

## **"IT HAS A STRONG POTENTIAL TO TURN INTO A MIDDLE EAST WAR, INCLUDING LEBANON, SYRIA AND YEMEN"**

Evaluating the United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken's first visit to Türkiye on January 6 and his meetings within the scope of the Middle East tour, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ali Semin: "The main theme of Blinken's visit to Arab countries can be evaluated as initiatives to prevent the conflicts in Gaza from turning into a possible war in the regional context. Because the spread of the Gaza conflict to the entire Middle East and its transformation into a regional war is not in the interests of the US or western countries. Although it is seen as a remote possibility that the Gaza war will spread to the whole region in the short term, it is strong that it will turn into a potential Middle East wars, especially in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen in the medium term."

The Hamas-Israel conflict, which has been taking place in Gaza since 7 October 2023, is seen as a development with the potential to restore the bipolar world order in the Middle East and global power balances. Stating that the October 7 conflicts give signals that will lead to a regional total conflict and that it is expected to change the balance of potential forces that will change and shape the international system, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, Political Science and International Relations Department, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ali Semin also added: "The fact that despite Israel's violent attacks on Gaza, neither Arab nor Islamic countries have taken any concrete steps other than condemnation has almost encouraged the Netanyahu government to extend the war. As of today, since October 7, 23 thousand 84 Palestinians, including 10 thousand children and 7 thousand women, have lost their lives in the incessant air, land and sea attacks carried out by Israel in Gaza."

**"BECAUSE THE SPREAD OF THE GAZA CONFLICT TO THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO A REGIONAL WAR IS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE US OR WESTERN COUNTRIES"**

With the developments, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken made his first visit to Turkey on January 6 and held talks within the scope of Middle East tour in Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel and the West Bank. Stating that the main reason for Blinken's visit to Türkiye was Sweden's NATO membership and F-16 issues, as well as Ankara's fight against terrorism in Syria-Iraq, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ali Semin: "The main theme of Blinken's visit to Arab countries can be evaluated as initiatives to prevent the conflicts in Gaza from turning into a possible war in the regional context. Because the spread of the Gaza conflict to the entire Middle East and its transformation into a regional war is not in the interests of the US or western countries. From this point of view, the US seems to have realized that its unlimited support for Israel, both in foreign policy and regionally and globally, will not be limited to the conflict in Gaza. For this reason, Blinken's Middle East tour states that the way to prevent the ongoing conflict in Palestine is through a two-state

solution. We can say that it is quite thought-provoking that Blinken does not present any plan for what the search for a two-state solution will be like. It should be noted that Israel will no longer accept the two-state solution and wants to continue the occupation plan in the Palestinian territories."

### "SERIOUS PRESSURE MUST BE PUT ON ISRAEL"

Stating that Blinken's visits to the Middle East are not an attempt for a permanent ceasefire and are aimed at protecting America's interests in the Middle East, Semin said, "Considering that the key to a permanent ceasefire in Gaza is in Washington, it is essential to put serious pressure on Israel. Although it is seen as a remote possibility that the Gaza war will spread to the whole region in the short term, it is strong that it will turn into a potential Middle East wars, especially in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen in the medium term."

### THE MOST COMMON CANCER TYPE: PROGRESSING SNEAKILY!

Although oral cancers are the 6th most common type of cancer in the world, awareness of the issue is quite low. Stating that it is the 8th most deadly cancer type among all cancers, Specialist Dentist Asst. Prof. Dr. Gülfem Özlü Uçan also added that the diagnosis of oral cancers was delayed due to their insidious progression.

Unfortunately, the diagnosis cannot be made in the early period due to the fact that oral cancers initially change and develop insidiously. Stating that the diagnosis of oral cancers is mostly made after the cases give symptoms, Istanbul Gelisim University Dental Hospital Specialist Dentist Asst. Prof. Dr. Gülfem Özlü Uçan said, "When symptoms are seen, the disease reaches an advanced stage of 60%. When diagnosed early, it can be relatively easy to treat, and the survival rate is quite high. Therefore, early diagnosis is critical for patients' survival. It is of great importance for dentists to determine the risk groups of their patients and to raise awareness in patients at high risk for oral cancer."

### EARLY DIAGNOSIS IS CRUCIAL!

Oral cancers can start directly as a cancer and often develop with the cancerization of the precancerous lesion. Stating that dentists have a great responsibility since early diagnosis is very critical, Specialist Dentist Gülfem Özlü Uçan: "In order to make the diagnosis, dentists need to be able to detect oral cancers and precancerous lesions, and their level of knowledge and awareness on this issue must be high. It has been demonstrated by researches that a significant reduction in the occurrence and mortality rate of oral cancer can be achieved by raising awareness in patients at high risk for oral cancer and performing regular follow-up examinations."

## BEWARE OF THESE SYMPTOMS!

Stating that a comprehensive oral mucosal examination should be performed in the patient's examination, Asst. Prof. Dr. Gülfem Özlü Uçan, "This examination takes only a few minutes of the physician's time and is seen as the most effective way to detect lesions suspected of oral cancer. When we talk about the symptoms that individuals should pay attention to, which may suggest oral cancers or tumors; necessary measures should be taken in cases such as red, white lesions that cannot be scraped, suspicious wounds, pain felt in the mouth, jaw and face for more than four weeks, unexplained swelling in the neck recently, difficulty swallowing for more than three weeks, mobility (loose tooth) for more than three weeks not associated with any trauma or periodontal disease and unexplained bone lesions. "

## APPLICATIONS FOR "TEKNOFEST 2024 TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIONS" HAVE STARTED!

TEKNOFEST 2024 Technology Competitions, where the world's largest technology competitions will be held, will be organized in 46 different categories and 117 subcategories this year. Teams that pass the preliminary selection in competitions where young people, graduates and professionals from all levels of education, from primary school to university and above, will be provided with more than TL 55 million in material support and transportation-accommodation support for the finalists. Furthermore, more than TL 30 million in monetary awards will be given to the qualified teams. Applications can be made until February 20, 2024 to participate in the competitions at TEKNOFEST.

It was stated that those who want to have detailed information about competitions designed in various focus areas of the future, from space and aviation to health and software, from transportation systems to design and education, environment and agricultural technologies, can visit the website.

Those who want to be a part of the TEKNOFEST Aviation, Space and Technology Festival, which is planned to be held in Adana in 2024, will be able to review the application steps introductory booklet , have detailed information and make their applications.

Competitions that are open to applications;

Smart Transportation Competition

Biotechnology Innovation Competition

Environmental and Energy Technologies

Chip Design Competition



Vertically Descending Rocket Competition  
Efficiency Challenge Electric Vehicle Competitions  
Educational Technologies Competition  
Barrier-Free Living Technologies Competition  
Helicopter Design Competition  
Hyperloop Development Competition  
Technology for Humanity Competition  
Unmanned Underwater Systems Competition  
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Competitions  
Jet Engine Design Competition  
High School Students' Climate Change Research Projects Competition  
High School Students Polar Research Projects Competition  
Model Satellite Competition  
Pardus Error Capture and Suggestion Competition  
Technological Applications in Psychology Competition  
Robotaxi-Passenger Autonomous Vehicle Competition  
Rocket Competition  
Artificial Intelligence in Health Competition  
Digital Technologies in Industry Competition  
Fighting UAV Competition  
Herd UAV Competition  
Agricultural Technologies Competition  
Agricultural Unmanned Land Vehicle Competition  
Tourism Technologies Competition  
Flying Car Simulation Competition  
Artificial Intelligence Competition in Transportation  
University Students Research Project Competitions  
Financial Technologies Competition (NEW)  
TEKNOFEST Robolig Competition (NEW)



Wireless Communication Competition (NEW)

Blockchain Competition (NEW)

Air Defense Systems Competition (NEW)

Competitions whose applications will be opened in the coming days;

Hack Masters

ISIF

Robotic Competitions

Travel Hackathon

TÜBA-TEKNOFEST Doctorate Science Awards

Turkish Natural Language Processing Competition

TEKNOFEST Drone Championship

World Drone Cup

Unmanned Sea Vehicle Competition (NEW)

Smart Wi-Fi Coverage Competition (NEW)

Those who want to participate in the competitions at TEKNOFEST will be able to submit their applications until February 20, 2024.