



Friday, May 9, 2025

SFL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Massive Power Outage Plunges Europe Into Darkness



Europe has been shaken by one of the largest power outages in recent years. Within just five seconds, around 50 million people were plunged into darkness, bringing daily life to a standstill across France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, and Andorra. The outage caused an immediate loss of 15 gigawatts from the European power grid. Although the disruption lasted only a few seconds, it triggered widespread chaos in the affected countries and drew global attention. A state of emergency was declared in many regions, including Madrid. Public transportation systems stopped, traffic lights failed, and internet and mobile services were disrupted. Even critical operations such as hospital surgeries were severely impacted. Tragically, five people were reported dead in three separate incidents linked to the power failure.

Authorities are currently investigating the cause of the blackout. Several possible explanations have been cited:

- Atmospheric factors
- Technical network failures
- Grid overload
- Cyberattacks

Efforts are ongoing to restore full stability and to prevent similar incidents in the future.



Adapted From: tr.euronews.com

Written by *Batin Genç*



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NATIONAL NEWS

The Awakening of the Turkish Nation: Counting Down to May 19TH!



Young people feel proud on this day. May 19 is not only a holiday, but also a day to remember the past and think about the future. It shows the strength of youth and the importance of freedom.

On this day, people celebrate with pride, energy, and hope. It brings the nation together and reminds everyone that young people have an important role in building a strong and happy country.



“The Future Belongs to the Youth, Inspired by Atatürk!”

May 19 is a national holiday in Türkiye. It is called Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day. This day is important because it marks the beginning of the Turkish War of Independence.

On May 19, 1919, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk went to Samsun to start the fight for a free and independent country. Later, this day became a national holiday. Atatürk gave this day to the youth because he believed that young people are the future of the country.

Every year on May 19, schools and sports clubs organize special events. Students sing songs, read poems, and do sports activities. There are also ceremonies in stadiums and public places. People come together to remember Atatürk and show their respect for him.



May 19 is not just a celebration, but also a day of responsibility. On this day, young people are seen as the future leaders of the country. They have an important duty to protect the values of freedom, independence, and equality.

May 19 brings people together and helps everyone believe in a better future. It is a day to remember the past and a symbol of hope for the future.



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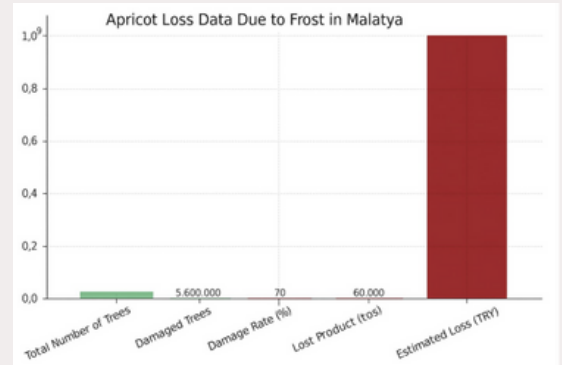
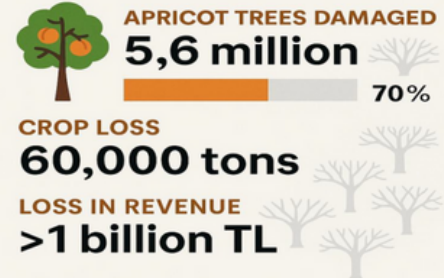
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LOCAL NEWS

Frost Severely Impacts Apricot Production in Malatya

Malatya, Türkiye – In the last days of spring, cold weather hit Malatya. At night, the temperature dropped below 0°C. This was very bad for the apricot trees. Many blossoms on the trees died. About 30% of the blossoms were damaged. Malatya is famous for its apricots. Over 50,000 people in the city work in the apricot industry. This year, farmers are worried. Some trees lost all their blossoms. Some trees will not be able to grow fruit. Farmer fear that the damage could reduce this year's apricot harvest by more than 40%.The government has started inspecting the farms. After that, farmers will receive financial support. Farmers say they need help urgently.Experts say the weather is changing. Cold days in spring may happen more often now. They advise farmers to use early warning systems and protect their trees.This spring started well in Malatya, but it has become a difficult time for apricot farmers.

Frost Damages Apricot Production in Malatya



Adapted From: Governorship of Malatya, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, TRT Haber Online Channel, Anatolia Agency, TUIK

Written by Şehide Şehitoğlu



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CULTURE AND ART

THE SILENT POWER OF ART AND CULTURE ON SOCIETY

Today, art is not only about beauty, but also a strong tool for social development. Art affects people's thoughts, feelings, and views. It can be the voice of society when needed.

Technology has also inspired art. From the past to today, many artistic needs have led to new inventions. For example, during the Renaissance, artists discovered the rules of perspective to improve how they showed space and depth. Later, the techniques of photography, engraving, and printing helped the development of the printing press.

In our time, technology and art are more connected. Tools like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, digital art, NFTs, 3D printers, and holograms show how art is changing with technology.

Art is also a strong way to communicate between the artist and society. It brings people together and helps them share emotions. An artist can show feelings they have or even those they haven't experienced. Art often talks about social problems and acts like a mirror of society.

Through art, people can learn about themselves and what they enjoy. A poem, painting, dance, or song can inspire them and influence their lives.

Art also carries cultural traditions and social values to the next generation. It shows the identity of a society and reflects the life, beliefs, and conditions of its time. Art connects people with their past and gives them a guide for the future.



Adapted From:
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Written by Sevgi Karagöl



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TECHNOLOGY

The Role of Technology in Türkiye: A Focus on Aviation and Teknofest

Technology plays a significant role in our lives. It is actively used in various sectors such as education, healthcare, transportation, and more. This is also true for our country, Türkiye, where one of the best examples of technological advancement can be seen in the field of aviation. One major event highlighting this progress is Teknofest, Türkiye's largest technology and aviation festival. First organized in 2018, Teknofest continues to be held annually, taking place in a different city each year. The festival showcases innovations such as unmanned aerial vehicles, robotics, artificial intelligence technologies, and cybersecurity systems.

The main aim of the festival is to inform the public about the latest technological developments and to support national production. Over the years, it has grown into a platform that not only promotes technology but also encourages innovation among young people. Students from primary school, high school, and university are invited to participate in competitions with their own projects. This provides a valuable opportunity for young minds to turn their dreams into reality and contribute to Türkiye's technological future.





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ECONOMY



Mehmet Şimşek: “There is Strong Confidence in the Program”

Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance, Mehmet Şimşek, recently spoke to Bloomberg HT-Habertürk about the latest economic developments. He began by highlighting their recent efforts to promote Türkiye’s economic program internationally: “We attended nearly 60 meetings, including the G-20 summit. We met with investors and reached almost 2,000 people. We talked about the strength of our program, structural reforms, and our commitment to reducing inflation,” he said. Şimşek then commented on the broader global situation: “Global uncertainty is increasing. However, the Turkish economy is growing more through domestic demand and investment rather than exports, and this makes us more resilient. Although growth may slow down temporarily, the long-term outlook remains strong.” He also shared positive news regarding the current account deficit: “We expect it to be lower than forecast. If oil prices stay low, we could save around 7–8 billion dollars. Additionally, if the euro/dollar exchange rate rises, it could benefit us by another 4 billion dollars. We are maintaining strong control over the budget,” he explained. Finally, Şimşek touched on Türkiye’s international relations and innovation goals: “We are improving our relations with both the EU and the USA. We’ve made progress in sectors like energy, the defense industry, and artificial intelligence. Our goal is to support Türkiye’s transformation,” he concluded.

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Written by Yakup Sökmen



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SPORTS



Toprak Razgatlıoğlu: The Turkish Representative of Speed

Toprak Razgatlıoğlu, Türkiye's biggest pride in motorcycle sports, has started the 2025 season with a strong performance. Having begun racing at a young age, he quickly achieved great success in a short time and rose to international prominence.

This year, Toprak is competing with the BMW team. He adapted quickly to his new team and made an impressive start to the championship by reaching the podium in the opening races of the season. His bold attacks in the final laps of races continue to provide thrilling moments for fans around the world. Toprak is admired not only for his achievements on the track but also for his character and attitude. He plays a significant role in promoting motorsports in Türkiye, and his influence is a major factor behind the growing interest among young people in the sport.

As the 2025 season progresses, every result he earns will mark another important step in his career. Toprak Razgatlıoğlu will undoubtedly continue to represent Türkiye with pride on the world stage.

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Written by Celal Şahin



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POP CULTURE

Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival

The California desert was once again full of music, art, and style as Coachella 2025 impressed music lovers by blending nostalgia with fresh ideas. The festival began in 1993, when Pearl Jam held an independent concert at the Empire Polo Club. However, it wasn't until 1999 that Coachella officially took shape, thanks to the vision of Paul Tollett and Rick Van Santen. That first official event featured pioneering alternative artists such as Beck, Tool, and Rage Against the Machine.

Fast forward to 2025, this year's festival brought together major stars like Lady Gaga, Post Malone, Green Day, Charli XCX, and Travis Scott. But without a doubt, the night belonged to Lady Gaga. She delivered a two-hour visual and audio spectacle, blending songs from her new album *Mayhem* with her classic hits. The most talked-about moment came during her performance of *Vanish Into You*, when a fan gave her a black flower bouquet. Gaga later shared a photo of the moment with the caption, "Now we are connected forever," which quickly went viral on social media.



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ENTERTAINMENT



Pictured by AA news agency

Pillow Fights

Pillow Fight Day is held every year on April 5th in certain parts of the world, especially in Europe. It is a fun and harmless festival where people engage in pillow fights without causing injury. The event first started in 2008 with the Urban Play Movement, whose organizers and followers aimed to reclaim urban space. Today, the festival attracts approximately 50,000 participants annually, from Vienna to Barcelona. The record was broken in 2018 under the sponsorship of MyPillow, a company owned by entrepreneur Mike Lindell, a known supporter of Donald Trump. The aim of the festival is to protest urbanization and excessive concrete development in a fun way and to raise awareness about these issues globally. Beyond entertainment and record-breaking attempts, the festival has also elevated pillow fighting to a new level. Although not included in the Olympics, the Pillow Fighting Championship (PFC) has become a growing contact sport. Held in venues resembling boxing rings, the matches are even broadcast by ESPN.

This unique event, which resembles an actual boxing match, continues to be celebrated every year on April 5th.

Written by Baran Kaya



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My name is Batın Genç. I'm from Gaziantep, Türkiye. I am currently studying at İnönü University, where I am an Electrical and Electronic Engineering student. In my free time, I enjoy learning new things and improving my skills. My favorite dessert is Güllaç, which is a traditional Turkish dessert especially popular during Ramadan.

My name is Nuray Adsız. I'm from Adana, Türkiye. I'm currently studying at İnönü University. I'm a molecular biology and genetics student. In my free time I like watching series or movies, reading books and I love sleeping. My favorite desserts are Trileçe and Şekerpare.

Nuray Adsız

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My name is Şehide Şehitoğlu. I am a preparatory student at İnönü University, studying Political Science and International Relations. My goal is to build a strong academic foundation and learn more about global issues. I study English at a B1 level and Arabic at an A1 level. I always try to improve my language skills. My favorite dessert is Künefe.

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Sevgi Karagöl

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I am Yakup Sökmen. I am from Mersin. I am an electrical and electronics engineering student at Inonu University. I love traveling and gardening. Sütlaç with lots of cinnamon is my choice.

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Celal Şahin

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My name is Cemre Tosun. I am from Malatya, Türkiye. I am a student at Inonu University, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. I love and I am interested in anything that fuels my creativity and allows me to express myself. My hobbies are playing basketball, listening to music, and daydreaming (especially while listening to music). These days, my favourite song is Call It Fate, Call It Karma by The Strokes. Finally my favourite dessert is ice cream

My name is Baran Kaya. I'm from Adana, Türkiye. I am currently studying at İnönü University, where I am an electrical and Electronic engineering student. I spend my free time playing football and watching movie. My favorite dessert is Sütlaç.

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