieved in Turkey, and everyone accepted this. However, it would be unfair to limit him with the reforms he conducted within his own country”. According to the rector, Erdoğan’s leadership had opened new political horizons for not only Turkey, but also Africa, and it is a leadership that is recognized. Somalia, without a doubt, was the most important country where this leadership stood out.

The first destination of the trip, Ethiopia, is the only country in Africa that had been colonized. It’s a country, which possesses a rooted history, however, has had its share of wars and tensions with the colonists since the day colonialism entered Africa. Because of this the country had experienced constant inconsistencies. Of course, the most important aspect of its rooted history from the point of Muslims is; being the Abyssinian land where the 1st Hegira happened.

One of the most moving scenes of the Islamic history is Necaşi’s, who administered the country during Hegira, protection towards Muslims despite the complaints and requests of the Meccan polytheists, and his famous dialogue with the representative of Muslims, His Holiness Cafer bin Ebu Talib.

It would be enough for the Western world, who markets multiculturalism and religious freedoms as their own inventions

and in exchange for this, asks “why these types of values are not developed in the world outside the West” by playing innocent, if they have a look at the history of Ethiopia. In that way, they would see what they need to.

Necaşi was a Christian, a religionist. In other words, he was from the society which is expected to recognize the prophet when they had listened to or they had seen him. Others, despite recognizing His Holiness Muhammed, didn’t steer towards accepting him because of their jealousy and arrogance. However, Necaşi didn’t abstain from stating that there is no difference between His Holiness Muhammed’s and His Holiness Jesus’ messages, and had shown Him the required respect.

As for President Erdoğan, who is visiting the Abyssinia of today, Ethiopia, he is being afflicted with the lobby activities and black propaganda of the people, whom he supported personally and sent as references, against the country. As the schools, which had been opened with his support, become the center of activities to the detriment of Turkey, it made the top of the agenda for the trip. We will continue reporting the developments related with this agenda.

Turkey’s role in Somalia: A model of solidarity in tough times-
Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Daily Sabah
24 January 2015

Somalia is recovering. Somali national forces, working with those of the African Union, have regained control of the most of Somalia's population centers and critical infrastructure such as the port of Barawe,

our government structures are growing stronger by the month in capability and execution, and the 'Vision 2016' plan – in which year we will also conduct elections – is becoming a reality.

None of this would have been possible without the support and generosity of the international community, among whose nations Turkey – and its President – have played a prominent, exemplary role.

Turkey has shown the way in developing a holistic, on-the-ground partnership with Somalia that has supported us in growing according to a nationally-led and owned agenda. Turkey has tied its various efforts together in an integrated development model that combines humanitarian aid, development projects and financial investment.

Turkey realized that sustainable and comprehensive development could not rest alone on an externally-authored, politically driven hierarchy of needs, satisfied one at a time. Turkey's aid came all at once. It came as a force of nature, putting Somalia's development issues in the forefront. Turkey has invested in infrastructure, building hospitals, rebuilding destroyed government property and digging wells. It has provided training to our doctors, teachers and civil servants. Turkey has set up more than 1,000 scholarships to enable our young people to study abroad. It has brought in businesses that changed the face of Mogadishu and encouraged its entrepreneurs to come to the city and transform state enterprises, including returning the port and the airport to profitability. Today, the arrival of Turkish Airlines' passenger jets in the skies above Mogadishu is a daily reminder of Somalia's

growing stability and confidence, and of Turkey's generous support.

Turkey did not hold back, waiting for stability before it invested. Instead, it invested to achieve it. Where other international partners chose to plan their interventions from elsewhere, Turkey put its people on the ground in Somalia to maximize the efficient use of their human and planning resources in support of their financial resources. Turkish aid workers delivered their aid directly to the beneficiaries, to maximize impact. The training hospital in Mogadishu illustrates the point. Turkey has built a 400-bed hospital and set up a training scheme for Mogadishu's doctors to enable them to better assist the sick. This approach has enabled Turkish development agencies to form real partnerships with the government, local population and businesses.

In all of this, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has played an instrumental role. As early as 2011, as Prime Minister, he came to Somalia himself – the first leader of his stature to set foot in our country for 20 years! He spoke up for us abroad. And he championed the model of a direct on-the-ground holistic development partnership.

From the outset, Turkey has treated Somalia as an equal partner, respected our requests and insisted on our input. Turkey's perception of Somalia as a future trading partner enabled us to approach our relationship from an equal footing, leading to mutual respect and enthusiastic cooperation. Turkey's role in the development and stabilization of Somalia has been a model of solidarity in hard

times, and we look forward to it being a friend in the more prosperous times ahead.

**Taking the EU seriously- Etyen Mahçupyan, Daily Sabah
24 January 2015**

It is not possible to exclude the role of the EU in the positive changes that Turkey has enjoyed over the last decade. As the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) authorities keep highlighting on every occasion, the EU criteria function has significant leverage in the dynamics of reform and transformation. In those years, it was a common belief that those reforms would align Turkey with the EU and enable its accession. However, after a while, the EU became the subject of conflicts and bargains between the isolated policies of different countries.

During the same process there has been a visible decline in the quality of politicians in Europe. In Turkey, non-acceptance of the AK Party government turned the political tension into an explicit fight. Therefore, while the EU's intention to include Turkey as a full member was in decline, the AK Party government continued to implement the reforms. EU authorities were eager to use the situation as grounds for rejecting Turkey's membership and tried to camouflage their own unwillingness. Although the judicial system is the primary thing they complain about, they have refused to open the chapter on justice.

At the point we have reached so far, the picture is clear: The EU sees that accepting Turkey into the EU is becoming a more rational option day by day, but it does not want to accept Turkey probably because of

Europe's inability to resolve its own integration problems. Consequently, Europe needs a reason to say and demonstrate why Turkey does not deserve membership. The AK Party government provides a suitable identity and image to that idea since it is both "Islamic" and "authoritarian," which means it does not conform to European norms either culturally or politically. When they add the myth that the AK Party supports Islamic terror, the feeling is exacerbated. Can such a country really have a place in Europe?

When looking at it from the Turkish side, the image of Turkey drawn in the West is very superficial, even in the most well-meaning terms. And the vision of the West is mostly ridiculous. Although the general public's opinion of EU membership is still positive, the public perspective to EU politics and politicians have declined to an extremely negative level. We do not discuss EU membership anymore. We cannot know to what extent we should take the EU seriously and in fact we do not think it would be smart to spend too much energy on it.

If you happen to wonder about its motivations, a recent instance explains it. European Parliament Vice Chairman Alexander Lambsdorff pointed out that there remained no sense in maintaining negotiations with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his government and called for the negotiations to be suspended. According to a newspaper, Lambsdorff, who is a friend of Turkey, underlined that the pressure on the media is on the rise in Turkey and the journalists criticizing the government are imprisoned or removed from their jobs. He said in a press statement that the freedom of the press is at

stake in Turkey and many journalists are either in jail or have lost their jobs because they criticized the government.

He said all democrats agreed that these were unacceptable in a country that is going through membership negotiations with the EU, adding that if Erdoğan does not see that, it makes no sense to continue the negotiations with his government. "The negotiations should be suspended. In Turkey, not only the freedom of the press, but also the state of law is at stake with the practices of the AK Party government," he said.

Lambsdorff might think his remarks were true. However, to be honest, it only sounds pathetic to me as a person who loves Turkey and has an active interest in politics. Apparently, someone is making Lambsdorff lie and he psychologically does not want to face the lie. The possibility of taking the EU seriously is rapidly decreasing due to such politicians.

Turkey in Africa- İbrahim Kaln, Daily Sabah 24 January 2015

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is paying his first official visit to Africa this week after the Second Africa-Turkey Summit that was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on Nov. 19-21, 2014. The three-country visit to Ethiopia, Djibuti and Somalia around the Horn of Africa confirms Turkey's commitment to expanding its relations with the continent. Turkey's opening to Africa policy began in 1998 and took a new turn in 2008 when the African Union declared Turkey a strategic partner. The same year, the first Turkey-Africa Summit was held in Istanbul with the participation of all the major African

leaders. The third summit will be held in 2019 in Istanbul. In the meantime, a steady traffic of high-level visits, business forums and international partnerships add new dimensions to Turkish-African relations.

In its long and rich history, Africa has created great cultures and civilizations. It has been home to thousands of ethnic communities and tribes. Local, animistic religions as well as the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam have been part and parcel of the continent's religious diversity. Africa has been an important part of both classical and modern Islamic history. The first Muslim community under the Prophet Muhammad had several people of African descent, the most famous one being Bilal Habeshi, the "Ethiopian." Bilal was a black slave who entered Islam in Mecca and became the first "muezzin" - the one who recites the call to prayer - in Islamic history. His name decorates the walls of thousands of mosques in the Muslim world as the "imam al-muazzinin," meaning the leader of those who make the call to prayer with a beautiful voice.

Facing oppression and persecution, Muhammad sent a group of his companions to the Ethiopian King Negus, known in the Muslim world as Najashi. When the Meccans came to ask for them, King Negus refused to return them and granted them protection in his kingdom. Ever since then, Negus has been praised in the Muslim world as a just and virtuous king. After almost 1,400 years, the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency TİKA, Turkey's official aid agency, is now rebuilding the tomb of Negus with a mosque and cultural center around it.

Today, dozens of Turkish companies are investing in Ethiopia and providing employment to 30,000 Ethiopians. Around 200 Ethiopian students are studying in Turkey with full scholarship from Turkey. Over all, there are about 5,000 students from Africa studying in Turkey.

As part of its global foreign policy outlook, Turkey is expanding its relations with African countries. In 2004, Turkey had only 12 embassies in Africa. Today, it has 39 and the next Turkish embassy will be opened in Equatorial Guinea this year. African countries had only a handful of embassies in Ankara. Today, there are more than 30 African diplomatic missions in Turkey. A decade ago, Turkey's total trade with Africa was less than \$3 billion. Today, the trade volume has exceeded \$25 billion. Turkish Airlines flies to about 40 points in more than 30 African countries - more than any other international airline in the world.

In 2012 and 2013 alone, Turkey contributed around \$800 million to various aid programs in Africa. TİKA has 12 offices in Africa, doing hundreds of projects around the continent from digging wells and opening clinics to training farmers and restoring historical sites. Dozens of Turkish nongovernmental organizations and aid organizations are also actively helping the needy. What Turkey has done in Somalia has received global recognition and appreciation. In 2011, Turkey led an international campaign to help Somalia in one of its worst moments in modern history. It mobilized its resources to fight famine and disease, contributed close to \$500 million in aid and helped Somalis establish a

certain degree of security and economic infrastructure.

Somalia still faces major political, security and economic challenges. The absence of a strong central government and the ongoing fight with al-Shabab make it vulnerable in many respects. Despite these challenges, Somalia is also making progress in various sectors. The capital Mogadishu is already showing signs of significant improvement with new constructions and renovations in its air and seaports. New paved roads and buildings have been built. Famine has been contained. The Somalian government is working on a new plan for 2015 and 2016 to improve the country's security and economy.

In addition, Turkey is helping the ongoing talks between Somalia and Somaliland. The last round of talks was held in Istanbul and the high-level officials meetings will continue. As Hassan Shiekh Mohamud, the president of Somalia, said: "Turkey has treated Somalia as an equal partner, respected our requests and insisted on our input. Turkey's perception of Somalia as a future trading partner enabled us to approach our relationship from an equal footing, leading to mutual respect and enthusiastic cooperation. Turkey's role in the development and stabilization of Somalia has been a model of solidarity in hard times."

The rich and powerful countries of the world should help African countries reach political independence, human security and economic development rather than follow policies that deepen political instability and economic dependence. What Africa needs today is not exploitation, but fairness and opportunity.

**Sovereignty belongs to the nation
unconditionally- Markar Esayan,
Yeni Şafak
22 January 2015**

When the recent history of Turkey becomes written text, one of the most distinctive milestones will be the referendum for a constitutional amendment in 2007 that allowed the nation to elect their President.

If you remember 2007, the guardianship forces got quite naughty.

From the TSK (Turkish Armed Forces) to the press, from the universities to senior judicial institutions, everyone had been put on alert, and moves, which were outside democracy, had been activated in order to prevent the candidate of AK Party from being elected in the Parliament.

The visible reason of the objection was the “headscarf”. The wife of the prospective President was wearing a headscarf, and, this was being evaluated as capitulating the “laicism” principle. This justification, which we find “meaningless” and “indefensible” now, was being regarded as extremely defensible seven years ago, even by the liberal/left-wing academicians...

However, I’ve never thought that this was the actual reason. Of course, the headscarf was effective as a lever; however, the main reason was the fact that this would be paving the way for this critical position to be directly connected to the willpower of the nation.

The Presidency, like the senior judicial institutions, was the castle of the bureaucratic/oligarchic government. Having no contact with the nation was its

most “critical” feature. So to say, Çankaya was oxidized by the oligarchy.

As a matter of fact, the Constitutional Court was about to create the 367 fantasy following CHP’s application, which is the representative of the bureaucratic government in the Parliament.

A chaos arose, and it had been beneficial. Following their triumph in the elections on July 22 , which had been scheduled to an earlier time, the government conducted a constitutional amendment, and it was decided that the President would be elected by the nation. Thus, the Presidency, which is one of the most important institutions where sovereignty is being assigned, had been directly connected to the willpower of the nation. One of the most radical revolutions in the history of the Republic had been actualized. The people, who are missing the Old Turkey now, might even be thinking like; “If only things didn’t turn out like this and a woman wearing a headscarf would have been elected as the President”.

After all, permuting/overthrowing a person is always easier than persuading a massive nation.

What the people, who want to turn the gathering of the Ministerial Cabinet by Erdoğan (despite this being his constitutional right) into chaos, say and also their justifications are not so far-fetched.

The actual root of their anxiety is the fact that the Presidency had become the center of macro politics and connected to the willpower of the nation....

In the past 12/13 years, Turkey bore witness to a government, which conducted

democratic restorations within the oligarchic government structure. With countless democratic steps, the bureaucratic/oligarchic government had been modified in the countenance of the democratic one. An area cleaning had been done. Thus, we call this process “slow revolution”.

By using the legislative power and the legitimacy of the elections during the uprising crises, a firm road cleaning had been done. With patience, the guardianship regime had been undermined. Politics became stronger, reputation triumphed, and the self-confidence of the public had been restored. For the first time, we experienced a construction process that progressed from the bottom up, not top to bottom.

As for the elections in June 2015, it would provide the opportunity for opening the doors of a radical government reform to the public. Because of this, the new constitution, Resolution Process and war against the parallel structure are crucial.

The matter is not about what the name of the system will be; it is about, as it had been in the past 12 years, constructing the demands of the nation from the bottom up.

Even the ones, who know the US the best, will have a hard time figuring out the political system and understanding it. They are right, because, this complicated system had been manifested in a couple of centuries according to the needs of the nation and the steps taken in the crises. It's unique to the US nation and their history.

Today, there are people that evaluate the election of the President, who possesses strong authorities, and the parliament by the nation as an “anomaly”. As my

precious legal expert friend, Mehmet Uçum, ascertained, evaluating the precious point, which we arrived at with the help of the unique democracy struggle, as an “anomaly” would be unfair.

This doesn't change the fact that the regime possesses systematic problems. However, I also think that the evolutionary process would be meeting the needs of that country in the best way possible. In other words, this approach is based on the demands of the nation while solving the problem we encounter in the natural flow of life, rather than solving it via imposition from the top to the bottom.

The greatest success of the government is the fact that they had prioritized this in the past.

The magic formula lies in having all government bodies linked directly to the willpower of the nation. The only way to reform the system that produces a guardianship is by not only focusing on the Parliament or Presidency, but rather, opening all the institutions of the government to the nation and their votes.

The result might be incomprehensible for some; however, as long as it serves our purpose, there are no problems.

Switzerland, India and Turkey: Interest rates and a new economic model- Cemil Ertem, Turkey Agenda

21 January 2015

Last week was full of important economy news. The Swiss National Bank cut its negative deposit rate even more and decided to abandon franc's 1.20 per euro cap. Another big news came from India.

Indian Central Bank also cut its interest rates, stating the fact that falling commodity prices are decreasing the inflationary pressures. With this move India has proven itself that just like Turkey, it wants to get away from Western policies and is trying to find its unique route...

If the European Central Bank (ECB) will announce any kind of government bond purchasing program on its Jan. 22 meeting, euro will depreciate even further. But even if the euro and dollar would equalize, I do not think this would save Europe. The Greek upcoming elections play a major role in EU's future. Nonetheless, even if the ECB will expand its balance sheets as much as the U.S. Federal Reserve, the ECB does not have much of a chance to fix things. Exactly in this period, interest rate cut and policies of the Turkish Central Bank are debated. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan brings up in every possible occasion that the central bank should cut its rates. Actually, Erdogan's statement can be interpreted as a major turnout for the Turkish economy. President Erdogan requires Turkey to ground its growth on small and medium sized enterprises, as well as Turkish industry to reach a global level of competitiveness. Therefore, he wants the Turkish Central Bank to pursue this new path, just as the central banks of developed countries are doing to boost growth in their countries. The central bank cut its key interest rate to 7.75 percent from 8.25 percent.

50 basis points "ostensible" interest rate cut by the central bank does not have any use for the real economy. The liquidity in the market will not be inherited easily and cheaply to the reel sector. We can already

see signs of this, there is a strong decline in commercial credits. Industrial enterprises lack the capacity to make renewed investments due to high interest rates and inaccessible money. At the end of the day, Turkish Central Bank is hurting real economy.

But what is the reason behind this; what is bothering President Erdogan and what is his suggestion?

Let us summarize accordingly:

Started in mid 1980s, the "neoliberal period" stopped capital stock regimes to rely upon governments in developed countries and led them to global monopolies. Way of capital accumulation in emerging markets, however, was shaped like modern colonist economies based on the debt regulations of Washington Consensus and imports. This economic model lays industrialization aside, halts all of the public investments, which would supply infrastructure for the industry. It forces the government to spend only on arms and security. This model was adopted by Western bureaucracy. Looking from this perspective, all kinds of regulatory and supervisory boards in emerging markets are tied to economic and political centers based in London, Washington and New York. Regarding both bureaucratic operations and ideologies of public economies, treasuries and central banks function under the Washington Consensus. Of course, an ideology-science (!) was formed especially for this paradigm. Keynesian statist theory was molded with the absolutized classic economic theory, deformed by neoliberalism. This was coupled with financial "tumbling". In reality, this understanding of the economy is a closed one based on monopolies,

which reject free market and competitiveness in the real sense. In this regard, President Erdogan is not suggesting a closed and statist economy like some people are claiming. On the contrary, he is proposing an anti-monopoly, competitive and a more open economy. That is the reason why he is constantly requiring interest rates to come down and Turkey to attract more foreign direct investment. Erdogan is against the bureaucracy, which is making global and local investments difficult. Today, without any doubt leaders like President Erdogan, Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff all want their countries to get emancipated of neoliberal monopoly policies, dating back to twentieth century.