

TURKEY: 27 DETAINED AS PART OF 'PARALLEL STATE' PROBE



Nine more police officers have been detained on Tuesday as part of a probe into the 'parallel state' in Turkey, bringing the total number of arrests to 27. Police operations took place in 13 provinces, including Istanbul, Turkey's capital Ankara, and the eastern provinces of Diyarbakir, Sanliurfa, Erzurum and Kars, police sources said. The raids focused on high-ranking officials who are allegedly affiliated with the 'parallel state', or Gulen movement. The parallel state designates ... >> **TURKEY**

BRENT OIL PRICE DIVES BELOW CRITICAL \$40 A BARREL MARK



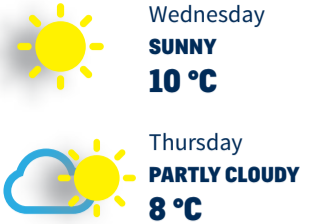
Brent crude oil price dived below \$40 per barrel mark on Tuesday with OPEC's decision to not declare an official quota last Friday along with the glut of global oil supply retaining a bearish sentiment in the market. This is the lowest price level for Brent crude in the last seven years since February 2009. The price of the global benchmark dived below the critical threshold of \$40 per barrel mark at 1:44 p.m. GMT on Tuesday to reach as low as \$39.90 a barrel before 2:00 p.m. GMT. >>>**ECONOMY**

FOSSILS FOUND IN CHINA IDENTIFIED AS JURASSIC



Two fossils discovered a month ago in southwest China have been identified as belonging to dinosaurs from 180 million years ago. State news agency Xinhua reported Tuesday that the fossils -- which were found during roadwork in Yunnan province's Lufeng county -- have been diagnosed as belonging to a *Lufengosaurus Magnus* and *Lufengosaurus Huenei*. The *Magnus* fossil is more than five meters long, with three sacral vertebrae, 13 dorsal vertebrae. ... >>>**CULTURE&ART**

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Barzani: Turkish forces came to Iraq with Baghdad's consent

KRG President Barzani to visit Turkey on Wednesday with aim of enhancing coordination with Ankara in fight against Daesh



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President of Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government Masoud Barzani said

Tuesday that Turkish forces came to Iraq in coordination with Baghdad to provide military training for "Al-Hashd al-Watani" (National Mobilization) that will participate in the anti-Daesh operation in Mosul.

During a joint press conference with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Barzani said that "there is an agreement between Baghdad and Ankara about deploying Turkish forces near Mosul." He described reactions to the matter as "exaggerated."

Barzani said that he will visit Turkey on Wednesday with the aim of enhancing coordination with Ankara in the fight against Daesh. He also said that the recent tension with Baghdad will be discussed.

Turkey on Friday deployed around 150 Turkish troops to replace forces already in the area as part of a training program for Kurdish Peshmerga fighters. Along with the troops, 20 to 25 tanks were also dispatched to the area.

Turkish army sources said Saturday that they had been training fighters in four provinces of northern Iraq with the ultimate aim of fighting Daesh.

According to the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), the fresh deployments of Turkish military equipment and experts are meant to replace a unit already deployed in northern Iraq. According to the Turkish military, Peshmerga forces have received training in the use of heavy machine guns, mortars and artillery. They have also received first-aid training.

More than 2,500 Peshmerga fighters, including officers, have participated in the Turkish training program, the military added.

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Bethlehem killing brings Palestinian death toll to 117

Since Oct. 1, 117 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces amid ongoing wave of tit-for-tat violence



The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces since Oct. 1 reached 117 on Tuesday after a young man was shot dead near the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, 21-year-old Malik Shahin was killed during a predawn raid carried out by Israeli security forces in the Al-Duheisha refugee camp. Ministry officials say Shahin was shot in the head by an Israeli sniper -- and left to bleed on the ground for more than

an hour -- before eventually being taken to a local hospital where he was soon pronounced dead.

One day earlier, another Palestinian man was killed by Israeli security forces in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron (Al-Khalil) after allegedly trying to stab an Israeli. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, Ehab Maswadeh, 20, was killed near Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque, referred to by Israelis as the "Cave of the Patriarchs".

Israeli military spokesman said Maswadeh had been shot by Israeli security forces after stabbing an Israeli, who was later taken to hospital.

The area around Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque, which is divided between Muslims and Jews, has been a frequent flashpoint for violence, especially in recent weeks.

And on Sunday, another young Palestinian -- Amer Skaifi, 21 -- was killed by Israeli forces after allegedly carrying out a vehicular attack that left three Israelis injured in Jerusalem's Romema neighborhood, which has recently seen an upsurge in violence following a period of relative calm.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld, for his part, alleged that Skaifi had driven his car into a group of Israelis before going on a stabbing rampage. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Syria's Assad admits sending weapons to PYD

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has admitted his regime provided weapons to PYD, the Syrian branch of the terrorist PKK organization.



In remarks made during a special interview with the British daily, The Sunday Times, Assad was quoted as saying: "We sent them [PYD] armaments, because they are Syrian citizens, and they want to fight terrorism". According to the full text of the interview,

which was also published by Syria's official news agency later, Assad said the regime had documents to prove its support for armed groups such as the PYD. "The Kurds are fighting the terrorists with the Syrian army, in the same areas... [They are supported] mainly by the Syrian army, and we have the documents. "We sent them armaments, because they are Syrian citizens, and they want to fight terrorism. We do the same with many other groups in Syria, because you cannot send the army to every part of Syria. So, it is not only the Kurds. Many other Syrians are doing the same," he said. About his plans to stay at the helm, Assad said that he might run for president if there was an election prior to 2021 when his presidential term ends, insisting that it

was his right to do so as a Syrian citizen. "It is about a political process. If this process is agreed on, then I have the right to run for elections like any other Syrian citizen... Anyway, it is early to talk about this, because as you know, this process was not agreed upon yet," he said. Assad also talked about the importance of Russian and Iranian roles in the Syrian civil war but challenged the claims that his regime would have collapsed if there were no such support. "The Russian role is very important. It has had a significant impact on both the military and political arena in Syria. But to say that without this role, the government or the state would have collapsed, is hypothetical. "Since the very beginning of the conflict

in Syria, there were bets on the collapse of the government. First, it was a few weeks, then it was a few months and then a few years. Every time it was the same wishful thinking. "What is definite is that the Russian support to the Syrian people and government from the very beginning, along with the strong and staunch support of Iran, has played a very important part in the steadfastness of the Syrian state in the fight against terrorism," he said. About the chance of a dialogue with Saudi Arabia, he did not rule the option out. "No, there is nothing impossible in politics... If they are ready and willing to change their policies, especially with regard to Syria, we don't have a problem meeting with them," he added. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Erdogan slams PKK's burning of Ottoman-era mosque

'This separatist organization has nothing in common with this country,' Turkish president says



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has strongly condemned the recent burning of an Ottoman-era mosque by the PKK terrorist organization in southeastern Turkey's Diyarbakir province.

In his address to local authorities during a meeting at the presidential palace in capital Ankara on Tuesday, Erdogan said: "I call on the people of the region, the terrorist organization is targeting your material and spiritual

existence...Protect your faith." The 16th century Ottoman-era Fatih Pasa Mosque was severely damaged in a fire in Diyarbakir on Monday. The regional governor's office said PKK terrorists set the mosque ablaze as security forces entered the Fatih Pasa neighborhood to remove illegal barriers. "The mosque's original doors and shutters were burnt, and the walls were damaged in the fire set off by members of the terrorist organization," the regional governor's office had said in a statement.

Erdogan called on Kurdish people in southeast Turkey "to throw off" the PKK terrorist organization from the region. "Your children are your future, protect your children! Freedom is your right; protect your life liberty, travel liberty, worship, trade and political liberty," he said. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Russian jets, Syrian regime pound Turkmen areas

Regime forces and Russian warplanes have been targeting Turkmen villages since Monday night



Syrian regime forces, supported by Russian jets, continued to target Turkmen villages in Latakia province, local sources told Anadolu Agency. The sources said the Assad regime and Russian warplanes have targeted Turkmen villages in the Jabal al-Akrad area constantly since Monday night in a fresh round of assaults. Thousands of Turkmen have been displaced by the fighting around Bayirbucak.

Over the last several weeks, approximately 2,000 Syrian Turkmen, fleeing the violence in their home country, have arrived in southern Turkey. Turkmen are a Turkic ethnic group largely based in Syria and Iraq, where they live alongside large Arab and Kurdish populations. The Turkmen community, which includes both Sunni and Shia Muslims, shares close cultural affinities with the Turkish people. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

Bosphorus incident a 'childish show' says Turkey

Senior minister says no threat to Russian ships passing through straits



A senior Turkish politician dismissed Monday the photograph of a Russian sailor appearing to aim a shoulder-held missile-launcher at Istanbul as a "childish show". "Unfortunately, we interpreted that image as a show," Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus told a news conference in Ankara following a

Cabinet meeting. "There was no need for that. It is apparent from the photo that Turkey's security was being threatened. However, there was not the slightest threat against the Russian ships passing through [the Bosphorus] in any way." He added: "We wish there were no such incident. Let me reiterate that it was a childish show." Sunday's incident, in which a photographer captured a serviceman aboard the Caesar Kunikov landing ship apparently aiming the surface-to-air missile launcher towards Tur-

key's largest city, caused outrage. Earlier on Monday, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu urged Russia to step back from its "provocative" stance towards Turkey and Russian Ambassador Andrey Karlov was summoned to the Turkish Foreign Ministry for an hour-long meeting over the incident. Under the 1936 Montreux Convention, Turkey controls the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles Straits and regulates the passage of warships between the Black and Mediterranean seas. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

'Irresponsible arms transfers' foster Daesh crimes



Daesh has managed to take control of large areas of Iraq and Syria in large part thanks to internationally-produced weapons, Amnesty International has said in a report released Tuesday. "The range and scope of IS [Daesh] arsenal reflects decades of irresponsible arms transfers to Iraq," says the human rights watchdog in its recent report called "Arming 'Islamic State': Facts and Figures". According to the report, Daesh gained most of its arms by seizing stocks from the Iraqi military, which were manufactured and designed in more than 12 countries, including Russia and the U.S. "More than 30 countries -- in-

cluding all permanent members of the UN Security Council -- have supplied the Iraqi army with military equipment over the past decade -- a period in which substantial amounts of military equipment has ended up in the hands of insurgent groups, including IS and its precursors," the report said. "Poor regulation and lack of oversight of the immense arms flows into Iraq going back decades have given IS and other armed groups a bonanza of unprecedented access to firepower," said Patrick Wilken, Researcher on Arms Control, Security Trade and Human Rights at Amnesty International in a statement. According to the report most of the conventional weapons being used by Daesh fighters date from the 1970s to the 1990s but there was a massive rise in arms imports to Iraq following the U.S.-led military intervention in 2003. >>>**MORE DETAILS**

US 'glad' for Turkey-Iraq talks on troops deployed near Mosul



The U.S. does not support any military development inside Iraq without the consent of the Iraqi government, a Pentagon official said Monday. The announcement came days after Turkish troops were deployed near the Iraqi city of Mosul to replace training forces already in the area. Pentagon spokesman Capt. Jeff Davis said the U.S. has encouraged both governments to discuss the situation "through appropriate channels." The issue was also raised at the State Department where a spokesman... >>>**MORE DETAILS**