Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan received the Palestinian Sharif siblings

Official Launch of the Second Generation of Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness
Content of May Edition

- International Traditional and Complementary Medicine Congress
- Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan received the Palestinian Sharif siblings
- Members of the WHO Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe visited Turkey
- Deputy Minister of Health Ahmet Baha Öğütken visited Albania
- Delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture visited Turkey
- Official Launch of the Second Generation of Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness
- Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş, Undersecretary of the Republic of Turkey, received the Cuba Biotechnology Delegation
- Meeting with Korkut Tufan, Somali-Somaliland Mediatory Ambassador
- Chad Delegation visited General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Healthcare Professionals with Ongoing Training in Turkey
- 6th Turkey-Uzbekistan Health Week
- Meeting with the President of Turkish Transplant Foundation
- Uzbekistan MEC Preparation Meeting at the Ministry of Economics
- South Korea Coordination Meeting
- 8th Term Preparatory Meeting for Turkey-Switzerland High-Level Commercial and Economic Consultations
- Treatment of Foreign Patients in Turkey
International Traditional and Complementary Medicine Congress

The Congress, organized under the auspices of the Presidency of Turkey and hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Health, was inaugurated by the First Lady Ms. Emine Erdoğan. Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan, WHO Regional Director for Europe Ms. Zsuzsanna Jakab and many Turkish and foreign guests attended the Congress held in Istanbul Culture Center.

Delivering the opening speech, Ms. Emine Erdoğan stated that the traditional medicine should be integrated with the modern medicine. Underlining the importance of the traditional accumulation of knowledge in Anatolia – the cradle of civilizations, Ms. Erdoğan added that “We should complete the mental transformation so that all hospitals serve as healing centers.” Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan started his speech by expressing his gratitude to the Honorary President of the Congress Ms. Emine Erdoğan and all who made efforts for the organization of the Congress. Stating that traditional medicine and modern medicine are not alternatives of one another, he said to fight with the illegal practices of the traditional medicine and take the necessary measures and further added that “Anatolia is like the memory card and hard disk of the humanity. We will introduce the Anatolian medicine to the whole world.” Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş provided information about the Congress in his opening remarks.

Protocol activities of the foreign participants were carried out the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs. Director-General Dr. Selami Kılıç, Heads of Department Dt. Abdullah Sert, Yusuf Irmak and EU Expert Azmi Ekmen and officials of the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs were present during the Congress.
Within the framework of the Congress, Health Ministers of Chad, TRNC, Niger, Pakistan, Tunisia and Zambia, Deputy Health Ministers of Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan and Undersecretary of the Health Ministry of Romania held bilateral meetings with the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan.

Through the Protocol signed by Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and Health Minister of Niger Dr. Idi Iliassou Mainassara, inauguration, joint operation and transfer of the Niger-Turkey Friendship Hospital were established.

Another cooperation agreement was signed between Turkey and Zambia. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Health was signed by the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and Health Minister of Zambia Chitalu Chilufya.

The two countries will make cooperation and share experiences in the specified areas. Working teams will be established and cooperation areas will be determined for this purpose.
We believe that WHO will do whatever it requires to warn the relevant countries. Turkey must be taken as an example, without doubt, but the necessary support should be provided as well.”

Stating that Turkey carried out many successful activities in various fields, Ms. Jakab added that “Especially orientation trainings organized for the Syrian healthcare professionals are among the developments we highly appreciate and show as an example for the entire world. I thank you for all these.”

Turkey signed a biannual cooperation agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) during the Congress.

The protocol setting the framework of the cooperation areas was signed by Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and WHO Regional Director for Europe Zsuzsanna Jakab.

Dr. Ahmet Demircan stated that Turkey was providing many services to almost 4 million refugees and added that “Concerning this issue, EU has not performed the undertaken and committed actions.
On 25 April 2018, Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan received the Palestinian Sharif siblings (Secud, Mahmud and Enes El Sharif) without lower limbs by birth and their family who came to Turkey since the disabled siblings could not be treated in Gaza due to medical impossibilities and Israel embargo. Treatment of the Sharif siblings was undertaken by the Turkish Ministry of Health.
Members of the WHO Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe visited Turkey

Representatives of 4 countries selected among the members of the WHO Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) for Europe visited Turkey on 5-7 April 2018 in order to see, in-situ, working style of Turkey with the WHO. The delegation was received by the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and also came together with the Undersecretary Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş during a breakfast. The delegation held meetings with the WHO Turkey Country Office in Ankara, WHO Field Office in Gaziantep and several high-level officials of the Ministry of Health, and visited the Health Commission President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Hakkı Gürsöz, President of the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency and member of SCRC on behalf of Turkey, accompanied the delegation throughout their visits as well as the Heads of Department Yusuf İrmak and Arif Çetin working at the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs.
Delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture visited Turkey

Delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture visited Turkey on 4-13 April 2018. In order to provide information about their observations, a meeting was organized on 13 April 2018 with the participation of the Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and Undersecretary Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş. Besides the relevant departments of the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs; officials from the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and Director-General of EU and Foreign Affairs Dr. Selami Kılıç and Head of Department Yusuf Irmak attended the meeting.

During the meeting, head of delegation stated to have visited the Psychiatric Hospitals in Manisa and Elazığ, Dışkapı Yıldırım Beyazıt Training and Research Hospital and Adana City Hospital, and summarized their observations on treatments towards patients, physical conditions of the hospitals, the administered treatments, attitudes of the staff towards the patients and legal issues. The first impression report would be submitted in the coming week and the extensive report would be submitted to the Ministry of Health by the end of the year.

On the occasion of the Cancer Week, our truck travelled by one thousand kilometers and brought our Turkish personnel after a 15-hour journey. I would like to reiterate that the services provided at this truck are totally free of charge.

Cancer screening vehicle “Pink Truck” started its activities during the Cancer Week activities. The Turkish Deputy Health Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Albanian Health Minister. Head of Department Arif Çetin was also present at the meeting.

Deputy Minister of Health Ahmet Baha Öğütken visited Albania

Deputy Minister of Health Ahmet Baha Öğütken and the accompanying delegation attended the events of Cancer Week organized in Tiran on 3 April 2018.

Delivering an opening speech, the Deputy Minister underlined the deep historical ties between Turkey and Albania and said that such ties were further strengthened through the trainings of doctors and healthcare professionals. Concerning free treatment of 100 Albanian patients in Turkey every year, Mr. Öğütken added that “So far, we have treated 1500 Albanian patients.”
Official Launch of the Second Generation of Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness

Official Launch of the Second Generation of Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness supported by the Islamic Development Bank, Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and many non-governmental organizations form the Islamic countries was held on 2 April 2018 in Tunisia. Undersecretary Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş attended the official launch on behalf of the Turkish Ministry of Health which is an active contributor of the project, and Director-General of EU and Foreign Affairs Dr. Selami Kılıç and Head of Department Dt. Abdullah Sert were also present in the launch. At the end of the meeting, “Partners Declaration” was signed by Turkey and other stakeholders of the Project.

Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş, Undersecretary of the Republic of Turkey, received the Cuba Biotechnology Delegation

Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş, Undersecretary of the Republic of Turkey, received the Cuba Biotechnology Delegation on 10 April 2018. Luis Alberto Ameros, Ambassador of Cuban Republic to Turkey, Silvia Vera, CEO of the Cuba Placental Histotherapy Center, Minguel Malboa, International Export Director of Farmacuba Biotechnology Holding and Gökhan Eşeli, Director of the Cuba Momentum Company attended the meeting. Cooperation in the field of medications and biotechnology was discussed during the meeting.
Meeting with Korkut Tufan, Somali-Somaliland Mediatory Ambassador

In order to discuss the issues which arose during visit of Mr. Ümit Yardım, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the accompanying delegation, on 12-13 March 2018 to Mogadishu, capital of Somali and Somaliland-Hargeysa and Djibouti, a meeting was organized between Ambassador Korkut Tufan, Somali-Somaliland Special Representative and Dr. Selami Kılıç, Director-General of EU and Foreign Affairs, on 12 April 2018. Head of Department Dt. Abdullah Sert also attended the meeting.

Treatment of the Somaliland patients in Turkey, training and health week and other cooperation issues were discussed during the meeting.

Chad Delegation visited General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs

A delegation headed by Chad Minister of Public Health Aziz Mahamat Saleh visited Turkey on 12-20 April 2018 under the coordination of Turkish Transplantation Foundation in order to participate in the 1st Traditional and Complementary Medicine Congress, hold a bilateral meeting with the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and learn experiences of Turkey in the field of organ transplant.

Within this framework, a presentation about the experiences of Turkey in the field of organ transplant was provided for the delegation on 16 April 2018 at the meeting hall of the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs. Director-General Dr. Selami Kılıç and Head of Department Dt. Abdullah Sert were also present during the meeting.
Foreign Healthcare Professionals with Ongoing Training in Turkey

Training programs of the foreign healthcare staff who are receiving training as observers in the affiliated training and research hospitals of the Ministry are ongoing under bilateral agreements.

Within the framework of such programs, a total of 61 foreign healthcare staff received training as of 30 April 2018.

Training of 52 foreign healthcare staff is ongoing at the Research and Training Hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Health.

6th Turkey-Uzbekistan Health Week

The 6th Health Week was organized in Termiz City of Surhanderya Province, Uzbekistan, with the contribution of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and in collaboration with the Uzbek and Turkish Ministries of Health.

The organization was completed with a 15-person team consisting of specialist plastic surgeons and nurses and a total of 157 successful operations were performed mainly in the field of cleft palates, burn cases and malformations by birth. Furthermore, 765 patient consultations were provided and theoretical and practical trainings were provided for 132 Uzbek healthcare professionals to develop their professional capacities.

Uzbekistan MEC Preparation Meeting at the Ministry of Economics

Within the framework of the preparations regarding Mixed Economy Commission Meeting planned to be held before Uzbekistan visit of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 29 April – 1 May 2018, a meeting was organized on 17 April 2018 at the Ministry of Economics.

During the meeting, detailed information was provided about the general and economic relations with Uzbekistan. General Director of EU and Foreign Affairs, too, attended the meeting and briefed about the activities of the Health Ministry in Uzbekistan.

South Korea Coordination Meeting

Within the framework of the preparations regarding South Korea visit of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 1-3 May 2018, a coordination meeting was organized on 13 April 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to discuss our expectations from South Korea and probable cooperation areas including the agreements to be executed between two countries. General Director of EU and Foreign Affairs, too, attended this coordination meeting.

8th Term Preparatory Meeting for Turkey-Switzerland High-Level Commercial and Economic Consultations

8th Term Preparatory Meeting for Turkey-Switzerland High-Level Commercial and Economic Consultations took place at the Ministry of Economics on 2 April 2018. General Director of EU and Foreign Affairs, too, attended this meeting.

Meeting with the President of Turkish Transplant Foundation

President of the Turkish Transplant Foundation Dr. Eyüp Kahveci visited the General Director of EU and Foreign Affairs on 12 April 2018 in order to provide information about the 1st International Organ Transplant Network Congress which is planned to be held in Antalya on 17-21 October 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Health Sciences University and other stakeholders.

Treatment of Foreign Patients in Turkey

As per "Article 14 of the Basic Law on Health Services no 3359" 356 patients and as per Bilateral Agreements and Protocols 79 patients – 435 foreign patients in total - were treated in Turkey as of 30 April 2018.
Paying attention to telephone, computer or television while eating makes you eat more without even realizing.