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Feza Aygın Sanıvar makes handmade paper from local plants





Feza Aygın Sanıvar is a Cypriot artist and researcher, recognized as the first practitioner in Cyprus to produce handmade paper from local plants. Her work is rooted in experimental research focused on extracting fibers from native flora and transforming them into durable, exhibition-quality paper surfaces.

A significant aspect of her innovation lies in preserving the natural pigments of plant fibers—most notably through her development of naturally green paper made from grass fibers without the use of artificial dyes. She has produced handmade papers from a wide range of plants, including Bougainvillea (Cemile), Datura (thorn apple), molehiya, fig tree, mulberry, radish, straw, Chinese lettuce, and Bird of Paradise. Through this work, she continues to expand the material possibilities of plant-based paper within contemporary art.

We first met Feza in September 2018, when my late partner, Margaret Sheard, sat with her and discussed her paper-making practice and the beautiful artworks she creates from it.

You can read about this fascinating conversation by clicking below. Also shown is a video we made at the time, in which Feza demonstrates her early work and explains her paper-making process.



Click the link below to visit Feza's Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/sanivardiren

Click the link below to watch the CyprusScene video of Feza making paper
https://videos.files.wordpress.com/kTHgJpRb/the-cyprusscene-com-review-of-making-paper-with-feza-aygin_hd.mp4









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ATAOĞLU: “TRNC investments are globally competitive.”

ATAOĞLU: “INVESTMENTS MADE IN THE TRNC ARE INVESTMENTS THAT COMPETE WITH THE WORLD”

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Environment Fikri Ataoğlu attended the Tourism Investment Forum (TIF 2026), which will last for 2 days, hosted by the Turkish Tourism Investors Association (TTYD), with the support of the Presidency of Turkey Investment and Finance Office, the Turkish Tourism Promotion and Development Agency, and the main sponsorship of Türkiye İş Bankası, and delivered the opening speech.

In his opening speech at the “Tourism Investment Forum – TIF 2026” held in Istanbul, where important names of global tourism investments came together, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Environment Fikri Ataoğlu stated that the investments made in the TRNC so far and their continuity are important and said, “Investments made in the TRNC are investments that compete with the world.”

Visitors to the TRNC are increasing

Ataoğlu underlined that the number of visitors to the TRNC has increased as a result of the “ADA Cyprus” project and the agreements made with airlines.

Adding that they are continuing to work very seriously on the inclusion of new investors in the country, Ataoğlu said, “As the TRNC, we say that our door is always open to



investors coming to our country and that there are no bureaucratic obstacles to investors to be made. In addition to the young population investors, we are honoured that our brothers and sisters who will work in investments are also young and take care of their work.”

After the opening speeches, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth, and Environment Fikri Ataoğlu met with the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, and spoke for a while.

Source (Turkish): TRNC Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Environment

ARIKLI: THE RENTAL CAR SECTOR’S ISSUES MUST BE ADDRESSED



ARIKLI: WE CANN**OT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE RENTAL CAR SECTOR**

Rebirth Party (YDP) Chairman and Minister of Public Works and Transport Erhan Arıklı stated that the problems of the rental car sector, which has an important place for the development of tourism in the country, cannot be ignored and said, “Solving the problems is very important for the country’s tourism to have a good future.”

Minister of Public Works and Transport Arıklı received Cemal Ayaz, President of the Rental Car Operators Association, and the accompanying delegation.

RENTAL CAR SECOR PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Conveying the problems of the sector at the meeting, Ayaz stated that the draft law of the Rental Car Operators Association is ready and requested support from Minister Arıklı for it to be accepted in the General Assembly of the Parliament as soon as possible.

Ayaz stated that illegal rental of private or personal vehicles is a common situation and that this causes great damage to the sector, and asked for support from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport Traffic Department and the General Directorate of Police.

Stating that they were penalized due to the non-renewal of the permits of rental vehicles over 10 years old, Ayaz said that this situation brought an additional financial burden to the sector and asked for the issue to be resolved. Ayaz also demanded that the number of rental car permits issued in a year be restricted.

“THE SECTOR IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNTRY’S TOURISM”

Minister of Public Works and Transport Erhan Arıklı emphasized that the rental car sector is very important for the country’s tourism and pointed out that the problems should be solved as soon as possible and the way should be paved for the further development of the sector.

Stating that rental cars are one of the indispensable elements of tourism and that the problems of the sector cannot be ignored, Arıklı said, “As a government partner, I will make the necessary efforts to solve these problems. This is very important for the future of the country’s tourism.” Arıklı added that legal regulations will be made on issues where sector representatives are right. Traffic Department Director Ahmet Aydın was also present during the meeting.

Source (Turkish): TRNC Ministry of Public Works and Transportation



Minister Erhan Arıklı

13th February 2026 to 20th February 2026

Tufan Erhürman talks to António Guterres about the Cyprus Issues



"We once again conveyed the will of the Turkish Cypriot people for a solution directly to the UN Secretary-General."

"We focused on the crossing points. . .we explained in detail the traffic congestion at the Metehan crossing and the failure to fulfil the commitments undertaken."

President Tufan Erhürman held a press conference at Ercan Airport on Thursday evening, 12th February 2026, upon his return from New York, where he held a bilateral meeting with António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, regarding the Cyprus issue.

The statement is as follows:

On 2nd February, we had requested an appointment with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Despite his rather busy schedule, we received a response within a very short time and were informed that 11th February would be suitable. Accordingly, although our bilateral meeting in New York had initially been envisaged to last half an hour, it continued for approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes. This is a concrete indication of the importance the Secretary-General attaches to the matter.

In this first bilateral meeting, we focused on three main headings:

1. We conveyed directly to the Secretary-General the political will of the Turkish Cypriot people for a solution.

2. We explained in detail our four-point methodology proposal, which we had shared with the public and the international community prior to the election period. We are aware that this proposal has at times been misinterpreted. Therefore, it was important for us to have the opportunity to explain face to face to the Secretary-General what we mean. We observed that the Secretary-General clearly understood this framework.

3. We discussed the issue of confidence-building measures. In addition to the headings discussed in Geneva and New York and subsequently assumed by us, we also put forward our new proposals.

As we have previously stated, we do not consider the 5+1 format meeting to constitute an appropriate basis for confidence-building measures. We maintain that these issues should be concluded primarily in Nicosia between the two leaders, and we once again reiterated our position to the Secretary-General.

Border Crossings

We focused on the issue of the crossing points. Within the scope of this heading, which was also emphasised in the statement of the UN Spokesperson, we explained in detail the traffic congestion at Metehan and the failure to fulfil the commitments made. Despite assurances that steps would be taken by 31 January, no improvement has been observed at the Metehan crossing. The arrangements at Derinya and Bostancı crossings have not been completed either. Furthermore, there has been no progress in the process regarding the authorisation of Bureau Veritas in relation to hellim (halloumi).

We also conveyed during the bilateral meeting that our proposal for friendly sports matches for Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot children under 14 has been misunderstood. We explained with examples that our aim is not an organisation at the level of national teams, but rather to bring Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot children together to engage in sport, to interact and to get to know one another.

We also presented in detail the proposals we have developed regarding new crossing points. We conveyed that we have been working on various alternatives, including Haspolat, Akıncılar and the Kiracıköy-Athienou route, and that we have developed phased proposals addressing the concerns of the Greek Cypriot side. We would have no discomfort whatsoever with Greek Cypriots also benefiting from these crossings — on the contrary, we support easing access for both sides.

During the meeting, we further stated that the stagnation experienced over the last approximately nine-year period, since 2017, has weakened trust between the two sides. In addition, we noted that agreements concluded by the Greek Cypriot side in the fields of security, energy, maritime jurisdiction areas and trade routes, which exclude Turkish Cypriots, have also been a factor diminishing trust.

A lasting solution in Cyprus is critical

The Secretary-General, for his part, stressed that a lasting solution in Cyprus is critical not only for the island but also for regional stability and peace. His statements that his interest in the Cyprus issue has not diminished, that he is closely following developments, and that contacts will continue more frequently are indeed significant from our perspective.

In conclusion, we observed that the United Nations is closely following the process at the highest level, at the level of the Secretary-General. We, too, are determined to maintain contacts and cooperation at every level.

The second point of our methodology proposal entails the preservation of the achievements of past negotiation processes. It envisages the principled acceptance of the convergences reached in the negotiation process up to Crans-Montana. The purpose of this item is clear: to prevent the process from starting from scratch. We have experienced this before. When Mr. Talat and Mr. Christofias sat at the negotiating table, it was argued that the UN Comprehensive Settlement (Annan) Plan had been prepared externally and that the two Cypriot leaders could achieve a better outcome by starting from scratch. The process was launched anew, and considerable time was spent. However, we know first-hand that the convergences that emerged did not, in essence, go beyond the framework of the Annan Plan. In other words, the process began from zero, time was lost, and the point reached did not change.

Our new methodology proposal

When we put forward the new methodology proposal, this is precisely what we sought to prevent. The convergences reached

Continued on page 4 >>>>

continued....The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots

up to Crans-Montana should be accepted in principle. This is not to initiate a debate of "your convergences versus my convergences" — on the contrary, it is to prevent such a debate, as it would effectively mean reopening all issues for negotiation from scratch, and the process would become endless.

At the last trilateral meeting, as members of the press may have noticed, Mr. Christodoulides arrived with a thick file. He stated that, according to his own assessment, it contained "convergences" and put forward the approach of "you bring your documents as well, and let us compare our convergences." This is exactly what we seek to avoid. If one says, "your convergences, my convergences," there will be no convergences left. Every heading would be reopened for negotiation. This would, in effect, mean the process starting again from scratch and becoming intractable. However, our position is not in favour of any side. It is in favour of the process. We do not seek negotiations for the sake of negotiations, we seek negotiations for a solution.

The time-framed included in the third point of our methodology has been proposed for this reason as well. We aim to prevent the new process from turning into an open-ended and endless negotiation.

I also clearly stated at the trilateral meeting: It is not possible to proceed to the second step of our methodology proposal without clarity on fundamental headings, such as rotating presidency.

However, once the second stage is reached, the convergences should not be reopened and discussed one by one. Otherwise, the process will once again return to the beginning.

The issue is not related to Türkiye.

Some news items suggested that Türkiye was blocking the process. Let me be clear: if an "obstacle" is to be identified, it is me. This is because the second point of our methodology is specifically designed to prevent the reopening of convergences for debate. I explained this approach directly to the Secretary-General in New York. The issue is not related to Türkiye.

Certain news items in the South claimed that Türkiye was blocking progress on this matter. Let me be



clear: if an "obstacle" is to be identified, it is me. This is because the second point of our methodology is specifically designed to prevent the reopening of convergences for debate — a step that could turn the negotiation process back to square one. In previous negotiations, agreements reached on specific issues were recorded in a document in black text, whilst unresolved points were marked in red for the Turkish Cypriot side and blue for the Greek Cypriot side. Once a convergence was reached, the text turned black. Our concern is that if negotiations start by reopening these "black text" convergences, it will effectively undo past progress. I explained this approach directly to the Secretary-General in New York. The issue is not related to Türkiye.

I have great respect for the Turkish Cypriot press as well as for the Greek Cypriot press. However, in order to contribute to the process, I consider it important that our views also be sought when reports are published. It is not appropriate to respond immediately to every report appearing in every newspaper — otherwise we would constantly find ourselves in a position of responding to reports in the press of the other side. However, when asked, we will certainly provide a response.

Source:
PRESIDENCY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

Limassol Martyrs commemorated in Kyrenia



Those who were martyred in the resistance and resistance in Limassol on February 10 – 13, 1964 were commemorated with the 62nd anniversary commemoration ceremony held at the Kyrenia – Limassol Martyrs and Freedom Monument.

The ceremony, which started at 10:00 at the Kyrenia – Limassol Martyrs and Freedom Monument, was attended by Kyrenia District Governor Revin Gürler, Kyrenia Municipality Vice President Haşim Yücel, senior management staff from the Turkish Cypriot Peace Forces and Security Forces Command, members of the TMT Mujahideen Association, members of the Martyrs' Families and Disabled Veterans Association, representatives of non-governmental organizations and members of political parties.

At the ceremony, which started with a moment of silence and the reading of the National Anthem, after the wreaths were laid, TMT Mujahideen Association Kyrenia Branch President Erbil Aydınova made a speech about the meaning and importance of the day.

Source (Turkish):

Kyrenia (Girne) Municipality

13th February 2026 to 20th February 2026

President Tufan Erhürman discusses crossing points in detail



"In our view, the i**ssue of the new crossing points is not part of any attempt to gain economic, military or political advantage!"**

President Tufan Erhürman, in a statement shared on social media on Saturday, 14th February, set out in detail the difficulties experienced at the crossing points and the latest developments concerning proposals for new crossings.

The statement by President Erhürman reads as follows:

"I follow with concern the difficulties experienced by Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots at the Metehan crossing point. At a time when the issue is being widely discussed, I would like once again to summarise the developments and initiatives undertaken to date:

1.As part of the road-widening works in the buffer zone at Metehan, which began during the early days of our term in office, the section under the responsibility of the Turkish Cypriot contractor was completed some time ago. We now await the completion of the section under the responsibility of the Greek Cypriot contractor.

2. As a result of our meetings with Mr. Christodoulides, we are awaiting the implementation of the commitment: namely, the deployment of seven booths and a sufficient number of personnel on the southern side at Metehan.

3. Meanwhile, during those same meetings, the provision of road tax services at the Derinya and Bostancı crossings, which was committed for implementation by 31 January, has not yet been realised. We expect this commitment to be fulfilled.

4. The proposals for the Haspolat and Akıncılar crossing points, as well as the road and crossing point connecting Kiracıköy to Eylence, which were on the table at the 5+1 meeting in New York, remain on the table. This matter was also raised during our meeting with Mr. Guterres.

The Haspolat and Akıncılar crossing points would be beneficial for both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. The Kiracıköy — Eylence crossing point is of greater importance for Greek Cypriots travelling from Larnaca to Nicosia. From our perspective, however, this poses no problem. What matters is improving the daily lives of people living on the island, regardless of whether they are Greek Cypriot or Turkish Cypriot.

We made Four proposals

In response to the "concerns" raised by Mr. Christodoulides regarding this crossing, we have put forward four separate constructive proposals — including the construction of a new road on our side — aimed at addressing these "concerns".

5. For us, the following are important:

a) Improving the daily lives of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots.

b) Enhancing people-to-people contacts between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots by increasing and improving the crossings.

c) Contributing to the creation of a climate conducive to a solution — and thereby paving the way for progress in the process — by having the two leaders produce solutions in Nicosia to the problems faced by their people.

6. In our view, the issue of the new crossing points is not part of any attempt to gain economic, military or political advantage. It may even operate to our economic disadvantage due to economic activity shifting to the south. However, that is not the perspective from which we approach the matter, as our focus is on the three issues listed under the fifth point.

7. For that reason, as with all other matters, we will continue to work on this issue in good faith, with patience, composure and determination.

8. As we have consistently stated, and reiterated in our meeting with Mr. Guterres, if the two leaders are unable to produce solutions even on this simple matter of improving the daily lives of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, it is not reasonable to expect them to resolve the substantive aspects of the Cyprus issue.

We have assumed our share of responsibility. All parties must do the same for this problem to be resolved, as well as to show genuine commitment to advancing the process."

Source:

PRESIDENCY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

If any of our CyprusScene.com readers and followers have news and reviews of Northern Cyprus or the UK, please send them to kyreniacommentator@cyprusscene.com and we will try to publish them for you.

Famagusta Pre-Ramadan Production Facility Inspections

Within the scope of the renewed protocol between the Famagusta Municipality Police Unit and the Chamber of Food Engineers, comprehensive inspections were carried out last week—focusing particularly on bakeries and bakery-product production facilities—ahead of the month of Ramadan.

As a result of the inspections conducted by Police Unit teams and Food Engineers:

* **5 enterprises** were fined half of the gross minimum wage due to employees lacking valid health cards.

1 enterprise was fined the full gross minimum wage for failing to meet hygiene requirements. Production at this facility was suspended until proper hygiene conditions are restored.

Famagusta Municipality reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that residents have access to healthy and safe food. Inspections will continue throughout Ramadan with a scientific, transparent, and determined approach.

Inspections Conducted Using Scientific Criteria.

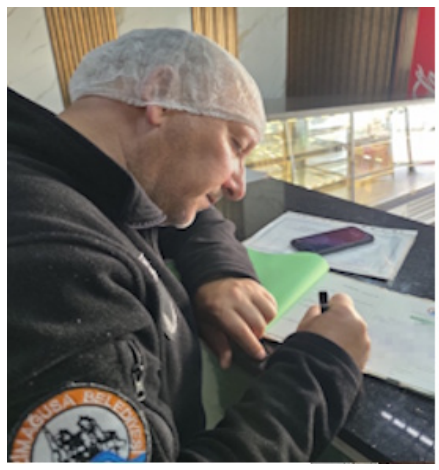
Food inspections carried out by the Famagusta Municipality Police Unit are based on scientific standards defined in the protocol signed with the Chamber of Food Engineers.

The cooperation agreement—first established in 2023 and renewed last week—clarifies hygiene and food-safety rules and strengthens inspection capacity through theoretical and practical training for police personnel.

Concrete Criteria Used During Inspections.

Inspections focus on:

* Physical conditions of enterprises
* Personnel hygiene and valid health certificates
* Food storage and preservation conditions
* Labelling rules and compliance with legislation
* Documentation of all deficiencies





in official reports.

Particular attention is given to:

* Personnel hygiene and up-to-date health certificates
* Supply and storage conditions of raw materials
* Hygienic production processes and food safety
* Ventilation, lighting, chimney and aspirator systems
* Proper separation of sales and production areas

Weight-control checks are also included. Products sold in markets—especially the Thursday Market—are inspected to ensure they match their declared weights.

Markets, School Canteens and Temporary Sales Areas Also Inspected.

The inspection programme extends beyond bakeries. Markets, grocery stores, school canteens, festivals, events, and temporary sales areas are also monitored.

Products that are expired, improperly labelled, or stored under unsuitable conditions are confiscated and destroyed by police teams.

Source (Turkish):

Famagusta (Gazimağus) Municipality

Sealed Famagusta Workplace Continued Illegal Operations



A workplace in Famagusta that had previously been sealed due to hygiene violations was found to be operating illegally at a different location. During inspections carried out by the Famagusta (Gazimağusa) Municipality Police (Zabıta) Unit following a tip-off, it was determined that the business had continued production without the required permits and licences.

Inspections revealed that the production area failed to comply with basic hygiene standards. Product storage conditions were found to be in violation of legislation, and expired products were identified. As the situation posed a direct threat to public health, immediate action was taken by inspection teams.

All products at the workplace were confiscated. In accordance with relevant legislation, an administrative fine equivalent to one gross minimum wage was imposed on the business owner, and legal proceedings were initiated.





Famagusta Municipality (Zabıta) Police Unit Officer, Harun Oza, stated that activities endangering public health will not be tolerated. He emphasised that all reports received are carefully evaluated and that inspections across the city will continue without interruption.

Source (Turkish): Famagusta (Gazimağusa) Municipality

Peterborough Votes REFORM



Peterborough is witnessing a significant political shift following recent events surrounding local and national elections.

Two meetings were held by Peterborough City Council, to consider an invitation from the Secretary of State asking councils to advise whether the May MP national elections should be cancelled. The possibility of elections being cancelled, both nationally and locally, has generated strong public feeling, with many residents arguing that their democratic right to vote is being denied. Some councils have requested that elections be cancelled or delayed to an unspecified later date.

At the most recent Peterborough City Council meeting, a group of security staff dressed in black approached members of the public gallery who were demanding the right to vote. Those present were issued a clear warning: **"Be quiet or leave."**

During this meeting, a motion was proposed by a Conservative representative, calling for a new letter to be sent by Peterborough City Council to the Secretary of State, recommending that the elections should proceed as planned. The motion was defeated by 28 votes to 18, with two abstentions.

Cancellation of elections is very unpopular

Frustration continues to grow both locally and nationally over the delay or cancellation of parliamentary elections. In areas where local council elections have gone ahead, there has been increasing support for candidates campaigning on change and democratic participation.

In Peterborough, this mood was reflected in a recent by-election, which resulted in the election of a Reform councillor in Fletton & Woodston. Supporters of Reform UK have described the result as a significant breakthrough.

Ryan Coogan, Reform UK Leader for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, said:

"The great people of Fletton and Woodston have spoken. The people's army will deliver.

Congratulations to Andrew O'Neil, the first Reform UK councillor on Peterborough City Council.

We will cut waste, scrutinise vanity projects, and provide a strong voice for common sense.

The people wanted Reform, and they voted for it. The people of Fletton and Woodston will now benefit from Reform representation."

Further messages of support followed the announcement of the result, celebrating the campaign efforts of local volunteers and thanking residents who voted in the by-election. Supporters expressed confidence that this result would mark the beginning of further electoral success for Reform UK in the city.

UK Government Cancels Delay of May 2026 Local Elections

Having followed the local debate and disagreement surrounding Peterborough City Council's decision to write to the Secretary of State requesting a postponement of the May 2026 elections, we are sharing the following update with our CyprusScene readers.

Time for a change and move forward!

The UK Government has withdrawn its earlier decision to postpone 30 local elections scheduled for May 2026, confirming that all affected councils will now proceed with their polls as originally planned.

The reversal follows fresh legal advice and a High Court challenge brought by Reform UK, which argued that delaying the elections would undermine democratic accountability. Ministers have now accepted that maintaining the scheduled timetable provides greater certainty for councils, candidates, and voters.

A spokesperson for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said the Government would revoke the secondary legislation that had been drafted to enable the postponement. The department added that ensuring clarity for local authorities was now the priority.

Why the postponement was proposed.

The Government had initially sought to delay elections in 30 council areas undergoing structural or administrative changes. Officials argued that reorganisation could complicate preparations and place additional pressure on electoral teams.



However, critics warned that postponing democratic processes risked setting a troubling precedent and could leave communities without timely representation.

Councils affected.

The following councils—originally earmarked for postponement—will now hold elections in May 2026:

Adur, Basildon, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Cannock Chase, Cheltenham, Chorley, City of Lincoln, Crawley, East Sussex, Exeter, Harlow, Hastings, Hyndburn, Ipswich, Norfolk, Norwich, Pendle, Peterborough, Preston, Redditch, Rugby, Stevenage, Suffolk, Tamworth, Thurrock, Welwyn Hatfield, West Lancashire, West Sussex, and Worthing.

Next steps.

Local authorities are expected to resume standard election preparations immediately. Political parties and prospective candidates have welcomed the clarity, noting that campaign planning had been placed on hold during the uncertainty.

Reform and the Future of UK Finance

Following months of uncertainty around the timing of local elections, UK politics has entered a new and volatile phase.

After receiving legal advice, the Government reversed its earlier position on allowing local councils to decide whether to postpone May elections. This sudden change triggered a scramble across all major parties to restart local election campaigns at speed. The pressure has only intensified in recent weeks.

On 16 February 2026, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed **£63 million in new funding** for councils in areas undergoing local government reorganisation. This funding was announced alongside the reversal of the earlier decision to delay some May 2026 local elections, creating renewed urgency for councils and political parties alike.

The political consequences have been significant. With the policy direction changing at short notice, scrutiny of the Government has increased, and the opposition has moved quickly to capitalise. Over the past three months, **Reform UK has maintained a large and sustained polling lead**, prompting the party to accelerate preparations for the responsibilities of government whenever the next election takes place.

A New Focus on Finance

Against this backdrop, the national conversation has shifted decisively towards finance and economic competence.

On 18 February 2026, Robert Jenrick delivered his first speech after being announced as Reform UK's Shadow Chancellor, setting out the party's economic priorities and its approach to restoring confidence in the British economy.

Speaking in the City of London, he outlined a plan aimed at reducing waste, supporting growth, and ensuring public money is spent responsibly, while making Britain a more competitive place to invest and do business.

Reform UK's Economic Plan

Reform UK's programme is built around a clear set of priorities:

1. Cut wasteful spending
Ending welfare spending for migrants, foreign aid to wealthy countries, and the use of hotels for illegal migrants.

2 Tackle the rising benefits bill
Protecting the vulnerable and those who have contributed, while addressing excessive and spurious claims and restoring the two-child benefit cap.

3 Cut taxes responsibly
Reducing taxes only by first cutting waste, while reforming — but retaining — the Office for Budget Responsibility to ensure fiscal discipline and independent scrutiny.



4 Back small and medium-sized businesses
Removing unnecessary bureaucracy and paperwork that restricts growth and job creation

5 Get Britain building again
Increasing housing supply through urban densification and accelerating major infrastructure projects, including Heathrow's third runway.

6 Deliver affordable and reliable energy
Reversing current energy policies, lifting the ban on North Sea oil and gas, and expanding nuclear power to reduce costs for households and businesses.

7 Ensure migration supports the economy
Requiring migrants to be long-term net contributors and creating incentives for investors to return capital to the UK.

8 Champion free trade while protecting key industries
Supporting open trade with allies while safeguarding strategic sectors such as steel and defence to protect jobs and national resilience.

9 Introduce smarter AI regulation
Developing proportionate rules that allow Britain's service-based economy to innovate and compete globally.

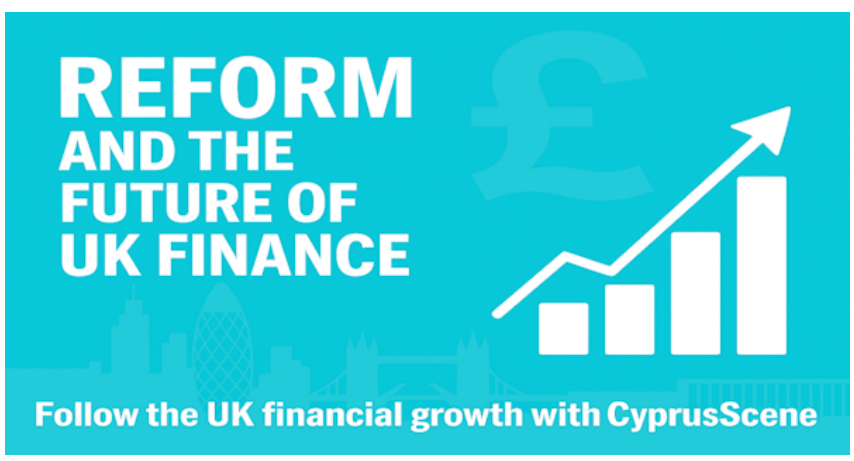
A Clear Political Choice

Many voters feel that living standards are under pressureand that economic performance has deteriorated. Reform UK argues that a government focused on common sense, fiscal responsibility, and growth can reverse this decline.

The party's leadership maintains that putting the British people first—through disciplined spending, lower taxes, and a competitive economy — is the only way to restore confidence and deliver long-term prosperity.

To learn more, readers are encouraged to watch and listen to the full speech outlining Reform UK's financial vision in the video by clicking on the link below.

https://youtu.be/wvUXlwVbWqc





Barchester Hampton Grove: My Choice for Post-Surgery Care



https://www.facebook.com/BarchesterHamptonGrove

By Chris Elliott…..

As I prepare for knee replacement surgery, I've been considering the best way to manage the early stages of my recovery. Although I'm fortunate to have supportive friends and family, I knew that the level of care, monitoring, and day-to-day assistance I'll need in the first week simply isn't something I could expect at home. With that in mind, I decided to explore the option of spending seven days — or more if needed — in a care home.

My visit to **Barchester Hampton Grove** during their recent open day made that decision remarkably easy.

From the moment I arrived, I was struck by how thoughtfully the home is designed to help residents feel genuinely at home. The team encourages people to bring personal possessions, create familiar surroundings, and settle into a space that reflects their own identity. For those living with dementia, the dedicated centre is clearly planned with care, dignity, and independence in mind — a calm, structured environment that supports confidence rather than limiting it.

I was also impressed by the layout and facilities across the different floors of the home. Hampton Grove offers en-suite bedrooms, dedicated dining rooms, a fully equipped hair salon, and comfortable meeting rooms for residents and their relatives. The building is clearly designed to support varying levels of care while still giving people privacy, dignity, and a sense of independence.

Where you stay

What stood out most was the warmth and empathy shown by the leadership team and staff. Their interactions with residents were natural, respectful, and genuinely caring. It was clear that the people living there are not just "looked after" but truly valued.

Having fun and a chance to make friends

During the morning, I joined residents for a lively performance by a visiting singer "Amanda". It was wonderful to see so many people up on their feet, dancing with staff members and enjoying themselves. Although this was a special open day with friends and family present, I learned that Hampton Grove offers morning and afternoon activities every day, ensuring residents have plenty of opportunities for stimulation, socialising, and fun as you can see in the Care Home Facebook **reel shown below.**

Lunch was another highlight. I enjoyed a very good meal from their menu, and I was pleased to hear that they are happy to cater for individual preferences whenever possible.

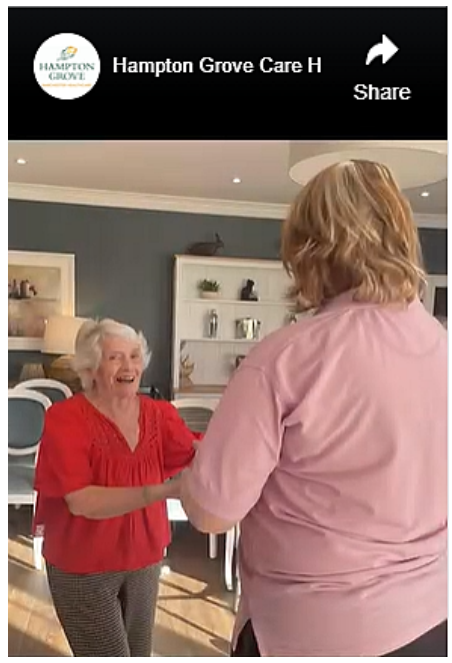
In the afternoon, we were treated to a beautiful performance by **The Mugurașii (The Little Buds)**— a children's violin group whose talent and warmth filled the room. Their music was moving, uplifting, and clearly appreciated by everyone present.



Of course, this visit was only a snapshot of daily life at Hampton Grove, but it was more than enough to reassure me. The atmosphere, the professionalism of the staff, the quality of the facilities, and the genuine sense of community all convinced me that this is the right place for my initial post-operative recovery. No matter how willing my friends and family may be, I simply wouldn't receive the same level of attentive, round-the-clock support at home.

Choosing Hampton Grove gives me peace of mind — and that, at a time like this, is invaluable.

For more information about Barchester Hampton Grove, please and to watch the reel please the click link above











13th February 2026 to 20th February 2026

Forthcoming Events - TRNC



Click link to view https://www.facebook.com/groups/204052504285085

Forthcoming Events - UK



Click link to view https://www.facebook.com/groups/1907026046519625



Click link to view https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583477646792

13th February 2026 to 20th February 2026

Emergency TRNC Telephone

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

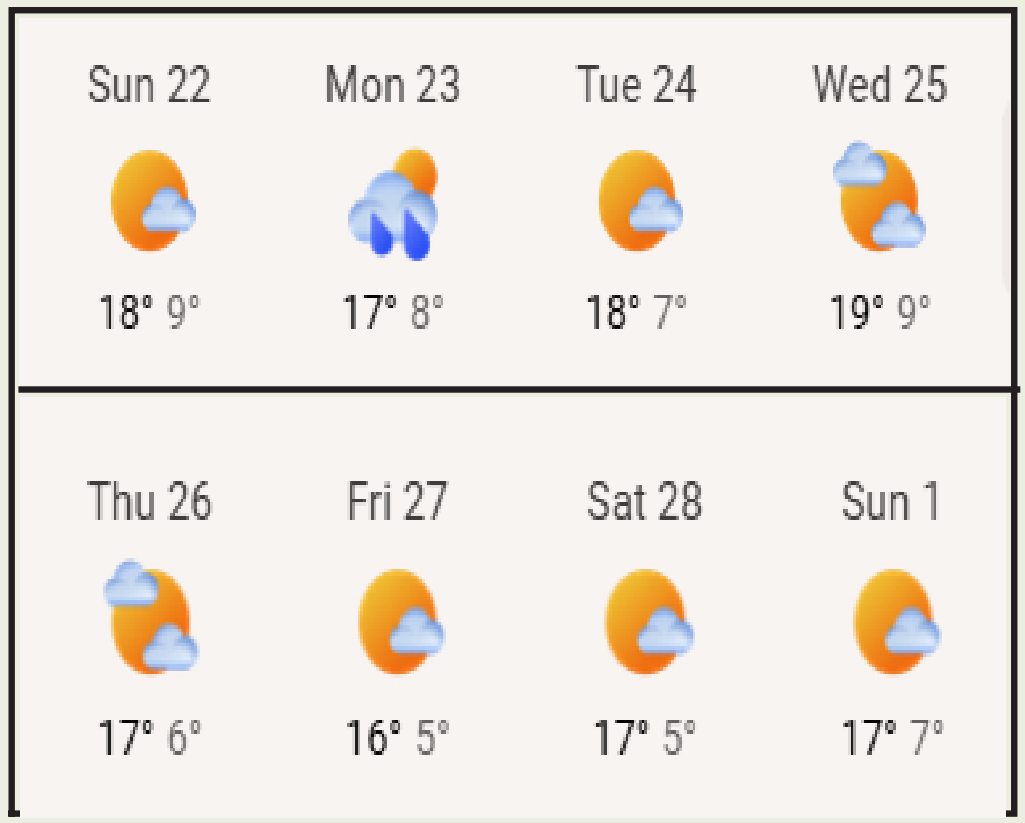
Electrical faults	**188**
Lefkoşa	225 3436
Girne	815 2223
Gazi Mağusa	366 5514
Güzelyurt	714 2122

WATER

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

8-day TRNC Weather Forecast

22nd February to 1st March 2026

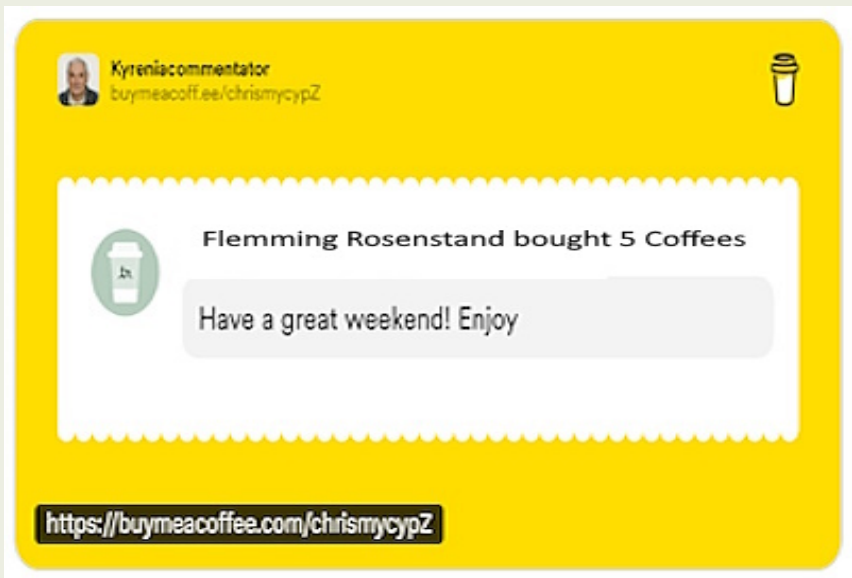


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ITS A LONG WAY TO LEFKE AND EVEN LONGER IF YOU LOSE!.

RESULT: LEFKE TSK 1 ESENTEPE KKSK 0

By Richard Beale, additional reporting by Paul Cooper.

It's a long way to Lefke the farthest away match of the season, even longer it feels on the way back when you have nothing to show for it.

Saturday, February 7 : AKSA Super League: Lefke 16 Ağustos Stadium.

Weather: Sunny, mild, windy.

It wasn't so bad getting to Lefke, 1 and a half hours, using the Lefkoşa, Gönyeli and Güzelyurt by-pass, we made good time and enjoyed a coffee at the stadium before the kick off.

A disappointing turnout, maybe around a 100 with the usual die-hards and suspects from Esentepe.

The 16 Ağustos Stadium was bathed in warm spring sunshine, though I was disappointed with the playing surface, which was not its normal lush self, a number of weeds and clover on it.

Esentepe again did not start with their leading goalscorer, Lukman, still recovering from injury; he was on the replacement bench and was called upon in the 56th minute, but didn't look like his normal self. Also missing was central defender Osman, presumably carrying an injury; he was on the bench but was not called upon.
There was a minute's silence before the match for Dr Erkut Öner who had close connections with Lefke and sadly passed away recently.

Generally, it was a poor match, both teams capable of better. Esentepe were disappointing, particularly in the second half, where they offered little upfront.

The opening 15 minutes saw little action, with Esentepe sitting deep in their own half.

The first piece of action came in the 18th minute, when Esentepe left back Nehir sent in a shot that brought goalkeeper Irfan to his knees.

Following a corner in the 22nd minute, Devran volleyed over the bar for Esentepe.

Esentepe were getting more control of the match as we approached the half-hour mark and had their best chance of the match in the 33rd minute. A long through ball found Ege Can clean through, unmarked; however, with the goalkeeper Irfan advancing, the striker from just outside the box hit his shot against the goalkeeper, deflecting for a corner.

Maybe he had more time and could have taken the ball on into the area a little further.

Lefke took the lead with a "gift" goal in the 43rd minute when CANDY AGBANE tried a speculative shot from around 25 yards, which goalkeeper Ali, wrong-footed, dived but fumbled the ball, allowing it to trickle into the net, a rare mistake by the normally reliable goalkeeper.

HALF TIME SCORE: 1-0.

The second half started sedately, with poor quality.



Esentepe KKSK

In the 55th minute, Arda shrugged off a challenge from Ege Can and hit a powerful shot, which caused goalkeeper Ali an anxious moment as he could only parry the shot.

Lukman and Oladımejdı came on for Esentepe in the 56th minute as the visitors needed much more in attack.

70 minutes a good move from Esentepe, Sulyman cross from the right, helped on by Lukman to Benjamin, whose shot from the edge of the box was saved at his near post by Irfan.

The only real positive to take out of this match was the return of Mustafa Soytürk, making his first appearance of the season, from the bench in the 76th minute, following an ACL operation last summer. A fully fit Mustafa, in full flight, is a welcome sight; it almost feels like a new signing.

81 minutes Candy continued to offer Lefke the best threat of a goal, a low shot from the edge of the box, saw Ali diving to his right to save.

86 minutes, a long punt upfield from Lefke saw Esentepe defender Semih and Lefke forward Christopher challenging for the bouncing ball. Semih got his foot to the ball first, seeing his clearance balloon up into the air and come down onto of the Esentepe crossbar.

There was desperation in Esentepe's play in the final minutes but in the second half they virtually created nothing, and it was a very disappointing performance from the team.
Defenders Semih and Devran both left the field carrying knocks, Sulyman collected his fourth booking of the season and will miss the next match, with Lukman and Osman carrying injuries, worrying times ahead for Esentepe, whose small squad is already stretched to its limits.

FULL TIME SCORE: 1-0

Esentepe Man of the Match

SANDER ERSOY - pick of the bunch of a good defensive unit, with his knee protector off was more fluent and was constantly overlapping.

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LATE ERAY PENALTY SECURES CRUCIAL WIN

Results: KAPLICA KARADENIZ 61 SK 2 SERVEROĞLU GEÇİTKALE GSK 1

By Richard Beale….

An 80th-minute penalty by Captain ERAY GENÇ secured a vital win for Kaplıca in this relegation battle over near neighbours Geçitkale.

Sunday, February 8: AKSA League 1: Kaplica Emre Genc Stadium.

Weather: warm and sunny.

With my Esentepe commitments, it's a rare occasion that I can watch Kaplıca, but on a glorious sunny day, a local derby, a 6-pointer with both teams struggling at the wrong end of the table —it had all the right ingredients.

I was expecting "Fire and Brimstone" amongst the supporters in this derby—— instead, a disappointing crowd more like Sunday school!

With both teams desperate for the points, it was a real battle on the field, both teams giving it everything, lots of endeavour and effort, very basic and agricultural at times, lacking real quality.

In the end, the spoils went to Kaplıca; with this win, they lifted themselves off the bottom of the table, 2 points behind Geçitkale.

I was given a warm welcome by both teams and supporters, which makes the effort worthwhile.

Kaplıca took an early lead in the 8th minute following a cross from the right which was beautifully headed in at the far post by their leading goalscorer GÖKSU ALHAS, giving Salih the Geçitkale goalkeeper no chance. **1-0.**

It was a mixed afternoon for Göksu, who is short and dumpy but good in the air and is very hard to knock off the ball. In the 26th minute, following a delightful through ball by Semih, Göksu was brought down by goalkeeper Salih. However, Salih made up for his mistake by saving Göksu's penalty, diving to his left. Göksu missed an easy chance in the 63rd minute, blazing wildly over the bar, and unfortunately did not finish the match, sustaining a knee injury, which led to him being carried off the field and eventually into an ambulance. We hope it's not too serious.

Geçitkale equalised out of the blue in the 16th minute, following a free kick from the left by Baran Derin, which was only partially cleared to the edge of the box to İSMAIL SABAN to beat Alihan with a low shot. **1-1.**

Both clubs have been very active in the transfer market in January, Kaplıca making I think the best possible signing in bringing back SEMIH EKMEN back to the club. Semih helped Kaplıca achieve promotion from the BTM League last season but did not resign when this season started. He has now stood out "head and shoulders" above everyone else, a midfield general from the old school. Intelligent, calm, and so skilful, he makes every ball count; he was the architect behind many of his side's moves.

Kaplıca had the better chances in the second half, hitting the bar through Rifat in the 75th minute.
The winning goal came in the 80th minute from another penalty awarded by referee Şakir Azizoğlu





following a clash between Kaplıca Mustafa and Geçitkale young defender Hasan, both players going to ground, both players injured. Was it a penalty? I don't know 50/50, seen them given, seen them not.

Hasan could not continue after the challenge and was replaced. With Göksu off injured, ERAY GENÇ, Captain, took responsibility and scored with a decisive penalty, sending Salih the wrong way. **2-1.**

Kaplıca has now completed the double over Geçitkale, having won 2-1 away back in September of last year.

It's a real dogfight and scrap down the bottom of League 1; both teams will need to improve drastically if they are to avoid relegation.

MAN OF THE MATCH

SEMIH EKMEN (Kaplıca) —a class act.

CyprusScene.com
The real newspaper For people - By people

ESENTEPE IN THE QUARTER FINALS AFTER A TOUGH CHALLENGE.

Result : ESENTEPE KKSK 2 YENİBOĞAZİÇİDSK 1

By Richard Beale…

Esentepe are through to the quarter finals of the domestic Kıbrıs Cup when they eventually overcame struggling Super League rivals Yeniboğaziçi with a late goal in extra time.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026: Kıbrıs Cup 2nd Round: Esentepe Erdal Barut Stadium

Weather: Mixture, sunny, cloudy, windy, with a splattering of rain.

Bottom from one in the Super League, Yeniboğaziçi made Esentepe work very hard for their victory, taking them to extra time before succumbing to a late goal.

The Esentepe approach played for the majority of the game was good, but they wasted countless chances with poor finishing; the match could have finished 6-1 in Esentepe's favour.

Esentepe started brightly in the opening 10 minutes, then the visitors had a brief spell of dominance.

Yeniboğaziçi took the lead in the 31st minute after very poor slack defending. Their veteran new signing YUNUS KALAYCI, receiving a cross from the left, was given ample time to "pick his spot" and shoot past goalkeeper Ali. **0-1**

Esentepe equalised in the 39th minute when, following a good run on the right by Sulyman, he crossed to the far post, where goalkeeper Emre "flapped" at the ball, palming it into the path of left wing back NEHIR CANTAŞ to hammer the ball home. This was Nehir's first goal for the club; he had been impressive, making runs into the opposition half. **1-1**

Also impressive for the visitors was their new signing Darius Dee Johnson, a small, compact player, perfectly balanced and skilful he was involved in a right old tussle with Esentepe's Mustafa Soytürk.

HALF TIME 1-1

Esentepe were on top straight away from the kick off in the second half, Oladımejı, who was having a very good match, went on a run beating 3 players before shooting past the right-hand post in the 50th minute.

68 minutes Sulyman got the best of his marker Osman, got in a low cross to the far post where Oladımejı stretching at the far post screwed his shot wide.

74th minute again from a Sulyman run, his cross found Benjamin, whose shot was saved by the diving Emre.

Esentepe were the only team to look likely to score; they were dominating the play, with good approach work but no end product.

It wasn't all one-way traffic in the 79th minute. Mehmet Ertem went on a run, leaving players in his wake, sending in a low shot that goalkeeper Ali managed to save at his near post with his feet.

82 minutes Salih, another Esentepe player having a good match, sent in a shot that Emre managed to parry with Oladımejı unable to pounce on the rebound.

83 minutes —-Sulyman ran down the right ——Salih dummied the ball —-Benjamin fastened onto the cross, smashed the ball over the bar —- should at least got the shot on target.



OLADIMEJI celebrates scoring the winner 2-1

FULL TIME SCORE : 1-1

EXTRA TIME :

Again dominated by Esentepe, Benjamin, becoming more influential, won the ball in midfield, went on a run past defenders before sending a shot over the bar.

95 minutes Nehir up with the attack shot wide of the right-hand post.

98 minutes Benjamin having a shot beaten away by the diving Emre.

Esentepe were piling on the pressure they certainly didn't want the match to go to a penalty shoot-out.

114 minutes at last Esentepe found the net, with Benjamin setting up OLADIMEJI ADEWOLE on the left-hand side to score with a low shot - again another player to record his first ever goal for Esentepe.

SCORE AFTER EXTRA TIME: 2-1



You can argue whether a cup run is a good thing, but Esentepe, with such a small squad, hit by injuries, won't win the cup. Getting to the quarter finals, the club will earn a bonus from the sponsors, which will be good, even though it was a cup match, which is good for morale.

For Esentepe, it was good to see Mustafa Soytürk, playing in his first starting match of the season, which lasted 106 minutes. Salih Karal put in a good shift in midfield. Sulyman, on his return from suspension, is such a frustrating player, sometimes he can't trap the ball, falls or slips over, but when he gets it right, he is a dangerous player with his speed, and no one can dispute his work rate and commitment.

Itter Park, Peterborough















Remains of a 4th-century Roman Villa was found on the Itter Park allotment site before the building of houses by Bellway

