

MEIWeekly.



View of Ras al-Ayn from Turkey. The Kurdish controlled city in northeast Syria, which sits on the border with Turkey, has been the target of Turkey's Operation Peace Spring. Photo: Voice of America News

CALENDAR: UPCOMING INSTITUTE EVENTS

Syrian Crisis: Truth & Disinformation

The White Helmets organisation controlled by the Syrian opposition has been spreading fabricated information on the situation in Syria in Europe, charged Dr Maxim Grigoriev. Join us on 31 October as the Russian researcher in charge of the Russian Democracy Problems Research Fund shares his findings which have been compiled into a report Humanitarian Crisis in Syria: Truth and Disinformation.



WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Turkey, US Agree on Ceasefire in Syria

Turkey has agreed to a deal that accepted Turkish military presence in northern Syria in exchange for the promise of five-day ceasefire. This comes after close to five hours of talks between Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and United States Vice President Mike Pence in Ankara on Thursday (17 October).



A Halkbank branch in Turkey (above), Turkey's second-largest state-owned bank. Photo: Resnjari

US Indicts Turkish Bank

The United States has indicted Halkbank, Turkey's second-largest state-owned bank, on Tuesday (15 October) of helping Iran evade US sanctions. The charges came as the administration sought to project that it was taking a tough line with Turkey after President Donald Trump effectively signalled that the US would not prevent Turkey from sending forces into northern Syria.

US Imposes Penalty on Turkey

The United States Treasury has imposed sanctions targeting Turkey's defence, interior and energy ministers and their departments on Monday. The Trump administration expressed that this could escalate to a level that cripples Turkey's economy, including severing access to US markets. Mr Donald Trump expressed that he will "swiftly destroy Turkey's economy" if its leaders continue down a "dangerous and destructive path".

LOOKAHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP WATCH ON

Presidents Erdogan and Putin to Meet

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accepted an invitation to hold talks with his Russian counterpart, Mr Vladimir Putin, over Ankara's military offensive in northeast Syria. The meeting will take place at the Black Sea resort of Sochi next Tuesday (22 October).

Lebanese Communist Party to March in Beirut

The Lebanese Communist Party is planning a march in Beirut on Sunday (20 October), to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the party. Participants are due to gather from 11am (local time) at three different meeting points.

#MUSTREAD: WHAT'S POPULAR ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: The UAE is building its first multifaith complex. The new project will represent all the Abrahamic faiths — Islam, Judaism and Christianity in a shared space — as the 'Year of Tolerance' comes to a close.
<https://bit.ly/2oFw82w>

Missed our 2019 S R Nathan Annual Distinguished Lecture delivered by Professor Eugene Kandel on Thursday (17 October)? Watch the CEO of Israeli non-profit organisation Start-up Nation Central and former head of Israeli's National Economic Council's lecture "Technological Innovation and Society: Israeli and Global Perspectives" again via our Facebook Live video: <https://bit.ly/2VUBxib> or tune in to the podcast: <https://spoti.fi/32wyKy>

TWITTER: President Donald Trump's unprecedented laissez-faire approach to the Middle East has invited immense criticism, but he is betting that voters will not care.
<https://bit.ly/33zwwy0>



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