

In this week's *Türkiye in Focus*;

- Ankara reaffirmed its solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot community on the 52nd anniversary of the Cyprus Peace Operation.
- Divisions within Türkiye's main opposition party became increasingly visible.
- The Speaker of Parliament held key consultations and outlined the next steps in the terror-free Türkiye initiative.

52 Years On: The Enduring Legacy of the Cyprus Operation



(Hakan Akgün - Anadolu Agency)

The 52nd anniversary of the Cyprus Peace Operation was marked by high-level statements from Ankara, led by President Erdoğan, reaffirming Türkiye's commitment to the Turkish Cypriot community. After years of mounting tensions and threats against the island's Turkish population, the Greek-backed coup of 15 July 1974 prompted Türkiye, acting as a guarantor power, to intervene militarily. The first operation began on 20 July, followed by a second phase the following month after diplomatic negotiations stalled. These developments paved the way for the Turkish Federated State

of Cyprus and, ultimately, the establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. The anniversary is commemorated each year as Peace and Freedom Day.

From Ankara's perspective, the operation represents more than an act of solidarity; it is regarded as a defining episode in Türkiye's modern strategic history. The arms embargo imposed by Western allies after the intervention reinforced the perceived need for greater self-reliance. The resulting period of diplomatic isolation also helped accelerate efforts to build an indigenous defence industry. Institutions such as ASELSAN, TUSAŞ and HAVELSAN, now central to Türkiye's security architecture, trace their origins to this period.

The Cyprus Peace Operation, therefore, occupies a distinctive place in Türkiye's contemporary history, reflecting both its role as a regional guarantor and its pursuit of strategic autonomy. The annual commemorations reassure the Turkish Cypriot community of Ankara's continued support while reinforcing a national narrative centred on sovereignty and self-sufficiency. More than five decades later, the experience of 1974 continues to shape Türkiye's foreign-policy outlook and its emphasis on defence self-reliance.

Özgür Özel Announces Plans for a New Political Party

Türkiye's opposition landscape could face a significant realignment after Özgür Özel confirmed that he would leave the Republican People's Party (CHP) to establish a new political party. Reports suggest that as many as 90 serving MPs may follow him. Were that number to materialise, the new party would be unlikely to inherit the CHP's full political weight, but it could immediately become the largest opposition bloc in parliament, behind the ruling AK Party, and substantially alter parliamentary dynamics.

Özel's departure speech, however, raised questions about whether the new movement can offer a genuinely distinct political platform. As internal tensions within the opposition have intensified, he has increasingly presented himself as a defender of the CHP's traditional Kemalist identity. His message this week remained consistent with that position, signalling little departure from the party's established ideological foundations. This may represent a calculated attempt to retain support among the CHP's traditional electorate and local organisation.

That reliance on familiar themes nevertheless creates a tension for a movement seeking to present itself as new. Although the traditional Kemalist framework retains a committed constituency, it has rarely proved sufficient on its own to secure a national majority or appeal to broader sections of society. Beyond the organisational costs of relinquishing the CHP brand and potentially losing state funding tied to electoral performance, Özel's principal challenge will be to develop a contemporary political offer without alienating the base he hopes to carry with him.



(Doğukan Keskin - Anadolu Agency)

Parliament Advances Legal Framework for the Terror-Free Türkiye Process

The Speaker of the Grand National Assembly, Numan Kurtulmuş, held consultations with representatives of the main political parties this week, signalling a new phase in the government's efforts to address the decades-long conflict. Stressing the importance of using the summer months effectively, Kurtulmuş said this period offered an opportunity



(TBMM - Anadolu Agency)

to verify the PKK's effective dissolution and establish a legal framework for the return and reintegration of its members. With the parliamentary recess approaching, he urged political groups to accelerate their work so that the legislation could be debated and adopted within the coming weeks. Kurtulmuş also clarified that the proposed law would constitute a temporary, one-off mechanism rather than a general or individual amnesty.

The legislative discussions coincide with developments on the ground, including a recent visit by a DEM Party delegation to İmralı Island for talks with jailed terrorist group leader Abdullah Öcalan. The combination of parliamentary consultations and direct engagement points to a more structured legal and political transition. Although building a broad political consensus remains difficult, parliament appears to be moving closer to considering a temporary statutory framework to govern the process.

Highlights

- Several media figures previously associated with AHBAP have been called to give statements as part of the investigation into the association.
- Türkiye was admitted as ASEAN's 12th dialogue partner.
- The Central Bank left its policy rate unchanged at 37% at its latest meeting.

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