TURKEY

Republic Day bash is tense People incensed

People incensed over border attack

By HEATHER HADDON Herald News

ISTANBUL – As in years past, Turks celebrated Republic Day with parades and songs Monday. But as tensions between the army and Kurdish separatists have grown in recent weeks, the holiday has taken on a more martial tenor this year.

A week ago, Kurdish rebels killed 12 Turkish soldiers in one of the bloodiest single acts in recent Turkish history, an attack that has pushed the country to

the brink of war.

Istanbul residents turned out in droves Monday wearing red - their nation's color – in honor of the founding of the Turkish republic 84 years ago. Children

Please see TURKEY, A4

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pKK, everyone would

just be smilling. But

on in washit for the

now, they come with

different emotions.

Continued from Al

ii. the sang patriotic songs and soldiers marched before the thousands flocking to citywide rallies. streets included Berek Aslan - a carrying flags Those

who splits his time between Istan-26-year-old business administrator Aslan bul and Cape May. "It's just sad,"

"They've (Kurdish rebels) pushed us to do something

cause of its implications for Iraq, Turkey's neighbor to the south where the minority Kurd popu-lation, has grown in influence since the war there began. That growing power has emboldened Kurds in Turkey and worried the The conflict has captured infensive Monday against Kurdish separatists near the Iraqi border. ternational political attention be-The Turkish army led an of-

government here. "The situation is fragile," said Dr. Nilufer Narli, dean of sociol

University, during a telephone interview on Monday. "Kurdish extremists found a fertile place at Istanbul's Bahçeoehir

to grow and get organized." Turks around the world have taken the growing stufe between the ethnic groups to heart

Example worms about an imminent backlash, and many feel growth and growth

"Our ancestors suffered to make this republic," said Eyüp Bao, a welder from Istanbul who

Turkish people endured decades

about the possible loss of the republic," said Narii, who often lectures about Turkish politics in the U.S. "It makes for an ultraspread fear about any security threat, according to Narli, the spoke in Turkish through a translator at a Monday morning rally. "We are all born soldiers, regardless if we are at war or

sociology professor. "People are really traumatized

The turmoil has led to a wideof political instability, military coups and conflicts with foreign

Different civilizations have fought over Turkey for more a than 2,000 years.
Even after the republic was pe founded on Oct. 29, 1923, the th



from school

demonstrators — fi children and veiled

- have choked the Vational newspapers featured the 12 Idled soldiers on their

ers to taxi drivers and motorcy cle niders – have choked th

streets of Istanbul.

voy in southeast Turkey. Since then, seas of chanting

on the destabilization of Turkey

METIN ARSLAN, 28

Their images hung from the ings of the vast Grand an ancient, sprawling market of more than

ceilings

covers, calling them "martyrs

has driven more flag sales in the last five days than in the previ

ous six months, according

4,000 shops. The patriotic frenz

"Everyone living in the Turk

news account

ish republic is buying a flag," sai Metin Arslan, 28, as peopl snapped up the red fabric fror his sidewalk blanket. "Even for sales, but Republic Day stru Arslan, the flag vendor, sa Next week, international lead ers will gather in Turkey to di will also address wheth Turkish soldiers should be ab something American politicia fear could further destabilize mobilize into northern eigners are buying them cuss affairs in Iraq. the conflict has "Not only are Kurds spread tle hope to some Kurdish intel-

sad Arslan, in Turkish. "B now, they come with differe it wasn't for the PK everyone would just be smilin him as bittersweet. emotions.

Reach Heather Haddon at 973

dish people's most visible – and dish people's most visible – and up until the 1990s, the gov- violent–symbol of their struggle lennment banned the language for a better life.

and cultural expression of its miles.

The miles of the control of the miles of the miles of the miles of the miles.

nority ethnic groups – including the PKK in 1999, but the grass-the millions of Turkish Kurds. roots group began resuming atroots group began resuming attacks after the U.S. invasion of organizations

Humanitarian

condemned the repression and Iraq began four years ago.
the forced displacement of entire
Many political analysis expect
Many political analysis expect
that ongoing unrest oould lead
A militart organization Iraq Kurds to form their own
known as the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKIX) became the Kurers many Turks, and provides lit-

d out all over the county, but a the Kurdish state would have too say many potential aggresors, said the Unit First, editor of a prominent Kurdish cultural magazine, duret ing an interview Monday in Is- sat ing an interview Monday in Is- sa

The Turkish anger came to a boil 10 days ago, when PKK mil-itants ambushed a military con-