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October 6, 2006

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Hakan Ekinci, said to be seeking political asylum in Albania so as not to do compulsory military service in Turkey

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Brazil poverty at lowest level in decade, study finds

Brazil poverty at lowest level in decade, study finds RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - Poverty in Brazil has dropped dramatically under the government of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, thanks to social programs that have made the president enormously popular among the poorest segments of the population, according to a study released Friday. According to the study released by the prestigious Getulio Vargas Foundation, between 2003, when Silva took office, and 2005 the number of people making less than one U.S. dollar a day in Brazil dropped by 19.18 percent; In other words, some 10 million people were lifted out of extreme poverty. Marcelo Neri, in charge of the foundation's Center for Social Policy Studies, said the phenomenon could almost entirely be attributed to the Bolsa Familia program which provides monthly subsidies to Brazil's poorest families in exchange for a commitment to send their children to school or risk losing the benefits. "Bolsa Familia is the big rising star of the fight against poverty," Neri said.

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CROSS READER

A call from the premier to discuss the fundamentalist threat and remarks on the choice of words of U.S. Ambassador in Ankara Ross Wilson on the "cacophony" in Turkey made headlines yesterday. Other issues included the visit of the European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn, the warning of Turkish Cypriot politician Serdar Denktas, and an assurance that there would be no gas shortage this winter. **more »**

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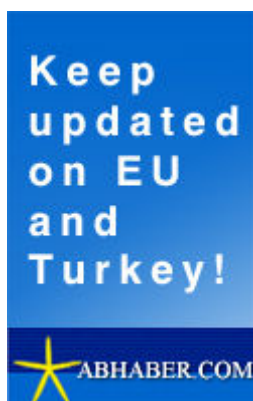


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