



Former general goes on trial for poisoning Ozal

Istanbul (Dunya) – Former brigadier general Levent Ersoz, accused of allegedly poisoning former President Turgut Ozal in 1993, went on trial in Ankara on Wednesday. Mr. Ersoz said he was serving as a commander of a military post in southeast Turkey when Ozal died and it was impossible for him to have connection with the alleged poisoning.

Sculptor's works displayed at abandoned Greek school

The modern works of Greek sculptor Kalliopi Lemos went on exhibition in a former Greek girls' school in Istanbul's Fener district, along the Golden Horn.

By Mina Ercel

Istanbul (Dunya) - Hundreds of international art enthusiasts, global contemporary art collectors and influential artists flock to Istanbul this week for the launch of the 13th Istanbul Biennial.

In addition to the main Biennial exhibition at Antrepo No 3, in the Karakoy port area, several parallel art event programs take place throughout the City. One of the most intriguing and worthwhile exhibitions to check out are the works of Greek artist Kalliopi Lemos, whose solo exhibit titled, "I am I, Between Worlds and Between Shadows," has gone on display.

Curated by the international curator and art critic Beral Madra, this unique exhibit is displayed inside the Ioakimon School for Girls in the historic area of Fener; the artists sculptors, sound installation and this original building are all one total work of art.

Traditionally the work of artist Kalliopi Lemos has exposed the suffering of human dignity. In this new exhibition in a former Greek Girls School she emphasizes the problems faced by women and the effect that abuse has had on women's spirit throughout decades. The title of the show underlines on the fact that "I am I," all through the suffering, shadows and worlds, "I am still me, so recognize me." Seven of Lemos's bronze part-human, part-animal

sculptors and sound installations are displayed and opened to the public for the first time since the abandonment of this historical building 25 years ago.

As this year's Istanbul Biennial theme is related to public domain, the artist and curator believe that public space in historical neighborhoods like Fener should also be recognized and integrated.

Curator Beral Madra says: "We should be aware of this building. It should be used for better issues like culture, art and education. Thus this exhibition undoubtedly aims to generate awareness among art professionals, open a public discussion by engaging the local and international community of Istanbul, and promote public participation in the realities, which are only revealed in numbers in the press and media."

Walking into this Greek Girls School, built in 1879 and long abandoned in 1988, one goes back in time. With the flaking paint of the ceilings, the original wooden school desks and even wrinkled maps left behind on walls, one is transported to the nostalgic period in the early 1980s.

Echoing throughout the exhibition, a subtle sound installation makes the dramatic impact of giving real life and breath to this deserted school. Strategically placed on four corners, the sound installations composed of children reading stories, singing songs and shuffling books inside their school bags



Sculptor Kalliopi Lemos' works at the exhibition deal with the docile position of women in the world. In the above statue, the sculptor describes a goat with the face of a woman, who is submissive to men and society.

reflecting a notion of innocence and sense of the school being "alive" again. Thus the innocence of the sounds of the children give emphasis to clash against the austere terms women are actually faced with in the "real" world.

The artist's sculptors are situated inside the classrooms in a position where the teacher would stand. As a symbol,

the students look up to her to learn a message of the future. The sculptures also stand alone like secluded islands, a metaphor for the loneliness experienced by women after violation.

In one of the classrooms, the piece titled "Hen on Crutches" is a female body of a hen; without limbs, and supported by crutches symbolizing how

women are suppressed and cannot gain their full potential.

One of the most striking displays of the exhibit is the "Hanging Hare". The innocent hare is hanging from its ears on a hook in a violent manner in front of the classroom.

"Imagine what the students would think of the violence inflicted on an animal known for its productivity and having many off springs? Yet she is hanging from the ears ready to be eaten", says Ms. Lemos.

"Hen With Two Faces" reflects an irony and represents the attitude of young women with too much sound in their steps thinking that the world is "nice and easy". In the back of the hen is a hidden image is an older, more mature woman's face; with sorrow in her expression she know the "real" world.

The sculptor of the "Goat" symbolizes an animal that likes to jump from one rock to another and take risks in life. Similarly women today like to achieve too much in life; having children, sound marriage, successful career, being intelligent and looking beautiful. Yet in order to fulfill this task, they loses their femininity, thus in this piece the breasts of the women are cut off from the rest of the body of goat, reflecting the loss of feminine traits in today's modern world. Kalliopi reflects the notion that women and children are not only suffering physically yet also spiritually.

Born in Greece and based currently in London, Kalliopi Lemos has exhibited her works around the world. The artist's exhibition inside the Greek Girls School in Fener can be viewed from September 11 until November 10, 2013.

AK Party mulls starlet's candidacy

Istanbul (Dunya) – The ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party is considering nominating popular TV show girl and cinema starlet Hulya Avsar, 50, as candidate for mayor of the northern Aegean resort town of Ayvalik in next year's local elections, party officials said. Miss Avsar launched her stage career in 1983 after she was chosen Miss Turkey in a beauty pageant, and her title was annulled when it was revealed that she had previously been married. A native of Ayvalik, where she owns four villas, Miss Avsar has had a successful 30-year career as a cinema actress, recording star and television show girl. Party officials said they hoped Miss Avsar could oust incumbent Mayor Hasan Bulent Turkozan, 56, a member of the left-leaning Republican People's Party (CHP), in the March 30 local elections.

Current account gap widens

Istanbul (Reuters) - Turkey's current account deficit, the economy's main weak spot, widened to a bigger-than-expected \$5.786 billion in July, data showed on Thursday. Turkey is dependent on volatile foreign capital inflows to finance the deficit - at 7.1 percent of GDP - and uncertainty over the U.S. Federal Reserve's bond-buying programme has left it particularly vulnerable given a huge trade shortfall. The July deficit, up from a revised \$4.626 billion in June, exceeded a Reuters poll forecast for a gap of \$5.3 billion. In the first seven months of the year, the deficit widened to \$42.099 billion from \$34.095 billion a year earlier. Imports were \$22.099 billion in July while exports stood at \$14.035 billion, resulting in an \$8.064 billion trade shortfall. "The current account deficit remains Turkey's Achilles' heel," said Timothy Ash, head of emerging market research at Standard Bank. "Little evidence of improvement or 'rebalancing' here, and that was the story from the second quarter national account data earlier in the week." The lira slightly weakened to 2.0235 against the dollar after the data from 2.0160 in early trade. Data earlier this week showed Turkish growth better than in most countries and still expanding twice as fast as last year. Output grew 4.4 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, beating a Reuters poll forecast of 3.5 percent. But the structure of the expansion continues to worry economists and policymakers, with an almost \$60 billion current account gap due to huge fuel imports making Turkey exposed to swings in global money flows and oil prices.

"2013 c/a deficit below \$60 bln"

Istanbul (Reuters) - Turkey's Economy Minister Zafer Caglayan said on Tuesday he expects the current account deficit to remain below \$60 billion this year. Speaking at a conference in Istanbul, the minister said he sees a lower current account deficit in the second half compared with the first half of the year. In the first half, the deficit widened to \$35.920 billion from \$30.03 billion a year earlier. Turkey's central bank will announce the July current account balance on Sept. 12. The current account gap fell to \$48.9 billion in 2012 from \$77.2 billion a year earlier, narrowing sharply in line with a rapid slowdown in the economy. Turkey is dependent on foreign inflows to finance its current account deficit - at 7.1 percent of GDP, one of its main economic weaknesses. Uncertainty over the U.S. Federal Reserve's bond-buying programme has left it particularly vulnerable.

S&P warns Turkey over concerns

London (Reuters) - Rating firm Standard and Poor's warned Turkey on Wednesday that its delicate economic and political situation and the general exposure of emerging markets to the Federal Reserve's stimulus reduction plans were piling pressure on the country - and its rating. "In Turkey, we consider that the electoral calendar, combined with a weakening growth outlook and a yawning current account deficit, could cause the budgetary deficit to worsen further to nearly 3 percent of GDP in 2013 and 2014," S&P said, in a report on the ongoing vulnerability of emerging European sovereign ratings. "We see the economic outlook for Turkey as particularly uncertain. A gradual increase in real interest rates and weakening credit growth, in tandem with currency depreciation, points toward material downside risks to our GDP projections for 2013 and 2014 of 3.0 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively." S&P - which rates Turkey at BBB with a stable outlook - is the only one of the three major rating firms that does not class Turkey as investment grade, a decision that has looked prudent in the wake of the political and financial market turmoil the country has suffered in recent months. It added that the country was "particularly sensitive" to the U.S. Federal Reserve's plans to cut back its massive stimulus programme, a worry that has already caused a rush of investors out of emerging market assets. Turkey won a coveted second investment grade rating from Moody's in mid-May, a decision which swept Turkish bond yields to record lows and stock markets to all-time peaks. Two events followed: a spate of anti-government protests and a change in direction by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Defector blames Syria for March chemical attack

Istanbul (Reuters) - A Syrian forensic expert who defected to Turkey last month said on Tuesday he had documents confirming President Bashar al-Assad's government had used chemical weapons near Aleppo in March, and called their use "cold murder".

Abdeltawwab Shahrour, head of the forensic medicine committee in Aleppo, appeared in public for the first time since his defection to Turkey was confirmed by the Istanbul-based Syrian opposition coalition a week ago.

Shahrour failed to show up at a planned news conference last Tuesday due to concerns over his safety, the coalition said.

He told reporters in Istanbul that he had evidence of the March 19 chemical attack in Khan al-Assal near Aleppo.

Washington is considering military strikes over a another alleged chemical weapons attack near Damascus last month that killed hundreds of people, although Russia this week proposed an alternative plan to win Syria a reprieve.

"We have examined thousands of bodies of victims which the head of forensic medicine received in Aleppo," Shahrour said. "I thought that was cold murder. I contacted some of the rebels and documented these crimes.

"One of the most horrific attacks was Khan al-Assal. Many victims showed nervous symptoms, like convulsions. Results show that they have been exposed to poison gas," he said, adding that he had documents showing the government was behind the attack.

The attack at Khan al-Assal in the northern province of Aleppo killed more than two dozen people. Both the government and rebels have blamed each other for what they say was an attack involving chemical weapons.

Russia, which alongside Iran is Syria's closest ally and chief arms supplier, said in July its own scientific analysis indicated the attack had involved the nerve agent sarin and had most likely been carried out by the rebels.

Shahrour said he decided to defect 10 months ago but only managed to begin his escape on August 15, when he was brought to a safe house inside Syria in cooperation with the rebels. He arrived in Turkey three days later.

Rebels fighting Assad's forces brought his family to Turkey later. He denied reports he had been kidnapped.

Caglayan calls for foreign ventures

Economy Minister Zafer Caglayan said foreign investors are coming to Turkey because of its stability and massive hinterland. He opened the new Ontex hygienic disposables factory near Istanbul.

By Metin Demirsar

Istanbul (Dunya) - Economy Minister Zafer Caglayan on Wednesday urged more foreign companies to come to Turkey with the aim of investing and distributing products and managing business in scores of surrounding countries.

Speaking at the opening of the new Ontex International hygienic disposables plant in Selimpasa, Silivri, 40 km (24 miles) west of Istanbul, he said Turkey offered stability and a huge hinterland for foreign investment.

"If a foreign investor is coming just for Turkey, it is wrong," Mr. Caglayan told reporters. "If they are coming for Turkey and its surround-

ings, they have the right vision."

He noted that some 56 countries, accounting for one-third of the world's wealth and population, were located within a four-hour's flying distance from Turkey.

The 56-year-old, mustachioed, silver-haired minister said that \$120 billion in direct foreign investment had poured into Turkey in the past 10.5 years of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's rule, nearly three-fold the amount that entered the country between the years 1954 and 2000.

"Foreign investors have come to Turkey not for its beauty, but for its stability and its global logistic position," Mr. Caglayan expressed. "They have entered Turkey because the economy is strong as a rock."

Ontex plant opening

Mr. Caglayan and Ontex Chief Executive Officer Charles Bouaziz launched the opening of the company's new TL 60 million hygienic disposables plant.

The factory is the 15th plant of Ontex International, a Belgian-based producer of paper-based disposable diapers for babies and women's hygienic menstrual pads, tampons and



liners. Ontex turns out Canbebe, Comfort Dry, Camped and Helen Harper in Turkey.

Ontex, founded in 1979, is owned mainly by the U.S. private equity funds Goldman Sachs Capital Partners and Texas Pacific Group.

Speaking at the plant opening, Charles Bouaziz, the global chief executive officer of Ontex, said Turkey's phenomenal growth had attracted the company to invest in the country.

Government to buy back presidential yacht

Istanbul (Dunya) – The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has offered to buy back a luxury yacht in which Kemal Ataturk (1881-1938), Turkey's revered first president, once sailed, Hurriyet daily reported on Tuesday.

The Ministry said that it had proposed to buy the "Savarona," one of the world's longest yachts, from shipowner Kahraman Sadikoglu, to whom the government had leased for 49 years in 1989, but did not give a price figure.

It said it planned to turn the ship, docked in Kurucesme, on the European side of the Bosphorus, into a museum and to host foreign presidential guests.

The 136-meter (446 ft) Savarona was the world's largest yacht when it was launched in 1931, and is still today the eighth biggest. It is capable of cruising at speeds of 15.5 knots (26.7 km) per hour.



Named for an African swan, the Savarona was designed by Gibbs and Cox in 1931 for American heiress Emily Roebling Cadwallader. She was the granddaughter of John A. Roebling, the engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge. Hamburg shipyard built the Savarona for \$4million (today \$57 million).

In 1938, the Turkish government acquired the yacht for its ailing

leader Kemal Ataturk, who spent only six weeks aboard before dying a few months later.

Key guests

Throughout World War Two, the yacht lay idle on the Bosphorus. In 1951, it was converted into a naval training vessel. In October 1979, a fire gutted the vessel as it was moored off the Turkish naval acad-

emy in Heybeliada in the Sea of Marmara.

In 1989, Mr. Sadikoglu chartered it for 49 years. He completely refurbished the ship at a cost of around \$45 million.

The ship was rebuilt at his shipyard in Tuzla, along the Sea of Marmara, and served famous and important guests, such as Prince Charles, Spanish King Juan Carlos, the Princess Diana, actresses Nicole Kidman, Elizabeth Hurley and Sharon Stone and actors Tom Cruise and Gerard Depardieu.

The yacht features a swimming pool, a Turkish bath, a 282-foot (86 meter) gold trimmed grand staircase, a movie theater and a library dedicated to Atatürk.

The government has wanted to buy back the Savarona since a September 2010 prostitution scandal involving a Kazakh businessman.

C.bank injects 4 bln lira in a week

Istanbul (Reuters) - Turkey's central bank injected 4 billion lira (\$2 billion) into the market in a one-week repo auction on Thursday at a fixed simple rate of 4.50 percent, bank data showed. Total bids for the repo, maturing on Sept. 19, amounted to 27.733 billion lira.

Isbank to obtain syndicated loan

Istanbul (Reuters) - Turkish lender Isbank said on Tuesday it mandated an international consortium of banks to obtain a euro and dollar-denominated syndicated loan. The bank said the loan would be of two tranches with a one-year maturity. It did not give an amount for the loan.

Aug automotive output up 23.9%

Istanbul (Reuters) - Turkey's automotive production rose 23.9 percent to 45,608 units in August, the Automotiv Manufacturers Association said on Thursday. Production in the first eight months of the year rose 5 percent to 726,947 units, the statement showed. Turkey's automotive sector was hit by a shrinking export market in Europe and weaker domestic demand in 2012.