



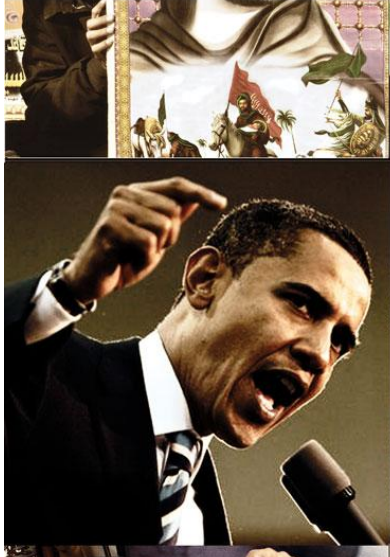
ORSAM
ORTADOĞU STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

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GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ
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1. IRAQ / IRAK

- **Iraqi Air Force needs 5 more years to sufficiently protect Iraqi air space**

Iraqi Security and Defense Parliamentary Committee assured, on Sunday, that Iraqi Air Force needs 5 years to become ready to protect Iraqi air space. Iraqi government should agree with countries positioned in Kuwait over defense matters, the committee said, warning from current and potential threats against Iraq.

“Iraqi Air Force still needs 4 to 5 years accomplish the first step towards becoming ready to protect and defend Iraqi air space and to offer logistic support for Iraqi Army and Navy,” committee member Shwan Mohammed Taha told Alsumarianews. “The government should conclude a new agreement with European and American countries positioned in Kuwait to protect Iraq air space and to provide troops with logistic support,” Taha uttered.

“Iraqi Army, Air Force and Navy can decide whether or not Iraqi Security Forces are ready to take control following US troops’ withdrawal,” Taha declared. “Iraq Navy

Commander’s report pointed up that the Navy is not geared up on both training and equipment levels, while Air Force Commander assured that his forces are not ready yet to provide air cover and defense against external threats against Iraq sovereignty,” he indicated. adding that “Iraqi Army reports also reveal a deficiency in Iraqi troops ability to protect Iraqi cities and their borders from terrorist threats for lack of expertise, arms as well as logistic and intelligence support.”

“Protecting our borders is a sovereignty matter and our forces require more than military capability for this purpose especially under current and potential threats like the continuous attacks from Iran and Turkey against Iraqi borders, in addition to gossip about potential threats from Kuwait,” Taha revealed. “

Iraqi Ministry of Defense announced, on November 18, that the first military transport aircraft out of 5 others on which it contracted with its Ukrainian counterpart arrived to Iraq. The ministry also revealed that all planes, the cost of which reached 99 million Dollars, will be in Iraq by mid 2012.

Iraqi Air Force Command announced, last year, its quest to buy 96 F16 planes by 2020. Iraqi government, for its part, declared it's incapacity to conclude such a deal because of its authorities' expiry and assured that Iraq needs a strong Air Force to protect its sovereignty.

<http://www.alsumaria.tv/en/Iraq-News/1-70894-Iraqi-Air-Force-needs-5-more-years-to-sufficiently-protect-Iraqi-air-space.html>

- **Baghdad demonstrators protest against regions establishment**

Two demonstrations were held, on Friday, in Al Tahrir Square central Iraqi capital Baghdad against the establishment of regions in the country and in denunciation to Baath Party. Establishing regions risks to partition the country, demonstrators argued.

Tens of citizens marched in a demonstration, Monday morning, in Al Tahrir Square central Baghdad to condemn calls to establish regions in Iraq and denounce Baath Party, Alsumarianews reporter said. Another demonstration, led by Ahmad Al Badri representative of religious authority

Mohammad Baker Al Sadr in Baghdad, protested against Baathists and region's establishment, he added.

Demonstrators criticized those who support Baath Party members instead of mass graves' victims, the reporter revealed. Protestors believe that the establishment of regions risks to partition the country and provide refuge to Baathists.

<http://www.alsumaria.tv/en/Iraq-News/1-70822-Baghdad-demonstrators-protest-against-regions-establishment.html>

- **Nujeifi discusses bilateral relations after the US withdrawal from Iraq with high level US delegation**

Baghdad (NINA) - Speaker of the Parliament, Osama Al Nujeifi, discussed with a high level US delegation ways to develop and strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries especially after the US withdrawal from Iraq.

A statement issued by the media office of Nujeifi said the two sides discussed during the meeting, the need to communicate in accordance with the framework of the strategic agreement between the two

countries to serve the interests of both parties through cooperation in the political, diplomatic, defense, security, cultural, economy, energy, health, environment, information technology and communications, and in the joint committees fields.

The statement added that the US delegation included both US President's advisor for foreign policy, Denis McDonnah, Tony Bleniken National Security Adviser to US Vice President Joseph Biden, US ambassador in Baghdad, James Jeffrey, and the commander of US forces in Iraq, Gen. Lloyd Austin.

http://www.ninanews.com/english/News_Details.asp?ar95_VQ=FIMKGF

- **White Iraqiya demands change in politics**

Baghdad, Nov. 22 (AKnews) - Jamal al-Battikh, leader of White Iraqiya, demanded to create a board which is supposed to draft a law to end the disintegration of the positions of the political blocs.

The disintegration has negative effects on the reality of Iraq, Battikh said.

Battikh said, "There should be re-evaluation and transparency in the political positions for the time beyond the U.S. forces withdrawal. Personal interests should be overlooked and the political situation be evaluated along with the internal and external challenges."

Battikh's demand sounded like a call for a law that prohibits disagreement, but AKnews was unable to find out what exactly Battikh wanted to say.

<http://www.aknews.com/en/aknews/4/273873/>

- **Qatar and Iraq are getting closer**

Erbil, Nov. 22 (AKnews) - Qatar seeks to boost diplomatic relations with Iraq next year.

This was the result of a meeting of the Qatari Prime Minister and acting Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr al-Thani with Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari in Qatar yesterday.

According to a press release, issued on the website of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry,

Thani said that Iraq will witness an active attention from Qatar, especially as far as diplomatic relations are concerned.

Qatar, which supported Iraq during the war against Iran in the 1980s and supported the international forces during the invasion of Iraq in 1991, seeks to become a major international player.

<http://www.aknews.com/en/aknews/4/273851/>

- **Salah al-Din province continues constitutional procedures on the region question, Governor**

SALAH AL-DIN / Aswat al-Iraq: Salah al-Din's deputy governor stressed today that the provincial council is continuing with the constitutional procedures, waiting the 15-day time table to finalize consultations on this question.

Sabhan al-Janabi clarified to Aswat al-Iraq that "the issue has the support of the people and it is difficult to change their opinions at this stage".

He added that the Council will try to explain the justifications and reasons for such decision to Prime Minister Nouri al-

Maliki during his coming visit to the province.

Janabi denied any sort of inciting sectarianism or establishing a region controlled by the Baathists.

He confirmed that the final decision shall be to ballot boxes.

Earlier, Salah al-Din Provincial Council voted to changing the province into a region.

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145706&l=1

- **Iraq tries to close Ashraf Camp, with suitable haven, MP**

BAGHDAD / Aswat al-Iraq: State of Law MP Ali al-Shalah said that there are moves to close anti-Iranian Ashraf Camp through the Iraqi foreign ministry, which is trying to find a haven for them in European countries.

Shalah told Aswat al-Iraq that his bloc "is trying to reach a peaceful and humanitarian solution to Ashraf Camp question", calling "western European

countries to extend their assistance to finalize this question".

"Iraq has enough problems, and does not want to enter in new ones with neighboring counties", he added.

Anti-Iranian Mujahidi Khalq is stationed in Ashraf Camp in Diala province, north east Baghdad, since 1985 with special care of the ex-regime, where it began its attacks on Iranian territories.

After the US intervention in 2003, the American forces kept their base without weapons, which was put under US care, though they were classified as "terrorist organization".

After signing the security agreement between Baghdad and Washington at the end of 2008, the Iraqi government held the responsibility of the camp and called for permanently closing it at the end of this year.

UN mission in Iraq called the Iraqi government to abide by the principles of international law in dealing with Mujahidi Khalq.

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145704&l=1

- **Kürdistan İle Türkiye Arasında Ki Hava Seferleri Durduruldu**



Peyamner Süleymaniye/21/Nov/11(PNA Süleymaniye Hava Terminali Müdürü, Irak'ın almış olduğu karar nedeni ile Kürdistan Bölgesi ile Türkiye arasında yapılan hava seferlerinin de durdurulduğunu açıkladı.

Süleymaniye Hava Alanı Genel Müdürü Tahir Abdulla, Irak'ın Türkiye hava şirketlerinin Irak'a inişlerini yasaklaması ile ilgili olarak PNA'ya " Irak Ulaştırma Bakanlığı'nın Irak ile Türkiye arasında ki Hava seferlerinin askıya alınması yönünde aldığı karar Kürdistan Bölgesi Hava yollarını da bağlayıcıdır. Çünkü bizde Irak hava trafiğinin bir paçasıyız" dedi.

Açıklanan karar öncesi yapılması planan uçuşlar konusunda Abdulla “ kararın bize iletilmesinden sonra bizde yapılacak olan tüm uçuşları durdurduk. Şuanda Süleymaniye ve Hewler Hava alanlarında yolcular bu sorunun çözülmesini bekliyor” diyerek Kürdistan Bölgesi’nde hava yoluyla Türkiye’ye gitmek isteyenlerin gidemediğini belirtti.

Hava Terminali müdürü, karşılıklı olarak Süleymaniye’den 8 ve Türkiye’den Süleymaniye’ye haftalık 8 sefer yapıldığı ancak şuanda bunların durdurulduğunu ve Türkiye ile Irak arasında yapılan görüşmelerin sonuçlarını beklediklerini dile getirdi.

Türkiye ile Irak arasında yaşanan borç sorunu dolayısı ile Türkiye Mahkemeleri borç karşılığında Irak’a ait uçaklara haciz konulması kararı almıştı. Buna karşılık, Irak Ulaştırma Bakanlığı Türkiye şirketlerinin Irak’a yaptığı seferleri askıya aldı.

<http://www.peyamner.com/details.aspx?id=256731>

- **Türk Şirketler Irak Üzerinde Ki Haczi Kaldırdı**

Peyamner Haber Merkezi/21/Nov/11(PNA)-Irak Ulaştırma Bakanlığı’nın türk mahkelerinin borcun tahsili için aldığı haciz kararına tepki olarak aldığı, Türkiye hava serferlerini durdurma kararı Türk hükümetini harekete geçirdi.



Türkiye ile Irak arasında başlayan para krizi çözüme doğru yaklaşıyor. Yıkık Saddam rejimi döneminden kalma 20 milyon dolarlık borç nedeni ile Türk firmaları, Türk mahkemeleri aracılığı ile Irak üzerine haciz kararı çıkartmışlardı.

Buna tepki olarak Irak Ulaştırma Bakanlığı Türkiye Hava yolu şirketlerinin Irak seferlerini durdurdu. Bunun üzerine harekete geçen Türk hükümeti şirketlerle yapmış doluğu görüşmelerden sonuç almaya başlandı. 4 şirketten ikisi, hakları saklı kalmak şartıyla haciz kararından vazgeçti. Diğer iki şirketle görüşmelerin devam ettiği öğrenildi.

<http://www.peyamner.com/details.aspx?id=256737>

- **Exiled Iran opposition warns of 'massacre' if Iraq camp shut**

The leader of an exiled Iranian opposition movement claimed Sunday that moves to close a camp in Iraq housing thousands of her supporters were part of a plot by Tehran to have them killed.

Maryam Rajavi, France-based leader of the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran, said the Iraqi government's plan to move Iranian exiles from Ashraf, north of Baghdad, had been secretly ordered by Iran's Islamic government.

"Relocating residents of Ashraf inside Iraq is a crime against humanity and is a prelude to a grand massacre that has been devised by the Iranian theocratic fascist rulers and the government of Iraq," she alleged.

"Forcible relocation of Ashraf residents is tantamount to sending them to their deaths and that is something they will never give in to," she warned.

Rajavi heads both the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which claims to represent the Iranian opposition, and its guerrilla wing, the PMOI, which has been on the U.S. government's list of terrorist groups since 1997.

While she and many of her supporters are based in France and others are exiled around the world the group's biggest base is in Ashraf, where they are under pressure from the Iraqi government to pack their bags.

Talks are underway involving U.N. negotiators to find new homes for group members, who were housed in Iraq in the 1980s by the former regime of Saddam Hussein, but now find themselves unwelcome and pressured by Iraqi forces.

Baghdad wants to break up the group and send it to other camps around Iraq, but the PMOI fearing expulsion to Iran has demanded to be placed under the protection of U.S. forces and resettled outside Iraq.

Rajavi said if Washington refused to do this "the only acceptable option for a relocation inside Iraq is the protection of

Ashraf residents by U.N. Blue Helmet forces and a U.N. monitoring team stationed in the new location.”

Once international security was established for the exiles, they would be willing to negotiate their transfer to “third countries,” she said.

Last week, an Iraqi official told AFP that Baghdad plans to move the PMOI to another location, then for the United Nations to repatriate those with dual citizenship to their second countries and the rest to Iran or elsewhere.

Amid concerns that Iran would persecute returning members of a group it considers a dangerous terrorist outfit, the United Nations insists that repatriation to Iran would be only on a voluntary basis.

Ashraf residents have complained of increasing harassment by Iraqi forces since U.S.-led forces ceased to protect it in January 2009, but the Baghdad government insists it is only enforcing its sovereignty.

AFP, November 2

- **Iraq has held a conference urging the expulsion of members of the terrorist**

Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) from the country

In the event, organized by the Iraqi Center for Media Development, a number of Iraqi officials and scholars discussed the insecurity that the MKO members had caused in the country, a Press TV correspondent reported on Saturday.

“The Iraqi government has responded to the people's call and decided to evacuate the MKO camp [Camp Ashraf] in Iraq and expel its members from Iraq by the end of the year,” the center's Director Adnan al-Sarraj said during the gathering.

On Friday, a large number of Iraqis staged a protest rally in the eastern province of Diyala, where Camp Ashraf is based, to urge the authorities to close the outpost down.

Baghdad has repeatedly said it is determined to shut the camp down by the end of 2011.

The MKO is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community and has committed numerous terrorist acts against both the Iranians and Iraqis.

The group fled to Iraq in the 1980s, where it enjoyed the support of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, and set up the camp in Diyala near the Iranian border.

Over 3,000 MKO members are currently residing at the camp. In addition, the group sends elements to Iran on spying and terrorist missions.

The MKO also cooperated with Saddam in the massacres of Iraqi Kurds and helped the former dictator suppress 1991 uprisings in southern Iraq.

Since Saddam was deposed in 2003, the Iraqi government has set numerous deadlines for the terrorist group to leave the country, but the MKO has managed to maintain its base due to US backing.

Iran has repeatedly called on the Iraqi government to expel the group, but the US has been putting pressure on Baghdad to block the expulsion.

Press TV, November 20

- **Four civilians killed in Iraq attack**

Baghdad - Four civilians were killed Sunday when unknown gunmen attacked a residential area in the city of al-Hilah, some 100 kilometres south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, security sources said.

Three women and one man died in the attacks, the sources said.

No one has claimed responsibility.

On Saturday, five policemen were killed when gunmen attacked a checkpoint in the city of Ramadi, around 110 kilometres west of Baghdad.

Violence in Iraq had declined after Sunni-Shiite bloodshed peaked in 2006.

But in recent months, attacks targeting security personnel have again become an almost daily occurrence.

Deutsche Press-Agentur, November 20

2. IRAN / İRAN

- **UAE Willing to Bolster Sports Cooperation with Iran**

TEHRAN (FNA)- The Vice-President of the UAE National Olympic Committee (UAE

NOC) plans a visit to neighboring Iran to cement sporting ties with the country with long-term benefits in mind.

"For centuries now, our two countries have been together in various fields including sports. But now it is time to give this partnership a more formal stance," Yousuf Al Serkal, Vice-President, UAE NOC, told Mohammad Ali Abadi, the visiting President of the Iran National Olympic Committee (INOC).

"We have forged strong relationships in football with many professional footballers from Iran playing in our league for the past so many years. But now we feel we should allow this sort of partnership to affect and influence other sports as well," Al Serkal said.

Al Serkal was keen to cash in on this resurgence of Iran in the sports field. "We want to go to Iran as soon as possible so that we can learn from their experiences in the various sporting disciplines. We are keen to see their plan for the development of track and field, gymnastics and karate," Al Serkal said.

Aliabadi had last week reiterated his government's belief in nurturing Iran into a sporting force over the next few years, with the country confident of shrugging its tab of being a sleeping giant.

"We are good enough to be at least third in Asia and that is the goal during the next five years - to be at least third in the medals table at the next Asian Games (in Incheon, South Korea)," Aliabadi told Gulf News.

The Iranian official welcomed the UAE move to work out a formal exchange program between various associations in the two countries, be it among coaches and trainers or the athletes themselves.

"We can to cooperate in the fields of track and field, football, futsal, taekwondo, karate, shooting, gymnastics and swimming. And such a cooperation will result in a win-win situation for all concerned be it our two countries, the athletes or sport itself," he said.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9007274361>

- **İran'ın yeni savunma stratejisi
"Tehdide karşı tehdit"**

FHA- İran Genel Kurmay Başkanı Yardımcısı General Muhammed Bagiri, rehberin tehdide karşı tehdit vurgusunun İran'ın milli savunma stratejisinin yeniden gözden geçirilmesi anlamına geldiğini belirtti.



FHA- Gönüllü Seferberler Haftası arefesi meclisi ziyaret eden General Bagiri, savaşın kaderi karada belirlendiğini, oysa düşmanlar hatta İran'a hava saldırısı düzenlemeye bile cesaret edemediğini kaydetti.

Düşmanların hata yapmaları durumunda pişman olacakları bir cevapla karşılaşacaklarını belirten General Bagiri, tarih, İran milletinin hiç bir zaman başkasına saldırma düşüncesinde olmadığını, lakin her türlü tehdide karşı kesin cevap verdiğini ortaya koyduğunu ifade etti.

General Bagiri, rehberin geçenlerde yaptığı bir konuşmada tehditlere tehditle karşılık verileceğini belirttiğini, bu da İran'ın milli savunma stratejisinin yeniden gözden geçirilmesi anlamına geldiğini vurguladı.

<http://turkish.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=9007274379>

- **ABD ve Siyonistlerin beş bin nükleer başlığı var!!**

FHA- Savunma Bakanı General Ahmet Vahidi, küresel istikbar ve siyonistlerin beş bin nükleer başlığının, yer küreyi bir kaç kez yok etmeye yeteceğini vurguladı.



FHA- Şehitleri anma töreninde konuşan General Vahidi, İran'ı nükleer silah peşinde olmakla suçlayan küresel istikbar ve siyonistlerin beş bin nükleer başlığı bulunduğunu ifşa etti.

Bu silahların yer küreyi bir kaç kez yok etmeye yeteceğini kaydeden General Vahidi, aynı zorbalara bir iki yıl önce de İran'ı nükleer saldırı ile tehdit ettiklerini hatırlattı.

General Vahidi, İranlı bilim adamlarına suikast düzenleyerek şehit eden teröristlerin şimdi İran'ı terörle suçlamaya kalkıştığını, oysa bu zümrenin bizzat terör örgütlerine kucak açtığını ve dünyayı tam bir terör mezbahasına dönüştürdüklerini ifade etti.

ABD'nin Japonların üzerine iki kez atom bombası attığını, bunun hesabını bugüne kadar kimsenin sormadığını, Irak ve Afganistan'da da defalarca sivillerin üzerine uranyumlu bombalar attığını, Terör ve işgal devleti korsan İsrail'inde aynı bombaları mazlum Filistin halkına karşı kullandığını hatırlatan General Vahidi, bunlardan hiçbir hesap sormayanların, kalkıp da İran'ın bilimsel ve barışçı nükleer çalışmalarını sorgulamalarının tam bir sahtekarlık olduğunu ve bu nedenle de İran'ın bu çifte standart uygulamalara zerrece değer vermediğini söyledi.

<http://turkish.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=9007274373>

- **Iranian air defense units repel mock enemy's air strike**

TEHRAN, Nov. 21 (MNA) – During the last stage of an aerial war game in east Iran on Monday, the air defense units of the Armed Forces engaged in a fierce battle with the mock enemy and intercepted its cruise missiles and repelled hostile unmanned aerial vehicles and fighters.

The mock enemy, with the intention of destroying country's sensitive facilities, launched a massive air strike on the country using UAVs, fighters, and cruise missiles, but air defense units vigilantly mounted an effective and strong counter-attack and forced the enemy to retreat.

Air defense units also practiced various stages of dealing with the mock enemy's air strike including detecting, tracking, and intercepting hostile aircraft.

After the end of the exercise, the spokesman of the war game, Colonel Abolfazl Sepehri, told reporters that during various stages of maneuvers, the air defense command post assessed the

effectiveness of air defense units' tactics used to control and manage fields of operations and measured units' level of coordination and precision, and their ability to act with speed and decision.

He also described as satisfactory the performance of intelligence, communications, logistics, electronic warfare, and cyber warfare units during the operations.

Rapid response units also managed to thwart mock enemy's plans, using innovative and camouflage techniques and domestically manufactured mobile communication equipment and without using the country's telecommunications infrastructure network, he added.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1465726>

- **'Development of Iran's missile technology will not be stopped'**

TEHRAN, Nov. 21 (MNA) – The Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, Amir Ali Hajizadeh, announced on Monday that Iran's ever-increasing prowess in missile technology will never come to a halt.

Hajizadeh also rejected claims that some foreign intelligence services had a hand in the recent blast at an IRGC munitions depot near Tehran and said, "They are fully aware that the incident was a work accident."

<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1465767>

- **İran, Amerika'nın petrol alanındaki tehditlerine tepki gösterdi**

Tahran, 22 Kasım 2011- İran Petrol Bakanı Yardımcısı ve Milli Petrokimya Endüstrisi Genel Müdürü, Amerika'nın İran'ın petrokimya ve polimer ürünlerinin Avrupa pazarlarında satışı ve ihracı konusunda yaptırım tehditlerine tepki gösterdi.

İran Petrol Bakanı Yardımcısı ve Milli Petrokimya Endüstrisi Genel Müdürü Abdülhüseyin Biyat, Mehr Haber Ajansı'na yaptığı açıklamada, Amerika'nın İran'ın petrokimya ve polimer ürünlerinin Avrupa pazarlarında satışı ve ihracı konusunda yaptırım tehditlerine tepki gösterdi ve ABD tarafından geçen yıl itibarı ile İran petrokimya sanayii aleyhine yeni yaptırımlar koyulduğunu söyledi.

Amerika'nın bu yaptırımlarla kimyasal katalizörlerin satışı, ekipman ve bazı stratejik petrokimya ürünlerinin İran'a kısıtlamalar getirdiğini belirten Genel Müdür, bu esasla yerli kimya tesislerine uluslararası pazarlarda bu ürünleri alışı izni verilmediğini belirtti.

Söz konusu bu yaptırımların İran petrokimya endüstrisinde ve bazı Avrupalı ülkelerin İran ile petrokimya alanındaki anlaşmalar konusunda güçlükler yarattığını vurgulayan Biyat, yaptırımlar yoluyla İran'ın petrokimya alanındaki gelişme ve ilerlemesinin ve İran petrokimya ürünlerinin Avrupa Birliği (AB) pazarlarında satışının durdurulmak istendiğini fakat Amerikan yaptırımlarının dünya standartlarında üretilen İran petrokimya ürünlerinin Avrupa pazarlarına satışına ve ihracına kesinlikle etkisi olmayacağını söyledi.

Mehr'in haberine göre, 2011 yılının başından bugüne dek İran'ın petrokimya ve polimerik ürünler alanında yaklaşık 30 ürünü AB yaptırımlar listesine alınmıştır ve bu yüzden 2013 yılına kadar AB ülkelerinin İran petrokimya alanındaki payı %11 civarında azalmıştır.

Hali hazırda İran'ın petrokimya ürünleri 17 AB ülkesine ihrac edilmektedir ve İran AB ülkelerine ağır polietilen ve metanol ihraç eden ikinci büyük ihracatçı olup, resmi olmayan rakamlara göre İran'ın bu alandaki geliri yılda 2 milyar dolar civarındadır.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/tr/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1466329>

- **PJAK yok oluşu sınırına doğru ilerliyor**

Tahran, 22 Kasım 2011 – Hiçbir terörist grubun İran'da faaliyet yapmasına izin verilmeyeceğini ifade eden İslam Devrim Muhafızları Kara Kuvvetleri, PJAK terörist örgütün yok oluşu sınırına doğru ilerlediğini ifade etti.

PJAK terörist grubunun tam olarak yok oluşuyla ilgili Mehr haber ajansı muhabirine konuşan İslam Devrim Muhafızları Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanı Tuğgeneral Muhammed Pakpur, PJAK'ın yok oluşu sınırına doğru ilerlediğini ifade etti.

Tuğgeneral Pakpour, ülkenin güvenliğini zedelemek isteyen hiçbir terörist gruba tahammül edemeyeceklerini söyleyerek,

hiçbir terörist grubun İran'da faaliyet göstermesine izin verilmeyeceğini konuşmasına ekledi.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/tr/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1466229>

- **Nebiye Beri: Washington, İran'ı bazı Arap ülkelerinin sanal düşmanı haline getirdi**



Lübnan Meclis Başkanı Nebiye Beri, ABD'nin İran İslam Cumhuriyetini bazı Arap ülkelerinin sanal düşmanı haline getirdiğini belirtti.

Yaser Arafat'ın ölüm yıldönümü dolayısıyla düzenlenen törende konuşan Beri "ABD, bölgede çok yenilgi aldı bu yüzden Beşar Esad hükümetini devirerek kendi

başarısızlıklarını telafi etmeye çalışıyor ancak Arap ülkeleri Suriye'nin bölgede ABD'nin son komplo hedefi olmayacağını bilmeli" dedi.

Beri "Beyaz Saray, tüm Arap ülkelerinde etnik ve dini çatışmalara yol açmaya ve İran'ı Arapların düşmanı olarak lanse etmeye çalışıyor" dedi.

Siyonist rejimin Arapların tarihi düşmanı olduğuna işaret eden Beri "ABD, İsrail'in daimi müttefikidir. Demokrasi ve özgürlükle ilgili ABD'nin sloganları, İsrail'in adı söz konusu olduğu zaman duruyor ve İsrail güvenliği söz konusu olduğu zaman diktatörler ve uluslar arası terörizm ABD tarafından desteklenir" dedi.

<http://www2.irna.ir/tr/news/view/line-119/1111228823122734.htm>

3. ISRAEL - PALESTINE / İSRAİL – FİLİSTİN

- **Lieberman: Demolition of illegal West Bank outposts will end Netanyahu cabinet**

Foreign Minister tells Yisrael Beiteinu party that planned demolition of Givat

Assaf, Migron or handover of Palestinian tax money would result coalition's dissolution.

The coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will unravel if Israel goes ahead with either the planned demolition of two illegal West Bank outposts or the handover of Palestinian tax money to the Palestinian Authority, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Monday.



Earlier this month, the cabinet postponed the planned demolition of the illegal Givat Assaf outpost by half a year, with settlers pressing to halt the demolition of another outpost, Migron.

Speaking at the weekly meeting of his Yisrael Beiteinu faction, Lieberman said that he had made it clear to Netanyahu that "Migron is not an illegal outpost," adding that it was a settlement established with then Defense Minister Moshe Arens and chief of GOC Central

Command standing near the cornerstone."

"How did it become all of a sudden illegal?" Liberman asked, dismissing the 2005 Talia Sasson report on illegal outposts over the latter's later involvement in the left-wing Meretz party.

"That's the reason we should tear down a whole settlement? [A settlement] in which 30 percent of the residents are security officials, and which has since brought forth children who went on to serve in the army?" the FM added.

Lieberman added that he held the same position regarding Givat Assaf, saying that the demolition of one or both of the outposts would be a cause to break up the cabinet. "Yisrael Beiteinu won't be the only one to leave, several Likud members would find such a situation impossible."

Another condition presented by the foreign minister is the transfer of Palestinian tax money collected by Israel to the PA, saying that such a move would be crossing a "red line."

On Sunday, Netanyahu and his forum of eight senior ministers decided continue Israel's freeze on the transfer of the Palestinian Authority's tax money, due to the latest moves by Fatah and Hamas aimed at establishing a unity government.

Israel's security establishment had been pushing for the handover, arguing that, faced with dwindling funds, the PA would not be able to pay its security officials, which could weaken Palestinian control of the West Bank.

However, speaking to fellow party members on Monday, Lieberman made it clear that recent unity talks made it impossible for Israel to transfer the tax funds.

"[The PA] is going to join a Hamas government, their pushing out [Palestinian] Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, who is a moderate and reasonable man. They've given a \$5,000 grant to everyone of the terrorists freed in the Shalit deal, and they want to build an apartment for each one of them," Lieberman said, adding: "Say each apartment costs a few thousands dollars, multiply that by a thousand."

"Where is the money going to come from? From the money we give them. No way are we going to agree to the money's transfer under these conditions," he added.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/lieberman-demolition-of-illegal-west-bank-outposts-will-end-netanyahu-cabinet-1.396897>

- **FM: Gov't can find a way solve settlements issue**

Lieberman denies reports that Israel Beiteinu had planned to leave coalition over settlement issue.



Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Monday that the government will work to find a solution the issue of settlements functioning outside the law.

Speaking to Israel Radio, Lieberman warned that clearing settlements and outposts in the West Bank that the High Court of Justice deems illegal "makes life harder for all of us."

The foreign minister rejected the idea that the new settlement construction continues to negatively effect the peace process.

"We tried to hold negotiations and we saw that [a settlement freeze] did not achieve anything," Lieberman told Israel Radio.

"I don't want to tear the fabric of Israel from within," the foreign minister said. "We can find a solutions somewhere between the settlements and the law."

The foreign minister took a more conciliatory tone speaking to Israel Radio than during Monday's Israel Beiteinu faction meeting in Jerusalem, where he said the demolition of settlements would push his faction to leave the coalition, effectively dissolving the government.

Lieberman on Tuesday denied that his faction had any plans to leave the

coalition, underlining his desire to find a solution between the law and illegal settlement construction.

Any rumors about a split in the coalition is just "interpretation," Lieberman told Israel Radio.

<http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=246533>

- **No support for Israel in the White House?**

Rahm Emanuel is now a mayor, Dan Shapiro Ambassador to Israel and Dennis Ross resigns during election year. Obama's White House is left empty of anyone who truly understands Israel issue

WASHINGTON – The last year has seen the White House become empty of people who have a deep personal knowledge of the Israeli situation and who care about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At first it was the much publicized resignation of former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel who was involved in every significant detail of the White House's Israel agenda.

Then David Axelrod, top political advisor to President Barack Obama left for greener pastures and last summer, Dan Shapiro chose to become US ambassador to Israel over taking the position of White House Middle East desk chief.

If that is not enough, next month Dennis Ross, Obama's senior advisor on the Middle East, will be leaving office. Ross' White House exit has barely raised a murmur in Israel even though it is one of the biggest losses to the US government as far as relations with Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are concerned. It leaves Israel without a reliable contact within the White house.

Rahm Emanuel was replaced by Bill Daley who doesn't deal with the Israel issue. Axelrod, whose focus was the political significance of relations with Israel, was replaced with David Plouffe who is busy with managing Obama's election campaign and has no connection to the Israel-Palestinian matter.

Pointless waste of time

Steve Simon now heads the US National Security Council's Middle East desk and

was immediately drawn into the Arab Spring uprisings. Shapiro was Obama's top adviser on Israel and the Middle East during the 2008 presidential race and came with him to the White House. He had access to Obama's inner circle, access that Simon will have to work hard for.

Ross, 62-years-old, decided that after three years of working in the White House, it would be pointless to waste his time working around the clock when it is clear that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas aren't making any progress while President Obama who is disappointed by both leaders, lacks the commitment the process needs due to the fact that it is an election year.

Ross' resignation is sad news for the Israeli and Palestinian public who seek a peaceful solution in the region. The resignation is also disappointing for the Israeli government who had an approachable and understanding source who could find swift solutions when problems and misunderstandings arose.

Ross' resignation also comes at a bad time for Obama, who needs Ross during the

election year as a credible advocate among Jewish Americans. It would seem that Ross does not see this as a sufficient reason to continue in his thankless job 24/7.



Soft diplomacy

Many of the best and brightest have collapsed under the pressure after 18 months in the White House. Dennis Ross managed to survive for nearly three years.

Ross often found himself in the minority opinion, he believed in small steps and not in connecting any US strike against Iran with Israeli concessions on the settlements. He was opposed to exerting public pressure on Israel to halt settlement construction, a move special Middle East envoy George Mitchell favored.

Ross believed in the policy of exhibiting soft diplomacy in public, making progress behind the scenes, while at the same time understanding the political difficulties that Netanyahu's right-wing government is under.

Mitchell promoted a stance that demanded that Israel halt settlement construction in exchange for normalization of relations the Arab world, including opening the Arab skies to and air space to Israeli commercial flights. Mitchell's stance failed. And the more Mitchell faded away, the more Ross took center stage. Yet after a few months it was clear to him that at this point, there was no one to talk to.

Ross' stance put him in a problematic position with the Palestinians. Abbas no longer wanted to meet with him and Jordan's King Abdullah hinted at a "problem" with him in an interview given in the US. This might have also contributed to Ross' decision to resign.

A source within Washington said that Dennis Ross understands Israel in high definition and is irreplaceable. The source added that while Ross doesn't always see

eye to eye with Israel, there has always been mutual respect and there are very few people who have his experience, knowledge and the expertise at a time when the Iran issue is becoming a major issue during an election year.

The source noted that Ross can play the game of Middle East chess in a way that only a very few would be capable of and that Ross' decision to reason was due to exhaustion.

Nothing to do

Aaron Miller, a Middle East specialist currently a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, was Ross' deputy as Middle East envoy during the Clinton administration. According to Miller, at this stage there is nothing left for Ross to do within the government.

Miller stated that there is no credible peace process, no expectations from Netanyahu or Abbas to exhibit leadership and no Arab leader willing to step up to the plate. The fall of Assad's regime in Syria will further complicate matters at this stage.

Miller added that if someone were to tell him that there was a breakthrough in negotiations, that the US was involved in a serious process between two leaders and a US president investing his time and efforts in the process, then he would think Ross had something to do as he offered perspective, sensitivity and experience that no one else has.

Now that Ross is out of the picture, Miller finds himself on a very short list of State Department alums who are Middle East experts that might be under consideration by the White House.

The two frontrunners are Dan Kurtzer who endorsed Obama's candidacy during the 2008 democratic primaries and Martin Indyk, a close associate of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The question is – who will be willing come in on an election year where the results are far from clear.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4151100,00.html>

4. AFRICA and EGYPT / AFRİKA ve MISIR

- **Amal Party: Egypt to Cut Relations with Israel after Elections**

TEHRAN (FNA)- Secretary-General of the Egyptian Amal Party Majdi Hussein condemned the Zionist regime for its hostile efforts to thwart the Egyptian people's uprising and revolution, and stressed once parliamentary elections are held in the country, Cairo will cut its ties with Israel.



"Although the relations between Egypt and Israel have been undermined after the collapse of Mubarak's regime, we are still unsatisfied with these conditions and serious efforts will be made after the elections to cut relations with the Zionist enemy completely," Hussein told FNA on Monday.

He said as it was shown in the Egyptian youths' raid on the Israeli embassy in September, which forced the Israeli ambassador to flee Cairo, the relations between Egypt and Israel are declining.

Hussein also underlined the invalidity of the Camp David Accord between Tel Aviv and Cairo, and called for its revision.

Egyptians, who demanded a cut of ties with Israel after the ouster of Hosni Mubarak, are now even more furious after they realized that the interim military rulers of the country used Israeli-made hi-tech weapons and riot gear, including tear gas canisters, against protestors in Tahrir Square in recent days.

The issue was revealed by Deputy Head of the Egyptian Al-Wasat Party Osam Sultan in an interview with FNA on Monday.

"The weapons and bullets have undoubtedly been imported from Israel which is considered as the enemy of the Egyptian nation," he said.

He made the remarks referring to the recent bloody crackdown on Egyptian protesters in al-Tahrir Square in Cairo.

Egypt's interim military rulers battled a reinvigorated protest movement calling for its ouster, as thousands of demonstrators forced troops to retreat from Tahrir Square.

Many compared the breadth and intensity of the new battles for the square - the iconic heart of the Egyptian revolt and the Arab Spring - to the early days of the uprising against former president Hosni Mubarak, only this time the target of the protesters' ire was the ruling military council and its leader, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9007274381>

- **Tunisia enters new era of democracy by inaugurating its elected constituent assembly**

Moncef Marzouki (R) of the leftist Congress for the Republic Party will be Tunisia's new president, and Mustapha Ben Jaafar from the Ettakatol political party will chair the body tasked with drafting a new constitution. (Reuters)

Moncef Marzouki (R) of the leftist Congress for the Republic Party will be

Tunisia's new president, and Mustapha Ben Jaafar from the Ettakatol political party will chair the body tasked with drafting a new constitution. (Reuters)

Tunisia enters a new phase of democratic rule Tuesday following a power-sharing deal between the three main political parties sealed 10 months after a popular uprising ended years of dictatorship.

The north African nation will Tuesday inaugurate its elected constituent assembly, which is to confirm the appointment of Hamadi Jebali of the moderate Islamist Ennahda party as prime minister and two other key appointments.

Tunisia's three main political parties on Monday formalized the power-sharing agreement a month after historic elections which saw Ennahda win the most votes.

Moncef Marzouki of the leftist Congress for the Republic Party (CPR) will be president, and Ettakatol's Mustapha Ben Jaafar will chair the body tasked with drafting a new constitution.

“This event is like a second independence for Tunisia,” Ahmed Mestiri, an iconic figure in Tunisia's struggle to gain its 1956 independence from France, said of the inauguration of the assembly.



“It’s the symbol of the break with the old regime and the establishment of legitimate rule,” the respected 86-year-old former politician told AFP.

A popular uprising that started in December 2010 over unemployment and the soaring cost of living ousted Zine ElAbidine Ben Ali, who had been in power 23 years and was thought to be one of the world's most entrenched autocrats.

The revolt touched off a wave of pro-democracy protests across the region known as the Arab Spring and Tunisians anchored their revolution last month with an historic election for a constituent assembly.

The 217-member body, which will be tasked with drafting a new constitution and picking a new executive, is dominated by Ennahda, a party inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood.

The moderate Islamist group holds 89 seats while the CPR and Ettakatol control 29 and 20 seats respectively.

The assembly’s inaugural session will take place in the bey’s palace in the Bardo area that sheltered the old National Assembly and was where the treaty paving the way for the French protectorate was signed in 1881.

The special session on Tuesday is expected to confirm the assembly's president and elect two deputies, a man and a woman.

The chamber’s freshly-elected members are also due to adopt a set of internal rules based on a document drafted by the now-dissolved body in charge of political reform after Ben Ali’s ouster.

Challenging the bloc formed by the three main parties, the Progressive Democratic Party and the Democratic Modernist Pole,

which have 16 and five seats respectively, will be main opposition forces.

A question mark still hangs however over the Popular Petition, a previously unknown group lead by a London-based millionaire which came out of the woodwork to clinch 26 seats, making it the assembly's third largest party.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/22/178533.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **Libya announces new cabinet line-up**

Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC) is expected to officially announce a new cabinet line-up later on Tuesday, but a few roles have already been announced.

Prime minister designate Abdurrahim el-Keib said on Monday that ministers have already been appointed for the defense, finance and foreign ministries.

Osama Al-Juwali, commander of the Zintan Brigade was appointed defense minister as part of the cabinet line-up. In other appointments, Libya's deputy envoy to the United Nations Ibrahim Dabbashi

was named as foreign minister, an oil company executive was made oil minister and the finance minister in the outgoing government Ali Tarhouni was re-appointed, Reuters news agency reported.



A new cabinet is faced with the tough task of rebuilding the oil producing country after an armed revolt which managed to topple former leader Muammar Qaddafi. Challenges include the task of balancing rival regional factions and ideological camps all battling for influence in the new Libya.

So far, the appointments have shown no key roles for Islamists who had been making a bid for power, and more specifically defense ministerial roles, since the former regime's fall. Instead, secularist liberals have been chosen.

Keib announced the new roles just hours after meeting the U.S. ambassador to the

U.N., Susan Rice, in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

The NTC prime minister said he would pick the best people to steer the country towards democracy rather than those with the most political clout, according to Reuters reports.

“We will use competence as a basic measure and this way we will be able to include all of Libya's regions. You will see,” he told a news conference with the visiting Susan Rice.

“We're working hard to ensure that what we have is something solid, cohesive, capable of doing the job,” he said.

However, tensions could flare over the cabinet composition, an NTC source told Reuters, as some council members had re-opened the discussions after initially agreeing the appointments.

“There are some people who do not accept some of the names,” said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not clear which posts were the subject of debate.

Those tensions were illustrated by the capture of Seif al-Islam deep in the Libyan desert.

The fighters from Zintan who seized him on Saturday flew him in a Soviet-built cargo plane to their hometown in Libya's Western mountains and are holding him there until the central government is formed.

They say it is to ensure his safety; his father was killed after he was caught by another militia in his hometown of Sirte last month.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/22/178528.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **Egypt's military rulers eye ElBaradei for a national salvation government: report**

Egypt's military rulers consider assigning presidential hopeful Dr Mohammed ElBaradei to form a national salvation government following the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Dr Essam Sharaf, an Egyptian daily reported on Tuesday citing political sources.

The sources told Egypt's al-Youm al-Sabe daily that the members of the new proposed government have not been decided yet.



ElBaradei, the former chief of the U.N. atomic watchdog, on Monday denounced violence against protesters and called for a national salvation government. He called on the SCAF to meet the demands of protesters that include the cancelling of military trials of civilians.

Egypt's cabinet said on Monday it had resigned, as clashes raged for a third day in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

"The government of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf has handed its resignation to the (ruling) Supreme Council of the Armed Forces," cabinet spokesman Mohammed Hegazy said in a statement carried by the official MENA news agency.

State television quoted a military source as saying the ruling military council had rejected the resignation, but Information Minister Osama Heikal told MENA the matter had not yet been decided.

Sharaf's resignation, if accepted, threatens to derail parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 28 -- the first polls since Mubarak was toppled in February.

But the military council is seeking agreement on a new prime minister before it accepts Sharaf's resignation, a military source told Reuters.

The source said no formal announcement would be made until the ruling military council had agreed on the candidate. He did not provide further details.

Moussa warns of more chaos

Meanwhile, presidential hopeful Amr Moussa warned that those who call for the toppling of the military council aim mainly at spreading more chaos and unrest in Egypt.

Moussa said that what is currently happening in Egypt is definitely not a new revolution, adding there is a kind of

misunderstanding due to weakness of the government and the slowness in implementing its decisions. Moussa called on the military council to specify a timeline for handing over the powers to a civilian authority.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/22/178497.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **Egypt activists call for 'million-man' rally**

Protesters demanding end to military rule call for mass gathering as cabinet offers resignation after days of clashes.

Activists in Egypt are calling for a mass demonstration in Cairo against the country's ruling military council after three days of clashes between protesters and government forces left at least 33 people dead and hundreds injured.

Groups including the Coalition of Revolution Youth and the April 6 movement, which spearheaded the revolution that toppled Hosni Mubarak in February, called for a "million-man march" on Tuesday afternoon in Tahrir Square to put pressure on the Supreme Council of

the Armed Forces (SCAF) to cede power to civilian leaders.

Egypt's cabinet, headed by Essam Sharaf, the interim prime minister, offered its resignation late on Monday but a military official said the council was seeking agreement on a new prime minister before it would accept the resignation.

Crisis in Egypt
moonstarheba profile

Some 20,000 defiantly demonstrated in Tahrir Square overnight, but the protests have yet to attract the hundreds of thousands who toppled President Hosni Mubarak in January and February.

By early on Tuesday - the fourth straight day of protests - crowds in the square were small but loud, reported Al Jazeera's Jamal Elshayyal.

Our correspondent said there was a massive Egyptian flag being carried by a few hundred protesters, many of whom were shouting anti-military slogans.

"The people want the fall of the marshal," protesters chanted, referring to Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi,

Mubarak's defence minister for two decades and head of SCAF.

"This land belongs to Egyptians. It is not for sale and does not need any guardians," one banner read. "All Egyptians demand an Egypt run by civilians," another said.

After expressing "deep regret for the victims in these painful incidents", the ruling council appealed for calm late on Monday and called for crisis talks with political forces to find a way forward, as well as calling for a justice ministry investigation into the latest unrest.

The Muslim Brotherhood announced on Tuesday it would participate in talks aimed at ending the deadly clashes.

"The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has called a meeting [for Tuesday] and we will participate," Saad al-Katatni, secretary general of the Party of Freedom and Justice, the Brotherhood's political wing, said.

Anti-SCAF sentiment

Many demonstrators condemned the military's call for talks.

"All the military council is saying now makes absolutely no sense," said Mohamed Sobhy, a 30-year-old translator.

"They kill us and then say they want to investigate the incident. I want to understand how can they be party to the battle and at the same time be the arbitrator."

Locations where Egyptians were protesting on Monday

Al Jazeera's Jamal Elshayyal, reporting from Cairo, said many Egyptians had lost trust in Tantawi after the government "resumed military trials for civilians, torture and excessive use of force by the military".

Tahrir Square has remained the major rallying point for protesters, recalling the 18-day uprising that ended Mubarak's three decades of power.

Elsewhere, some 5,000 people surrounded a security headquarters in the northern coastal city of Alexandria and police responded by firing live ammunition, witnesses said.

Security forces also battled about 4,000 demonstrators in the port city of Ismailia on the Suez Canal, witnesses said.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011112253021787298.html>



5. JORDAN and LEBANON / ÜRDÜN

- **Lebanon's Hezbollah and Amal stand by Iran and Syria against U.S., Israeli threats**

Lebanon's armed group Hezbollah and its ally, the Amal Movement led by Speaker Nabih Berri, vowed to stand by Syria and Iran against U.S. and Israeli threats to attack the two countries, a Lebanese daily reported on Tuesday.

The Daily Star reported that both Hezbollah and Amal issued a joint statement, following their meeting on Monday, asserting that the current turmoil in Syria was part of an "international conspiracy" targeting Damascus for its support for Arab and Muslim resistance movements in the region.

The statement came amid mounting international pressures on Iran over its controversial nuclear program and against Syria over its brutal crackdown on an eight-month popular uprising demanding a regime change.

On Monday, Washington has declared Iran of "primary money-laundering concern" -- a label that could dissuade non-U.S. banks and businesses dealing with it under threat of U.S. reprisals.

London said it was "ceasing all contact" between its financial system and that of Iran. Canada said it was halting "virtually all transactions" with Iran. France said it, too, was "in favor of new unprecedented sanctions."

Hezbollah and Amal emphasized their "firm support for the Islamic Republic in the face of American and Israeli threats," the statement said.

“They said that what is happening in Syria is an international conspiracy targeting Syria’s rejectionist position and its policies which support the Arab and Muslim resistance movements, particularly in Palestine,” reported the Daily Star citing the statement.

Reiterating their solidarity with Syria’s people, army and institutions, Hezbollah and Amal stressed that Lebanon will never be “a conduit for a conspiracy against sisterly Syria.”

Earlier this month, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah accused Washington of ramping up pressure on Iran and Syria as a way to divert attention from “America’s defeat” as it withdraws its troops from Iraq by the end of the year.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/22/178545.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **American spies outed, CIA suffers in Lebanon**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA’s operations in Lebanon have been badly damaged after Hezbollah identified and captured a number of U.S. spies recently,

current and former U.S. officials told The Associated Press. The intelligence debacle is particularly troubling because the CIA saw it coming.

Hezbollah’s longtime leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, boasted on television in June that he had rooted out at least two CIA spies who had infiltrated the ranks of Hezbollah, which the U.S. considers a terrorist group closely allied with Iran. Though the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon officially denied the accusation, current and former officials concede that it happened and the damage has spread even further.

In recent months, CIA officials have secretly been scrambling to protect their remaining spies — foreign assets or agents working for the agency — before Hezbollah can find them.

To be sure, some deaths are to be expected in shadowy spy wars. It’s an extremely risky business and people get killed. But the damage to the agency’s spy network in Lebanon has been greater than usual, several former and current U.S. officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not

authorized to speak publicly about security matters.

The Lebanon crisis is the latest mishap involving CIA counterintelligence, the undermining or manipulating of the enemy's ability to gather information. Former CIA officials have said that once-essential skill has been eroded as the agency shifted from outmaneuvering rival spy agencies to fighting terrorists. In the rush for immediate results, former officers say, tradecraft has suffered.

The most recent high-profile example was the suicide bomber who posed as an informant and killed seven CIA employees and wounded six others in Khost, Afghanistan in December 2009.

Last year, then-CIA director Leon Panetta said the agency had to maintain "a greater awareness of counterintelligence." But eight months later, Nasrallah let the world know he had bested the CIA, demonstrating that the agency still struggles with this critical aspect of spying and sending a message to those who would betray Hezbollah.

The CIA was well aware the spies were vulnerable in Lebanon. CIA officials were warned, including the chief of the unit that supervises Hezbollah operations from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., and the head of counterintelligence. It remains unclear whether anyone has been or will be held accountable in the wake of this counterintelligence disaster or whether the incident will affect the CIA's ability to recruit assets in Lebanon.

In response to AP's questions about what happened in Lebanon, a U.S. official said Hezbollah is recognized as a complicated enemy responsible for killing more Americans than any other terrorist group before September 2001. The agency does not underestimate the organization, the official said.

The CIA's toughest adversaries, like Hezbollah and Iran, have for years been improving their ability to hunt spies, relying on patience and guile to exploit counterintelligence holes.

In 2007, for instance, when Ali-Reza Asgari, a brigadier general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of Iran, disappeared in Turkey, it was assumed

that he was either killed or defected. In response, the Iranian government began a painstaking review of foreign travel by its citizens, particularly to places like Turkey where Iranians don't need a visa and could meet with foreign intelligence services.

It didn't take long, a Western intelligence official told the AP, before the U.S., Britain and Israel began losing contact with some of their Iranian spies.

The State Department last year described Hezbollah as "the most technically capable terrorist group in the world," and the Defense Department estimates it receives between \$100 million and \$200 million per year in funding from Iran.

Backed by Iran, Hezbollah has built a professional counterintelligence apparatus that Nasrallah — whom the U.S. government designated an international terrorist a decade ago — proudly describes as the "spy combat unit." U.S. intelligence officials believe the unit, which is considered formidable and ruthless, went operational in about 2004.

Using the latest commercial software, Nasrallah's spy-hunters unit began

methodically searching for spies in Hezbollah's midst. To find them, U.S. officials said, Hezbollah examined cellphone data looking for anomalies. The analysis identified cellphones that, for instance, were used rarely or always from specific locations and only for a short period of time. Then it came down to old-fashioned, shoe-leather detective work: Who in that area had information that might be worth selling to the enemy?

The effort took years but eventually Hezbollah, and later the Lebanese government, began making arrests. By one estimate, 100 Israeli assets were apprehended as the news made headlines across the region in 2009. Some of those suspected Israeli spies worked for telecommunications companies and served in the military.

Back at CIA headquarters, the arrests alarmed senior officials. The agency prepared a study on its own vulnerabilities, U.S. officials said, and the results proved to be prescient.

The analysis concluded that the CIA was susceptible to the same analysis that had

compromised the Israelis, the officials said.

CIA managers were instructed to be extra careful about handling sources in Lebanon. A U.S. official said recommendations were issued to counter the potential problem.

But it's unclear what preventive measures were taken by the Hezbollah unit chief or the officer in charge of the Beirut station. Former officials say the Hezbollah unit chief is no stranger to the necessity of counterintelligence and knew the risks. The unit chief has worked overseas in hostile environments like Afghanistan and played an important role in the capture of a top terrorist while stationed in the Persian Gulf region after the attacks of 9/11.

"We've lost a lot of people in Beirut over the years, so everyone should know the drill," said a former Middle East case officer familiar with the situation.

But whatever actions the CIA took, they were not enough. Like the Israelis, bad tradecraft doomed these CIA assets and the agency ultimately failed to protect

them, an official said. In some instances, CIA officers fell into predictable patterns when meeting their sources, the official said.

This allowed Hezbollah to identify assets and case officers and unravel at least part of the CIA's spy network in Lebanon. There was also a reluctance to share cases and some files were put in "restricted handling." The designation severely limits the number of people who know the identity of the source but also reduces the number of experts who could spot problems that might lead to their discovery, officials said.

Nasrallah's televised announcement in June was followed by finger-pointing among departments inside the CIA as the spy agency tried figure out what went wrong and contain the damage.

The fate of these CIA assets is unknown. Hezbollah treats spies differently, said Matthew Levitt, a counterterrorism and intelligence expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Studies who's writing a book about the terrorist organization

"It all depends on who these guys were and what they have to say," Levitt said. "Hezbollah has disappeared people before. Others they have kept around."

Who's responsible for the mess in Lebanon? It's not clear. The chief of Hezbollah operations at CIA headquarters continues to run the unit that also focuses on Iranians and Palestinians. The CIA's top counterintelligence officer, who was one of the most senior women in the clandestine service, recently retired after approximately five years in the job. She is credited with some important cases, including the recent arrests of Russian spies who had been living in the U.S. for years.

Officials said the woman was succeeded by a more experienced operations officer. That officer has held important posts in Moscow, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Balkans, important frontlines of the agency's spy wars with foreign intelligence services and terrorist organizations.

<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27385>

6. SYRIA / SURİYE

- **Report: Russia warships to enter Syria waters in bid to stem foreign intervention**

Russian warships are due to arrive at Syrian territorial waters, a Syrian news agency said on Thursday, indicating that the move represented a clear message to the West that Moscow would resist any foreign intervention in the country's civil unrest.

Also on Friday, a Syrian official said Damascus has agreed "in principle" to allow an Arab League observer mission into the country.



But the official said Friday that Syria was still studying the details. The official asked not to be named because the issue is so sensitive.

The Arab League suspended Syria earlier this week over its deadly crackdown on an eight-month-old uprising. The 22-member body has proposed sending hundreds of observers to the country to try to help end the bloodshed.

The report came a day after a draft resolution backed by Arab and European countries and the United States was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, seeking to condemn human rights violations in the on-going violence in Syria.

Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia were among Arab states that joined Germany, Britain, and France to sponsor the draft submitted to the assembly's human rights committee. In Washington, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the U.S. would sign on as a co-sponsor of the resolution.

The draft demanded an end to violence, respect of human rights and implementation by Damascus of a plan of action of the Arab League.

The move comes as clashes escalated in Syria and after Russia and China used their

veto in October to block a Security Council resolution that would have condemned the Syrian government of President Bashar for the violence.

Such a veto is not applicable in the 193-nation assembly, which will consider the issue after the human rights committee reports back to it.

The UN says more than 3,500 people have been killed since unrest erupted in spring against Assad.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/report-russia-warships-to-enter-syria-waters-in-bid-to-stem-foreign-intervention-1.396359>

- **U.N. Assembly to vote on resolution condemning human rights violations in Syria**

Syria's U.N. envoy slammed a draft U.N. resolution condemning the Syrian government's eight-month crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, calling it a "declaration of war" on Damascus.

Syrian Ambassador to the U.N. Bashar Jaafari was referring to a draft resolution on Syria which Germany submitted to the

U.N. General Assembly's 3rd Human Rights Committee, which is scheduled to be voted on at 1500 GMT on Tuesday. The draft, obtained by Al Arabiya, was crafted by Germany, Britain and France.

"This has been tabled for the first time not with the aim of defending and bolstering human rights in Syria, rather this was in the context of declaring a political and media war on my country," said Jaafari, speaking in Arabic.

"It is a declaration of war that aims to affect the independence of our political decision-making and stops us from moving ahead in our national political agenda, which is absolutely opposing the agendas of these states. That is considered interference in our affairs and in the internal affairs of others in the region. This is a war that is not suitable to be declared against us under the roof of this important organization, which should defend the rights of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political stability of its members," he said.

'The illness of Syrianophobia'

That is considered interference in our affairs and in the internal affairs of others in the region. This is a war that is not

suitable to be declared against us under the roof of this important organization, which should defend the rights of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political stability of its members

Syrian Ambassador to the U.N. Bashar Jaafari

"We advise these states to review policies and laws and urge their citizens to criticize their governments to stop the duality and hypocrisy and interference in the internal affairs of member states under weak and fabricated excuses."

"A proper title for the resolution should be 'The illness of Syrianophobia' not 'The situation of human rights in Syria'," added Jaafari.

Syria has promised the United Nations that it would halt military operations against civilians and implement political reforms. But U.N. officials say Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has failed to keep any of his promises.

The draft resolution says the committee "strongly condemns the continued grave and systematic human rights violations by the Syrian authorities, such as arbitrary

executions, excessive use of force and the persecution and killing of protesters and human rights defenders.”

It also condemns “arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill treatment of detainees, including children” and demands an immediate end to all such violations.

German Ambassador Peter Wittig urged the General Assembly’s human rights committee to vote for the resolution.

“This draft is a joint cross-regional, one-off effort to address the immediate crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is driven by the conviction that the General Assembly and the 3rd Committee cannot and should not remain inactive in the face of the current systematic violations of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic,” he said.

“In view of the sponsors, it is important to support the strong and remarkable stance taken by the League of Arab states in this regard and, in particular, to support its efforts to bring about an immediate end to the violence in the country,” added Wittig.

The draft resolution, as received by Al Arabiya:

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations;

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights;

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1 of 29 April 2011 and also recalling Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1 of 22 August 2011, which established an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law since March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic, and regretting the lack of cooperation of the Syrian authorities with the commission of inquiry;

Welcoming all efforts made by the League of Arab States to address all aspects of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the steps undertaken by the League of Arab States to ensure the implementation

of its Plan of Action, including those aimed at ending all human rights violations and all acts of violence;

Expressing concern about the continued lack of commitment by the Syrian authorities to fully and immediately implement the Plan of Action of the League of Arab States of 2 November 2011;

Welcoming the decisions of the League of Arab States on the developments of the situation in Syria of 12 and 16 November 2011;

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing human rights violations and use of violence by the Syrian authorities against their population;

Reaffirming that all States Members of the United Nations should refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

1. Strongly condemns the continued grave and systematic human rights violations by

the Syrian authorities, such as arbitrary executions, excessive use of force and the killing and persecution of protesters and human rights defenders, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including children;

2. Calls upon the Syrian authorities to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, to protect their population and to fully comply with their obligations under International Human Rights Law and calls for an immediate end to all violence in the Syrian Arab Republic;

3. Calls upon the Syrian authorities to implement the League of Arab States' Plan of Action in its entirety without further delay;

4. Invites the Secretary General of the United Nations, in accordance with his functions, to provide support, if requested, for the League of Arab States' observer mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the League of Arab States' decisions of 12 and 16 November 2011.

5. Calls upon the Syrian authorities to comply with Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1 and S-17/1, including by cooperating fully and effectively with the independent international commission of inquiry.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/22/178505.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **Driver: Turkish buses come under attack in Syria**

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Syrian soldiers opened fire on three Turkish buses, injuring two people, one of the bus drivers said Monday.

The attack occurred near the central city of Homs early Monday, driver Erhan Surmeli said by telephone from a Turkish hospital near the Syrian border, where the other bus driver, Naci Ozata, was treated for gunshot wounds.

Surmeli said the bus was carrying 25 butchers back to Turkey from Saudi Arabia following the Muslim festival of Eid Al-Adha, or the feast of sacrifice.

"We had stopped at a checkpoint," Surmeli told The Associated Press by telephone. "Syrian soldiers emerged from behind sandbags and cursed (Turkish Prime Minister) Recep Tayyip Erdogan when we told them we were Turks. Then they suddenly opened fire at the bus."

Surmeli said he heard that two other Turkish buses had come under attacks and another passenger was injured. They were able to cross into Turkey, he said.

Turkey's state-run TRT television reported that two people were injured in armed attacks inside Syria.

Syria's bloody crackdown on protesters has strained relations with Turkey, which has been outspoken in its criticism of President Bashar Assad. They have deteriorated further following a spate of attacks on Turkey's diplomatic missions.

Turkey evacuated families of diplomats as well as nonessential staff. After the attacks, the Foreign Ministry renewed a call on Turkish citizens to avoid traveling to and through Syria, NTV television said.

<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27386>

7. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA / ARAP YARIMADASI VE BASRA KÖRFEZİ

• **Storming parliament a 'black day': Kuwaiti emir**

KUWAIT CITY, (AFP) — Kuwait's ruler has said the storming of parliament by the opposition last week was a "black day" in the country's history and insisted he will not bow to demands to sack the prime minister or dissolve parliament.

"What happened was abnormal ... The day when MPs (and dozens of protesters) stormed parliament ... was a black day for us," Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said during a meeting with Kuwaiti editors in comments published Monday.

Youth activists led by opposition lawmakers stormed Kuwait's parliament building on Wednesday after clashing with police during a rally that called for dissolving the house and sacking the prime minister over alleged corruption.

"Based on the constitution, I appoint and sack the prime minister and ministers ... Even if I had the intention to ask him to resign, I will not do so under pressure from these people (opposition)," said the emir, cited by Al-Jarida daily.

Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, a senior member of the ruling family and a nephew of the emir, has been under pressure to quit over allegations of corruption and accusations that he transferred public funds to his overseas accounts.

The two charges have been categorically denied by the government.

Under Kuwaiti law, the emir heads the parliament, government and the judiciary and has ultimate control over appointing and sacking cabinet members and dissolving parliament.

The emir said around 40 people, including MPs, have been referred to the prosecution for legal action for storming parliament and vowed they will not be pardoned.

The new wave of confrontation between opposition MPs and the prime minister was triggered by allegations that the government paid up to \$350 million to around 15 MPs to secure their votes on crucial issues.

The emir said the allegations have been referred to the judiciary on "money laundering" charges and all those found guilty would be punished accordingly. Opposition MPs have boycotted parliament sessions, saying they cannot sit in the house while more than a quarter of the 50-member chamber are suspected of major illegal financial transactions.

In the aftermath of the parliament incident, the emir ordered the security forces to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order.

The opposition however has so far remained defiant and plans to hold a fresh rally later Monday.

Kuwait is OPEC's third largest producer, pumping around 3.0 million barrels of oil per day. It has accumulated over \$300 billion in assets but projects have been stalled because of political disputes.

<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27387>

- **Yemen's Saleh agrees to sign plan to transfer power, opposition says**



Yemen's embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh has agreed to sign a plan to transfer power to his deputy and end the crisis that has gripped the country since January, a senior opposition figure said on Monday.

"The negotiations that have been under way for the past three days have led to an agreement by which the Gulf initiative and mechanisms for implementing it will be signed on Tuesday," Mohammed Bassandawa, head of the National Council of revolutionary forces, told AFP.

The plan submitted by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council calls on Saleh to hand power to his deputy, Abdrabuh Mansur

Hadi, thus ending his 33-year rule in return for immunity from prosecution.

Saleh has so far refused to sign the agreement, despite violence which has seen hundreds of people killed and thousands wounded since an uprising against his regime erupted in January.

Bassandawa refused to give more details on the negotiations which he said finally persuaded Saleh to sign the GCC deal which the wealthy neighbors of impoverished Yemen first proposed in April.

But another opposition official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an agreement was reached “concerning the mechanisms for the implementation” of the GCC plan “and an agreement was reached.”

In line with this agreement “President Saleh will sign on Tuesday in Sana’a the Gulf initiative,” said the opposition official.

“Vice President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi, leaders of the (ruling) General People’s Congress and of the opposition will also sign the mechanism for implementing the

agreement on Tuesday,” the opposition leader said.

But he also insisted on adding words of caution.

“This in an agreement in principle,” he said.

Saleh, who has been in power since 1978, has repeatedly thwarted efforts by the GCC and the United Nations, to ink the pact.

On May 1 the GCC called off a signing ceremony because Saleh refused at the last minute to sign the document. A second ceremony on May 22 was also scrapped for the same reason.

The GCC plan proposes the formation in Sana’a of a government of national unity, Saleh transferring power to his vice president and an end to the deadly protests rocking the impoverished Arabian Peninsula nation since late January.

The president would submit his resignation to parliament within 30 days, to be followed two months later by a presidential election.

Security Council meeting postponed

The latest developments come as a U.N. Security Council meeting on Yemen which was due to take place on Monday was postponed at the request of political rivals in Sana'a.

"The Security Council meeting was postponed to November 28 at the request of the protagonists" of the Yemen crisis, Jamal Benomar, the U.N.'s envoy to Yemen, said on Sunday in Sana'a.

Benomar has been in the Yemeni capital since last week for talks aimed at ending 10 months of political deadlock and bloodshed.

The 15-member Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2014 on October 21 condemning the Sana'a government's crackdown on the mass anti-regime protest movement that has swept the country.

It also called on Saleh to sign the initiative submitted by the GCC which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The political turmoil in Yemen, which has seen powerful tribes and army dissidents join opposition groups and youth protesters in their struggle to oust Saleh, has left Yemen's already impoverished economy on the brink of collapse.

The violence has also triggered fears that it could affect neighboring Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter which shares a long border with Yemen.

The agreement came about following intervention from U.S. and European diplomats who put pressure on both parties to make compromises, opposition sources said.

A source in Saleh's GPC party said the agreement had been ready for several days but a party in an opposition alliance had been against the deal.

Under the agreement, opposition officials said Saleh would retain the title of president but without any powers.

They said one of the last sticking points had been over whether a military committee being set up to oversee the armed forces would have the power to

sack commanders who refuse to obey orders. Saleh agreed to give the committee such powers because it would be led by Hadi, they said.

The GPC source said the vice president would have powers to implement the Gulf initiative, appointing a new government that would take the oath before him and call the presidential election. He said Saleh would remain president and that his powers would be “within these limits”.

“He will remain the constitutional president and will also be the head of the General People’s Congress,” he told Reuters.

The source said one of the risks to the agreement was that dissident military commander, Ali Goshen, and tribal chief Sadeq al-Ahmar were not part of the accord. “One of them has the military power and the other has the money, and their power is greater than the coalition alliance,” the source said.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/21/178454.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **Saudi Arabia steps up pressure on Syria; UK vows to turn heat on Assad**

Saudi Arabia on Monday stepped up pressure on the Syrian government to implement an Arab League plan to end its deadly violence against protesters, while the UK pledged Syrian opposition that world powers will do as much as they can to turn up the heat on President Bashar al-Assad.



Following a Saudi cabinet meeting chaired by Crown Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, a statement urged Damascus to “hold fully to its commitments” in accepting a League plan to end the crisis, and hailed the pan-Arab bloc’s efforts to do so.

The statement, published by the state news agency SPA, underlined “the importance of ensuring the protection of Syrian civilians and stopping the killings and acts of violence.”

On Sunday, the League said Arab foreign ministers are to hold crisis talks on Syria in Cairo on Thursday.

They are to discuss the next steps after the Arab bloc rejected amendments suggested by Damascus to a document outlining plans for a 500-strong delegation to monitor the violence in Syria, an Arab League source said.

Under a November 2 deal with the League, Syria was given 15 days to pull back troops from cities at the centre of anti-government protests, release detainees, allow free movement for observers and media, and negotiate with the opposition.

The League under the deal was to send 500 members of human rights groups, media representatives and military observers to Syria to monitor the situation and help implement the peace plan.

A fresh deadline to end the bloodshed or face sanctions expired on Saturday, with no compliance from Assad's security forces.

UK Pressure

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary William Hague held talks in London with representatives of Syrian opposition groups on Monday, intensifying British contacts with them just days after he appointed a former ambassador to lead London's coordination with Assad's opponents.

"I think the Assad regime will find that more and more governments around the world are willing to work with the opposition ... as part of the increasing pressure on this regime," Hague said after the meeting.

He said international pressure had already been ratcheted up on Syria, pointing to European Union sanctions on Syria's oil exports. "We are working this week on a further round of sanctions which I hope we can agree next week," Hague added.

An EU diplomat said that at a meeting in Brussels on Monday, EU states discussed extended sanctions on Syria expected to be agreed ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers on Dec. 1.

He said the sanctions were likely to target more individuals responsible for the

violence and entities that support and fund the Syrian government, and to include a range of steps against the financial and banking sectors.

On top of the U.S. and European sanctions, Syria has alienated former ally Turkey and, in a dramatic deepening of its regional isolation, been suspended by the Arab League and threatened with Arab sanctions

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/21/178438.html?PHPSESSID=ps0o9ku5pnuqt9s0lbvn15e352>

- **Bahrain braces for official rights report**

Opposition activists vow unrest as royal commission prepares to release report on alleged human rights abuses.

The latest death in Bahrain was Ali al-Badah, a 16-year-old protester who was run over on Saturday by a police vehicle [EPA]

The official commission studying alleged human rights abuses in Bahrain will release its findings this week, a move which anti-government activists say will

likely spark more unrest in the already-tense island kingdom.

Bahrain's king, Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, established a five-member commission in June to investigate "whether the events of February and March 2011 (and thereafter) involved violations of international human rights law and norms".

At least 35 people have been killed in this year's unrest, with hundreds more wounded and detained.



The commission's final report, originally scheduled for release in late October, will be published on Wednesday.

Opposition leaders have already called for large demonstrations to coincide with the release. Many Bahrainis are sceptical that the report will be fair, partly because of statements made by Cherif Bassiouni, the

Egyptian judge who chairs the commission.

His most controversial statement came in August, when he told reporters that there was no evidence of routine torture in Bahrain. He backtracked earlier this month, when he told the Egyptian daily Al-Masry Al-Youm that the commission had uncovered 300 cases of torture, and described it as a "systematic policy".

"They don't trust the report. This is a commission appointed by the king," said Yousif al-Muhafdah, a human rights activist.

"The people in Bahrain are disappointed with Bassiouni and his commission."

Political reconciliation

Bahrain's main opposition parties - particularly Al Wefaq, the largest of them - have been reluctant to criticise the government during this year's unrest, fearing that doing so would undercut their already limited power.

Their response to the report will likely be cautious as well. Ali al-Aswad, a former Al Wefaq parliamentary member, said he

was confident that the report would include a thorough accounting of human rights abuses.

"In this area we have clear information that the report will do a good job," he said.

But al-Aswad also said that he did not "expect anything towards political reconciliation". The government hopes that the report will bring opposition parties back into politics. All of Al Wefaq's 18 parliamentarians, including al-Aswad, resigned their seats in protest earlier this year.

Bahraini politics have remained sharply divided ever since, not only between the government and the opposition, but also within the ruling family. Analysts describe a power struggle between "moderates", aligned with the crown prince, and more conservative factions linked to the longtime prime minister, who is also the king's uncle.

A coalition of Bahraini human rights groups plans to issue an alternative set of findings at a press conference on Tuesday.

The report will be closely watched by international human rights organisations, several of which are sending analysts to Bahrain this week.

"We'll be looking at the whole issue of impunity, proper investigations," said Said Boumedouha, a researcher with Amnesty International. "They need to bring those responsible for torture, for the deaths of civilians in custody, to justice."

Boumedouha said that the members of the commission are generally well-regarded, and that he expected their investigation was a serious one. "Their reputations are on the line too," he said.

The commission's report will also have implications for Bahrain's relationship with the United States. The US State Department has delayed a proposed \$53 million arms sale to Bahrain until after the report is released.

The US has been one of the largest arms suppliers to Bahrain, according to an Amnesty International report released last month. It also maintains a large naval base in the kingdom.

Nine months of unrest

The uprising in Bahrain began in mid-February, when protesters demanding political reforms took over Pearl Roundabout in downtown Manama.

They were initially met with a brutal crackdown, as security forces used live ammunition to clear the square. Bahrain's king apologised for the violence and protesters were allowed to return, though they continued to face intermittent police action.

But the opposition struggled to coalesce around a coherent set of demands. Some protesters wanted a constitutional monarchy; others said they would settle for nothing less than the complete ouster of the ruling al-Khalifa dynasty. Most of the demonstrators were Shia, angry at what they perceive as decades of discrimination by a Sunni-led government.

Protesters staged marches to a number of symbolic sites around Bahrain, including the foreign ministry and the state television building. They were finally expelled from Pearl Roundabout in mid-March, when Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states sent hundreds of troops, backed by

armoured vehicles, to quell the movement.

Since then, authorities have bulldozed dozens of mosques in Shia neighbourhoods, and human rights groups have accused Bahraini security forces of targeting doctors and nurses who treated protesters.

The latest death came on Saturday, when a police vehicle ran over a 16-year-old protester in Juffair, a suburb of Manama. The boy's uncle told the Associated Press news agency that security forces blocked relatives and medical personnel from reaching him.

Bahrain's interior ministry said that the boy's death was an accident, and blamed it on an "oil spill" left by "rioters".

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011112075610725813.html>

8. AFGHANİSTAN - PAKİSTAN / AFGANİSTAN - PAKİSTAN

• **Afghan Team To Visit Pakistan For Probe Of Rabbani Assassination**

Burhanuddin Rabbani

November 21, 2011

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

A spokesman for the Afghan president says Afghanistan is sending an official delegation to Pakistan to investigate the killing of Kabul peace envoy and former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Spokesman Aimal Faizi says Pakistan has agreed to accept the delegation, including officials from Kabul's defense and interior ministries and its intelligence service.

The team could leave for Islamabad as soon as November 22.

Rabbani's assassination at his Kabul home in September by a turban bomber has stalled efforts to talk peace with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Afghan officials say the killing was planned in Pakistan and carried out by a Pakistani suicide bomber.

Pakistan initially refused to cooperate in the probe. But Islamabad agreed to accept

the Kabul delegation after pressure from Afghan and Turkish officials at a conference in Istanbul earlier this month.

<http://www.aopnews.com/today.html>

- **Today's Afghan Headlines**

UNAMA

21 November 2011 - High Peace Council optimistic about outcome of Afg-US strategic pact; Afghanistan won't benefit from permanent US bases - Abdullah Abdullah; Pentagon to consider "other options" if Pakistan doesn't take action against insurgents - official; Violence against women up than last year - AIHRC; Peace talks with Taliban part of Bonn Conference agenda - MoF spokesperson; US Embassy in Kabul upbeat about strategic partnership; Government opposition group doubts enforcement of traditional Loya Jirga's resolution; Drug mafia kills prosecutor in Kabul; Kandahar locals welcome Jirga recommendations. Read archived headlines from 2011.

AFGHAN TV NEWS

Tolo TV Headlines

A top Pentagon official, Mark Lippert, warned that the US would consider a range of options if Pakistan does not take seriously steps to dismantle insurgents' sanctuaries in its soil. Meanwhile, Afghan Defence Ministry said peace and stability will not be maintained in Afghanistan until terror sanctuaries exist on the other side of the Afghan border [Pakistan].

The Senate on Sunday called the convention of the traditional Loya Jirga a big achievement for the Afghan Government and urged the government to send the resolution of the Jirga to the Parliament for approval. The Upper House also praised security organs for their efforts in security maintenance during the Jirga.

The consultations made by the traditional Loya Jirga on peace talks with the Taliban are beneficial for the process and talks with high-ranking Taliban leaders would yield positive results, members of the High Peace Council said.

Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) called peace maintenance in the country as the

need of the hour. “We first should identify the enemy and know to home we should talks, human rights and justice should not be violated, the process should be transparent to all people and the participation of women and victims of violation of human rights should be considered in the peace talks process”, the AIHRC chairperson, Sima Samar said.

The consultation of the traditional Loya Jirga is not binding and the Jirga is not an alternative to the legitimate constitutional organs, the Truth and Justice Party [Hizb-e Haq wa Edelaat] said. The Truth and Justice Party pledged support for the consultations made by the Jirga and said Parliament should take the final decision on the US-Afghan strategic pact.

The Leader of the Change and Hope coalition, Dr Abdullah Abdullah, said establishment of US permanent military bases in Afghanistan won't benefit the country, however, adding that the strategic agreements with the US and other countries is beneficial for the country. Meanwhile, former NDS chief, Amrullah Saleh, in an article called the convention of the traditional Loya Jirga as

a power show off by Karzai to the international community.

A number of students of Nangarhar University students on Sunday staged demonstration against possible establishment of US permanent military bases in Afghanistan. The posters also rejected the consultations of the traditional Loya Jirga and said Afghan Government should review its policies.

Violence against women in the country, especially in Kabul, increased in the first six months of the Afghan year as compared to the same period previous year, AIHRC said.

The US embassy in Kabul, under the US Ambassador's Small Grants Program (ASGP) to support gender equality in Afghanistan, has trained over 400,000 women in the country through over 1,000 small projects. The program in the past two years helped many Afghan women become self-sufficient financially, officials of the program said.

Ariana TV Headlines

The Upper House of Parliament on Sunday lauded the convention of the traditional Loya Jirga to gather consultations on the signing of the strategic pact with the US. Meanwhile, a number of senators said that the draft of the pact should be sent to the Lower House of Parliament for approval, adding that the Lower House's authority is protected regarding the approval or rejection of the pact.

The Truth and Justice Party on Sunday announced its support from the convention of the traditional Loya Jirga to seek opinion on a strategic pact with the US, and peace process with armed opposition.

Officials of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) announced that there has been a rise in the level of violence against women in Afghanistan, saying that the Commission has registered 3,400 cases of violence against women in the past six months throughout the country.

The US Ambassador to Kabul, Ryan Crocker, said that developing democracy in Afghanistan is impossible without the presence of Afghan women, emphasizing

on his country's support and cooperation for development of the Afghan women. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Women's Affairs praised the implementation of capacity-building projects for the Afghan women by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Afghan and foreign forces in a joint military operation killed ten Taliban militants and arrested a number of others. Meanwhile, provincial officials said that security forces have recaptured Kamdesh, Gordesh, and Chinar Khord districts of Nuristan and Nala, Barikot and Baghcha districts of Kunar from Taliban.

Shamshad TV Headlines

In relation to President Karzai's demands at the Loya Jirga, in which he asked for administrative reforms, Lower House members said the President himself has the key for such reforms if he is honest in his demand.

The Foreign Ministry said Afghanistan will maintain good-neighborly relationships with the neighboring countries after signing of strategic agreement with the United States.

The ministry spokesman Janan Musazai said Afghanistan doesn't have any problem with neighboring countries.

Regarding the upcoming Bonn Conference, he said President Karzai would represent Afghanistan in the Conference.

Upper House considers Loya Jirga's suggestions a big achievement, asking that the draft of the strategic agreement should be sent to the House before it gets signed by the two countries.

Lower House also suggested that one month salary should be given to the personnel of security organs as bonus to appreciate their role in maintaining security during the Jirga.

AFGHAN MEDIA

Hasht-e-Subh Daily

Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson said that the Government will lead the upcoming Bonn II Conference, and will set its agenda as well.

Drug mafia gunned down a prosecutor of the Counter-Narcotics Court in the Khair Khana area of Kabul yesterday.

The Head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Dr Sima Samar, announced that there has been a rise in the level of violence against women in Afghanistan.

Mandegar Daily

Foreign Ministry said peace talks with the Taliban are a part of the agenda for the Bonn II Conference.

Cheragh Daily

The Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan (CSO) has announced that Afghanistan's population was estimated at 26.5 million last year. According to the head of the organization Abdul Rahman Ghafari, female population is less than male population.

Erada Daily

The US Embassy in Kabul expressed hope that talks between the US and Afghanistan will result in to long-term strategic

relations between the two countries. The US Embassy's press office said that convention of Loya Jirga is a traditional principle of Afghans and the United States respects it.

Weesa Daily

According to reliable sources, an Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) member, Fahim Hakim, was previously been picked by the German Embassy in Kabul to lead a group of civil society delegation to the Bonn II Conference. But, owing to pressure from the Afghan Government officials on the Embassy, he has been dropped off the list.

Anis Daily

The International Affairs Commission of the Lower House said the Government's suggestions to the Bonn II Conference should be sent to the House.

Daily Afghanistan

The National United Front said the traditional Loya Jirga was merely a show.

The Taliban said the demands made by the Loya Jirga will create sensitivities in the region.

Outlook Afghanistan

Some parliamentarians on Sunday supported the Loya Jirga's recommendations on the strategic cooperation pact with the US, but others insisted that American terms and conditions must be made public before the agreement was signed.

The National United Front, an alliance of opposition parties, said on Sunday that the traditional Loya Jirga on the strategic pact with the US was symbolic and its suggestions would not be enforced.

Private Media Editorials

Arman-e-Milli Daily

So far, the Government and the international forces have not been able to monitor and control Afghanistan's borders, and the solve problems resulted from it. Referring to the issue, the editorial says that if the United Nations Security Council undertakes the

responsibility for monitoring and controlling of Afghanistan's borders, terrorists will lose the chance to freely infiltrate the borders, there will be a reduction in the threats against the international community by Pakistani-trained Taliban militants, and there will be a window of opportunity for ensuring the country's security. It is hoped that security institutions and the Foreign Affairs Ministry, together with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), will assess the suggestion, and find ways for taking the suggestion.

Mandegar Daily

In the battle between the Lower House and President Karzai, the Lower House has got the upper hand. The President is to ask the House for vote of confidence to those Cabinet ministers who have so far not gotten vote of confidence from the House. While the President held the Loya Jirga despite House's opposition, the House too will not give vote of confidence to the ministers and even discuss the impeachment of the President.

Erada Daily

Considering the level of management inside the Government, especially in its diplomacy organs, one can't be hopeful about benefits of the strategic cooperation agreement with the US. Because a Government that can't differ foes from friends and can't prevent Iran and Pakistan's interference into our internal affairs. How could it ensure our national interest and advocate the needs of the Afghan people in the strategic cooperation agreement with the US.

Outlook Afghanistan

It is clear America will not do long-term and costly nation-building in Afghanistan ever. Afghan politicians should instead of engaging in wild wishful thinking of how much more the international community could do more for them put competence of Afghan Government in order so at least it will have some chances of survival on its own beyond 2014. Time is fast running out.

REGIONAL MEDIA

Paktya (Paktya Ghag Radio) Headlines

The US forces in the Khost province train hundreds of local farmers with new agriculture methods.

A financier of Taliban militants was arrested in possession of arms in the Muqar district of Ghazni province, an official said on Sunday.

Kandahar (Hewad TV) Headlines

The residents of Kandahar province expressed their backing for the recommendations made by the traditional Loya Jirga in regard to peace and dialogue with the insurgents and signing of the proposed strategic pact with the United States.

Kandahar (Surgar Daily) Headlines

Local authorities of Helmand province claimed that the Taliban are forcing farmers to grow poppy in their fields.

Balkh (RTA) Headlines

UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) distributed aid packages donated by the Government of Japan to 2,200 farmers

in Dehdadi district of Balkh province on Sunday.

Afghan blast kills US-led trooper

Press TV

November 21, 2011

Another US-led soldier has lost his life in a bomb attack in southern Afghanistan, the NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) announces.

An ISAF statement issued on Monday said that the attack took place on Sunday, Associated Press reported.

"An International Security Assistance Force service member died following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday," the statement said.

ISAF did not provide further details about the nationality of the soldier or exact location of the attack.

The death brought to 20 the number of foreign troops killed so far this month.

Also on Sunday, a British soldier was killed in a similar attack in southern Helmand province.

Over 531 US-led troops, most of them American, have lost their lives across Afghanistan since the beginning of this year, according to official figures released by the website icasualties.org.

The increasing number of military casualties in Afghanistan has caused widespread anger in the US and other NATO member states, undermining public support for the Afghan war.

<http://www.aopnews.com/today.html>

- **Pakistani Taliban, Government Hold Initial Peace Talks**

VOA News

November 21, 2011

Pakistan's government is reported holding preliminary peace talks with the Pakistani Taliban to explore ways to jump-start peace negotiations.

A senior militant commander told news agencies Monday that the discussions were focused on the South Waziristan

tribal region along the border with Afghanistan. The commander said the Taliban is making several demands, including the release of prisoners.

Pakistani military and government officials were not available for immediate comment. The talks are said to include tribal elders and former civilian and military officials.

The government has cut peace deals with the Pakistani Taliban in the past, but they have largely fallen apart. Critics have said the agreements allow the militants to regroup and rebuild their strength to resume fighting the government and foreign troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

It is also not clear if the Pakistani Taliban are united enough to actually strike a lasting deal.

Pakistan has come under pressure to eradicate militancy since U.S. special forces in May killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in a Pakistani town, where he had apparently been living for years.

<http://www.aopnews.com/today.html>



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