Voting Starts in Israeli Parliamentary Elections

JERUSALEM - Israeli voters started to cast their ballots on Tuesday in an early parliamentary election that will determine whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party will continue in power.

Israel’s parliament has 120 members who are elected for terms of three years. The winner of the election will form a new government.

The election was held due to the failure of the previous government to form a coalition government.

The Likud party is expected to win the election, according to pre-election poll results.

EU Group Launches Team to Tackle Migrant Smugglers

THE HAGUE - The European Commission announced Tuesday that it will launch a new task force on human trafficking, which will be responsible for addressing the issue of migrant smuggling.

The task force will work with EU member states and international partners to identify and prevent trafficking networks.

The task force will also focus on identification and prosecution of those involved in human trafficking.

EU police agencies are expected to work closely with the task force to prevent and combat trafficking.

Popular Forces Ready to Take Back Mosul: Iraq

TEHRAN - A senior commander of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces has said his men are ready to launch a fresh offensive against the Islamic State terrorist group in Mosul, capital of Nineweh governorate.

The Popular Mobilization Forces group who pursues Saladin province of Tikrit city - has been preparing to liberate Mosul, Abu Massen Al-Abadi Al-Malik Battalions of the popular forces fighting alongside the Iraqi army lead by Sync and Iraq Muslim

He said during the Slaibhah battle that the Iraqi forces, including the setting free Al-Jal, Al-Dour and Al-Dkus areas of Mosul, and continued, “Al-Dour, Al-Dkus and Al-Jih had been totally-controlled by the ISIS, and we retumed to our basic weapons and ammunition from the terrorists in these areas.”

Peshmerga Fighters Raid ISIL's Positions

TEHRAN --Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga fighters launched a major offensive against the ISIL terrorists in Mosul, and inflicted major losses on the Taliban forces on the outskirts of the city.

A senior Peshmerga commander, speaking to Xinhua, said that the Kurds forces struck the ISIL positions on the outskirts of Mosul, using artillery shells, killing and wounding several ISIL fighters.

The Kurdish fighters have so far made major gains in their fight against the ISIL. The battle, which began in Mosul, has resulted in the capture of large areas of land from the ISIL.

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Harvard's President Speaks in China about Climate Change

BEIJING - Harvard University President Lawrence S. Laufer addressed students at one of China’s most prestigious universities on Tuesday, discussing climate change and its impact.

In his speech, Laufer said that Harvard’s research on climate change is crucial for the global community.

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Rehorn Assesses the Elections as Democratic and Transparent

DHAKA - The ruling Awami League, which won a landslide victory in the recent elections, on Tuesday expressed satisfaction over the transparency and democracy in the voting process.

The party’s general secretary, Enamul Hoque, said that the elections were conducted in a free and fair manner, with no incidents of violence or irregularities.

He added that the elections were a victory for the people of Bangladesh and a testament to the strength of democracy in the country.