

Lifestyle

EDITOR MIRAÇ TAPAN

NEWS LINE



DHA

Organic bridal collection brings health to closets

İZMİR-based fashion designer Jeyan Gedik has launched a new bridal collection called “Natura,” which features 100-percent natural fabrics.

Gedik, who began to design natural fabrics under the title of “Ecological Fashion” two years ago, has now decided to practice an ecological approach to the fashion of her bridal collection. The wedding gowns made with organic and natural cotton fabrics received positive feedback from fashion lovers as well as fellow designers.

Commenting on her ecological bridal collection, Gedik said:

“I find it healthy to wear organic fabric that breathes, as I pay attention to what I eat every day. The world is now more natural and minimalist when it comes to fashion. The philosophy behind this trend is to simplify one’s life, mind, body and soul. What is natural is always healthier.” **İZMİR / DHA**

Turkey’s largest youth festival takes over Istanbul

TURKEY’S biggest and most comprehensive festival - the Istanbul Youth Festival (İGF) - targeted at young people kicks off today at the Eurasia Show and Art Center. The festival brings Turkey’s beloved brands, NGOs and public enterprises to the public through art exhibitions, workshops, sports activities, panel sessions and live concerts.

The young people of Istanbul will have new visions through these new experiences, make memories with their peers, find their own voices and enjoy their time while doing it.

Under the sponsorship of Türk Telekom, popular Turkish singers Murat Boz, Teoman, Fatma Turgut, Berkay, Cem Belevi, Evrenca Gundüz, Oguzhan Koc, Gripin, Jabbar, Manuş Baba, Sufle and İmera will give live performances to keep the young spirit of the festival alive.

With the sponsorship of Borsa Istanbul, BitTalks will bring 30 important keynote speakers to the youngsters to inspire them and share experiences from the most-established names from different sectors.

Aiming to welcome more than one million young people throughout five-day event, the Istanbul Youth Festival will offer robotics workshops and a chance to visit Turkey’s biggest digital exhibition. As a part of the festival, Ziraat Bank’s Art Collection will bring the “Light and Color” digital exhibition which is displaying Turkey’s first 5K resolution exhibition technology to the festival area. Moreover, the traveling libraries and art exhibitions that will be set up at the Eurasia Show and Art Center will offer new experienced to the young.

The Istanbul Youth Festival will also address different sports branches with various organizations. One of the events will feature the top directors of the Turkish Basketball Federation. The president of the federation and former NBA player Hidayet Türkoğlu, CEO and former national basketballer Ömer Onan, and the National Basketball Team’s manager and former national basketball player Kerem Tunçeri will come together with the youngsters and give inspirational speeches to the future of the Turkish basketball.

Choosing a profession is probably the thing that confuses young people the most. To guide young people, the Istanbul Youth Festival organizes workshops and panel sessions. Moreover, the young will be able to experience their future jobs and learn more through the experiences of the others.

The festival is set to last until May 6.

İSTANBUL / DAILY SABAH

AI VS HUMANS: ARE THE TURKS READY FOR THE FUTURE?

Whether we like it or not, artificial intelligence is gradually becoming an indispensable part of human life, and Turkey’s first survey on the subject shows where Turkish people stand in this debate

ŞÜLE GÜNER - İSTANBUL

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is now an indispensable part of our daily lives, shaping our personal and social activities. It undertakes bureaucratic procedures for us, switches our phone on by recognizing our face, processes huge amounts of data and beats humans in chess. A humanoid robot is able to communicate with humans through its “brain,” and it can also guide an unmanned aerial vehicle, protect a farmer’s harvest, produce personalized medicine, paint, write articles, analyze your clinical data and provide your health information, recognize you in a big, public places like an airport among hundreds of people, and know which of your friends you like the most in social media.

Today, AI can fulfill not just tasks, but take over professions. It can sometimes serve as a doctor, lawyer, engineer, banker, insurance agent, an accountant or even become a painter, performance artist or a pianist. It can make top management decisions for a company just like a human CEO.

How does AI do all this? Through learning. It learns constantly - more quickly and more efficiently than people - it remembers, and never forgets like a human does. Thanks to these skills, AI can work wonders for humans as well as industrial and social robots. An AI-powered industrial robotic arm can foresee the movements of his blue-collar colleague next to the production line and adjust its movements without harming him.

LIFE IS ABOUT TO CHANGE

AI learns something new from everywhere it travels to, just like Sophia, the interactive robot that recently came to Istanbul. It can even talk with the same nuances that human uses. It can even refer to the cultural values of a country; for instance, Sophia said: “I love your hospitality,” or “Your kebab is very nice,” in Turkey.

AI-driven social robots can make friends with you, play songs or read you a book from its memory or even bring you a drink from the fridge.

While AI’s seemingly unlimited skills are getting integrated into human life, the biggest question is how these skills are going to change our lives. Do you think, 20 years from now, a robot in your office will serve you a cup of tea or coffee, or like the U.S. director Spike Jonze’s 2014 movie “Her,” “a next-generation supercomputer at the size of a button,”

and the “friendly software” embedded within it will organize your life?

“How do we, Turks, feel in the face of all these advanced technological developments?” “What kind of life do you think we will have in the future?” “Are we friends or enemies with robots?” “Are we ready for the idea of a mechanical colleague/friend?” We looked for the answers to all these questions together with Adgager, a young online marketing research platform working within the scope of Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) Arı Technokent. This resulted in Turkey’s first domestic “artificial intelligence and robotics survey.”

EMPLOYEES IN FIGURES

For this survey, we talked to 209 individuals between the ages of 25 and 65, with a monthly income of TL 3,000 (\$733) and above.

Through the survey conducted in Turkey’s various provinces, it was understood that the people in Turkey are eagerly following the developments in AI technology. Accordingly, it arouses curiosity in 51 percent of employees.

While 28 percent said they were excited about developments in AI, only 19 percent expressed fears. Some 2 percent of the employees said that the developments in AI have made them look opti-



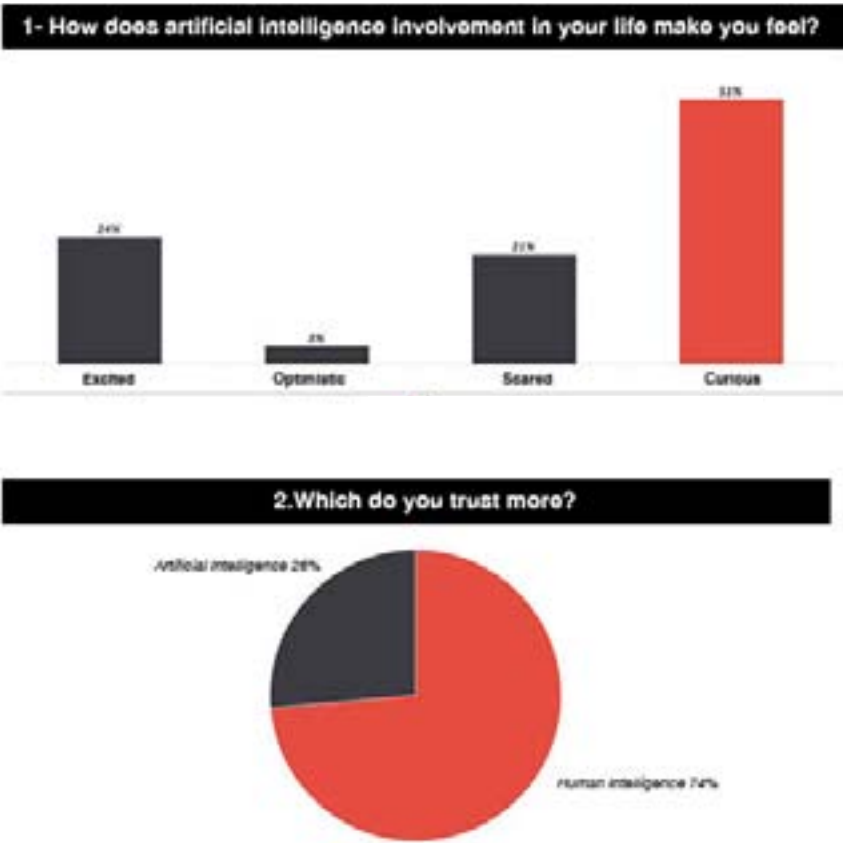
Sophia is a social humanoid robot developed by Hong Kong-based company Hanson Robotics in 2015.

mistically toward the future.

★Employees rely on human intelligence by 73 percent and AI by 27 percent.

★The fact that AI can do a lot of work people can do not worry 59 percent of the employees, while 41 percent were worried.

★Around 71 percent of employees



Both students and employees are curious about artificial intelligence and both survey groups trust human intelligence more than artificial intelligence.

Balıkesir’s water buffaloes bring the African savanna feeling

NOT everyone is lucky to see the legendary African savannas in person. And most of the time, the best you can do is watch the African wilderness on TV. However, Balıkesir’s endless meadows, prairies, wetlands and rivers bring the pastoral images of African savannas close to you.

Water buffalo herds that spend the winter in barns are let out to the meadows when spring comes, offering scenic

views to locals and visitors.

Balıkesir’s Yakupköy village is home to these scenic views. Five-hundred families live in the village and 350 of them breed water buffaloes.

Water buffalo breeder and shepherd Mehmet Dinçer has been involved in buffalo breeding for the last 15 years and he has been shepherding the buffaloes for the last three years. He said that water buffaloes are animals that are keen on their

freedom and it is hard for them to spend all their time in the barns.

Dinçer, 38, takes out his herd at the first light of the day and returns them to their owners at night.

“I take the animals around 8 a.m. but the time of their return changes according to the season. Water buffaloes love the wildlife and living in the barns is not for them. However, when it rains and snows, they prefer to be inside. They love wa-

ter and mud. After spending time in the meadows, they head to the rivers to swim. These animals cannot live without water. It is a delight to watch them crossing or swimming in the river,” said Dinçer.

Water buffaloes are wild animals, however, they are known to be quite easy going with their shepherds and owners. When they feel any threat, they tend to protect their surroundings.

Dinçer said water buffalo breeding has been practiced in the region for a long time now.

“Water buffalo breeding is hard but it is quite profitable now,” said Dinçer. “Water buffalo breeding has been practiced in this village for centuries. For a while, breeders started to quit the job and this profession was about to die. However, the profit is good now. We can sell the milk, cream and yogurt for a good price,” he added.

There are about 3,000 water buffaloes around Balıkesir. The producers sell the milk of the buffaloes for TL 5 (approximately \$1.22) per kilogram, yogurt for TL 9 per kilogram, cheese for TL 35 per kilogram and cream for TL 60 per kilogram.

BALIKESİR / AA



DESIGNER DERYA PALEÇİÇ