

In this week’s *Türkiye in Focus*;

- The case seeking the annulment of CHP’s 38th Congress was postponed to October 24.
- With the seizure of 121 companies, Türkiye carried out one of its largest money-laundering crackdowns, impacting large conglomerates.
- Running from September 17–21, Türkiye’s premier technology festival draws millions and highlights the country’s drive for sovereignty in key technologies.

CHP Congress Lawsuit Postponed to October 24

The postponement of the CHP Congress lawsuit to October 24 has prolonged the uncertainty surrounding Türkiye’s main opposition party. At the heart of the case lies the demand to annul the 38th Congress that brought Özgür Özel to power. By allowing the September 21 extraordinary congress to move forward and rejecting calls to suspend the current leadership, the court offered CHP a temporary reprieve. Yet, the very fact that the party’s legitimacy is being contested in court underscores the fragile footing on which the new administration stands.

Former CHP mayor Lütfü Savaş’s lawsuit has inevitably revived speculation about Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu’s ambitions for a comeback. Many within the party interpret the trial not merely as a legal dispute but as the continuation of a power struggle left unresolved by last year’s leadership change. What emerges is a picture of a party still haunted by factional rivalries, where even judicial proceedings are viewed through the lens of political manoeuvring. For Özel, the challenge is not only to fend off legal threats but also to convince sceptics that his leadership can withstand the turbulence.



(Arif Hüdaverdi Yaman - Anadolu Agency)

Commenting on the developments, President Erdoğan distanced his government from the controversy, stating: “We are not, and will not be, a part of this fight, this chaos, or CHP’s internal crisis.” His brief but pointed remarks aimed to rebuff claims of external interference while highlighting that the turmoil is rooted in CHP’s own internal dynamics.

From Media Giants to Universities: CAN Holding Probe Rocks Türkiye’s Business World

Türkiye has witnessed one of the largest corporate crackdowns in its history with the state’s seizure of CAN Holding and 121 affiliated companies. The sweep encompassed not only energy firms and various commercial enterprises but also high-profile media outlets such as HaberTürk and SHOW TV, as well as prominent educational institutions like Bilgi University and Doğa Koleji.

Investigators, as reported by Anadolu Agency, assert that significant amounts of money from unidentified sources were



(Lokman İlhan - Anadolu Agency)

routed through Can Holding companies. These funds were allegedly shifted across multiple businesses to obscure their origins, while tax obligations were reportedly minimised using transactions without proper invoices and falsified documents.

The alleged criminal network, reportedly headed by holding owners Kemal Can and Mehmet Şakir Can, is said to have evaded regulatory scrutiny by creating multiple companies within the same industries, frequently changing board memberships, and distributing responsibilities among associates to avoid legal consequences.

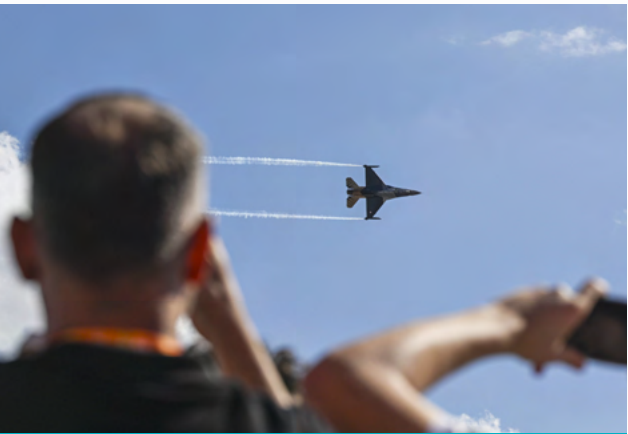
The breadth of the operation underscores just how far CAN Holding’s expansion has reached in recent years, buying up key assets across multiple sectors and embedding itself in the country’s economic and cultural landscape.

What makes this case especially notable are claims that the holding’s owners exploited reputable media and educational brands to conceal illicit financial activities. While Türkiye has strengthened its efforts against organised crime and smuggling in recent years, the involvement of well-known media outlets and billion-dollar companies gives this operation a distinct significance.

TEKNOFEST İstanbul Kicks Off: Türkiye Showcases Its Drive for Tech Sovereignty

Türkiye’s flagship technology event, TEKNOFEST, opened its doors in İstanbul on September 17 and will run until September 21, once again positioning itself as the country’s most prominent stage for innovation and engineering. The festival has consistently drawn huge crowds, with last year’s edition in Adana attracting over a million visitors. This year’s program is no less ambitious, with competitions spread across 58 main and 137 subcategories. Teams advancing beyond the preliminaries will share more than 85 million lira (roughly \$2 million) in support, while top finishers are set to claim prizes worth over 65 million lira (\$1.6 million).

The event is not only a showcase for aspiring engineers and startups but also a platform for Türkiye’s broader push toward technological independence. Speaking during a TRT broadcast, Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacır underscored the festival’s symbolic role, declaring that the nation has embraced the journey of developing and exporting critical technologies through the “intellectual



(Kayhan Özer - Anadolu Agency)

labour of its own children.” For policymakers, TEKNOFEST is less about spectacle and more about embedding a culture of innovation into the national identity.

Highlights

- Turkey’s men’s national basketball team won the silver medal after losing to Germany in the EuroBasket 2025 final, while the women’s national volleyball team also secured silver after being defeated by Italy in the World Championship final. The achievements of both teams were closely followed across the country.
- Regarding the acquisition of an air defence system by the Greek Cypriot Administration from Israel, the Ministry of National

Defence stated: “Every attempt aimed at disturbing the balance on the island is being closely monitored, and all necessary measures are being taken for the security and peace of the TRNC (the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus).”

- President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan conducted intensive diplomatic activity in Qatar following Israel’s attack in Doha, as he attended the Extraordinary Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation-Arab League.



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