



CURRENT NEWS

For the period 26 0800LT Oct 11 – 26 1500LT Oct 11

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News Summary

1. NATO Areas of Interest (Political, Military, Economic and Terrorist items)

1.1. NATO AND PARTNER COUNTRIES



1.1.1. NATO - Russia

(TASS), There is no movement in the Russia-NATO talks on missile defence, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/tass20111026840161.html>

1.1.2. The United States – Russia

(TASS), The United States and Russia continue to cut their nuclear arsenals. This assessment was made by the US Department of States on Tuesday that made public a fact sheet on the fulfilment by the two countries of their obligations under the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New Start), which came into force on February 5.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/tass20111026840228.html>

1.1.3. Germany

BERLIN (AP) — The German government plans to shut down 31 military facilities across the country as part of a drive to make the Bundeswehr more effective and professional.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/ap20111026840094.html>



1.1.4. Russia - Belarus

(TASS), Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on Wednesday that there had never been misunderstanding between the Belarusian and Russian leadership on security issues.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/tass20111026840214.html>



1.2. AFGHANISTAN

KABUL, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Seventeen areas in Afghanistan have been slated for the next phase of the security handover from foreign troops to Afghan forces, which President Hamid Karzai is expected to announce next week, a senior Afghan official said on Wednesday.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/reu20111026840379.html>

1.3. MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

1.3.1. Libya

TRIPOLI, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Libya's interim leader urged NATO on Wednesday to maintain its involvement in the country until the end of the year, though the Western military alliance that helped topple Muammar Gaddafi is keen to wind up its formal mission within days.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/reu20111026840347.html>

DOHA, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Chemical weapons have been found in Libya by National Transitional Council forces and have been secured, a representative of the movement that ousted the late Muammar Gaddafi said on Wednesday.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/reu20111026840222.html>



1.3.2. Syria

BEIRUT, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Nine Syrian soldiers were killed on Wednesday in an attack on their vehicle in a central town believed to have been carried out by army deserters, a Syrian rights group said.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/reu20111026840341.html>



PARIS, Oct 26 (Reuters) - The government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will almost certainly fall under the pressure of protests and sanctions, but it will take time due to the complexity of internal and regional politics, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said on Wednesday.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/reu20111026840063.html>

BEIRUT (AP) — Tens of thousands of Syrians packed a Damascus square Wednesday in a show of support for embattled President Bashar Assad, a few hours ahead of a visit by senior Arab officials probing ways to start a dialogue between the regime and the opposition.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/ap20111026840208.html>

1.3.3. Israel - Palestine

JERUSALEM (AP) — International mediators will be meeting with Palestinian and Israeli officials in Jerusalem in the hope of finding a formula to restart deadlocked peace talks.

<http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/ap20111026839894.html>



1.4. REST OF THE WORLD

1.4.1. The United States – N.Korea

SEOUL, Oct 26 (Reuters) - U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta branded North Korea a "serious threat" on Wednesday, as the U.S. military cast a cautious eye on diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang that it fears could be short-lived. <http://hqweb.hq.nato.int/sitcen/Press/PressItems/reu20111026840227.html>

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