



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procees of Iraq

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1. IRAQ

- **Allawi, Aboul Gheit Agree On A Joint Action To Resolve The Crisis Of Referendum**

Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit expressed his readiness to support the initiative of Vice President Iyad Allawi on the crisis of the referendum in the Kurdistan region. Allawi's office said in a statement that the vice president received today a telephone call from Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit, in which he praised Allawi's initiative and the response of Kurdistan Region President Massoud Barzani.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?wBSlr301GncTr67PTtIQ6g%253d%253d

- **Iraqi forces retake major area near IS-held Hawija**

Iraqi forces recaptured on Monday a strategic area on their way to retake Islamic State bastion Hawija, southwest of Kirkuk, paramilitary commanders reported. Hadi al-Ameri, a high-profile commander within the Popular Mobilization Forces, said the force, backing the army's Counter-Terrorism Service, liberated al-Rashad region, southeast of Hawija. He said troops began clearing the region from booby-traps.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-forces-retake-airport-en-route-region-near-held-hawija/>

- **Iraq's Defence Ministry Rejects Reports on Kurdish Pilots Planning to Hijack Helicopters**

Iraq's Ministry of Defence has rejected media reports claiming that two Kurdish pilots attempted to hijack military helicopters belonging to the Iraqi army. In an official statement on Sunday, the ministry called these media reports "baseless", and vowed to face the misleading outlets with justice.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/382428>

- **Shiite pilgrims throng Iraq's Karbala for mourning ritual**

Hundreds of thousands of Shiite Muslim pilgrims gathered in the Iraqi shrine city of Karbala on Sunday for ceremonies marking the seventh-century killing of the Prophet Mohammed's grandson. Some 25,000 members of the security forces were deployed to protect the pilgrims, who in the past have faced attacks from Sunni extremists including the Islamic State group.

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/125ff947-3179-4f99-8199-30d1d42a636c

- **UN Publishes Casualty Figures for Iraq for the Month of September 2017**

A total of 203 Iraqi civilians were killed and another 389 injured in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in Iraq in September 2017*, according to casualty figures recorded by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The number of civilians killed in September (not including police) was 196, while the number of injured (not including police) was 381. The fatalities included 10 foreign nationals.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42039

- **Top ISIS leader killed in Kirkuk**

A top ISIS leader has been killed in an offensive launched by Iran-backed IMIS southwestern Kirkuk, security sources said Monday. The terrorist, identified as Abu Bilal al-Masri, is a prominent Arab ISIS leader specialized in targeting Hummer vehicles. Al-Masry, a leading figure at ISIS' Kirkuk State, was also efficient in dealing with RPGs, the sources added.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17688/Top-ISIS-leader-killed-in-Kirkuk>

- **Nasrallah: Kurdish Secession Bid in Iraq Threat to Entire Region**

Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement said the potential breakaway of the Kurdistan region in Iraq is a threat to the entire region. In a televised address from the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on Saturday evening, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah warned that the Middle East was facing a "dangerous scheme of division," presstv reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960709000188>

- **France's Macron invites Iraq PM to Paris to discuss Kurdish vote**

French President Emmanuel Macron has invited Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to visit Paris on Thursday, saying the aim is to calm tensions after the deeply divisive Kurdish independence referendum. In a statement, the presidency said France wanted to "help Iraq to stop tensions from setting in" following the vote on Monday, which saw Iraqi Kurdistan overwhelmingly support secession.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/9/30/frances-macron-invites-iraq-pm-to-discuss-kurdish-vote>

- **Kurdistan legislature rejects resolutions by Iraq's Parl't**

The Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament on Saturday rejected the resolutions taken by Iraq's Council of Representatives against the region in retaliation of the independence referendum it held on Monday. Closing all border crossings is not in the power of the federal government in Baghdad, a Kurdish MP said, urging the implementation of the outcome of the public vote that covered Kurdistan and the "disputable areas."

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2644498&Language=en>

- **Pakistan throws support behind Iraq govt, opposes Kurdish referendum**

Foreign Office Spokesperson Nafees Zakaria, while discussing the recent bid for Kurd secession in Iraq, said on Monday that Pakistan fully supports Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan is "deeply concerned over the referendum held in the Iraqi Kurdistan region on September," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in response to a query regarding the matter during the weekly briefing.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1361241/pakistan-throws-support-behind-iraq-govt-opposes-kurdish-referendum>

- **US-led coalition: Service member killed in explosion in Iraq**

The U.S.-led coalition said on Monday that a service member was killed and another was wounded the previous day in Iraq when an explosion from a bobby-trapped device struck their vehicle. According to the statement from the coalition, further details would be released once next of kin are notified. So far, seven American servicemen have been killed in Iraq in the fight against the Islamic State group, including two in the battle to retake the northern city of Mosul.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-led-coalition-service-member-killed-explosion-iraq-50223760>

- **Iraq's Sunnis Welcome Request of Establishing their own Region**

Sunni leaders in Iraq plan to meet with Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi to suggest establishing their own region as they follow in the footsteps of Kurds, who last week voted for their own independence. They will “propose establishing several regions in respect with the Constitution that allows them to take similar steps,” a source close to the Union of Iraqi Forces said on Sunday. The source told Asharq Al-Awsat that Sunni officials took the decision of sitting with al-Abadi after they met on Saturday.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/irags-sunnis-welcome-request-establishing-region>

- **Yezidi Mass Grave Found in Sinjar; 94 Killed in Iraq**

A group called the Political Leadership of Kurdistan has been formed to communicate with Baghdad post-referendum. Meanwhile, Kurdish leaders welcomed a call by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani for peaceful talks. An initiative launched by former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi has also been viewed positively. Rafi al-Rufai, the mufti of Iraq's Sunni community, criticized former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's administration for driving the Kurds to seek independence. He also said Iraq is now a sectarian state run by Iran.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/10/01/yezidi-mass-grave-found-sinjar-94-killed-iraq/>

- **Petawawa-based combat engineers earmarked for new Iraq mission**

Canada has sent a small team of Canadian Army engineers to observe ongoing explosive-threat training the Iraqi military is receiving under a NATO program. This is the first step in plans to have Canadian combat engineers providing such training to the Iraqis later this fall. The size of the team, and exactly where it will be operating in Iraq, has yet to be determined. But most of the combat engineers will come from Garrison Petawawa, according to the Canadian military. The training will involve counter-IED as well as other skills to deal with explosive devices.

More Details:

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/petawawa-based-combat-engineers-earmarked-for-new-iraq-mission>

- **Iraq's Kurdish region forms new council to run ties with Baghdad**

A newly-formed council of Political Leadership of Kurdistan - Iraq on Sunday replaced the High Referendum Council for Kurdistan region after the latter ended its mission of holding referendum on

independence of the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan. "The High Referendum Council, headed by regional President Masoud Barzani, held its first meeting after the Sept. 25 referendum and decided to form the Political Leadership of Kurdistan - Iraq for the post-referendum stage," said Khalil Ibrahim, a member of the council at a news conference after the meeting.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/02/c_136653420.htm

- **Iraq Sends Troops to Secure Borders Of Kurdish Region**

Iraqi troops have been allowed into Turkey and Iran in order to secure control of Iraqi Kurdistan's international borders following its controversial independence referendum. Kurdish official Abdul-Wahab Barzani, speaking from the border with Turkey, said the soldiers had not contacted the region's border guards before setting up customs points around 40 yards into Turkish territory. He did not expect any immediate interference with cross-border traffic.

More Details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-f962-Iraq-sends-troops-to-secure-borders-of-Kurdish-region#.WdlmNFuOPcs>

- **Iran, Iraq to Stage Joint Military Drills**

The armed forces of Iran and neighboring Iraq plan to hold joint military exercises in the coming days, the deputy chairman of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces announced. Speaking to Tasnim News Agency on Saturday, Lieutenant General Masoud Jazayeri said the commanders of Iran's Armed Forces held a meeting on Saturday chaired by the military chief, Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/73325/iran-iraq-to-stage-joint-military-drills>

- **Iraq allows foreigners to leave Kurdistan via Baghdad**

Iraq on Monday authorised foreigners stranded in Iraqi Kurdistan after an international flight ban to leave the country via Baghdad despite not having a federal visa. Foreigners who had entered the northern autonomous region on regional visas not recognised by Baghdad could previously not travel to other parts of Iraq. "Any person can leave the country via Baghdad without paying a fine or for an exit visa," Interior Minister Qassem al-Araji told journalists.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4940052/Iraq-allows-foreigners-leave-Kurdistan-Baghdad.html>

2. SYRIA

- **Israel Prepares for War in Syria against Iran**

Israeli officials believe that Iran is winning its bid for dominance in the Middle East, and they are mobilizing to counter the regional realignment that threatens to follow.

More details;

<http://www.meforum.org/6946/israel-prepares-for-war-in-syria-against-iran>

- **Jordan: Syrian Refugees Being Summarily Deported**

Jordanian authorities have been summarily deporting Syrian refugees – including collective expulsions of large families, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The Syrians are not being given a meaningful chance to challenge their removal and Jordan has not assessed their need for international protection.

More details;

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/02/jordan-syrian-refugees-being-summarily-deported>

- **Assad's Victory in Syria Has Cost Him Control of the Country**

Four years ago, with Syrian government forces stretched increasingly thin and rebel fighters assaulting some of the regime's most precious and strategic areas, it seemed as if it was only a matter of time before Bashar al-Assad and his extended family were driven into exile.

More details;

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/assads-victory-syria-has-cost-him-control-the-country-22550>

- **At least 12 civilians killed in US airstrikes in Syria Dayr al-Zawr**

At least 12 civilians have been killed in the US' latest airstrikes on Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr. According to Syria's official news agency, SANA, on Sunday, five people were killed while US jets targeted civilian areas located in the al-Kitf Street, the surroundings of al-Shafiei Mosque and al-Massriyeh roundabout in al-Bukamal city.

More details;

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/02/537161/syria-us-airstrike-dayr-alzawr>

- **HRW: Iran 'recruiting' Afghan children to fight in Syria**

Rights group Human Rights Watch has accused Iran of recruiting Afghan immigrant children to fight in Syria. Under international law, recruitment of children under age 15 is a war crime. International, non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report on Sunday saying Afghan children as young as 14 have fought in the Fatemiyoun division of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). The division is made up of Afghan volunteers supported by Iran, fighting with government forces in Syria.

More details;

<http://www.dw.com/en/hrw-iran-recruiting-afghan-children-to-fight-in-syria/a-40771666>

- **Regime forces advance in the eastern countryside of Hama is able under cover of intense bombardment**

Hama Province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: the violent clashes continue between the regime forces supported by gunmen loyal to them of Syrian and non-Syrian nationalities against members of the "Islamic State" organization in areas in the eastern countryside of Hama.

More details;

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=75389>

- **Pax Syriana: Neither Vanquished, Nor All-Conquering**

Former British spy and diplomat Alastair Crooke, writing in Consortium News over the weekend, correctly outlines a new Middle East trajectory based on Syria having weathered the storm of a six year long proxy war while remaining largely in-tact

More details;

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-10-01/pax-syriana-neither-vanquished-nor-all-conquering>

- **New humanitarian aid convoy arrives in Syria's Deir Ezzor**

A 6-truck humanitarian aid convoy provided by the Monastery of Mar Yakub (St James) the Mutilated arrived in the city of Deir Ezzor on Sunday. The supplies included food and health packages, water filters, vegetables and wheelchairs. Deir Ezzor Governor Mohammad Ibrahim Samra met Mother Superior of the Monastery of Mar Yakub, Fadia al-Laham, and the delegation accompanied the convoy and discussed with them ways to increase the services and humanitarian assistance provided by the Convent to the people of the eastern province, recently liberated from ISIS terrorists.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/new-humanitarian-aid-convoy-arrives-in-syrias-deir-ezzor_857708.html

- **3,000 killed in Syria in September**

Syria's civil war killed at least 3,000 people, including 955 civilians in September, the deadliest month of the conflict this year, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said on Sunday, according to AFP. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed and millions displaced since the war erupted in 2011.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236203>

- **Russian raids killed thousands in Syria since 2015: NGO**

A total of 5,233 civilians have been killed in Syria since Russia began airstrikes against opponents of the Syrian regime in 2015, according to a Syrian NGO. The fatalities included 1,417 children and 886 women, the London-based Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) said in a statement on Sunday. Syria fell into a civil war in 2011 after the regime of Bashar al-Assad put down pro-democracy protests with unexpected ferocity.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/russian-raids-killed-thousands-in-syria-since-2015-ngo/924160>

3. IRAN

- **Russian, Iran Still Provide Weapons to Taliban: Mattis**

US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has accused Iran and Russia of continuing their armed support to Afghan Taliban, a media report said on Saturday. The Pentagon chief blasted Russia and Iran's continued support to Taliban jihadists, echoing concerns previously expressed by US officials, including Gen. Nicholson, who has also noted that Pakistan is assisting the terrorist group as well.

More details;

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/30283-russian-iran-still-provide-weapons-to-taliban-mattis.html>

- **Barzani's Independence Bid Means Boosting Daesh, Israel: Iranian Official**

An adviser to Iran's parliament said on Saturday that the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (KRG) president's bid for independence is tantamount to strengthening Daesh (also Known as ISIS or ISIL) and Israel. “

Barzani's independence bid means boosting Daesh and Tel-Aviv, new regional anarchism, instability, ..." Hossein Amir Abdollahian said in a message posted on his Twitter account, referring to Iraqi KRG President Masoud Barzani's move to hold a referendum on the semi-autonomous Kurdish region's secession from Iraq.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/09/30/1533641/barzani-s-independence-bid-means-boosting-daesh-israel-iranian-official>

- **Iran, Montenegro stress boost of all-out ties**

The accredited ambassador of Iran to Montenegro and the head of Montenegrin parliament in a recent meeting emphasized on the expansion of comprehensive relations between Iran and the southeastern European nation. Hossein Molla-Abdollahi, on Sunday, called for more frequent parliamentary meetings between Iran and Montenegro to prepare the legal grounds needed to foster all-out relations between Tehran and Podgorica.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82682638>

- **China to send 6 freight trains from Yinchuan to Tehran**

Iran and China have reached initial agreement for dispatch of six freight trains linking Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Iran's capital Tehran, by end of 2017.

More details;

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128261/China-to-send-6-freight-trains-from-Yinchuan-to-Tehran>

- **Iran foreign Ministry condemns France, Canada terör attacks**

Iranian Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Bahram Qasemi has slammed the recent terrorist attacks in France and Canada. "As some countries are busy exporting terrorism and making false claims, terrorism has reared its ugly head again, attacking innocent and defenseless people" said Qasemi, presstv.com reported. Voicing sympathy with the families of attacks' victims, Qasemi called on the international community to spare no efforts towards removing the surge of terrorism.

More details;

<http://iran-daily.com/News/201566.html>

- **One Very Big Reason Not to Scrap the Iranian Nuclear Deal**

On Oct. 23, 1966, China conducted a nuclear test with a device that was flown on a Dongfeng missile. It produced a yield of 12 kilotons of equivalent TNT — a little less than what destroyed Hiroshima. Like the Hiroshima bomb, its fissile material was highly enriched uranium. However, its design was different. It used implosion to assemble the critical mass by compressing the sphere that was made of the fissile material.

More details;

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/02/opinion/iran-nuclear-deal-trump.html>

- **-Iran deal's moment of truth**

President Trump swept into the United Nations General Assembly last month with all eyes on his plan for the future of the Iran deal. Standing before the world's diplomats, he declared the agreement an "embarrassment" to the U.S. and announced that he had made a decision.

More details;

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/iran-deals-moment-of-truth/article/2635952>

- **-EU Affirms Iran Deal Compliance, Rejects Renegotiation – OpEd**

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini stated unequivocally after a ministerial meeting between the P5+1 (China, France Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) and Iran that all parties agreed that the nuclear deal is being fully implemented and there are no violations.

More details;

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/01102017-eu-affirms-iran-deal-compliance-rejects-renegotiation-oped/>

- **Third Stage of Iranian Army's War Game Kicks off near Western Borders**

The third stage of military exercises of the Iranian Army started on Monday near the western common borders between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. The war game code-named "Heidar-e-Karrar" involves various units of the Iranian Army, including the Rapid Reaction Unit, the Artillery Unit, and the Drone Unit.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/third-stage-iranian-armys-war/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel faces 'catastrophic defeat' in next Hezbollah War", IDF officials say.**

This week's words from the Levant offer contending messages for Israel's and Hezbollah's friends and foe alike: "We are naturally unhappy about the fact that Lebanon will be largely destroyed. Ask Iran why this may well happen? But be assured that it won't drag on for anything close to 34 days like last time. (July 2006). We urge all civilians to leave Hezbollah controlled neighbourhoods." 9/27/2017--- An aide to Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman MK Avi Dichter who asked that his name not be made public.

More details;

https://www.opednews.com/articles/Israel-faces-catastrophic-by-Franklin-P-Lamb-Hezbollah_Israel-And-Palestine_Israel-Idf_Israeli-Intransigence-171002-217.html

- **Israel Backing Kurdish Independence 'to Create New Conflicts, Destabilization'**

Commenting on the results of last month's independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan during an interview with Sputnik, Hossein Sheikholeslam, an advisor to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, pointed the finger at Israel, which he claimed initiated the referendum.

More details;

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710021057860943-iraqi-kurdistan-independence-referendum-israel/>

- **Nasrallah Speaks of Confronting Israel as Observers Interpret his Comments as 'Psychological War'**

"Hezbollah" Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Sunday of pushing the region to war in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

More details;

<https://english.aawsat.com/p-astatih/news-middle-east/nasrallah-speaks-confronting-israel-observers-interpret-comments-psychological-war>

- **Gender revolution in Mossad ranks**

The Israeli foreign intelligence service sets precedent with two women appointed to head divisions simultaneously, marking a first in organization's—and country's—history; further appointments to junior managerial positions forthcoming.

More details;

www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5023619,00.html

- **Is Hamas, Fatah rapprochement a win-win deal?**

The rival Palestinian factions are set to meet in Gaza after a decade of bitter feuding. Hamas's offer to submit to a long-delayed reconciliation process with its Fatah rivals signals that the balance of regional forces may be tipping in its favour and against Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, analysts say.

More details;

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/09/hamas-fatah-rapprochement-win-win-deal-170930101113068.html>

- **Palestinian Authority PM, officials visit Gaza to end division**

A delegation from the Palestinian Authority, led by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, is visiting Gaza Monday as part of reconciliation efforts to end a decade-long division between rival Fatah and Hamas groups.

More details;

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/02/537174/Palestinian-Authority-PM-visit-Gaza>

- **Palestinian tycoon to set up company in Gaza for China's B&R Initiative**

Palestinian tycoon Munib Al-Masri announced Sunday a plan to create a company devoted to developing projects in the Gaza Strip in support of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

More details;

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/1002/c90000-9276237.html>

- **Optimism in Gaza as Palestinian unity ministers arrive**

A rare mood of optimism swept Gaza on Sunday as Palestinians prepared for the arrival of their new unity government. "I am usually very pessimistic, but in the last 48 hours what I have seen and heard have made me feel very optimistic that we are on strong ground, and the reconciliation this time is going to take root," Maher Tabbaa, head of public relations at the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, told Arab News.

More details;

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1170811/middle-eas>

- **Israel Imposes Tight Siege on The West Bank**

The Israeli occupation authorities have decided to impose a tight siege on the entire West Bank for eleven days while it celebrates Sukkot Jewish holiday.

More details;

<http://imemc.org/article/israel-imposes-tight-siege-on-the-west-bank/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Zahraman: government has overcome salary scale crisis, intends to approve budget**

MP Khaled Zahraman told the "Voice of Lebanon 93.3" radio station that "the government has, after major efforts, overcome the crisis of the salary scale, taking into account the challenge of the Constitutional Council," noting that there is an intention from all parties to approve the budget."

More details;

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/83921/Zahraman-Government-has-overcome-salary-scale-crisis-intends-to-approve-budget>

- **Report: Sanctions on Hizbullah Will 'Destroy Lebanon's Economy'**

The Congress wants to "deal a blow to the Iranian Republic" through the sanctions it imposed on Lebanon's Hizbullah, which French sources said will "devastate the Lebanese economy," the pan-Arab daily al-Hayat reported Monday.

More details;

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236137-report-sanctions-on-hizbullah-will-destroy-lebanon-s-economy>

- **Jordanian Army Chief, Lebanese counterpart discuss regional developments**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff of Jordan, Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihath, on Sunday welcomed a Lebanese military delegation led by Commander of Lebanese Armed Forces, Gen. Joseph Aoun.

More details;

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302635768>

- **Hezbollah says Israel is pushing region towards war**

Lebanon's Hezbollah accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Sunday of pushing the region towards war in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, and said nowhere in Israel would be safe if such a conflict were to erupt. Tensions have risen this year between Iran-backed Hezbollah and its arch-enemy Israel, who last fought a major conflict in 2006. Israel has said it would use all its strength from the start in any new war with Hezbollah.

More details;

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/hezbollah-says-israel-pushing-region-towards-war-1182919475>

- **Urgent files on Jordan's political agenda**

The fast-moving dynamics of regional geopolitics demand a new perspective on the challenges, risks and solutions that each country faces.

More details;

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/amer-al-sabaileh/urgent-files-jordan%E2%80%99s-political-agenda>

- **Jordan, Algeria discuss economic partnership**

Yarub Qudah, Jordanian Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply, said Saturday that Jordan and Algeria had a real opportunity to achieve joint economic integration.

More details;

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302635530>

- **Lebanon sentences Islamist cleric to death**

An Islamist cleric who was once Lebanon's most-wanted fugitive was sentenced to death on Thursday before a military court after being found guilty of terrorism, a judiciary source said. Arrested in 2015, Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir was tried along with 38 other Islamists accused of killing Lebanese soldiers in the southern city of Sidon in 2013.

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2017/10/01/lebanon-sentences-islamist-cleric-to-death/>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Bahrain slams terror attack in Somalia**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has condemned the terrorist attack that took place in the Somali city of Mogadishu, killing several people and injuring others. Bahrain News Agency quoted a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as affirming “the kingdom’s solidarity with the Federal Republic of Somalia in its efforts to eliminate all terrorist organisations and bring peace and security.”

More details,

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/749c4071-c1f0-4c87-9399-3d65a0b86d3e.aspx>

- **Time to rethink the US relationship with Qatar**

The Qatari government reportedly has begun what can be described only as a bizarre effort to improve its image in the court of American Jewish opinion, hiring a former adviser to Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) at \$50,000 a month to reach out to American Jewish leaders.

More details,

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Time-to-rethink-the-US-relationship-with-Qatar-506347>

- **The rise of Qatar: An economic success story**

Despite challenging times, Qatar remains one of the most competitive and powerful economies in the region. known for its gas reserves, Qatar has not been affected by the drop in the price of oil to the extent of other countries who heavily rely on oil exports, and are now forced into making painful public spending adjustments.

More details,

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/565745/The-rise-of-Qatar-An-economic-success-story>

- **Saudi's King Salman to visit Russia on Thursday: Kremlin**

Visit comes a month before members of the OPEC oil cartel are due to meet to discuss extending the pact that has helped prop up prices

More details,

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/saudi-arabia/politics-economics/380122-saudi-king-salman-to-visit-russia-on-thursday-kremlin>

- **Saudi Arabia falls back into recession**

The latest official figures show that Saudi Arabia has returned to recession in what is expected to have been a result of falling oil incomes as well as the government's austerity measures to curb the kingdom's budget deficit.

More details,

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/saudi-arabia-falls-back-into-recession_857710.html

- **Saudi Arabia condemns attacks in France, Canada**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has condemned the attacks that took place in the city of Marseille in southern France and the city of Edmonton in western Canada.

More details,

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302635771>

- **Iranian foreign minister arrives in Oman for talks**

Iran's foreign minister has arrived in Oman for a daylong visit with officials in the sultanate, which has served as a crucial link between Iran and the U.S. in the past. The state-run Oman News Agency reported on Monday that Mohammad Javad Zarif was met by Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah, the minister responsible for foreign affairs, on his arrival in Muscat.

More details,

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/02/iranian-foreign-minister-arrives-in-oman-for-talks.html>

- **Oman Civil Service Council discusses of job related issues**

Employment conditions, roles and responsibilities of some employees in light of applicable rules were among the topics reviewed at a meeting of the Civil Service Council on Sunday. The Civil Service Council held its 3rd meeting of the year under the chairmanship of Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, and Chairman of the Civil Service Council.

More details,

<http://timesofoman.com/article/118413/Oman/Government/Oman-Civil-Service-Council-discusses-of-job-related-issues>

- **Saudi-led coalition: 'Qualitative operation' aims to restore legitimacy in Yemen**

The spokesman of the Saudi-led coalition, Col. Turki Al-Maliki, said that the "qualitative operation" against the Houthis is a continuation of the ongoing operations to restore legitimacy in Yemen.

More details,

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1170891/saudi-arabia>

- **Saudi Arabia's escalating foreign Policy: the Qatar crisis is just the beginning**

Saudi Arabia is losing the shadow war against Iran in the Middle East. Despite the centrality of foreign policy success to mitigate Saudi's domestic problems, it is losing in Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. The Qatar crisis was a reaction to these failures, but will likely drive Saudi to greater extremes.

More details,

<http://globalriskinsights.com/2017/10/saudi-arabias-escalating-foreign-policy-qatar-crisis-just-beginning/>

7. EGYPT

- **Greece to join air force drills with Egypt, Israel**

Greece plans to participate in joint air force drills with Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, Greek defence minister, Panos Kammenos, announced today. Kammenos added that some European countries will also participate in the military exercises, noting that the drills were agreed as part of the efforts to bolster stability in the Middle East region.

More details,

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171001-greece-to-join-air-force-drills-with-egypt-israel/>

- **Egypt parliament to open third session Monday**

Following a three-month summer recess, Egypt's parliament – the House of Representatives – will begin Monday the third session of its five-year term. Article 115 of the 2014 Constitution obliges the president to invite parliament to convene before the first Thursday of the month of October every year.

More details,

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278087/-.aspx>

- **Egyptian officials in Gaza ahead of Palestinian unity talks**

Egyptian delegates arrived in Gaza Sunday on the eve of a fresh attempt at reconciliation between the strip's Hamas rulers and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement, an official said.

More details,

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4938448/Egyptian-officials-Gaza-ahead-Palestinian-unity-talks.html>

- **Egypt's Hasm militants claim attack targeting Myanmar embassy**

Egyptian militant group Hasm claimed responsibility on Sunday for a small explosion at Myanmar's embassy in Cairo, saying it was in retaliation for that country's military crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.

More details,

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-egypt-security/egypts-hasm-militants-claim-attack-targeting-myanmar-embassy-idUKKCN1C61I4?rpc=401&>

- **Attack on Myanmar embassy was retaliation for Rohingya crackdown: Egyptian militants**

Egyptian militant group Hasm claimed responsibility on Sunday for a small explosion at Myanmar's embassy in Cairo, saying it was in retaliation for that country's military crackdown on Rohingya Muslims. Egypt's interior ministry has not commented on Saturday's blast, which residents and media initially reported as probably the result of a faulty gas pipeline. Two security sources told Reuters that traces of explosives had been found at the scene.

More details,

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/attack-myanmar-embassy-was-retaliation-rohingya-crackdown-says-egyptian-militants-1559952471>

- **Foreign trade delegations continue to explore investment opportunities in Egypt**

Egyptian Minister of Finance Amr El-Garhy met Sunday with a trade delegation consisting of chairpersons of the largest 25 French corporations in Egypt. The visit was organised by the French ambassador to Egypt, Stefan Roumtier, and BNP Paribas, with the aim to enhance trade cooperation between both countries in different sectors.

More details,

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/01/foreign-trade-delegations-continue-explore-investment-opportunities-egypt/>

- **Egypt and CNN partner up to promote Egypt's tourism industry: ministry**

Egypt's tourism ministry has partnered up with the CNN to launch a campaign to promote tourism in Egypt, a ministry statement said on Saturday.

More details,

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypt-cnn-partner-promote-egypts-tourism-industry-ministry/>

- **Militants target Burma's embassy in Cairo**

Egyptian militant group Hasm claimed responsibility on Sunday for a small explosion at Burma's embassy in Cairo, saying it was in retaliation for that country's military crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.

More details,

<http://www.dvb.no/news/militants-target-burmas-embassy-cairo/77692>

- **World Bank's IFC to triple lending to Egypt to \$1 billion this year**

The World Bank's development arm is expected to triple its funding to Egypt to \$1 billion in its current financial year from around \$300 million in the previous year, an IFC official said Saturday.

More details,

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/financial-institutions/59580-world-banks-ifc-to-triple-lending-to-egypt-to-billion-this-year.html>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Jordan, Algeria discuss economic partnership**

Yarub Qudah, Jordanian Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply, said Saturday that Jordan and Algeria had a real opportunity to achieve joint economic integration. He said during bilateral talks, held on the sidelines of the Arab-African Economic Forum in Amman, that the Algerian market could be a launch pad for Jordan products to Africa, while Jordan could become a conduit for Algerian goods to the Middle East.

More details,

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302635530>

- **-Libyan Rival Authorities Make Progress in Tunis Talks, says UN**

Representatives of Libya's rival authorities have made progress on amending a deal on a political transition for the North African country, the special U.N. envoy said on Sunday. U.N. envoy Ghassan Salame opened new talks in Tunisia between the rival Libyan administrations on Tuesday, less than a week after presenting a plan to end the chaos in the conflict-wracked country.

More details,

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/libyan-rival-authorities-make-progress-tunis-talks-says-un-1028392>

- **Libya: Islamic State Regrouping in Libyan Desert, Experts Warn**

As the Islamic State group faces military defeats in Syria and Iraq, the group has an eye on war-torn Libya, hoping to re-emerge there and organize in the country's desert, officials and experts warn.

More details,

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710020110.html>

- **Tunisia to host, from 2 to 6 October, 2nd edition of "Rencontres Africa 2017"**

Tunisia will host, from 5 to 6 October 2017, the 2nd edition of the "Rencontres Africa 2017" which will gather some 1,000 African entrepreneurs and 300 French entrepreneurs. This event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Youssef Chahed and French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe who will be accompanied by several secretaries of state and a delegation of about thirty French companies, SMEs and large groups.

More details,

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Top-News-EN/9423494-tunisia-to-host>

- **-Faraj: the meetings in Tunisia are in good atmosphere**

The head of the committee of the Political Agreement amendments, Moussa Faraj, talked about the unseen scene in the meetings of the unified drafting committee the convenes in Tunis.

More details,

<http://libyapropect.com/index.php/2017/10/01/faraj-the-meetings-in-tunisia-are-in-good-atmosphere/>

- **HoR and State Council dialogue committees agree on 3-person Presidency Council and separate prime minister**

The dialogue committees of the House of Representatives (HoR) and the State Council (SC), meeting in Tunis to work out amendments to the Libyan Political Agreement have agreed to reduce the Presidency Council (PC) from nine to three and that the prime minister should be a separate appointment.

More details,

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/01/hor-and-state-council-dialogue-committees-agree-on-3-person-presidency-council-and-separate-prime-minister/>

- **As political parities gather in Tunisia for UN-brokered agreement, war rages on in west Libya**

Military conflict and intense fighting have entered the third week in the coastal city of Sabratha, leaving about 26 persons killed, 170 injured and thousands displaced, according to Health Ministry and the Libyan Red crescent.

More details,

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/as-political-parities-gather-in-tunisia-for-un-brokered-agreement-war-rages-on-in-west-libya/>

- **42 illegal migrants captured in Tunisia**

A Tunisian Red Crescent official said Sunday, 42 illegal migrants were captured at the country's coastal commune in the southeast trying to sail to Italy's Lampedusa Island, APA reports quoting AA.

More details,

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/africa-news/42-illegal-migrants-captured-in-tunisia.html>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Key ISIS member Qari Zahid killed in US drone strike in East of Afghanistan**

A key member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group has been killed in an airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The provincial police commandment in a statement said the airstrike was carried out by the US forces with unmanned aerial vehicles on Sunday.

More details,

<http://www.khaama.com/key-isis-member-qari-zahid-killed-in-us-drone-strike-in-east-of-afghanistan-03559>

- **India a Strategic Allied of Afghanistan In Political And Economic Fields**

India recently was the host of a high ranking delegation of Afghanistan and a number of Afghan merchants headed by Dr. Abdullah Abdullah the executive chief of Unity Government. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah has gone to India aiming to participate in joint commercial exhibition under the name “The path to tranquility”.

More details,

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/30288-india-a-strategic-allied-of-afghanistan-in-political-and-economic-fields.html>

- **Explosion kills one at clinic in north Afghanistan**

At least one person was killed when an explosion occurred in a clinic in Afghanistan's northern Faryab province on Monday, officials said.

More details,

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31491-explosion-kills-one-at-clinic-in-north-afghanistan>

- **Russia, Iran still provide weapons to Taliban: Mattis**

US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has accused Iran and Russia of continuing their armed support to Afghan Taliban, a media report said on Saturday. The Pentagon chief blasted Russia and Iran’s continued support to Taliban jihadists, echoing concerns previously expressed by US officials, including Gen. Nicholson, who has also noted that Pakistan is assisting the terrorist group as well.

More details,

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/15075-russia-iran-still-provide-weapons-to-taliban-mattis.html>

- **-Afghan Security Forces Mistakenly Killed In Air Strike**

Afghan officials say 10 members of the country's security forces were killed after the Afghan Air Force mistakenly dropped bombs on their position in the southern province of Helmand.

More details,

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-security-forces-mistakenly-killed-helmand/28768363.html>

- **Three Kashmiri civilians dead as Indian, Pakistani troops exchange fire**

Indian and Pakistani forces have engaged in another cross-border fighting, reportedly leaving three civilians dead on opposite sides of the disputed border dividing the Himalayan Kashmir region.

More details,

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/02/537179/India-Pakistan-LoC-Kashmir>

- **Pakistan expresses concern over Iraqi Kurdistan referendum**

Pakistan Foreign ministry spokesperson expresses deep concern over the referendum held in the Iraqi Kurdistan region on 25 September 2017 saying it 'lacks any legitimacy.'

More details,

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82682424>

- **Panama case: Nawaz Sharif not indicted for graft but kin issued non-bailable warrants**

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's indictment in Panamagate graft charges has been deferred to October 9.

More details,

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nawaz-sharif-panama-papers-indictment-pakistan-supreme-court/1/1059812.html>

- **Afghan president meets Pakistan's army chief**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday met Pakistan's army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa at the Presidential Palace in Kabul. Ghani said the visit of Pakistan's top military and intelligence officials to Kabul was a "new season" of relationships between the two neighboring countries, according to a statement issued by the Presidential Palace

More details,

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/10/2017/Afghan-president-meets-Pakistan%E2%80%99s-army-chief>

- **Pakistan, Afghanistan Agree To Work For "Peaceable Environment"**

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed on a framework for working towards "peaceable environment conducive to political process essential for an enduring Afghan peace and regional stability," China's Xinhua news agency citing the local media on Monday.

More details,

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1396380>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Erdogan repeats northern Iraq poll is 'unconstitutional'**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated Sunday that the illegitimate referendum held in northern Iraq was against the Iraqi constitution. "We will never turn a blind eye to unrest well beyond our borders which will create a permanent threat both for Iraqi and Turkish nations and the countries in the region," Erdogan said in an opening speech at the Turkish parliament's third legislative session.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/politics/erdogan-repeats-northern-iraq-poll-is-unconstitutional/924131>

- **Turkish airstrikes hit PKK terrorist targets in northern Iraq**

Turkish jets destroyed hideouts, weapons and ammunition depots, as well as weapon pits belonging to PKK terrorists in counter-terror operations carried out in northern Iraq, the military said in a statement Sunday. The airstrikes targeted PKK terrorist camps in northern Iraq's Metina region, the Turkish General Staff said.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/10/01/turkish-airstrikes-hit-pkk-terrorist-targets-in-northern-iraq>

- **Erdogan to meet opposition leaders over northern Iraq**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet Turkish opposition leaders this coming week over the Kurdish Regional Government's (KRG) illegitimate referendum in Northern Iraq. Responding to journalists' questions after delivering the opening speech at the Turkish parliament's third legislative session on Sunday, Erdogan said he would meet with leaders of the Republican People's Party (CHP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). "I will meet with [MHP's Devlet] Bahçeli on Thursday," said Erdogan. "After that, according to circumstances, I will take the opinion of [CHP's Kemal] Kilicdaroglu [...]"

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/erdogan-to-meet-opposition-leaders-over-northern-iraq/924330>

- **Turkish graffiti artists create anti-war murals in Syria**

A group of Turkish graffiti artists has created a number of anti-war murals in Bragitte, a small village in northwestern Syria's Azaz. The village, retaken in the Turkey-led Operation Euphrates Shield, saw the artists use war-ravaged buildings as canvases. Speaking to Anadolu Agency (AA), artist Mehmet Emin Türkmen said that he has been doing graffiti for almost two decades.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/arts-culture/2017/10/02/turkish-graffiti-artists-create-anti-war-murals-in-syria>

- **Turkish President Due in Iran for Key Talks**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he will travel to Iran on October 4 to discuss the latest regional developments, particularly the recent independence referendum in Iraq's Kurdistan region with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani.

More details;

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/02/1534250/turkish-president-due-in-iran-for-key-talks>

- **Iranian, Turkish top generals discuss regional developments**

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and his Turkish counterpart General Hulusi Akar reviewed regional developments and joint borders security in a meeting held on Monday in Tehran.

More details;

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82682334>

- **KRG to pay price for holding illegitimate poll: Erdogan**

Northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) would pay a price for holding an illegitimate referendum despite strong opposition from Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday. Erdogan was speaking at the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's provincial consultation meeting in the eastern Erzurum province. "The northern Iraqi local government, which we have been giving all kinds of support for a long time, has taken a step despite my country's [strong objection]," Erdogan said.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/194533/kr-g-to-pay-price-for-holding-illegitimate-poll-erdogan>

This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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