

October 2017

Politics:

Iran's Supreme National Security Council [announced](#) that Iran has closed its airspace to all flights to and from the Kurdistan region of Iraq, at the request of the Iraqi government.

Iran's Special Clerical Court has [banned](#) Iran's former reformist President Mohammad Khatami from attending public ceremonies for three months. Khatami has been banned from the media since Iran's 2009 mass anti-government demonstrations.

Iran's Judiciary Deputy Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei announced that ex-member of Iran's nuclear team Abdolrasul Dori Esfahani has been [sentenced](#) to five years jail over espionage charges.

Iran's Border Guard Commander General Qasem Rezaei stated that combatting illegal drug smuggling and goods is a key [priority](#) of Iran's Border Guard Command.

Iran's Armed Forces Spokesman General Masoud Jazayeri announced that Iran and Iraq will hold [joint](#) military drills along the border of the Kurdistan region.

The brother of Iran's First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri has been [arrested](#) over charges of corruption.

A mine [blast](#) has killed one member of a demining team and injured another in Western Iran. The demining group are responsible for clearing mines that remain from the 1980 – 1988, Iran – Iraq war.

Iranian Minister of Health Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi travelled to Pakistan to [attend](#) the World Health Organisation's Eastern Mediterranean conference in Islamabad, Pakistan.

International Relations:

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani met with the UN chief António Guterres in New York. At the meeting, Rouhani [stressed](#) Iran's commitment to the protocols Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Nuclear Deal.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi reaffirmed that Iran stands in opposition to the Kurdish referendum in Iraq. He [stressed](#) the importance of maintaining Iraq's national sovereignty, especially while it continues to fight against terrorism in the country.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Ayatollah Khamenei [accused](#) Israel and the United States of seeking to create a new Israel in Iraq's Kurdistan province.

President Rouhani met with his Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales in New York. President Rouhani [stated](#) that the United States is an unreliable nation due to its repeated failures to uphold any of its international obligations.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with Foreign Ministers from over thirty countries in New York to discuss [enhancing](#) bilateral ties and to reaffirm Iran's commitment to its international obligations.

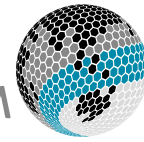
President Rouhani met with Turkish President Erdogan. They discussed the region's latest [developments](#), including their opposition to the Kurdish referendum.

Turkey's Military Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar met with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Baqeri in Tehran. They [discussed](#) border security issues and counter terrorism strategies in the region.

Foreign Minister Zarif met with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha. Zarif [reaffirmed](#) Iran's intent to improve relations with its neighbours and to enhance its bilateral ties with Qatar across all fields.

Foreign Minister Zarif met with Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah. They discussed enhancing bilateral ties and regional issues [regarding](#) Syria, Yemen and Kurdistan's recent referendum.

President Rouhani met with Ireland's Chief Senator Denise O'Donovan in Tehran. Rouhani stated that Iran is ready to [provide](#) energy to Europe.



Iranian Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hassan Shhsafi met with Commander of Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) Air Vice-Marshal Matar bin Ali Al Obaidani. They discussed [strengthening](#) defence and military ties.

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi [visited](#) the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) in Italy.

President Rouhni met with Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan in Tehran. Karapetyan stressed the [importance](#) of Iran's role in enhancing peace and stability in the region. The Prime Minister also called for greater economic cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul. They agreed to [establish](#) five specialised committees, comprised of legal, political, military, consular and security experts, to create a final document of cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif travelled to Iraq to [attend](#) the funeral procession of former Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

Serbian envoy to Iran Dragan Todorovic met with the Head of Iran-Serbia parliamentary friendship groups Parvaneh Salahshouri. Todorovic [expressed](#) Serbia's intent to establish parliamentary cooperation with Iran.

Economics:

Iran and Turkey [agreed](#) on a draft document outlining a bilateral swap of Iran's Rial with Turkey's Lira and trade exchanges between the two countries.

Iran's national airline Iran Air has [received](#) two Franco-Italian ATR72 aircraft set to be used for domestic short-distance flights.

Iran Malaysia Women Business Forum (IMWBF) and Women Entrepreneur Network of Malaysia (WENA) [signed](#) a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance joint trade cooperation.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) and Czech Republic's Ministry of Industry and Trade [signed](#) a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance mining cooperation between the two countries.

Officials from Iran and Georgia signed an economic memorandum of understanding (MoU) to [enhance](#) cooperation across various fields, including banking relations.

Director for Production Control of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Ali Mohammad Besazadeh [announced](#) that Iran's petrochemicals output had risen by 5 percent in 6 months.

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad-Javad Azari Jahromi [stated](#) that Iran will increase cooperation with South Africa in the field of information technology.

Chief Executive of Iran Post Co Hossein Mehri announced that Iran will be connected to the International Financial Services (IFS), an electronic network for money transfers, of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The IFS is operational in 170 countries and will [allow](#) Iranians to make electronic payments and other global financial transactions.

A major finance deal involving several Iranian banks has been signed by Austria's Oberbank to [provide](#) loans for Iranian projects.

NEW MESF IRAN PUBLICATION:

Iran's Uncertain Standing in the Middle East, *Shahram Akbarzadeh*

This article argues in a special issue of *The Washington Quarterly* that Iran is expanding its sphere of influence through contradictory policies. To view click [here](#)

