

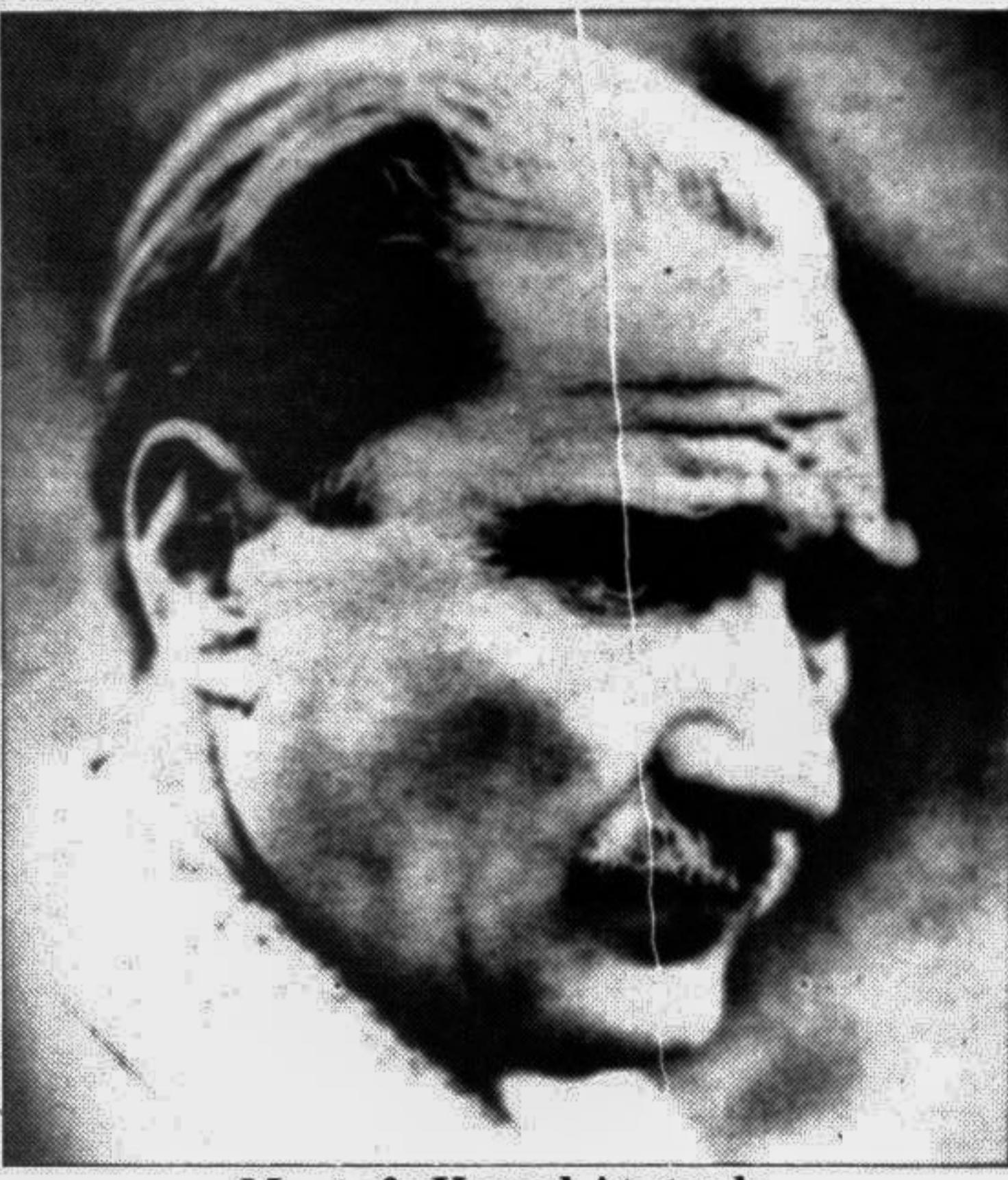


The Daily Star

# National Day of Turkey

Special Supplement

October 29, 1996



Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

The Founder and First President of the Republic of Turkey

## South East Anatolia Project : The Future of Turkey

by Abdullah Cay

**T**HE South-east Anatolia Project, which is abbreviated to GAP is one of the largest projects of the republican period. Its history goes back to the 1930s. The project aims at making use of the rivers in eastern and southeastern Anatolia through the facilities introduced by modern technology, and completion is scheduled for the beginning of the 21st century.

GAP is a complex facility consisting of integrated projects such as dams, irrigation canals and hydro-electric power plants.

The total project area of GAP is 74,000 km<sup>2</sup> and the total number of projects is 13. Of these 13 projects, 7 are being erected on the Euphrates and 6 are being erected on the Tigris River. The Euphrates and the Tigris are major surface water sources in the region. Both these rivers which rise in eastern Anatolia, flow into the Persian Gulf: the Euphrates through Syria, and the Tigris through Iraq. The potential of the Euphrates' water in the Turkish territories is about 35 billion m<sup>3</sup> per annum, of which 89% rises in Turkey, and 11% in Syria. Whereas the potential of the Tigris water in the Turkish territories is about 49 bil-

lion m<sup>3</sup> per annum, 51% of which rises in Turkey, 39% in Iraq and 10% in Iran. This large water potential will be canalized through the said 13 projects and hence it will be utilized for a multitude of purposes.

The Sanliurfa tunnel which was erected so that the land of the region could be irrigated consists of 2 tunnels 40 n away from each other which have diameters of 7.62 m which are 26.4 km long. After the completion of the tunnel, it will be possible to irrigate 1.8 million hectares of land in the region.

Electricity production is another target of GAP: the total amount of electricity that will be produced from the hydro-electric power plants to be erected in the region, will double Turkey's current electricity production of all the units, the electricity production of the Ataturk Dam alone will reach 29.77 billion km/h in 1992. The electricity obtained through this project will not only meet the energy need of Turkey, which is gradually industrializ-

ing but could also be exported to neighbouring countries.

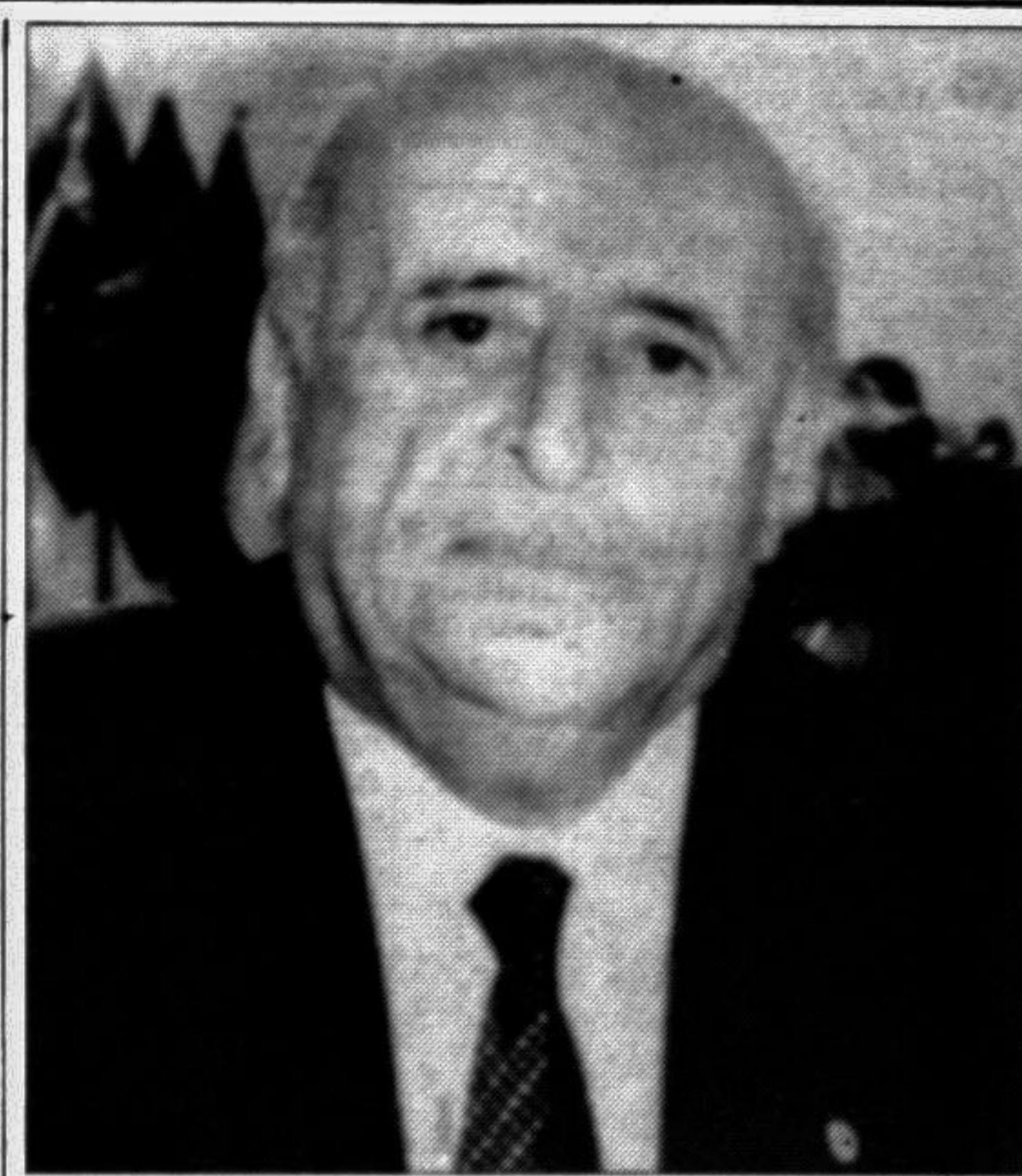
It is clear that, by exploiting to full the potential of the land and water resources in the region, GAP will realize the utilization of 25% of the hydroelectric power potential of our Turkey. The climate in the region and the summer drought is quite drastic. Between June and August the average rainfall is approximately 10 mm. This climatic feature of the region clearly indicated agriculture's need for water in the region. Water is everything for the agriculture in the region. On the 1.8 million hectares of land to be cultivated when GAP is completed, it will be possible to get 2-3 crops per year, to increase productivity and to grow various and valuable agricultural products. Thus when this is realized the production value of the area will be increased by 15-20 times its current value.

This position development does not only concern the agricultural sector. In addition the industrial, the service and other sectors will benefit. The

largest share from this development will be obtained by our citizens living in the provinces such as Sanliurfa, Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Mardin, Batman, Diyarbakir, Siirt and Sirnak, which lie within the GAP project area. It is obvious that this regional development will effect Turkey from many aspects. The current population in the GAP region is 4.5 million, and 2.2 million of them live in villages. It is estimated that this population will rise to 20 million after GAP. It is known that the people of the region continuously migrate to western Anatolia due to population increase, unemployment, and other reasons. GAP will not only stop this migration but reverse it. A kind of population explosion can currently be seen in Sanliurfa. The districts such as Birecik, Siverek and Hilvan are gradually becoming large cities. It is known that 60% of the GAP project is reserved for irrigation and the rest is for power plants. The GAP project, when it is completed in 2006, will provide the national economy with a contribution equal to 25% of Turkey's budget.

*Abridged*

*Edited by : A Murshed Anam*



Suleyman Demirel  
President of the Republic of Turkey

## The Physical, Economic, and Social Geography of Turkey

**T**URKEY is located at the southwestern extremity of Asia and at the southeastern extremity of Europe. With territories in two continents, Turkey is a bridge between them and at the same time a door leading from one to the other.

Turkey is situated between 36°-42° north latitude and between 26°-45° east longitude. Its maximum north-south distance is 650 km while the maximum east-length distance is 1,600 km. The country's area is 780,576 km<sup>2</sup>. Turkey is bordered on the west by Greece and Bulgaria, on the east by the USSR and Iran, and on the south by Iraq and Syria. Turkey is also surrounded by three seas: the Black Sea to the north, the Aegean Sea on the west, and the Mediterranean Sea on the south. Located within Turkey are two vital straits: the Bosphorus, which connects the Black Sea to the inland Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles, which connects the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean Sea. Turkey's land borders measure 2,700 km in length while its coast measures 6,000 km.

Topographically, Turkey is quite varied. Its surface features developed during several geological eras with the result that one finds young mountains adjacent to ancient ones. The average altitude above sea level is 1,130 m. The Toros chain of mountains runs almost parallel to the southern coast, while the

Egean (Aegean) region is the western reaches of the Anatolian peninsula bordered by the Aegean Sea. It begins a Cape Baba in the north and extends coastwise as far as Marmaris. The Aegean coast is extremely indented with numerous gulls and promontories. It is intersected by mountains of average height extending from inland down to the sea between which there are broad plains and valleys. Izmir is Aegean Turkey's most important city and port.

The ic Anadolu (Central Anatolian) region covers most of the heartland of the Anatolian peninsula and consists largely of a high plateau that is completely surrounded by mountains. Turkey's capital, Ankara, is located in the Central Anatolian region.

The Karaman (Mediterranean) region extends from the Aegean in the west along the coast. This narrow strip of land is bordered along the north by mountains. While it is somewhat mountainous in the west, the mountains recede inland around Antalya, after which there is an extensive littoral plain. The Mediterranean region plays an important role in Turkey's tourism industry.

The Guneydogu Anadolu (Southeastern Anatolian) region begins where the Mediterranean region leaves off at the foothills of the Toros mountains.

In the Dogu Anadolu (Eastern Anatolian) region, the northern and southern systems of mountains collide producing an area of vast and lonely splendor. The average altitude of this region is nearly 2000 metres. Turkey's highest mountain, Agri (Ararat, 5,165m) is located here as is the country's biggest lake, Van.

In addition to Van, there are a number of other lakes in Turkey, the most important of which are Tuzgolu (Salt Lake), Egridir, Aksehir, Burdur, Izmir,

lilan peninsula and consists of these lakes are salt; others are fresh and their water is used for irrigation purposes.

In addition to being a country of mountains and seas, Turkey is also a land of plains and valleys. Besides the vast

Cilician plains (called Cukurova) in the south, there are also the Antalya and Antakya plains in that part of Turkey. In the north are the Carsamba and Bafru plains; in the west, the river valley plains of the Gediz, Kucuk Menderes, and Buyuk Menderes rivers; in western Trakya (Thrace), the Ergene plain, and in the east the Ilgaz plain. Turkey has a number of rivers including the Kucuk and Buyuk Menderes, Gediz, Kizilirmak, Yesilimak, Sakarya, Firat, Dicle, Seyhan, Ceyhan, and Coruh. In general terms, Turkey's tends to be hot and dry in summer and cool and rainy in winter though climate varies considerably from region to region with Mediterranean, temperate, continental, and Black Sea climates prevailing according to one's distance from the sea and the altitude. Such varied climatic conditions are also evident in vegetation and rainfall. Turkey's northern coast is heavily forested and forests still cover about 13% of the country.

According to Turkey's most recent census (conducted in 1990), the country's population is nearly 57 million. The great majority of Turkish citizens are Sunni Muslims and speak Turkish though there are a number of small minority

groups who maintain their own religious faiths and languages.

Turkey is divided into 74 provinces. There are 11,696 countries, 793 townships, and 35,000 villages.

Fresh fruits and vegetables can be grown year-round in some parts of the country. Principal crops include, in addition to these, grain, legumes, citrus fruits, cotton, tobacco, grapes, hazelnuts, figs, tea, poppies, and sugar beets.

Livestock-raising is an important industry in Turkey and the meat from animals raised on the lush grass of the high plateaus, once tasted, will never be forgotten. From Turkey's surrounding seas, a wide variety of delicious fish are available in every season.

Textiles — woolen, cotton, and silk — have long been an important industry in Turkey and Turkish woven goods are now exported in substantial quantities. Other industrial activities include ceramics, leather, glass, metal goods, food processing, iron and steel, and paper. Anatolia is particularly rich in deposits of minerals and coal, iron, chromium, manganese, lead, and sulfur are all extracted. While Turkey produces some oil, the amount is not sufficient to meet the country's needs.

Turkey has an extensive

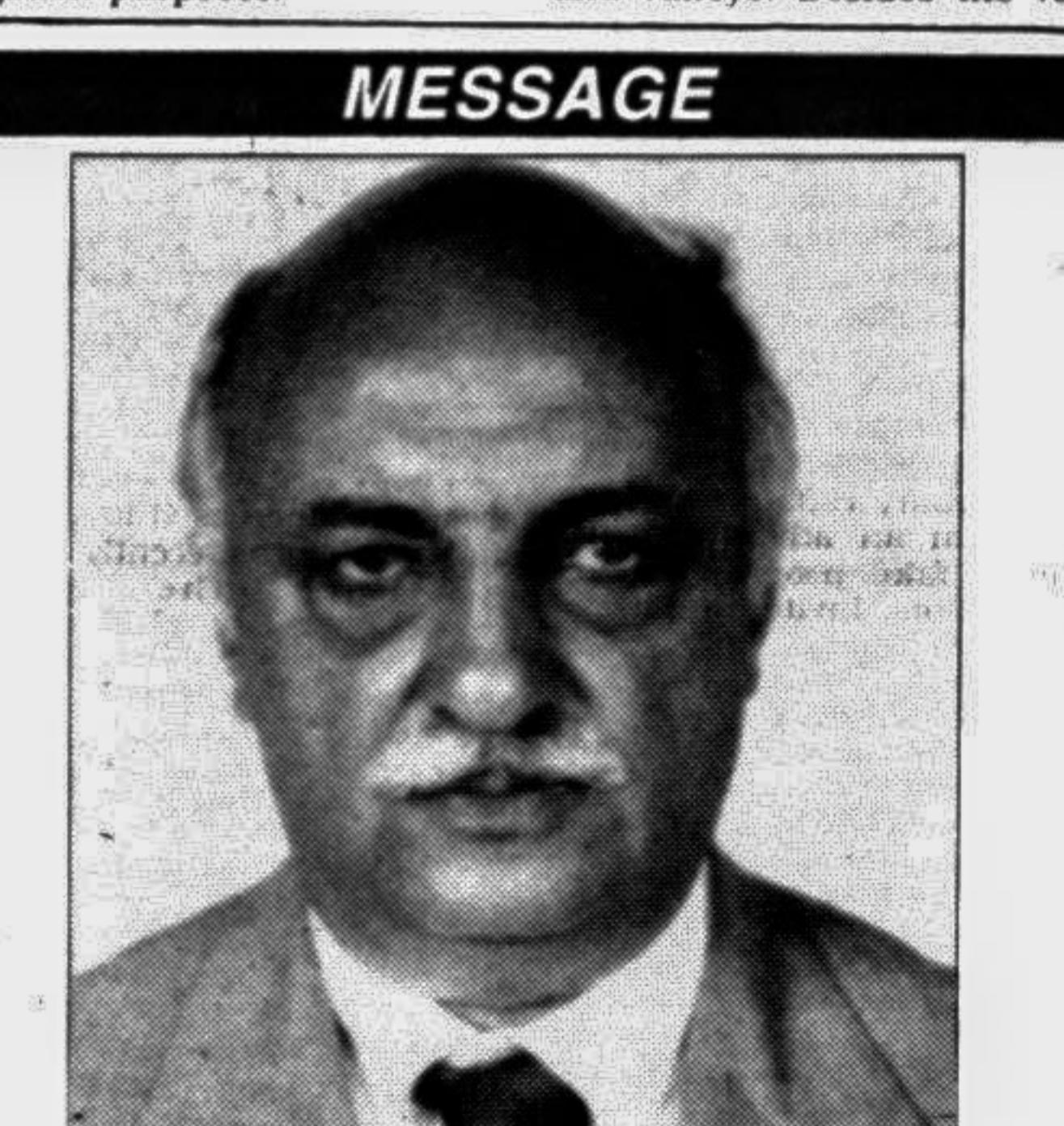
internal transportation network of railways, highways, and air-lines that allows convenient and comfortable access to any part of the country. Coastwise shipping also provides connections between Turkey's major and lesser ports. Passenger lines starting from Istanbul reach up into the Black Sea and down into the Mediterranean.

A land of constant contrasts, Turkey is both a very old and a very new country. When the 6 century-old Ottoman empire came to an end it was replaced by a new and dynamic republic — the Republic of Turkey — on April 23rd 1923. This new republic was founded on secular principles. Women and men possess equal rights and it is today possible to find women occupying important positions in every profession. Women have the right to vote and to be elected. Polygamy is prohibited by law.

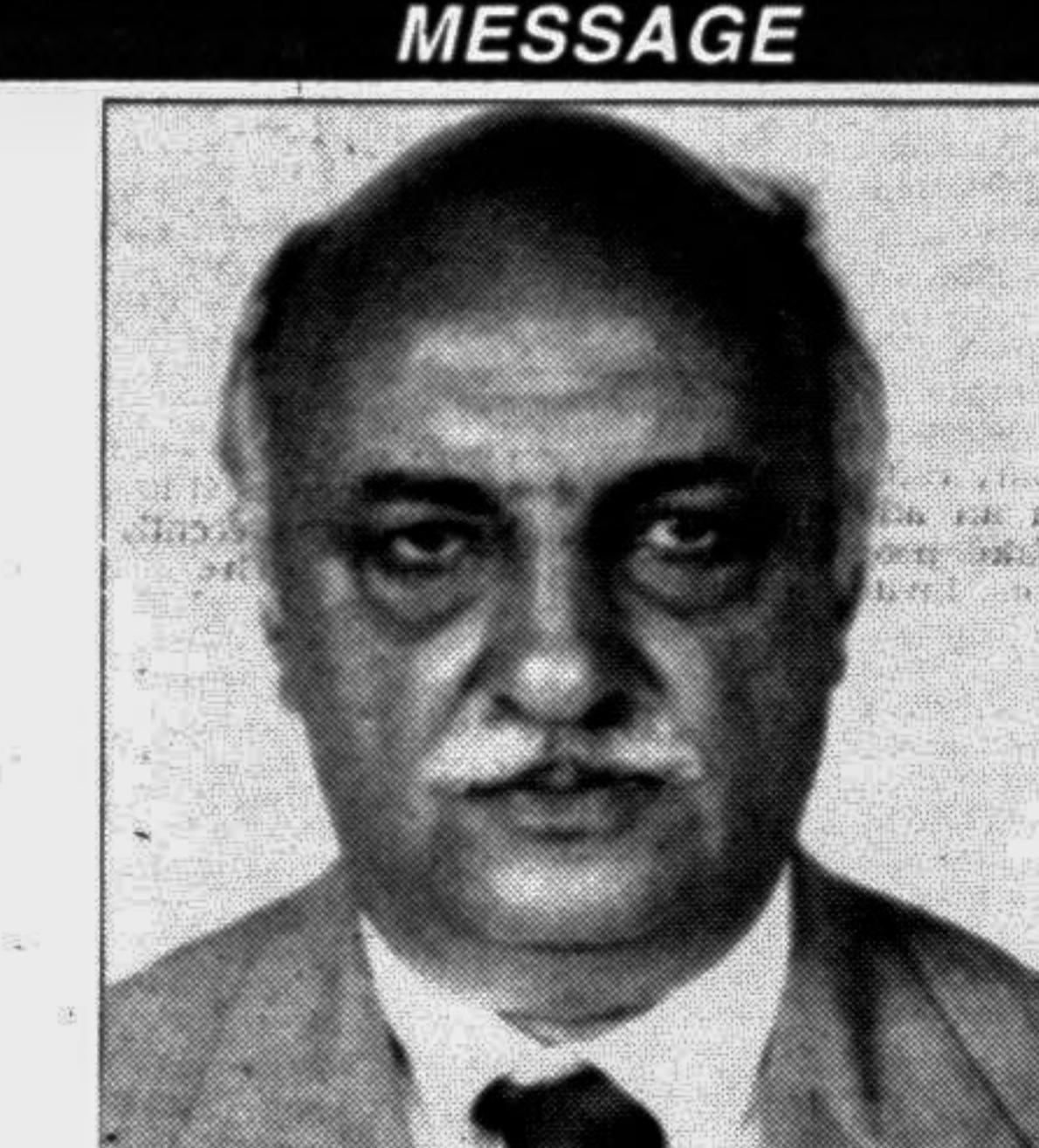
Turkey's capital is Ankara and its official language is Turkish. The currency unit is the Turkish lira.

Turkey is a multi-party, parliamentary democracy. The prime minister, who represents the government, is chosen by the party (or parties) that can secure a majority in the Grand National Assembly. The assembly elects a president, who represents the nation and who serves a term of seven years and cannot be re-elected. Government business is handled by ministries.

*Abridged*



*MESSAGE*



*It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to address myself to your esteemed readers on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey.*

*Seventy three years ago today the Turkish Grand National Assembly voted unanimously in favour of the creation of the Republic after a successful war of independence led by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. We are always remembering with gratitude the moral and material support extended by the Muslims of India, and Bengalis in particular, to the people of Turkey in those difficult times.*

*For Turkey, in fact, this 73 years is the story of the transformation of an Empire, to a modern Republic, transformation of inherited traditions to the contemporary governance rules of a modern state, based on the principle of the maintenance of peace and stability at home and abroad and good and fair partnership mostly with neighbouring countries.*

*Thanks to the Almighty that today we witness the existence of a modern, able, dynamic and cooperative Turkey of 65 million inhabitants, located as a bridge between East and West, North and South, in a highly sensitive region of the world. Concurrently, Turkey's recent adherence to the Customs Union (CU) with the European Union (EU) and its key role in regional organisations such as Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), Black Sea Economic Council (BSEC), as well as global institutions like NATO and OIC, its traditional friendly relations with the USA and the Middle Eastern countries and its privileged relations with Russia and CIS reflect this sensitive but unique position and wideness of the area covered by its obligations.*

*In this context, Turkey is always assuming an important responsibility through bilateral relations or a number of international fora, in participating in its best, either in searching peaceful solutions to the prevailing conflicts or in finding proper ways and modalities to the development problems all over the world.*

*History and culture are the basic foundations of the friendly relations which happily exists between our nations.*

*This is mostly due to the social and cultural genetics of the peoples of the two, as we used to say "brotherly nations". We have always been as we will continue to be in the future reliable brothers and friends, giving support and assistance to each other whenever and wherever needed.*

*Turkey is following with admiration the successful drive of the people of Bangladesh in their way to economic development and to the establishment of democracy in its universal norms. We cherish the people of Bangladesh to accomplish, through a long and highly difficult crisis period, the election of 12 June 1996 and give the brightest example of democracy that is fully deserved.*

*We believe that development problems of the country will definitely be solved with the conduct and implementation of sound and courageous policies only in this constructive and friendly climate of democracy.*

*Today we know more than ever that Bangladesh and Turkey have enormous trade and investment potentials and the business communities of the two countries are now ever more conscious of this fact. It is expected that the currently existing volume of bilateral trade of merely 30 millions USD reach three digit figures in couple of years. This will mostly be in line with the fact that Bangladesh and Turkey belongs to two different geo-regional areas of the world and they are very much able to set up an exemplary commercial and industrial relationship based on complementarity and not on competition. By their geo-economic position and with their potentialities they offer each other immense new market opportunities, long run experiences and well established services.*

*It seems that after years of obsolete stagnation which prevailed in the bilateral economic and cultural relations between these two brotherly countries, its is now high time to bridge a new and sound partnership in all areas and offer the wealthy crops to the noble people of Bangladesh and Turkey.*

*I take this auspicious opportunity to renew my best wishes to the People's Republic of Bangladesh and wealth, happiness and brighter future for its noble hearted nation.*

**K Ozean Davaz**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to  
Bangladesh

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Government and Friendly People of the  
Republic of Turkey  
on their  
National Day*

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