

PSG eye rare feat to launch Champions League title defense

SPORTS PAGE 11



Ed Sheeran’s ‘Play’ mixes reflection with hits

CULTURE PAGE 2

Elephant skulls unlock secrets of Kayseri’s ecosystem

BACK PAGE



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE, GLOBAL VISION

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 15 / 2025
TL 15.00

DAILY SABAH

www.dailysabah.com

OPINION

HAKKI ÖCAL

Free Gaza, free Palestine: Is Trump the Hitler of our time?

» THE ORIGINAL chant went like this: “Free D.C., free Palestine! Trump is the Hitler of our time!” Well, if you ask me, D.C. in the United States is a free city. The deployment of a couple of hundred National Guard personnel there does not make it unfree. It is one of President Donald Trump’s fake crises; he wants to derail the real issues the U.S. is currently facing. What he is doing and the way he is doing it would make him Benito Mussolini at most, not Adolf Hitler.

Thank Goodness, the young Americans woke (no pun intended!) up on time and realized that he has betrayed his promises that America was going to be “the first” in his agenda – which did not happen – and that he was going to end all the wars NeoCons, Globalists, and Interventionists started in the Middle East – which he didn’t.

He must have seen the light through the nick that those who started these wars put in his ear on July 13, 2024! He must have understood what they meant by this warning shot. Therefore, he was not going to have any Obama Moment inspiring hope and change, but he kept telling people he would Make (only) America Great Again, forgetting the other country, which was in a hurry to become “Greater.”

Trump used to disparage these two men: The Little Marco (Marco Rubio), the former senator from Florida he would make fun of, but he eventually became the head of four government – outdoing Henry Kissinger, famous secretary of state in the 70s, and even China’s leader Xi Jinping – (named the “Secretary of Everything” by The New York Times), and Pete Hegseth, who has “the absolute and complete authority” (not only on the drugs he used to buy as a TV commentator but) on the wars the U.S. Department of War, wants to continue ... These two men asked Trump one afternoon to rush back to the White House immediately from his endless golf shenanigans, and “briefed” him on the urgent need to give the green light to Israel’s sweeping strike on Iranian nuclear and military targets, now.

Nobody yet knows how these two men convinced Trump to change his attitude on Israel’s Iran War. Only the previous day, he restated his total objection to any Israeli attacks on Iran and Gaza. But, after the evening briefing at the White House in Washington, D.C., “We had a clear U.S. green light,” Israeli officials were quoted as saying in Tel Aviv. PAGE 8

Gaza City under heavy fire

As relentless strikes intensify in the Palestinian enclave, aid agencies say an Israeli takeover of Gaza City would be catastrophic for a population already facing widespread malnutrition



People run as smoke from an explosion erupts in one of the buildings of the Islamic University of Gaza after an Israeli strike, Gaza City, Palestine, Sept. 14, 2025. (AFP Photo)

ISTANBUL - DAILY SABAH

» ISRAELI forces demolished at least 30 residential buildings in Gaza City and displaced thousands, Palestinian officials said yesterday, as U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived to discuss the conflict’s future.

Israel has said it plans to fully occupy the city, where about a million Palestinians have been sheltering, as part of its

declared aim of eliminating Hamas, and has intensified attacks on what it has called the resistance group’s last bastion.

Hamas’ political leadership, which has engaged in on-and-off negotiations on a possible cease-fire and hostage release deal, was targeted by Israel in an airstrike in Doha on Tuesday in an attack that drew widespread condemnation.

Qatar will host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit today to discuss the next

moves. Rubio said Washington wanted to talk about how to free the 48 hostages – of whom 20 are believed to be still alive – still held by Hamas in Gaza and rebuild the coastal strip.

“What’s happened, has happened,” he said. “We’re gonna meet with them (the Israeli leadership). We’re gonna talk about what the future holds,” Rubio said before heading to Israel, where he will stay until tomorrow. PAGE 10

Türkiye launches initiative to develop indigenous nuclear reactors

» TÜRKİYE yesterday launched a national call to develop indigenous nuclear reactors, in what Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacır called a new step in the country’s energy strategy.

Kacır said the initiative, titled “Domestic Nuclear Reactor Development Call,” aims to strengthen Türkiye’s energy security, reduce dependence on foreign sources and support the country’s net-zero emissions target.

The call comes as Türkiye is just months away from launching the initial reactor of its first nuclear power plant, Akkuyu, under construction in the Mediterranean region.

The \$20 billion, 4.8 gigawatt (GW) four-reactor Akkuyu plant will bring Türkiye into the small club of nations with civil nuclear energy. The plant is being built by the Russian conglomerate Rosatom.

That is the third largest nuclear pipeline globally, according to Global Energy Monitor (GEM). Once fully operational, it is expected to generate around 10% of Türkiye’s electricity.

The call is part of Türkiye’s National Technology Initiative. PAGE 5

Water crisis fears grip country as reservoir levels drop nationwide

» DROUGHT and declining rainfall linked to climate change have driven reservoir, lake and river levels in Türkiye to critical lows, with major cities reporting water reserves below safe thresholds.

The recent years’ rainfall deficit and drought have also impacted water resources, sending many regions across Türkiye on drought alert. As rivers carry less water and lake levels fall, experts have urged citizens to use water sparingly, while local authorities have taken precautionary measures.

Istanbul’s reservoirs, supplying water to its 15 million inhabitants, saw their water levels drop to 39.98% from 45.79% on Sept. 1 last year. In Ankara, water volume at reservoirs has dropped to 291.32 million cubic meters from 606.95 million cubic meters on Aug. 31, 2024, as water levels dropped from 38.28% to 18.38%.

In Izmir, reservoirs are steadily losing water due to drought and reduced rainfall. At Tahtalı Reservoir, which supplies much of the city’s drinking water, the water level dropped to just 5.67%, while Alaçatı Kutlu Aktaş remains at 0.64%, Ürkmez at 6.28%, Balçova at 16.14% and Güzelhisar at 53.2%. Gördes Reservoir, on the other hand, has completely dried up. PAGE 3

CHP faces day of reckoning on graft allegations

» THE MAIN opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) weathered infighting in the past, but this time, the outlook is quite dire. If the Ankara court decides that the party’s 2023 election, which brought current Chairperson Özgür Özel to power, was indeed a venue of corruption and vote-buying, the divide in the party will likely widen.

For political pundits, it is a secret battle between Özel and his predecessor, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, who lost to Özel in the November 2023 vote. Kılıçdaroğlu has signalled that he was ready to helm the party as a trustee if the court decides the vote two years ago is null and void. The Özel administration believes the trial is a plot by the government to damage the party, while supporters of Kılıçdaroğlu say Özel should acquit himself before the court amid reports that he may defy any court order as he did after a court suspended the party’s Istanbul branch administration over similar allegations of vote-buying. Though Kılıçdaroğlu maintains his silence, the appointment of Gürsel Tekin, a former vice chair during his tenure as director of CHP, as the Istanbul branch’s trustee, fuels rumors that this is indeed an intraparty battle. PAGE 6

Trump wants NATO to cut Russian oil, weigh 100% tariffs on China

» U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday he believes the Ukraine war could be brought to an end if all NATO members halted oil purchases from Russia and imposed tariffs of 50% to 100% on China over its imports of Russian crude.

NATO’s commitment to winning the war “has been far less than 100%” and the purchase of Russian oil by some members of the alliance is “shocking,” Trump posted on his social media site.

As if speaking with NATO members, he said: “It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia.”

China, India and Türkiye have been the largest buyers of Russian oil since 2023, according to the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Other members of the 32-state alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia.

It’s unclear whether Trump would want to directly confront Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. That leaves uncertain whether the threats might actually lead to new tariffs or a ban on Russian oil purchases. PAGE 5

Fed poised for first 2025 rate cut as political tensions loom large

» THE U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) is widely expected to deliver its first rate cut of the year at this week’s policy meeting, amid signs of a weakening labor market, but political tension looms over the gathering.

The Fed’s likely move would follow monthslong push from President Donald Trump to slash rates, and comes amid growing concern about political pressure on the independent central bank, with a historic challenge to its leadership pending in the courts.

Since the bank’s last reduction in December, it has held interest rates at a range

between 4.25% and 4.50%, as policymakers monitor the effects of Trump’s sweeping tariffs on inflation.

Analysts now broadly expect a 25 basis points rate cut at the end of its two-day meeting on Wednesday, as hiring slows.

“What’s interesting is that it’s very clear what the Fed is going to do when they meet,” said Josh Lipsky, chair of international economics at the Atlantic Council.

“Yet, despite that, there’s high drama around this meeting,” he added, referring to personnel issues on the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). PAGE 5

