



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Iraq forces in 'final assault' on ISIL-held Hawija**

Iraq's army has launched what it said would be the final assault to capture the town of Hawija, one of two pockets of territory still under control of ISIL in Iraq, the country's military said in a statement. Iraqi forces began moving on Hawija two days after capturing the Rashad airbase, located 30km to the south and used by the armed group as a training camp and logistics site.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/iraq-forces-final-assault-isil-held-hawija-171004054355079.html>

- **New Kurdish flashpoint as Baghdad eyes Kirkuk's oil**

The flashpoint in the independence stand-off between the Kurdistan Region and the Iraqi government shifted to Kirkuk on Tuesday, as Baghdad moved to take control of the area's lucrative oil wells.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1172001/middle-east>

- **Shiite-Led Baghdad Punishes Kurdish Lawmakers for Independence Referendum**

Shiite-led Arab lawmakers in Baghdad, Iraq, are punishing their Kurdish counterparts for voting in the independence referendum held by the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq last week, banning them from participating in parliament and urging the country's judicial branch to take punitive measures against them.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/03/shiite-led-baghdad-punishes-kurdish-lawmakers-independence-referendum/>

- **Nouri al-Maliki appointed as National Iraqi Alliance leader**

Al-Maliki was appointed by the State of Law Coalition, which is the largest parliamentary faction of Iraq, and based on the previously made agreements among different parts of the faction. Amar al-Hakim, the former leader of NIA, had recently called for appointment of a new leader for the Iraqi electoral coalition.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82684562>

- **Iranian lawmaker slams Iraqi secession vote as ‘strategic mistake’**

A senior Iranian lawmaker has denounced the recent Kurdish secession referendum in northern Iraq as a “strategic mistake,” warning that the plebiscite will pose a myriad of challenges to the Kurdish region.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/04/537405/Iran-Iraq-referendum-Kurds>

- **Pentagon Identifies Soldier Killed in Iraq from 10th Mountain Division**

The Pentagon has identified the service member killed Sunday in Iraq in a roadside bomb attack as a soldier from the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Spc. Alexander W. Missildine, 20, of Tyler, Texas, died Oct. 1 in Ninawa Province, Iraq, as a result of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy, according to a Defense Department press release.

More Details:

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/10/03/pentagon-identifies-soldier-killed-iraq-10th-mountain-division.html>

- **Possible economic fallout from the KRG referendum**

A non-binding referendum on support for independence in areas controlled by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) left Iraq’s semi-autonomous region in the north facing a backlash from its neighbours and warnings of action. Turkey and Iraq are strongly opposed to the formation of a new state on their borders and have insisted on Iraq’s territorial integrity.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/possible-economic-fallout-from-the-krg-referendum-11037>

- **UN says 78,000 civilians could be trapped in Hawija**

Up to 78,000 people could be trapped in Islamic State-held Hawija in northern Iraq, the United Nations said yesterday, as security forces push to recapture the town. Iraq started an offensive on Sept 21 to seize Hawija, which fell to the hands of militants after the Iraqi army collapsed in 2014 in the face of the Islamic State offensive and remains the last militant-held town in the country’s north.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/566055/UN-says-78-000-civilians-could-be-trapped-in-Hawij>

- **Advocates Testify US Has Failed to Send Promised Aid to Iraq and Syria's Religious Minorities Targeted for Genocide**

Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) held a hearing Tuesday calling attention to the astonishing lack of any U.S. funding going directly to religious minorities in Iraq and Syria who were targeted for genocide by ISIS.

More Details:

<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/laurettabrown/2017/10/03/advocates-testify-us-has-failed-to-send-promised-aid-to-iraq-and-syrias-religious-minorities-targeted-for-genocide-n2390182>

- **Ex-Iraqi President and Kurdish Politician Jalal Talabani Dies at 83**

Jalal Talabani, a former president of Iraq and a Kurdish political leader, passed away Tuesday at the age of 83, according to family members. Family members said Talabani had died Tuesday in a hospital in German capital Berlin following a long struggle with illness.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/ex-iraqi-president-and-kurdish-politician-jalal-talabani-dies-83-1029494>

- **Iraqi Kurds mourn death of leader Talabani, symbol of unity**

Iraqi Kurdish officials say Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region has declared a week of mourning after the death of former president, Jalal Talabani. Sadi Ahmed Pire, a spokesman for the Kurdish party which Talabani headed, says flags will fly at half-staff on Wednesday. Talabani's burial in the city of Sulaimaniyah is planned for this weekend.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-kurds-mourn-death-leader-talabani-symbol-unity-50270645>

- **Iran's pressure on Kurds could backfire**

Iran devoted enormous energy to try to prevent Iraqi Kurds from holding their Sept. 25 independence referendum, accusing the Kurdish leadership of recklessness and endangering the stability of the region. Having failed in that endeavor, officials in Tehran are now at a loss as to what punitive measures they can realistically take to punish the Kurds without causing further instability on their doorstep.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/iran-kurdistan-krq-referendum-sanctions-policy-next-steps.html#ixzz4uWNuwrnB>

- **Kurdish Independence Will Help Israel to Reshape Middle East**

Palestinians and Israelis watched last week's referendum of Iraq's Kurds with special interest. Israeli officials and many ordinary Palestinians were delighted – for very different reasons – to see an overwhelming vote to split away from Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1710/S00045/kurdish-independence-will-help-israel-to-reshape-middle-east.htm>

- **Saudi trade minister visits Iraq soon, kingdom to attend exhibition**

Saudi Arabia's trade minister will visit Iraq in the coming days as the kingdom plans to partake in a Baghdad exhibition, the Iraqi ambassador in the kingdom said. Rushdi al-Aani told London-based, Saudi-owned Asharq al-Awsat that a Saudi commerce delegation will take part in the Baghdad International Exhibition 2017 with more than 60 Saudi companies.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/business-iraqi-dinar/saudi-trade-minister-visits-iraq-soon-kingdom-attend-exhibition/>

- **Jordanian King renews support for Iraq stability, unity**

Jordanian King Abdullah has renewed his support for Iraq in "its efforts to maintain its security, stability, the integrity of its lands and unity of its population", the Jordan Times reported Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17753/Jordanian-King-renews-support-for-Iraq-stability-unity>

- **Jubouri Confirms The Parliament's Support For The Govt's. Decisions To Maintain The Unity Of Iraq And Its Security And Stability**

Speaker of Parliament Salim al-Jubouri called on the wise men to overcome the problems that occurred in the recent period. "We need to focus on participation in decision-making, unity of ranks and respect for the constitution," Jubouri told a press conference this afternoon.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?BGz9eNgbKH%252fgOSzidSXdA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?BGz9eNgbKH%252fgOSzidSXdA%253d%253d)

- **Baghdad Planning to Stop Dollar Sales, Transfers to Kurdistan**

As part of its efforts to block the Kurds from moving further towards independence, the Iraqi central government is planning to suspend foreign currency transfers and sales of dollars to banks in Kurdistan Region. The Iraqi central bank on Tuesday has now informed its counterparts in the Kurdistan region that it would stop selling dollars to four major Kurdish banks and halt all currency transfers, according to the news agency Reuters.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/382992>

- **Haidar al-Abadi mourns the deceased late Jalal Talabani**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi mourns on Mam Jalal's death on a public statement he published on his webpage. We deeply regret the news of the death of the former president Jalal Talabani, may God have mercy on him, to the family of the late and our Iraqi people in general and our Kurdish citizens in particular and our brothers in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the death of this militant figure with a long history in the fight against dictatorship and our sincere partner in building a new democratic Iraq.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42057](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42057)

- **Map shows remaining ISIS-held districts in Kirkuk's Hawija**

Joint Forces Command and War Media Cell issued on Wednesday a map featuring the latest developments in the military operations to recapture Hawija city in southwestern Kirkuk from ISIS terrorists. The map shows only four districts are still controlled by ISIS, namely (al-Riyadh, al-Saidiya, Helewa and al-Sharifiyah).

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17774/Map-shows-remaining-ISIS-held-districts-in-Kirkuk-s-Hawija>

## 2. SYRIA

- **ISIS parade two 'Russian mercenaries from a private army used by Vladimir Putin' after they are captured while fighting the terror group in Syria**

Two suspected mercenaries from a 'private army' used by Vladimir Putin in Syria have been captured by ISIS, according to video claims. ISIS news agency Amaq claims the men, named as Roman Vasilievich Zabolotny and Grigory Mikhailovich Surkanov, were seized near the eastern city of Deir Ezzor. They are believed to be mercenaries belonging to the so-called Wagner private army, allegedly deployed by Moscow in hot spots to lower casualty numbers among regular forces. However, the Russian Defence Ministry has strenuously denied losing two soldiers.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4947600/ISIS-parade-two-Russian-mercenaries-captured-Syria.html>

- **Russian 'revenge' strike 'critically injures' leader of former al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria**

The head of a Syrian rebel group formerly affiliated to al-Qaeda, Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, has been maimed in a Russian airstrike in Syria, Moscow said on Wednesday. Russia's defence ministry said that the former al-Nusra Front leader lost an arm and is in a "critical condition" following the strike that also killed 12 Hayat Tahrir al-Sham commanders, including Jolani's security chief. Since 2017, Fateh al-Sham has dominated HTS, which is a coalition of rebel groups in northern Syria. The alliance controls most of the northwestern province of Idlib after expelling Islamist former allies earlier this year.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/4/russia-maims-leader-of-former-al-qaeda-affiliate-in-syria>

- **'Assad victorious in Syria war,' Israel defence minister claims**

Israel's defence minister has said Syria's six-year war is coming to an end and one victor has clearly emerged - Bashar al-Assad. Controversial Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman told Israeli news site Walla! that the regime was clearly victorious over the rebels, in a war that has cost half-a-million lives. Israel has launched a number of air strikes on Hizballah in Syria, believing weapons are being smuggled to the militant groups bases in Lebanon.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/3/assad-victorious-in-syria-war-israel-defence-minister-claims>

- **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. The rights group also accused Jordan of violating its obligations under the Arab Charter of Human Rights, to which it is a party. According to the report, some 300 registered refugees returned to Syria voluntarily during that time, and another 500 returned under "unclear" circumstances.

More Details:

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

- **Lebanon also suffering amid plight of Syria's dispossessed**

Since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, Lebanon's unemployment rate has risen to 30 per cent. The latter came in the shape of what are now an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees, a number equivalent to more than a third of Lebanon's population. Tourism and financial services were driving an economy that predicted growth of 5 per cent for that year. Then then came the nightmare and the spark from the Syrian bonfire jumped over the fence into Lebanon's garden. The shape of the region has changed and Lebanon, this time through no real fault of its own, has paid a high price. The price – economic, social and even militarily – could well be higher if the current situation is allowed to perpetuate.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/business/lebanon-also-suffering-amid-plight-of-syria-s-dispossessed-1.664037>

- **Top Hezbollah commander killed fighting IS in Syria**

Ali Al-Hadi Al-Ashiq, who also fought against Israel, one of first Hezbollah commanders sent to fight in Syria civil war. Lebanon's terror group Hezbollah says one of its top commanders has been killed while fighting Islamic State militants in Syria. Hezbollah said on Wednesday that he was killed fighting IS in the central desert of Palmyra on Monday. Hezbollah sent thousands of fighters to Syria, helping government forces in major battlefields victories against armed opposition and Islamic militants.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-hezbollah-commander-killed-fighting-is-in-syria/>

- **Syria will continue its war on terrorism until its complete elimination**

Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Expatriates Minister Walid al-Moallem on Wednesday met Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee at the Iranian Shura Council

Alaeddin Boroujerdi and the accompanying delegation. Al-Moallem discussed with Boroujerdi and the delegation bilateral relations and the two countries' efforts in fighting terrorism and extremism, in addition to the latest and regional developments, particularly the recent referendum in northern Iraq. Al-Moallem reviewed the latest developments on the ground and in politics, underlining the important military achievements of the Syrian Arab Army in cooperation with allies, which resulted in shifts on the regional and international levels.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=115120>

- **Army Makes New Gains in Hama Province**

The Syrian army continued its military operations in Eastern Hama by purging terrorists from a strategic region. The army units drove back the ISIL terrorists from a key village in Aqayrabat region in Eastern Hama. The Syrian troops killed several terrorists and injured many more in fierce clashes over controlling of the strategic region. They also destroyed military equipment of the terrorists. The Syrian army also continued its advances in other key provinces across Syria.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960712000234>

- **Syria's Idlib, KRG referendum to top agenda in Tehran**

Turkey's President Erdogan will meet with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran, where common security threats in the region are expected to be key areas of discussion between the two leaders. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday, a few days after the two countries' chiefs of staff met in Tehran to discuss common security issues. Erdogan's trip to Iran comes a week after Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Ankara, as ties between Turkey and both Iran and Russia grow amid common regional security concerns, especially in Syria.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/syria-s-idlib-kr-g-referendum-to-top-agenda-in-tehran-11040>

- **Syria urges UNSC to end US-led coalition crimes against its people**

The ministry added that a few days ago, the coalition admitted killing 800 citizens since the beginning of its operations in Syria which gives clear evidence on their heinous crimes. It expressed Syria's deep concern over the international community's silence towards those crimes, taking into account the states and organizations "which bargain in the humanitarian issues, but they remain silent when it comes to the US-led coalition crimes against the Syrian people."

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/syria-urges-unsc-to-end-us-led-coalition-crimes-against-its-people\\_858153.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/syria-urges-unsc-to-end-us-led-coalition-crimes-against-its-people_858153.html)

### 3. IRAN

- **Commander: Wargames in Western Iran Clear Message to Enemies**

Lieutenant Commander of Iran's Ground Force General Nozar Nemati announced that his forces' military drills codenamed Eqtedar (Might) underway in the Western and Northwestern parts of the country have a clear message to the enemies. In relevant remarks last Saturday, Deputy Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri announced that the Iranian and Iraqi military forces will stage joint wargames at the borders of the two countries. Joint military drills will be held by the Iranian Armed Forces and certain units of the Iraqi Army at the joint borders and bordering points, including Qasr-e Shirin to Parviz Khan, Bashmaq in Marivan and Tamarchin in Piranshahr in the next few days, General Jazayeri said.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960711000987>

- **Iran, Uganda to develop banking, economic cooperation**

Foreign Ministry's Africa Department Director General Mehdi Aqa Jafari in a meeting with Uganda officials discussed ways to promote economic and trade ties and also banking cooperation. Meanwhile, Julius Onen stressed Uganda readiness to create facilities for Iranian businessmen and industrialists in Uganda. In the meantime, Uganda Chairman said unfortunately world media distort realities in Iran and Uganda.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82685079>

- **Parliament speaker: US following false path on Iran nuclear deal**

Iran nuclear talks have been finished and the US is following the wrong path of bargaining to get more advantages, Iran parliament speaker said. Iran has its own interests under the JCPOA and as long as they are fulfilled we will recognize the deal, but if the other side decides not to stay committed to Iran deal, we would reciprocate. Larijani arrived in Shiraz city on Wednesday for a three-day tour.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82685160>

- **Europe to ‘Do Everything’ to Maintain JCPOA: EU Diplomat**

Helga Schmid, the secretary general of the European External Action Service (EEAS), said European countries “will do everything” necessary to preserve the 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and world powers. Since the historic deal was signed in Vienna, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly confirmed the Islamic Republic’s compliance with its commitments under the JCPOA, but some other parties, especially the US, have failed to live up to their undertakings.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/04/1536658/europe-to-do-everything-to-maintain-jcpoa-eu-diplomat>

- **Iran expresses ‘sympathy’ over Las Vegas massacre**

Foreign Ministry in Tehran offers condolences to families of those killed in 'heinous' shooting. Iran on Tuesday expressed its sympathy toward the United States following the shooting deaths of at least 59 people and wounding of more than 500 at a Las Vegas concert. Iran and the United States have not had diplomatic relations for the past 37 years, and the arrival in January in the White House of US President Donald Trump has served to boost tensions.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-expresses-sympathy-over-las-vegas-massacre/>

- **Iran, Turkey to stop Israel from hatching new plot in ME**

Iranian Defense Minister Hatami said Tue. that Iran and Turkey would not allow the realization of a new US-Israeli plot in the Middle East to partition regional countries. Iranian Minister of Defense Brigadier General Amir Hatami made the remarks in a meeting with Chief of the General Staff of Turkish Armed Forces, Hulusi Akar, on Tuesday in Tehran. Turkish army chief further voiced his country’s readiness to cooperate with Iran in border security, as well as combating human, arms, and drug trafficking.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128333/Iran-Turkey-to-stop-Israel-from-hatching-new-plot-in-ME>

- **Late Talabani played key role in Iraq's national unity, integrity**

President Hassan Rouhani, in a message, said Jalal Talabani was undoubtedly a distinguished figure who made great attempts for strengthening bonds between Iraqi tribes and ethnic groups. President Rouhani sent a message expressing condolences over the death of former Iraqi President Jalal Talabani to the people and government of Iraq stating "without a doubt, the late Talabani was a distinguished figure who attempted a lot for strengthening bonds between Iraqi tribes and ethnic groups."

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128337/Late-Talabani-played-key-role-in-Iraq-s-national-unity-integrity>

- **Iran, Britain ink MoU to deepen trade ties**

Iran and Britain have signed a cooperation agreement aimed at developing bilateral trade transactions. During the visit of an Iranian delegation to London, the cooperation agreement was signed at presence of Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari and Chairman of British Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Lord Norman Lamont.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128342/Iran-Britain-ink-MoU-to-deepen-trade-ties>

- **IRGC Advisor: US after Disintegration of West Asian Countries**

A senior advisor to the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) described the independence referendum in the Iraqi Kurdistan region as "highly dangerous", warning that the US wants disintegration of the West Asian countries to make them weak. "Referendum in the Kurdistan region is highly dangerous and can have unpredictable consequences for the regional states and the residents of the Kurdistan region," Brigadier General Fathollah Jafari said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960712000889>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israeli Soldiers Abduct Six Palestinians in the West Bank**

Israeli soldiers abducted, on Wednesday at dawn, six Palestinians, including four in of the southern West Bank governorate of Hebron, summoned one Palestinian for interrogation and confiscated large sums of cash.

MoreDetails:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-soldiers-abduct-six-palestinians-in-the-west-bank/>

- **The potential 'Hezbollahization' of Hamas in Gaza**

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah on Monday made his first visit to the Gaza Strip since 2015, the latest in longstanding efforts to forge a rapprochement between the Fatah and Hamas factions which, in turn, would set the stage for national elections and the formation of a Palestinian unity government.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/The-potential-Hezbollahization-of-Hamas-in-Gaza-506678>

- **Will Trump Recognize Israeli Annexations?**

Israel and its lobby want President Trump to formally recognize territories annexed by Israel, but that most of the world consider unlawfully occupied. Bestowing U.S. legitimacy on Israel's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights, seized by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, would solidify a "buffer zone" to keep Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard at bay in war-torn Syria, argued Benjamin Netanyahu in April.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/smith-grant/2017/10/03/will-trump-recognize-israeli-annexations/>

- **Israel Says Will Annex Palestinian Territories, Uprooting Over 100,000 Palestinians**

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has backed legislation that would lead to the annexation of nearly 19 Palestinian settlements and uproot some 125,000 to 150,000 Palestinian people.

More Details:

<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Israel-Says-Will-Annex-Palestinian-Territories-Uprooting-Over-100000-Palestinians--20171003-0031.html>

- **Pilgrimage: Nigeria seeks activation of BASA with Israel**

Nigerian government has appealed to Israeli government to activate a Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA), insisting that the content of the document would be beneficial to the economy of both countries. BASA is an agreement that would give airplanes from Nigeria an unlimited access to Israeli airspace, allowing them the freedom to fly directly to Israel for pilgrimage exercise or for other purposes.

More Details:

<http://sunnewsonline.com/pilgrimage-nigeria-seeks-activation-of-basa-with-israel/>

- **Jordanian FM, Palestinian counterpart discuss peace efforts**

Jordanian Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, Ayman Safadi, has discussed on the telephone with Palestinian Foreign Minister, Riyad Al Malki, efforts to re-launch Middle East peace talks to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict according to the two-state solution.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302636238>

- **Egypt hails 'opportunity' for Palestinian unity**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sissi said Palestinian reconciliation could be an "opportunity" for wider regional peace, while Hamas welcomed Cairo's aid.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-hails-opportunity-for-palestinian-unity/>

- **Hamas Refuses to Surrender Weapons amid Reconciliation Talks with Fatah**

On Tuesday, a senior political leader of Hamas rejected Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' call for the group to hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority (PA), the interim self-government of Palestine.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710041057923024-hamas-refuses-surrender-weapons-reconciliation-talks-fatah/>

- **Rival Palestinian factions take closer steps toward reconciliation**

Throngs of Gazans cheered as Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah entered Gaza on Monday, the first visit he's made to the coastal strip in two years. Hamdallah's arrival marked an important

step toward the possible reunification of the Palestinian factions after Hamas violently evicted rival Fatah from Gaza in 2007.

More Details:

<http://us.cnn.com/2017/10/03/middleeast/hamas-fatah-gaza-west-bank/index.html>

- **Israel demolishes Bedouin village, makes 200 homeless**

Israeli troops have made some 200 Bedouin Palestinians homeless after demolishing their village in the Negev region. According to residents of the Araqib village on Tuesday, Israeli troops raided the village with bulldozers and destroyed every single building "They stormed in and destroyed everything, every single building, every single home," said a local elder.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/04/537397/israel-village-bedouin-demolish>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Armenia and Jordan promote mutual investments**

Armenia and Jordan will ensure favorable conditions for making mutual investments which will contribute to developing economic ties between two countries, reports Armenpress.

More Details:

<https://armenpress.am/eng/news/907660/armenia-and-jordan-promote-mutual-investments.html>

- **Jordanians, Palestinians jump-start economic relations**

After years of lackluster economic cooperation, Palestinian-Jordanian relations have warmed considerably. The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee, which has not met in three years, held high-level meetings in Amman Sept. 27. Ministers and businesspersons from both sides attended a flurry of marathon gatherings, which resulted in the signing of five agreements at the Prime Ministry during a summit headed by Jordanian Prime Minister Hani al-Mulki and Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. Both sides described the atmosphere at the signing ceremony as excellent.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/jordan-palestie-joint-committee-economy-political-agreements.html#ixzz4uWg5yqav>

- **Turkey, Jordan appreciate friendly ties**

Speakers of the parliament from Turkey and Jordan on Tuesday appreciated the strong bonds between the two friendly countries. Ismail Kahraman met his Jordanian counterpart Atef Tarawneh in the Turkish capital Ankara, where he said: "Frequent parliamentary relations will surely strengthen the friendship between our nations and states."

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-jordan-appreciate-friendly-ties/925868>

- **Terrorists Deploy at Syria's Nassib Border-Crossing Despite Jordan's Ultimatum**

The Arabic-language al-Watan daily reported that terrorists of the National Front for the Liberation of Syria entered Nassib border-crossing by force and fortified their positions regardless of Jordan's ultimatum to close off the passageway. In the meantime, chief coordinator of the National Front for Liberation of Syria Abu Mohammad al-Akhtabout said that the group's move to enter the Nassib passageway is aimed at preventing the Syrian government from reopening the border-crossing as it serves Damascus' interests.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960711001167>

- **A Good Move by Jordan for Syrian Children**

The big picture is bleak for Syrian refugee children, but the Jordanian government recently took a step to ensure these children's right to an education. Jordanian regulations require Syrian children to have a "service card," issued by the interior ministry, to enroll in school. These cards may be difficult or impossible for Syrian families to obtain, if, for instance, they moved from refugee camps to towns or cities without official permission.

More Details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/03/good-move-jordan-syrian-children>

- **Hariri Will Visit the Vatican**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri is expected to visit the Vatican during the first half of October where he will meet with Pope Francis, al-Joumhouria daily said on Wednesday. "The visit is of great importance at this stage, especially that it is the first visit by a Muslim Arab official to the Holy See, at a time when the world is experiencing tensions in the face of growing extremist currents," a source told the daily on condition of anonymity.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236243-hariri-will-visit-vatican>

- **Lebanese Hezbollah commander killed fighting IS in Syria**

Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says one of its top commanders has been killed while fighting Islamic State militants in Syria. The 44-year-old Ali Al-Hadi Al-Ashiq is the latest fatality for the Shiite group that has fought alongside Syrian government forces in the civil war next door since 2012.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/lebanese-hezbollah-commander-killed-fighting-syria-50271215>

- **Hariri, Jumblatt reject normalization of relations with Syria**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri and Progressive Socialist party leader MP Walid Jumblatt have reportedly rejected all attempts aiming to “normalization of” relations with Syria, and have stressed adherence to the ministerial statement, the pan-Arab al-Hayat daily reported on Tuesday

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2017/10/04/hariri-jumblatt-reject-normalization-of-relations-with-syria/>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi Arabia looks towards Russia**

Bloomberg is reporting that Saudi Arabia is looking at opportunities to acquire oil and gas assets in Russia, strengthening ties between the world's largest energy exporters as the Saudi king visits Moscow.

More Details:

<https://www.energyglobal.com/downstream/gas-processing/04102017/saudi-arabia-looks-towards-russia/>

- **The US is Backing Saudi War Crimes in Yemen**

It's the Real News Network. I'm Sharmini Peries coming to you from Baltimore. A growing movement in the U.S. Congress is working to stop U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. Last week, four U.S. representatives, two Democrats: Ro Khanna from California and Mark Pocan from Wisconsin and two Republicans: Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Walter Jones of North Carolina introduced House Resolution 81 which would invoke the War Powers Act to end U.S. involvement in the civil war in Yemen. The resolution is expected to come up for a vote on October 9th. The civil war in Yemen

began in 2015, when members of the Houthi ethnic group overthrew the Saudi supported government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.

More Details:

[http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=20121](http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=20121)

- **Saudi-led coalition 'back on UN blacklist' for killing Yemen children**

A confidential draft United Nations report on violations against children has listed a Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen, Reuters reported on Tuesday. The leaked blacklist reportedly named the coalition for killing and maiming children in Yemen, noting that it has put in place measures to improve child protection.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/4/un-puts-saudi-led-coalition-in-yemen-back-on-blacklist>

- **Iran shares close views on Yemen with Oman, Qatar**

Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif said Tue. that Omani and Qatari officials have shared his views on the need for putting an immediate end to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128328/Iran-shares-close-views-on-Yemen-with-Oman-Qatar>

- **Qatar to Double Production of Food Items as It Deals With Saudi-Led Blockade**

There is no threat to Qatar's food security from the siege imposed by the Saudi-led group, as the country is working to double local production of food items within a year of the beginning of the blockade, Minister of Municipality and Environment HE Mohammed bin Abdullah al Rumaihi has said.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/qatar-double-production-food-items-it-deals-saudi-led-blockade-1029602>

- **Taiwan protests Qatar Airways decision to change nationalities of crew to 'Chinese (TWN)' on registration docs**

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has protested Qatar Airways' decision to change the nationalities of its crew members from Taiwanese to Chinese (TWN) on their registration documents.

More Details:

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/10/04/taiwan-protests-qatar-airways-decision-change-nationalities-crew-chinese-twn-registration-docs/>

- **Russia Says Deal to Sell the UAE Su-35 Fighters Is Just Months Away**

Russia is reportedly on the verge of selling more than a dozen advanced Su-35S Flanker-E fighter jets to the United Arab Emirates. If the deal is truly in the works, it could signal a shift by the country away from its long time partner the United States, or it could be an attempt by authorities in Dubai to gain political leverage over their counterparts in Washington.

More Details:

<http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/14847/russia-says-deal-to-sell-the-uae-su-35-fighters-is-just-months-away>

- **Five police officers wounded in Manama attack**

Five Bahraini policemen were lightly injured in what interior ministry says was a terrorist blast outside the capital Manama on Monday. The policemen were "securing Ashoora procession on Budaiya Highway in Daih", according to the official Bahrain news agency.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/gcc/five-police-officers-wounded-in-manama-attack-1.663604>

- **Red arrows' dynamic display marks UK'S Historic ties with Oman**

Aircraft from the world-renowned display team performed a precision show of loops, rolls and close-passes in front of thousands of people lining a coastline of the capital and also a reception for senior government officials.

More Details:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/news/archive/red-arrows-dynamic-display-marks-uks-historic-ties-with-oman-04102017>

- **USIM Vice-Chancellor to Meet With Oman's Cultural Attache in Malaysia Over Ban**

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Musa Ahmad said he would meet Oman's Cultural Attache in Malaysia this Friday to seek clarification on the country prohibiting its students from pursuing studies at four universities in Malaysia, including USIM.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=1397247>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's role in Gaza: Putting disagreements aside**

This year has already seen Egypt and Gaza take tangible steps in this regard, Madhoun noted, from the construction of a buffer zone to security agreements. In September this year, Hamas agreed to dissolve the Gaza administrative committee, which it had established to run the government, and hand power over to the PUG. However, some sticking points remain in the negotiations between Hamas and Fatah.

More Details:

<https://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/10/04/feature/politics/egypts-role-in-gaza-putting-disagreements-aside/>

- **Egypt invited to join OPEC+**

Venezuela has invited Egypt to join the oil output cut deal of OPEC and participating non-OPEC countries, Eulogio Del Pino, Minister of the People's Ministry of Petroleum of Venezuela wrote on Twitter. Moreover, Russia's Energy Minister Alexander Novak has said that Libya is also expected to join the OPEC deal. Russia invited Turkmenistan to join the OPEC oil output cut deal. Novak noted that Turkmenistan is not going to officially join the deal, but is ready to be an observer and take part in discussions on the current market situation.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/business/energy/2803919.html>

- **Sudan's al-Bashir invited to visit Egypt**

Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir has received an invitation to visit Egypt extended by his counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, said the foreign ministry in Khartoum on Tuesday. The invitation letter was delivered by the Egyptian Ambassador to Khartoum Osama Shaltout to the Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour, according to a statement released by the ministry's spokesperson. Relations between the two countries are marred by difference over Halayeb triangle and Sudan's support for Ethiopia in the construction of the Renaissance Dam. Also, the conflicting trade relations between the two countries also contributed to widening the gap between the two countries.

More Details:

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article63668>

- **Egypt's central bank to raise required reserve ratio to 14 pct from 10 pct**

Egypt's central bank plans to raise the required reserve ratio on local currency deposits to 14 percent from 10 percent for domestic banks, effective Oct. 10, the bank said on Tuesday. They are designed to help revive an economy hard hit by a shortage of foreign currency and investment in the turmoil that followed a 2011 uprising.

More Details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKCN1C90OS-OZABS?feedType=RSS&feedName=investingNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAbusinessNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Business+News%29&&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKCN1C90OS-OZABS?feedType=RSS&feedName=investingNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAbusinessNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Business+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **Egypt refutes Washington Post claims 2016 N.Korean arms shipment was bound for its military**

Egyptian foreign ministry spokesperson Ahmed Abu Zeid has denied a report by the Washington Post claiming that a shipment of weapons from North Korea seized by Egyptian authorities in 2016 was in fact destined for the Egyptian military. The US newspaper reported that the Egyptian military was the actual undisclosed buyer of \$23 million worth of rocket-propelled grenades seized by the Egyptian customs authority in August 2016 in Egyptian national waters after a receiving a tip from US intelligence.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278191/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-refutes-Washington-Post-claims--NKorean-arms.aspx>

- **High profile MPs sweep elections for Egyptian parliament's 25 committees**

Egyptian MPs held several meetings on Monday and Tuesday to elect officers for parliament's 25 committees. While some high profile MPs affiliated with the Support Egypt parliamentary bloc have been elected to head at least 16 committees, others were able to win for the first time. MPs affiliated with the Wafd, Free Egyptians, and Future of a Homeland parties also won leading posts. Mohamed El-Sewedi, a business tycoon who was elected head of the Support Egypt bloc on Saturday, told reporters that the bloc had refused to field candidates for every parliamentary committee.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278227/Egypt/Politics-/High-profile-MPs-sweep-elections-for-Egyptian-parl.aspx>

- **French ambassador welcomes Egyptian President Sisi's visit to Paris**

During a press conference held in the French consulate on Monday, Ambassador Stephane Roumtier said his country is undertaking preparations for Egypt's president Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi's upcoming visit to Paris, where he is set to discuss regional and international issues as well as work with French President Emmanuel Macron towards boosting bilateral relations. The visit is the first by the Egyptian president since the election of President Macron in May 2017. Last month, France's ambassador to Cairo announced that Egypt's President Sisi will visit France in the fall of this year upon an invitation from his French counterpart.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278156/Egypt/Politics-/French-ambassador-welcomes-Egyptian-President-Sisi.aspx>

- **Egypt threatens those who criticise parliament**

Egyptian Parliament Speaker Ali Abdel Aal warned of tough punishments for those who criticise the national legislative body on Monday morning, according to Ahram Online. In a statement prior to the House of Representative's third session, Abdel Aal particularly highlighted that MPs and media bodies who tried to "defame the image of parliament" would be subject to disciplinary action.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171004-egypt-threatens-those-who-criticise-parliament/>

- **Egypt's role in Gaza: Putting disagreements aside**

Efforts to foster inter-Palestinian reconciliation took a significant step forward on Monday as Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, head of the Palestinian Unity Government (PUG), arrived in Gaza on Monday to take up administration of the strip, in the presence of Egyptian diplomats and intelligence officials. The scene accompanying Hamdallah's arrival raises questions around the Egyptian government's agenda regarding the Palestinian issue, and its relations with the Gaza-based Hamas movement and the strip's internal politics, particularly given the presence of General Intelligence Services (GIS) Head Khaled Fawzy and prominent GIS generals Hammam Abou Zeid and Sameh Kamel.

More Details:

<https://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/10/04/feature/politics/egypts-role-in-gaza-putting-disagreements-aside/>

- **Egypt Reportedly Ordered 30,000 Rockets From North Korea in \$23m Deal Foiled by U.S.**

Egyptian business executives ordered \$23 million worth of rockets from North Korea for the Egyptian army in a complex and illicit arrangement that was thwarted by U.S. intelligence services, The Washington Post reported on Monday. The failed deal prompted a United Nations investigation and a series of U.S. complaints over Egypt's sanction-defying attempts to purchase North Korean weaponry, just one link in the chain of a global arms trade that the report describes as a "vital financial lifeline" for the country's leader, Kim Jong Un.

More Details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.815268>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **CELAC Renews Support for Political Solution to Sahara Issue**

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has renewed its firm support to the efforts seeking to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution to the issue of Moroccan Sahara. Speaking before UN 4th Committee, permanent representative of El Salvador Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas said CELAC bloc strongly backs the efforts made by the UN Secretary General and his personal envoy for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution to the Sahara issue.

More Details:

<http://northafricapost.com/20032-celac-renews-support-political-solution-sahara-issue.html>

- **Despite Tunisia's positive reforms, more changes are needed**

Tunisia is once again lauded for its progress in human rights. President Beji Caid Essebsi recently scrapped a 44-year old bill prohibiting marriage between Muslim women and non-Muslim men. Despite such a progressive move, many in Tunisia still feel that their country faces issues that threaten democracy and equality. Tunisia is considered the most progressive country in the region. Human rights commentators, while recognising issues within the country, still view it to be a model Arab nation for women's rights and equality. Tunisia's first president since independence, Habib Bourguiba, strove to promote liberal and secular values enabling women to have prominent positions in society.

More Details:

<http://tdailynews.net/story-z9405520>

- **Misrata bomb at law courts kills four**

A car bomb at the court buildings in Misrata this morning is reported to have killed four people and seriously injured 15. The so-called Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility. It is not yet known, though, if it was a suicide attack. Defence ministry and formerly Bunyan Marsous spokesman Mohamed al-Ghasri has said that the attack targeted the head of the court, Assadik Badi, saying it was in revenge for statements he had made about IS.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/04/misrata-bomb-at-law-courts-kills-four/>

- **Morocco, Poland Hold Political Consultations in Warsaw**

Secretary of state for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mounia Boucetta, and Polish counterpart Joanna Wronecka held a meeting on Monday in Warsaw as part of the regular political consultations between the two countries. The meeting focused on the different aspects of political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries, as well as the prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation.

More Details:

<http://marocgazette.com/story-z2821713>

- **Qatar Foreign Minister: Morocco Is a 'Reliable Partner' and 'Precious Mediator' in Gulf Crisis**

Qatar's foreign minister has praised Morocco for maintaining neutrality and providing mediation in the Gulf crisis, which saw Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Bahrain sever ties with Doha. In an interview with pan-African magazine JeuneAfrique, Minister Mohammed Ibn Abderrahmane Al Thani said his country was not surprised by Morocco's neutral stance despite its strong relations with Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/10/230049/qatar-foreign-minister-morocco-is-a-reliable-partner-and-precious-mediator-in-gulf-crisis/>

- **Tunisian-European action plan in economy and migration under development**

Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui received, on Tuesday in Tunis, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. Jhianoui said his meeting with Hahn, the 3rd in the space of a few weeks, reviewed the Tunisian-European plan of action for the period 2017-2020.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9430908-tunisian-european>

- **You Don't Understand Libya: Boris Rebuffs Critics Over 'Dead Bodies' Remark**

Gaffe-prone Boris Johnson has brushed off calls for him to be sacked as UK Foreign Secretary over remarks about Libya's tourism potential and the need to clear away the "dead bodies" to fulfill it. Johnson's latest high-profile blunder came during a speech made by the UK's chief diplomat to a Conservative Party conference fringe meeting when he remarked Sirte could become the new Dubai, adding "all they have to do is clear the dead bodies away." The Foreign Sec however dismissed the barrage of condemnation that ensued, pointing out his critics had "no knowledge or understanding of Libya" and accused them of simply playing politics.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201710041057934227-boris-johnson-diplomacy-libya/>

- **Libya's Sharara oilfield reopens after two-day shutdown: NOC**

Production at Libya's giant Sharara oilfield resumed on Wednesday after an armed brigade forced a two-day shutdown, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) said. Operations at Sharara, which is crucial to a partial revival of Libya's oil output, have been repeatedly disrupted this year due to blockades by armed groups, protests and security problems.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-oil/libyas-sharara-oilfield-reopens-after-two-day-shutdown-noc-idUSKCN1C91HX>

- **Switzerland donates Tunisia 267 MD as part of its new co-operation strategy**

Switzerland has granted Tunisia a donation of 100 million Swiss francs, equivalent to 267 million Tunisian dinars (MD), as part of its new co-operation strategy for the period 2017-2020. Switzerland wants to foster its co-operation with Tunisia, particularly in the economic field, emigration, security and democratic transition, said Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, Simonetta Sommaruga, who announced the launch of the new strategy at a press conference Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/9430730-switzerland-donates>

- **22 Tunisia ministries fall short of new law demanding transparency**

Some 22 ministries out of a total of 27 in Tunisia have failed to comply with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, according to the legal adviser of the organisation I Watch, Intissar Arfaoui. Of those ministries which failed to uphold the act – which guarantees the right to access information particularly on the administration of public services – the Presidency of the Government, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Education were all included.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171004-22-tunisia-ministries-fall-short-of-new-law-demanding-transparency/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **US Rules of Engagement in Afghanistan Eased, Greater Civilian Deaths Probable**

The "rules of engagement" governing US forces in Afghanistan have been relaxed, following a similar easing of restrictions on warfare in Yemen and Afghanistan. The change may almost inevitably result in greater civilian casualties. US President Donald Trump has fulfilled his pledge to relax the rules of engagement in Afghanistan, leaving the US military free to open fire on the Taliban without its troops being in direct contact with enemy combatants. Speaking to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis announced the move to "lift restrictions and expand authorities" on and of US operations in the embattled central Asian nation, following a policy originally mooted by Trump in August.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/military/201710041057938194-rules-of-engagement-civilians/>

- **POL discovers largest reserves of oil and gas**

Pakistan Oil fields Limited (POL) had discovered one of the largest oil and gas reserves from its Jhandial well (Punjab) in the last five years. Jhandial well is located in Ikhlas Block in Northern Potwar, about 83 kilometers Southwest of Islamabad in District Attock, said an official.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/234489-POL-discovers-largest-reserves-of-oil-and-gas>

- **'NA-120 victory a golden page in history': Nawaz thanks supporters**

Congratulating his party's supporters on the NA-120 win, newly re-elected PML-N President Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the party's victory was a "golden page in history." "You have not won

just one constituency's election but were witnesses in the court of truth," the former prime minister said as he addressed his party's Youth Convention in Lahore.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1361681/na-120-victory-a-golden-page-in-history-nawaz-thanks-supporters>

- **IG Prisons, DIG should be replaced, proposes inquiry report**

A probe into serious security lapses at the Karachi Central Jail (KCJ) has proposed that the Inspector General (IG) Prisons Nusrat Manghan and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Prisons Karachi Region Ashraf Ali Nizmani be replaced with immediate effect, it surfaced on Wednesday. Law enforcement agencies conducted a raid at the prison last week, and took custody of two terror convicts who were recruiting inmates for Daesh, sources informed Geo News.

More Details:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/161142-2-dangerous-convicts>

- **Taliban militants and commanders suffer heavy casualties in Kunduz**

The Taliban militants and their commanders suffered heavy casualties during the latest counter-terrorism operations in northern Kunduz province of Afghanistan. According to the 209th Shaheen Corps of the Afghan national army, the latest casualties were inflicted to the Taliban insurgents in Imam Sahib district.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/taliban-militants-and-commanders-suffer-heavy-casualties-in-kunduz-03577>

- **Pakistani Army Chief Heading a High Ranking Delegation Recently Arrived Kabul**

The visit of this high ranking military delegation that includes the chief of military intelligence of that country without has aiming to amend the already tense relation between Kabul and Islamabad. BNA reporter reporting the issue writes General Jaweed Bajju military chief of Pakistan accompanied by General Rezwan Akhtar ISI director and a number of high ranking military and civilian officials arrived Kabul. Afghan President's office releasing a newsletter in that regard has said that President Ghani and General Bajju in their meeting discussed on regional security, mutual relations, and counter terrorism struggle and transit issues.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics.html>

- **Ceasefire violations by Pak continue: Three army men injured in Poonch**

Three Army personnel were injured as Pakistani troops resorted to heavy shelling and firing on border out posts (BoPs) and civilian areas along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. In the wake of continuous shelling, the schools falling within five kilometers from LoC in Poonch district have been shut. Authorities have also issued advisory in the border belts asking the people not to venture out of their houses . Similarly, the government has also asked the senior doctors in hospitals to remain present round the clock to meet any eventuality.

More Details:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/636203/ceasefire-violations-pak-continue-three.html>

- **The US Will Be Dropping A Lot More Bombs on Afghanistan**

More air support for Afghan forces will help drive the Taliban to the negotiating table, Mattis and Dunford tell Congress. Sixteen years into America’s war in Afghanistan, the Pentagon has a new strategy it says will help bring the conflict to an end. A large part of it: Intensifying the U.S.- and NATO-led air campaign in order to drive the Taliban to the negotiating table. The second R, “realignment,” will push U.S. advisors and trainers down to Afghan forces’ battalions, and the third, “reinforce,” means adding 3,000 or so U.S. troops to help do so, Mattis said. In recent years, U.S. advisors have been embedded only at the senior levels of the conventional Afghan military and with the Afghan special forces.

More Details:

<http://www.defenseone.com/politics/2017/10/us-will-be-dropping-lot-more-bombs-afghanistan/141520/>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Barzani is being warned, not threatened**

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has repeated his warning to Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Masoud Barzani to undo the wrong he has committed by holding an illegal independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan and said if this is done, Turkey can continue conducting its relations with the KRG as friends.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/columns/ilnur-cevik/2017/10/04/barzani-is-being-warned-not-threatened>

- **Turkey to impose more sanctions on Kurdistan over secession vote: Erdogan**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Ankara would impose further sanctions on Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in light of the September 25 referendum on the independence of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/03/537333/Turkey-to-impose-more-sanctions-on-Kurdistan-over-secession-vote-Erdogan>

- **Generals Discuss Iran-Turkey Cooperation against Secession Bids**

In a Tuesday meeting in Tehran, Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami and the General Staff of Turkey Hulusi Akar discussed a range of issues, with the focus on protection of the territorial integrity of the countries in the region.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/04/1536289/generals-discuss-iran-turkey-cooperation-against-secession-bids>

*\*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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