



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

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Peace Process

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Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dıő Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İliőkiler

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1. IRAQ

- **A Military Operation from 2 Axes To Track Daesh Cells, East Of Baquba**

The commander of the Tigris operations, Lieutenant General Mizher al-Azzawi announced the launch of a military operation from two axes to track the cells of Daesh east of Baquba. "The operation has launched with the participation of the police forces, the forces of the Tigris operations, the popular mobilization, and the army's air force to chase the Daesh cells in nine villages in al-Nada Basin east of Baquba," Azzawi told NINA.

More Details:

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

- **Baghdad-mandated flight ban costs Kurdish airport USD60.000 daily**

An international flight ban imposed by the Iraqi government in Baghdad on Kurdish airports has caused one of them to sustain tens of thousands of dollars in losses per day, its director said. Almaalomah website quoted Taher Abdallah, director of al-Sulaymaniyah Airport, saying that the ban mandated by the Iraqi government has caused daily losses worth USD60.000.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/baghdad-mandated-flight-ban-causes-kurdish-airport-usd60-000-daily/>

- **IS to Be Completely Defeated This Year: Iraq's Abadi**

Iraqi Prime Minister Hadier al-Abadi expects the Islamic State (IS) to be completely defeated by the end of the current year. The premier, who also serves as the Commander-in-Chief for country's armed forces, made the comment on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/384657>

- **Iraq recovers bodies of plane crew shot down by IS**

Iraqi forces have found the bodies of two of the crew of a plane shot down by the Islamic State group last year, the air force said on Tuesday. The Cessna 208 Caravan was downed over the northern town of Hawija, a former jihadist bastion which was retaken by government forces last week.

More Details:

http://www.shafaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/cd8c9d4d-63cb-4f32-8c03-4a2ab38a443e

- **German Amb. seeks fresh Baghdad-Erbil talks**

German ambassador in Iraq Cyril Nan said Tuesday his country would seek fresh talks between Erbil and Baghdad particularly after Kurdistan Region President Massoud Barzani expressed readiness for unconditional dialogue with Baghdad. This came after a meeting the German ambassador held with Barzani. During the meeting, Nan explained his country's position on the political situation and the implications of the referendum process and the importance of the role of Kurdistan for Germany.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18081/German-Amb-seeks-fresh-Baghdad-Erbil-talks>

- **Russia says US "pretending" to fight Daesh in Iraq, Syria**

Russia accused the United States on Tuesday of pretending to fight Daesh and of deliberately reducing its air strikes in Iraq to allow the group's militants to stream into Syria to slow the Russian-backed advance of the Syrian regime forces. The Pentagon strongly denied the accusations, saying that the US-led coalition fighting Daesh posts data every day on the number and result of strikes for the public to see.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/russia-says-us-pretending-to-fight-daesh-in-iraq-syria-11239>

- **Iranian universities enter Iraq**

In the aftermath of the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, the country's educational system all but collapsed. Illiteracy rates have exploded. Universities have turned into sectarian battlegrounds. Systemic violence — including beatings, rape and death threats — has forced students and faculty out of campuses. As state provision of higher education has receded, private donors have set up alternative institutions, often with a sectarian and religious twist. Foreign actors have also stepped in to fill the void.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/iran-universities-iraq-al-mustafa-baghdad-education-sector.html>

- **Iran-backed militias hinder U.S. adviser mission in Iraq**

The presence of Iranian-backed paramilitary units alongside Iraqi security forces battling Islamic State in the country hindered efforts by American military advisers to partner with their Iraqi counterparts on the battlefield. Embedded U.S. military advisers with the 82nd Airborne Division's Falcon Brigade attached to Iraqi units during the battle for the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar intentionally "tried to

keep our distance” from the Shia militias known as Popular Mobilization Units or PMUs, Brigade Commander Col. Pat Work said Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/10/iran-backed-militia-hinder-us-adviser-mission-iraq/>

- **Baghdad responsible for ‘disputed’ parts of Iraq: PM**

Baghdad is responsible for security in parts of Iraq “disputed” between Baghdad and Erbil, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Tuesday, going on to warn Kurdish Peshmerga forces against taking on federal government forces. “The central government is solely authorized to provide security in disputed areas [of Iraq],” al-Abadi said at a press conference in Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/baghdad-responsible-for-disputed-parts-of-iraq-pm/932252>

- **Iraq torture photos upsetting, says journalist**

They are like the infamous images from Abu Ghraib prison, only worse. Iraqi civilians in Mosul facing rape, torture and murder from members of their own army who had retaken the city from the Daesh militants. “They are the most sinister, upsetting pictures I have seen in my entire life,” the veteran BBC war correspondent Jeremy Bowen said of the images taken by Kurdish photographer Ali Arkady.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/93060a6b-9964-4175-939b-53e5dc41fb71.aspx>

- **Hundreds of suspected Islamic State militants surrender in Iraq: source**

Hundreds of suspected Islamic State militants surrendered last week to Kurdish authorities after the jihadist group was driven out of its last stronghold in northern Iraq, a Kurdish security official said on Tuesday. The suspects were part of a group of men who fled toward Kurdish-held lines when Iraqi government forces captured the Islamic State base in Hawija, the official told Reuters, asking not to be identified.

More Details:

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hawija/hundreds-of-suspected-islamic-state-militants-surrender-in-iraq-source-idUSKBN1CF1A7?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Iraq bans gold imports via airports in Kurdish region**

The Iraqi authorities on Tuesday banned the import of gold and other precious metals through airports in northern Iraq's Kurdish region. In a statement, Iraq's Planning Ministry announced that gold and other precious metals could henceforth only be imported into Iraq through the international airports in Baghdad and Najaf.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-bans-gold-imports-via-airports-in-kurdish-region/932026>

- **Russian Ombudsman to discuss humanitarian corridor in Iraq with CoE Secretary General**

High Commissioner for Human Rights Tatiana Moskalkova will discuss a problem of the return of Russian nationals from Iraq with Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE) Thorbjørn Jagland, RAPSİ reports from the Office of Ombudsman on Tuesday. Moskalkova has earlier sent a request to the United Nations (UN) for assistance in the organization of humanitarian corridor from Iraq's Mosul for Russian women and children. Currently, military operations against terrorists of the Islamic State organization banned in Russia are conducted there. The UN answer had not been received yet, the Ombudsman said.

More Details:

<http://rapsinews.com/news/20171010/280469684.html>

- **What is left of ISIL in Iraq?**

Far from the force that swept across Iraq in mid-2014 and seized control of nearly a third of the country, ISIL today has been weakened significantly, relegated to just a few dozen square kilometres of ground, with manpower in the low thousands. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) group was removed last week from yet another stretch of the country, the latest in a series of blows to the once-powerful armed group. The town of Hawija, which ISIL had held since 2014, lies around 240km north of Baghdad and was its last urban stronghold in Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/left-isil-iraq-171010112752721.html>

- **Grenade Attacks Kill Tribal Fighters' Family; 32 Killed in Iraq**

Iran has once again reduced the flow of water reaching Kurdistan through the Little Zab River. This perennial problem occurred as recently as July of this year. However, farmers say that this time the latest reduction began the day after the Kurdish independence referendum and believe it is punishment for voting for independence. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Tuesday that ties

with the government in Kurdistan have not been cut. However, he also warned that talks would only happen after the results of the referendum are tossed. He also threatened Kurdish leaders if they attempt to travel through Iraqi airports. Currently, no one may use Kurdish airports to leave the country.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/10/10/grenade-attacks-kill-tribal-fighters-family-32-killed-iraq/>

2. SYRIA

- **Syrian-Russian Committee meetings build solid base for strategic cooperation**

Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Expatriates Minister Walid al-Moallem said on Tuesday that the meetings of the Syrian-Russian Joint Committee have built a solid base for the strategic cooperation in the economic field between the two countries that is in line with the Syrian government's reconstruction programs. Al-Moallem's remarks came at the opening of the plenary session of the Syrian-Russian Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, held in the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=115487>

- **Moscow Wants Washington to Explain Why Militants Operate Near US Forces in Syria**

The Russian Defense Ministry has raised the issue of some 300 Daesh terrorists on pickup trucks infiltrating through a US-controlled zone in Syria's al-Tanf. The Russian Defense Ministry has urged "the US side to explain its selective blindness regarding militants" operating near US forces in Syria.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710111058123975-russia-us-forces-syria-militants/>

- **Syrian army makes strategic gain on Syria-Jordan border**

The Syrian Army has regained control over a large area on the Syrian-Jordanian border following months of fighting with terrorists. Press TV correspondent Zahra al-Derzi has visited some of the newly-liberated regions and filed this report.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/11/538191/Syrian-army-makes-strategic-gain-on-SyriaJordan-border>

- **US doctor lightly injured in Golan Heights by possible stray fire from Syria**

An American doctor working in an Israeli field hospital treating wounded Syrians in the Golan Heights was lightly injured Tuesday night as a result of shots fired from across the border towards the medical facility. The army said it was investigating “the possibility that the incident was caused due to stray fire.”

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-doctor-lightly-injured-in-golan-heights-by-possible-stray-fire-from-syria/>

- **Bottom line in Syria: No one is safe yet**

The Free Syrian Army (FSA), backed by Turkish troops and Russian air support, has launched an attack on the jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in northwest Syria's Idlib province. The objective is to wrest control from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham of the large areas it now holds, to pave the way for declaring Idlib city a safe zone. Meanwhile, heavy fighting was reported Oct. 9 between Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and the Islamic State (IS) in northern Hama province near the Idlib border. IS claims to have captured a dozen villages from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. Both Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and IS repeatedly engage with Syrian regime troops as well.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/turkey-backed-fsa-prepare-to-eliminate-hayat-tahrir-al-sham.html>

- **Russian military jet crashes in Syria, crew dead**

A Russian military jet on Tuesday crashed while taking off from Russia's Hmeymim air base in Syria. All of the crew died in the accident after they failed to eject themselves from the aircraft. "The Su-24 plane rolled off the runway and broke up while accelerating for takeoff... The plane's crew did not have time to eject and died," the local media reported quoting a military spokesman as saying.

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/russian-military-jet-crashes-in-syria-crew-dead201710102310480002/>

- **Syria: Disappeared Voices by Western Corporate Media**

Voices from Syria, disappeared by Western corporate-state media messaging and the on-going apparatus of criminal war propaganda, are increasingly reinforced as Syria's liberation from NATO terrorism continues. Now that refugees are flooding back into the country that they love, the truths that contradict the Western lies are laid bare.

More Details:

<https://www.opednews.com/articles/Syria-Disappeared-Voices-by-Mark-Taliano-Western-Media-171010-431.html>

- **Russia establishing direct shipping line to Syria: Deputy PM**

Work on establishing a direct shipping line between Syria and Russia is in progress as Russian authorities call on companies active in trade and business to help Syria recover from years of war and devastation. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who is also in charge of the country's military industrial complex, said on Tuesday that trade between Russia and Syria would go up significantly when the shipping line is established.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/10/538141/Russia-Syria-shipping-line>

- **Russian planes launch over 180 strikes in 24 hours against Syria terrorists in Deir ez-Zor**

Russian air forces in Syria carried out 182 strikes against Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) terrorists who had entered Deir ez-Zor province from western Iraq, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday. "Over the past 24 hours, Russia's warplanes dealt 182 strikes against the international terrorists," TASS quoted ministry representative Igor Konashenkov as saying.. He said airstrikes were delivered to a well-fortified stronghold near Mayadin on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River, with a stockpile of artillery and tank ammunition and a large network of underground tunnels accommodating a large group of terrorists - natives of Asian republics of the CIS and Algeria.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/newsline/406236-syria-russian-planes-isis/>

- **Iranian official: Syria capable of resisting int'l plots**

Syria has demonstrated that it is possible to resist an evil international plot, a member of Iran's Expediency Council said on Tuesday. 'The US and Saudi Arabia, who are supporting terrorists, thought that they could defeat Syria within weeks, but now it is six years that the country's people and government, headed by Bashar al-Assad, have managed to resist and win an international war,' Ali Akbar Velayati said in a meeting with the Syrian ambassador to Tehran.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82691516>

3. IRAN

- **Iranian Leader's Top Aide: ISIL Supporters Threatening IRGC**

Iranian Supreme Leader's top adviser for international affairs Ali Akbar Velayati expressed surprise that Washington which is a staunch supporter of the ISIL is now threatening the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) with designation as a terrorist group. "The US threat against the IRGC is nothing new and they (the Americans) should know that the IRGC is the pivot of the region. Were there no IRGC, the ISIL would spread but the IRGC is the symbol of resistance while ISIL supporters are threatening the IRGC," Velayati told reporters in Tehran on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960718001126>

- **Iran calls for formation of dialogue forum for Persian Gulf states**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called for the formation of a regional dialogue forum for the Persian Gulf littoral states in an attempt to restore peace and stability to the region. In a Monday article in The Atlantic website, Zarif underlined the need for "meaningful" restoration of peace and stability to the Persian Gulf region, noting, "To achieve this outcome, we should be erecting a working regional mechanism rather than laying more bricks in the wall of division. We can start with a regional dialogue forum, something Iran has always been—publicly and privately—in favor of."

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/10/538167/Iran-Zarif-Persian-Gulf>

- **Iran, EU draft document on 2nd nuclear safety project**

An Iranian delegation held talks with senior officials and nuclear security experts from the European Union on Tue. in Brussels to discuss cooperation on enhancing the country's nuclear safety. The two sides held talks on 9-10 October at the EU headquarters in Brussels within the framework of EU's cooperation with Iran's nuclear safety center under Appendix 3 of the Iran's nuclear deal also known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128496/Iran-EU-draft-document-on-2nd-nuclear-safety-project>

- **Iranian foreign minister: Foreign meddling has wrought a fractured Middle East**

Iranians live in a troubled and unstable region. We cannot change geography, but our neighborhood was not always so stormy. Without delving too far back into history—although as an ancient peoples our memories are measured in millennia, not decades or even centuries—it's safe to say that our region began to experience insecurity and instability when foreign, indeed completely alien powers, arrived and began interfering. The discovery of oil, a drug the West soon became addicted to, only strengthened colonial power projection into our region, and subsequently Cold War rivalry—both major factors in the U.S. and U.K. decision to overthrow the legitimate and democratic government of Iran in 1953—provided the fodder for further meddling by foreign powers and superpowers.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417463/Iranian-foreign-minister-Foreign-meddling-has-wrought-a-fractured>

- **UK PM urges Iran deal to be 'properly enforced'**

British Prime Minister Theresa May has said the July 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the major world powers should be 'properly enforced'. May, in a telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, reaffirmed London's commitment to the Iran nuclear deal. A statement published by May's office after the call, suggested that she 'reaffirmed the UK's strong commitment to the deal alongside our European partners, stressing 'it was important that the deal was carefully monitored and properly enforced,' Reuters reported.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82692457>

- **Iran Navy repels pirate attack in Gulf of Aden**

Iranian naval forces have successfully thwarted a major pirate attack on one of the country's merchant vessels in the Gulf of Aden. Iran's 48th naval fleet, comprised of Alvand destroyer and Lavan logistic warship, saved the Iranian ship from an attack by pirates sailing seven boats near Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Monday morning.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/202090.html>

- **Solutions to foil Trump's fresh sanctions exist inside Iran itself**

Iran has no way out but to rely on domestic capacities as it seems the US President Donald Trump is successfully managing to persuade the Congress to re-impose sanctions on Tehran's energy sector, an expert said. "Iran must face any fresh round of sanctions only via relying on its internal capacities,

including talented human resources and internal wealth," Hossein Raghfar, a well-known economist and university professor told Trend.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2805928.html>

- **Top Iranian, Egyptian Officials Discuss Bilateral, Regional Issues**

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the Iranian Parliament speaker for international affairs, sat down on Tuesday with head of the Egyptian Interest Section in Tehran Yasser Osman. During the meeting, the two sides discussed regional questions as well as key issues of mutual interest regarding bilateral parliamentary ties.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/top-iran-egypt-officials-discuss/>

- **JCPOA Non-Implementation to Draw Iran's Proportionate Response: Envoy**

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholam Ali Khoshroo warned that any continued non-implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers by one of its participants would certainly be met with Iran's proportionate response. "To make it clear, any continued significant non-implementation of the JCPOA commitments by one of its participants will definitely be faced with a proportionate reaction by Iran.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/11/1542655/jcpoa-non-implementation-to-draw-iran-s-proportionate-response-envoy>

- **Russia opposes US plans to label Iran's IRGC as terrorist group**

The Russian Foreign Ministry has expressed opposition to US President Donald Trump's plan to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. Moscow does not consider the IRGC as a terrorist organization, Russia's Interfax news agency cited the Russian Foreign Ministry as saying on Tuesday. The news comes a few days before the US president's expected announcement of a final decision on his Iran strategy.

More Details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i65565-russia-opposes-us-plans-to-label-iran%E2%80%99s-irgc-as-terrorist-group>

- **Iran rejects claims on extension of Nazanin Zaghari's term in prison**

Speaking to IRNA, the unnamed source added that it is not the first time Mr. Ratcliff tries to intrigue public opinion and make propaganda based on false information. He went on to say, "The truth is Mrs. Zaghari has attended a court hearing and based on new information made available to the judge, she has been charged for her illegal acts. "

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/iran-rejects-claims-extension-nazanin-zagharis-term-prison/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel Aerospace wins helicopter SATCOM deal**

The follow-on contract with a key customer includes several dozens of airborne terminals and ground segments for medium and heavy lift helicopters. Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (IAI) (TASE: ARSP.B1) has been awarded a major contract by a key customer for supplying an advanced SATCOM (Satellite Communications) network system. The contract includes several dozens of airborne terminals and ground segments for medium and heavy lift helicopters. No financial details were disclosed.

More Details:

<http://www.globes.co.il/en/article-israel-aerospace-wins-helicopter-satcom-deal-1001207661>

- **Spy vs spy vs spy as Israel watches Russian hackers: NYT**

Israeli spies observed Russian government hackers in real time as they scoured computers around the world for the codenames of US intelligence programs, The New York Times reported Tuesday night.

More Details:

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/23/spy-vs-spy-vs-spy-israel-watches-russian-hackers-nyt>

- **'Hizballah controls Lebanese army,' says Israeli defence minister**

Israel's right-wing defence minister has claimed the Hizballah militant group controls Lebanon's army. Avigdor Lieberman said Tuesday that "the Lebanese army has become an integral part of Hizballah under Hizballah command", without providing any evidence to support the claim.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/10/israel-hizballah-controls-lebanese-army>

- **Iron dome goes on display in Washington amid reports on possible us purchase**

Amid reports that the US military is considering purchasing Israel's Iron Dome to plug a gap in its European defenses, the missile-defense system is on display in the US capital this week as part of the Association of the US Army (AUSA) annual meeting.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Iron-Dome-goes-on-display-in-Washington-amid-reports-on-possible-US-purchase-507186>

- **IMF raises growth forecast for Israel's economy**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised the growth forecast for Israel's economy in its latest report about the world economy issued before its annual conference in Washington DC. The IMF sees 3.1% GDP growth in 2017 and 3.4% GDP growth in 2018. In its April report, the IMF predicted 3% GDP growth in both 2017 and 2018.

More Details:

<http://www.globes.co.il/en/article-imf-raises-growth-forecast-for-israels-economy-1001207660>

- **Azzam al-Ahmed: Egypt Exerted Unprecedented Efforts towards Palestinian Reconciliation**

Fatah official Azzam al-Ahmed voiced his optimism that the latest round of Egypt-sponsored dialogue with the rival Hamas group would lead to an end to Palestinian division. He told Asharq Al-Awsat: "Egypt has made unprecedented efforts towards the reconciliation file due to the changing regional and international political stances." The dialogue between Fatah and Hamas kicked off in Cairo on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/mohammed-nabil-helmy-and-sawsan-abou-hussein/news-middle-east/azzam-al-ahmed-egypt-exerted-unprecedented-efforts-towards-palestinian-reconciliation>

- **Saudi Cabinet praises Palestinian reconciliation efforts**

In a session chaired by King Salman on Tuesday, the Cabinet welcomed Palestinian reconciliation efforts and wished them success to achieve national unity.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1175776/saudi-arabia>

- **Pollster: Abbas would lose in elections, Fatah still safe**

Khalil Shikaki, leading Palestinian pollster and director of the Ramallah-based Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR), has told Al-Monitor that based on current polling, the Fatah movement would do well in parliamentary elections, but that President Mahmoud Abbas would not win. According to Shikaki, the only Fatah leader at present who could win an election is Marwan Barghouti, who is serving a long sentence in an Israeli prison.

More Details

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/palestine-polls-presidential-elections-abbas-fatah.html#ixzz4vBKTm3AI>

- **Soldiers Injure Several Palestinians South Of Hebron**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Tuesday evening, the town of Yatta, south of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and clashed with many Palestinians, causing scores of residents to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/soldiers-injure-several-palestinians-south-of-hebron/>

- **Balfour Declaration Destroyed Palestine, Not Palestinians**

Some promises are made and kept; others disavowed. But the 'promise' made by Arthur James Balfour in what became known as the 'Balfour Declaration' to the leaders of the Zionist Jewish community in Britain one hundred years ago, was only honored in part: it established a state for the Jews and attempted to destroy the Palestinian nation.

More Details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1710/S00122/balfour-declaration-destroyed-palestine-not-palestinians.htm>

- **Palestinian delegation wraps up three-week Africa tour**

A delegation from Palestinian faction Fatah on Tuesday wrapped up a three-week tour of Africa aimed at counteracting perceived Israeli diplomatic influence on the continent.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/palestinian-delegation-wraps-up-three-week-africa-tour/931849>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan, S. Korea discuss nuclear cooperation**

Jordanian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Adel Twaisi, and President of the South Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, KAERI, Jaejoo Ha, Monday discussed cooperation in the field of researches related to peaceful uses of atomic energy.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302637656>

- **Hosting Syrian refugees costs \$10b: Jordan**

Authorities in Jordan on Tuesday estimated at more than \$10 billion the cost of hosting thousands of refugees displaced from neighbouring Syria since the civil war broke out there in 2011. In a statement released on social media, the foreign ministry said “more than \$10.3 billion” (8.7 billion euros) had been spent on putting up the refugees.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/89c07dd5-62bc-4854-8c63-a21305413805.aspx>

- **AIHR takes part in Jordan in launch of UN programme on life skills and citizenship**

The Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) took part in the launch of UNICEF’s Life Skills and Citizenship Initiative in MENA region on Tuesday. The launch took place during an international conference held in Amman, Jordan and attended by 200 participants from several countries.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Society/9451114-aihr-takes-part-in>

- **Jordan, Kenya agree to advance defence cooperation**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday received Kenyan Defence Minister Raychelle Omamo and discussed mechanisms to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Kenya, especially in the defence field, according to a Royal Court statement.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-kenya-agree-advance-defence-cooperation>

- **US offers \$12 million for information on two senior Hezbollah members**

The United State offered on Tuesday multimillion dollar rewards for information that would lead to two senior members of the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which the US designated a terrorist organisation in 1997. “Today, I am announcing rewards for two senior Hezbollah leaders under the State Department’s Rewards for Justice Program,” said Nathan Sales, coordinator for counterterrorism, during a press briefing.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/us-offers-12-million-for-information-on-two-senior-hezbollah-members-1.666274>

- **Hezbollah poses homeland threat, US Intelligence says**

Hezbollah, an Islamist terrorist organization based in Lebanon, is perfecting its ability to strike at America within its homeland, a senior US counterintelligence official said on Tuesday

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Hezbollah-poses-homeland-threat-US-intelligence-says-507171>

- **Lebanese, Syrian armies & Hezbollah in one front against Israel**

The Zionist war minister Avigdor Lieberman said that the Lebanese and Syrian armies as well as Hezbollah have formed one military structure to fight ‘Israel’, adding that the coming enemy war will be against Lebanon and Syria at the same time.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/lebanese-syrian-armies-hezbollah-in-one-front-against-israel_859586.html

- **First Lebanese Super Tucanos arrive**

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) announced the delivery of its first two Embraer EMB 313/A-29 Super Tucano light-attack and reconnaissance aircraft on 9 October, saying the aircraft had landed at Hamat Air Base north of Beirut. Another four are scheduled to arrive before the end of 2018.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/74773/first-lebanese-super-tucanos-arrive>

- **It's Time to Mobilize a Global Response to the Terrorist Group Lebanese Hizballah**

Sunday, October 8 marked the twentieth anniversary of the United States' official designation of Hizballah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Hizballah, originally formed as a violent union of Iranian-backed extremists in Lebanon, has terrorized the Middle East and the world since its inception thirty-five years ago.

More Details:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/10/10/its-time-mobilize-global-response-terrorist-group-lebanese-hizballah>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi Arabia expresses concern over Rohingya plight**

Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Bahrain, Dr. Abdullah bin Abdelmalik Al-Shaikh, has voiced his country's deep concern over the forcible deportation of Muslim people in Rakhine State at the hands of Myanmar government. The ambassador urged the Burmese government to respect its obligations towards its people and protect their human rights and stop its systematic policy of ethnic cleansing against the Muslim minority. He told Bahrain News Agency (BNA) that Myanmar's oppressive policy of forcible displacement and massacres against the Rohingya Muslims contravenes all humanitarian values and international conventions.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/805169>

- **Qatar's launch of anti-UAE site futile: Gargash**

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash has branded Qatar's recent move to launch an anti-UAE website as futile. "Qatar's inauguration of an account in English calling for boycotting the UAE is a futile way of dealing with its crisis," he posted on his Twitter account. "Qatar should refocus its efforts on changing its policy of supporting extremism and terrorism." Gargash said Doha should realise that the dispute was not a public relations issue. "It is not a public relations crisis and it was not started by Abu Dhabi or Riyadh. It is rather a policy that was established in 1995 to support extremism and terrorism and to stab the neighbours in the back. There is an urgent need for reconsideration."

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/qatar/qatar-s-launch-of-anti-uae-site-futile-gargash-1.2103615>

- **How Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain Are Moving Towards a Greener Economy**

The level of awareness of the need to develop green and sustainable environments is rapidly increasing across the Gulf region, and there are concerted efforts across the region to promote smart practices. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Gulf countries have rising energy demand and regional electricity consumption is growing at almost 8% a year, and the six countries are in the top 14 per capita emitters of carbon dioxide in the world.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/renewable-energy-in-gcc-1032452>

- **'Do not come to Saudi Arabia' – Indian worker allegedly tortured by employers gives warning**

A Punjabi woman working in Saudi Arabia has appealed to her country's authorities to help her as she fears for her life due to her employers' alleged abuses. The woman recounted the alleged torture she has been subjected to for the past year in a video that was later shared on social media. IBTimes UK has not been able to verify the authenticity of the video.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/do-not-come-saudi-arabia-indian-worker-allegedly-tortured-by-employers-gives-warning-1642657>

- **Saudi Arabia Welcomes Palestinian Reconciliation, Hopes It Consecrates National Unity**

Saudi Cabinet stressed on Monday what Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud had said during his meetings with Russian officials regarding calling the international community to intensify efforts to combat extremism and terrorism and dry up their sources of funding. The cabinet also reiterated the necessity to end the suffering of the Palestinians and the importance of maintaining stability and security in the Gulf and the Middle East to achieve global security and stability.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-welcomes-palestinian-reconciliation-hopes-consecrates-national-unity>

- **Bahrain: Peace, security and stability cannot be achieved with existence of nuclear weapons**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has said that the establishment of the foundations of peace, security and stability in the world cannot be achieved with the existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the firm stance of the Kingdom on disarmament and international security

issues. This came during a speech delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the UN, Ambassador Jamal Faris Alrowaiei, in the General Debate of the Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the United Nations General Assembly.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302637940>

- **Players in the Yemen War Only Want Power...Not Peace, UN Envoy**

Yemen is facing a human-driven disaster, but the parties of the war are still in search of power, the U.N.'s Special Envoy to Yemen said Tuesday. "There is no winner in this war, and the losers are suffering Yemeni people," said Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, speaking on Yemen's situation at the U.N. Security Council.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/players-yemen-war-only-want-powernot-peace-un-envoy-1032510>

- **Yemen police arrest Islamists after deadly Aden bombing**

Yemeni police have arrested 10 members of the Islamist Al-Islah party, the group said Wednesday, following a roadside bombing that killed a cleric with ties to the United Arab Emirates. Imam Yassin al-Adani, a Yemeni cleric who serves as spiritual advisor to UAE troops allied with the government in Yemen's war, was killed when a roadside bomb struck his car near the Zayed mosque in the southern city of Aden on Tuesday, multiple security sources told AFP.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4969312/Yemen-police-arrest-Islamists-deadly-Aden-bombing.html>

- **Qatar prepared to meet 'future water, power needs'**

Qatar's energy sector has always been ahead with regard to the local water and electricity demand, with many new plans that aim to meet the future needs of the country, senior electrical engineer Mohamed Riaz told Qatar Urdu Radio's live show Haqeeqat yesterday. "The government of Qatar in co-ordination with Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has always pursued a self-reliant policy whereby new projects are added to meet the growing needs of utilities in the country," he explained.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/566973/Qatar-prepared-to-meet-future-water-power-needs>

- **UK supports Kuwait mediation efforts over GCC crisis - UK Ambassador**

British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport stressed Wednesday on UK's support for Kuwait's mediation efforts to defuse tension in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The remarks by the ambassador came in a meeting between the British diplomat and representatives of the Kuwaiti press and media on the occasion of assuming his new duties, at the British embassy in Kuwait.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2646148&Language=en>

7. EGYPT

- **Russian Rosneft buys 30% of Eni stake in Zohr gas field**

Minister of Petroleum Tarek El Molla signed an agreement with Italy's Eni, Russian oil giant Rosneft and the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), under which Rosneft will acquire up to a 30% stake in the Shorouk concession for the development of the Zohr gas field in the Mediterranean.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/10/russian-rosneft-buys-30-eni-stake-zohr-gas-field/>

- **Egypt condemns attack on UN base in Democratic Republic of Congo**

Egypt expressed Monday its "condemnation of the terror attack" on a UN military base in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs asserted in a statement the significant role of UN peacekeeping mission in Congo in achieving peace and stability in the count

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/10/egypt-condemns-attack-un-base-democratic-republic-congo/>

- **Israel not ready to 'blindly trust' Egypt on reconciliation**

The Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has said that reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas would pave the way for peace between the Palestinians and Israel, and that Egypt's efforts in Palestinian reconciliation are just the beginning of the road to peace. The establishment of an independent Palestinian state that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people will lead to a secure, stable, and prosperous life, said Al-Sisi. But neither Al-Sisi nor the Egyptian intelligence has informed Israel of the details of the steps they are carrying out to achieve this goal, which has angered Israeli authorities.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171010-israel-not-ready-to-blindly-trust-egypt-on-reconciliation/>

- **Uber says committed to Egypt, announces \$20m investment**

Uber is committed to Egypt despite challenges presented by sweeping economic reforms and record inflation, the company said on Tuesday as it announced \$20-million of investment in its new support centre in Cairo.

More Details:

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/uber-says-committed-to-egypt-announces-20m-investment-2017-10-11>

- **Egypt's Sisi issues decree forming National Electoral Commission**

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi issued Tuesday a decree forming the board of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), which will be in charge of supervising all national elections and referendums. El-Sisi's decree, which goes in line with articles 208, 209, and 210 of Egypt's 2014 constitution, states that the NEC's board will be chaired by deputy head of the Court of Cassation Lashin Ibrahim, and that Mahmoud El-Sherif, another deputy head of the court, will act as Ibrahim's deputy.

More Details:

<https://www.egyptdailynews.com/detail/egypts-sisi-issues-decree-forming-national-electoral-commission>

- **Palestinian reconciliation talks launched in Cairo's General Intelligence headquarters**

A round of Palestinian reconciliation negotiations launched Tuesday in Cairo between members of Fatah and Hamas at the Egyptian General Intelligence headquarters.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/10/palestinian-reconciliation-talks-launched-cairos-general-intelligence-headquarters/>

- **Top Iranian, Egyptian Officials Discuss Bilateral, Regional Issues**

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the Iranian Parliament speaker for international affairs, sat down on Tuesday with head of the Egyptian Interest Section in Tehran Yasser Osman. During the meeting, the two sides discussed regional questions as well as key issues of mutual interest regarding bilateral parliamentary ties.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/top-iran-egypt-officials-discuss/>

- **Sharm el-Sheikh ban 'for good reasons': UK transport secretary**

The UK ban on flights was imposed almost two years ago over suspicions that sabotage had brought down a Russian-operated Airbus A321 shortly after departing the Egyptian resort.

More Details:

<https://www.flightglobal.com/news/articles/sharm-el-sheikh-ban-for-good-reasons-uk-transport-442019/>

- **Egypt says 'question marks' hang over Qatar's first-round victory in vote for UNESCO chief**

Egypt's foreign ministry spokesman has said Qatar's first-round win in voting for a new UNESCO director-general raises "many question marks", after the Gulf nation's candidate took a surprising lead following Monday's secret ballot.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278537/-.aspx>

- **It's Complicated: Trust Issues Remain Between Israel and Arab States**

Despite outward signs that relations between Egypt and Israel are warming in recent months, it appears that the two countries have some way to go before full trust can be established. Cairo has become a key player in brokering a truce between the Hamas leadership in Gaza and the Fattah movement in the West Bank. The discussions are seen by many as a possible precursor to re-opening talks on a two-state solution with Israel. On the surface relations between Israel and Egypt seem better than at any time in recent history.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/israel-arab-states-original-1032332>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Ailing Algerian president makes rare public appearance**

Algeria's ailing president has made a rare public appearance amid renewed speculation about whether he is fit to run the country. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika met with visiting Russian Prime

Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Tuesday in images shown on Algerian television. It's only the second time this year Bouteflika has been able to host a foreign leader.

More Details:

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/national-business/article178134871.html>

- **OSCE conference in Palermo, focus on migrants and refugees**

Representatives of the 57 member states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and of the six OSCE partner countries for Mediterranean Cooperation - Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia - and numerous international organisations are to gather for the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Palermo on October 24 and 25 to discuss migrant and refugee flows in the Euro-Mediterranean area. "Italy is to chair the OSCE next year, but the foundations for that important mandate will be laid during this Mediterranean Conference," Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano said

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2017/10/11/osce-conference-in-palermo-focus-on-migrants-and-refugees_fd33c298-2014-48ce-92ea-902fd331d837.html

- **Navy forces continue search for potential survivors of collision at sea off Kerkennah**

Navy forces are continuing the search for survivors of the collision between a naval ship and a boat that occurred Sunday night off Kerkennah. Eight people were killed and 38 others rescued. The Department of National Defence said in a statement Tuesday a diving support vessel was mobilised at the scene of the tragedy to find the wreckage of the boat and identify any survivors.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9451568-navy-forces>

- **EU approves €200m loan for Tunisia**

A €200m loan to Tunisia was approved by the European Commission on October 9. It's the first of three instalments totalling €500m. "Today's disbursement to Tunisia is proof of our strong commitment to support the successful economic recovery of one of our closest neighbours," said Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs. "With a renewed sense of urgency, Tunisia has reaffirmed its dedication to an effective partnership. The EU stands firmly with Tunisia in achieving prosperity for all of its people."

More Details:

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/eu-approves-e200m-loan-tunisia/>

- **SDX Finds gas in Sebou, Morocco**

North Africa-focused upstream minnow SDX has found gas with its KSR-14 development well at the Sebou permit in Morocco. The well was drilled to a total depth of 1,830 metres and encountered 20 m of net conventional natural gas pay in the Guebbas and Hoot formations over four intervals. The initial results have exceeded pre-drill estimates and work is underway to evaluate further the well's accurate recoverable volume estimate, SDX said on October 11

More Details:

<https://www.naturalgasworld.com/sound-finds-gas-in-sebou-morocco-55928>

- **Russian prime minister, Moroccan leader to discuss energy, agriculture**

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who arrived in Morocco late on Tuesday, will hold talks with that country's leaders to discuss cooperation in the energy and agricultural sectors and cultivating tourism, the press service of the Russian government said.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/politics/969934>

- **Morocco UN Rep.: Possibility of Referendum in Western Sahara Is 'Dead'**

Speaking in a meeting by the General Assembly's Fourth Committee, Hilale noted that this assessment had made previously by the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in a 1991 report concluding that the referendum was not "applicable."

More Details:

<https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2017/10/230697/morocco-un-rep-possibility-referendum-western-sahara-dead/>

- **Update as Morocco prepares to test 'fastest train in Africa**

It is gathered that Engineers in Morocco are preparing to test the Arab world's first high-speed railway this week with trains reaching 320km/h, the country's rail office said on Monday. According to report one train reached 275km/h on Monday along a stretch of track between the northern cities of Kenitra and Tangier, the ONCF said.

More Details:

<http://mynationnews.com/2017/10/10/update-as-morocco-prepares-to-test-fastest-train-in-africa/>

- **Council of Europe wants Italy-Libya deal clarification**

The Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner Nils Muiznieks said Wednesday that he had written to Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti asking for clarification about Italy's agreement with Libya.

More Details:

http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2017/10/11/council-of-europe-wants-italy-libya-deal-clarification-2_4c141d92-cff9-4efe-91ba-c6b8a3196d86.html

- **German ambassador meets Serraj, then Hafter**

The moves to amend the Libyan Political Agreement by the dialogue committees of the House of Representatives and the State Council as well as bilateral relations were the main subjects in talks today, Tuesday, between the head of the Presidency Council (PC), Faiez Serraj, and German Ambassador Christian Buck. Confirming the German government's support for the PC's government of national accord as well as the action plan presented last month by UN special envoy Ghassan Salamé, the ambassador also said that Germany wanted to further develop relations and also provide Libya with help to overcome the present crisis, according to the PC's media office.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/10/german-ambassador-meets-serraj-then-hafter/>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Taliban and ISIS militants suffer casualties in new airstrikes in Nangarhar**

Several Taliban militants and insurgents affiliated with the ISIS terrorist group were killed or wounded during the latest airstrikes in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/taliban-and-isis-militants-suffer-casualties-in-new-airstrikes-in-nangarhar-03625>

- **U.S. bombs dropped in Afghanistan at highest since 2010, under new Trump strategy**

American warplanes in Afghanistan are dropping bombs in numbers not seen since the height of the U.S. troop surge in 2010, after President Donald Trump announced a new strategy in August to ease attack curbs and widen the range of militant targets.

More Details:

<http://news.trust.org/item/20171011071701-qvis7>

- **Top Pakistani general compares Durand Line fencing to Berlin Wall**

A top commander of the militia forces of Pakistan believes the construction of wall along Durand Line is normal as similar walls were built in Germany and others still exist in Mexico and other parts of the world, ignoring the major challenges could be faced by the residents on the two sides of the line, who have been historically living together and having close relationships.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/top-pakistani-general-compares-durand-line-fencing-to-berlin-wall-03621>

- **Ashgabat, Kabul mull TAPI gas pipeline Project**

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Ashraf Ghani spoke on the phone, the Turkmen government said in a message Oct. 11. The telephone conversation took place on Afghanistan's initiative. The Afghan president noted the importance of joint large-scale investment projects implemented in the fuel and energy, as well as transport sectors.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/casia/turkmenistan/2806324.html>

- **Kabul puts off transit trade meeting with Pakistan**

Kabul has unilaterally put off a meeting of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA), a high-level forum set up to deal with problems hindering smooth implementation of a revised transit treaty. The last meeting of the authority was held last year.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1363011/kabul-puts-off-transit-trade-meeting-with-pakistan>

- **Indian troops, Kashmir militants engage in bloody gunfight**

Two Indian air force commandos and two suspected militants have been killed in a gun battle in the restive Indian-administered Kashmir region. The exchange of fire erupted on Wednesday when government troops searching for elements opposing India's rule over the predominantly-Muslim region cordoned off a neighborhood in the northern town of Hajin.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/11/538202/India-Kashmir-air-force-commandos-militants-Hajin>

- **Pashtun, Baloch activists discuss atrocities by Pakistan Army in FATA**

The Pashtun and Baloch activists recently gathered in Afghanistan's Kabul to discuss about the atrocities carried out by the Pakistan Army in their region.

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pashtun-baloch-activists-discuss-atrocities-by-pakistan-army-in-fata201710111423430001/>

- **Pakistan's foreign minister says Islamabad attempting to start Afghan peace process**

The foreign minister of Pakistan Khawaja Asif has said Islamabad is attempting to resume the Afghan peace process in a bid to end the ongoing violence in the country.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/pakistans-foreign-minister-says-islamabad-attempting-to-start-afghan-peace-process-03618>

- **Pakistan building underground tunnels to store nukes near India border**

Just a few days after Pakistan announced at the United Nations General Assembly that it has developed short-range nuclear weapons to counter India's "Cold Start" doctrine — a method adopted by the Indian armed forces to prevent nuclear retaliation from Pakistan in case of war, an Indian Army veteran has claimed that the neighbouring country is reportedly building underground tunnels to store nuclear weapons.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/pakistan-building-underground-tunnels-close-amritsar-delhi-store-nukes-745152>

- **US cannot retain peace in Afghanistan sans Pakistan's cooperation: Mushahid**

Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain Tuesday said that the United States could not uphold peace in Afghanistan without cooperation of Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/us-cannot-retain-peace-in-afghanistan-sans-pakistans-cooperation-mushahid/>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Syria-Turkey crossing ceded to leading opposition group**

Control of Syria's Bab al-Salameh border crossing with Turkey was handed over on Tuesday to the opposition Syrian National Coalition (SNC), which also operates as an interim Syrian government, according to SNC officials. SNC head Jawad Abu Hatab told Anadolu Agency that the Turkish military - along with opposition fighters -- had aided in the handover of the crossing (known in Turkish as the Oncupinar crossing), which links Syria's northern city of Azaz to Turkey's southern Kilis province.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syria-turkey-crossing-ceded-to-leading-opposition-group/932122>

- **Turkish army in Syria to support Idlib operation**

Turkish soldiers crossed the border into Syria's largely jihadist-controlled northwestern province of Idlib on Sunday to carry out reconnaissance activities in a bid to create a "de-escalation zone," the Turkish Armed Forces stated on Monday. According to the army, reconnaissance activities have started in order to determine surveillance posts and the mission is being conducted "as per the rules of engagement" agreed upon by Turkey, Russia and Iran during the Astana process.

More Details:

<http://www.dha.com.tr/english/turkish-army-in-syria-to-support-idlib-operation/haber-1547089>

- **Turkish PM says Idlib operation aims to prevent migrant wave from Syria**

Turkey's military operations in Syria's opposition-held province of Idlib aim to prevent a wave of migration into Turkey, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım said on Tuesday. Turkey has said it will provide assistance to opposition it has long backed as it implements a de-escalation agreement in the area. The agreement is designed to reduce fighting with pro-regime forces in what is the most populous pocket of Syria still in the hands of opposition.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkish-pm-says-idlib-operation-aims-to-prevent-migrant-wave-from-syria-11231>

- **Turkey needs to be in Syria until threats are gone: Defense min.**

Turkish troops must stay in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib is until the threats there are eliminated, Turkey's national defense minister said Tuesday. "We have to be there until the threats to Turkey from Syria are completely gone," Nurettin Canikli told a group of students at a Turkish school in Batumi, a Georgian city on the Black Sea.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-needs-to-be-in-syria-until-threats-are-gone-defense-min/932014>

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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