Global Watch Daily – November 17, 2026

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A concise summary of significant developments in Israel and the world through a grounded Christian worldview.

Israel & Jerusalem

Israel and the United Arab Emirates are discussing a possible resumption of flydubai service to Tel Aviv in December. The negotiations follow the suspension of the popular route after an attempted hijacking of a flight to Tel Aviv was thwarted on September 30. During a meeting with Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš in Jerusalem, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said Israel is protecting Europe from jihadist threats, describing the country as a buffer against a wider jihadist wave. Meanwhile, the Houthis' growing influence in Yemen has raised concern over the potential consequences of their advance (JNS; JNS; BBC News).

A study found that 21% of Israeli startups are active in physical artificial intelligence, tying Israel for second place among the countries assessed. The finding highlights the country's role in a field that combines artificial intelligence with physical systems and applications (Al Jazeera; Al Jazeera; JNS).

Israeli prosecutors indicted a 19-year-old resident of Beit Hanina in eastern Jerusalem over an alleged plan to detonate a bomb near Lions' Gate, enter the Temple Mount compound, and shoot Jewish civilians and police officers. The indictment says the suspect developed the plot over approximately two years. Separately, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and Italy said Israeli authorities were holding back essential supplies at Gaza's borders, including 150,000 tents (JNS; BBC News; BBC News).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Yemeni government-aligned forces have redeployed from the western coast to concentrate on defending the interim capital, Aden. The Houthis have seized territory along the Bab al-Mandab Strait and in the mountainous areas along the Taiz–Lahj border, placing them within roughly 40 miles of Aden. The shift raises the stakes around a strategic maritime chokepoint and comes amid continuing Houthi missile and drone attacks across Saudi Arabia, Saudi-led airstrikes against Houthi targets, and efforts by

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Iraq's prime minister to crack down on oil smuggling linked to Iran-backed groups (Long War Journal; Long War Journal; Long War Journal).

Ansar al-Furqan, a Sunni Baluch insurgent group with a history of Islamist militancy, announced on November 11 that it had joined a coalition of Baluch armed factions fighting Iran's Islamic Republic. The merger signals an expansion in the organization of the Baluch insurgency, which has developed beyond its earlier pattern of sectarian violence and attacks. Across the wider region, the United States' review of its force posture in Europe is expected in December, leaving NATO allies uncertain about the future scale and deployment of American forces there (Long War Journal; FDD).

Ukraine launched a large drone attack on Russia, according to reporting carried by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. The coverage also describes rising concern over the Muslim Brotherhood's influence in Western politics and institutions, with critics pointing to possible implications for free speech, religious extremism, and national security (FDD; Long War Journal).

Fighting between Taliban and Pakistani forces has continued along the border since October 29. On November 11, an ambush attributed to the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan killed 10 Pakistani police officers. Washington has signaled that it is willing to help address Pakistan's concerns about militant groups, as cross-border clashes and militant attacks add pressure to an already fragile security environment (Long War Journal).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Ukraine struck Russia's Crimean Bridge for a second consecutive night, forcing its closure, while Russia attacked two major bridges in Kyiv. The strikes underscore the vulnerability of transport infrastructure as the war continues and come ahead of a high-profile meeting involving Chinese, U.S., and Russian leaders. Meanwhile, proposed U.S. export controls on Nvidia chips could test the trade truce between Washington and Beijing, as President Donald Trump's leverage in seeking an extension of that truce appears to be diminishing (France24; Bloomberg; Bloomberg).

A Reuters report was also included in the source material, but no specific details were available to summarize accurately (Reuters).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

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Sweden’s privacy regulator has rejected a proposal to store facial biometric data in a centralized register covering passports and national ID cards, arguing that the government has not adequately justified the measure. The proposed Sverige-ID was approved by Sweden’s parliament in June as an alternative to Bank ID (biometricupdate.com).

“OpenAI thwarted the Attorney General’s efforts to investigate these incidents, including by refusing to provide detailed information about the full universe of incidents known to the company,” California alleges in a new lawsuit (therecord.media).

U.S.-based IDmachines and Luxembourg-based Incert are expanding their partnership to bring cryptographic protection to physical security devices like those used in access control and video surveillance applications. The partners say more than 100 million physical security devices in North America alone don’t use cryptography at all or have it improperly implemented. The European Commission has granted Eurotunnel operator Getlink permission to use the “eagle eye” camera system to supervise face and fingerprint biometric capture processes over a two-year trial. Securiport is focusing on advancing a major biometric verification and passenger data analytics project in the Philippines at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, held November 14–15 in Manila. The ambitious proposal includes introducing Securiport’s Civil Aviation and Immigration Security Services (CAISS) to the country’s border control systems at 11 international airports, as well as a major seaport (biometricupdate.com).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research from Rockefeller University suggests that the amino acid arginine may help the immune system identify cancerous and virus-infected cells. The researchers found that low arginine levels impaired this recognition, raising questions about how nutrient availability affects immune defenses; the findings do not, on their own, establish a treatment or prevention strategy. Separate work in mice found that an acute viral infection could leave lasting changes in the spleen and weaken immune responses even after symptoms resolved. The results point to possible long-term immune effects of infection, although their relevance to human health remains to be established (ScienceDaily; ScienceDaily).

Researchers studying ancient manuscripts, including the roughly 1,000-year-old York Gospels, found traces of a sheep virus with a history spanning more than 3,700 years. The discovery suggests that historic parchment can preserve evidence of past infections and help researchers trace the long-term history of pathogens (ScienceDaily).

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A bioengineered chewing gum reduced human papillomavirus levels by as much as 93% in oral samples from cancer patients and nearly eliminated two harmful bacterial species after a single dose, according to a study. The result is an early research finding, not evidence that the gum prevents or treats cancer or replaces established medical care (ScienceDaily).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.7 earthquake near Cloverdale, California, and a magnitude 4.9 earthquake near Oxford, New Zealand (USGS; USGS).

The agency also recorded a magnitude 6.6 earthquake near Tual, Indonesia. Separately, the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System issued a green forest-fire notification in Australia (USGS; GDACS).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Images from excavations at Niẓẓana document the excavation areas and the Western Building in Area AA, where a courtyard installation was photographed looking south (Israel Antiquities Authority; Israel Antiquities Authority).

Researchers in Denmark have developed an inexpensive LED-based multispectral imaging system that may help archaeologists examine sites before excavation. In Israel’s Shephelah, the underground tunnels at Horbat Burgin—used by Jewish rebels during the Bar Kokhba revolt—are now open to visitors (BiblePlaces; BiblePlaces).

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