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President Ersin Tatar and the Annan Plan referenda anniversary



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CyprusScene 22nd of April review from the TRNC.

Hello, my friends, my name is Chris Elliott and I would like to welcome you to our latest CyprusScene review from Northern Cyprus and also apologise that I have had to take some time from publishing to rest and review projects we have been working on.

If I may, I would like to tell you about when I went to the TRNC Presidential Palace on Friday 14th April together with other guests including representatives from a number of NGOs to witness the book launch of "A CRY FOR JUSTICE" which is President, Ersin Tatar's authorized biography written by Jennifer Vardy.

It was a very pleasant experience in the sunny garden of the presidential palace where there were a number of speeches made and a book signing and President Tatar was very friendly and smiling and talking to all the guests and I enjoyed the opportunity of speaking with him as well.

As you will have seen, we published an article about this as well as producing a video in memory of the occasion which you can view along with others on my YouTube channel **"Chris Elliott brings CyprusScene videos".**

These past weeks have been very busy for the TRNC Presidency with many statements being made about the ongoing unfair isolation of the Turkish Cypriots and the wish of the UN, EU etc wanting to see the TRNC agree to a federal solution to the Cyprus issue when in fact the so called Republic of Cyprus who are recognised as being responsible for the whole of Cyprus have no interest in agreeing a solution as they have the backing of all major players and as such the RoC does not intend to agree to anything. Is it surprising therefore that the TRNC are pushing for recognition as an independent state.

You will remember we made a video review with the British Residents' Society together with Stephen Day about the progress of the UK Government lobbying campaign calling for recognition and equal treatment of the TRNC and this has received a great response through our website, e-newspaper, YouTube video channel and finally podcasts and the BRS representatives recently visited TRNC President, Ersin Tatar and reported on the progress of their UK lobbying campaign requesting the



UK treat the Turkish Cypriots fairly and lift the embargoes. .

I have been writing about my archery hobby which is developing and I have been visiting the Girne Archery Club who were running a training session at the Girne Hunting Shooting and Archery Sports Club in Karaman where I received some great tuition from Aysen Tez and Murat Cogun and I just need to practice a lot and concentrate on all the things they told me so that I can develop the level of skill I want through consistent archery shooting form.

So, thank you again my friends and I wish you a safe and happy week and do please click to like our work and perhaps make a donation to Buy Me A Coffee which helps keep our work going

Goodbye.

Thank you for your support and if you would like to show your appreciating do BUY me a COFFEE

https://www.buymeacoffee.com/chrismycypZ

Buy me a coffee



Click here to watch the CyprusScene video https://youtu.be/PaK1WTxZVUY

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Call from President Tatar to the world: “Keep your promises”



TRNC President Ersin Tatar called on the UN, EU, USA and other international actors to keep their promises they made to the Turkish Cypriot people during the Annan Plan referanda held in 2004.

President Tatar stated “It is with deep regret that, despite the passing of 19 years following the Annan Plan referenda, none of the promises have effectively come to fruition. We are compelled to express our disappointment at every anniversary of the Annan Plan referenda”.

The President added “My call to the UN, EU, and the US, is to stop supporting the Greek-Greek Cypriot duo, who have only paid lip service to wanting a settlement but always rejected any equality-based solution, and to effectively implement the promises they made to the Turkish Cypriot people during the Annan Plan period in 2004.”

Source: TRNC Public Information Office

FM Ertuğruloğlu: “We are waging a struggle for our honour”

Foreign Minister Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu made a statement to Baku TV, which has been filming a documentary in the TRNC on the Cyprus issue.

According to a subsequent press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Minister Ertuğruloğlu made a comprehensive assessment of the past and present of the Cyprus issue, relations with Azerbaijan, the observer membership to the Organisation of Turkic States and underlined that the Cyprus issue is a question of status.

Emphasizing that the Turkish Cypriots underwent untold suffering and persecution at the hands of the Greek Cypriots years before the ethnic cleansing campaign that had occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the middle of Europe, Ertuğruloğlu said: “We were subjected to all kinds of atrocities; we did not surrender, and we did not succumb. We are waging a struggle for our honour with the support of Türkiye.”

Source: TRNC Public Information Office



President Ersin Tatar received British Residents’ Society officials



President Ersin Tatar received officials from the British Residents’ Society (BRS), where discussions were held with regards to the issues faced by the expat community in the TRNC.

The delegation was headed by BRS Chairman Julian Mawdesley, Mike Diplock, Hakan Redif and Peter Wilkins.

Also in attendance from the Presidency were Special Representative of the President, M. Ergün Olgun, and Foreign Press Officer Kerem Haser.

The President was briefed about the latest BRS lobbying activities being conducted under the Freedom and Fairness for Northern Cyprus campaign. Evaluations were also made with regards to the latest visit of President Ersin Tatar to London last month, and his meetings with numerous MPs, members of the House of Lords, and the media.

Discussions were also held on the issues facing the expat community who live in the TRNC.

Source: PRESIDENCY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS



President Ersin Tatar and the Annan Plan referenda anniversary



Statement of President Ersin Tatar on the 19th anniversary of the separately held simultaneous referenda on the UN Comprehensive Settlement [Annan] Plan.

"Turkish Cypriot People and our State will reach their rightful status in the international community despite the continuing injustice and broken promises to end our isolation"

President Ersin Tatar issued a written statement on the 19th anniversary of the separately held simultaneous referenda of the UN Comprehensive Settlement [Annan] Plan and the 20th anniversary of the first border crossing point between the two Sides.

The 'Annan Plan' had come about following decades of federal-based negotiations between the equal Turkish Cypriot People and Greek Cypriot People, which was held under the UN and supported by the international community. During the Annan Plan period, numerous promises were made to the Turkish Cypriot People by many international actors and States, that the inhumane isolation, which has negative impact on the development of the Turkish Cypriot People – both as a collective and as individuals – would be lifted. However, none of the promises have been fulfilled, and despite the passing of 19 years, the Turkish Cypriot People continue to be isolated and prevented from being able to trade directly and enjoy direct flights. Despite their rejection of the Annan Plan, the Greek Cypriot Side acceded to the EU in the name of the whole island one week after the referenda in 2004, whilst Turkish Cypriots were left out in the cold.

President Ersin Tatar's statement to his People on these two important anniversaries reads as follows:

"My Honourable People,

Today marks the 19th anniversary of the separately held simultaneous referenda for the UN Comprehensive Settlement [Annan] Plan (aka 'Annan Plan'), which was held on April 24, 2004.

As it will be recalled, negotiations on the Cyprus issue commenced almost 55 years ago in June, 1968. Since then, political and technical negotiations which took place at every level failed due to the intransigent approach and mentality of the Greek Cypriot Side. However, there have also been very important turning points in these processes.

In 1960, exercising their inherent sovereign equality rights, the Turkish Cypriot People and the Greek Cypriot People established the partnership Republic of Cyprus. Just three years later, the Greek Cypriot Side violated the Constitution and expulsed Turkish Cypriot officials out of the state apparatus by force of arms. Island-wide armed attacks by Greek-Greek Cypriot forces, including the EOKA terrorist organisation were initiated against innocent Turkish Cypriots which lasted for 11 years as part of the aspiration to unite Cyprus with Greece (ENOSIS).

On July 15, 1974, a coup d'état was staged and the 'Hellenic Republic of Cyprus' was declared. Motherland Türkiye undertook the Cyprus Peace Operation on July 20, 1974, as obliged by the Treaty of Guarantee, the day after Archbishop Makarios addressed the UN Security Council that "Greece has invaded Cyprus". The fascist junta of Greece proceeded to kill Greek Cypriots who opposed them. Furthermore, had Türkiye not have staged the Cyprus Peace Operation, the military junta in Greece would not have collapsed and democracy would not have returned to Greece.

In the following period, the Turkish Cypriot People, who have been putting forward a great struggle to protect their inherent sovereign equality rights as one of the co-owners on the island of Cyprus, have been governing themselves effectively as a State since 1963. Exercising our right to self-determination, Turkish Cypriot People proclaimed our own democratic sovereign State in November 1983, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The Turkish Cypriot Side has never abandoned its sincere, constructive, and good faith approach in all these years, and have always tried to accommodate an equality-based comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. However, all negotiations collapsed, due to the Greek Cypriot Side's unwillingness to share power and prosperity with their Turkish Cypriot equals in a new partnership.

Opening of first border crossing by TRNC

Precisely 20 years ago, on April 23, 2003, the Turkish Cypriot Side undertook a historical game changing act and opened the Ledra Palace border checkpoint in Lefkoşa that provided an opportunity for the two Peoples on both Sides of the island of Cyprus to be able to cross the border.

At first, the Greek Cypriot leadership had put forth a position of not accommodating the opening of the border checkpoint, but this was short lived due to the overwhelming pressure by the Greek Cypriot people. However, the reason why such resistance was initially shown needs to be questioned. The explanation is simple. The Greek Cypriot leadership wanted to prevent their own People from visiting the 'North' as they did not want them to see the realities in TRNC and how we really lived, which had been a tool they used to make negative propaganda over many years.

The realities in the island of Cyprus, including the existence of two separate sovereign States, were witnessed first hand by both the Turkish Cypriot People and Greek Cypriot People who used the border crossings. They not only witnessed, but also understood that there were separate set of laws, rules and regulations and requirements of the two different States, that they had to comply with when they crossed, including the need to have a different currency. The phenomenon that has emerged in 1974 has become deeply rooted and the opening of border crossings between the two States has added 'flesh and bones' to this reality, which cannot be denied.

Annan Plan referenda

Nineteen years ago, a first was lived in the history of negotiations on the Cyprus issue (including the

Continued on page 5 >>>>

continued ....President Ersin Tatar and the Annan Plan referendum

1959/1960 process), where a UN Comprehensive Settlement [Annan] Plan was put to separate simultaneous referenda on both Sides in Cyprus. I must summarise and emphasise the significance of this momentous event: Following the approval by both sides in Cyprus who accepted to put the 'Annan Plan' to separate, simultaneous referenda, the TRNC Parliament approved the referendum legislation, and as is the case for every election in our Republic, our Supreme Election Council announced both the polling stations and the electorate list. As in every election in our country, all our citizens who had the right to vote did so in the referendum. The same processes were also followed on the Greek Cypriot Side. The referenda were separately and simultaneously held on both Sides. The two States held the referenda according to their own laws, rules, polling stations, electoral list and votes were thus cast. This is, in itself, concrete proof of the realities that prevail on the island of Cyprus which is that two States exist here. In other words, the sovereign equality and equal international status of the Turkish Cypriot People is an inherent right that already exists and is not subject to and could never be dependent on a compromise and the result of any negotiation process.

Another fundamental conclusion that can be drawn following the outcome of the separately held simultaneous referenda of the 'Annan Plan' is that there will never be a change to the policies and deep-rooted hegemonic mentality that exists in Southern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot leadership had at the time agreed to allow the 'Annan Plan' to be put to a referendum on their own Side at the summit held in Burgenstock on March 31, 2004, in order not to look bad to the international community. However, immediately after returning to the island, the Greek Cypriot leadership started to demonise the plan, and put into place manipulative, demagogic and inflammatory campaign through a propaganda machine, where even the late Greek Cypriot leader made a last-ditch effort through a national address broadcast on television, where he cried and pleaded for a 'no' vote from his People. Their reasons were very simple. According to Greek Cypriots, the island of Cyprus should be a Hellenic Island, the guarantees should be abolished, and the Turkish forces should be completely removed from the island. According to their demands, the Turkish Cypriots should have very limited powers, if any, in the administration and the 'supreme Greek Cypriots' should be able to make the important decisions with regards to the island, on the grounds of 'functionality'. This was the picture at that time and the denial of these facts would not go beyond populism. These are excerpts from statements made by Greek Cypriot politicians of not only the right-wing political parties, but also of the Greek Cypriot communist party, AKEL, another important representative of ideological populism, which is trying to keep a false image of being the "angel of peace". The Annan Plan referenda in 2004 were both a moment of sincerity as well as time of confrontation with the facts.

Despite the realisation of these unchangeable realities, there have been numerous efforts to set up the same stage and setting. Those who have time and again seen the mentality of the Greek Cypriot Side over decades voiced disappointment again following the outcome in Crans-Montana in July 2017, where the last and final summit for a federal-based settlement collapsed due to the Greek Cypriot Side's refusal to come to terms with sharing power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot Side on the basis of equality.

The 'Annan Plan' referenda in 2004 and the events in Crans-Montana in 2017 once again revealed that a federal-based solution is not possible. Whilst the Greek Cypriot side rejected our inherent equality and sovereignty rights in Crans-Montana, well known demands were repeatedly made for the solution to be based on the 'evolution' of the 'Republic of Cyprus', to eventually becoming a unitary state being ruled by the Greek Cypriots, which was further evidenced through their "zero troops, zero guarantees" position. The objective of the Greek Cypriot Side is very clear.

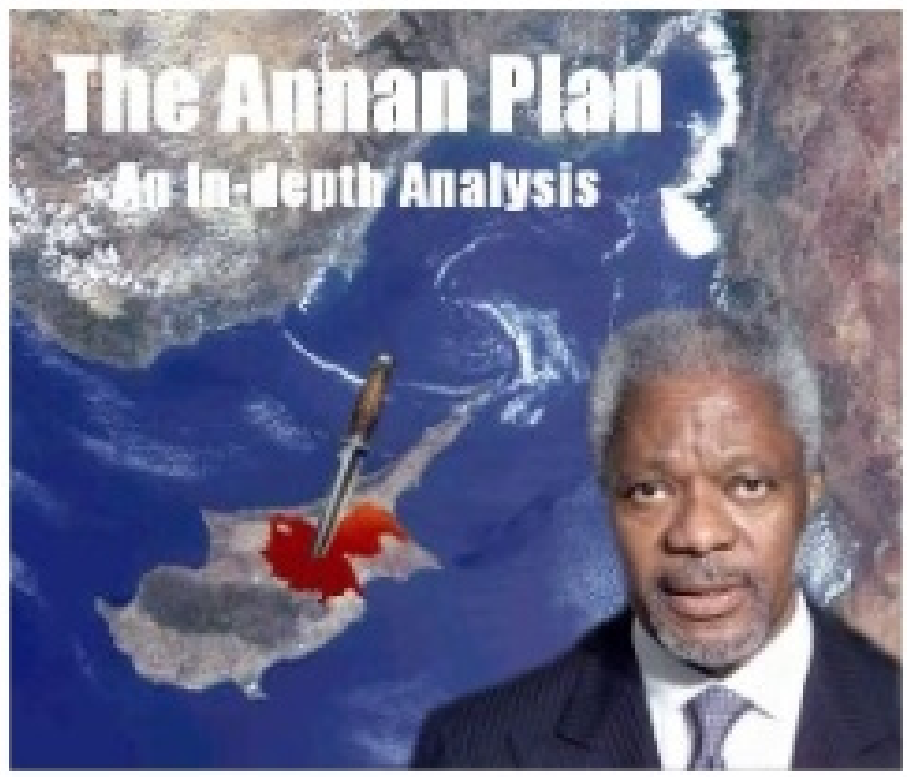
The Greek Cypriot Side is awaiting a conjunctural solution. Their sole objective is to perpetuate the status-quo and to continue being recognised as the so-called 'authority' of the whole island, until such a time where a situation arises that they can use a negotiations process as a tool to satisfy their own ambitions and force us to surrender.

On the anniversaries of these important dates, I would like to reiterate once again that we will not allow the Greek Cypriot side to remain in their comfort zones, which they have unjustly and illegally abused. The Turkish Cypriot Side, with the full support of Motherland Türkiye, will not enter into any basis that have been exhausted. We will not surrender the future of my honourable people, who heroically continue their struggle for survival and equal co-existence.

Any settlement needs to be based on the sovereign equality and equal international status of the two States on the basis of a cooperative relationship. With this vision, we will continue our work by choosing rational power and keeping diplomacy at the forefront. While these efforts continue, we shall arduously continue our efforts for the equal status, equal treatment and equal opportunities for our People and State, which is our inherent right."

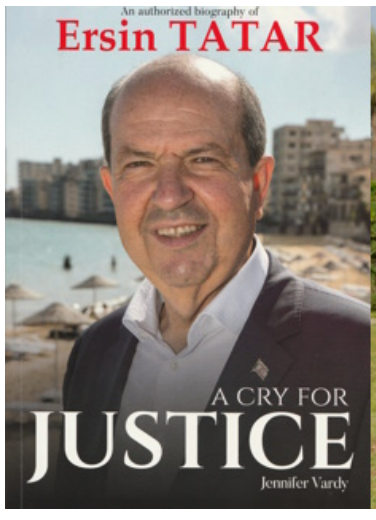
Source: PRESIDENCY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS





29th April 2023 to 5th May 2023

Presidential book launch of "A Cry for Justice"





Introduction by Chris Elliott….

What better way to finish the week than on a high and for me it was the opportunity to visit the TRNC Presidential Palace in Lefkosa and be with many other people to witness the launch of President Ersin Tatar's authorized biography written by Jennifer Vardy and this event was described by Ralph Kratzer of The Foreign Residents in the TRNC – TFR as follows:

"TFR Committee members and representatives of other NGOs like ATA, BRS and HEARTBEAT, attended a reception in the garden of the presidential residence in Lefkosa for the book launch of President Tatar´s biography "A Cry for Justice".

The book author Jennifer Vardy and President Ersin Tatar held speeches about the making of the book and the vision of a future Cyprus as equal parties side by side with the Greek Cypriots…

We are delighted to have received pictures from TFR and the TRNC Presidency office together with a video clip we are showing below in our video which also shows the wonderful experience for everyone that was present on this occasion.

https://youtu.be/BtEDHNte5Lc







NOC sends letter of protest to UN



On the anniversary of the separate and simultaneous referenda on the Annan Plan, the TRNC National Olympics Committee (NOC) yesterday (24/04/2023) had presented a letter to a UN official to be forwarded to the United Nations organs and permanent members of the Security Council as a reaction to restrictions that continue to be imposed on the Turkish Cypriots in the field of sports.

In addition to the TRNC National Olympic Committee Board of Directors who came together to deliver the letter at the Ledra Palace Border Gate, some sports federation officials, trainers, and students in the country were also present.

A banner reading "**Turkish Cypriots, shackled in life, shackled in sports… why?"** depicting a picture of the Olympic logo as handcuffs was placed at the entrance to the buffer zone. The athletes also wore T-shirts with the same inscription.

TRNC Public Information Office

Ian Dale on LBC ask's "Can Cyprus ever be reunited?" NO!

By Chris Elliott…

At long last, the Turkish Cypriots have been able to state their case for their vision of a settlement of the Cyprus Issue through a UK media interview.

When it comes to the Cyprus Issue there are distinct locking points where opinions rest whether it be the so-called 1974 invasion (intervention) by Turkey which is odd as President Makarios stood before the UN Security Council on 19th July 1974 and claimed Greece had invaded Cyprus as you will hear in the video below.

Prior to this, we had an increase in ethnic cleansing attempts on Turkish Cypriots by Greek Cypriots following the implementation of their Akritis Plan with the Bloody Christmas Eve massacres in 1963 and ongoing killings in 1974 through their Iphestos Plan.

Now it's most odd that the UK as the former master of Cyprus and joint Guarantor of the Cyprus Agreement had not lived up to their responsibilities and helped the Turkish Cypriots and perhaps this may be connected to the fact that in 1914, when the Ottoman Empire entered the First World War, Cyprus was unilaterally annexed by Great Britain.

Following this was the Gallipoli campaign during First World War that took place on the Gallipoli peninsula (Gelibolu in modern Turkey, from 19 February 1915 to 9 January 1916.

The attempt by the Allied fleet to force a passage through the Dardanelles in February 1915 failed and was followed by an amphibious landing on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915. In January 1916, after eight months of fighting, with approximately 250,000 casualties on each side, the land campaign was abandoned and the invasion force withdrew. It was a costly campaign for the Entente powers and the Ottoman Empire as well as for the sponsors of the expedition, especially the First Lord of the Admiralty (1911–1915), Winston Churchill.

One may ask how this defeat and a major embarrassment for Great Britain perhaps shaped the future treatment of the Turkish Cypriots of Cyprus.

So on with the show and do watch this LBC video above and form your own conclusion and perhaps comment and I leave you with a final video **A Cry For Justice** the subject of which is encompassed in the recently launched book written by Jennifer Vardy which is the authorized biography of TRNC President Ersin Tatar.

Now before you leave do ask any UK Member of Parliament for the TRNC to have Direct Flights or Recognition and they trot out the same excuses but have they ever looked back and asked is their policy of non-support is right and **are they letting the Turkish Cypriots down?**

I suggest the answer will be Yes, Ja, Oui, Ken, Si, Tak, Evet, Da, etc, and it's time for the UK to admit and correct their past errors and grant the TRNC recognition of "Sovereign Equality and Equal International Status."



Click link to view video
https://youtu.be/-HxRginFRNE



Click link to view video
https://youtu.be/FaAdZF2UmIE



Click link to view video
https://youtu.be/BtEDHNte5Lc

Finally, the reason the island cannot be reunited is best described by TRNC President Ersin Tatar in his Statement about the 19th Annan Plan referendum anniversary as described on pages 4 and 5.

OK UK, let's start putting some Great back into Britain by recognising the TRNC and not being told what to do by others!

President Ersin Tatar receives The Anglo Turkish Association



"The sovereign equality of the Turkish Cypriot People and two States basis is essential for a realistic and sustainable settlement in the island of Cyprus"

President Ersin Tatar received officials and members of the Anglo Turkish Association of Northern Cyprus (ATA) at the Presidency in Lefkoşa today 18th April 2023.

The delegation was headed by ATA Chairman Philip Lloyd and Vice-chairperson Hatice Salih Kerimgil. The President handed members signed copies of the newly published English-language book "The Vision for Two States in Cyprus" which documents his first two years in office. Mr. Lloyd presented a framed ATA logo to the President on behalf of the delegation.

Speaking during the meeting, President Tatar thanked ATA for the visit, adding: "The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. I am very happy for your presence and contributions, as ATA and indeed the expat community, for your social, cultural, and economic contributions in our country."

Explaining that "the Turkish Cypriot People have always believed in the British system and understanding of equality and justice," the President stated that "the island of Cyprus enjoys a strong historic connection with the UK". He said the "sovereign Turkish Cypriot People have existed on the island of Cyprus since 1571 and are one of the equal co-owners of the island". President Tatar stated that "our inherent rights, which emanates from history and international agreements, are being brushed under the carpet and being ignored, and the UK, as a guarantor power, is not in practice treating Turkish Cypriot People on the basis of equality. This situation is also having a negative impact on our expat community."

The President said: "The Turkish Cypriot People have lived on the island of Cyprus for hundreds of years, and the British in comparison took control of the island for a relatively short period of time. The UK secured two Sovereign Base Areas, and are trying to tell us that we Turkish Cypriots are not a sovereign people despite our inherent rights and what has been lived in Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriot People have the right to self-determination and are one of the sovereign equal People on this island. We are as sovereign as the Greek Cypriot People. We are today living in freedom under the roof of our own State. It should not be forgotten that there were acts of genocide between 1963 to 1974. Had Türkiye not have exercised her obligation as a Guarantor power and staged the Cyprus Peace Operation in 1974, Turkish Cypriots would not have existed in Cyprus today. The Greek Cypriot side has always had the objective of turning Cyprus into a Hellenic Cyprus, and continues to have the same mentality today."

Referring to his recent visit to London last month, President Tatar said: "We held important meetings with numerous MP's, members of the House of Lords, members of the media, explained why, with the full support of Motherland Türkiye, we are putting forward our two State policy that is based on the sovereign equality of the two Peoples. We explained that, as the former Greek Cypriot foreign minister late Nicos Rolandis wrote, the Greek Cypriot Side rejected at least 15 settlement plans and ideas. They last rejected the 2004 UN Comprehensive Settlement [Annan] Plan and again in 2017 in Crans-Montana."

President Tatar stated that "it is time for the international community to accept the realities in the island of Cyprus" and to "support the basis that reaffirms the sovereign equality and equal international status of the two Sides. . .who can co-exist in a forward-looking cooperative relationship".

In reference to the inhuman isolation, the President said: "Promises by many international actors in 2004 to end the inhuman isolation of the Turkish Cypriot have still not been honoured, which is in violation of our right to life and right to development. The Turkish Cypriot Side has proven time-and-again their sincere support for a settlement in Cyprus, however, despite this, the isolation is continuing. The UK can take a leading role because she knows the Cyprus issue very well and is a Guarantor power."

"We were expecting the UK to take a more flexible approach with regards to our lack of equal treatment, following Brexit," the President said. "We would have expected a more constructive and just approach towards us. There is also the need to look at how we can have direct trade and direct flights between our countries," he said.

Mr. Lloyd thanked the President for receiving the ATA delegation and stated that they support President Tatar and are very happy to be living in the TRNC. Mr. Lloyd gave information about the work of ATA, stating that the primary objective of the organisation is to bring together people of Turkish, English, and other different backgrounds, and carry out many social and cultural activities.

Source: PRESIDENCY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS





The ECKO duo at the 18th International Bellapais Spring Music Fest





18th International Bellapais Spring Music Fest : 18 April: ECKO duo – Emre Öztek and Chisato Kusunoki – piano

By Heidi Trautmann……

The evening of the concert was lovely and warm, all parking areas were full, and concert-goers rushed to the Abbey…..our Bellapais Spring Music Fest is already in full swing with its second event.

We have come to listen to the ECKO duo with Emre Öztek, Cyprus, and Chisato Kusunoki Japan, and I am sitting next to her lovely two little sons in the front row who are most excited to see their mom on stage.

ECKO duo the two pianists – Emre Öztek and Chisato Kusunoki – met in 2015, please read their biographies which I have attached, it is most interesting to learn their background and experiences, the teachers they have studied with and composers and musicians they have worked with.

The programme was well chosen, it was wonderful to see and hear them fourhanded with the first two pieces by Antonin Dvorak and Franz Schubert, the way they interacted and how the two parts became one musical painting.

The next two pieces were solos and we could experience the individuality of the two pianists and their interpretations of the musical pieces, but both their performances were equally vivacious.

Towards the end of the concert after the break, a very special treat was offered to the audience, Emre Öztek gave us an introduction by word and play to B.Smetana's composition 'The Moldau' with its many scenes along the river. And then to hear all the scenes in its entity played for four hands was a feast for us.



The audience showed their enthusiasm and gratitude with a long-lasting applause and standing ovations and we were rewarded with an encore of Piazolla's Libertango.
Thank you for the beautiful evening.

To see more pictures please go to my Facebook page

Click here https://www.facebook.com/heidi.trautmann.1







29th April 2023 to 5th May 2023

ÇAKMAK celebrated at Soulist Coffee & Music House

Readers mail…
From Roland Eyerich….

The young band ÇAKMAK celebrated a successful premiere in the unique venue for live music in Northern Cyprus "The Soulist Coffee & Music House" in Alsancak/Karavas on 15th of April.

On Saturday 15th April the new young band CAKMAK celebrated a successful premier with their opening support act at the unique venue, The Soulist Coffee and Music House, situated in Alsancak/Karavas and set off a spectacular musical firework! They appeared for "The Two Bands Special", featuring ÇAKMAK and Alper Cengis and Friends.

They were brilliant, exactly the kind of act we would love to see back on stage at Soulist again.

They played powerful renditions of their setlist of cover versions with an incredible presence and energy. They played powerful renditions of their set list of cover versions with terrific presence and energy. Their interpretations almost made me feel they were their own songs – of course they also had an own song with "The House Of Broken Dreams" written by singer Arda Tosun – This evening theyblew me away, overwhelmed and so impressed with such a great "first." ,They commanded the audience's attention and were riveting throughout the whole time they were on stage.

Particularly impressive is the keyboard-driven music played by Andemirken Koç.His keyboard work paved the way for the rest of the band to showcase their own musical skills: not only great songs like the Doors' "Soul Kitchen" but across their whole set list. Singer Arda Tosun was particularly impressive. He has a great voice, almost predestined to suit the music of the Doors or Puddle of Mudd. (I've now rediscovered Jim Morrison, a hero from my youth, with the Doors, thanks to ÇAKMAK.

The whole band deserves to be complemented for the terrific arrangements of every song they played.

What a fantastic rendition of "Gimme Shelter" by Puddle of Mudd, full of energy and power. And I would never have guessed an oldie like the Monkee's "I'm a Believer" would have appeared in their set list, but hey, listen to Smash Mouth's version!

This band is vibrant and refreshing. It makes one reflect and look back on all the positive times and great experiences at the Soulist with Alper Cengiz', seeing young musicians on stage at the FAB (Friends Across Borders) Festivals; the last in 2019. Now, after three years, we see welcomed on stage at the Soulist, this young, extremely talented band, who deserve to be more than a supporting act. They are future headliners, worthy of a great audience who will truly appreciate and support them. So, music lovers, where are you?!

Conclusion:

ÇAKMAK are highly motivated artists who went to great lengths to get their gig at the Soulist, submitting pictures and video



clips followed by a successful preliminary talk at the Soulist. A first in my experience. And hey, it paid off, resulting in a great performance.

In recent times I've very much missed the opportunity of watching and enjoying young musicians (and of course, many others too). These are precisely the musicians North Cyprus badly needs to promote.

The North Cypriot music scene needs to develop a spirit of optimism. Young musicians like ÇAKMAK could be the ones to light the fire for themselves and others in the future, grateful for the opportunity to appear on stage at the great venue offered at the Soulist, so that they can develop, and we can have a great time enjoying their music. This performance, this premiere would have deserved more support.

They would greatly enrich a Soulist Festival or a special event.

Thanks to Alper Cengiz for giving ÇAKMAK the opportunity to appear on stage and of course, special thanks to Alper Cengiz as Music and Sound Engineer responsible for the Cakmak sound.

Thank you ÇAKMAK for a great evening.

BIO:

Çakmak is a group of university students from the "ODTÜ Kuzey Kıbrıs Kampusu – Morphou"

Continued on page 11 >>>



Keyboard - Andemirkan Koç



Vocals - Arda Tosun

continued ... ÇAKMAK celebrated at Soulist Coffee & Music House

with the study subjects:

* Andemirkan Koç Computer Engineering
* Arda – EFL (Teaching English as Foreign Language)
* Onur Karaca – Psychology
* Onur Güven – Computer Engineering
* Ege Dora Kulaç- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
* Özeş Gülok – Mechanical Engineering

And beyond with exceptional musical talent, each with their own style and contribution to the band. Çakmak as a band has been around for 2 years now playing mainly songs from the 60s to 70s, with some exceptional fan favourites. So far they have performed at numerous school events as well as bars and pubs in North Cyprus. Their focus is on old-school rock 'n roll with blues motifs.

LineUp:

Vocals – Arda Tosun
Bass – Onur Karaca
Keyboard – Andemirkan Koç
Lead Guitar – Onur Güven
Rythm Guitar – Ege Dora Kulaç
Drums – Özeş Gülok

Set List Performed:

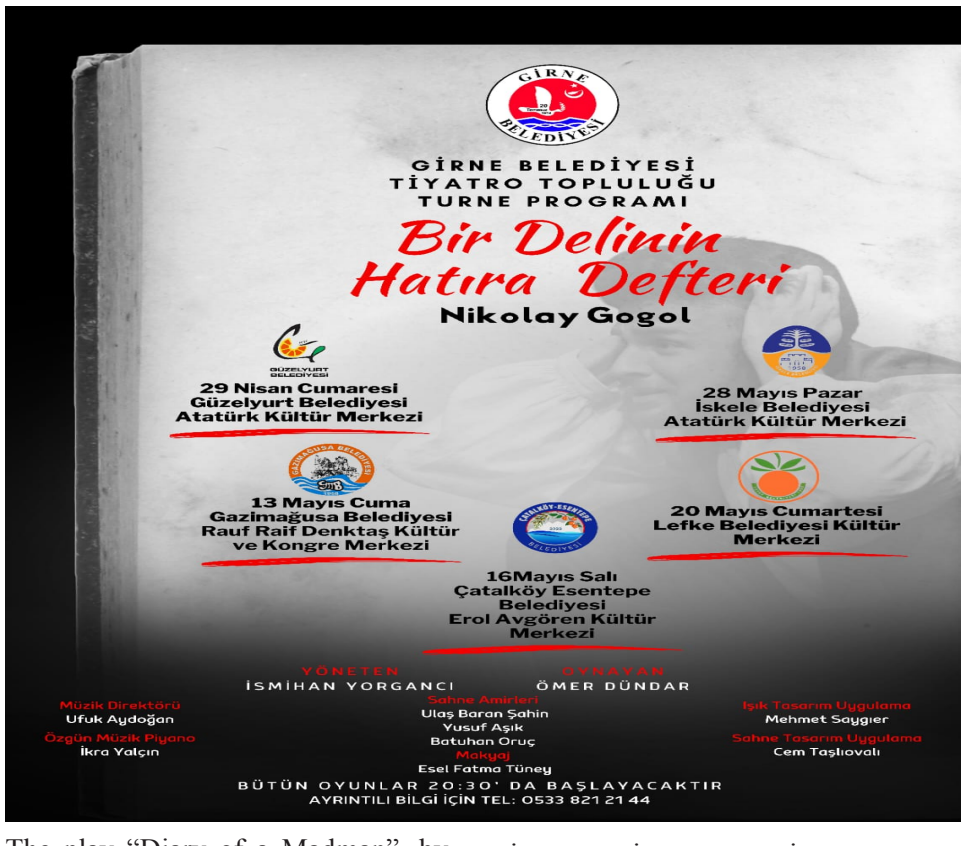
People Are Strange – The Doors
Break On Through – The Doors
Smoke On The Water – Deep Purple
Money For Nothing – Dire Straits
Born To Be Wild – Steppenwolf



The ÇAKMAK BAND with Roland

Real Gone – Billy Ray Cyrus
Gimme Shelter – Puddle Of Mudd
Rebel Yell – Billy Idol
Free Bird – Lynyrd Skynyrd
Pipeline – SRV, Dick Dale
The Road To Hell Pt.2 – Chris Rea
Soul Kitchen – The Doors
I'm A Believer – Smash Mouth
Back Door Man – The Doors
Lonely Boy – The Black Keys
Roadhouse Blues – The Doors
The House Of Broken Dreams – Arda Tosun
Comfortably Numb – Pink Floyd

"Madman" On The Loose



The play "Diary of a Madman", by Nikolay Gogol, is going on tour with the Girne Municipality Theatre Group.

The play, which took the stage three times in Girne and attracted great interest, is now going on tour throughout the island. The play is directed by Ismihan Yorgancı, one of the directors of the Girne Municipality Theatre Group. Ömer Dündar is the sole actor. Ufuk Aydogan is the music director. İkra Yalçın performed the original music on piano; Mehmet Saygıer did the lighting design and Cem Taşlıovalı did the stage set design. Ulaş Baran Şahin and Yusu**f Aşık were the stage** managers, while Batuhan Oruç did the photo shoots and Eseli Fatma Tüney did the make-up.

Conspectus

The story centres on the life of a lowly civil servant who lived during the oppressive period of Tsar Nicholas I. Written in diary format, the story tells the protagonist Poprinç's descent into madness. When the love he feels for his principal's daughter is added to the boring and monotonous life he lives in, the whirlpool he is in gets bigger. Aksenti Ivanovic Popchirin's efforts not to submit to the oppressive system and his psychological tides continue until he thinks he is the King of Spain and ends with his imprisonment in a mental hospital.

"Diary of a Madman" tour program

Saturday, April 29, Güzelyurt Municipality, Atatürk Cultural Centre Saturday,

May 13, Gazi Famagusta Municipality, Rauf Raif Denktaş Culture and Congress Centre.

Tuesday, May 16, Çatalköy-Esentepe Municipality, Erol Avgören Cultural Centre Saturday,

May 20, Municipality of Lefke, Cultural Centre Sunday,

May 28, Iskele Municipality, Iskele Ataturk Cultural Centre

All performance start times are: 20,30 pm and for information and reservation call 0533 821 21 44

Source (Turkish): Girne Municipality

Forthcoming Events





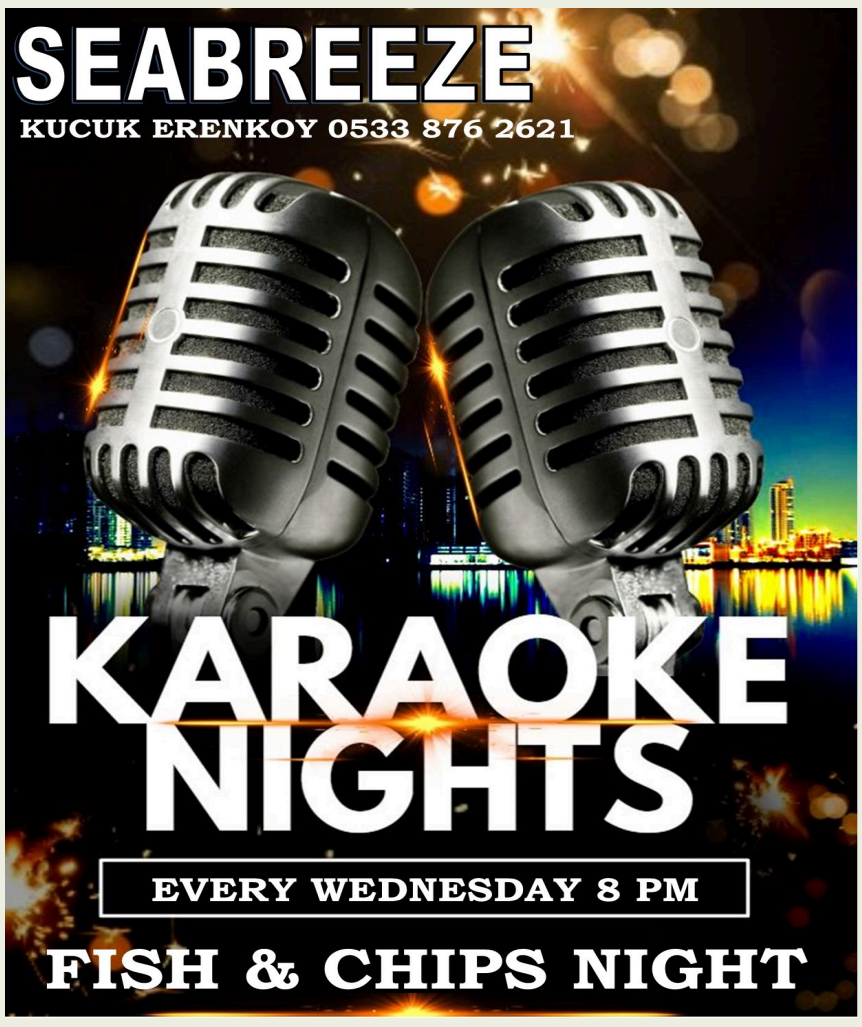




Forthcoming Events









Forthcoming Events





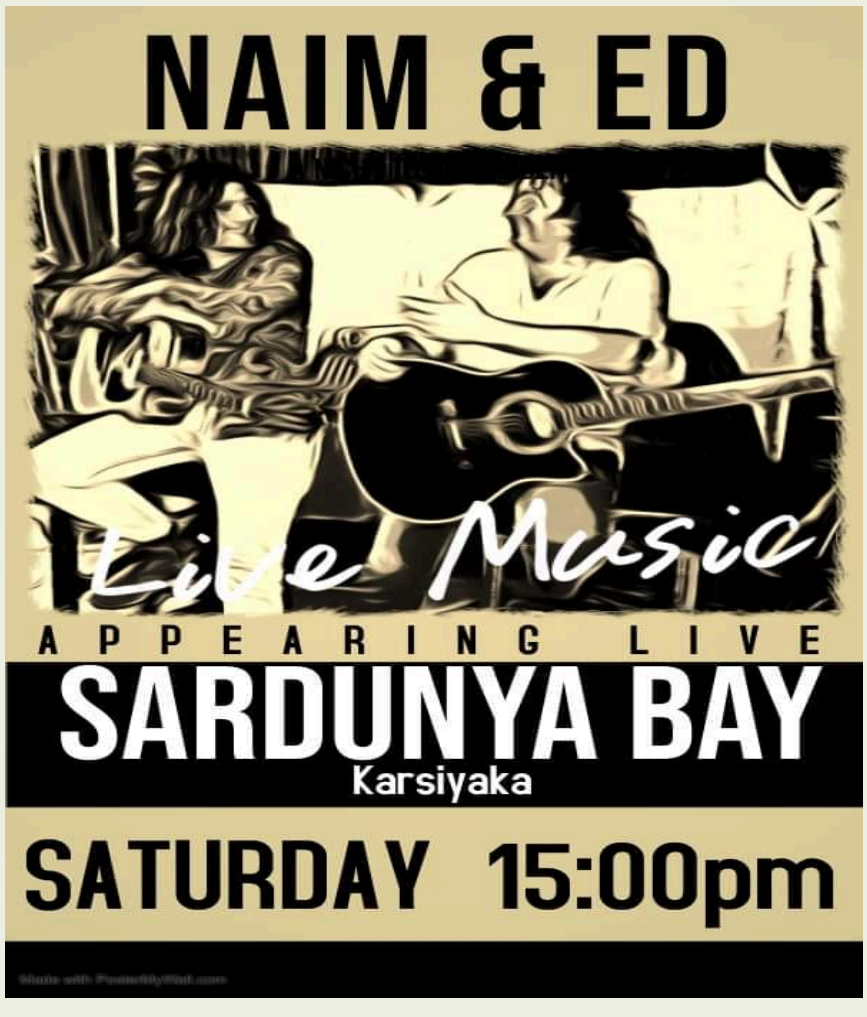




Forthcoming Events









29th April 2023 to 5th May 2023

Emergency Telephone Numbers

mobile numbers are prefixed 0533 or 0542 or 0548
landline numbers are prefixed 0392

POLICE

Emergencies	**155**
General	228 3411
Girne	815 2125
Lefkosa	228 3311
Gazi Mağusa	366 5310
Guzelyurt	714 2140
Lapta	821 8512

FIRE

Emergencies	**199**
Forest Fire	**177**
Girne	815 2111
Lefkosa	227 1259
Gazi Mağusa	366 5389
Guzelyurt	714 2200

AMBULANCE

Emergencies	**112**

HOSPITAL

Girne	8152266/815 2254
Lefkoşa	228 5441;
Gazi Mağusa	3662876/3665328
Güzelyurt	714 2125

ELECTRICITY

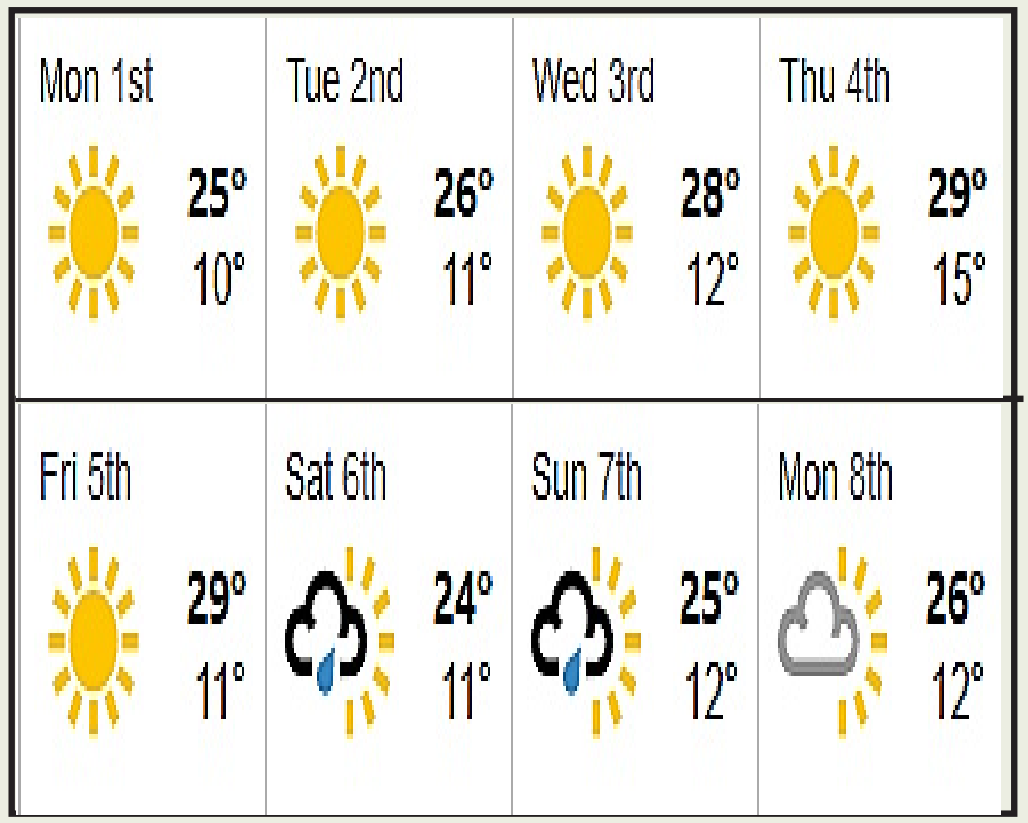
Electrical faults	**188**
Lefkoşa	225 3436
Girne	815 2223
Gazi Mağusa	366 5514
Güzelyurt	714 2122

WATER

Water problems:	
Lefkoşa	228 3315
Girne	815 2118
Gazi Mağusa	366 4483
Güzelyurt	714 3516

8-day Weather Forecast

1st May to 8th May 2023



Forthcoming Events

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GEÇİTKALE STORM THROUGH TO PLAY OFF FINAL

Results: GEÇİTKALE SK 5 KAPLICA KARADENİZ 61 SK 3

By Richard Beale…

It's hard to put into words what I witnessed on Saturday morning but I am very privileged to do so as Geçitkale dead and buried, scored an amazing 4 goals in 12 minutes to take them through to the BTM play-off final against Miracle Demirhan.

Saturday April 22: Iktisatbank BTM League 1 Red Group : Geçitkale Stadium.

It ain't over to the "**fat lady sings**" they say and the fat lady was singing in full voice as Geçitkale produced one of the most amazing comebacks ever, this is why we love football, especially local football, that word privileged I use again to be part of it.

I am trying with difficulty to paint a picture on a mostly sunny morning, I have never seen the Geçitkale Stadium so packed with spectators at a rough guess maybe over 1000. Music, flags, banners, and a band mostly in the colours of blue and yellow were all around the ground. The two canteens/cafes were doing a roaring trade. Everything was well organised, with Police controlling the traffic and stewards directing you to a parking place.

I must comment on both sets of supporters this match with so much at stake it was a potential "tinderbox" ready to ignite. I am glad to report there was no trouble and the same can be said on the pitch as well between the players.

This was largely due to the Referee EMRE OZTAŞLI and his team who all had an excellent match, letting the game flow, no time wasting regarding injuries and when he needed to be firm he was.

Before the match in this final League match of the season, Kaplıca was in second place, 2 points ahead of Geçitkale. A draw would have been sufficient to see Kaplıca through to the playoff final.

Geçitkale stormed into an early lead but Kaplıca soon pegged them back. Geçitkale had the better of the first half, forcing many corners and coming close on a number of GEÇİTKALE STORM THROUGH TO THE PLAY OFF FINAL occasions. Their Captain IRFAN BOŞNAK, a vastly experienced and well-travelled striker was a handful to the Kaplıca defence missing the commanding presence of the suspended Batuhan AK.

Kaplıca's play was disjointed they were also without their leading goalscorer Deniz Sert, who was missing, though on the replacement bench with a knee injury. Kaplıca were overrun in midfield where Eray was struggling to make an impact against the Geçitkale Captain Mehmet Çavuş. Kaplıca midfield maestro Kaan who normally plays in central midfield was strangely used on the left flank, Geçitkale had the majority of the first-half play.

HALF-TIME SCORE: 1-1

In the opening 25 minutes of the second half, it was a different story, Kaplıca suddenly found their rhythm and it was Geçitkale who was on the back foot. Ibrahim Çelik was causing all sorts of problems for the home defence, putting them under pressure, and chasing lost causes with his speed. **After 67 minutes Kaplıca were leading 3-1, the game was in the bag,** Geçitkale's heads had dropped they looked well beaten. The Kaplıca fans were in full voice, and some of the home support started drifting home. Kaplıca replacements warming up on the side-lines were saying to me "Richard, game over, the game finished!

I think a tactical substitution in the 72nd minute led to Kaplıca's downfall they withdrew İbrahim Çelik, who didn't appear to be injured and was quite happy to go off. Geçitkale central defender Tanju Kaya now with one less forward to mark was pushed up front to lend his strength and height to the attack. Without İbrahim Çelik, Kaplıca had no outlet and no one that could occupy the defenders thus with nothing to lose Geçitkale pushed extra men forward with Kaplıca thinking we have 18 minutes left to hold onto a 2-goal lead.

OH, HOW FOOTBALL CAN BITE YOU ON THE BUM! (See from 78 minutes) GOALS:

4 mins: A perfect start for Geçitkale a Mehmet Çavuş cross from the left was met with a first-time volley from IRFAN BOŞNAK**. 1-0**

8 mins: Kaan on the left sent in a very high cross where the Geçitkale goalkeeper Gurcan and Kaplıca forward EKREM AKTAŞ challenged for it. Gurcan flapped at the ball it hit Ekrem's back and fell obligingly for him to tap home. **1-1**

60 mins: Kaplıca's Eray did well with an overhead kick to retrieve the ball back to Ekrem Aktaş whose low right-wing cross was met in the middle of the goal area by Captain OGÜN DURSUN to smash home. **1-2**

67 mins: İBRAHİM ÇELİK on the left wing outpacing a defender seemed to be fighting a lost cause but with his incredible acceleration he managed to get to the ball first just in front of the onrushing goalkeeper Gurcan who got a hand to the ball but could not prevent it going in**. 1-3**





NOW THE REMARKABLE COMEBACK. (The fat lady started warming up !)

78 mins: A cross from the right was met by replacement HAKAN BALDAN whose low shot beat Yasin at his right-hand post – we thought it too little too late, a consolation goal**. 2-3**.

83 mins: From another cross from the right a similar goal this time scored by HÜSEYİN YEŞİLBAŞ, we thought maybe "squeaky bum time " for Kaplıca in the last 7 minutes. 3-3. A draw would be enough for Kaplıca to go through.

88 mins: Another cross from the right was met by ÇAĞDAŞ ÇEVİK who had time to control and turn and hammer the ball into the Kaplıca net – pandemonium on the pitch on the terraces, blue and yellow everywhere – Geçitkale were now in the driving seat, going to the Final – Kaplıca shell shocked, how can this had happened **4-3**

95 mins: With virtually the last kick of the match IRFAN BOŞNAK with no defence in front of him simply ran on to score easily.

FULL-TIME SCORE: 5-3

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BATTLING ESENTEPE'S DESERVED THRILLER DRAW

Result: MIRACLE KARŞIYAKA ASK 3 ESENTEPE KKSK 3

By Richard Beale…

After being 2-0 down after only 10 minutes, Esentepe stormed back against League leaders Karşıyaka and deservedly came away with a point, in fact, they could had made it all 3 points at the death.

Saturday April 22 , 2023: AKSA League 1 : Karşıyaka Şengül Töreham Stadium.

Weather: Rain initially, then cloudy and damp.

First of all, Karşıyaka needed a point to gain promotion to the Super League, they did so and we congratulate them on that achievement, over the course of the season, they have been the most consistent and outstanding team.

Secondly, Esentepe played their part as well in this thoroughly entertaining match, a credit to both teams, Esentepe's unbeaten run is now extended to 15 matches. With only 2 matches to play, second-place Yeniboğaziçi won 5-1 against İncirli have extended their lead to 4 points over 3rd place Esentepe. It would take Esentepe to win their remaining 2 matches and hope that Yeniboğaziçi slips up to go up automatically -that will seem unlikely.

Before the match started I would have snatched your arm off for a point, especially against this Karşıyaka team. With the help of rich sponsors over the last 2 seasons they have invested heavily in the transfer market bringing some fine experienced players. Not all the money has gone into the team the Stadium has had a makeover with a brand-new stand being built on the mountainside. The Stadium remains compact and intimidating Esentepe supporters and there were quite a few of them were seated in the old stand and were very noisy and enthusiastic. With promotion just a point away, Karşıyaka stand was packed with their supporters as well also noisy using air horns.

Foreboding dark clouds were gathering over the mountains just before the match started the heavens opened and not only was it raining it was raining goals at the Esentepe end.

Within 10 minutes Karşıyaka had stormed into a two-goal lead, Esentepe's defence being cut to ribbons it was like "boys against men". I feared a real hammering was in the offing.

The rain had made the surface greasy, with Esentepe defenders slipping at crucial times.

Karşıyaka scored after only 3 minutes, with a soft goal, Ahmet Can going down the left crossing for ARSEVEN DAĞER to shoot home. 1-0

10 minutes and it was 2-0 with the Esentepe defence split wide open allowing across from the left by Ahmet Can to be hit home by MUHAMMET ALİ UÇAR. **2-0**

Esentepe's defence was under constant pressure with İlyas, Arseven, and Ahmet Can looking like they could score at any time.

Esentepe were given a lifeline in the 25th minute and it came from a very reliable source this season after Emre was brought down in the box by Hamis. The dependable EMEK KIRILMAZ stepped up to slot home his 9th penalty of the season, taking his tally to 11 goals for the season – not bad for a fullback. **2-1**



OUR TEAM, OUR FANS, OUR VILLAGE, OUR FAMILY. ESENTEPE WE LOVE.

With the rain subsiding Esentepe seemed to be riding out the storm, Melih who was having an outstanding match, let fly from just outside the box with a shot that got deflected just wide of the left-hand post.

They completed the comeback in the 40 minutes when DENİZ KİBAR latching onto the ball, looked up and sent a 30-yard shot crashing into the net – to great scenes of celebration from the bench and the stand. **2-2.**

That was short-lived as within the minute Esentepe were behind again, being cut wide open with AHMET CAN TEMEL bearing down on goal, Osman the Esentepe keeper lost his footing on the surface giving the left winger an easy chance to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE: 3-2.

Esentepe Coach Davut replaced his Captain and veteran central defender Nersin with the even more veteran Okan Kibar.

In the opening minutes, Esentepe took the game to Karşıyaka, Melih found Mustafa on the left, and his cross was headed wide by Deniz.

Karşıyaka having the more experienced players continued to play well as a team and still looked dangerous in attack, though Okan was working hard to plug the gaps in the Esentepe defence.

The League's top goal scorer İlyas was sent away down the left in the 62nd minute seeing his shot flash just wide of the Esentepe right-hand post.

Esentepe equalised in the 64th minute and it was no more than they deserved and just reward for the hard-working MELİH NİŞANCI. From a cross from the right Emre hit the top of the Karşıyaka crossbar and there was Melih left to pounce on the rebound. **3-3.**

Esentepe midfield trio of Salih, Emre, and Tuğra were now getting the upper hand on their counterparts as Esentepe continued to look like the better team.

The strength of the Karşıyaka squad was shown when they brought on striker Esin Sonay in the 62nd minute who is third in the Leagues goal scorer charts with 21 goals. He nearly had an assist to that total with a clever flick that sent İlyas through on goal but again seeing his shot go wide of goal.

Continued on page 19 >>>>

In the 68th minute, Esentepe's defence was split wide open appealing for offside, allowing Esin through on goal however the advancing Osman saved the striker's effort from close range.

Esentepe immediately broke away at the other end when Tuğra sent over a cross from the right that saw Semih head wide with a diving header.

Esentepe were finishing the much stronger team and they continued to press forward in search of the equaliser with Melih involved in the attacks or setting up the attacks.

As the match entered 5 minutes of injury time an Emek corner from the right was headed onto the right-hand post by Okan and scrambled away to safety.

As the final whistle blew Karşıyaka players acknowledged their fan's applause and cheers in gaining the point to take them into the Super League but they were made to work very hard for it.

FULL-TIME SCORE : 3-3.

SUMMING UP: Those boys by the full time had grown into men an outstanding team effort against such strong opposition – the unbeaten run continues. Davut being the hard taskmaster he is will not be happy with the defending in the first half and will address it this week in training.

Many outstanding performances today, Salih, Emre, Tuğra, Emek but topping all that another **MAN OF THE MATCH** performance from forward MELİH NİŞANCI what inspired signing he is proven to be, his all-round performance, he's one step ahead of his teammates all the time . I would say he has been the best "overseas' signing we have ever had.



MELİH turns away after equalising 3-3

Local Football Fixtures For Weekend April 28,29 and 30

By Richard Beale….

The penultimate weekend of the season and plenty to play for promotion, relegation and play off places.

Most of the matches marked ** are what I consider are important matches, which are most of them this week.**

ALL KİCK OFFS now 4-30pm, unless stated.

SL = Super League, L1 =League 1, BTM = BTM League

Fri Apr 28	Geçitkale GSK	BTM	Miracle Demirhan SK****	Gime 20 Temmuz Mete Adanır Stadium. BTM League 1 Play Off Final kick off 7-00pm
Sat Apr 29	Mağusa Türk Gücü	SL	Yenicamı AK****	Famağusta Dr Fazıl Küçük Stadium
Sat Apr 29	Türk Ocak	SL	Doğan Türk Birliği****	Gime 20 Temmuz Mete Adanır Stadium.
Sat Apr 29	Gönyeli SK	SL	Hamitköy ŞHSK****	Gönyeli Stadium
Sat Apr 29	Çetinkaya TSK	SL	Yenpaş Dumlupınar TSK****	Lefkoşa Atatürk Stadium
Sat Apr 29	CB Gençik Gücü	SL	Göçmenköy İYSK****	Lefkoşa Şht Hüseyin Ruso Stadium
Sun Apr 30	Küçük Kaymaklı	SL	Mesarya SK	Lefkoşa Şht Hüseyin Ruso Stadium
Sun Apr 30	Esentepe KKSK	L1	Düzkaya KOSK****	Esentepe Erdal Barut Stadium
Sun Apr 30	Gime Halk Evi	L1	Dortyöl SK****	Gime 20 Temmuz Mete Adanır Stadium.
Sun Apr 30	Lapta TBSK	L1	Yeniboğaziçi DSK****	Lapta Şht Şevket Kadir Stadium
Sun Apr 30	Baf Ülkü Yurdu	L1	M. Yilmazköy SK****	Güzelyurt Üner Berkalp Stadium
Sun Apr 30	Unimar Maraş GSK	L1	Binatlı YSK	Famağusta Maraş Necip Halil Kartal Stadium.


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