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## Türkiye gains clout amid energy crisis

Despite a severe global energy shock, Türkiye is well-positioned to turn the crisis into an opportunity by accelerating its transformation into a regional energy hub through new supply routes, strategic partnerships and expanded infrastructure, a top official said

ISTANBUL - DAILY SABAH

THE CRISIS that has erupted amid the Middle East conflict could ultimately create opportunities for Türkiye and make it a regional energy hub through new partnerships and supply routes, a senior official said Friday.

Energy prices have spiralled following U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran, which triggered a near-total closure of the Strait of Hormuz,

where 20% of the world's oil normally flows. Stalled shipments through the waterway have sent prices skyrocketing far beyond the region and raised the cost of food and a wide array of other products.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar warned that the world is experiencing one of the most severe energy crises in history, but said Türkiye is not facing any immediate supply risks.

"From a supply security perspective,

we have no issues. We remain on constant alert," Bayraktar told an event in Ankara, adding that the ongoing crisis could have far-reaching and unpredictable consequences for the global economy.

The current situation has caused an unprecedented supply shock, according to the minister, who cited disruptions affecting around 11 million barrels of daily oil supply, which he says represent a significant strain on global markets.

"This is a crisis far greater than previous energy crises. We are facing highly unpredictable conditions, with markets reacting differently every day," he said.

Türkiye is a major energy importer that neighbors Iran and is among the most exposed emerging market economies to the global energy price surge. But officials have touted Türkiye's "manageable" 10% dependence on Middle East oil and the country's protective diversification steps.

Bayraktar pointed to volatility surrounding the Strait of Hormuz as a central factor fueling uncertainty.

"The closure of such a critical route and the fluctuations that followed have put all countries on edge," he said, describing the situation as akin to a "great depression" in the energy sector. He still said the crisis could create opportunities for Türkiye, which has long sought to position itself as an energy hub. PAGE 5

### OPINION

MAHMUT ÖZER

An unfinished story: From Abdülhamid to 'Century of Türkiye'

FROM the late Ottoman period onward, attempts to understand political and social life in Türkiye frequently encounter tension between the intelligentsia and the people. This tension is not merely a cultural difference; it also represents a deep divide over how the state should be governed and in what direction society should be transformed. This dual structure, which became more pronounced with the Tanzimat reforms and continued in various forms during the Republican era, has been one of the central axes of debate in Türkiye's modernization trajectory. PAGE 8

### OPINION

HARUN TÜRKER KARA

From Istanbul to Anatolia: Relocating Türkiye's industrial hub

INDUSTRIAL policy is defined as selective public interventions aimed at transforming the production structure through subsidies, tax incentives, concessional financing and regulatory privileges directed at specific sectors, activities or firms, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The primary objectives of these policies are to correct market failures, enhance productivity through economies of scale and learning-by-doing, develop domestic capacity in strategic sectors and support long-term growth. PAGE 9



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan gives a thumbs-up to a Formula 1 driver after a brief tour of Beşiktaş during an event where he officially announced the sport's return to the country, Istanbul, Türkiye, April 24, 2026. (AA Photo)

### FORMULA 1 SET FOR 5-SEASON ISTANBUL RUN: PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Friday that Istanbul will host Formula 1 races for five consecutive seasons between 2027 and 2031. Speaking at the Formula 1 Turkish Grand Prix promotion event at the Presidential Dolmabahçe Working Office in Istanbul, Erdoğan said the Istanbul Park circuit will stage "thrilling, high-quality races that offer strong spectator appeal" over the five-year period. Erdoğan expressed hope that Türkiye's partnership with Formula 1 would continue to strengthen in the coming years, emphasizing the country's ambitions as a motorsports hub.

### Israel, Lebanon extend cease-fire by 3 weeks after US talks

LEBANON and Israel extended their cease-fire for three weeks after a high-level meeting at the White House, U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday. Trump hosted Israel's ambassador to Washington, Yechiel Leiter, and Lebanese ambassador to the U.S., Nada Moawad, in the Oval Office for a second round of U.S.-facilitated talks, a day after Israeli strikes killed at least five people, including a journalist.

"The Meeting went very well! The United States is going to work with Lebanon in order to help it protect itself from Hezbollah," Trump wrote on Truth Social. Hezbollah,

the Iran-aligned armed group that is fighting Israel, was not present at the talks. It says it has "the right to resist" occupying forces.

Trump added that he looked forward to hosting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in the near future.

Trump also spoke to reporters in the Oval Office alongside the participants in the meeting, saying he hoped the leaders would meet during the three-week cessation of hostilities. He said there was "a great chance" the two countries would reach a peace agreement this year. PAGE 10

### El Salvador boosts security, draws investors with tech push

AMEZ AHMED

EL SALVADOR has undergone a sweeping transformation from a country once defined by gang violence and instability into what officials now describe as one of the safest nations in the Americas, Vice President Felix Ulloa said, outlining a broad strategy that combines security enforcement, institutional reform and technological modernization.

Speaking to Daily Sabah on Saturday on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Ulloa detailed how the administration

of President Nayib Bukele has reshaped the country's governance model since taking office in 2019. "When we took office in June 2019, the legacy that we received was actually a country on ashes," Ulloa said. "There was corruption at the state level. There was a high level of criminality."

He said El Salvador was previously labeled the "capital of homicide in the world," driven by widespread gang violence that dominated communities and public life. "Now, six years later, we are the safest country in the Americas and one of the most safe countries in the world," he added. PAGE 10

### Youth, education shape long-term development goals

TÜRKIYE is advancing efforts to reinforce its future security by linking national stability with broader regional cooperation across neighboring areas.

Speaking at a Civil Society Organizations Meeting held at the Faculty of Theology of Muş Alparslan University in eastern Türkiye on Thursday, Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, chairperson of the board of trustees of the İlim Yayma Foundation, said Türkiye's defense approach can no longer be limited to its own territory.

"If we want to ensure our own security, we must also work to ensure the security of all countries in our region," he said. "Türkiye must now establish its defense line beyond its borders."

He added that instability in regions such as the Balkans, the Middle East, North Africa, and the Caucasus directly impacts Türkiye, and that lasting peace in these areas would significantly strengthen the country's security and prosperity. Erdoğan emphasized that Türkiye is increasingly gaining the capacity to act on this broader strategic vision but warned that long-term goals depend on preparing younger generations. PAGE 3

### Turkish youth in UK face subtle, 'everyday' Islamophobia: Study

A FIELD study focusing on Turkish youth in the United Kingdom has found that Islamophobia extends beyond overt hostility, taking root in subtle, routine interactions that are often difficult to detect but leave lasting psychological effects.

The research, conducted by Muhammed Babacan, an assistant professor in the sociology of religion, highlights how discrimination is reproduced not only through explicit acts such as hate speech or physical attacks, but also through what he describes as "everyday Islamophobia."

Speaking about his findings, Babacan said

the phenomenon operates on both "macro" and "micro" levels. At the macro level, he pointed to political discourse and media narratives in Western societies that frame Islam in negative terms, often for political or economic purposes. These narratives, he said, help normalize prejudice and shape public attitudes. "This situation fuels the micro level," Babacan said. "The racist mindset, influenced by this macro level, produces racism in daily life."

According to the study, these broader discourses translate into lived experiences in schools, workplaces, public institutions and on the street. PAGE 6

### From tripe to troops: Türkiye-Greece tensions simmer

DİDENUR DAŞTAN

RELATIONS between historic rivals Türkiye and Greece rarely move in a straight line. Periods of cautious rapprochement are often followed by renewed friction, and in recent weeks that familiar pattern has reappeared, this time spanning everything from naval posture in the Aegean to arguments over soup. The most serious fault line remains the Aegean Sea, where geography and history collide in a dense patchwork of islands, airspace claims and unresolved legal interpretations. Ankara has stepped up its criticism of

Greece's military presence on islands whose status is governed by the Treaty of Lausanne and the Treaty of Paris. Turkish officials argue that recent deployments and infrastructure upgrades on some eastern Aegean islands breach provisions requiring their demilitarized status, warning against what they describe as attempts to create irreversible "facts on the ground." The language has sharpened. Statements from Türkiye's Foreign and Defense Ministries in recent months have framed the issue not merely as a legal dispute but as one with direct implications for regional stability and alliance cohesion within NATO. PAGE 7