



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

**Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset**

**The Restructuring Procees of Iraq**

**Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci**

**Energy Security**

**Enerji Güvenliđi**

**Economy News**

**Ekonomi Haberleri**

**Peace Process**

**Barış Süreci**

**Ethnic and Secterian Groups**

**Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar**

**Non State Actors**

**Devlet-dış Aktörler**

**Relations with the West**

**Batı'yla İlişkiler**

<b>1. IRAQ.....</b>	<b>4</b>
• Has Israel flip-flopped on Kurdish independence? .....	4
• Iraqi sanctions will not punish Kurdish people, says Al-Abadi .....	4
• Iraq’s Sunni Mufti: Shiite-Led Baghdad’s ‘Oppression’ Drove Kurdistan’s Independence Effort .....	4
• American Service Member Killed in Iraq .....	4
• IS torches three oil wells near Hawija: officials .....	5
• Iraqi forces seize airbase from Daesh near Hawija .....	5
• Canada to expand role in Iraq, begin ‘rebuilding’ initiative .....	5
• ISIS hunting jihadi killer ‘silver sniper’ dies in battle against terror group .....	5
• Iraqi Army Discovers US-Made Missiles in Daesh Base in Mosul .....	6
• Iraqi foreign minister in UAE to seek help on rebuilding war-torn country .....	6
• 700 French living in ISIS-held Iraqi, Syrian regions .....	6
• Kurdistan Referendum: ‘Divide and Rule Policy’ against the Islamic Countries .....	6
• Iraqi Forces Recapture 25 Kirkuk Villages from ISIS .....	7
• Iraq denies plans for Abadi, Kurdistan leader meeting in Paris .....	7
• Iran's FM calls for Kurdish talks with Baghdad .....	7
• Clergyman: We have no problem regarding Armenians’ safety in Iraqi Kurdistan .....	7
• INA: We Will Start A Stage Of Good Understanding With Kurdish Parties, Which Did Not Support The Referendum .....	7
• Barzani Remains Firm on Independence Bid: Politician .....	8
<b>2. SYRIA.....</b>	<b>8</b>
• Air Strike Kills Seven Hezbollah Fighters In Syria-Sources .....	8
• Russian combat jets take out 7 ISIS commanders in Syria .....	8
• Syria's Grand Mufti says Rohingya Muslims are a 'security threat' .....	9
• President al-Assad: Syrian Army’s victories paved the way to restarting economic activity and beginning reconstruction .....	9
• Hezbollah: Fall of ISIS in Syria and Lebanon is Close .....	9
• Deadly bombing hits Damascus police station .....	9
• More Civilians Lose Lives in US Airstrike in Northeastern Syria .....	10
• Russia: We Killed 304 ISIS Members in Just 2 Days in Syria .....	10
• Syria: 80% of opposition supports forming national army .....	10
• Syria: First Atrocities Trials Held in Europe .....	11
<b>3. IRAN .....</b>	<b>11</b>
• Any change in borders spreads insecurity, instability in region: Rouhani .....	11
• FM Zarif departs for Oman, Qatar .....	11
• Iranian, Turkish military chiefs dismiss independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan .....	11
• Iran envoy to UN: Terrorists should be chased, extradited .....	12
• Iran, Oman discuss energy, transit, developments in region .....	12
• Suspected "terrorists" detained in southern Iran .....	12
• KRG’s Approach to Referendum ‘Irresponsible, Amateurish’: Iran .....	13

• Leaving JCPOA to Isolate US: Iran's FM .....	13
• P5+1 group, EU believe JCPOA non-negotiable: Zarif .....	13
• Iranian and Iraqi forces staged a joint military drill at the common border on Monday. ....	13
<b>4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....</b>	<b>14</b>
• Gazprom and Delek confirm agreement for Israel natural gas .....	14
• In first since 1973, Israeli minister in 'private' visit to Cuba .....	14
• Do Unity Moves put Hamas Back in the Driving Seat in Gaza? .....	14
• Palestinian Cabinet Convenes in Gaza for First Time in Three Years .....	14
• Swastikas, PLO flag scrawled on Jerusalem religious school.....	15
• Hamas reconciles with Palestinian Authority in Gaza .....	15
• San Francisco state university: allied with Hamas .....	15
• Abbas says pa must control everything in Gaza including security.....	15
• Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah visits Hamas leaders in Gaza.....	16
<b>5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....</b>	<b>16</b>
• Army arrests perpetrators after armed standoff in Sidon .....	16
• Report: Hariri, Jumblat Adhere to Ministerial Statement, Reject Normalization with Syria ....	16
• Hezbollah Chief Warns 'Non-Zionist' Jews to Flee Israel Before It's Destroyed .....	16
• Unidentified air strike kills at least eight Hezbollah fighters in Syria .....	17
• Another Jordanian knife in Israel's back.....	17
• Looking inwards to address the chronic economic situation.....	17
• HRW: Jordan 'summarily deporting Syrian refugees'.....	17
• Gulf-Jordanian Economic Communication Forum Launches 120 Investment Opportunities... ..	18
• Jordanian Financial Minister, UAE Ambassador discuss cooperation.....	18
<b>6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....</b>	<b>18</b>
• Three Gulf States raise gasoline prices.....	18
• Bahraini king praises Saudi Arabia's staunch support for his country .....	19
• Five Police Officers Injured by Explosion in Bahrain's Capital.....	19
• Qatar-Gulf crisis: Your questions answered.....	19
• Save the Children accuses Britain over selling of arms to Saudi Arabia.....	19
• Houthi Rebels Shoot Down U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper Over .....	20
• Qatari economy set to continue strong momentum .....	20
• Saudi, Russia to set up \$1 billion energy fund.....	20
• Emirates NBD UAE PMI: Non-oil private sector records strong growth in September.....	20
<b>7. EGYPT.....</b>	<b>21</b>
• Egypt's foreign reserves rise to \$36.5 bn in September: CBE .....	21
• Egypt denies North Korean weapons were meant for its army .....	21
• Egypt's FM: no military solution to Yemeni crisis.....	21
• U.N. Investigation Finds Egypt Bought Weapons from North Korea .....	21
• Egypt aims to amend rules for revoking citizenship .....	22
• Ismail opens 3rd parliamentary legislative term, praises performance of previous terms .....	22
• Attack on Myanmar embassy was retaliation for Rohingya crackdown .....	22
• 'Unprecedented population growth' is Egypt's biggest challenge, PM Ismail tells House.....	23
• Egypt says police killed 3 suspected militants in Cairo .....	23
• Egypt ban violates students' rights .....	23

<b>8. NORTH AFRICA.....</b>	<b>23</b>
• Algeria eyes return to controversial shale gas exploration.....	23
• Minister for Justice again refuses to revoke deportation order against alleged Islamic terrorist.....	24
• Italy's deal to stem flow of people from Libya in danger of collapse.....	24
• 'When I die, you need to pick up my gun and keep fighting': Bodyguard gives harrowing account of Benghazi attack .....	24
• Libya delegation in Tunisia agrees on the Presidential Council restructuring .....	25
• Libya's giant Sharara oilfield closed as gunmen press demands.....	25
• Eurasian Economic Commission signs MoU with Morocco.....	25
• Trial begins for alleged ringleader of attack on US compound in Benghazi .....	25
• High-level Tunisian-French Political Dialogue Council to be held on October 5 in Tunis.....	26
• Libya: coast guard training in Italy, Tunisia starts Oct 9.....	26
<b>9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN .....</b>	<b>26</b>
• Karzai strongly reacts at Las Vegas incident calling it a move against humanity.....	26
• Afghan Government Enlists Locals to Guard Shi'ite Religious Sites .....	27
• 8 Illegal Afghan Citizens Were Detained on Trakia Highway .....	27
• Denmark to send 55 more soldiers to Afghanistan.....	27
• Practical Steps To Be Taken To Bolster Afghan-Pak Relations, President Ghani .....	27
• 'Unopposed' Nawaz Sharif re-elected PML-N president after rushed legislation.....	27
• War of words: Pakistan's foreign minister calls PM Modi a 'terrorist' .....	28
• Why Pakistan must be like North Korea: Dawn columnist.....	28
• An MQM alliance is a bad decision, says Faisal Vawda .....	28
<b>10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....</b>	<b>28</b>
• Turkish FM says 'not too late' for KRG to 'step back' .....	28
• Syria, Iraq issues directly affect Turkey: Erdogan.....	29

## 1. IRAQ

- **Has Israel flip-flopped on Kurdish independence?**

The Kurdish people of Iraq made their voices heard last week, overwhelmingly voting "yes" to independence in a contentious referendum opposed by most of the international community. In fact, the lone nation to express support for the move was the tiny Jewish one, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu having last month described the Kurds to a delegation of visiting US congressmen as a "brave, pro-Western people who share our values."

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Has-Israel-Flip-Flopped-On-Kurdish-Independence-506389>

- **Iraqi sanctions will not punish Kurdish people, says Al-Abadi**

Amid fears in Iraqi Kurdistan that economic and financial sanctions imposed by Baghdad will hurt them soon, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said on Monday his government would not target or punish the Kurdish people.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1171421/middle-east>

- **Iraq's Sunni Mufti: Shiite-Led Baghdad's 'Oppression' Drove Kurdistan's Independence Effort**

Shiite-led Baghdad's "oppression" prompted the autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan region to determine its fate in an independence referendum vote last week, argues the mufti of Iraq's Sunni minority.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/02/iraq-sunni-mufti-baghdad-oppression-drove-kurdistan-independence-effort/>

- **American Service Member Killed in Iraq**

A roadside bomb in Iraq has killed an American service member and wounded one other, Pentagon officials said Monday. The bomb struck the Americans' vehicle late Sunday as they were traveling in a convoy north of Tikrit, a U.S. military official told VOA on the condition of anonymity.

More Details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/american-service-member-killed-iraq/4053899.html>

- **IS torches three oil wells near Hawija: officials**

Islamic State militants set fire to three oil wells near Hawija, west of the oil city of Kirkuk, one of two areas of Iraq still under their control, military and oil officials said yesterday. Iraqi security forces were using bulldozers to control the fires started by the militants in the early hours of Saturday to slow the advance of US-backed Iraqi forces and Shia militia groups toward Hawija town, military officials said.

More Details:

<http://www.thedailystar.net/world/middle-east/torches-three-oil-wells-near-hawija-officials-1470886>

- **Iraqi forces seize airbase from Daesh near Hawija**

Iraqi forces and Shiite paramilitaries captured an airbase from the Daesh terror group on Monday, the army said, gaining a strategic foothold in the north of the country as they push towards the town of Hawija.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/iraqi-forces-seize-airbase-daesh-near-hawija>

- **Canada to expand role in Iraq, begin 'rebuilding' initiative**

Canadian forces on Monday said they would expand their operation in Iraq and help rebuild areas of the war-torn country, including the safe removal of landmines. The Canadian military has been involved in assisting Kurdish Peshmerga forces in their role to defeat the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq since 2014.

More Details:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/db1bdb56-86ea-4b6b-8503-0b37ce00b990>

- **ISIS hunting jihadi killer 'silver sniper' dies in battle against terror group**

Militia hero Abu Tahseen, who was known for his trademark grey beard, killed 341 ISIS fighters. The 63-year-old singlehandedly wiped out four jihadi terrorists a day while fighting for the Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Units (PMU), according to Iraqi media. He was recognised by his motorbike, snipe rifle and went by nicknames including Silver Sniper, the Sheikh of Snipers and Hawk-eye.

More Details:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/861592/ISIS-militia-jihadi-silver-sniper-dead-Iraq-Hawijah-Abu-Tahseen-video>

- **Iraqi Army Discovers US-Made Missiles in Daesh Base in Mosul**

Iraqi army and popular forces have discovered a number of US-made missiles from a military position of Daesh (ISIL) in the Southern part of Mosul, informed local sources disclosed after the first group of pro-government troops opened their way into Southern Mosul on Monday.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/02/1534486/iraqi-army-discovers-us-made-missiles-in-daesh-base-in-mosul>

- **Iraqi foreign minister in UAE to seek help on rebuilding war-torn country**

Ibrahim Al Jaafari's visit aims to enhance Iraqi ties with the Emirates by establishing security coordination and developing an investment fund to reconstruct cities recently liberated from ISIL, including Mosul and Tel Afar

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/iraqi-foreign-minister-in-uae-to-seek-help-on-rebuilding-war-torn-country-1.663587>

- **700 French living in ISIS-held Iraqi, Syrian regions**

About 700 French nationals, among them 500 children, are living in the ISIS-controlled areas of Iraq and Syria, a French official says, as fears grow over the threat posed by European members of the Takfiri terrorist group on their return to their homelands.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/europe/700-french-living-in-isis-held-iraqi-syrian-regions\\_857851.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/europe/700-french-living-in-isis-held-iraqi-syrian-regions_857851.html)

- **Kurdistan Referendum: 'Divide and Rule Policy' against the Islamic Countries**

Controversial referendum which was held on September 25, 2017 for an independent Kurdistan, with approximately 93 percent in favour of independence, heightened tensions in Iraq and among its neighbouring countries, including other Islamic countries

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/10/02/kurdistan-referendum-divide-and-rule-policy-against-the-islamic-countries/>

- **Iraqi Forces Recapture 25 Kirkuk Villages from ISIS**

Iraqi forces recaptured late on Sunday, a military airport and 25 villages in Iraq's northern city of Kirkuk from ISIS, according to an Iraqi military source. The country's army forces and the Hashd al-Shaabi [a unit of the Iraqi army] have liberated Al-Fateh Airport and 25 villages, Army Lieutenant-General Abdul Amir Yarullah told Anadolu Agency.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/iraqi-forces-recapture-25-kirkuk-villages-isis-1028378>

- **Iraq denies plans for Abadi, Kurdistan leader meeting in Paris**

A meeting with Kurdistan President Masud Barzani is not on the agenda of a planned visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to France, the Iraqi premier's office said Monday.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/features/iraq-denies-plans-abadi-kurdistan-leader-meeting-paris/>

- **Iran's FM calls for Kurdish talks with Baghdad**

Iran claimed a recent secession referendum in the northern Iraq runs counter to the Arab country's constitution, calling on Kurdish authorities to negotiate with Baghdad regardless of the outcome of the vote, Press TV reported on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17704/iran-s-fm-calls-for-kurdish-talks-with-baghdad>

- **Clergyman: We have no problem regarding Armenians' safety in Iraqi Kurdistan**

Father Artun Khalatian, the Armenian pastor of Erbil, told the abovementioned to Armenian News-NEWS.am. "The situation is calm; there is nothing unusual in the city," he said. "Nothing unusual happened to this day, and in that sense, we have no problem in connection with the safety of [local] Armenians."

More Details:

<https://news.am/eng/news/413042.html>

- **INA: We Will Start A Stage Of Good Understanding With Kurdish Parties, Which Did Not Support The Referendum**

The National Alliance MP Jassem Mohammed Jaafar said his coalition would start a new phase of understanding with the Kurdish parties that did not support the draft referendum of Kurdistan. Jaafar

said in a statement to the National Iraqi News Agency (NINA), "The dismissal of President Fuad Masum is not easy, because it needs a vote of two-thirds majority of MPs."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?mRVhNJcvsREmwRLMY7T2QQ%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?mRVhNJcvsREmwRLMY7T2QQ%253d%253d)

- **Barzani Remains Firm on Independence Bid: Politician**

Regardless of the endless regional and international pressures for reversing the decision of independence, Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani has stayed firm on the path towards self-determination, a Kurdish politician and political observer told BasNews. Mohamad Ameen Penjweni, a Kurdish political figure close to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) said that despite the pressures and blockades of airspace and the border crossings against the Kurdistan Region, Barzani has remained resolute in his bid for achieving independence.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/382769>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Air Strike Kills Seven Hezbollah Fighters In Syria-Sources**

An air strike carried out by an unidentified warplane killed seven Hezbollah fighters in eastern Syria, three sources familiar with the incident told Reuters on Monday. The identity of the warplane was not confirmed, but the sources did not rule out the possibility that it was Russian "friendly fire". The sources did not say when the air strike happened.

More Details:

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/syria-air-strike-kills-hezbollah-fighters/28770684.html>

- **Russian combat jets take out 7 ISIS commanders in Syria**

Russia's Aerospace Forces have taken out seven ISIS terrorist field commanders, including a terrorism coordinator, in Syria on the eastern bank of the Euphrates over the past two days, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Tuesday, APA reported citing Sputnik International.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/russian-combat-jets-take-out-7-isis-commanders-in-syria.html>

- **Syria's Grand Mufti says Rohingya Muslims are a 'security threat'**

Syria's grand mufti sided with India over the Myanmar Rohingya crisis in a TV interview last week. In an attempt to justify attempts to deport up to 40,000 Muslim Rohingya refugees, the Indian government told the country's top court last week that the Muslim Rohingya who have fled Myanmar are a 'serious security threat', linking the Rohingya people to extremist groups.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syrias-grand-mufti-concurs-india-rohingya-muslims-are-security-threat-1087331340>

- **President al-Assad: Syrian Army's victories paved the way to restarting economic activity and beginning reconstruction**

President Bashar al-Assad on Monday received a Russian delegation including senior economic officials and representatives of major companies from Russia, headed by Deputy Energy Minister Kirill Molodtsov. Talks during the meeting touched on the strategic relation between Syria and Russia and the need to bolster it by developing economic and trade cooperation and expanding joint investments, particularly in the fields of petroleum, gas, phosphates, transport, pharmaceuticals, and water resources.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=114978>

- **Hezbollah: Fall of ISIS in Syria and Lebanon is Close**

Deputy Head of Hezbollah's Executive Council Ali Damush states, the terrorist organization Islamic State will be soon completely destroyed and cease to exist. Ali Damush also noticed, that the Lebanese Hezbollah and Syrian Arab Army suffered heavy losses in combating ISIS, but this fact wouldn't interfere the total collapse of ISIS.

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/10/02/hezbollah-fall-of-isis-in-syria-and-lebanon-is-close/>

- **Deadly bombing hits Damascus police station**

More than 10 people have been killed in apparently coordinated blasts in the capital of Syria, Damascus, according to several sources. A car bomb went off near a police station in Damascus' al-Midan neighbourhood on Monday, shortly before two suicide bombers detonated their explosive belts, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/coordinated-bombing-strikes-syria-damascus-171002131512968.html>

- **More Civilians Lose Lives in US Airstrike in Northeastern Syria**

More than 45 civilians were killed and several more were injured in the US-led coalition air raids on residential areas in the ISIL-held Raqqa city, local sources said on Tuesday. The sources said that over 45 civilians were killed and several more were wounded after US' jets targeted the al-Touse'eyah district in Raqqa city.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960711000241>

- **Russia: We Killed 304 ISIS Members in Just 2 Days in Syria**

304 members of Islamic state were killed in Syria by the Russian air force in the last 48 hours, RIA Novosti reported. Moscow's Defense Ministry official, Igor Konashenkov, at a power office briefing said airplanes made dozens of strikes on the positions of the jihadist group in the Middle East. "304 ISIS fighters were killed in the two-day operation, including seven high-level commanders of the terrorists, injured jihadists are 170. There were destroyed training centers for fighters, three command stations, eight tanks, three artillery, 17 heavy-duty vehicles fitted with cannons and heavy machine guns, and four ammunition depots, weapons and fuels used by ISIS, were also destroyed," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/183817/Russia%3A+We+Killed+304+ISIS+Members+in+Just+2+Days+in+Syria>

- **Syria: 80% of opposition supports forming national army**

The Prime Minister of the Syrian interim government Jawad Abu Hatab said that 80 per cent of the opposition factions have agreed to form a Syrian National Army. In an interview with the Anadolu Agency, Abu Hatab said that "reaching the formation of a national army will require many stages that are not easy". "All factions have a sense of the need to move from partisan work to working within one army for the future of Syria," he said.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171003-syria-80-of-opposition-supports-forming-national-army/>

- **Syria: First Atrocities Trials Held in Europe**

Efforts to bring those responsible for atrocities in Syria before European courts are starting to bear fruit, notably in Swedish and German courts, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. While various authorities in Europe have opened investigations of serious international crimes committed in Syria, Sweden and Germany are the first two countries that have prosecuted and convicted people for these crimes.

More Details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/03/syria-first-atrocities-trials-held-europe>

### 3. IRAN

- **Any change in borders spreads insecurity, instability in region: Rouhani**

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has stressed the need to bolster central governments in Syria and Iraq, saying that any change in geographical borders will cause insecurity and instability to spread across the region. Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with Turkish Chief of General Staff Hulusi Akar in Tehran on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/10/02/537256/Iran-Turkey-Hassan-Rouhani-Hulusi-Akar>

- **FM Zarif departs for Oman, Qatar**

Iranian FM Zarif has left Tehran for Oman's capital Muscat and will follow it up with a visit to Qatar as part of his two-nation tour to Persian Gulf littoral states aimed at holding talks with senior officials on regional developments.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128259/FM-Zarif-departs-for-Oman-Qatar>

- **Iranian, Turkish military chiefs dismiss independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan**

The top military commanders of Iran and Turkey on Saturday unanimously voiced strong opposition to the independence referendum in the Iraqi Kurdistan, saying it is "unacceptable". The renewed opposition to the September 25 independence referendum was made after a meeting in Tehran between Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Baqeri and his Turkish counterpart General Hulusi Akar. Speaking at a joint press conference, the two top generals also said military cooperation between Iran and Turkey will increase.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417228/Iranian-Turkish-military-chiefs-dismiss-independence-referendum>

- **Iran envoy to UN: Terrorists should be chased, extradited**

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo condemned any form of terrorism as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, saying that terrorists should be chased and extradited to stand trial. Reading out a statement on Monday on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during the Sixth Committee of the 72th Session of the United Nations General Assembly On 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism', he added that NAM explicitly denounces terrorism in all its manifestations and considers it against the international regulations.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82683123>

- **Iran, Oman discuss energy, transit, developments in region**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Omani officials held talks on energy, the economy and transit and the potential transfer of Iranian gas through Oman to India, according to the official Oman News Agency (ONA). The top Iranian diplomat arrived in Oman on Monday morning for a one-day visit and held a meeting with the Sultanate's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah. Mohammad Javad Zarif hailed the wise policy being adopted by the Sultanate under the wise leadership of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, as well as His constructive role in the region, which faces several challenges.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/201622.html?catid=3&title=Iran--Oman-discuss-energy--transit--developments-in-region>

- **Suspected "terrorists" detained in southern Iran**

Iranian security forces have arrested three individuals on the charge of plotting terrorist attacks in the southern province of Fars, local authorities said. A provincial official has said that the suspects affiliated with the IS terrorist group (ISIS/ISIL, Daesh) had planned to plant bombs in several religious sites in Darab county during a recent mourning event remarking the death of third Shia imam, ILNA news agency reported.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2803342.html>

- **KRG's Approach to Referendum 'Irresponsible, Amateurish': Iran**

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani slammed the independence referendum recently held in Iraq's Kurdistan Region, saying the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) adopted an "irresponsible and amateurish approach". Speaking at a meeting with Turkey's Chief of the General Staff General Hulusi Akar in Tehran on Monday, Shamkhani said the KRG's approach to hold the independence vote last Monday in the Kurdistan Region was "irresponsible and amateurish".

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/wired/krge-approach-referendum/>

- **Leaving JCPOA to Isolate US: Iran's FM**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the international community has underscored the importance of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, noting that Washington will become isolated if it takes any action to walk out of it.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/02/1534835/leaving-jcboa-to-isolate-us-iran-s-fm>

- **P5+1 group, EU believe JCPOA non-negotiable: Zarif**

The Iranian foreign minister says almost all countries, including the P5+1 group and the European Union, believe that the historic nuclear deal that Iran clinched with six world powers in 2015 is not open to renegotiation.

More Details:

[http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i64673-p5\\_1\\_group\\_eu\\_believe\\_jcboa\\_non\\_negotiable\\_zarif](http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i64673-p5_1_group_eu_believe_jcboa_non_negotiable_zarif)

- **Iranian and Iraqi forces staged a joint military drill at the common border on Monday.**

The war game, codenamed Eqtedar (power), involves Iranian and Iraqi troops. Armored units, the artillery, drone squad, and airborne division from the Iranian Army Ground Force have taken part in the exercise. According to Commander of the Army Ground Force Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari, the war game is aimed at evaluating the mobility and preparedness of the Iranian soldiers.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/iran-iraq-hold-joint-war-game/>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Gazprom and Delek confirm agreement for Israel natural gas**

According to the terms, the two examine the possibilities of using natural gas as a fuel for vehicles (road, rail and water transport) and special equipment (agricultural, material-handling and other equipment) in Israel. “The gas industry contributes a lot to the sustainable and ecologically responsible development of the economy. And the use of natural gas as a fuel for vehicles is one of the most important parts of this contribution. Using gas as a vehicle fuel proves that transport without pollution is possible. It is not a remote possibility but a technology available today,” said Alexander Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee.

More details;

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/152060/gazprom-delek-confirm-agreement-israel-natural-gas/>

- **In first since 1973, Israeli minister in ‘private’ visit to Cuba**

Culture Minister Miri Regev has traveled to Cuba for a “private family vacation,” her office said Tuesday, marking the first time that a cabinet member has visited the country since it broke diplomatic ties with Israel in 1973. The visit, first reported by the Haaretz newspaper, was not organized through the Foreign Ministry and will not include any meetings with Cuban representatives, a spokesperson for the minister told The Times of Israel. But both the MFA and the Prime Minister’s office were informed of the trip, he said.

More details;

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-first-since-1973-israeli-minister-in-private-visit-to-cuba/>

- **Do Unity Moves put Hamas Back in the Driving Seat in Gaza?**

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;

<https://dissidentvoice.org/2017/10/do-unity-moves-put-hamas-back-in-the-driving-seat-in-gaza/>

- **Palestinian Cabinet Convenes in Gaza for First Time in Three Years**

The Palestinian cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, will hold its weekly meeting in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday for the first time in three years. Hamdallah arrived in the Gaza Strip a day

earlier with government ministers and dozens of senior Palestinian Authority officials, along with intelligence and security officials. The meeting is part of an effort to implement a reconciliation agreement between the PA and Hamas.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/1.815440>

- **Swastikas, PLO flag scrawled on Jerusalem religious school**

Parents and school staff members at a religious public school in Jerusalem received a most unwelcome surprise earlier this week when they discovered anti-Semitic and pro-PLO graffiti in one of the school's first grade classrooms.

More details;

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236273>

- **Hamas reconciles with Palestinian Authority in Gaza**

Hamas and the mainstream Palestinian Authority took a further step towards reconciliation on Monday as the West Bank-based Palestinian Prime Minister Rami al-Hamdallah crossed into the Gaza Strip, more than a decade after the Islamist group seized control of the territory in a bitter civil war.

More details;

<http://www.theweek.co.uk/88767/hamas-reconciles-with-palestinian-authority-in-gaza>

- **San Francisco state university: allied with Hamas**

Editor's note: The David Horowitz Freedom Center is naming the "Top Ten Worst Schools that Support Terrorists." Among the schools named to this list is San Francisco State University which joins the University of California-Berkeley, the University of California-Irvine, the University of Chicago, DePaul University, Brandeis University, Brooklyn College, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Coinciding with the naming of SFSU to this list, the Freedom Center placed posters on the San Francisco State campus exposing the links between Students for Justice in Palestine and the terrorist organization Hamas, whose stated goal is the destruction of the Jewish state

More details;

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/268038/san-francisco-state-university-allied-hamas-sara-dogan>

- **Abbas says pa must control everything in Gaza including security**

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday said he would not accept a scenario in the Gaza Strip, in which Hamas's armed wing would be able to hold onto its weapons.

More details;

<http://www.ipost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Abbas-says-PA-must-control-everything-in-Gaza-including-security-506595>

- **Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah visits Hamas leaders in Gaza**

Hamas agreed to relinquish civilian control in Gaza to a unity government in mid-September. Hamdallah claimed the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority would resume control of Gaza's government soon.

More details;

<http://www.dw.com/en/palestinian-prime-minister-rami-hamdallah-visits-hamas-leaders-in-gaza/a-40784358>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Army arrests perpetrators after armed standoff in Sidon**

The Intelligence department of the Lebanese army arrested people responsible for the armed standoff in Saida, National News Agency (NNA) correspondent reported on Tuesday.

More details;

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/83961/Army-arrests-perpetrators-after-armed-standoff-in-Sidon>

- **Report: Hariri, Jumblat Adhere to Ministerial Statement, Reject Normalization with Syria**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri and leader of the Democratic Gathering bloc MP Walid Jumblat have reportedly rejected all attempts aiming to “normalize” relations with Syria, and have stressed adherence to the ministerial statement, the pan-Arab al-Hayat daily reported on Tuesday.

More details;

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236187-report-hariri-jumblat-adhere-to-ministerial-statement-reject-normalization-with-syria>

- **Hezbollah Chief Warns ‘Non-Zionist’ Jews to Flee Israel Before It’s Destroyed**

Hezbollah Chief Hassan Nasrallah on Sunday warned Jewish immigrants to Israel to leave the country before it goes to war with the Lebanon-based terror group.

More details;

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/10/02/hezbollah-chief-warns-non-zionist-jews-to-flee-israel-before-its-destroyed/>

- **Unidentified air strike kills at least eight Hezbollah fighters in Syria**

Air strike struck a Hezbollah position in eastern Homs province, where the Iran-backed Lebanese group is fighting Daesh alongside the Syrian regime and Russian forces.

More details;

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/unidentified-air-strike-kills-at-least-eight-hezbollah-fighters-in-syria-11015>

- **Another Jordanian knife in Israel's back**

Israelis are at a loss to explain why the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) has turned Israel into its main target. Why is it so blatantly skewed against Israel? The answer, or at least part of it, was provided on September 28, 2017.

More details;

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/21092>

- **Looking inwards to address the chronic economic situation**

Jordan is going through a dire economic situation despite the obtained loans and grants. As King Abdullah said, the country has no option but to start looking inwards to address the chronic economic situation. Economists have long debated the untenable economic situation. Jordan has been able to keep its head above water thanks to the grants and loans from allies.

More details;

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/hassan-barari/looking-inwards-address-chronic-economic-situation>

- **HRW: Jordan 'summarily deporting Syrian refugees'**

Human Rights Watch has accused the Jordanian government of summarily deporting hundreds of registered Syrian refugees, despite the possible harm they may face by going back to their war-torn country. "Jordanian authorities have been summarily deporting Syrian refugees - including collective expulsions of large families," HRW said in the report.

More details;

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/jordan-summarily-deporting-syrian-refugees-hrw-171002131634501.html>

- **Gulf-Jordanian Economic Communication Forum Launches 120 Investment Opportunities**

The Gulf-Jordanian Economic Communication forum concluded its activities on Saturday in Amman, Jordan with the launch of 120 investment opportunities. Organized by the Federation of Chambers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (FCGCC) and the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, the forum set a roadmap for investment projects between the two parties to reach Gulf-Jordanian economic integration.

More details;

<https://english.aawsat.com/mohammed-aldaameh-and-asharq-alawsat/business/gulf-jordanian-economic-communication-forum-launches-120-investment-opportunities>

- **Jordanian Financial Minister, UAE Ambassador discuss cooperation**

Dr. Omar Malhas, Jordanian Minister of Finance, has received Matar Saif Al-Shamsi, UAE Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During the meeting, which was held at the ministry's headquarters, Dr. Malhas congratulated Mr. Al-Shamsi on the occasion of assuming his duties as Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

More details;

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302635789>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Three Gulf States raise gasoline prices**

The United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman have increased gasoline and diesel prices for the month of October. The UAE and Qatar raised the prices of all kinds of gasoline and diesel prices compared to the previous month while Oman hiked the price of premium gasoline and diesel but maintained the same price of regular gasoline at the level of last month as it was the ceiling set by the Omani Cabinet.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/518532/World/Mena/gasoline-prices>

- **Bahraini king praises Saudi Arabia's staunch support for his country**

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa reiterated his country's commitment to Saudi Arabia in its response to terrorism in all its forms and against all those who support or finance it. Following his arrival in Jeddah on Monday, the Bahrain king said in a statement: "We are pleased to meet the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to discuss the developments in the region and continue the coordination and continuous consultation between us for all the good of our two countries."

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1171371/saudi-arabia>

- **Five Police Officers Injured by Explosion in Bahrain's Capital**

Five police officers were slightly injured by an explosion in Bahrain's capital of Manama, press service of Bahrain's Interior Ministry told Sputnik. "Five police officers sustained slight injuries as a result of the explosion staged by terrorists."

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710031057890221-bahrain-explosion-injured-officers/>

- **Qatar-Gulf crisis: Your questions answered**

Four months since Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt imposed a blockade on Qatar, little progress has been made towards a resolution. On May 23, Qatar woke up to news of a hack attributing false statements to the emir of Qatar. The fake news was aired on several UAE and Saudi-owned networks in the Gulf, sparking a diplomatic breakdown.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/06/qatar-gulf-crisis-questions-answered-170606103033599.html>

- **Save the Children accuses Britain over selling of arms to Saudi Arabia**

More than £3.3 billion worth of UK arms sales to the kingdom have been licensed since the bombing in Yemen began in March 2015. Britain has been accused by Save the Children of "exporting fear" to children trapped in Yemen's civil war by selling arms to Saudi Arabia. The charity said the UK's aid effort in the conflict is undermined by selling weapons to the Arabian kingdom, which is leading a coalition in support of Yemen's internationally recognised government against Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

More Details:

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/save-the-children-accuses-britain-over-selling-of-arms-to-saudi-arabia-36191437.html>

- **Houthi Rebels Shoot Down U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper Over**

Houthi rebels in Yemen have shot down a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drone operating over the country. The loss highlights a steady increase in counter-terrorism operations aimed at neutralizing Al Qaeda's regional franchise operating out of Yemen under President Donald Trump's administration.

More Details:

<http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/14806/houthi-rebels-shoot-down-u-s-air-force-mq-9-reaper-over-yemen>

- **Qatari economy set to continue strong momentum**

After the initial wobble, Qatari economy is fast adjusting to the impacts of capricious blockade imposed on it by the quartet Arab countries, fresh data released by different entities has revealed. The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) yesterday said both Qatari imports and exports rebounded to the pre-crisis levels.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/10/2017/Qatari-economy-set-to-continue-strong-momentum>

- **Saudi, Russia to set up \$1 billion energy fund**

Saudi Arabia and Russia plan to set up a \$1-billion fund to invest in energy projects, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said on Monday. The fund, to be finalised during this week's visit by Saudi King Salman to Moscow, was part of efforts by two of the oil producers to expand cooperation, he said.

More Details:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/saudi-russia-to-set-up-1-billion-energy-fund/articleshow/60919660.cms>

- **Emirates NBD UAE PMI: Non-oil private sector records strong growth in September**

Despite softening slightly in September, growth in the UAE's non-oil private sector remained sharp and marked the strongest quarter recorded for two years, according to the latest UAE PMI survey. It

added, "The latest improvement in business conditions was driven by above-average expansions in both output and new orders.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302636011>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's foreign reserves rise to \$36.5 bn in September: CBE**

Egypt's foreign reserves increased to \$US36.534 billion in September from \$36.143 in August, rising by \$391 million, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) announced on Monday. In August the CBE said that foreign reserves surpassed for the first time pre-January 25 revolution rates which amounted to \$36.005 in December 2010 and \$36.143 in January 2011.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypts-foreign-reserves-rise-36-5-bn-september-cbe/>

- **Egypt denies North Korean weapons were meant for its army**

The Egyptian government on Monday denied that a shipment of weapons from North Korea was destined for its military, AFP reports. The Washington Post reported on Sunday that the Egyptian military was the undisclosed buyer of \$23 million worth of rocket-propelled grenades from North Korea in 2016.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236270>

- **Egypt's FM: no military solution to Yemeni crisis**

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Monday that there is no military solution to the crisis in Yemen. Shoukry's remarks came during his meeting in Cairo with his Yemeni counterpart Abdel Malik al-Mekhlafi, foreign ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid said in a statement.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/03/c\\_136655429.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/03/c_136655429.htm)

- **U.N. Investigation Finds Egypt Bought Weapons from North Korea**

The Washington Post reported Sunday on the surprising results of a United Nations investigation that found Egypt has been surreptitiously buying weapons from North Korea to equip its military. The

investigation was launched after customs agents responded to a “secret message” sent to Cairo from Washington and raided the freighter Jie Shun, discovering a huge cache of 30,000 North Korean rocket-propelled grenades hidden beneath its cargo of iron ore.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/02/u-n-investigation-egypt-bought-weapons-north-korea/>

- **Egypt aims to amend rules for revoking citizenship**

The Egyptian government’s approval Sept. 20 of a proposal to amend the country's nationality law raised controversy among politicians, legal experts and rights activists amid fears that the amendments might be targeting opponents of current regime policies. According to a Sept. 20 statement by the Council of Ministers, the government’s proposed amendments would broaden the powers of the prime minister when it comes to taking nationality away from citizens.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/egypt-government-proposal-amend-nationality-law-brotherhood.html#ixzz4uQVedfv2>

- **Ismail opens 3rd parliamentary legislative term, praises performance of previous terms**

Prime Minister Sherif Ismail opened on Monday the first session of third parliamentary legislative term, praising the parliament’s performance throughout the previous terms. The parliament starts the third legislative term with aim of concluding sixteen bills, part of requirement of transitional period that the state is currently facing.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/02/ismail-opens-3rd-parliamentary-legislative-term-praises-performance-previous-terms/>

- **Attack on Myanmar embassy was retaliation for Rohingya crackdown**

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.

More Details:

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

- **'Unprecedented population growth' is Egypt's biggest challenge, PM Ismail tells House**

Population growth is set to pose the biggest challenge to the country, Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail told MPs during a speech on the first day of parliament's new session on Monday. "In all honesty, the biggest challenge that we should be combating is population growth; especially after we reached an unprecedented increase that would affect what has been accomplished in terms of economic growth," Ismail said during his address.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278149/Egypt/Politics-/Unprecedented-population-growth-is-Egypt's-biggest-.aspx>

- **Egypt says police killed 3 suspected militants in Cairo**

Egypt's Interior Ministry says police have killed three suspected militants in a shootout in a southern Cairo suburb. The ministry said in a statement on Monday that the militants were members of Hasm, a breakaway faction of the Muslim Brotherhood group that has targeted the police and army over the past years in a series of brazen attacks.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-police-killed-suspected-militants-cairo-50230541>

- **Egypt ban violates students' rights**

Egypt's move to ban Qataris from studying in its universities or from entering the country is a violation of basic human rights, Doha resident and Human Rights Committee member Ramazan Ali Miya told Qatar Urdu Radio's live show Haqeeqat yesterday. "Education is a fundamental right of every human being and anyone who denies that basic right violates all moral and legal codes of conduct," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/565979/Egypt-ban-violates-students-rights>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria eyes return to controversial shale gas exploration**

Algerian authorities have called on state-owned oil giant Sonatrach to restart shale gas exploration work suspended after protests by locals in the Sahara desert, state media reported. Prime Minister

Ahmed Ouyahia "encouraged" the management of the government-owned firm "to invest in the shale gas sector" during a visit to a refinery Sunday, national television said.

More Details,

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/algeria-eyes-return-to-controversial-shale-gas-exploration-20171002>

- **Minister for Justice again refuses to revoke deportation order against alleged Islamic terrorist**

The Minister for Justice has again refused to revoke a deportation order against an Algerian man with alleged links to Islamic terrorism, the High Court heard. Last July, the Supreme Court unanimously quashed the Minister's refusal to revoke the deportation order issued in December 2016. The Supreme Court remitted the man's case back to the Minister for further reconsideration.

More Details,

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/courts/minister-for-justice-again-refuses-to-revoke-deportation-order-against-alleged-islamic-terrorist-36189197.html>

- **Italy's deal to stem flow of people from Libya in danger of collapse**

A key pillar of the Italian government's effort to stem the politically toxic issue of people crossing the Mediterranean from Libya to southern Italy is in danger of collapse as a result of a bloody power struggle in the key Libyan port of Sabratha, the epicentre of human trafficking to Italy.

More Details,

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/03/italys-deal-to-stem-flow-of-people-from-libya-in-danger-of-collapse>

- **'When I die, you need to pick up my gun and keep fighting': Bodyguard gives harrowing account of Benghazi attack**

A diplomatic security agent testified Monday that after militants stormed the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, he turned to U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, who was hiding in a safe room, and said, "When I die, you need to pick up my gun and keep fighting."

More Details,

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2017/10/03/15/25/benghazi-us-attack-libya-ambassador-chris-stevens-bodyguard>

- **Libya delegation in Tunisia agrees on the Presidential Council restructuring**

The delegations from the House of Representatives and the Libyan High Council of State agreed to restructure the Presidential Council, Sunday. The reformed council will consist of a president and two deputies. The attendees said at a press conference held on Sunday, in Tunis, in the presence of UN envoy to Libya Ghassan Salama, "They reached a preliminary understanding on the executive branch," they stressed that "The talks are not over and they will return to dialogue next week to fix the remaining points of disagreement."

More Details,

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171003-libya-delegation-in-tunisia-agrees-on-the-presidential-council-restructuring/>

- **Libya's giant Sharara oilfield closed as gunmen press demands**

An armed group forced Libya's giant Sharara oilfield to close late on Sunday, shutting off production of more than 230,000 barrels per day (bpd), the head of the state oil company said. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) declared force majeure on deliveries of Sharara crude, citing "unrest", according to a letter seen by Reuters. NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla promised that production would restart by Monday evening.

More Details,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-oil/libyas-giant-sharara-oilfield-closed-as-gunmen-press-demands-idUSKCN1C803S?rpc=401&>

- **Eurasian Economic Commission signs MoU with Morocco**

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Morocco on economic cooperation, the EEC said. "This memorandum on cooperation between Morocco and the EEC will make it possible to formalize relations between the two parties," Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics at the EEC, Tatyana Valovaya, said following talks with Morocco Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Nasser Bourita.

More Details,

<http://akipress.com/news:597346/>

- **Trial begins for alleged ringleader of attack on US compound in Benghazi**

Federal prosecutors opened their case against Ahmed Abu Khatallah on Monday by telling jurors he orchestrated the 2012 attack on a US diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, that killed US ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. Khatallah has been awaiting trial since 2014, when he was captured by a team of US military and FBI officials in Libya.

More Details,

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/trial-begins-alleged-ringleader-attack-us-compound-benghazi-8717655>

- **High-level Tunisian-French Political Dialogue Council to be held on October 5 in Tunis**

The high-level Tunisian-French Political Dialogue Council will be held on October 5 in Tunis and will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Youssef Chahed and his French counterpart Edouard Philippe. The meeting will be held alongside the second edition of the "Rencontres Africa" (Africa meetings), October 5-6, which is expected to bring together some one thousand African business leaders and at least 300 French ones.

More Details,

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9426887-high-level>

- **Libya: coast guard training in Italy, Tunisia starts Oct 9**

A training program for Libyan coast guards is kicking off in Italy and Tunisia starting on October 9, said Colonel Tareq Shanbur, the director of security operations on Libya's coasts and president of the coordination system of Italian-Libyan operations to fight illegal immigration, on the Facebook page of the Libyan Navy.

More Details,

[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2017/10/02/libya-coast-guard-training-in-italy-tunisia-starts-oct-9\\_00d7e53c-1699-4d64-8934-1d6d8d2b2bbd.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2017/10/02/libya-coast-guard-training-in-italy-tunisia-starts-oct-9_00d7e53c-1699-4d64-8934-1d6d8d2b2bbd.html)

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Karzai strongly reacts at Las Vegas incident calling it a move against humanity**

The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai strongly reacted at the mass killing of people in Las Vegas city, calling it a move against humanity. The office of the former president in a statement said Hamid Karzai has condemned the brutal killing of ordinary people in strongest words.

More Details,

<http://www.khaama.com/karzai-strongly-reacts-at-las-vegas-incident-calling-it-a-move-against-humanity-03566>

- **Afghan Government Enlists Locals to Guard Shi'ite Religious Sites**

Following numerous Islamic State attacks on Afghanistan's Shi'ite minority in several provinces, the government in Kabul has enlisted hundreds of Shi'ite civilians to protect their religious sites against the growing IS threat.

More Details,

<https://www.voanews.com/a/afghan-government-enlists-locals-to-guard-shiite-religious-sites/4053170.html>

- **8 Illegal Afghan Citizens Were Detained on Trakia Highway**

8 Afghan citizens have been detained at "Trayanovi Vrata" on "Trakia" highway, Mladen Marinov, Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, announced on bTV. Foreigners were without identity cards. Two Bulgarians were also arrested, who helped them with logistics and transportation.

More Details,

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/183796/8+Illegal+Afghan+Citizens+Were+Detained+on+Trakia+Highway>

- **Denmark to send 55 more soldiers to Afghanistan**

Denmark said on Monday it will send an additional 55 soldiers to Afghanistan to boost security efforts. With the deployment, the number of Danish forces in Afghanistan will increase from 97 to 152.

More Details,

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31507-denmark-to-send-55-more-soldiers-to-afghanistan>

- **Practical Steps To Be Taken To Bolster Afghan-Pak Relations, President Ghani**

Kabul (BNA) President Mohammad Asharf Ghani met with Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qamar Bajwa at the Presidential Palace the other day, his office said in a statement.

More Details,

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/30305-practical-steps-to-be-taken-to-bolster-afghan-pak-relations-president-ghani.html>

- **'Unopposed' Nawaz Sharif re-elected PML-N president after rushed legislation**

Ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was elected the president of PML-N unopposed on Tuesday, reclaiming his position as the head of his namesake party.

More Details,

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1361446/unopposed-nawaz-sharif-re-elected-pml-n-president-after-rushed-legislation>

- **War of words: Pakistan's foreign minister calls PM Modi a 'terrorist'**

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday hit back at India saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a "terrorist". It was in response to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's recent comment at the UN where she said that Pakistan was "pre-eminent export factory of terror."

More Details,

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/war-words-pakistans-foreign-minister-calls-pm-modi-terrorist-744115>

- **Why Pakistan must be like North Korea: Dawn columnist**

US President Donald Trump spoke harshly about Pakistan; but he has not yet imposed sanctions, as has been the case with Iran, nor threatened to "totally destroy" it, like North Korea.

More Details,

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/why-pakistan-must-be-like-n-korea-dawn-columnist>

- **An MQM alliance is a bad decision, says Faisal Vawda**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Faisal Vawda met Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP) Chairperson Mustafa Kamal and other PSP leaders at their office on Monday in a bid to publicly express his stance against his own party for entering talks with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) – Pakistan for an alliance.

More Details,

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1521356/mqm-alliance-bad-decision-says-faisal-vawda/>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish FM says 'not too late' for KRG to 'step back'**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu expressed confidence in a return to normal relations with northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) should it correct its "mistake", i.e. the holding of an illegitimate independence referendum. "This was neither a democratic nor a legal referendum," Cavusoglu told Anadolu Agency's Editors' Desk. "It is illegal [according] to Iraq's constitution."

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/194602/turkish-fm-says-not-too-late-for-krg-to-step-back>

- **Syria, Iraq issues directly affect Turkey: Erdogan**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday one cannot separate the incidents taking place in Syria and Iraq from Turkey since what happens in the neighboring countries makes an impact domestically. Speaking to his Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group in capital Ankara, Erdogan said: "Any incident taking place in Syria and Iraq is not independent from us, they are linked directly to our domestic affairs."

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syria-iraq-issues-directly-affect-turkey-erdogan/925690>

*\*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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