

e-pa r o a

“Victory belongs
to those who
begin and end
with victory is
mine.”

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Âli Kerem Alptemoçin
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Dear Members of the Erkurt Family,

Another whole year is about to end. 2024 has been lived in a very challenging way, it is about to take its place in history in a way that will not be erased from our memories. While completing this year, I wanted to bring up a topic I talked about at our 12th Awareness Meeting. In fact, this is the story of those who do not lose hope and perseverance, who do not give up, and who know how to start and finish saying victory is mine. In fact, stories also tell about miracles, but this is not a story, it is a fully lived reality.

We can't even imagine it today, but can you close your eyes and do a visualisation? In the Bursa Government House, the Greek flag is flying, not the Turkish flag. The British flag flies in Istanbul. Even the remaining pashas from the Ottoman army cannot move without the orders of the British commissioner when they are appointed to duty and when they are going to the place they are assigned to. In the streets, Turkish officers are forced to salute their British and French subordinates. All the arms, ammunition, shipyards and harbours of the country have been confiscated. In your own country, you cannot do anything on your own. Now open your eyes; what do you feel? Isn't it rebellion?

Yes, when we close our eyes and visualise this, we rebel and get angry. Almost every Muslim Ottoman citizen who witnessed these events in those years must have felt this. However, a group of Ottoman officers who felt this rebellion down to their very cells, who were educated, well-educated, who had spent their entire youth on the fronts, did indeed revolt. But rebellion does not mean taking to the streets in anger and starting an uprising. A successful rebellion requires a deep strategy, stepping back from time to time, appearing to give up from time to time, and making compromises from time to time, but success will surely come when one perseveres, does not give up, sticks to the master plan and works with a very good team spirit.

With the Treaty of Mudros signed on 30 October 1918, our homeland was occupied and our freedom was taken away from us. On 29 October 1923, with the proclamation of the Republic, this rebellion movement achieved its initial goal, which was a five-year strategic plan. Among the Ottoman officers who fought in the First World War, there was a group of patriotic officers who had many common

characteristics. These young officers were born around 1880, travelled through Thessaloniki, studied at the Manastır Military Idadisi and became officers in Istanbul, and most of them knew and knew each other well from their childhood years. These young officers fought against gangs in the Balkans, against the British in Iraq, Palestine and Egypt, and against the Italians in Libya. They spent their lives fighting in Sarıkamış, Çanakkale and Galicia.

If we consider the journey to Samsun with the Bandırma Ferry as the beginning of the War of Independence, this is the cadre that gathered around the fire of freedom lit by Mustafa Kemal Pasha in our War of National Independence. Some of them stayed in Istanbul as an Ottoman officer in accordance with the master plan and took part in the transport of people, arms and ammunition to Anatolia or had their appointments in the army made according to this plan. Some of them went to Anatolia, commanded troops, took part in the organisation of the Kuvayi Milliye and then in the formation of the National Army. Those among them who knew diplomacy represented this movement in the outside world. Some of them did not fight on the front line but were responsible for the army's food, drink, clothing and ammunition. Some took part in intelligence activities. Some of them disobeyed the orders sent by the British and carried out activities for the protection and development of the Anatolian movement.

As I said at the beginning, these officers did not lose hope and determination, they did not give up and they achieved victory. Undoubtedly, this movement sprouted under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Pasha and achieved victory. In addition to the commanders we know better, such as Kazım Karabekir Pasha, who protected and liberated our eastern lands from the Russians and eliminated any danger that might come from the Caucasus Front during the War of Independence, Fevzi Çakmak Pasha, who always acted as Mustafa Kemal Pasha's chief of staff during the War of Independence, or İsmet Pasha, who was the Commander of the Western Front during the War of Independence, many of our precious commanders, whose names we are familiar with or have never heard of, took part in this movement from the beginning to the end. We may have forgotten or may not know some of these commanders, and I apologise to them

in front of their cherished memories. I would like to conclude my article by commemorating some of our commanders who commanded troops at army, corps and division level during our War of Independence;

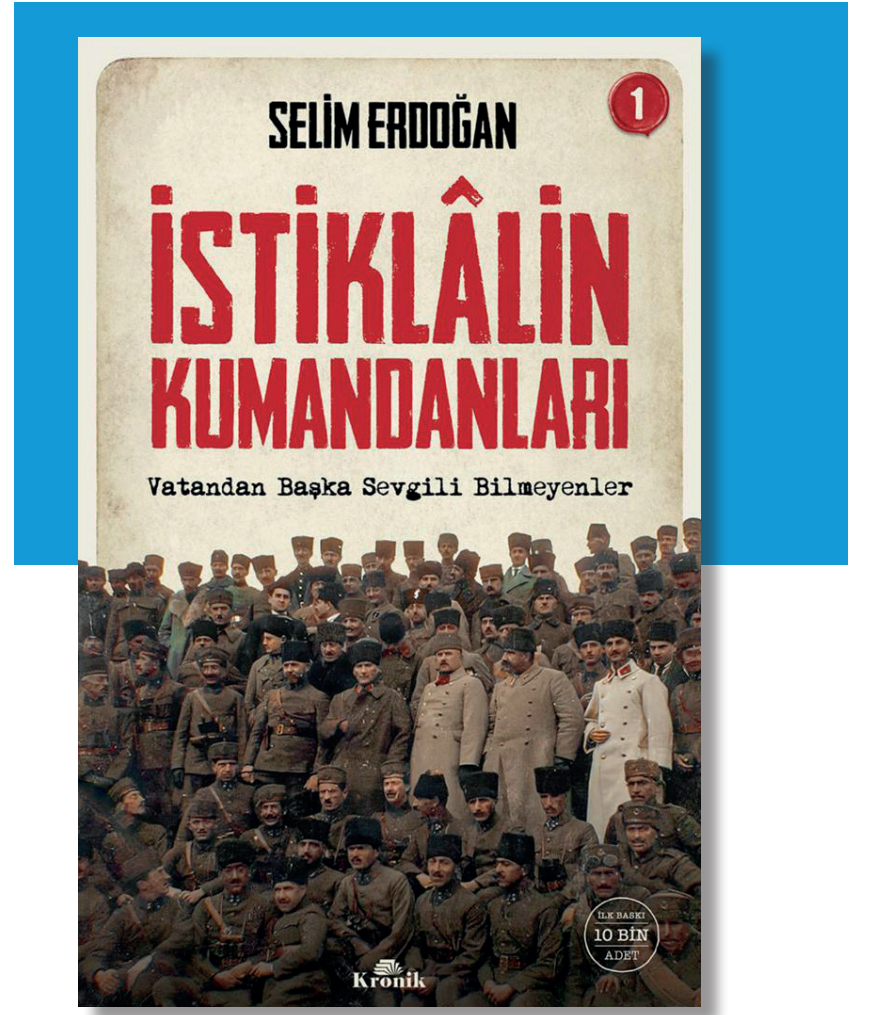
Salih Omurtak, Kemalettin Sami Gökçen, Ali İhsan Sabis, Fahrettin Altay, Refet Bele, Halit Akmansü, Ali Fuat Cebesoy, Kazım Özalp, Yakup Şevki Subaşı, Cemil Cahit Toytemir, İzzettin Çalışlar, Selahattin Adil, Nazmi Solok, Sabit Noyan, Şükrü Naili Gökberk, Deli Halit Paşa, Mehmet Şefik Aker, Bekir Sami Günsav, Ali Hikmet Ayerdem, Mahmut Nedim Hendek.

If you ask why they did not give up; they all had a dream about 'After the Victory'. Some so that the call to prayer would be recited in awe after the victory, some so that mothers would embrace their children with pride, some so that the beloved homeland would turn into a place of festivity, some so that those who had been shot would sleep peacefully, some so that the flag would fly with honour, some so that the sweat of the farmer would turn into abundance where it was poured, some so that factory chimneys would smoke freely, some so that girls and women would take part in life.... In short, they all dreamt of something after the victory and with this motivation they were able to win the victory. This means that no matter how hopeless the situation is, success always belongs to those who persevere, do not give up and move forward in line with their ideals. We will solve our problems with the same belief and determination and achieve success.

There is a book titled 'The Commanders of Independence - Those Who Knew No Beloved Other Than the Homeland' written by Mehmet Selim Erdoğan, one of our important historians, about these commanders, whose names I have only mentioned to you in this article. It inspired me to write this article. We will also publish the visual in my article. We all owe it to ourselves to read this book!

On this occasion, we commemorate the passing of our ancestor on 10 November 2024, and we gather behind our belief that we will walk on the path he opened.

Together and forever.



FORMFLEKS WINS 'OSD SUPPLY INDUSTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD'

As a result of the evaluation made by the members of the Automotive Industry Association within the framework of quality and delivery reliability, cooperation in technology development and competitiveness criteria in 2023, Formfleks was awarded the 'OSD Supply Industry Achievement Award'.

On 1 November 2024, at the award ceremony held at the TOSB Automotive Supply Industry Specialised Organised Industrial Zone Conference Hall, the award was presented to our Chairman of the Board of Directors Âli Kerem Alptemoçin on behalf of our company.



'BEING A LEADER AND COMPETENT WITH BUSINESS ETHICS'

SEYİS Employee Competencies trainings continue at full speed. Within the scope of this training, we make our employees adopt the principle that it is indispensable for each member of the Erkurt Family in all geographies we exist and in all areas we operate.

Being successful in our BEING GLOBAL journey is only possible with leading and competent staff who do their job well, have business ethics, and are leaders.

For this purpose, development opportunities are offered to all our employees from the lowest to the highest level within Erkurt Holding under the leadership of our Board of Directors, and our employees are expected to be inquisitive and willing to engage in activities that will specialise them.



OUR EMPATHY MEETINGS CONTINUE

As a company, our Empathy Meetings, which we organise to better understand the difficulties and expectations of our field and office employees, enable us to communicate directly with our employees. These meetings provide an important opportunity to listen to their problems, requests and suggestions.

These meetings, which we organise at every location, help us understand our employees' experiences at work and improve their working conditions with a solution-oriented approach. It also strengthens our corporate culture and makes our employees feel valued.

Empathy Meetings not only solve problems, but also contribute to creating a more productive, healthy and happy working environment.

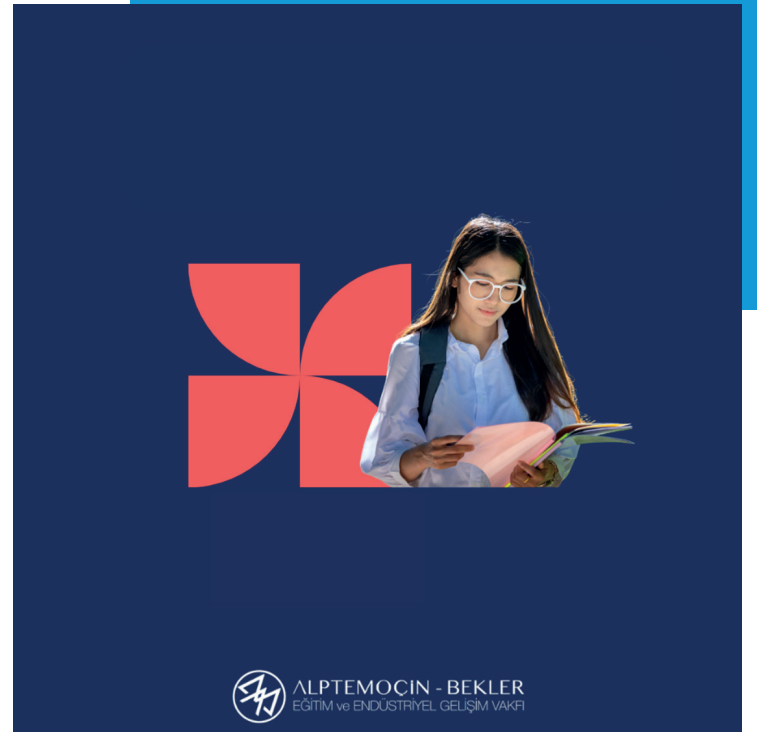


GIRLS' DIGITAL FUTURE

We support young girls who are curious about technology with the 'Digital Future of Girls' programme. This 6-week online training programme for 20 female students at primary and secondary school level aims to improve the digital skills of our students by using the Scratch platform.

Our programme aims to provide our female students with creative thinking, problem solving and collaboration skills, enabling them to take a stronger place in the future digital world. Thanks to the Scratch platform, students will have the opportunity to create their own projects and realise their ideas while being introduced to the world of coding.

With this meaningful project, we aim to increase girls' interest in the digital world, strengthen their digital skills and contribute to their development as creative leaders of the future. We would like to thank all our team and supporters who contributed to the 'Digital Future of Girls' programme and wish success to our participating students.



TOMORROW HOPES

As the Foundation, in cooperation with the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, we have launched a special vocational introduction and handicraft workshop project for disadvantaged students. Within the scope of this project, in addition to providing students with the opportunity to get acquainted with professions, we also organise workshops where they will develop their hand skills.

Our project is planned to last for eight weeks and each week will be supported by various activities covering different professional groups and basic hand skills. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with professionals and get information in the fields they are interested in and will be supported with the necessary tools to improve their hand skills. In this process, students will be encouraged to direct their career goals by getting to know themselves and their talents better.

We would like to thank the Provincial Directorate of Social Services for their support in this meaningful project and all our volunteers who contributed. We believe that this opportunity offered to disadvantaged girls will play an important role in bringing them into society as stronger individuals in the future.



BURSA COŞKUNÖZ EDUCATION FOUNDATION STAKEHOLDER VISITS

In line with our goal of providing sustainable benefits to all segments of society, we are taking important steps to develop joint projects with the Provincial Directorate of Social Services. In this context, we conduct research on projects and carry out stakeholder visits in order to implement the most effective programmes for those in need.

In these studies with the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, we aim to develop a comprehensive project in the fields of vocational training, skill development, education and social support for disadvantaged individuals. During our stakeholder visits, we have the opportunity to better understand the information and needs from the field, and together we create the necessary infrastructure for our joint projects to provide more efficient results.



SCIENCE AND PRODUCTION SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH BURSA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

We have joined forces with Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Science and Technology Centre in order to instil the culture of production in our youth and to provide a learning environment blended with science. In this context, we are launching the 'Felt Comes to Life in Automotive' workshop, which aims to provide production skills with felt, one of the basic materials of the automotive industry.

In this special workshop, we will encourage young people to produce by showing them how scientific knowledge can be applied in practice. Workshop participants will be introduced to the production of automotive parts using felt material and will develop both their manual skills and creative thinking capacities. Inspired by Bursa's deep-rooted industrial history, we aim to provide our young people with important experiences in the use of industrial materials.

Our aim with the 'Felt Comes to Life in Automotive' workshop is to make science not only a theoretical phenomenon, but also to offer a learning experience intertwined with production and to raise the innovative individuals of the future. We would like to thank Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Science and Technology Centre for this meaningful cooperation and share with you our pride in this investment in the future of our youth.





Pınar Naiboğlu Ünal
Production Team Member

FORMFLEKS GÖLCÜK 5S

Hello Friends

We would like to tell you about our 5S study and its results in the Trimboard department of our Formfleks Gölcük factory.

At a time when competition in the business world is intensifying and policies are becoming progressively more important, process and cost reduction play a critical role. The 5S algorithm is a Japanese workplace organization system that responds to these needs.

This method aims to reduce costs, increase quality and ensure work efficiency, especially in production and industry. In a continuous and quality control-oriented industry such as the automotive sector, the principles of 5S are of paramount importance.

5S

Seiri (Classify)

Seiton (Edit)

Seiso (Cleaning)

Seiketsu (Standardize)

Benefits of 5S in the automotive industry

-Increases productivity.

-Reduces cost.

-Ensures work safety.

-Improves quality.

-Increases employee motivation.

As an application, we first made an initial analysis and started our 5S work by analyzing the current situation of the Trimboard line, layout, cleaning and work volume. Then we continued with planning and setting goals. We aimed to implement 5S and solve problems by identifying 5S champions and auditors. We ensured the continuity of the process and everyone's involvement in this process by providing trainings on the importance of 5S to all users of the line. We organized meetings where teams could share their ideas for continuous improvements.

Our goal for the Trimboard line is to create the key to sustainable success in the long term through a successful 5S implementation, increased productivity and quality, continuous regularization and discipline, and to spread this to all factory lines.

BEFORE



AFTER





Aytaç Hakan Koç
Health Team Member

LIFE-SAVING DECISION: ORGAN DONATION AND SOCIAL AWARENESS

Every year, November 3-9 is celebrated as 'Organ Donation Week' in our country. Despite having legal support, the most important issue in the development of organ and tissue transplantation services is the provision of organ and tissue donation, eliminating the lack of information on this issue in the public, raising awareness of organ donation and encouraging the public to donate organs and tissues in order to increase this donation.

Organ donation is a person's freewill consent to the use of his/her tissues and organs for the treatment of other patients after his/her life is medically terminated. Organ donation can be possible not only with the will of a person, but also with the consent of the family. How can we as a family raise awareness about this issue?

Organ transplantation is the surgical transplantation of a new, healthy organ taken from a living or cadaveric organ instead of an organ that cannot fulfill its function in the body.

Brain death is a process in which the functions of the entire brain, cerebellum and a special brain region called the brain stem, where vital centers are located, are irreversibly lost, resulting in absolute death. The concept of brain death is often confused with the terms coma and vegetative state. In patients diagnosed with coma and vegetative state, some brain functions are functioning and the patient continues to live for years with medical support. In brain death, however, no matter how much medical support is provided to the patient, it is no longer possible for the patient to live and death will occur as soon as possible.

Who Can Donate Organs?

According to Law No. 2238, anyone over the age of eighteen and mentally stable can donate all or part of their organs. According to Law No. 2238 "Law on Organ and Tissue Procurement, Storage, Vaccination and Transplantation"

Article 14 - If a person has not stated in an official or written will that he/she has left all of his/her body or tissues for treatment, diagnosis and scientific purposes, or if he/she has not declared his/her wish in the presence of two witnesses, organs and tissues can be taken from the dead with the consent of his/her spouse, adult children, parents or one of his/her siblings; if these are not available, with the consent of any relative present with him/her. Unless a will to the contrary is submitted, tissues that do not cause any change on the body, such as cornea, may be taken. Organs and tissues may not be harvested if the deceased has expressed his/her objection to the posthumous harvesting of organs or tissues.

Where to donate organs?

- In transplant centers,



- Hospitals
- Organ donation can be made at foundations, associations, etc. that are interested in organ transplantation.

In organ donation, it is sufficient to fill in and sign the Organ and Tissue Donation Card in the presence of two witnesses.

The suitability of the donated organ is investigated after the brain death of the donor.

It will be useful for people who donate organs to inform their families and close circles about this issue in order to prevent problems that may arise later and to influence the decision-making process in the interview to be held about the donor status after brain death.





ORGAN DONATION SAVES LIFE

Which organs can be transplanted?

- *Kidney
- *Heart
- *Lung
- * Liver
- *Pancreas
- * Small Intestine

Which Tissues Can Be Transplanted?

- *Cornea
- *Face and Scalp
- *Heart Valve
- *Extremities
- *Tendon
- *Bone Marrow
- *Bone

To whom are donated organs transplanted?

Patients who will receive organs are first determined according to blood group compatibility and then according to tissue group compatibility.

In addition to blood and tissue compatibility, the medical urgency of the patient is also taken into consideration. There is no discrimination based on gender, race, religion, rich or poor.

European Countries:

In Europe, organ donation laws vary from country to country. However, some countries stand out with their automatic organ donation practices.

Turkey:

There is a great demand for organ transplantation in Turkey, especially for kidney transplantation. However, the rate of cadaveric organ donation is very low compared to some European countries.

In Turkey, organ transplantation is performed by the Ministry of Health according to scientific rules from cadaveric donors identified throughout the country and transplantation is performed to the next eligible patient of the next center. The number of cadaveric organ transplants is very limited and is usually performed from living donors (especially kidney and liver).

As someone who has worked in an organ transplant unit and touched many lives, I hope to increase the rate of organ donation in our country.

Source:

<https://www.saglik.gov.tr/>

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