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TUESDAY
JUNE 16 / 2026
TL 40.00

DAILY SABAH

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OPINION

MURAT YEŞİLTAS

Türkiye's AI strategy and the coming technological order

» PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's unveiling of Türkiye's AI Action Plan 2026-2030 was received, largely, as a technology story: investment targets, data center capacity, specialist training pipelines, and regulatory frameworks. These are real components of the AI Action Plan. But reducing the announcement to its technical parameters misses what it actually represents as a strategic act. What President Erdoğan unveiled was not primarily an industrial policy. It was a positional declaration in a competition already restructuring the international order, whose consequences will extend far beyond the states currently dominating it.

The announcement deserves to be read on its own strategic terms. In an international system where artificial intelligence increasingly determines who sets the rules of digital governance, who controls the informational environment of conflict, and who can operate with genuine autonomy in crisis conditions, a national artificial intelligence (AI) strategy is not a technology roadmap. It is a statement about what kind of state a government intends to be in the emerging order. The question is not whether Türkiye's plan matches Washington or Beijing in scale, but whether it reflects a coherent understanding of the structural competition underway and whether its instruments are calibrated to that reality.

The transformation of AI from a domain of commercial and scientific activity into an instrument of great power competition has followed a trajectory familiar to students of international relations. Capabilities that confer decisive strategic advantage do not remain neutral for long. States with revisionist ambitions seek to acquire them; states with established positions seek to deny them to rivals; and states caught in the middle are forced to choose between managed dependence and the costly pursuit of autonomous capacity.

What distinguishes the current AI competition from earlier technological races is not its intensity but its structural depth. Control over AI is not merely about a single weapons system or a specific military application. It is about the architecture of cognition at the state level: the capacity to process intelligence faster, to compress decision cycles in crisis conditions, to sustain autonomous military operations across contested domains, and to shape the informational environment in which adversaries and partners alike form their perceptions. PAGE 9

Iran, US reach peace deal to halt Mideast war, reopen Hormuz

While the precise terms were not immediately known for the new Iran peace deal, Pakistani PM Sharif said that it called for 'the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon'



A drone view shows vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, June 15, 2026. (Reuters Photo)

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» U.S. and Iranian officials confirmed yesterday they have reached an agreement to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a preliminary deal that sent oil prices tumbling but leaves the future of Tehran's nuclear program to be determined in further talks.

While still a framework, the deal marked the biggest breakthrough towards resolving the conflict that has killed thousands and upended energy markets since it began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran in February.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of

Iran is now complete," U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform at around 5:30 p.m. in Washington (9:30 p.m. GMT) Sunday. His post came shortly after Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country has served as a mediator, announced a deal had been struck early yesterday local time. PAGE 10

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ANKARA HAILS DEAL AS KEY STEP TOWARD MIDEAST PEACE PAGE 7

Govt vows to step up efforts to unlock vast wind energy potential

» TÜRKİYE yesterday pledged to intensify efforts to harness its wind energy potential, as it strives to reduce heavy external energy dependence and expand renewable generation capacity.

Wind power has grown to 15,075 megawatts (MW) as of the end of April, representing 12% of Türkiye's total installed power capacity. That compares to just 19 MW of installed capacity and less than 0.1% of the total system in 2002.

Türkiye has vowed to gradually reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2053, with ambitious renewable energy targets also

aimed at reducing heavy energy import dependency. The government has recently expanded renewable energy tenders and announced new offshore wind and grid infrastructure plans as electricity demand continues to rise.

About 7,110 electricity generation facilities had entered service in 2025, with a combined investment value of approximately \$5.6 billion and installed capacity of 8,313 MW. Of that total, 6,063 MW came from solar projects and 1,946 MW from wind farms, according to the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry. PAGE 5

Muslims mark Hijri year with prayers, traditions

» MUSLIMS in Türkiye and across the world are preparing to welcome the Islamic New Year as the Hijri year 1448 begins with the start of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

According to calculations by the High Council of Religious Affairs under Türkiye's Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet), the first day of Muharram will be observed today, marking the beginning of the new Hijri year. The Hijri calendar begins with the Hijrah, the migration of Prophet Muhammad and his companions from Mecca to Medina in 622. The event is regarded as one of the most significant turning points in Islamic history and marks the starting point of the Islamic calendar.

Muharram is one of the four sacred months in Islam and is traditionally associated with worship, reflection, fasting and charitable acts. The month also holds special significance as a period for remembering the values of faith, perseverance and solidarity embodied by the Hijrah.

This year's Ashura Day, observed on the 10th day of Muharram, falls on June 25. PAGE 3

FM Fidan heads to Moscow for talks on Ukraine, Black Sea security

» ALMOST one year later, Türkiye's top diplomat Hakan Fidan returns to Moscow for a two-day official visit. Fidan was invited by his counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. The visit on June 16-17 is expected to cover a meeting between Fidan and Lavrov, a reception by Russian President Vladimir Putin and a meeting with Turkish businesspeople in Russia. Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Black Sea security are among the top topics Turkish and Russian officials will have discussions.

Fidan last visited Russia for bilateral talks on May 26-27, 2025. He also held talks with Lavrov last April on the sidelines of the

Antalya Diplomacy Forum in the eponymous Turkish city.

Foreign ministry sources said Fidan will highlight the importance of Turkish-Russian relations for regional stability and prosperity and will have comprehensive discussions on topics related to bilateral ties, particularly commerce, energy, security and consular affairs.

Sources said Fidan will also highlight Türkiye's commitment to diplomatic efforts for a lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia, as well as readiness to host another round of talks like Türkiye did in 2022 and last year. PAGE 6

Erdoğan inaugurates Ankara Airport ahead of NATO summit

» PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdoğan yesterday inaugurated the newly modernized Ankara Airport, saying 2026 was shaping up to be a "year of summits" for Türkiye. The former Etimesgut Air Base, which underwent a comprehensive modernization program, has been reopened as Ankara Airport and will serve both domestic and international operations.

The airport is expected to reduce pressure on the capital's key hub, Esenboğa Airport, during major international events and high-level visits and ease congestion on its road network. Focus is particularly on

the role Ankara Airport is expected to play during the upcoming NATO Leaders' Summit scheduled for July 7-8.

"2026 continues to be a year of summits for Türkiye, a country striving to reach the top in every field," Erdoğan said at the inauguration ceremony.

He noted that Türkiye had already hosted the Zero Waste Forum in Istanbul earlier this month, bringing together more than 5,000 participants from 183 countries, while preparations were underway for several major international gatherings later this year. PAGE 5

Özel's breakaway gamble risks political isolation in politics

» TÜRKİYE'S main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) is facing a deepening internal crisis amid reports that supporters of former party leader Özgür Özel are preparing contingency plans that could include launching a new political party, according to Turkish media reports and party insiders.

The dispute follows a court ruling that effectively restored former CHP Chair Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu to the party leadership, triggering an escalating power struggle between rival factions competing for control

of the party's organization, parliamentary group and future direction.

Several Turkish media outlets reported that figures close to Özel have accelerated preparations for a possible breakaway movement and could announce details of a new political formation as early as this week. The reports claim that organizers have already secured office space in Ankara and are evaluating multiple scenarios, including either establishing a new party or taking over an existing political party with legal eligibility to participate in elections. PAGE 6

