

'Turkey to Repatriate Most Daesh Detainees by Year-End'
 ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey will have repatriated most of its Daesh detainees to their home countries by the end of the year, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu says.
 Ankara says it has captured 287 militants in northeast Syria, where Turkish troops launched an offensive, and has hundreds more terrorist suspects in detention.
 Soylu said Turkey was aiming to send six or seven more Daesh suspects this week to their home countries, including Ireland and the Netherlands. Turkish officials are in touch with counterparts there, he added.

Thought for Today
Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.
 Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Russia Balks at Turkish Idea of New Military Incursion Into Syria



In this file photo taken on September 08, 2019 a Turkish military vehicle drives on a joint patrol with U.S. troops in the Syrian village of al-Hashisha on the outskirts of Tal Abyad town on the border with Turkey.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia says it is bewildered by a Turkish pledge to conduct a new military incursion into northern Syria if the area is not cleared of people Ankara calls terrorists, warning that any such move would damage efforts to stabilize the region.
 Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was cited as saying his country would launch a new military incursion into northeast Syria

if the area is not cleared of Kurdish YPG militia.
 State-owned Anadolu agency quoted him as saying that Russia and the United States had not done what was required under agreements that halted a Turkish offensive last month and called on them to make good on their pledges.
 His comments, and Russia's frosty reaction to them, reflect emerging tensions over Syria be-

tween Moscow and Ankara less than a month after President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan struck a deal that saw Syrian and Russian forces deploy in northeast Syria.
 Russia's Ministry of Defense said on Tuesday it was puzzled by Cavusoglu's statement on several different levels and that Moscow had carried out in full its obligations under the Putin-Erdogan deal.

"Thanks to a range of measures implemented by the Russian Federation, it was possible to significantly stabilize the situation," Major General Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, said in a statement.
 "The head of the Turkish Foreign Ministry's call for military action can only escalate the situation in northern Syria rather than sort things out in the way set out in a joint memorandum signed by the presidents of Russia and Turkey," Konashenkov added.

Ankara views the U.S.-backed YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984. The YPG constitutes the backbone of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The Kurdish-led administration in northeastern Syria says the Turkish offensive has killed 218 civilians, including 18 children, since its outset. The fighting has also wounded more than 650 people.

Turkish authorities say 20 people have been killed in Turkey by bombardment from Syria, including eight people who were killed in a mortar attack on the town of Nusaybin by YPG militants on October 11.

Protesters Force Lebanon's Parliament to Postpone Session



Lebanon's parliament was blocked from holding its first session for two months on Tuesday after protesters prevented lawmakers from reaching the building.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's parliament was blocked from holding its first session for two months on Tuesday after protesters prevented lawmakers from reaching the building.

Queues built at banks that reopened after a one-week closure, with police deployed at branches and banks imposing tight restrictions on hard currency withdrawals and transfers abroad.

Lebanon has slid further into economic crisis since the protests erupted on Oct. 17. The political situation has been deadlocked since Saad al-Hariri resigned as prime minister on Oct. 29, with no progress towards a deal on a new government.

Gunfire was heard as a group of several dozen protesters forced two SUVs with official number plates and tinted windows to turn back as they approached the parliament, footage broadcast by Lebanese broadcasters showed.

The vehicles sped away after they were struck by demonstrators chanting "Out, out, out!"

Authorities later announced that the session had been postponed indefinitely.

The agenda of the parliamenta-

ry session had included reelecting members of parliamentary committees and discussion of a controversial amnesty law that is expected to lead to the release of hundreds of prisoners.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri had already postponed the session last week due to security concerns.

The security forces had fanned out on Tuesday before dawn in central Beirut, shutting down roads around parliament with barbed wire in what proved to be a failed attempt to prevent the protesters from blocking the session.

Police scuffled with a group of protesters who were trying to use a cable to remove a barbed wire barricade.

"How are they holding a session and not responding to the people? Those that are in the session have nothing to do with us, and it's not what we asked for," said a protester who gave her name as Maria.

The protests have been fuelled by perceptions of corruption among the politicians who have governed Lebanon for decades and are blamed for leading the country into its worst economic crisis since the 1975-90 civil war.

Afghan President Claims Victory Over Daesh

JALALABAD (Dispatches) – Security forces have "obliterated" Daesh terrorists in Afghanistan, President Ashraf Ghani said on Tuesday, hours after a prisoner swap with Taliban militants raised hopes of a lull in violence in the country.
 More than 600 fighters from Daesh terrorists have surrendered with their families to the Afghan government in past weeks. Officials say air strikes by Afghan and coalition forces, lack of funds and low morale have forced the group to give up.
 "No one believed one year

ago that we would stand up and today be saying we have obliterated Daesh," Ghani told a gathering of elders and officials in Jalalabad, the main city of eastern Nangarhar province that saw a wave of bomb attacks in past years claimed by the terrorists.
 "Now that Daesh militants have surrendered, I ask authorities to treat their families humanely," Ghani added.

The government says among militants in its custody are foreign nationals from Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Ka-

zakhstan and the Maldives.
 However, the Afghan Taliban, which has been battling Daesh and the government for control of the country, disputed that.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's official spokesman, described Ghani's announcement as "absurd".

"Kabul admin had 0% role in defeat of Daesh and the proud people of Nangarhar are witnesses," he tweeted.

The Taliban controls more territory than at any point since the U.S. invasion in 2001, including sections of Nangarhar province.

Nangarhar, which shares a long and porous border with neighboring Pakistan, has long served as the main stronghold of Daesh, from where militants planned and staged bombings around the country, especially the capital Kabul.

Their attacks, targeting foreign nationals and the minority Shia community, have killed hundreds.

Last month, Washington announced that Daesh ring-leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi killed himself during a raid by elite U.S. special operations forces in Syria.

Houthis to Release Seized Ships If they are Korean

SANAA (Dispatches) - Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement said on Tuesday it would release vessels it had captured if they prove to be South Korean, after it seized a rig being towed by a Saudi tugboat in the southern Red Sea.

South Korea's foreign ministry said a Korean dredger had been seized on Sunday evening, along with a Korean tugboat and a Saudi tugboat. It said 16 sailors including two South Koreans had been detained.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting against the Houthis said the seized vessels included a Korean drilling rig and the Saudi tug, the Rabigh 3, which was captured by Houthi fighters who attacked from two boats.

The incident is the latest at sea around Yemen, where Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of Arab states fighting against the Houthis who control the capital and most population centers.
 Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a senior Houthi

official told Reuters the group's forces had seized a "suspect vessel" in the Red Sea and said the crew were being treated well.

"Yemeni coast guards ... are checking to see whether (the vessel) belongs to the countries of aggression or to South Korea, in which case it will be released after completing legal procedures," he said.

The dredger and the Korean tugboat were allegedly owned by South Korean builder Woongjin Development.

Iraqi Protesters Block Gate to Khor al-Zubair Port

BASRA, Iraq (Dispatches) – Protesters have blocked the entrance to Iraq's Khor al-Zubair commodities port near Basra, preventing trucks from entering, port officials say, as the anti-government demonstrations continue.

Khor al-Zubair is Iraq's second main port. It is used to export cargoes of gas condensates, construction and electrical commodities and food.

"Unloading operations of commodities and goods which need to be transported by trucks have been completely halted," said one port official.

Protesters are demanding the overthrow of a political class. Unsatisfied by government reform promises they see as mea-

ger, many have turned to civil disobedience tactics.

Oil officials said operations at a separate terminal, located near Khor al-Zubair and used to export cargoes of gas condensates, were not affected by Tuesday's blockade.

Imports of refined oil products were also unaffected as they are received via pipelines, port officials said.

The closure of Khor al-Zubair comes a day after protesters once again blocked the entrance to Iraq's Umm Qasr commodities port near Basra, preventing employees and tankers from entering.

Umm Qasr port officials said operations had been completely halted at the port on Tuesday, after it was working at half capacity the previous day.