

TODAY'S SPORTS

WWW.TODAYSZAMAN.COM FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010



03

Madaill and his UEFA team in İstanbul to evaluate Turkey's criteria for Euro 2016

10

'We have learned much from the previous two bids,' says Özgener

06

Ready for Euro 2016: Turkey experienced in hosting big sports events

TURKEY HOPES FOR GOOD GRADES FROM UEFA

Turkey, which has never staged a major international soccer tournament, is raring to go and has promised to bring passion to the event. Turkish people are excited in expectation for UEFA Euro 2016, and they promise hospitality as never before seen anywhere

OKAN UDO BASSEY ISTANBUL

France, Turkey and Italy -- the three candidates to stage the 2016 European Soccer Championship -- formally presented their bids to UEFA's National Team Competitions Committee Chairman Gilberto Madail in a ceremony at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, on Feb 15.

Speaking after submitting the bid dossier, Turkish Soccer Federation President Mahmut Özgener said Turkey is ready to organize a "unique" Euro 2016. "Turkey's Euro 2016 concept will be specific to the 24 participating countries and their supporters, hence will create a legacy for the country and the soccer community," Özgener stated.

"Today marks a very important milestone in the bidding procedure as it finalizes the period of hard work and enormous commitment by each bidder," Executive Committee Chairman Madail said on Feb. 15.

"On television, millions of people worldwide follow each match. Not only does this have a positive impact on the tourist industry, and thus on the economy of the country as a whole, it also supports the social aspect of soccer by bringing people together," he further stated.

European soccer's governing body, UEFA, said more than 100 criteria, from stadiums and accommodation to legal matters, would be examined before the host nation is chosen in Geneva on May 28.

In accordance with the regulations, UEFA President Michel Platini (France), UEFA Executive Committee First Vice President Senes Erzik (Turkey) and UEFA Executive Committee member Giancarlo Abete (Italy) will not take part in the discussions and are not allowed to vote. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**



TÜRK FUTBOLUNA TTNET'TEN TAM DESTEK

Full support to Turkish Football, from TTNET.

HANGİ MODEMİ TUTUYORSUN?

Takımına bağlıysan internete böyle bağlan.
Dört büyüklerin taraftar modemleri Avea bayilerinde.



 **avea**

PHOTOGRAPH, DOMINIC FAVRE



Turkish Football Federation President Mahmut Özgener gives Turkey's Euro 2016 bid documents to UEFA Chairman of the National Team Competitions Committee Gilberto Madail (L) during a ceremony at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, on Feb. 15.

UEFA MEMBERS VISITING TURKEY FOR EURO 2016 BID

Harry Been

Born in 1949 in Zwelloo in the Netherlands, Harry Been has been serving football for many years as the secretary-general of the Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB). He was one of the officials as Netherlands held the Euro 2000 jointly with Belgium, which was the first joint European Football Championship. Been was also in charge of the organization of the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championships and the

UEFA European Under-21 Football Championship in 2007, which were both hosted by the Netherlands.

While having been a member of the organizing committee for the 2009 FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Egypt, Been currently serves as the chief executive officer of the Holland-Belgium joint bid for the 2018 World Cup and he is a member of the organizing committee of Euro 2012 to be held in Poland and Ukraine.



Giorgio Marchetti

After his post as the general secretary of the Italian Football League, Lega Calcio, Giorgio Marchetti was appointed UEFA's director of professional football and marketing in 2004. He was a member of UEFA's Professional Football Committee and coordinator of the European Union Premier Professional Football Leagues. In his roles within UEFA he has largely been engaged in important European football issues, including transfer regulations and competition formats. The Italian official is currently the competitions director of UEFA.

The other committee members are: Jacques Hussy, Christoph Jung, Ben Veenbrink, Marc Timmer, Kenny Scott, Lance Kelly, Didier Allaz, Lukas Achermann and Thomas Giardino.

The UEFA committee of 10 officials -- Hussy,



Jung, Veenbrink, Timmer, Scott, Kelly, Allaz, Achermann, Akhalkatsi and Giardino are on a two-day-visit to Turkey. On the first day of their visit, the committee and the Turkish Football Federation's (TFF) Euro 2016 bid team discussed Turkey's bid dossier and technical issues at Istanbul's Ciragan Palace throughout Thursday.

Another UEFA committee led by UEFA Executive Committee member Gilberto Madail and including

three other top UEFA officials, Royal Dutch Football Association General Secretary Harry Been, Akhalkatsi and UEFA Competitions Director Giorgio Marchetti as well as Hussy, Jung and Giardino, met with Turkish State Minister for Sport Faruk Nafiz Özak, TFF board members and several other prominent names at a dinner on Thursday evening.

Nodar Akhalkatsi



Nodar Akhalkatsi, born in 1976, was appointed president of the Georgian Football Federation (GFF) in June 2005 at the age of 28 following the Rose Revolution and headed the federation for four years. He had held various positions before serving as president; he officially started working at the organization in 1994 as an employee in the international depart-

ment after working as a translator for the GFF president in 1992. His father of the same name was himself the first post-Soviet GFF president. He studied law in Germany.

He is the deputy chairman of the UEFA National Team Competitions Committee and a member of the FIFA Organizing Committee for the 2010 World Cup.

Gilberto Madail

Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, previously known as the Republic of Zaire, in 1944, UEFA Executive Committee member Dr. Gilberto Madail received his degree from the University of Porto in the field of economics, where he was an amateur player of basketball and football. Madail is married with three children. He was appointed president of the Portuguese FA in 1996 after a long and successful career in managing Portuguese football clubs and regional associations as well as twice being a member of the Portuguese parliament.

Madail was a member of the European Championship Committee between 1998 and 2000 and was elected as a member of

the UEFA Executive Committee Working Group on EU Matters in 2004 and held the post until 2007. He also served as chairman of the National Team Competitions Committee and deputy chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee within UEFA. Madail also oversaw the preparations in Portugal when it hosted the European Football Championship in 2004.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan will host the UEFA committee that attended the dinner today at his office in Dolmabahçe Palace.

Leaving Turkey in the afternoon, the committee will later visit the other Euro 2016 bidders, Italy and France.

UEFA European Football Championship: a long journey from 1960 on

The European Football Championship, generally dubbed Euro and the year, as in Euro 2012, is held by UEFA, the highest football platform in Europe. Taking place every four years since 1960, when the championship was first held, the European Football Championship features men's national teams which are eligible for the tournament as a result of a series of matches in qualifying groups.

The championship was originally named the UEFA European Nations Cup, with its name being changed to the current format in 1968, in which eight groups of seeded teams who played each other twice as the top two teams from each group progressed to the two-leg quarter finals. The semi-finals took place in the host country. While four teams could play in the tournament until 1976, the number was increased to eight in 1980 and then to 16 starting from 1996 on.

The first tournaments were gripped by political sentiments. The 1960 championship was won by the Soviet Union, which defeated Yugoslavia 2-1 in the final game in Paris. Spain withdrew from the quarter final match against the USSR due to political protests. The next tournament in 1964, won by Spain, saw the withdrawal of Greece when they were drawn against Albania with whom they were still at war. The third tournament after four years saw a coin tossed for the first and only time in championship's history to decide the winner of a semi-final game between Italy and the Soviet Union, qualifying Italy for the final and leading them to win the trophy. The 1972 championship was won by West Germany and 1976 by Yugoslavia. From the 1980 championship on, more than four teams participated in the tournament.



Spain's goalkeeper Iker Casillas holds up the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after their Euro 2008 final football match victory over Germany at the Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna in this June 29, 2008 file photo

The 1980 tournament was won by West Germany again, 1984 by France, with Platini's wonderful performance, 1988 by the Netherlands and 1992 by Denmark, which became eligible for the championship after Yugoslavia was disallowed to take part in the event because of a war between states constituting the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The unified Germany won the following championship in 1996 with a golden goal by Oliver Bierhoff, while the tournament in 2000 was won by France. Euro 2004 was a total

surprise, with Greece defeating host country Portugal in the final. The last championship was won by Spain, which beat Germany.

Turkey in European Football Championship

Turkey, having one of the largest football markets in the world, is a rising star in European football and in particular the UEFA championship. The Turkish national team has played in the event three times: Euro '96 under coach Fatih Terim, Euro 2000 under coach

Mustafa Denizli and Euro 2008 under coach Terim again. Their participation in the 1996 tournament was dubbed a success, but the Turkish side did not win a single game; however, Turkey progressed to the quarter final in the 2000 tournament. The latest tournament in 2008 was even more amazing with Turkey called "the comeback king" because of the last-minute goals in important matches against Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Croatia, leading Turkey to the semis. Although Turkey could not make it to the final, it was able to show how serious it is about football.

As one of the three candidates to host Euro 2016 with France and Italy, Turkey has previously bid twice to host the tournament. While losing the right to host the tournament in 2008 in a joint bid with Greece, Turkey lost the second bid to host Euro 2012 against the joint bid by Poland and Ukraine.

Next championship in Poland & Ukraine

The next European Football Championship, Euro 2012, will be jointly hosted by Ukraine and Poland from June 8 to July 1, 2012, for the third time in a joint host after Belgium and Netherlands in 2000 and Austria and Switzerland in 2008. Sixteen national teams will take part in the 2012 event with a total of 31 matches to be played. The current format of the tournament, featuring four teams in four groups, will be used for the last time in Poland and Ukraine as the 2016 tournament will come with innovations. Twenty-four teams will participate in the championship in 2016.

About UEFA

Founded on June 15, 1954 in Basel, Switzerland, to foster and develop unity and solidarity among the European football community, UEFA is the parent body of European football, which is one of the six continental confederations of FIFA, world football's governing body. While still adhering to its founding principles, UEFA also works as the "guardian" of the sport in Europe, according to its official Web site. The federation is headed by Michel Platini. Currently, more than 340 people from many European nationalities are employed in the federation, including administrators, secretaries, IT specialists, coaches, journalists and translators. The headquarters of UEFA is in Nyon, Switzerland. **Istanbul Today's Sports**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



THE WINGS OF CHAMPIONS



**TURKISH
AIRLINES**



OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF



FC BARCELONA
més que un club



The Turkish national football team is seen before the match against Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 2010 World Cup qualifying game in this Sept. 9, 2009 file photo. Football is indisputably the most popular sport in Turkey.



PHOTO TODAY'S ZAMAN, SELAM ESTÜRKLER

THE ENGLISH INVENTED FOOTBALL FOR TURKS TO PLAY

In this country, mothers don't get angry at children covered in mud and dirt from playing football. Fathers dream that their kids might become footballers one day. As children grow up in this country, they learn victory and defeat with football

BEHRAM KILIÇ İSTANBUL

Turkey is a country where soccer, or football as it is called in this part of the world, is played or watched four seasons across its 779,000-square-kilometer area. In this country, everyone, from young to the old, lives and breathes football.

And how can that not be? The first present fathers buy for their children in this country is either a football or a team jersey.

The first time children in this country go out on the street, they take a football with them. The children of this country meet their peers in their neighborhoods through football.

Children of this country skin their knees chasing after a football. This is why most of them have frayed patches around the knees on their jeans.

The children of this country become Arda or Messi when they play football. The names of Emre, Alex and Nihat are right next to the names of Ronaldo, Rooney and Totti in this country.

In this country, mothers don't get angry at children covered in mud and dirt from playing football. Fathers dream that their kids might become footballers one day.

As children grow up in this country, they learn victory and defeat with football. They learn about being teammates, about making up for each other's weaknesses and most importantly, not to be offside in life, thanks to football. When they go to school, they can't wait for the bell.

When it rings, they run out to the schoolyard, where teams are formed with no waste of time. Sometimes, two tiny stones make up goal posts, or sometimes they put two sticks in the ground.

The ground on which the children of this country play football is also different. In the city, football is played on the street; in the village on soil. Those who are able to find grassy fields in this country are extremely lucky. You can see children living in the city kicking a ball between automobiles parked on narrow streets.

In the east, the conditions are a bit trickier. Children have to walk for kilometers over rugged terrain to find a flat area to play. The only thing that doesn't change in this country is the passion and unconditional love for football.

Don't be fooled by the number of professional players, for there are too many difficulties in this country. Many regions lack proper and modern infrastructure. This is why the number of professional players from Turkey is relatively low.

All children grow up wanting to become a football player. But there is one reality: Not everyone can be a footballer.

But the people of this country are all supporters. They root for their teams 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Football is often their first love. The young girls of this country are also in love with football. In their rooms, posters of football players hang on the doors. They also yell out "Emre" or "Arda" with excitement in the bleachers.

Once a fan in the country loves their team, they do so from the depths of their heart. They are with their team on good days and bad. They are so attached to their teams that they travel 1,100 kilometers, go to the stadium, hungry and thirsty, and shout for 90 minutes straight. Most of the time, nobody believes the number of people in the stadiums in this country. For example, Italian Paolo Maldini once said after a game at Ali Sami Yen, "Nobody can make me believe that there are actually 20,000 people in this [small] stadium."

The people of this country do not drift away from football even when they are older. They watch their teams' games even if they are in a hospital room. They see the players as their own sons, they feel sorry when they are injured and they share their happiness. They include players in their prayers. Many a young player who makes the name of their hometown heard through the football they play also needs prayers, and praying for them in this country is the duty of the old.

Football is loved very much in this country. It is almost as if the English invented football for the people of this country. The people of this country cannot sit still; they always have to move.

The nature of this nation is one with the nature of football. This is why football is the number one sport in this country and the most-loved pastime of everyone, young and old. This is why this country's prime minister is a former football player.

This country is the heart of the world, and this heart is filled with the love of football. And the heart of world football is this country.



Türk Futbol Milli Takımları Ana Sponsoru TTNET,
Türk futbolunun her zaman yanında.*

444 0 375 | www.ttnet.com.tr



*YES! Full support to Turkish Football, from Turkish National Teams' main sponsor TTNET.



TURKEY HIGHLY EXPERIENCED IN HOSTING MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

Without a doubt, the experience Turkey has gained from organizing past events will be taken into consideration. Turkey has signed off on many successes to date and is considered by many more than qualified to host Euro 2016

ERHAN GÜVEN İSTANBUL

One of the most important factors in the development of a nation's sports scene and its international prestige in that field is successfully hosting major championships. Turkey has in recent years organized a number of such events, creating an impressive résumé for itself -- and resulting in being selected to host many new tournaments back-to-back.

In the 1990s, Turkey was not really known in the sports world. True, there were some local successes -- the national team's participation in the 1996 UEFA European Football Championships, our basketball teams' success with Efes and the medals won by some Turkish athletes in individual categories at international competitions.

But in 2000 Galatasaray won the UEFA Cup, in 2001 the national basketball team was second in Europe and in 2002 the Turkish national football team came in third in the world; all of these wins contributed positively to Turkey's image in the international sports arena. And slowly Turkey began hosting events that it previously would not even have applied to host because the chances of it being awarded the competition were so slim.

Turkey has hosted many important sporting events in the last few years: the 1999 LEN European Aquatics Championships, the 2001 FIBA European Basketball Championship, all-important Formula 1 and motorcycle races at İstanbul park, the World Rally Championship's Rally of Turkey, the 2003 Women's European Volleyball Championship, the 2005 UEFA Champions League final, the 2005 Summer Universiade, the 2006 FIBA European Women's Basketball Championship, the 2007 Black Sea Games, the 2009 UEFA Cup final and the 2009 Men's European Volleyball Champions, to name only a few.

And more than just providing a venue, Turkey did an excellent job in hosting these events, gaining accolades from international players and their teams. In fact, the Champions League hosted in 2005 at İstanbul's Atatürk Olympic Stadium was named one of the best of all time and was

truly unforgettable. During the match between Liverpool and Milan, Milan finished the first half ahead 3-0, but at the end of 90 minutes, the score came to 3-3. Liverpool took the cup home with penalty shots, and this match has become almost legend, re-told time and time again.

And even if they're not as popular as football and basketball, international tournaments in sports such as karate, wrestling and weightlifting have also been hosted by Turkey. The upcoming 2010 FIBA World Championship, which will be an important test for the nation, will be held in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir and Kayseri and will be a major event to be observed in the evaluation of Turkey's application to host major sporting events in the future. In addition, Antalya is set to host the World Weightlifting Championships for the second time in a decade.

Turkey will also continue to host legs of racing series such as the Formula 1 and World Rally Championship; this year Turkey will be the home of championships in hockey, roller hockey, judo, karate, archery, tennis and chess. On top of that, the 2011 European Youth Olympic Festival and the 2011 Winter Universiade are to be held in Turkey.

And Turkey has many applications pending to host other major events, such as the 2016 European Football Championship, in which Turkey is contending against France and Italy. The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) is continuing to promote itself domestically and internationally; the UEFA board is expected to announce its decision on May 28. Turkey has strong support from its government in its bid, and the arrival of Guus Hiddink as the coach of the national football team will also be a boost in this regard.

Without a doubt, the experience Turkey has gained from organizing past events will be taken into consideration. Turkey has signed off on many successes to date and is considered by many more than qualified to host Euro 2016. And even if Turkey does not win the bid, it will still come out ahead in the end thanks to the new facilities that will be built, which will in turn develop the skills and experience of local competition organizers.



The picture at the top shows Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard holding up the Champions League trophy after his team's victory over AC Milan at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium in İstanbul on May 25, 2005. Below Shakhtar Donetsk's players are seen with the UEFA Cup trophy after they beat Werder Bremen at the Sükrü Saracoğlu Stadium in İstanbul on May 20, 2009.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

THE WINGS OF CHAMPIONS



**TURKISH
AIRLINES**



OFFICIAL PARTNER OF MANCHESTER UNITED

Globally Yours



| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Euro 1960 Host: France Winner: Soviet Union Runner-up: Yugoslavia | Euro 1964 Host: Spain Winner: Spain Runner-up: Soviet Union | Euro 1968 Host: Italy Winner: Italy Union Runner-up: Yugoslavia | Euro 1972 Host: Belgium Winner: West Germany Runner-up: Soviet Union | Euro 1976 Host: Yugoslavia Winner: Czechoslovakia Runner-up: West Germany | Euro 1980 Host: France Winner: Soviet Union Runner-up: Yugoslavia | Euro 1984 Host: France Winner: France Runner-up: Spain | Euro 1988 Host: West Germany Winner: Netherlands Runner-up: Soviet Union | Euro 1992 Host: Sweden Winner: Denmark Runner-up: Germany | Euro 1996 Host: England Winner: Germany Runner-up: Czech Republic |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|

Turkey pledges to build 6 new stadiums, renovate 3 current ones

Investments in and improvement of stadiums are among the important pillars in Turkey's Euro 2016 bid. A total of nine stadiums -- İstanbul Atatürk Olympic Stadium, İstanbul Türk Telekom Arena, the new Ankara stadium, the new Bursa stadium, the new Eskişehir stadium, the new İzmir stadium, the new Konya stadium, Kayseri Kadir Has Stadium and the new Antalya stadium -- are preparing to host the championship games in eight cities.

The current management of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) had already planned to carry out renovation work on current stadiums and construct several new stadiums. The federation has been undertaking this in cooperation with relevant stakeholders such as football clubs, local municipalities, the government, architects and construction companies.

The projects will be financed by the government.

A letter was signed by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to guarantee that the government will invest a total of 920 million euros to complete the projects. The letter was attached to the bid dossier that was presented to UEFA.

Three stadiums will be improved as part of the project. Kadir Has Stadium in Kayseri is one of the stadiums to be renovated. Atatürk Olympic Stadium, which hosted the memorable Champions League final between Liverpool and Milan in 2005, is another stadium that will be renovated to meet and exceed UEFA Euro 2016 stadium and security requirements.

The stadium will host the opening and final

games of Euro 2016 if Turkey is awarded the championship. Internationally famous Turkish sports club Galatasaray's new stadium, the Türk Telekom Arena, is also under construction and is among the suggested venues to host Euro 2016 matches.

The club started the stadium construction in a joint project with the Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKİ). The Türk Telekom Arena will have a capacity of over 50,000 seats once completed.

GRAPHIC: YUNUS EMRE HATUNOĞLU



Transportation

The eight cities proposed to host the Euro 2016 matches are all a fair distance from each other. The cities all have well-developed transportation systems with railway links, bus networks, airplane connections and other means of transportation. The networks will be further improved before the Euro 16 championship.



TURKEY'S PROSPECTIVE HOST CITIES

Eight cities will host Euro 2016 if Turkey is awarded the responsibility of organizing the championship. The cities are located in the western parts of the country mainly because of transportation-related concerns. All of the cities offer unique experiences to their visitors.

İstanbul is suggested as the center of the tournament in the bid. The fifth-largest city in the world, İstanbul is the center of the country in terms of economy, culture and tourism.

Ankara, Turkey's capital city and the commercial and cultural center of Anatolia, is the hub of the country's transportation networks. Founded by the Phrygians around 750 B.C., the city is also the home of Atatürk's tomb, Anıtkabir.

Bursa is a mere two hours from İstanbul. It is a burgeoning city that feels very sure of itself. Well known for its textile and automobile industries, the city is popular for its historic mosques and covered alleyways that make up the city's own Kapalı Carsı (Covered Market).

İzmir, the third-largest city in Turkey, is famous for the international fairs it hosts, its international port and its natural and historic wonders. Among the ancient ruins that the city is home to are Ephesus, several large collections of Roman ruins, Pergamon and the House of the Virgin Mary.

Antalya is the gateway to Turkey's Mediterranean coast. For one who is looking for swimming, relaxed dining, buzzing nightlife and a few bite-sized chunks of history -- all without stepping outside the city limits -- Antalya is the place to visit.

Eskişehir has rapidly developed in recent years. It's a bustling, vibrant university town with wide pedestrianized boulevards, riverside walks and what is certainly the finest public transport system in Turkey outside of İstanbul and Ankara.

Konya, one of the first settlements in human history and a repository of each civilization that once inhabited it, is a center of Islamic loving tolerance that spreads through the world like ripples from a drop of water. Its trove of historic treasures makes the city seem like a giant museum.

Kayseri, an ancient city that has been inhabited since 3000 B.C., has always been a vivid commercial city located near major trade routes. It has recently witnessed a quick development of business and winter tourism. It is only a 45-minute ride away from the famous Cappadocia region.



THE NEW ANTALYA STADIUM

Opening date: 2013
Gross capacity: 44,331
Net capacity: 41,703

The new Antalya stadium in Turkey's hot tourism spot, Antalya, will be included in the planned enlargement of the city towards the northeast. The stadium, to be located near Antalya International Airport, will look like a Mediterranean seashell. A football park to be used as an education center and a football academy by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) will also be built near the stadium. As the city attracts many foreign football clubs during preseason training, the park will also function as a training ground. The stadium will be the home of the local Antalyaspor team, which competes in the Turkish Super League. It will also be within easy reach by various means of transportation, including a tramline. The new Antalya stadium will feature group, round 16 and quarterfinal games during Euro 2016.



THE NEW ANKARA STADIUM

Opening date: 2013
Gross capacity: 43,403
Net capacity: 41,379

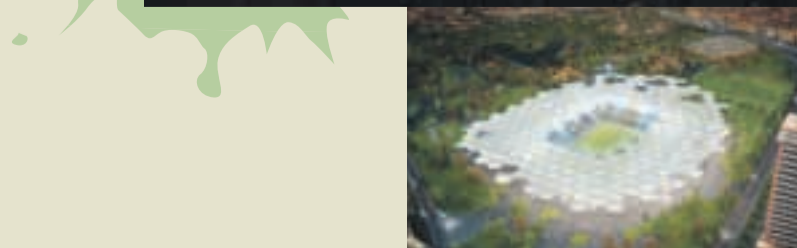
The new Ankara stadium, with more than 40,000 seats, will be located very close to the center of Ankara, and will replace the current stadium. The historic city railway station will be minutes away from the stadium. It will be situated in the middle of Gençlik Park and a recently completed basketball arena, making the area a modern urban sports center. Looking like a distorted cube, the new stadium's facade will be embellished with patterns inspired by traditional Turkish mosaic art and architecture. The stadium will host group, round 16 and semi-final games.



THE NEW BURSA STADIUM

Opening date: 2014
Gross capacity: 33,157
Net capacity: 31,700

To be located in Bursa as part of the Culture Park, the new Bursa stadium will replace the current Bursa stadium, while nearby buildings will also be demolished so the new stadium can be built. With a seating capacity of over 30,000, the stadium will be covered with a roof made of hexagons inspired by historic Islamic art in the city's Green Mosque. The stadium, surrounded by cafes, restaurants and the park, will not only serve as a sport arena but as a recreational center as well. The new Bursa stadium will be accessible by foot and through mass transportation systems including the metro, tram and buses. During Euro 2016, it will host group and round 16 games.



THE NEW ESKİŞEHİR STADIUM

Opening date: 2014
Gross capacity: 38,792
Net capacity: 37,072

The new Eskişehir stadium will be located in northern Eskişehir and will be surrounded by a university park and business center. A tram is planned to connect the stadium with the city center and the city's airport, while a roundabout will be constructed around the stadium, providing easy access to the stadium. The stadium will partially be adorned with serigraphic glass as the facade will be made with inspiration from sepiolite, a hallmark of the city. The new Eskişehir stadium will host group and round 16 matches.





TFF President Mahmut Özgener

Turkey ready for the big occasion

Dear football enthusiasts, As the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) president, I am excited to be a guest columnist for Today's Zaman's pages on the UEFA Euro 2016 bid.

As you may know, this is our third bid for the UEFA Euro competition. We would like to win the right to host UEFA's ultimate tournament and the third biggest sports event in the world. We have learned much from the previous two bids and have gradually improved our technical bid in the meantime.

We are confident that our proposal for UEFA Euro 2016 covers all the aspects, from infrastructure to finance, host city support to tournament concept, as well as 100 percent coverage of all the guarantees.

Furthermore, I would like to reassure the European football family that new stadiums will be built in Turkey regardless of the hosting of UEFA Euro 2016 and that the technical aspects of our proposed stadia contain the advancements made for Euro 2012 in terms of stadium design.

All members of Turkish society would like to add value to this unique European football event. Government support from our prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for stadium construction -- a sum of 920 million euros -- adds a great dimension to our bid.

Our country is confident that the unique attributes of Turkish culture, Turkey's unique geographical location and its growing economy can bring unimaginable advances to the UEFA European Championship.

We will make sure that all the infrastructure is in place on time, that UEFA's commercial rights are protected and that the tournament will be promoted both locally and internationally.

If we are awarded this tournament, we plan to give Europe a pleasant surprise, and I can assure you that this tournament will be treated as an event like never before.

Mahmut Özgener President Turkish Football Federation



Turkey hopes for good grades

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UEFA technical experts, therefore, are currently visiting Turkey to evaluate these criteria. They will then prepare an evaluation report for Gilberto.

The Turkish federation is confident because Turkey's candidacy enjoys the full support of the president, prime minister and the entire government. Candidate city municipalities welcomed the candidacy and have even begun preparations.

This will be the first European championship to feature 24 teams, eight more than will compete in 2012 when Poland and Ukraine co-host the event.

Italy, whose failure to land the 2012 tournament was blamed on a hooligan problem and the crumbling state of its stadiums in Serie A, has already said it will stage matches in nine different cities.

Italy hosted the tournament in 1980 and France four years later, with eight teams taking part on each occasion. Both countries have each staged two World Cups, Italy most recently in 1990 and France in 1998.

So the Italians and the French have had it all before and so may likely experience subdued enthusiasm if either country is awarded Euro 2016.

Turkey, which has never staged a major international soccer tournament, is raring to go and has promised to bring passion to the event. Turkish people are excited in expectation for UEFA Euro 2016, and they promise hospitality as never before seen anywhere.

For the record: Euro 2016 will for the first time feature 24 nations, up from 16 at Euro 2012 in Poland-Ukraine. It will feature 51 matches, up from 31.



Euro 2012 hosts Poland, Ukraine battling all odds



The UEFA European Football Championship will be held in Poland and Ukraine in its 14th edition. Euro 2012, scheduled to take place from June 8 to July 1, 2012, will be hosted jointly for the third time, after Euro 2000 was held in Belgium and the Netherlands and Euro 2008 was held in Austria and Switzerland.

The championship will feature 16 national football teams for the last time; the following championship, Euro 2016, will witness a format change, with 24 teams being hosted for the first time in the final tournament. The joint bid by Poland and Ukraine was selected in 2007 while bids by Turkey, Italy and Greece and a joint bid by Croatia and Hungary were rejected.

The UEFA Euro 2012 matches will take place in eight cities, four from each country. Gdansk, Poznan, Warsaw and Wroclaw will be the host cities in Poland and Donetsk, Lviv, Kharkiv and Kiev will be the host cities in Ukraine. About 1.5 million fans are expected to watch the matches at the stadiums while millions more are foreseen to follow the tournament through live broadcasts.

UEFA President Michel Platini paid a visit to Ukraine to receive a progress report on the Ukrainian preparations for Euro 2012. Platini was accompanied by UEFA Vice President Marios Lefkaritis and senior UEFA administration members in his trip to the four Ukrainian host cities.

Platini, speaking at a UEFA Congress in Tel Aviv on March 25, said Euro 2012 organizers have had to face "many difficulties," especially repeated delays to construction of new stadiums. But Platini said UEFA stood by its decision to award them the tournament. "I believe in you. We believe in you," Platini told Football Federation of Ukraine President Grigoriy Surkis

and Polish football chief Grzegorz Lato.

"And remember, in only 27 months, the eyes of the whole world will be on you. So don't take your foot off the pedal, but step up your efforts," Platini said. He confirmed profits generated by Euro 2012 were unlikely to match those from the 2008 championship in Austria and Switzerland, but the 53 UEFA football associations will receive the same solidarity payments as in the current cycle. "This European championship final round is a message of hope, an investment in the future, a sign of openness and a fantastic challenge," Platini said.

Economic troubles, a severe winter and political difficulties have led to delays in the build-up to the 16-team tournament, which is being staged in Eastern Europe for the first time. Preparations in Ukraine have fallen five months behind schedule, with particular problems in Kiev, which is due to stage the final, and the city of Lviv, where serious delays have restricted construction work on the stadium.

"Conditions may not be exactly the same as at the two previous European championship final rounds," Platini admitted. "We have faced many difficulties in these two countries, but having visited Ukraine and Poland, I can tell you the people in these countries are proud to be welcoming European football on to their soil."

One day before the congress in Tel Aviv, UEFA announced that the stadium will be ready despite continuous delays.

The qualification stage of the tournament is set to take place between September 2010 and November 2011. The draws for the qualifying groups took place in February while the match schedule for the qualifying stage was completed following a draw at the UEFA congress. **Today's Sports** with wires

Euro 2012 qualifying groups at a glance

Group A: Germany, Turkey, Austria, Belgium, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan
 Group B: Russia, Slovakia, Ireland, Macedonia, Armenia, Andorra
 Group C: Italy, Serbia, Northern Ireland, Slovenia, Estonia, Faroe Islands
 Group D: France, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Albania, Luxembourg
 Group E: Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Moldova, San Marino
 Group F: Croatia, Greece, Israel, Latvia, Georgia, Malta
 Group G: England, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Wales, Montenegro
 Group H: Portugal, Denmark, Norway, Greek Cyprus, Iceland
 Group I: Spain, the Czech Republic, Scotland, Lithuania, Liechtenstein

PHOTO □ CIHAN, ADEM BOZKIR



A scene from the women's Regional League Hakkariğücüspor-Erzurum Albayrak match, played in the eastern province of Hakkari on April 4. Host Hakkariğücüspor won 2-0.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TAKING CENTER STAGE IN TURKEY

ESRA MADEN İSTANBUL

Football is indisputably the most popular sport in Turkey. Moreover, it goes beyond being just a pastime and grips the entire nation's agenda from time to time. But it would be a mistake to say that it is an all-male sport.

Although Euro 2016, which Turkey aspires to hold features male squads, it also targets the overall development of football, including women's football. "Football has never been a male-only sport. Women can play football, too," Turkish national women's football team coach Nihan Su tells Today's Sports.

Turkey's women's football league was re-established by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) in 2006. The first division in women's football, which was originally formed in 1993 before taking a break between 2003 and 2006, is composed of 10 teams from six provinces: Gazi Üniversitesi Spor from Ankara, Trabzonspor from Trabzon, Konak Belediyesi and Bucaspor from İzmir, Ataşehir Belediyesi Spor and Marmara Üniversitesi Spor from İstanbul, Adana İdmanyurduspor from Adana, Antalyaspor from Antalya and Mersin Camspor from Mersin. In addition to the first division, there are three leagues that rank below the first division. The Regional League, the second most important women's football league in Turkey, is composed of 19 teams and sends its top two teams to the first division. Two leagues for younger players, the under-21 and under-17 leagues, form the infrastructure of the top league; new teams start out in one of these leagues before being promoted to the Regional League. Women's football is managed by the TFF's Women's Football Development Office.

Since resuming, the league has seen a promising increase in the popularity and quality of women's football in the country. While noting that there are more men than women employed in the technical and management stages, national women's team coach Su says she believes that the number of females will

increase as women's football develops.

The federation has been keen to improve the women's branch of the sport through a number of projects. One of these is called the Girls' Football Village, which aims to increase the participation of girls in football. The project took place in the northern province of Sinop in 2008 while last year's project took place in three northern provinces: Sinop, Sakarya and Trabzon. The federation will carry out a similar project this year with the sponsorship of Ülker. The venues for the 2010 Girls' Football Villages have not yet been announced.

In addition to the villages, panels and other activities will also be held throughout this year to introduce and promote women's football.

Acceptance

Women playing football as a profession is not too common anywhere in the world and it can be quite a challenge for some families. Yet, the Turkish female football players we talked to say they were able to get support from their parents.

Two outstanding players from first division giant Gazi Üniversitesi Spor say their families were a little opposed when they first heard that their daughters were going to play football. Kezban Gülsen and Ayşe Gürbüz, who are also on the women's national football team, both rely heavily on the support they get from their families and friends.

National team coach Su, the daughter of a former goalkeeper, says obstacles to women pursuing a career in football have been overcome thanks to the efforts of the federation. She notes that her father helped her from the very start of her burgeoning football career and never wavered in encouraging her to pursue her dreams. She further adds that family support is very important for women's football in Turkey and the world at large.

Apart from players, Turkey is also raising world-class referees. The best example is Dilan Deniz Gökçek, a FIFA-ranked referee. Gökçek officiated the women's World Cup game between Scotland and Georgia in October 2009.

PHOTO □ AA, NEVZAT TAS



Gökçek officiated the women's World Cup game between Scotland and Georgia in October 2009.

PHOTO □ TODAY'S ZAMAN, MEHMET ALI FOYRAZ



Turkish Culture and Tourism
Minister Ertugrul Günay

PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN

TURKEY WORKING TO BECOME A POPULAR SITE FOR SPORTS TOURISM

ALI ASLAN KILIÇ ANKARA

Investments in sports tourism are making Turkey, already a popular destination for summer tourism, an attractive place all 12 months of the year. Speaking to Today's Zaman, Culture and Tourism Minister Ertugrul Günay said: "Both tourism and sports are important projects for peace because both are big endeavors that bring many people from various cultures together. Both tourism and sports activities in Turkey make remarkable contributions to peace."

Culture and Tourism Ministry Deputy Undersecretary Özgür Özarslan said Turkey has very good potential for sports tourism, noting that the existence of large open spaces is an important factor behind this potential. "Our country has varied terrain, allowing athletes to engage in all kinds of sports. The dynamism of our summer tourism sector is a good advantage for sports tourism. The determination of the government, the ministry, provincial sports directorates and other institutions to make sports tourism popular in Turkey is also an advantage," he said.

Estimating that the number of tourists visiting Turkey this year will reach 30 million, exceeding last year's 27 million, Özarslan said Turkey's dynamic tourism sector aims to grow in cultural, sports, medical and convention tourism to break out beyond the sea-sand-sun triangle. To achieve this, tourism activities will be spread across all 12 months of the year, he said.

Özarslan added that success in tourism lies in political stability and sustainable policies. "For stability and sustainable performance, we need several instruments. One of the leading instruments is ensuring the readiness of the country's infrastructure for tourism. We have made much progress in this regard in some parts of the country. Transportation and accommodation opportunities have improved to a great extent. The infrastructure of many tourism sectors, including sports tourism, is ready. The Aegean region and Antalya are competing for sports tourism. Turkey also hosts the best infrastructure for cultural tourism. With regard to convention tourism, excellent facilities await anyone wishing to hold conferences in big cities such as İstanbul. We are trying to get rid of our deficiencies in the field of medical tourism. Our investors are only now discovering this sector. When all the shortcomings are removed, Turkey will be a place that is ready for tourism in all its seven regions year-round."

Backed by Cabinet

Underlining that winter tourism makes a major contribution to sports tourism in Turkey, Culture and Tourism Ministry Deputy Undersecretary Özarslan said winter tourism is strongly backed by the Cabinet. According to the deputy undersecretary, Turkey aims to increase its capacity for winter tourism accommodation to 60,000 beds. "Winter tourism is an important subset of sports tourism. Thus, it is of major significance for Turkey. We have determined 48 potential areas for winter tourism. Twenty-one of them have been declared winter tourism centers through Cabinet decisions. We have already prepared the construction plans for 17 of them. Our current accommodation capacity is 7,700 beds. This figure will reach 60,000 when the planned projects are completed," Özarslan said.

The deputy undersecretary also said sports and tourism authorities have hopeful predictions and expectations for sports tourism. "The world's prominent tourism and sports organizations and authorities expect sports tourism revenues to reach 30 percent of world tourism revenues in the near future. This is a serious share," he noted.

Özarslan maintained that the world had recently witnessed developments that justify those predictions and expectations, saying that the industrialization of football has had an impact on other sports, albeit on a micro scale.

"Sports have gone beyond being a hobby and become a constantly developing field. Sports tourism is gaining more and more significance in the world," he added. "Sports will play a determining role in travel, tourism and vacationing activities in the future."

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING EUROPEAN FOOTBALL TEAMS ONTO OUR PITCHES.

Turkey's leading technology retailer is the proud sponsor of the Turkish National Football Team.



TEKNO SA

OFFICIAL TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIER OF TURKISH NATIONAL TEAM

12 months of golf and football

Two of the leading sports that draw tourists to Turkey are golf and football. Investments are being made in Istanbul for golf and other parts of the west of the country, but most of the golf courses are around Antalya's Belek region. Antalya is also the destination football teams head to for their seasonal training camps. The tourism investors formed a professional union in Belek in 1989. The Belek Tourism Investors Union (BETUYAB) organizes panel discussions to advance the sector's sustainable growth. This year's panel discussion, scheduled for April 9, had the theme "sport tourism."

Stating that golf and football facilities in Belek are modern and have earned the world's appreciation, BETUYAB Chairman Cemil Ugurlu said the tourism sector runs for 12 months every year. This allows these premises to remain open and for their staff to be employed. A total of 45 percent of golfers in Belek were German, but people of 34 other nationalities came to play the sport last year. A total of 135 football teams came to Belek in 2009 to prepare for this season while 237 others have booked their premises for next year.

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
TURKISH FOOTBALL
ON THE ROAD TO
2016 EUROPEAN
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



444 86 86 | www.iddaa.com

SPORTOTO
TEŞKİLAT BAŞKANLIĞI

+18
18 YAŞINDAN KÜÇÜKLER
DİKKATİNDİR



İSTANBUL'S TOP 10 TOURIST SITES

KATHY HAMILTON İSTANBUL

Packed with historical sites, it is often hard to decide just which ones first-time tourists should see and experience in order to get just a taste of the richness of İstanbul in a short visit. The history of İstanbul spans thousands of years and numerous empires. Often the incoming new rulers and regimes built on top of ruins from the past, incorporating layers of history into newer buildings as needed. Finding the best representations of just a few of the eras encompassing İstanbul is no small feat. However what follows is an abbreviated list of what many consider to be the major tourist sites in the city, accompanied by a short history of each. For visitors, as well as locals with incoming guests, this can serve as a jumping-off point to further exploration of the riches that make up this multifaceted city.

1. Hagia Sophia (Aya Sofya)

This impressive monument to Christianity was erected during the reign of Emperor Justinian (A.D. 532-537), when the Byzantine Empire was at the height of its power and influence. Considered one of the world's architectural masterpieces, it influenced architecture for centuries after it was built. The impressive surviving Byzantine mosaics date from the sixth through the 10th centuries. After the fall of Byzantium, the Hagia Sophia was converted into an Ottoman mosque and the minarets, ablution fountains and tombs date from the 15th century. Today, the church serves as a museum and is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Address: Ayasofya Medanı, Sultanahmet.

2. Blue Mosque (Sultanahmet Camii)

Known for its interior of blue İznik tiles, the Blue Mosque was built by imperial architect Mehmet Aga in 1609-1616. With over 250 windows in the structure, sunlight is allowed to flood in, adding to the feeling of space within. The minbar, used by the imam during the Friday services, is of intricately carved white marble and was installed in the 17th century. When the final plans for the structure were revealed, they created much controversy as many felt that the six minarets were an attempt to rival the Grand Mosque in Mecca. A functioning mosque, the complex is open every day until after the late evening prayer. Tourists are asked to wait outside during prayer times. Just after dusk from May to September there is a free sound and light show, illuminating the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia as their stories unfold. Address: Sultanahmet Meydanı, Sultanahmet.

3. Topkapı Palace

Shortly after his conquest of Constantinople, Mehmet II began construction of Topkapı Palace as his primary residence. The original buildings were finished in 1465 and consist of a series of pavilions contained within enormous courtyards. The palace initially served as the seat of governance as well as the sultan's private living spaces, which included the famed harem. In 1853 Sultan Abdülmeccit I moved the royal residence to Dolmabahçe Palace. Topkapı was opened as a museum in 1924 and features unparalleled collections of ceramics, imperial costumes, jewels, miniatures and manuscripts, armor, as well as religious relics. The palace grounds and buildings are open Wednesday through Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Address: Babühümayun Cad., Sultanahmet.

4. Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı)

In addition to being literally filled to the roof with shops and goods, the Grand Bazaar also boasts restaurants, banks, a post office, mosque and its own police station. The labyrinth of enclosed streets (from where it takes its Turkish name -- literally "covered" bazaar) is packed with tiny shops, whose merchandise spills out into the pathways. Built by Mehmet II after his conquest of the city in 1453, the bazaar has entrances. At night many shopkeepers simply leave their wares as they are and the gates are securely locked until the next morning. Bargaining here is, of course, de rigueur. Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Address: Çarşıkapı Cad., Beyazıt.

5. Yerebatan Cistern

Built by the Emperor Justinian in A.D. 532, the cistern was built to supply water to the Great Palace, situated nearby on the Hippodrome. After the conquest of the city by the Ottomans, the cistern went unnoticed until it became apparent that people were lowering buckets through holes in their basements in order to collect water and, even at times, fish. Today visitors can explore along walkways, accompanied by the sounds of dripping water and piped-in classical music. With 336 columns over 26 feet high supporting the roof, today only about two-thirds of the original cistern is excavated and accessible to the public. The cistern is open every day from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Address: 13 Yerebatan Cad., Sultanahmet.



2

6. Galata Tower

Dominating the Galata skyline, Galata Tower was built in 1348 as part of the Genoese fortifications. During Ottoman times it was used as a watch tower and now the top two floors serve as a restaurant and night club. The panoramic view from the top of the tower includes the main historic sites, and on clear days the Princes' Islands (Kızıl Adalar) are visible out in the Marmara Sea. The observation level is open daily 9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., the restaurant and night club is open 8 p.m. until midnight. Address: Büyüik Hendel Sok., Beyoğlu.

7. Chora Church (Kariye Camii)

Covered with some of the finest Byzantine mosaics and frescoes in the world, the Church of St. Savior in Chora was built on the site of an earlier church during the 11th century. Remodeled between 1315 and 1321, the artwork was funded by Theodore Metochites, a Byzantine theologian and one of the elite of the time. The mosaics depict the genealogy of Christ, the life of the Virgin Mary, the Infancy of Christ and his ministry, as well other religious scenes. The frescoes are thought to have been painted around 1320. Converted into a mosque in the 16th century, the church now serves as a museum. Open Thursday through Tuesday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Address: Kariye Camii Sok., Edimekapı.

8. Spice Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı)

Once the pharmacy of the Ottoman Empire, the Spice Bazaar is also known as the Mısır Çarşısı, or Egyptian Bazaar, because the structure was funded through taxes paid for imports from Egypt. Today it is still an active spice market with shops stocking herbs, spices, honeys, nuts, dried fruits and caviar. Turks still come to some of the well-known herbalists for natural remedies for a variety of ailments. Outside of the bazaar, in the courtyard facing the imposing Yeni Mosque, is a thriving horticultural area selling soil and plants, as well as caged birds. Open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Address: Cam Meydanı Sok., Eminönü.

9. Dolmabahçe Palace

Built in 1856 by Sultan Abdülmeccit I, the palace was designed by the Balyan family, a renowned Armenian family of architects. Even though the palace was built during the decline of the Ottoman Empire, it is quite opulent. The sultan financed the building through loans from foreign banks. Entry to the palace is by guided tour only, with one tour including the state rooms and Ceremonial Hall. The second tour is of the harem, with the living quarters of the sultan and his family. Atatürk's bedroom is preserved as it was at the time of his death, with all clocks in the palace stopped at 9:05 a.m., the time of his death on Nov. 10, 1938. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Address: Dolmabahçe Cad., Beşiktaş.

10. Eyüp Sultan

Eyüp ranks after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem as a major pilgrimage point for Muslims, and is the resting place for Eyüp Ensari, the standard-bearer of the Prophet Muhammad. Falling in battle during the Arab siege of Constantinople in A.D. 678, he was buried outside the walls of the city. After the conquest of İstanbul, Sultan Mehmet II had a mosque complex built around the tomb. Leveled by an earthquake in 1766, the current structure was built in 1800 by Selim III. Under the large plane tree in the courtyard was where sultans performed the Girding of the Sword of Osman as part of their inauguration. To the left of the plane tree is a small shrine covered with İznik tiles housing the tomb of Eyüp. Since this is a sacred site, there are usually groups of faithful offering prayers and asking for intercession. Open daily until after the late evening prayers. Address: Camii Kebir Sok., Eyüp.



3



5

TODAY'S ZAMAN

KURSAT BAYHAN

MEHMET DEMİRCİ

TODAY'S ZAMAN

TODAY'S ZAMAN, KURSAT BAYHAN

TODAY'S ZAMAN

MUSTAFA KIRAZLI

TODAY'S ZAMAN

Go Green with Sports!

Since 2004, Spor Toto has financed;

Our State **1.998.868.000,00 TL,**

Our Football Clubs **748.593.000,00 TL,**

Our Social Organizations **227.860.000,00 TL,**

And to our Community **5.128.716.000,00 TL.**

Besides this, **235 new sports facilities**

have been established.

Thanks for your support!

