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Hamilton receives two-year suspension for doping violation

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Former PM Erbakan's jail term postponed again

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WEATHER
Clear 3/20° ANKARA
Clear 12/21° ISTANBUL

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Turkey's only independent English-language daily

Flag crisis in Greece endangers Gül's visit

The New Anatolian / Ankara

Last weekend's flag crisis in Greece has cast a shadow on relations between Athens and Ankara. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül may cancel his scheduled participation in the Black Sea Cooperation Council ministerial meeting at the end of this month in western Thrace, according to Turkish sources.

Gül stated that he would go to Greece for the Black Sea Cooperation summit after the meeting with his Greek counterpart Petros Molyviatis in Ankara last week.

But the positive atmosphere during Molyviatis' visit to Turkey was overshadowed by a mutual standoff by Turkish and Greek coast guard vessels near the controversial islet of Kardak-Imia.

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Insurgent attacks target Iraqi soldiers, civilians

The Associated Press / Baghdad

A suicide car bomb outside an Iraqi army recruitment center and other attacks by insurgents killed a dozen Iraqis and wounded more than 50 on Tuesday, police said. On the other side of the capital, Iraq's parliament briefly adjourned after a legislator claimed he had been roughed up at a U.S. checkpoint.

The suicide bombing occurred in the Azamiyah section of the capital about 18 meters (yards)

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We're not innocent any more, nor are the children

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Ayşe Karabat



Citizen Osman is extremely unhappy simply because he does not feel the boom in his own pocket

Comment by İlınur Çevik page 3

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Government, opposition trade barbs



CHP: Don't accuse us of opposing EU bid

The New Anatolian Parliamentary Bureau / Ankara

Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal asked Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan yesterday to explain why he had accused him and his party of distorting Turkey's European Union process.

As the main opposition party, I don't know what he's talking about, and I believe that Parliament doesn't know either," thundered Baykal. "If the prime minister is accusing us because of previous evidence, all I can

Deniz Baykal

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Erdoğan: Opposition behaves like it resents the EU process

TNA Parliament Bureau / Ankara

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told the Justice and Development (AK) parliamentary group meeting yesterday that though the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) originally supported Turkey's EU membership drive, they now act like they regret it. "We will bring the Turkey's transformation process to a desired conclusion," Erdoğan said.

Erdoğan said that the country's current stability

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Recep Tayyip Erdoğan



INSIDE TODAY Mazlum-Der Chairman Ayhan Bilgen page 4 / EP 'genocide' decision may haunt Turkey's EU hopes page 5



Black smoke at Sistine Chapel again signals no new pope yet

The Associated Press / Vatican City

Black smoke emerged from the Sistine Chapel chimney again Tuesday as the scarlet-robed cardinals inside failed in two more ballots to elect a new pope to build on John Paul II's legacy and heal deep rifts within the Roman Catholic Church.

Several thousand pilgrims and tourists who packed St. Peter's Square to stare at the slender stovetop jutting from the chapel's brown tiled rooftop gasped as the smoke appeared just before noon (1000 GMT). The 115 voting cardinals



sequestered in the chapel broke for lunch and reconvened in midafternoon for the day's final session of secret balloting.

White smoke - and the pealing of bells shortly afterward - eventually will tell the world that the church's 265th pontiff has been chosen to succeed John Paul, who died April 2 at age 84.

It was the second time since Monday evening's first ballot that the smoke confused onlookers.

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Embattled AK Party deputy resigns

The New Anatolian / Ankara

Ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's Agri Deputy Cemal Kaya yesterday announced his resignation from Parliament as a deputy due to the corruption allegations against him.

In order for Kaya's resignation to be valid, a parliamentary vote is required. A simple majority of votes is required to approve his resignation from the 550-seat Parliament.

At yesterday's press conference in Parliament, Kaya

responded to allegations that he had been involved in fraud in state energy tenders. In the investigation into claims of corruption in certain tenders by the Energy Ministry, the prosecutor's office last week asked the Justice Ministry to lift Kaya's immunity for violating the law on the fight against crime organizations, and for fraud in bidding. Unveiling links between Energy Ministry bureaucrats and some private sector businessmen, the prosecutor's 31-page indictment

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49.9 pct of Erdemir to be privatized by block sale

EkoTürk News Agency / Ankara

It has been decided to privatize 46.12 percent shares of the Privatization Administration in Ereğli Demir Çelik Fabrikaları by block sale, the facilities which are the largest flat steel producer in Turkey. World's prominent steel and iron producers are interested in the sales.

According to an ÖİB statement published in the İMKB's bulletin dated April 18, it was noted that the sales of 3.81 percent shares of Erdemir owned by Türkiye Kalkınma Bankası will also be prioritized. Thus, total rates of sales will reach to 49.93 percent. Among the willing firms for Erdemir are Luxembourg-based Arcelor, Continued on page 13

Turkish Guantanamo prisoner handed over to authorities

The Associated Press / Ankara

A Turk released from the U.S. detention center for terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has been turned over to Turkish authorities, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Salih Uyar, 24, was handed over to local authorities in the southern Turkish city of Adana where he was ques-

tioned for several hours by prosecutors, who released him without filing criminal charges, the Anatolia news agency reported. He was then immediately handed over to military authorities, who could charge him with draft evasion, Anatolia reported.

A U.S. official, who asked not to be named, confirmed Continued on page 13