

DÜNYA

WITH

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PM Erdogan slams France over vote

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan fired salvos at the French Parliament on Thursday, saying Turkey would freeze all ties with France. Turkey will cancel all military, economic and politic relations with the country. Turkey called back it's ambassador in Paris for consultations.



France adopts genocide denial act

French Parliament yesterday adopted legislation that would penalize denial of the controversial accusations that Turks massacred Armenians during World War I. Thousands of Turks demonstrated in front of the the parliament building in protest of the bill's passage.

'Mr Archaeology' promotes nation's antiquities

Nezih Basgelen has been producing books and magazines on archaeology since 1978. His Archaeology & Art Publications Company is the biggest publisher of books about the ancient world in Eurasia, an area stretching from the Adriatic to the Chinese frontier.

By Metin Demirsar

Istanbul (Dunya) - No one has done more to promote and popularize Turkey's antiquities at home and abroad than Nezih Basgelen, 53.

In the last 33 years, Mr. Basgelen has written, edited and published more than 1,500 books and magazines on the local as well as foreign archaeological scene in the Turkish and English languages, without any state support and corporate sponsorship. His Archaeology and Art Publications Company is the biggest producer of books on antiquities in Eurasia, a vast region stretching from the Adriatic to China.

Mr. Basgelen's recent books include studies of Gobekli Tepe, a Neolithic (New Stone Age) hilltop sanctuary near the town of Sanliurfa, in southeast Turkey that is the oldest human-made religious structure yet discovered; a history of the Istanbul Archaeology Museum from imperial times to the present; and an illustrated index to Turkish Rivers.

His magazines and books, considered worldwide as scholarly publications, have given opportunities for young and old Turkish and foreign researchers to present their findings at excavations in Turkey and its surroundings.

His friends describe him as "Mr. Archaeology." Yet Mr. Basgelen has received neither laurels from Turkey's universities nor praise from the Turkish state, nor any

backing from Turkey's leading businessmen and corporations.

The Turkish government, he says, is more interested in promoting Turkish and Islamic art, than the history and art of the pre-Turkish period, although the country has the greatest sites of the classical and Neolithic world. The country has around 20,000 archaeological sites, but only 200 of these are currently being excavated.

"If I had been a third rate singer, I would be more popular than I am now," says the friendly Mr. Basgelen in an interview in his office overlooking Istanbul's French Street, (Fransiz Sokagi), a narrow, winding, stone stair cased lane with tented buildings, street musicians, cafes, bars and art centers near Galatasaray Lycee in Beyoglu district. "But in Turkey, successful persons are shunned and penalized."

He says that universities abroad would establish research institutes in his name if he asked, but in Turkey he has been unable to persuade any school of higher learning, or corporations to establish a scholarly visual archaeology institute, which could benefit from his more than 400 crates of archival materials he has collected and compiled over the past 42 years.

"I've been forced to put these in storage," he said.

Childhood fascination

His fascination with antiquities began in 1969 when his father, the head of the electronics section



of the Istanbul Yesilkoy (Ataturk) International Airport, sent him on a summer vacation to his aunt and uncle, who were school teachers living in the resort town of Fethiye, on the southwest corner of Turkey, known for its Lycian monuments.

"It was the greatest gift a primary school graduate could get," he recalled.

"The massive Lycian rock cemeteries of Fethiye were mind-boggling. I would spend hours every day climbing to examine the grand Tomb of Amyntas," he said.

He visited Kayakoy, a nearby ghost town once inhabited by Greek-speaking Christians who left Turkey in 1923, and rummaged through ruins at an island once inhabited by the crusading Knights of Saint John, discovering a stone epitaph, which he turned over to museum authorities.

Returning to Istanbul, he began to read and take notes on everything he could find on antiquities, a practice he still continues today.

"You could say that I decided to become an archaeologist when I was only 11 years old," Mr. Basgelen said. "My father had always hoped my interest would be just a passing child's fantasy, but he was wrong and he finally gave in."

In the summer of 1971, he visited his other aunt in Kars, near the Soviet border. She was married to an army officer.

That summer he visited the ruins of Ani, an old Armenian city, toured the Black Sea Coast of Turkey and visited the ferry chimneys and rock churches of Cappadocia in central Turkey.

While in high school, he began writing magazine articles on his travels and became an editorial assistant of the late Cetin Emec, one of Turkey's leading newspaper editors, and this helped him to finance his travels and permitted him to buy cameras and typewriter with which he could write his articles. He eventually received a BA in archaeology from Istanbul University.

Mr. Basgelen established his publishing company in 1978, financed by the support of his aunt and uncle, and has worked with an almost dogged obsession in creating some of the finest books in the world on Turkish antiquities.

"My aunt and uncle gave their meager savings to me and this allowed me to become a publisher," he said.

"They had complete faith in me, as I had in myself."

The Joy of Turkish Sparking Wine: Vinkara launches Yasasin

By Mina Ercel

Istanbul (Dunya) - Globally Turkish wines are not especially well known or particularly admired. On a trip to the Mediterranean island of Capri three years ago, Ardic Gursel, chairwoman of the board of Vinkara wines, came into contact with Italian friends who were opinionated about Turkish wines.

Not knowing she was a wine producer, they ironically suggested that in Naples tourists could use Turkish wines instead of self-protection pepper spray against robbers for "Turkish wines are so bad, they will instantly kill one from gastronomic pains!" they commented.

Quality grapes

Several years later with the help of Vinkara's oenologist Marco Monchiero, a great team and much financial investment on the quality of grape production, Gursel has taken Turkish grapes and wines to a whole new level, gaining international recognition and winning prestigious awards throughout Europe. In early December, Vinkara launched their first sparkling wine called Yasasin.

By the end of 2006 when Ardic Gursel professionally entered into the wine making industry in Turkey, she had her doubts; "wines have historically come from the Anatolian soils, why do Turkish grapes not have a reputation like Merlot or Chardonnay, what is our defect," she wondered.

She wanted a foreign perspective and thus found her Italian oenologist Mr. Monchiero who had a "curious personality" and was ready to expand his horizons. After taking his time and inspecting the environment, soil and grapes, Mr. Monchiero "saw light at the end of the tunnel" for these particular Turkish grapes and thus



all Vinkara's investment was made on infrastructure and increasing the quality of the grapes. Currently Vinkara grows Kalecik Karasi, Öküzgözü, Boğazkere, Emir and Narince grapes — Turkish wine grapes — along with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling grapes at its 420 acre vineyards located in Kalecik, Ankara. Some 1.040 million liters of wine are produced annually at the facilities. As the grapes and wines (vino) come from Ankara, the name Vinkara was designated.

Yasasin: Hallelujah!

In such a short span of time, Vinkara Doruk Kalecik Karasi and Vinkara Doruk Narince were bronze medal recipients from the Tasting Panel at the USA based Beverage Tasting Institute in 2010. Recently in Germany Vinkara's Reserve series Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot & Syrah (2009) blend received the prestigious "Grand Gold" award at the MUNDUS VINI International Wine Competition. Finally in June 2011, in Canada Vinkara Wines was the winner of a gold and silver medal at the "Sélections mondiales des vins Canada" competition.

Vinkara's sparkling wine,

Yasasin (which translates similar to hallelujah), is the first Turkish wine made with the traditional champagne production method called "methode champenoise". In addition to taste, the quality of sparkling wine is measured by the small size of the fizzy bubbles and consistency of bubbling after pouring. Yasasin with an aromatic fruity taste passes this test with regards to the bubbles and smooth texture. What is felt on the palette is an aromatic and lightly citrus taste. The responsibly priced sparkling wine is 85-99 TL per bottle.

What's next in store for Vinkara? In eight months' time, a new collection of passito wines (wine made from raisins and semi-dried grapes) will be introduced. Grapes for passito making are traditionally dehydrated thus their juice is increasingly sweeter.

Back in Europe, Ms. Gursel's initial skeptical Italian friends will be enjoying a glass of Turkish sparkling wine over the New Year's Eve and opening their horizons to new-found Anatolian grapes. YASASIN (HALLELUJAH)!!!

For stores offering Vinkara and Yasasin, check out www.vinkara.com

ISTANBUL, ANKARA, IZMIR, ANTALYA EVENTS

ISTANBUL

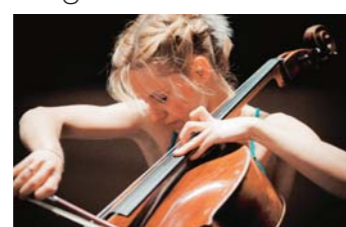
121 works of Salvador Dali

(Exhibition) Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, in cooperation with the InArts and Kult, hosts one of the 20th century's most important artists and representative of the Surrealist movement Salvador Dali with 121 works consisting of "Divine Comedy" print series, Surrealist Years series and Gala series. The Salvador Dali print series Divine Comedy originates in plans by the Italian government to honor the 700th birthday of the Italian poet Dante Alighiere in the beginning of 50's. Although the project was later dropped in Italy, Dali strove to see its completion. The series consists of 100 prints - one print for each canto plus one cover print. The prints were produced as wood engravings in the years 1959 to 1963 in Paris, commissioned by Joseph Foret. For the series of the Divine Comedy 3,500 blocks were carved by two professional carvers. (Open until February 26, Mimar Sinan University, Findikli)

Handicraft gift fair in Military Museum

(Fair) Military Museum (Askeri Muze) Harbiye is hosting the Christmas and New Year Gift Fair on December 23-30, 2011. A total of 120 companies will offer the visitors a treasure trove consisting of handicrafts from Africa, silk from Hatay, blankets from Siirt, copperware from Gaziantep, silverware from Trabzon and much more. You sure will find several gifts suitable to your budget. Entrance is free. Visiting hours: Monday-Thursday 11:00-20:30, Friday-Sunday 11:00-21:30.

Sol Gabetta takes stage in Is Sanat



(Concert) The promising baroque ensemble Capella Gabetta and one of classical music's most acclaimed young stars Sol Gabetta will come together at Is Sanat. Grammy Award nominee, winner of the prestigious "Credit Suisse Young Artist Award" in 2004, "Echo Klassik Awards" in 2007 and 2009, the charismatic cellist Sol Gabetta is forging an impressive career; she has a recording contract with Sony Classical, is the Director of her own festival, and has invitations from important orchestras all over the world. With her outstanding talent, wit, elegance, intensity and lightness of touch in near-miraculous balance she succeeds to charm the audiences' in each of her concerts. Sol Gabetta and Cappella Gabetta will offer a gorgeous baroque feast with a repertoire ranging from Pachelbel to Durante and from Vivaldi to Platti. (December 23, Is Sanat, 20:00, Levent)

Don't miss concert in Grand Bazaar



(Concert) Istanbul's famous historical marketplace, Kapalicarsi (Grand Bazaar) has been celebrating the 550th anniversary of its opening with a series of cultural events in 2011. Fa-

mous Turkish composer and pianist Tuluhan Ugurlu will take stage on Grand Bazaar's main street Kalpakcilar Caddesi for the closing ceremony on Sunday, December 25 at 15:30. The concert will include hymns by an Armenian tenor, a Jewish choir and a Turkish hafiz and Mehteran (Ottoman Military Band) will accompany Ugurlu. Since Grand Bazaar is closed on Sundays, entries will be provided only from Nuruosmaniye Gate. (December 25, Grand Bazaar, 15:30)

Equilibrium in Empire Project

(Exhibition) Erdem Kucukkoroglu's exhibition, called "Equilibrium", heavily influenced by calligraphy and rules of geometry, can be seen in "The Bicycle Path" until January 14, 2012. "The Bicycle Path", a new exhibition series from Empire, presents Erdem Kucukkoroglu's "Equilibrium". With a degree from mathematics and largely influenced by geometric abstract paintings, Kucukkoroglu composes his works using the visual esthetics and rhythms of calligraphy. His works consist of geometric forms dependent on mathematical ratios. (Open until January 14, Empire Project, Siraselviler)

Imam Baildi: A delicious taste

(Concert) First, take samples from Greek and Balkan music. Add on live percussions, drum and hip-hop samples with continuous rhythm loops, rumba and samba sound... Mix them with a bit of Balkan taste offered with saxophone, clarinet, trumpet and bagpipe... And add some Bouzouki tunes coming out of rebetiko, Gypsy guitar riffs

alongside cello... That's Imam Baildi! A blend of Greek tunes and Balkan music combined with hip-hop, rumba and samba tones on beautiful melodies, Imam Baildi is coming to Is Sanat with their latest album The Imam Baildi Cookbook. Defining their music as "global pop" in the self-titled album released in 2007 on EMI Greece, Imam Baildi got great critical acclaim, followed by more than 130 live shows in Greece around Europe. (December 27, Is Sanat, 20:00, Levent)

Seckin Pirim's first exhibition in city

(Exhibition) Latest works of sculptor-designer Seckin Pirim are on show for the first time in Istanbul at the Borusan Music House. Pirim has participated in 70 group shows and opened 8 solo shows two of which were abroad. His most recent works, "the discipline factory" series feature works using paper and acrylic as material and were created during the artist's military service of six months in Ankara two years ago. (Open until December 27, Borusan Music House, 10:00-19:00 except Sundays and Mondays, Beyoglu)

Vans off the Wall Music Night

(Concert) The "Vans Off The Wall Music Night" series bring together well-known groups and audiences in Europe's biggest cities every year. Previously, such names as Anti Flag, The Swellers, Funeral for a Friend, Fightstar, Kids in Glass Houses and Puled Apart By Horses have gone throughout Europe. For the first time, this year Istanbul has been included as a stop along this route with the contributions of Bant magazine. Different voices and various genres

like Haossa, Kim Ki O, Hayanlar Alemi, Grup Ses Beats, Berk Cakmakci will take stage during the night. After the concerts, Berk Cakmakci will perform as DJ. (December 23, Salon IKS, 21:30)

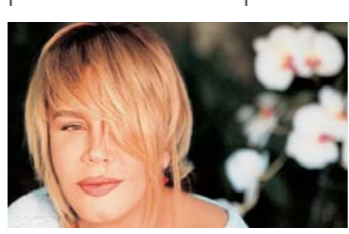
Hyperactive rhythms of Nekropsi



(Concert) One of the legendary bands of the Istanbul alternative music stage Nekropsi, holds a concert in IKS Salon. Debut album, Mi Kubbesi, was released in 1995. Chosen last year as the "best avant garde group" by Roxo Music Days. Appeared as the opening act for the Jimmy Page & Robert Plant's Istanbul concert in 1998. Robert Plant described the band's performance as "wild and creepy." Second album, 10 Yilda Bir Cikar, Say 2 was released in 2005. Latest album Nekropsi 98, was released last year. Hyperactive rhythms, amazing arrangements, weird vocals and surprises. (December 24, Salon IKS, 22:30)

ANKARA

Petite Turkish diva performs in capital



(Concert) Turkish pop music singer Sezen Aksu, songwriter and producer who sold over 40 million albums worldwide. Her nicknames include the "Queen of Turkish Pop" and "Little Sparrow." Ak-

su's influence on Turkish pop and world music has continued since her debut in 1975, and has been reinforced by her patronage of and collaboration with many other musicians, including Sertab Erener, Sebnem Ferah, Askin Nur Yengi, Hande Yener, and Levent Yüksel. Her work with Tarkan resulted in continental hits like "Shimrik" and "Shikidyim" and her collaboration with Goran Bregovic widened her international audience. Along with her close friend Ajda Pekkan, Aksu is credited with laying the foundations of Turkish pop music in the 1970s. She has championed a variety of causes, including women's rights, the environment, and educational reform in Turkey. Aksu has been married and divorced four times. Her songs has hit the hearts of almost all Turks at least once in their lives. She is regarded as a petite diva in her country. (December 24, Congressium Ankara, 21:00)

Emre Aydin rising pop-rock star

(Concert) Pop-rock singer Emre Aydin won about 50 awards in 2006 with his debut album "Afili Yalnzilik", of which he solely wrote and composed 5 of the 10 songs. After the 'loneliness' theme on the first album, he released his second album "Kagit Evler", which became very popular in just a few days, especially with its first single "Bu Yagmurlar" which is selected as "The Best European Act" in MTV European Music Awards 2008. (December 24, Jolly Joker, 22:00)

IZMIR

Kavak Yelleri to blow in Aegean coast

(Concert) Soft-rock band Pinhani formed by two cousins Sinan Kaynakci (vocal and rythm guitar) and Zeynep Eylul Ucer (vocal and bass guitar). With the contribution of guitarist Akin Eldes, key-



boardist Selim Aydin and drummer Hani Unlu they released their debut album "Inandigin Masallar" in 2006 and managed to have a significant place in Turkish music. Their distinctive sound is composed of mellow tones, softly overdrive guitar solos and very clean and calm vocal. Their second album "Zaman Beklemez" was released in 2008. After their first album was released, they gave almost hundred concerts and have a great deal of fans. In the summer of 2007, with their soundtrack of the TV series called "Kavak Yelleri", they became well known all around the country. (December 23, Ooze Venue, 23:00)

ANTALYA

Mediterranean Kick Boxing Champ

(Sports) International Mediterranean Kick Boxing Championship will take place at Antalya Atatürk Sports Hall on 24th-25th December. 700 athletes from 35 provinces in Turkey will attend the championship as well Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Jordan will participate. Antalya Metropolitan Municipality, Kepez, Muratpasa, Konyaaltı Municipality, the Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports are supporting the championship. During two days, athletes from other countries of Turkey will donate blood. (December 24-25, Atatürk Sports Hall)

