

THE EGE EYE

SINCE 2006

LOCAL NEWS & WHAT'S ON



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Serving the community with news in the Izmir, Aydin & Mugla region

SPRING MAY BE HERE

BUT

SUMMER IS COMING

Amid a host of construction work, Kusadasi is shaking its winter slumber, taking a deep breath and gearing up for another summer season.

Traders are painting their storefronts and restocking their wares. Road crews are sweeping streets and raking parks; and restaurants closed for the winter have reopened for early-season customers. Although many restaurants remain open all year, a sure sign that summer is coming is when the pavements start filling with chairs and tables.

From apartment buildings carpets and duvets are hanging out to dry before being packed away for the winter. Pools get their annual MOT and the locals drag out their summer furniture for cleaning.

As the weeks go on off come the winter boots and on go the flip-flops as the beaches start to fill with sun-beds and the first pink legs in shorts start to appear.

A palpable excitement takes hold at this time of year as the first few faces of the summer work force begin to arrive. Everything feels fresh and many are looking forward to an onslaught of foreign visitors and hopefully a prosperous season.



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MEDICAL EMERGENCY 112

FIRE 110

POLICE HELP 155

FOREST FIRE 177

JANDARMA 156

COAST GUARD 158

HEALTH INFORMATION 184

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY 186

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OUT AND ABOUT: In the Backyard of the Aegean CAVING

With its spectacular caves, Aydın is an ideal spot for caving and pot-holing.



Sirtlanini cave is located between Upper Camarasi and Narligedik Villages of Karacasu sub-district and can be reached from both of the villages. From Narligedik village it is about a 25 minute walk and is close to the Aphrodisias ruins.

It is a horizontal and dry cave and has a very narrow entrance, however, after 4-5 metres the main cave hall is reached. The saloon is divided into 5-6 sections by pillars which developed side by side and then become walls. All of the chambers connected to this saloon are adorned with stalactites, stalagmites.

While the outside temperature is 28°C and the relative humidity is 44%, the temperature inside the cave is 17°C and the humidity amount is 85%.

Sirtlanini has a passive cave structure.

As the cave is passive, there aren't any rivers or creeks present, however, the waters dripping from the cracks on the ceiling helped the formation of various dripstones. There are also some travertine pools and a few small ponds to be found.

Another great cave to explore is the cave of Zeus. It can be found at the entrance to the Milli Park and is very impressive on account of its sinkhole carved by underground waters. The cave is reached by a 20 m (66 ft) long slippery, stoney trail southwards and its mouth is hidden from view, as it is covered with trees, plants and flowers.



New Zealand's Real Life Cat Burglar



A cat-owner from New Zealand has posted an apologetic note online after her pet cat went on a months-long crime spree, pinching various items of men's clothing from around her neighbourhood.

Brigit, a six-year-old tonkinese cat, has been going out at night on the streets and entering into strangers' homes, where she'll pick up some socks or underwear and take it away with her. Brigit then brings the clothes home, often leaving them on her owners bed.

In the past couple of months Brigit has pinched around a dozen pairs of men's pants and around 60 single socks.

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CARRY ON CAMPING



A recreational vehicle park in the resort town of Bodrum widens holiday choices with its environmentally friendly services and affordable prices. You can either rent an RV for a long stay or enjoy a weekend break.

The park is situated on the Bodrum – Turgutreis road close to the districts Islamhaneleri neighbourhood – attracting nature lovers as well as camping enthusiasts. Sulhi Baybar, who runs the park, says “that it attracts great interest both within Turkey and abroad”. What is special about the park is that it costs only TL10 per day and customers are provided with electricity and water. Also a dedicated camper, Baybar said “RV parks are an important part of alternative tourism. Foreign tourists generally seek such places and there are not many options available in Turkey, especially in Bodrum”.

Zerrin Zafer, who lives at the park believes that many people are not aware of how living in a RV can be fun, with fewer expenses. “Camping and RV parks can be a good alternative to hotels in Bodrum, as it is more fun and social. When you stay at a resort hotel, you stay in a room and generally follow the hotel's program and rules. Camping season generally starts in March and closes in November

What children really think of their parent's addiction to their electronic devices?



Contrary to popular belief the so-called Internet generation are not impressed with the excessive use of gadgets and most admit it actually makes them feel ignored. A new study by researchers at the University of Washington and University of Michigan say that children expect some family technology rules.

Children were asked who they think uses digital media the most in their home - to which all the kids responded with their parents. One little boy said his mother used her phone the most , 'because in the morning when she can't be bothered to watch the TV or get out of bed she will log on her phone and basically just go onto Facebook.'

The children complain that they do not get enough quality time with their parents as they spend all day on their phone. The study is one of the first examining children's expectations for parents' technology use. The survey demonstrated that they want their parents to listen to them when they are trying to talk, instead of being busy with their cell phone. They also do not want their parents to text while they are driving and ask them to stop posting their photos on social media without their permission.

The surveyed children also said that parents should allow them to make their own decisions about technology use without interference. They also ask their parents not to share information online about their children without explicit permission. Co-author Sarita Schoenebeck of the University of Michigan said, "twice as many children as parents expressed concerns about family members over-sharing personal information about them on Facebook and other social media without permission."

Baklava: The favourite pastry for Turkish feasts



The cuisine of Turkey's south-eastern province of Gaziantep earned praise earlier in December when it was added to UNESCO's list of "The Creative Cities' Network." Among them, the ancient city of Gaziantep - also known as Antep - is a treasure trove of premiere delicacies, including the filo-dough treat, baklava.

Nearly 1,100 kilometres away from Istanbul lies the home of the flaky dessert. Characteristic of the cuisine of the Ottoman Empire, baklava is rich and sweet, with layers of filo pastry filled with nuts and syrup. This pastry is one of the most popular sweets in Turkey, the Middle East and Balkan countries, enticing locals and tourists alike.

Unbelievably Turkey produces about 950 tons of baklava daily. The average person consumes about 4.4 kilograms of baklava per year, according to a statement from "Baktad". The industry employs more than 60,000 people in around 25,000 companies across Turkey, making an annual domestic turnover of roughly TL 8.5 billion (\$2.9 billion). While the industry's baklava exports amounted to \$1 million in 2005, that number rose to more than \$4 million in 2014. Turkey mainly exports baklava to the U.S., Germany, and Saudi Arabia, according to information from the association.

Master Baker Nadir Gullu, 60, described the key steps for making baklava. He said that the ingredients for Antep baklava, which was given protected status by the European Union in 2013, should be grown locally during the right seasons. "The main source of the good taste of baklava," according to Gullu, are pistachios which should be picked in Antep in August when the protein levels are higher, rather than in September, when they are usually harvested.

"Walnuts should be brought from [Turkey's northern province of] Tokat during September and October," he adds. And the butter for a baklava should be made from the milk of sheep and goats that are fed untrodden herbs of the Harran Plain in south-eastern Turkey. "The animals should be eating those herbs during the spring months of April and May," he says.

While the flour for baklava should come from Turkey's central Anatolian province of Konya or south-eastern Urfa, Gullu said that the water used for baklava should not be chlorinated. Gullu has a very definite idea of what good baklava should be. "First of all, it should be gold in colour," he says. "Secondly, when you smell it, you should be able to understand if the ingredients are natural or not. Third, when you put your fork into the baklava you should hear a crispy sound, which indicates how thin the 40 layers of rolled dough are." Lastly, one should chew the baklava slice five times in order to understand the pistachio aroma, he adds.

European Central Bank to decide soon on fate of 500-euro banknotes



The European Central Bank will take a decision soon on whether to keep printing the €500 banknotes. Benoit Coeure from the European Central Bank said that they "we're actively considering the question and will take a decision shortly" when asked about the future of the euro area's largest denomination banknote.

Authorities increasingly suspect that the notes are being used for illicit purposes, "an argument we cannot ignore given the importance of fighting money laundering," Coeure said as large denomination notes enable criminals to transport large sums of money in small volumes.

The EU Commission said earlier this month that it planned to consult with the ECB and other parties concerned to decide whether action needed to be taken regarding the note.

"From my point of view, the arguments in favour of keeping it are less and less convincing," Coeure said, but acknowledged that some people, "notably in Germany" were concerned about the disappearance of payments in cash.

The €500 bills account for just three percent of the total number of banknotes in circulation, but 28 percent of the total value, according to ECB statistics. Any decision regarding their possible withdrawal would be taken by the ECB's governing council, the 25-member board comprising six executive board members and the 19 central bank governors of the member states.

But a number of experts have suggested that doing away with the €500 note would not be particularly effective in fighting crime. "Organised crime isn't stupid. Most money is laundered without cash via bogus companies," said Friedrich Schneider, an expert on the shadow economy at the University of Linz in Austria in interviews to a number of German media recently.

Another possible beneficial effect would be that it would become more inconvenient to hoard cash, another encouragement to spend and help push up the chronically low level of inflation, commentators argued. But Coeure rejected such arguments. "This decision has nothing to do with monetary policy," he said.

Resistance to the plans appears to be particularly high in Germany, where most people still prefer to make payments in cash. And when the euro was created, it was Germany that had been keen to have a €500 bill because it was of a similar size denomination as its 1,000-deutschemark banknote

House sales in Turkey drop while foreigners' interest rises in January



House sales in Turkey dropped in January, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). According to the report, house sales went down 1.9 percent year-on-year in January after a three-month increase. Before January, home sales declined in September last year when consumers preferred to wait ahead of the November elections when there was a one-week public holiday during the month.

On the other hand, house sales to foreigners moved up to 1,462 units, up 13.4 percent compared to the same month of the previous year.

The top destination for foreign investors was Istanbul with 498 sales, Antalya with 315, Bursa with 129, Yalova with 84, Ankara with 68 and Aydin with 65.

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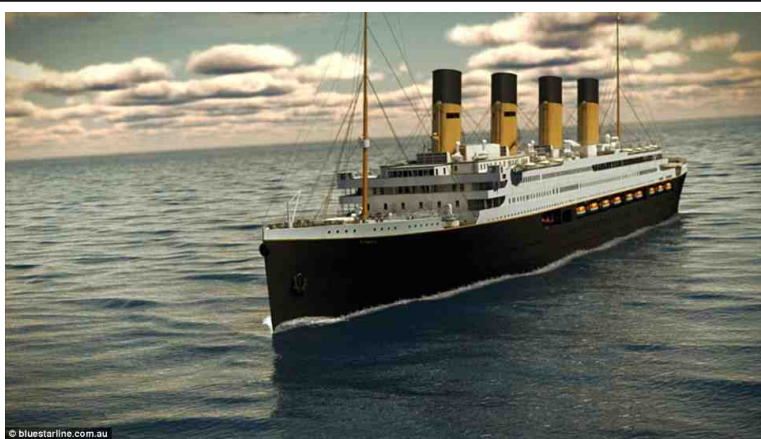


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THE TITANIC SAILS AGAIN



An exact replica of the Titanic will set sail in 2018 and recreate the trans-Atlantic crossing of the original - without its doomed fate, hopefully. The ship is expected sail from Jiangsu, China to Dubai in 2018.

The new Titanic will be almost 280 meters long and 52 meters high, with nine floors and 840 cabins that can hold 2,400 passengers and 900 crew members. The man behind the project Australian billionaire and real estate magnate Clive Palmer had announced his plan in 2012 but it had been postponed.



The ship will largely recreate the design and decor of the fabled original, with some modifications to keep it in line with current safety rules and shipbuilding practices. There will also be some modern comforts such as air conditioning, a swimming pool, Turkish baths and gyms. The three passenger classes, however, will be prevented from mingling, as in 1912.

Unlike the original; Titanic II will have more than enough space in its lifeboats for every person on board and will have additional escape staircases. Naturally people are going to be really cautious or superstitious regarding getting on a second version of the Titanic, or it could be a really compelling idea for history buffs who want to live the story or the legend behind it,

Titanic II will operate as a cruise ship, and passengers will find 1912-style clothing in their rooms should they wish to dress up and pretend they are living in an earlier era as they visit facsimiles of the original gilded first-class dining and smoking rooms, assuming that is, if they have the appropriate ticket. Prices for the tickets will be announced later ,but it seems like there have been offers up to \$1 million to sail on the Titanic 2, according to Blue Star.

Good news for chocoholics! Eating treat once a week 'boosts memory and concentration'



For many of us, sinking our teeth into a bar of chocolate is one of life's greatest joys. Now, a study has found it may improve memory, concentration and problem-solving skills.

Researchers discovered those who ate any type of chocolate at least once a week performed better on a range of brain tests than those who didn't indulge. This may be due to a compound called flavanols in the sweet treat, which are abundant in dark chocolate but less so in milk or white chocolate, they said.

Flavanols are a type of antioxidant, a compound which may prevent or delay some types of cell damage, and are also found in citrus fruit, tea and wine. They have already been shown to reduce the risk of dementia, as well as fighting weight gain and lowering the chances of conditions such as heart disease and cancer.

The study, by the University of South Australia, used data from the Maine-Syracuse Longitudinal Study (MSLS), which tracked 1,000 people over 30 years and measured a whole range of health indicators.

They examined whether eating chocolate habitually was associated with better brain function. Then they analysed its effects on memory, concentration, reasoning and information processing. This included testing their ability to remember and recall a list of words or remember where an object was placed, retain information, process it and then recall it. They found those who ate chocolate at least once a week performed better on those who ate chocolate less than once a week.

Lead author Dr Georgie Crichton, of the University of South Australia, said: "Chocolate and cocoa flavanols have been associated with improvements in a range of health complaints dating from ancient times. They have established cardiovascular benefits, but less is known about the effects of chocolate on cognition and behaviour."

Previous research has mostly examined the effects of chocolate consumption on brain performance immediately after eating a chocolate bar or drinking a cocoa drink. But his research looked at habitual intake of the treat.

The association between chocolate consumption and better brain function remained significant even when the researchers adjusted for factors such as age, sex, education, cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, total energy and alcohol intake.

However, he emphasised that chocolate should be consumed as part of a healthy diet and lifestyle, "of course chocolate intake should be considered within an overall healthy eating pattern, with consideration given to total energy intake and an individual's energy needs."

A previous study found a daily dose of chocolate could help keep dementia and Alzheimer's at bay. Researchers found that consuming cocoa every day helped improve mild cognitive impairment – a condition involving memory loss which can progress to dementia or Alzheimer's – in elderly patients.

**Did You
KNOW**




The color of a chile pepper is no indication of its heat (usually the smaller the the hotter)

**Did You
KNOW**



All the planets in our solar system could fit inside Jupiter

National Sovereignty and Children’s Day in Turkey



Solemn ceremonies and children’s festivals take place throughout Turkey on National Sovereignty and Children’s Day held on April 23 each year. Children take seats in the Turkish Parliament and symbolically govern the country for one day.

Many people in Turkey commemorate the first gathering of the Grand National Assembly (the Turkish Parliament), which took place on the 23 April 1920, by attending local ceremonies or laying wreaths at monuments of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. The biggest ceremony takes place at the Ataturk Mausoleum in Ankara.

Because Ataturk reportedly dedicated the Turkish Republic to children Turkish schoolchildren take seats in the Parliament for the day and symbolically govern the country. They elect a president who then addresses the country on national television. Children’s festivals take place throughout the country.

The state-run Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) brings children, aged between eight and fourteen from different countries around the world to Turkey. These children stay with Turkish families for a week and participate in children’s festivals, which culminate in a gala-performance on April 23.

National Sovereignty and Children’s Day is an official holiday in Turkey. Government offices, schools and most businesses are closed on this day. Public transport routes may vary in the event of street performances.

Environment behind nearly quarter of global deaths:

One in four deaths worldwide are due to environmental factors like air, water and soil pollution, as well as unsafe roads and workplace stress, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

An estimated 12.6 million people died in 2012 as a result of living and working in unhealthy environments, 23 percent of all deaths reported globally, according to the new study. If countries do not take actions to make environments where people live and work healthy, millions will continue to become ill and die too young the report warned.

The report defines environmental causes broadly, drawing links between a long line of environmental risk factors like pollution, chemical exposure, climate change and ultraviolet radiation, as well as access to firearms and more than 100 diseases and injuries.

As many as 8.2 million of the deaths could be blamed on air pollution, including exposure to second-hand smoke, which is responsible for heart disease, cancers and chronic respiratory disease, the report said. Among the deaths attributed to environmental factors were 1.7 million caused by “unintentional injuries,” including road accidents.

The report also counted 846,000 diarrheal disease deaths among environmental mortalities, adding that many were linked to pollution and unsafe drinking water.


The report found that most environmentally-linked deaths happened in Southeast Asia, which accounted for 3.8 million such deaths in 2012, followed by the Western Pacific region with 3.5 million.

The least affected region was the Americas, with 847,000 deaths blamed on environmental conditions. Europe had 1.4 million environmentally-linked deaths while Africa reported 2.2 million.

The WHO said that better environmental management could prevent the deaths of 1.7 million children under five, who are especially prone to serious illnesses arising from respiratory infections and diarrhoea.

The report is the second of its kind and follows an initial WHO study a decade ago.

Festival on the way in western Turkey for ancient source of healing



Created by Doctor Merkez Efendi at the request of Ayse Hafsa Sultan (the mother of Suleyman the Great), mesir paste is believed to cure many illnesses and energize the body. This month from 19th to 24th, Manisa will host a large festival where free mesir will be distributed. The festival, which commemorates 500 years of tradition, is recognised by UNESO and is included on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The festival will welcome international guests and feature various activities and events such as dancing, music, fairs, exhibitions and concerts. Manisa Mayor Cengiz Ergun says that “every year we distribute tons of the herbal paste”.

The paste which is known for its healing proprieties is made from 41 different spices. As legend has it, Yavuz Sultan Selim's wife -- or Kanuni Sultan Suleyman's mother -- Ayşe Hafsa Sultan, became ill. Doctors tried, but could not cure her illness. Doctor Merkez Efendi presented Hafsa Sultan with a paste made from the spice, resulting in Hafsa Sultan regaining her health. After this, there began an annual celebration of this event where mesir paste was distributed to people involved in the celebrations.

Along with increasing appetite, improving circulation and providing energy, it was widely believed that regular consumption of mesir also created immunity toward the poisons from unwanted snake and scorpion bites.

It is not possible to find the same kinds of spices that were being used 500 years ago; however, the paste is produced as close as possible to the original recipe. So if you fancy a fun day out and some free mesir, Manisa is the place to be this April.

Turkey's historic animal hospital has treated street animals for centuries



With all the negative reports on how the street animals survive here in Turkey, it is nice to know that a historic animal hospital in Bursa called "Gurabahane-i Laklakan" (The Home for Homeless Storks), which dates back to the 19th century, is still in use and looks after street animals on Mondays and Thursdays. Situated near the city's Irgandi Bridge, the hospital was restored by the Osmangazi Municipality in 2010.

A group of veterinarians and professional staff treat street animals at the hospital. Dilek Yosun of the Osmangazi Municipality Veterinary Department said that local people bring street animals to the centre. "Some animals are undernourished, while some need injections, vaccines or medical dressing. We also take care of other serious medical problems," Yosun said.

Street animals are also transferred to a special treatment and nature life centre to go through more intensive care. The animal hospital was primarily established for storks that needed treatment. When the storks were cared for and recovered, they were then set free. Numerous foundations were established in the Ottoman era to feed street dogs, provide water for birds on hot summer days and treat injured horses. They also built birdhouses in the courtyards of buildings such as mosques and palaces, and placed water dishes on gravestones for birds.

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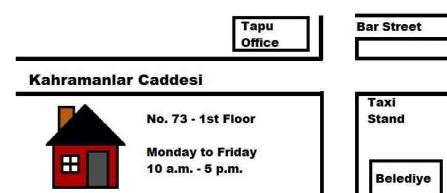
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2 500 schoolchildren meet in March – now that’s top Kuşadası news!

Klaus Jurgens

Towards the middle of March our daughter was on her way to Kuşadası. Nothing unusual you might say; are our shared southern Aegean shores not where my family spends as much time as possible anyways? Correct, but both the time of year and the occasion merit column space in order to make my point: our resort is not only one of Turkey’s favorite summer season top-class locations but has the potential and most definitely benefits from the energy and drive of our hospitality entrepreneurs in order to become a twelve months tourist and foreign resident destination.



And as if by coincidence I am putting pen to paper for our April edition one day after I had received an invitation to attend a meeting about the tourism sector held at Kuşadası’s Chamber of Commerce (KTO). Paired with the perfect timing of that gathering shortly before summer season kicks in and my daughter’s trip today’s topic was born.

With regards to the latter issue the reason for her to spend a fabulous week-end in town was a national school student competition with a vast number of participating educational establishments. Aptly titled Destination Imagination young people competed against each other in various domains such as language or games and knowledge and dance performances. And getting to Kuşadası from all four corners of Turkey is easy as the ABC – think İzmir Adnan Menderes Airport. After a short stopover in downtown İzmir her school’s team was whisked to our town by means of a short, safe private service transfer.

Three local hotels had been booked completely as over 2 000 young people plus their teachers came here so as to accommodate the huge gathering. Staff was already employed as if it were summer; rooms warm and clean and food exceptional with impeccable service throughout. From Davutlar to Pine Beach Kuşadası was firmly in the hands of our younger generation. Not only this, Ephesus Convention Center had been reserved for the actual competitions and what a fine conference venue that is.

To put those comments into a wider picture let me stress that on so many occasions I had been in town during the cooler months when summer houses available for rent are mostly locked up and utilities cancelled until next season and hence staying in a hotel is the only option. Never did I have a difficulty finding a comfortable room no matter what time of year and in all price categories, too. Bars and restaurants are open; perhaps not all of them but enough to cater for all tastes and wallets. My favorite winter walk is all the way from our downtown marina past the cruise liner port, then past the castle and along the coast on to Ladies Beach.

Back to the former point (the tourism gathering at KTO) I am happy that our local business community and in unison with our pro-active municipality takes matters into their own capable hands and prepares for the 2016 season well ahead of time. Our town has all it needs and all it takes to overcome somewhat fewer bookings as have been recorded elsewhere and to come out strong and come out on top.

The town has the infrastructure, the public and private transport, the hotels and restaurants and shops and everything. Now trying to combine both that meeting and our daughter’s trip I am coming to the following conclusion: is our resort not one of the most perfect locations to cater for conference and convention tourism during the off-season months? A hotel may want to give a certain reduction in price when compared with July for example but would nevertheless make a profit. Guests would enjoy splendid scenery and a somewhat more laid-back stay as everything is as splendid but just that little less crowded. Convention delegates in turn become goodwill ambassadors both for town and country - a classic win-win on all fronts!

And let us not forget our kids in this regard either. When the day has come to go on holidays on their own some years down the line they might just as well remember the fun times they had now in Kuşadası at a younger age. And as they brought home many great stories their parents would do so anyways. My sincere compliments go out to the competition’s organizers and my honest ‘thank you’ to all local businesses involved.

Travelling with Children Survival Tips



Whether you are a seasoned traveller or are travelling with your children for the first time, there is always a feeling of anxiety when preparing for your holiday with your little nippers. Children are unpredictable, so, instead of reaching for the valium, here are a few tips to help make your journey a smooth one.

First of all the dreaded plane ride – Airlines tend to board families with prams first. The problem with this is that by the time everyone has boarded, your children have eaten and drank any snacks that you have brought along. This in turn leads to them being bored and looking for toilet breaks before the aircraft has left the ground. Try and get your other half to take your hand luggage etc on board first while you look after the kids and let them run about a little longer. Another trick is to produce a surprise goodie bag once you have settled into your seats. Books, crayons and snacks will help keep them occupied for longer. If you are travelling with a baby, make sure you have extra wipes and diapers.

Ask your children to keep a journal of their holiday. If, for example, you are planning a road trip – get them to write things down that they see along the way. This will keep them busy and they will experience things more and not miss out on any of the sights.

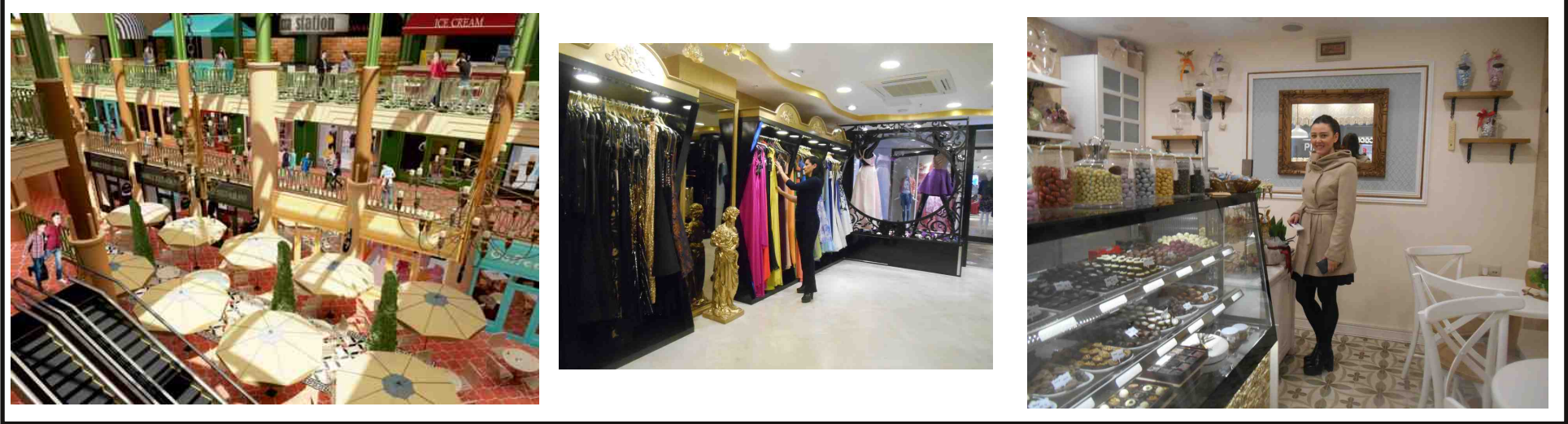
When sight-seeing, it may be best to bring a durable stroller as small children cannot walk all day in hot countries – also many streets could be cobble stones, therefore a light weight stroller can be a problem on these roads.

Baby wipes are a must for cleaning hands and spills, also, throw in some hand sanitizer and tissues as not all restrooms provide toilet paper or towels in certain countries. Remember to pack any medicines your child may need. It is easier to have medicines that you know rather than trying to get a medicine where there is a language barrier. Things you may want to consider packing are pain killers, allergy relief and cough remedies.

Finally, do not expect everything to run smoothly. Bring your sense of humour along and have a memorable holiday.

AKDOĞAN PASAJI OPENS

After many delays Kusadasi's new shopping centre finally opens. The centre has 140 shops/restaurants and four cinemas. There is also a childrens playarea where you can leave your child and enjoy your shopping.



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Regions of Turkey

The 1st Geography Congress held in Ankara between 6 - 21 June 1941, divided Turkey into seven regions after long discussions and work. These geographical regions were separated according to their climate, location, flora and fauna, human habitat, agricultural diversities, transportation, topography and so on. At the end, 4 side regions and 3 inner regions were named according to their neighbourhood to the four seas surrounding Turkey and positions in Anatolia.

Aegean
Greek and Roman ruins between azure sea on one side and olive groves on the other

Black Sea
Heavily forested mountains offering great outdoor sports such as trekking and rafting


Central Anatolia
Tree-poor central plains. Hittite and Phrygian ruins and moon-like Cappadocia

Eastern Anatolia
High and mountainous with harsh winters


Mamara Region
The most urbanized region with Byzantine and Ottoman monuments in some of the country's greatest cities

Mediterranean Turkey
Mountains clad with pine woods ascending right from the heavily-indented coastline

Southeastern Anatolia
Semi-desert Middle-Easternmost part of the country



THE ROLE OF THE MUEZZIN



This month I decided to find out what the Muezzin's role consisted of at the Mosque. I was curious to know if the call to prayer was recorded, or if someone actually made themselves available five times a day to recite the adhan. My curiosity rewarded me with a whole new insight into the job of the muezzin.

A muezzin is the person appointed at a mosque to lead, and recite, the call to prayer for every event of prayer and worship in the mosque. The muezzin's post is an important one, and the community depends on him for an accurate prayer schedule.

The call of the muezzin is considered an art form and when calling to prayer, the muezzin faces the qiblah, the direction of the Ka'bah in Mecca, while reciting the adhan.


The call to prayer is the inescapable sonic symbol of Islam in Turkey. Five times a day, every day, believers and unbelievers, as well as people on the fence, are subject to the music. The call is both a summons to ritual prayer and a summary of basic Islamic beliefs:

The schedule for the ritual prayers is based on the rising and setting of the sun. These take place before sunrise, at noon, in the middle of the afternoon, at dusk, and two hours after sunset. The words are powerful, they give inspiration, therefore the person who sings, has to have a good voice.

In cities towns and villages across the country, muezzins rehearse for a yearly national contest to find the country's top performer at the call to prayer - and their powerful expressivity proves that muezzins are a special kind of artist.

As for my original question as to whether or not the recital is recorded – apparently every time you hear the chanting; there is a Muezzin, with many years experience, calling the people to prayer.

PREPARING YOUR SKIN FOR SUMMER



So the weather's warming up, you've put away your sweaters pulled out your shorts, and it's time to pay some serious attention to your skin. Even if you don't plan to strut around in a bikini, you still want your arms, shoulders, back, and legs to look soft and sun-kissed. Luckily, it only takes a little extra TLC to get your skin into shape.

Products that kept skin feeling moist and comfortable during winter may leave it oily or sweaty once the heat and humidity really hit. Ingredients like glycerol in moisturizers collect water from the air and keep it against your skin, making them perfect for winter when the air is dry and you need the extra hydration. But do you really need that in summer? It might just make you sweatier.

A good rule of thumb is to use products that have lightweight ingredients that will hydrate and give a breathable barrier to the skin. Look for ingredients like silicones, squalane, and glycerin.

Some of the extra moisture on your face is not sweat. Oil glands on your skin's surface are more active when it's hot. That means more oil, and more potential for breakouts. If acne is an issue for you, the summer months can make matters worse. Breakouts can be frequent in acne-prone skin in the summer months. Try switching to lighter products that are water-based, look for makeup products that do double duty like BB creams that contain a moisturizer, foundation and SPF in one, and use an oil-absorbing clay mask once a week.

When your clothing traps sweat and oil -- because you were working out or bundled up in layers, it can mix with dead skin and bacteria in your pores to form pimples. Use a body wash with salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide to kill bacteria and unclog pores. The acids help get rid of any lingering redness once the pimples are gone.

If you neglected to moisturize and exfoliate regularly over the course of the cold, dry winter, you may find yourself with parched, lacklustre skin come spring. Two or three times a week, use a sugar scrub to gently exfoliate. Lightly towel dry, and then apply a moisturizing lotion or cream, which will penetrate your skin better after you've sloughed off that flaky, dead layer.

A season of stomping around in boots and skimping on pedicures can leave your soles with dry, dead layers of skin that not only look bad but can be quite painful. In the morning apply a lightweight foot lotion to soften the skin. At night soak feet in Epsom salts for 10 minutes. Then rub them with a grainy scrub, slather with a thick cream, and cover with socks.

Experts recommend exfoliating two to three times a week during the summer with a scrub or a mechanical tool with skin-safe bristles, or using an exfoliating treatment at night. Be gentle, though.

Skin is especially delicate around the eyes, so try to take a break from heavy eye makeup until your first summer event. Then go waterproof. Waterproof liner and mascara can really grip to your lids and lashes, so use a product that gently removes each when the night is over. If you notice your makeup drying out the skin around your eyes, try a hydrating mask once a week or DIY ice cucumber pads.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD CAME TO KUSADASI



Congratulations to the cast and crew of Kusadasi Amateur Dramatic Society (KADS) on their performance of Little Red Riding Hood.

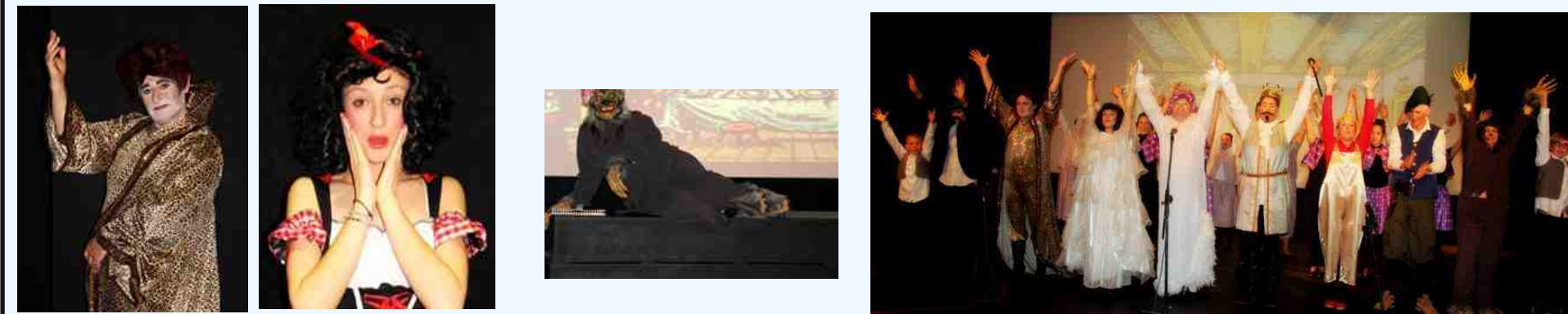
OH YES SHE DID!

The story of Little Red Riding Hood is a classic tale that has been handed down through the generations. There are many different versions of this tale but always with the same basic structure of a young girl chased by a wolf.

This magical, fun-filled adventure was presented by a fabulous cast of characters, and bursting with catchy songs, loads of audience participation and plenty of bite! All the better to entertain you with! Even the adults enjoyed themselves as a few of the laughs were just a little bit fruity, but they sailed straight over the kiddies' heads and landed, to guffaws, among the adults.

Mark Stead who founded the society told me that he has been in the entertainment business for 42 years. He has worked on the cruise ships, established three theatre schools and has even performed in London's West End. Mark has raised over 300,00 pounds for charity and was awarded citizen of the year in Manchester in 2003. Recently Mark was made an honorary life member of Kusadasi Social Club.

Anyone who wishes to join the Dramatic Society may do so by contacting the group through their Facebook page. (Kusadasi Amateur Dramatic Society). They have also established a junior dramatic society. The society will always be glad to welcome new members of any age! Whether you're eager to tread the boards, operate lights, produce sound, make costumes, create makeup, manage the stage or simply make new friends, there's something to suit you.



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