



May 2015

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Foreign Policy

U.S. doesn't want to see violence return to Turkey: U.S. Ambassador

The United States does not want to see a return to violence in Turkey, Washington's envoy to Ankara has said, urging both the government and the Kurdish movement to remain committed to the peace process.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 4, 2015, U.S. doesn't want to see violence return to Turkey: U.S. Ambassador, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-doesnt-want-to-see-violence-return-to-turkey-us-ambassador.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81944&NewsCatID=510>

#### **OSCE notes concerns over president's 'active campaign' ahead of June vote**

In the run-up to the June 7 parliamentary elections, the top European security body has highlighted concerns in Turkey over incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's "active role in the campaign," as they have recommended the deployment of a team in order to observe the election.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 30, 2015, OSCE notes concerns over president's 'active campaign' ahead of June vote, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/osce-notes-concerns-over-presidents-active-campaign-ahead-of-june-vote.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81781&NewsCatID=510>

NATO set to gather in Antalya

NATO's policy towards Russia and the threat posed by extremists from the Alliance's southern border will be main topics of discussion at the next NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, which Turkey will host in the southern province of Antalya between May 13 and 14.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 11, 2015, NATO set to gather in Antalya with Russia and jihadist threat top on the agenda, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nato-set-to-gather-in-antalya-with-russia-and-jihadist-threat-top-on-the-agenda.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82265&NewsCatID=359>

U.S. Department of State, May 11, 2015, Secretary Kerry Travels to Sochi, Russia and Antalya, Turkey, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/05/242061.htm>

The Financial Times, May 11, 2015, Turkey hosts Nato guests after months of anti-western barbs, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/16baa0ee-f7bc-11e4-9beb-00144feab7de.html#axzz3ZqpYRwF1>



### **Top US commander for NATO due to visit Turkey's Kırşehir for train-equip program**

NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and Commander of U.S. European Command Gen. Phil Breedlove will on May 12 visit the Central Anatolian province of Kırşehir, where Turkey and the U.S. are due to start a train-equip program for the moderate Syrian opposition.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, Top US commander for NATO due to visit Turkey's Kırşehir for train-equip program, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/top-us-commander-for-nato-due-to-visit-turkeys-kirsehir-for-train-equip-program-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82125&NewsCatID=510>

Train-equip program delay due to transfer of US soldiers: Çavuşoğlu

Delays in the program for training and equipping the moderate Syrian opposition are not due to a disagreement between Ankara and Washington, but rather because of "technical reasons," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 11, 2015, Train-equip program delay due to transfer of US soldiers: Çavuşoğlu <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/train-equip-program-delay-due-to-transfer-of-us-soldiers-cavusoglu.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82263&NewsCatID=510>

### **US: Safe zones in Syria linked to Turkey's steps**

The U.S. military's top-ranking officer says contingency plans have been drawn up for a safe zone in consultation with Turkey, while a senior Pentagon official has told Hürriyet that this is conditional on Turkey's steps on plans to train Syrian rebels, which remains a source of tension between the two countries.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, US: Safe zones in Syria linked to Turkey's steps, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-safe-zones-in-syria-linked-to-turkeys-steps-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82102&NewsCatID=352>

Turkey and Saudi Arabia have long been cooperating on Syria: Turkish MFA spokesperson

Turkey and Saudi Arabia have long been in cooperation on the issue of Syrian crisis, but there are no new elements regarding that effort, spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry Tanju Bilgiç said May 8, elaborating on recent media reports claiming a new deal between the two countries.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have long been cooperating on Syria: Turkish MFA spokesperson, <http://www.hurriyetaailynews.com/turkey-and-saudi-arabia-have-long-been-cooperating-on-syria-turkish-mfa-spokesperson-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82143&NewsCatID=510>

### **Fertilizer, Also Suited for Bombs, Flows to ISIS Territory From Turkey**

The laborers work all day, piling bags of fertilizer onto carts and wheeling them through the crossing that connects this southern border town to Syria. The Syrian town next door is firmly controlled by the extremists of the Islamic State, and while the fertilizer, ammonium nitrate, is widely used for agriculture, it has also been used by terrorists around the world to build powerful explosives.

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New York Times, May 4, 2015, Fertilizer, Also Suited for Bombs, Flows to ISIS Territory From Turkey, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/world/europe/fertilizer-also-suited-for-bombs-flows-to-isis-territory-from-turkey.html?ref=todayspaper>

Libyan military shells Turkish cargo ship, crew member killed

Forces loyal to Libya's internationally recognized government said on Monday they shelled a Turkish ship off the Libyan coast after it was warned not to approach, and one crew member was killed in what Turkey described as a "contemptible attack".

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Reuters, May 11, 2015, Libyan military shells Turkish cargo ship, crew member killed, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/11/us-libya-security-turkey-idUSKBN0NWOK720150511>

### **NATO eyes cooperation in fight against ISIL**

The NATO summit hosted in Turkey's coastal province of Antalya, which gathered the alliance's foreign ministers on May 13, saw joint calls for a more effective and coordinated struggle against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 13, 2015, NATO eyes cooperation in fight against ISIL, <http://www.hurriyetaailynews.com/nato-eyes-cooperation-in-fight-against-isil.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82368&NewsCatID=359>

Turkey Says Training, Arming of Syrian Rebels Delayed

Turkey's foreign minister says the start of a joint Turkish-U.S. program to train and arm Syrian rebels fighting the Islamic State group has been delayed.



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Associated Press, May 12, 2015, Turkey Says Training, Arming of Syrian Rebels Delayed,  
[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU\\_TURKEY\\_US\\_SYRIA\\_REBELS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_TURKEY_US_SYRIA_REBELS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

### **Visa requirements lifted on Cyprus amid peace talks**

The two administrations on the divided island of Cyprus decided May 15 to remove visa requirements as a goodwill gesture amid ongoing negotiations over the island's future.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 16, 2015, Visa requirements lifted on Cyprus amid peace talks,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/visa-requirements-lifted-on-cyprus-amid-peace-talks.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82496&NewsCatID=351>

Still no Turkey-US deal for Syrian rebels

Turkey and the United States are still discussing technical aspects of possible air support for Syrian rebels trained in Turkey, with no quick formula apparently on the horizon.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 26, 2015, Still no Turkey-US deal for Syrian rebels,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/still-no-turkey-us-deal-for-syrian-rebels-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82995&NewsCatID=510>

### **OSCE parliamentarians to observe Turkey's upcoming election**

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) parliamentarians will observe the upcoming parliamentary election in Turkey and provide leadership for the OSCE's short-term observer mission, the organization said in a written statement on May 19.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 19, 2015, OSCE parliamentarians to observe Turkey's upcoming election,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/osce-parliamentarians-to-observe-turkeys-upcoming-election.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82651&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish minister to EU: Lift visas or we'll cancel key deal

Turkish EU Minister Volkan Bozkır, who is also the top negotiator in the accession process, has said the bloc has to lift visas on Turkish citizens or the country will cancel a readmission deal that covers refugees.



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Hurriyet Daily News, May 22, 2015, Turkish minister to EU: Lift visas or we'll cancel key deal,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-minister-to-eu-lift-visas-or-we'll-cancel-key-deal.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82844&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkish FM set to attend Paris meeting of anti-ISIL coalition**

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu will attend a high-level meeting of the international community on combating the threat posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on June 2 in Paris.

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Hurriyet Daily News, June 01, 2015, Turkish FM set to attend Paris meeting of anti-ISIL coalition,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-fm-set-to-attend-paris-meeting-of-anti-isil-coalition.aspx?pageID=238&nID=83306&NewsCatID=510>

US training of Syria rebel fighters expands to Turkey: Source

The US military has started training Syrian opposition fighters in Turkey to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an expected expansion of a program that first launched in Jordan weeks ago, a US official told Reuters on May 28.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 28, 2015, US training of Syria rebel fighters expands to Turkey: Source,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-training-of-syria-rebel-fighters-expands-to-turkey-source.aspx?pageID=238&nID=83113&NewsCatID=510>

### **No Turkish-US agreement on no-fly zone, but Ankara in line with Gulf: Erdoğan**

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have agreed on the necessity to enforce a safe zone and a no-fly zone in Syria despite the absence of such an agreement with the US administration, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 27, 2015, No Turkish-US agreement on no-fly zone, but Ankara in line with Gulf: Erdoğan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/no-turkish-us-agreement-on-no-fly-zone-but-ankara-in-line-with-gulf-erdogan.aspx?pageID=238&nID=83030&NewsCatID=510>



Domestic Politics

Taksim ban overshadows Turkish May Day rallies

Turkey marked May Day in places across the country with celebrations, apart from its largest city Istanbul, where riot police did not hesitate to use tear gas and water cannons to halt groups that attempted to rally in the streets to reach the symbolic Taksim Square.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 1, 2015, Wrap-up: Taksim ban overshadows Turkish May Day rallies, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/wrap-up-taksim-ban-overshadows-turkish-may-day-rallies.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81841&NewsCatID=338>

#### **Turkey's main opposition leader rules out coalition with AKP**

Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu has ruled out a coalition with Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) after the June 7 elections.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 2, 2015, Turkey's main opposition leader rules out coalition with AKP, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-main-opposition-leader-rules-out-coalition-with-akp.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81856&NewsCatID=338>

Turkey's main nationalist party MHP takes on gov't with economy focus

Turkey's main nationalist opposition party has joined an ongoing competition on the political stage, announcing an election manifesto that focused on the economy, much like other parties.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 3, 2015, Turkey's main nationalist party MHP takes on gov't with economy focus, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-main-nationalist-party-mhp-takes-on-govt-with-economy-focus.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81890&NewsCatID=338>

#### **Erdoğan: HDP, Gülen community in a dirty collusion before polls**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has slammed the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) for being in "alliance" with the "parallel structure" to manipulate the upcoming parliamentary elections by "terrorizing the country."

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 1, 2015, Erdoğan: HDP, Gülen community in a dirty collusion before polls, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-hdp-gulen-community-in-a-dirty-collusion-before-polls.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81833&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish President insists on public rallies despite opposition's criticisms

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has vowed to continue to hold public rallies and to urge voters to vote for the sake of Turkey's future, despite strong criticism from the opposition, calling on all political party leaders to not be disturbed by his political rhetoric.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, Turkish President insists on public rallies despite opposition's criticisms, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-president-insists-on-public-rallies-despite-oppositions-criticisms.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82145&NewsCatID=338>

### **HDP co-chair slams Erdoğan over abusing religion, Quran**

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) co-chairman Selahattin Demirtaş has criticized President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for exploiting religion and the Muslims' holy book, the Quran, while equally slamming the religious directorate for remaining silent on the issue.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, , <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hdp-co-chair-slams-erdogan-over-abusing-religion-quran-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82164&NewsCatID=338>

Public trust in fair elections declining in Turkey

Increasing numbers of people in Turkey believe that elections in the country are not held fairly and vote counts are not trustworthy, according to an important new survey, which also reveals a sharp difference on the issue between supporters of the government and opposition parties.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 7, 2015, Public trust in fair elections declining in Turkey, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/public-trust-in-fair-elections-declining-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82066&NewsCatID=341>

### **CEOs forecast continued AKP rule with fewer votes, HDP to pass election threshold**

A majority of top executives from Turkey's largest companies believed the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) would be the winner of the upcoming June elections, but the party's votes would decrease compared to the previous elections, according to a survey by Turkish economy



magazines Capital and Ekonomist.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 11, 2015, CEOs forecast continued AKP rule with fewer votes, HDP to pass election threshold, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ceos-forecast-continued-akp-rule-with-fewer-votes-hdp-to-pass-election-threshold-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82262&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey Plans Low-Key Funeral for Former Coup Leader Evren

Kenan Evren, the leader of Turkey's 1980 military coup and former president who died aged 97, will be given a state funeral but no government official will attend the burial of the man remembered mostly for widespread arrests, torture and deaths during his rule, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday.

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ABC News, May 11, 2015, Turkey Plans Low-Key Funeral for Former Coup Leader Evren, <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkey-plans-low-key-funeral-coup-leader-evren-30955281>

### **Turkey's economy tsar warns of deteriorating rule of law**

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan has again expressed his concern over the rule of law in Turkey, suggesting that the country could end up craving the current status of its democracy and economy in the near future if the judicial situation further deteriorates.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 14, 2015, Turkey's economy tsar warns of deteriorating rule of law, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-economy-tsar-warns-of-deteriorating-rule-of-law.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82394&NewsCatID=338>

HDP, gov't in row over party office bombings in southern Turkey

Headquarters of the Kurdish problem-focused Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) have been hit by twin bomb attacks in two southern Turkish provinces just weeks before the June 7 election, with the government and HDP officials engaging in a row over responsibility for the attack.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 18, 2015, HDP, gov't in row over party office bombings in southern Turkey, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hdp-govt-in-row-over-party-office-bombings-in-southern-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82580&NewsCatID=509>



### **CHP not a charity to secure HDP's place in parliament: Kılıçdaroğlu**

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) is not a "charity party," its leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu has said, appealing to wavering voters who are thinking about voting for the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) to help it cross the 10 percent threshold.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 17, 2015, CHP not a charity to secure HDP's place in parliament: Kılıçdaroğlu, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/chp-not-a-charity-to-secure-hdps-place-in-parliament-kilicdaroglu.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82534&NewsCatID=338>

Opposition parties act as a coalition: Turkish PM

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has reiterated his accusations that the country's opposition parties in parliament, the Republican People's Party (CHP), the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), were acting together as a coalition against the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 25, 2015, Opposition parties act as a coalition: Turkish PM, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/opposition-parties-act-as-a-coalition-turkish-pm.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82952&NewsCatID=338>

### **New AKP gov't means economic chaos: CHP**

Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government will cause chaos in Turkey and problems in the economy if reelected in the general elections, on a televised interview May 24.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 25, 2015, New AKP gov't means economic chaos: CHP, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/new-akp-govt-means-economic-chaos-chp.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82948&NewsCatID=338>

HDP head criticizes Turkish president Erdoğan for choosing sides

The Peoples' Democratic Party's (HDP) co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş said opening an airport means nothing if Erdoğan keeps boldly insulting the HDP and its voters in the southeastern province of Hakkari and elsewhere, referring to an airport opening ceremony in Hakkari's Yüksekova district where President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu delivered speeches.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 26, 2015, HDP head criticizes Turkish president Erdoğan for choosing sides, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hdp-head-criticizes-turkish-president-erdogan-for-choosing-sides.aspx?pageID=238&nID=83001&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey's Game-Changing Election**

Turkey's parliamentary election will mark a pivotal moment for the country's future. Yet for the first time in over a decade, the outcome is clouded in uncertainty.

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Carnegie Institution, May 29, 2015, Turkey's Game-Changing Election, <http://carnegieeurope.eu/2015/05/29/turkey-s-game-changing-election/i97d>

Pro-Kurdish Party's Emergence in Turkey Could Shake Up Election

As the most competitive parliamentary election in a decade approaches, the People's Democratic Party (HDP) has emerged as a potential spoiler to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's plans to cement his grip on power.

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Wall Street Journal, May 31, 2015, Pro-Kurdish Party's Emergence in Turkey Could Shake Up Election, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/pro-kurdish-partys-emergence-in-turkey-could-shake-up-election-1433104855>

### **Voting abroad over, turnout 36 percent**

The voting for Turkey's June 7 general elections has ended in 54 countries with more than 1 million people voting abroad, mainly in European countries.

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Hurriyet Daily News, June 1, 2015, Voting abroad over, turnout 36 percent, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/voting-abroad-over-turnout-36-percent.aspx?pageID=238&nID=83296&NewsCatID=341>

HDP not to return 'ethnic politics' after polls: Demirtaş

The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) will continue its efforts to turn into a political party embracing entire Turkey by abandoning its decades-old ethnic politics, its co-leader has said, vowing no return even after the June 7 election.

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Hurriyet Daily News, June 1, 2015, HDP not to return 'ethnic politics' after polls: Demirtaş,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hdp-not-to-return-ethnic-politics-after-polls-demirtas-.aspx?PageID=238&NID=83252&NewsCatID=338>

### **Renault workers in Turkey end protests**

French car giant Renault said on May 27 that a labor dispute over wages and working conditions, which halted operations at its factory in the northwestern province of Bursa, has ended following an agreement with the protesters.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 27, 2015, Renault workers in Turkey end protests,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/renault-workers-in-turkey-end-protests.aspx?pageID=238&nID=83047&NewsCatID=347>

Economy and Energy

Businesspeople warn of slowdown in Turkish economy

The Turkish economy has recently slowed down and many businesspeople have experienced problems in cash proceedings and check clearing, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) head Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu has said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 4, 2015, Businesspeople warn of slowdown in Turkish economy,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/businesspeople-warn-of-slowdown-in-turkish-economy-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81946&NewsCatID=344>

### **Kurdish regional gov't to raise oil exports to Turkey**

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq will increase its oil exports to Turkey and deliver up to 625,000 barrels per day starting from June, an official from the KRG parliament announced on April 29.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 29, 2015, Kurdish regional gov't to raise oil exports to Turkey,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/kurdish-regional-govt-to-raise-oil-exports-to-turkey-----.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81732&NewsCatID=348>



Turkish inflation climbs more than estimated in April

Consumer price inflation in Turkey rose more than expected last month, according to official data released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) on May 4.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 4, 2015, Turkish inflation climbs more than estimated in April, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-inflation-climbs-more-than-estimated-in-april.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81920&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkish economy minister predicts stronger growth, measures to control food prices**

Turkey's economic growth will accelerate to well above 1.5 percent in the second quarter of 2015 and a 4 percent growth target this year remains attainable, Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci told Reuters in an interview late on May 5.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 6, 2015, Turkish economy minister predicts stronger growth, measures to control food prices, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-economy-minister-predicts-stronger-growth-measures-to-control-food-prices.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82023&NewsCatID=344>

EU finance ministers to chastise Turkey's monetary policy – draft

Turkey's "conflicting" monetary policy is failing to lower inflation and a tighter stance is needed, European Union finance ministers will tell Turkey on Tuesday in a veiled rebuke of President Tayyip Erdogan's demands for lower interest rates.

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Reuters, May 11, 2015, EU finance ministers to chastise Turkey's monetary policy – draft, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/11/eu-turkey-cenbank-idUSL5N0Y23CE20150511>

### **Turkey and EU set to sign MoU to upgrade Customs Union**

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci and the EU commissioner for trade will sign a memorandum of understanding to draw framework of upgrading the Customs Union, EU Minister Volkan Bozkır has stated, noting that one provision in the accord will automatically make Turkey part of any free trade agreement deal that the EU signs with a third party.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 6, 2015, Turkey and EU set to sign MoU next week to upgrade Customs Union, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-and-eu-set-to-sign-mou-next-week-to-upgrade-customs->



[union.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82036&NewsCatID=344](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/azeri-gas-to-reach-europe-by-2020-minister.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82036&NewsCatID=344)

Azeri gas to reach Europe by 2020: Minister

Azerbaijan's Energy Minister Natiq Aliyev has said Azeri gas will reach Europe by 2020. Speaking at a panel discussion at the Energy Security Conference in Berlin on May 7, Aliyev said a quarter of the construction on the Southern Gas Corridor had been completed.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, Azeri gas to reach Europe by 2020: Minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/azeri-gas-to-reach-europe-by-2020-minister----.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82131&NewsCatID=348>

### **Russia's Gazprom launches construction of Turkish Stream gas pipeline**

The head of Russian gas producer Gazprom said on May 8 the firm had taken a decision to start building the Turkish Stream pipeline and that preparations to build the undersea stretch of the pipeline were under way.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 8, 2015, Russia's Gazprom launches construction of Turkish Stream gas pipeline, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/russias-gazprom-launches-construction-of-turkish-stream-gas-pipeline-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82146&NewsCatID=345>

Turkey's revision of EU Customs Union to 'pave way for resolving chronic trade problems'

The revision of the Customs Union between the EU and Turkey will provide an opportunity for the parties to overcome chronic problems such as visa issues and transport quotas, as well as enabling Turkey to build a solid foundation for new Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that are becoming more important in EU trade policy, the Economic Development Foundation (IKV) in a note on May 13.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 13, 2015, Turkey's revision of EU Customs Union to 'pave way for resolving chronic trade problems', <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-revision-of-eu-customs-union-to-pave-way-for-resolving-chronic-trade-problems.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82367&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey's Wider-Than-Expected Current Account Gap Threatens Lira**

Turkey's current-account deficit widened in March to its highest level this year as exports declined faster than imports, exposing the currency to the risk of a selloff.



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Bloomberg, May 12, 2015, Turkey's Wider-Than-Expected Current Account Gap Threatens Lira,
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-05-12/turkey-current-account-gap-grows-more-than-estimated-in-march>

Turkey's risks likely to increase after election

Everybody in Turkey is focused on the upcoming general election. What about after the election? Results of the June 7 vote will likely carry economic, political, and even geopolitical ramifications.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 18, 2015, Turkey's risks likely to increase after election,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-risks-likely-to-increase-after-election.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82544&NewsCatID=344>

### **TUSIAD President Delivers Remarks at TURKONFED General Assembly**

TUSIAD President Cansen Basaran-Symes spoke at the 11th General Assembly meeting of the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TURKONFED) in Istanbul. In her speech, Basaran-Symes underscored the fact that a "developed civil society structure extraordinarily improves democratic standards."

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TUSIAD, May 23, 2015, TÜSİAD Yönetim Kurulu Başkanı Cansen Başaran-Symes TÜRKONFED 11. Genel Kurul toplantısına katıldı, <http://www.tusiad.org/bilgi-merkezi/basin-odasi/basin-bultenleri/tusiad-yonetim-kurulu-baskani-cansen-basaran-symes-turkonfed-11--genel-kurul-toplantisina-katildi/>

TUSIAD, May 23, 2015, TÜSİAD Yönteim Kurulu Başkanı Cansen Başaran-Symes, TÜRKONFED 11. Genel Kurul Konuşması, http://www.tusiad.org/_rsc/shared/file/TUSIAD-Yonetim-Kurulu-Baskani-Cansen-Basaran-Symes-TURKONFED-11--Genel-Kurul-Konusma-Metni---23-Mayis-2015.pdf

Ford Motor's Turkish unit halts output as labor dispute resumes

The Turkish unit of Ford Motor has suspended operations at one of its plants, after a week-long labor dispute flared up again just days after the company resumed production at another plant in Turkey.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 26, 2015, Ford Motor's Turkish unit halts output as labor dispute resumes, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ford-motors-turkish-unit-halts-output-as-labor-dispute-resumes.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82992&NewsCatID=347>

### **Turkey's vegetable, cereal production expected to rise after draught year**

The production of fruits, vegetables and cereals and other crops is expected to increase when compared with previous year, the Turkish Statistics Institute (TÜİK) said on May 26.

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Hurriyet Daily News, May 26, 2015, Turkey's vegetable, cereal production expected to rise after draught year, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-vegetable-cereal-production-expected-to-rise-after-draught-year.aspx?pageID=238&nID=82984&NewsCatID=344>

Turkish Authorities Seize Bank Asya

Turkish authorities seized Bank Asya, ending a long-running battle to bring the Islamic lender firmly under government control after the company became embroiled in a political feud. The move, announced by Turkey's Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency late Friday, comes just a week before critical parliamentary elections and marks the latest step in an 18-month saga that saw the country's largest Islamic lender lose half of its assets as political attacks fueled a run by depositors.

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Wall Street Journal, May 31, 2015, Turkish Authorities Seize Bank Asya, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-authorities-seize-bank-asya-1433102306>

### **Weakening Economy Threatens Turkish Government's Election Chances**

As Turkey prepares for June elections, the government's 13-year hold on power is facing a new threat: diminishing faith in its long-trusted economic management.

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Wall Street Journal, May 28, 2015, Weakening Economy Threatens Turkish Government's Election Chances, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/weakening-economy-threatens-turkish-governments-election-chances-1432814838>