

Syrian top diplomat discusses aid on visit to key ally Iraq

BAGHDAD: Syria's foreign minister on Sunday discussed humanitarian aid and combating the illegal drugs trade with key ally Iraq during a visit to Baghdad as Damascus emerges from years of diplomatic isolation. The visit by Faisal Mekdad comes weeks after the Arab League agreed to end Syria's suspension from the 22-member bloc, bringing President Bashar Assad's regime back into the regional fold after years of civil war.

Dubai Customs seizes narcotics destined for Canada

DUBAI: Dubai Customs have aided Canadian authorities with the seizure of more than 547 kilograms of drugs destined for the country, Emirates News Agency reported on Sunday.

The narcotics were found in shipping containers originating from an Asian country. Officers used sophisticated systems for tracking suspicious shipments, the news agency said.

The drug seizure was in line with the authority's efforts to combat cross-border crimes and prevent the trafficking of illegal substances, it said.

Houthis fire Sanaa commerce chamber leaders over criticism

AL-MUKALLA: The Iran-backed Houthis have dismissed the leaders of Sanaa's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, days after the chamber issued a strongly worded statement condemning the militia's harsh measures against the private sector in areas under their control.

Yemeni government officials and local activists said that armed Houthis stormed the chamber building in Sanaa and replaced the chamber's chief and his deputy with allies.

Egypt population reaches 105m

Cairo: Egypt's population reached 105 million on Saturday, according to the population clock linked to the government's birth and death registration database.

On Oct. 1, 2022, the database put the population at 104 million, meaning that there has been an increase of 1 million in 245 days – eight months and five days.

Tunisian FM hails Italy's support over IMF loan

ROME: Tunisia's foreign minister has hailed "Italy's clear understanding of the ... need to support the ... economic recovery underway" in his country.

Nabil Ammar was speaking on Friday night at a ceremony in the residence of Italy's ambassador in Tunis on the occasion of Italy's National Day. The event was attended by representatives of Tunisia's government and business community.

Ammar thanked Italy for all its efforts to explain Tunisia's viewpoint to other countries regarding negotiations for a loan of nearly \$1.9 billion from the International Monetary Fund.