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Court will make its final decision on Doğan's appeal to overturn TL 4.8 bln tax fine within two weeks

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Midfielder Jose Maria Gutierrez Hernandez, commonly known as Guti, becomes a real Eagle

April sees 2.9 percent drop in unemployment

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TODAY'S ZAMAN

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page03 Eastern provinces score well on university entrance exam



AIR FORCES OFFICER ASKS TO DOWN HERONS TO SAVE PKK TERRORISTS

A Turkish Air Forces officer who referred to terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants as "our own" and asked to shoot down Heron unmanned air vehicles (UAV) to protect the terrorists and who should have been court-martialed for treason still remains serving in the military, the Bugün daily reported yesterday.

According to the report, an air forces officer in wire communications asked a high-ranking air forces pilot to shoot down Herons or change their flight plans because they caused too much damage to PKK terrorists, who he spoke of as "ours." The conversation took place on Oct. 10, 2007. An

officer calling a mobile phone from a landline in Ankara said the Herons were very good at locating targets and that they caused a great deal of damage to his own men who were PKK militants. He said he would like the Herons to be downed or at least be given new coordinates. The commander on the other at the end of the line said, "We'll take care of that."

The scandal broke when the National Intelligence Organization (MİT) detected the conversation and informed the Land Forces Command. The land forces commander at the time, Gen. İlker Başbuğ, ordered an investigation into the two officers on Oct. 28, 2007. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 06**

SLEDGEHAMMER JUNTA PLANNED TO SUPPRESS COUP OPPONENTS WITH ASSASSINATIONS PAGE 06

REACTIONS

EXPERTS SAY MILITARY PLOT CANNOT SOLELY BE THE WORK OF COL. ÇİÇEK

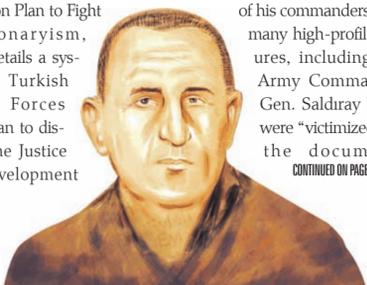
ABDULLAH YAVUZ ALTUN, İSTANBUL

Turkey is still in the midst of a fierce debate over whether the military indictment on a suspected plot to undermine the ruling party and a faith-based group is correct in pointing to Col. Dursun Çiçek as the sole culprit in the preparation of the coup plot.

Çiçek is currently being held on coup charges. He is accused of having drafted the plot the Action Plan to Fight Reactionaryism, which details a systematic Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) plan to discredit the Justice and Development

Party (AK Party) government and the Gülen movement, to downplay the Ergenekon investigation and to gather support for members of the military arrested as part of the Ergenekon investigation. Ergenekon is a clandestine criminal organization accused of working to overthrow the government.

According to the indictment, the colonel prepared the plot without the knowledge of his commanders, and many high-profile figures, including 3rd Army Commander Gen. Saldıray Berk, were "victimized" by the document. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 06**



ERDOĞAN, KILIÇDAROĞLU DISCUSS TERROR

Meeting boosts hopes for constructive opposition

ERCAN YAVUZ / ŞULE KULU, ANKARA / İSTANBUL

In what could be seen as a noteworthy step toward a long-expected compromise between the country's main opposition party and the government, yesterday's meeting between Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan took place in a positive atmosphere followed by constructive remarks by both leaders.

Erdogan, also the leader of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), met with the CHP leader to discuss Turkey's critical issues, in particular the rising tide of terrorism. The meeting was long expected, since the two parties' leaders have rarely met since the AK Party came to power in 2002. Former CHP Chairman Deniz Baykal, who was replaced by Kılıçdaroğlu in May, met with Erdoğan only five times in eight years.

"We would gladly lend our support [to the government] to end terrorism if needed," the

CHP leader said while speaking to reporters following the meeting. He said they have similar opinions on the issue of fighting terrorism.

The meeting raised hopes for consensus among political party leaders, who have been at odds on even the country's most critical issues. "The meeting was very positive. There was massive pressure from the public for the two leaders to meet. Kılıçdaroğlu and Erdoğan met this expectation," Sabah daily columnist Nazlı Ilıcak told Today's Zaman.

The meeting was held at Kılıçdaroğlu's

chambers in the Parliament building. Kılıçdaroğlu welcomed Erdoğan at the door of his office. Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek, Interior Minister Beşir Atalay and Public Order and Safety Undersecretary Muammer Güler accompanied the prime minister. The CHP's Secretary-General Önder Sav, parliamentary group deputy chairman Kemal Anadol and CHP Deputy Chairman Hakkı Süha Okay were also present at the meeting, which lasted one-and-a-half hours. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**



Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and main opposition Republican People's party leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu shake hands during their meeting in Ankara on Thursday.

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terror

Turkey takes the fight to PKK, enlists help of Syria, Iran

Turkey has decided to move its fight against the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) beyond the Iraqi border and continue the fight in the field. The most important leg of this plan relies on the support of Iran and Syria against the terrorist group.

05
warning

Gül should step in if suspected officers promoted in YAŞ

With only a few weeks left before the Supreme Military Council meeting, which will decide on promotions within the Turkish Armed Forces, observers have called on the president to step in if the council insists on promoting suspected officers.

07
economy

Turkey's budget deficit down 33.5 percent in H1

Turkey's budget deficit decreased by 33.5 percent in the first six months of 2010 over the same period of 2009, Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek said Turkey's budget deficit amounted to TL 15.4 billion in the January-June period of the year.

