

Iraqi Forces, Mosul People Coordinating Revolt against ISIL
 BAGHDAD (FNA) – Iraq's joint military forces are in contact with the residents of the city of Mosul to coordinate an uprising against the ISIL in the Western Anbar city, media reports said.
 "The Iraqi forces are in close contact with Mosul residents asking them to riot against the ISIL," the Arabic-language media outlets quoted an unnamed Iraqi officer as saying on Wednesday.
 This comes as senior Iraqi military commanders have vowed to liberate the ISIL-stronghold of Mosul soon.

Thought for Today
 Vicious pleasures of this world and salvation are like two enemies or two roads running in opposite directions or towards opposite poles, one to the North and the other to the South.
 Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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Putin Orders Gov't to Normalize Trade Ties With Turkey



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) approaches to shake hands with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on September 23, 2015.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his government to start the process of normalizing trade ties with Turkey, seven months after Ankara-Moscow relations went into a downward spiral following Turkey's shooting down of a Russian jet last year.

"I ask that the Russian government begins the process of normalizing general trade and economic ties with Turkey," Putin said at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, following a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Putin said that Russia has also decided to lift travel restrictions against Turkey in the tourism sector. "I want to start with the question of tourism... We are lifting the administrative restrictions in this

area," the Russian president said. Moscow-Ankara relations became strained last November after Turkey shot down a Russian Sukhoi Su-24 aircraft with two pilots aboard, claiming the fighter jet had repeatedly violated Turkish airspace. Ankara argued that the Russian plane strayed into its airspace and ignored repeated warnings. Russia, however, insisted the aircraft did not cross the border and accused Ankara of "planned provocation." Moscow said the plane was brought down in Syrian airspace, where Russia has been conducting combat sorties against Takfiri terrorists since late September 2015 upon a request by the Damascus government. Of the two pilots aboard the warplane, one was rescued with the help of the Syrian army, but the other was killed by militants fighting the Syrian government. Following the incident, Russia imposed a raft of sanctions against Ankara, including import restriction on Turkish foods, a ban on tourist travel to Turkey, an embargo on hiring Turkish citizens in Russia, and a ban on Turkish organizations' activities in Russia. Moscow also suspended all military deals with Ankara.

Bahrain Jails 8 Shia Nationals, Revokes Citizenship



Bahraini protesters run for cover from tear gas during clashes with police following a protest in Sitra.

MANAMA (Press TV) – A Bahraini court has sentenced six Shia nationals to life in prison and two others to 15 years in jail, while stripping all of them of their citizenship as the Manama regime intensifies its suppression of dissent. A judicial source said on Wednesday the eight were all convicted of alleged "spying" for Iran as well as "joining a terrorist group, possessing arms, ammunition and explosives," and training in their use. The kingdom has revoked the nationality of at least 261 Bahrainis since 2012, according to the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), a non-profit non-governmental organization.

in a harsh crackdown on dissent and widespread discrimination against the country's Shia majority. Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others injured or arrested in the island state, which is a close ally of the US in the Persian Gulf region. In another development on Wednesday, Bahrain's prominent human rights activist, Nabeel Rajab (pictured below), was returned to prison from hospital despite his worsening health condition. Rajab, who heads the BCHR, was taken to hospital on Tuesday with heart problems after two weeks in solitary confinement. However, Jalila al-Sayed, Rajab's lawyer, said her client was returned to jail while "his situation is getting worse and is not stable at all."

Egypt Briefly Opens Rafah Border Crossing

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Egypt has temporarily opened its border with the besieged Gaza Strip to allow the Palestinians with urgent need to cross in and out of the enclave. Egyptian authorities opened the Rafah border crossing on Wednesday and it will remain open until July 4 except on Friday, July 1. More than 3,000 people left the coastal enclave when Egypt opened the only transit outlet not controlled by the Israeli regime for four days during the first week of June ahead of the holy month of Ramadan. The border crossing was opened for only 21 days throughout 2015, according to the Hamas Interior Ministry based in Gaza. The crossing has been reopened more regularly in 2016. Gaza has been blockaded by the Zionist regime since 2007. The

blockade has caused a decline in the standard of living, unprecedented levels of unemployment, and unrelenting poverty. The Zionist regime denies about 1.8 million people in the besieged Palestinian territory their basic rights, including adequate health-care and education. Egypt has kept its border with Gaza largely shut since 2013, following the ouster of the country's first democratically-elected president, Mohamed Morsi. Egypt says the closure of Rafah will continue as it still suspects that Gaza's ruling Hamas resistance movement plays a role in assisting militants in Egypt's volatile Sinai region. Hamas has denied any involvement in the militancy, saying the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi seeks to maintain its



Palestinians residing in the besieged Gaza Strip wait for travel permits to cross into Egypt through the Rafah border crossing after it was opened for five days by the Egyptian government.

ties with the Israeli regime through keeping Rafah closed. Egypt has also destroyed hundreds

of Palestinian supply tunnels used mainly to transit much needed commercial goods to Gaza since 2013.

Medics: More Yemeni Women Delivering Stillborns, Babies With Birth Defects

SANAA (Press TV) – Yemeni doctors and medical officials have warned about the impact of the Saudi war, saying they have detected a dramatic rise in the number of stillbirths and babies born with congenital defects. Director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at al-Sabeen Maternity and Child Hospital in Sana'a, who identified herself only as Jamila, said the number of premature births and fetal abnormalities has grown exponentially over the last four months.

The rate now stands at two cases a day, the Arabic service of Deutsche Welle quoted her as also saying that in some cases, babies have even been born without heads or with joint contractures. MD Wafa al-Mamari, an obstetrician at al-Rahma Hospital in northern Sana'a, said that scores of surgeries and cesarean sections have been carried out at her medical facility in alarming conditions to remove deceased or deformed fetuses from the wombs of pregnant women, and the number is continuing to rise.

"Fetal malformations could occur due to several reasons, including mothers' diseases and subsequent viral infection of the faction and/or poor nutrition," she said. "The strange thing," she said, "is that the rate of fetal abnormalities is growing up and doctors cannot explain the causes, meaning that the phenomenon could be attributed to war and ordinances, given the fact that a great proportion of women with deformed fetuses hailed from bombarded areas in the provinces of Sa'adah, Sana'a, Ta'izz and Hodaydah."

Security Chiefs: Lebanese Should Brace For More Terrorist Attacks

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanese security chiefs have warned of a heightened terrorist threat in the wake of deadly bombings in a Christian village at the border with crisis-stricken Syria. "We should not rule out that this terrorist crime is a harbinger of a wave of terrorist operations," read a Tuesday statement released after a cabinet meeting, attended by Prime Minister Tamam Salam and other security chiefs. "It could be an indicator of a new more aggressive phase of the battle with terrorist organizations, which work tirelessly to inflict harm on Lebanon and to drag it into chaos and ruin," said the statement. The warning came a day after the village of al-Qaa was targeted in two

waves of bombings that killed five people and injured 31 others. The first group of bombers attacked before dawn and the second later at night, two of them blowing themselves up near a church. Security officials say Takfiri ISIL terrorists were behind the attack. There has been no claim of responsibility. The statement further called on the Lebanese nation to maintain their faith in the state and the security establishment. "This assault constitutes a qualitative transformation in the war being waged by terrorist organizations against Lebanon as a state and a nation," the statement read. "Reality dictates that we foster the

highest levels of alertness and awareness and asks of all Lebanese that they confirm their absolute faith in their home and their absolute trust in the Army and security apparatus." Information Minister Ramzi Joreige said, "The Cabinet considers itself in a constant state of alert to deal with any security situation and announces that all state agencies will remain on full alert." Before the cabinet session Salam said that the terrorist attacks "came as no surprise as security forces were anticipating a new terror attack." "Terrorism doesn't differentiate between one sect and another or one area and another ... a Christian area was targeted today, but we have seen other Muslim areas under attack."