



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Proces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

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1. IRAQ

- **Allawi: Building A State Of Institutions Is The Only Guarantee For The Stability Of Iraq**

Vice President of the Republic Iyad Allawi said building the state of institutions is the only guarantee for the stability of Iraq and reform its political, security and economic path. Allawi said during a meeting with Kuwait's ambassador to Iraq Salim al-Zamanan "The reform process is still long and getting the country in a state of peace and stability needs solid institutions that respect the law and are not built on basis of quotas.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?OUcBN%252bR4DEWJ9u12W8Y9wQ%253d%253d

- **Islamic State still holds pockets in Mosul, vow revenge via SMS**

A security source has unveiled that Islamic State militants are still holding pockets in southern Mosul, three months after the Iraqi government declared the recapture of the city. Anadolu Agency quoted Abdul-Salam al-Jubouri, an Iraqi army lieutenant colonel, saying Thursday that an indefinite number of Islamic State members are still hiding at the woods stretching along the western bank of the Tigris River. He added that those militants receive food supplies from nearby villages.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-still-holds-pockets-mosul-vow-revenge-via-sms/>

- **Suicide Bomber Kills, Injures Dozens West of Iraq**

A suicide bomber killed overnight Wednesday at least 11 people after detonating his explosive vest in Iraqi western city of Hit, Anbar province. The city's security bureau said initial reports indicate 15 other people are injured. Officials revealed that all the victims are civilians because the attack targeted a public Cafe.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/384910>

- **Iraqi military: No deal with Islamic State to liberate Hawija**

The Israeli website Debka reported Tuesday that Iraqi forces were able to liberate Hawija "without firing a shot" because of a prior agreement with IS militants. "Iraqi troops had not, and will never, strike a deal with [the Islamic State], neither in Hawija nor anywhere else," Iraqi Joint Operations Command spokesman Yahia Rasoul said Tuesday. "There had been a ferocious fighting, hundreds of IS were killed and hundreds of explosive devices were defused"

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/ed5d75f0-c238-432b-9f65-6039c0cd2cf0

- **KRG ready to cooperate with Baghdad on border crossings, airports**

Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has displayed willingness to cooperate with Baghdad on border crossings, internal trade, banks and airports in the region, a KRG statement revealed Thursday. In the statement, KRG said that it is ready to combat corruption and improve Iraq's ranking in this issue globally.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18141/KRG-ready-to-cooperate-with-Baghdad-on-border-crossings-airports>

- **NATO improves Iraq's civil-military ties**

The end is near for Daesh (so-called IS) in Iraq, but the enormous task of rebuilding cities that have been left in ruins by the militants is just beginning. As millions of refugees look to return home, Iraq's military and civilian ministries all have critical roles in keeping them safe and restoring basic services — food, water, electricity, sanitation, health care and more — damaged or destroyed during Daesh's brutal rule.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/519225/World/Mena/NATO-improves-Iraqs-civil-military-ties>

- **Iraq adopts new punitive measures against KRG**

Iraq has taken new measures against the government of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region announcing a probe into Erbil's oil revenues. Baghdad's decision follows a controversial secession vote in the KRG. The Kurdish region has slammed those measures as collective punishment.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/11/538282/Iraq-Kurdistan-region>

- **US provides logistic support to Daesh in Iraq, Syria: IRGC commander**

A commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the United States airdropped weapons and food supplies to Daesh in Iraq and Syria as the Takfiri terrorist group was facing defeat. The second-in-command of the IRGC's Ground Forces, Brigadier General Abdullah Araqi, said on Wednesday that the US provided logistic support to Daesh in the Syrian province of Dayr al-Zawr and the Iraqi provinces of Diyala, Nineveh and Salahuddin.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/202247.html>

- **Saudi airline to offer first flights to Iraq in 27 years**

Saudi Arabian budget airline Flynas said on Wednesday it would start flying to Iraq, the first Saudi airline to offer that route in 27 years. The airline said in a statement on its website it would start flights to several Iraqi cities in a few weeks. There have been no flights between Saudi Arabia and Iraq since former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded neighbouring Kuwait in 1990.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-airline-offer-first-flights-iraq-27-years-2077016675>

- **Iraq 'has no regrets' about getting tough with Kurds**

Iraq issued arrest warrants on Wednesday for the chairman of the Kurdistan Region's referendum commission and two aides over last month's vote for Kurdish independence. A spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council said the warrants for Hendreen Mohammed and his assistants were issued by a Baghdad court for "violating a valid court ruling which considered the independence vote invalid."

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1176326/middle-east>

- **Is Iraq On The Brink Of Civil War?**

For much of the past month, the Kurdistan referendum on independence and its possible implications for the region have dominated news headlines from the Middle East. The fate of Kurdistan-controlled oil production and exports in the face of Turkish threats to cut off the main export route for Kurdish oil, and Iraq's call to the neighbors and the world to deal only with the federal government—especially in oil sales and trade—pushed oil prices to a several-months-high at the end of September.

More Details:

<http://oilprice.com/Geopolitics/International/Is-Iraq-On-The-Brink-Of-Civil-War.html>

- **Suicide bombers kills 11 in Iraq's Anbar: Army source**

At least 11 people were killed and 15 others were injured Wednesday during a suicide attack in Iraq's western Anbar province, an Iraqi commander told Anadolu Agency. The suicide bomber blew himself

up in a café in Hit district of the province, Brigader General Settar al-Hamed said. A temporary curfew was declared in the area, he added.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/12/10/2017/Suicide-bombers-kills-11-in-Iraq%E2%80%99s-Anbar-Army-source>

- **Flynas to launch flights to Iraq 'within weeks'**

Saudi budget carrier Flynas has announced it will start operating direct flights to Iraq “within weeks”, making it the first Saudi airline to fly to Iraq in 27 years. “Flights from main airports in the kingdom to a number of Iraqi cities will start within weeks,” the airline said in a statement carried on its website.

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/industries/transport/381048-flynas-to-launch-flights-to-iraq-within-weeks>

- **Kurdish referendum’s enactment ‘hinges on dialogue’**

Implementing the results of last month’s independence referendum in a timely matter depends on “constructive and responsible dialogue” with Baghdad, the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) said Wednesday. Last month, the KRG held a controversial referendum on whether to declare independence from Iraq, with Iraq and its neighbors denouncing it as illegitimate.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/kurdish-referendum-s-enactment-hinges-on-dialogue-/933376>

- **Kurd fighters in Iraq briefly block roads to Mosul**

Kurdish Peshmerga forces blocked roads from the Iraqi Kurdish region to the country's second city Mosul for several hours in response to Iraqi troop movements, a senior Kurdish military official said. "The two main roads connecting Erbil and Dohuk to Mosul were cut off on Thursday with sand embankments as a precautionary measure after we detected an increase in deployments and movements of Iraqi forces near the front line with the Peshmerga," the official told AFP news agency.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/kurd-fighters-iraq-briefly-block-roads-mosul-171012091357819.html>

- **Iraq orders arrest of Kurdistan Referendum Commission members**

An Iraqi court yesterday issued arrest warrants against the president and members of the Kurdistan Region's High Electoral and Referendum Commission which oversaw the referendum on separation from Iraq. A spokesman for the high judicial council, Judge Abdulstar Bayraqdar, said "the Rusafa Investigation Court has issued an arrest warrant for the head and members of the commission who supervised the referendum in the Kurdistan Region".

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171012-iraq-orders-arrest-of-kurdistan-referendum-commission-members/>

- **Iraq tensions rise after Kurds warn of attack**

Tensions escalated between Iraq's Kurds and Baghdad on Thursday as warnings of a "major attack" by government forces prompted Kurdish peshmerga fighters to temporarily block roads from other parts of the country. The move came just over two weeks after Kurdish voters overwhelmingly backed independence in a non-binding referendum the central government slammed as illegal.

More Details:

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/23/iraq-tensions-rise-after-kurds-warn-attack>

- **EU steps up its assistance for the stabilisation of Iraq**

The European Commission has today adopted a €60.4 million stabilisation package to support Iraq after the liberation of areas held by Da'esh, with the country still facing humanitarian, security, stabilisation and reconciliation challenges. This new funding comes in addition to EU humanitarian aid in the country and other forms of financial assistance that now total €608.4 million since the beginning of the crisis.

More Details:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-3782_en.htm

2. SYRIA

- **Isis is facing near total defeat in Iraq and Syria – but it has been beaten and come back before**

Isis has fought desperately and skilfully to hold the Syrian city of Raqqa, under siege by Kurdish-led forces for more than four months, but will soon lose it in the latest defeat for the Islamic fundamentalist movement. Little is left today of the Caliphate declared in 2014, which once ruled

most of western Iraq and eastern Syria Isis battled far longer than anybody expected for Mosul and Raqqa, but had to fight on multiple fronts against its many enemies and, above all, against the immense firepower of the US, Russian and allied air forces as well as conventional artillery. It was only by pounding large parts of both cities into rubble that the Iraqi security forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have been able to prevail..

More details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-raqqa-battle-syria-iraq-latest-deir-ezzor-bunkers-weapons-caches-defeat-a7995246.html>

- **Suicide attack targets police HQ in Damascus**

At least two people have been killed and six others wounded after attackers blew themselves up near the police command centre in the Syrian capital, Damascus, according to state media. Suicide bombers tried to storm the main police headquarters building and clashed with guards before detonating their explosive devices outside on Wednesday, Syrian state television reported.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/suicide-attack-targets-police-hq-damascus-171011132824326.html>

- **Most Brits WRONGLY believe ISIS carries out the majority of atrocities in Syria... when the main culprit is Assad's Syrian government**

According to a survey conducted by Survation for the Families for Freedom Syria campaign, more than half said they had not even heard of mass detention and torture in the war-riddled country. The campaign found that 40 per cent of the more than 2,000 people surveyed believed ISIS and other extremist groups were responsible for the most deaths since the Syrian conflict.

More details:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4662897/most-brits-wrongly-believe-isis-carries-out-the-majority-of-atrocities-in-syria-when-the-main-culprit-is-assads-syrian-government/>

- **Russia says US allows ISIS to operate 'under its nose' in Syria**

Russia accused the United States on Wednesday of allowing Islamic State to operate "under its nose" in Syria, saying Washington was letting the militant group move about freely in an area abutting a U.S. military base. The allegations, made by Russia's Defense Ministry, center on a U.S. military base at Tanf, a strategic Syrian highway border crossing with Iraq in the south of the country.

More details:

<http://nypost.com/2017/10/11/russia-says-us-allows-isis-to-operate-under-its-nose-in-syria/>

- **SAA retakes Hatla village in Deir ez-Zor after fierce battle with IS**

The Syrian Arab Army and Russian Air Force regained control of Hatla al-Sharqiyah village, east of the Euphrates River, in the Deir ez-Zor Province on Tuesday. Syrian soldiers advanced through the village after engaging in a fierce battle with members of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS; formerly ISIS/ISIL).

More details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/saa-retakes-hatla-village-deir-ez-zor-fierce-battle-video/>

- **The Latest: Syrian FM says US coalition sparing IS in Syria**

The Syrian foreign minister is accusing the U.S.-led coalition of wreaking destruction in Syria while sparing the Islamic State group. Walid al-Moallem said during a visit to Russia on Wednesday that the U.S.-led coalition has been "methodically destroying all except the IS." He claimed that Washington aims to destroy Syria's economy and drag the war out.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/11/latest-syrian-fm-says-us-coalition-sparing-is-in-syria.html>

- **British Isis recruiter Sally Jones 'killed by drone strike in Syria**

White Widow' Isis recruiter Sally Jones has been killed in a drone strike, according to reports. The British mother from Kent had travelled to Syria in 2013 along with her child and husband Junaid Hussain to join Isis. Jones was killed close to the border between Syria and Iraq by a US Air Force strike in June, according to The Sun.

More details:

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/10/11/british-isis-recruiter-sally-jones-killed-by-drone-strike-in-syria-6994107/>

- **On guard: New batch of female students graduates from Syria's military college**

A military college in Syria has trained and prepared another batch of female officers to join the Syrian army. The graduation comes as the country's is still engaged in a fierce fight against terrorists and jihadists. After undergoing military training, the group of female students qualified to enter Syria's armed forces, reads the defense ministry statement, published Tuesday.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/406410-syrian-women-military-college/>

- **Formby dad fighting ISIS on Syria front line: 'I'm no terrorist'**

A dad from Merseyside says he travelled to Syria because he wants to be on the frontline of the fight against Islamic State terrorists. Aidan James said he is willing to die to protect people from the barbaric jihadists - both in the Middle East and in the UK. But the 27-year-old fears British security services now class him as a terrorist and that he could be arrested should he return home.

More details:

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/formby-dad-fighting-isis-syria-13749594>

- **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 a US-controlled zone in Syria's al-Tanf region. The Russian Defense Ministry has urged "the US side to explain its selective blindness regarding militants" operating near US forces in Syria. The ministry's spokesman said the 300 Daesh militants had tried to block a strategically important road linking Damascus and Deir ez-Zor, which is used for delivering humanitarian aid to civilians and supplies for the Syrian Army.

More details:

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

3. IRAN

- **We are on a tightrope': Trump poised to walk away from Iran nuclear deal**

If Donald Trump decides this week to withdraw his endorsement of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, its fate and the potential for a major conflict will be determined by a complex battle in Congress. No one is able to predict whether that struggle will lead to a reimposition of US sanctions, the collapse of the agreement and the rapid scaling-up of Iran's nuclear programme. It could result in a compromise that leaves the deal alive but opens the way for a more combative policy towards Tehran on other fronts.

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/11/trump-walk-away-us-iran-nuclear-deal>

- **Iran IS working on creating an arsenal of nukes in secret facilities, report claims**

Iran is creating an arsenal of nukes in secret facilities with the help of North Korean scientists, a group has claimed in a new report. The National Council of Resistance Iran says the Iranian

government has not halted its nuclear programme despite the 2015 agreement with the US and five other international powers. The report released today claims there are four major sites that 'with high degrees of certainty' have been used for ongoing nuclear operations.

More details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4969186/Iran-working-arsenal-nukes-group-claims.html>

- **Rouhani says US is opposing 'whole world' on Iran nuclear deal**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani lashed out at US counterpart Donald Trump, saying he was opposing "the whole world" by trying to abandon a landmark nuclear agreement. "If the US wants to take a hostile position regarding an international agreement which is approved by the UN Security Council... they will oppose not just Iran but the whole world," Rouhani said at a cabinet meeting shown on state television Wednesday.

More details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/rouhani-says-us-is-opposing-whole-world-on-iran-nuclear-deal/>

- **Iran's Rouhani: 'If Our Rival and Enemy Leaves an Agreement, This Is Not a Defeat for Us'**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told a cabinet meeting on Wednesday that it should not bother Iran if the United States withdraws from the nuclear deal. "If any side fails to stand committed to the deal, it would be tarnishing its own reputation," he said. Meanwhile, the Iranian resistance has accused Rouhani's government of systematically cheating on the nuclear deal.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/11/irans-rouhani-rival-enemy-leaves-agreement-not-defeat-us/>

- **Iran's parliament speaker moves to position himself as Rouhani's successor**

Will Iranian Reformists decide to once again support a moderate-conservative as their candidate in the 2021 presidential elections? This is a question that has come to occupy the minds of observers as a rare scene in a ceremony captured the attention of Iranian media outlets, leading Reformists to think more about their choices when President Hassan Rouhani's second term ends. On Sept. 22, moderate parliament Speaker Ali Larijani was seen sitting next to former Reformist President Mohammad Khatami, who is under a media ban, and talking with him seriously — a scene that did not slip through the fingers of photographers and was captured and then released to the media.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/iran-larijani-khatami-public-appearance-2021-president.html>

- **Rouhani Voices Full Support for Revolutionary Guards**

In quite unprecedented comments, President Hassan Rouhani has described the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, IRGC as “beloved” of the people of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Iraqi Kurds. Rouhani’s comments, made during a cabinet meeting, are published amid a possible plan by the US president, Donald Trump to designate Iran’s most powerful security force and economic player as a terrorist organization.

More details:

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iran-rouhani-supports-revolutionary-guards/28787259.html>

- **As Trump tightens noose on Mullah, Rouhani says IRGC popular in region**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani cautioned against the repercussions of a planned move by the US to designate the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group, claiming the IRGC is popular not only in Iran but also in regional countries, according to Iranian local press sources. As the US administration tightens the noose around Mullah’s regime’s neck, Rouhani said that “the IRGC is not just a military unit, but it has been in the hearts of the (Iranian) people and has defended our national interests in all times of danger”.

More details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18125/As-Trump-tightens-noose-on-Mullah-Rouhani-says-IRGC-popular-in-region>

- **Iran's 'skeleton in the closet': Uni workers 'HELPING BUILD nuclear arsenal' - shock claim**

In 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which sought to relax sanctions against Tehran on the premise President Hasan Rouhani would limit its nuclear development program. The crowning foreign policy achievement of the Barack Obama administration, the agreement with the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, was hoped to regain stability and peace in the Middle East.

More details:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/864595/Iran-news-nuclear-deal-military-civil-university-research-JCPOA-NCRI>

- **White House Briefs Congress on Iran Decertification Plan**

President Donald Trump's top advisers briefed lawmakers Wednesday ahead of decision by the president on the fate of the Iran nuclear deal. White House officials said the pending decision wasn't shared, but several officials said they left the briefings convinced that Trump plans to decertify the deal, three officials told NBC News.

More details:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/mideast/white-house-briefs-congress-iran-decertification-decision-n809911>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **What Is Behind the Hamas-Fatah Reconciliation?**

Egypt's enthusiasm to arbitrate between feuding Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, is not the outcome of a sudden awakening of conscience. Cairo has, in fact, played a destructive role in manipulating Palestinian division to its favor, while keeping the Rafah border crossing under lock and key. However, the Egyptian leadership is clearly operating in coordination with Israel and the United States. While the language emanating from Tel Aviv and Washington is quite guarded regarding the ongoing talks between the two Palestinian parties, if read carefully, their political discourse is not entirely dismissive of the possibility of having Hamas join a unity government under Mahmoud Abbas' direction.

More details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/what-is-behind-the-hamas-fatah-reconciliation/>

- **'Here we go again': Israel and Palestine may doom Trump's Middle East peace push before it even starts**

President Donald Trump has said publicly that he wants to work towards "the toughest deal of all" — resolving the Israel-Palestine issue in the Middle East — but problems on both sides of the divide could prevent a peace deal before negotiations get underway. "I think we have a pretty good shot — maybe the best shot ever — and that's what we're looking to do," Trump said at the UN General Assembly in September. "I certainly will devote everything within my heart and within my soul to get that deal made."

More details:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-israel-palestine-peace-plan-2017-10>

- **Hamas says deal reached in Palestinian reconciliation**

Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah have reached agreement on aspects of their bid to end a decade-long split during talks mediated by Egypt in Cairo, officials said on Thursday. Details of the agreement have not yet been released and a press conference was being planned for Thursday at 1000 GMT in the Egyptian capital, where talks have been taking place since Tuesday.

More details:

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/23/hamas-says-deal-reached-palestinian-reconciliation>

- **Final reconciliation agreement to be announced in Cairo press conference today**

The two major Palestinian parties, Fatah and Hamas today will announce the final reconciliation agreement in a press release in the Egyptian capital of Cairo at 1:00 PM today. The two groups held on Tuesday and Wednesday two sessions of national dialogue in Cairo described as held in a positive atmosphere “out of a sense of national responsibility and in response to the aspirations of the Palestinian people to end the division, achieve national unity and strengthen the steadfastness of our people,” according to Ahmad.

More details:

<http://english.pnn.ps/2017/10/12/final-reconciliation-agreement-to-be-announced-in-cairo-press-conference-today/>

- **Endless strife: the Israel-Palestine conflict and the international media**

Towards the end of 1991, in the wake of the Madrid Conference on the Middle East, I was chairing a packed Palestinian-Jewish dialogue meeting in London when speaker after speaker denounced the bias of the press. So I called for a straw vote. Sure enough, almost everyone was apparently of the same mind. Then I asked who the bias favoured. Roughly half the audience thought it was definitely slanted towards Israel while the other half was equally convinced it favoured the Palestinian and Arab side.

More details:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/north-africa-west-asia/tony-klug/endless-strife-israel-palestine-conflict-and-international-media>

- **Israeli-led “Women’s Peace March” Criticized as Normalization**

A two-week march led by Israeli women calling for peace culminated in a rally in Jerusalem Sunday, although the march was largely boycotted by Palestinians who called it a part of the ‘normalization’ of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The organizers of the march called for a return to the failed negotiations between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority – negotiations that were

harshly criticized by most Palestinians for the power imbalance they maintained between the occupier and occupied.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-led-womens-peace-march-criticized-as-normalization/>

- **Netanyahu Announces New Settlement Construction**

In a move that is certain to draw international criticism, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has approved the construction of new housing units for Jewish settlements in the so-called "West Bank." Some 3,800 homes will soon be built in disputed areas like the Jewish sectors of Hebron. The approval was granted subject to consultation with the US government.

More details:

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/32533/Default.aspx>

- **Israel's defense minister says Hezbollah runs Lebanese army**

Israel's defense minister says the Hezbollah militant group controls Lebanon's army. Avigdor Lieberman said Tuesday that "the Lebanese army has become an integral part of Hezbollah under Hezbollah command," without providing any evidence to support the claim.

More details:

<https://www.worthynews.com/27995-israels-defense-minister-says-hezbollah-runs-lebanese-army>

- **Palestinians Banned from Ibramimi Mosque in Hebron during Jewish Holiday**

An estimated 40,000 Israeli settlers have stormed into the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron over the past two days as they mark the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the Palestinian Information Centre has reported. Israeli occupying forces imposed a curfew on the indigenous Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank city and closed off numerous roads leading to the mosque in order to allow settlers to enter freely. Some 22,500 Jewish settlers performed religious rituals at the Muslim holy site on Monday, with a further 22,000 storming the building yesterday. The extent of the incursion is unprecedented, but such events are increasingly common.

More details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/palestinians-banned-from-ibramimi-mosque-in-hebron-during-jewish-holiday/>

- **Israel's relentless war on EU humanitarian aid to Palestine**

In Jubbet adh Dhib, a small Palestinian village perched atop a steep hill south of Bethlehem, women say it's them who call the shots. Founded about two years ago, the 22-member women's association stepped in to improve living conditions for the underserved village with 162 residents; most of the men work in Israel as day labourers.

More details:

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/israel-s-relentless-war-on-eu-humanitarian-aid-to-palestine-11255>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **We cannot add taxes on Jordanians to subsidise foreigners in Jordan — King**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Wednesday stressed the importance of the governorates councils' role in development with the cooperation with the government and the parliament, a Royal Court statement said. During a meeting with Lower House Speaker Atef Tarawneh and presidents and members of parliamentary blocs, His Majesty noted the need for a strategy to develop the governorates and plans to be implemented on the basis of each governorate's unique features and available resources.

More details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/we-cannot-add-taxes-jordanians-subsidise-foreigners-jordan-%E2%80%94-king>

- **Air Jordan Release Dates for Holiday 2017 Announced**

After unveiling a good portion of its retro sneakers for the remainder of 2017 in September, Jordan Brand has now confirmed release dates for those pairs. It's also debuted a handful of sneakers missing in the last preview, among them a new pair of the Jordan 16 and the much-anticipated holiday duo of Jordan 11s. The group is not completely dominated by retro offerings, and has previews of what's to come for the latest performance model, the Jordan 32

More details:

<https://solecollector.com/news/2017/10/jordan-release-dates-holiday-2017/>

- **Over 2,000 Jordanian students pre-registered online to attend Study in Europe Fair**

Over 2,000 Jordanian students pre-registered online to attend the Study in Europe Fair to find study abroad opportunities through around 30 educational institutions from 14 European countries, which

congregated at the Meridien Hotel on Wednesday. “We believe that exchanges, and in this case student exchanges are important to foster peace, stability and international cooperation,” EU Ambassador to Jordan Andrea Mateo Fontana told The Jordan times at the event.

More details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/over-2000-jordanian-students-pre-registered-online-attend-study-europe-fair>

- **Romanian Delegation Visits UJ**

The University of Jordan (UJ) President Prof. Azmi Mahafzah on Tuesday meet with a Romanian delegation headed by His Royal Highness Prince Radu and examined ways to enhance scientific and academic cooperation between UJ and universities in Romania.

More details:

http://ujnews2.ju.edu.jo/en/english/Lists/News/Disp_FormNews1.aspx?ID=5549

- **Lebanese Army Blasts Israeli Defense Chief for Saying It's Being Run by Hezbollah**

Lebanon's army responded with anger Wednesday after Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said it has lost control to Hezbollah and was no longer independent, but rather a part of the terrorist group's armed forces. “The Lebanese army has become an integral part of the Hezbollah force and under its command. The Lebanese army has lost its independence and become an inseparable part of the Hezbollah force,” Lieberman said Tuesday.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.816773>

- **Nutrition program hosts conference of Lebanese food scientists**

Dozens of researchers and practitioners specialized in the field of food science gathered at LAU at the end of last month for the first annual conference of the Lebanese Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (LAFST) — an event that paid tribute to its late founder and leading food scientist, Raja Tannous. Also in attendance were students of LAU's nutrition program who took the opportunity to learn from the many case studies presented and discussed.

More details:

http://www.lau.edu.lb/news-events/news/archive/nutrition_program_hosts_confer/

- **US 'committed' to restarting Mideast talks: Jordan king**

Jordanian King Abdullah II on Wednesday said there was "a commitment" by the U.S. administration to restart the stalled Middle East peace process in the months ahead. King Abdullah made the assertion at a meeting with Jordanian Parliament Speaker Atef al-Tarawneh and the heads of various parliamentary blocs, according to a statement released by Jordan's Royal Court.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/us-committed-to-restarting-mideast-talks-jordan-king/933254>

- **King receives Cypriot FM**

His Majesty King Abdullah II, on Wednesday, received Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, who conveyed a letter to His Majesty from Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades. In his letter, the Cypriot president voiced his country's support for Jordan's stances that aim at cementing partnership ties between the Kingdom and the EU. During a meeting at Al Husseinia Palace, His Majesty and the Cypriot minister, reviewed international and regional efforts to fight terrorism within a holistic strategy.

More details:

http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=322163&CatID=13

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Emirates and Etihad can 'work more closely**

For the past decade, UAE airlines Emirates and Etihad have competed fiercely against each other. However, a merger or some kind of fusion may be closer than previously thought, according to Emirates boss Tim Clark.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/emirates-and-etihad-can-work-more-closely/a-40917613>

- **Saudi Arabia in midst of 'unprecedented transformation' - finance minster**

Saudi Arabia's minister of finance has praised the kingdom's efforts to meet goals set by Vision 2030, and said that the country is witnessing transformative change. Mohammed Al Jadaan was quoted in Saudi Press Agency (SPA) as saying the kingdom is in the midst of an unprecedented economic transformation.

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/politics-economics/381026-saudi-arabia-in-midst-of-unprecedented-transformation-finance-minster>

- **Pluralism hallmark of Bahrain, says King**

Bahrainis have grown up with neighbours of all faiths, all cultures and all ethnicities for centuries, in a multicultural, multi-faith society, recognising this diversity as a natural and normal way of life in the country, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said in an article published in The Washington Times yesterday.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=38588&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=1>

- **Ukraine, Kuwait discuss defense cooperation**

First Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleh Hladkovsky and Ambassador of Kuwait to Ukraine Rashid Hammad al-Advani have discussed cooperation between the two countries in defense industry, the NSDC's press office reported.

More Details:

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/454394.html>

- **Yemen Cautiously Welcomes New UN Initiative**

Yemen's Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul-Malek al-Mekhlafi said that the new initiative put forward by UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed for a political solution in Yemen was unclear. "We haven't received any details about it," Al-Mekhlafi said, describing the initiative as "mere intentions to conceal the failures of the United Nations."

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/s-alabyad/news-middle-east/yemen-cautiously-welcomes-new-un-initiative>

- **Support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen targeted by bill in US Congress**

Pulling support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen is not enough: the United States must go further and probe whether its decades-old ties with Riyadh have helped it – or simply sucked Washington into divisive, bungled Middle Eastern quagmires, US Congressman Ro Khanna told Middle East Eye.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/new-us-bill-aims-halt-support-saudi-arabias-war-yemen-503059523>

- **Gulf crisis may affect Qatar's security, India's economic interests**

The ongoing crisis in the Middle-East is threatening to split the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) wide open. An investigative study undertaken by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, has revealed that the GCC has begun to disintegrate from within as a result of the rift between Qatar and the Saudi Arabia-led coalition. The collapse of the only stable regional bloc will likely affect India's interests in the Gulf since trade and commerce are the most important pillar of the India-GCC relationship.

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/gulf-crisis-may-affect-qatars-security-indias-economic-interests201710120916050002/>

- **IMF: Blockade has no impact on Qatar gas exports**

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has officially announced on October 10, 2017, that the Arab quartet country's more than 4-month old blockade against Qatar has not affected the country's energy exports.«The diplomatic rift between Qatar, the world's largest exporter of LNG, and several other countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia, has not affected LNG markets, as Qatar's exports have continued», IMF said in its October 2017 'World Economic Outlook'.

More Details:

<http://neftegaz.ru/en/news/view/165712-IMF-Blockade-has-no-impact-on-Qatar-gas-exports>

- **Russia offers to mediate talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran**

Russia has offered to mediate talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran, a senior official in Moscow has said. Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov made his comment when he was asked if Russia has ever offered to mediate talks between the rival states. He said that several attempts have been made.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171012-russia-offers-to-mediate-talks-between-saudi-arabia-and-iran/>

- **Iran, Oman discuss military cooperation**

Iranian and Omani Army commanders on Wednesday explored ways of enhancing military relations between the two countries. The Commander of Oman's Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Matar bin Ali Al Obaidani, who is heading a high-ranking delegation in his visit to the Iranian capital, met with the second-in-command of the Iranian Army Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Pourdastan, IRNA reported.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/202211.html>

7. EGYPT

- **Future of Nation adopts campaign for Al-Sisi to rerun for presidency**

The political party Future of Nation have officially adopted a campaign supporting the rerunning of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi for another presidential term.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/12/future-nation-adopts-campaign-al-sisi-rerun-presidency/>

- **China's CSCEC signs US\$3bn construction deal in Egypt**

The China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) signed a US\$3bn construction deal with the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development on Wednesday. The CSCEC will be responsible for the construction of the central business district (CBD) in Egypt's new administrative capital, which will be located 50 kilometres east of Cairo.

More Details:

<https://gbtimes.com/chinas-cscec-signs-us3bn-construction-deal-in-egypt>

- **Siemens Train 5,500 Egyptian Technicians and Engineers over Next Four Years**

Siemens considers investing in the new administrative capital according to Emad Ghaly, CEO of the company during an interview his with Daily News Egypt. The company expects to complete the construction of the three power plants with a capacity of 14.4 MW in the first half (H1) of next year

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/pr/siemens-train-5500-egyptian-technicians-and-engineers-over-next-four-years-1032944>

- **China-Egypt model fits in well with B&R**

In line with Chinese President Xi Jinping's underpinning motto of the increasingly momentous pan-Eurasian "Belt and Road" initiative, the fast-growing economic cooperation between Egypt and China is an exemplary "win-win situation," with China helping to boost Egypt's rising economy, while Egypt can be China's commercial portal in the Arab and African worlds.

More Details:

http://www.china.org.cn/opinion/2017-10/12/content_41720046.htm

- **Egypt: Government Moves to Increase el-Sisi's Powers, Revoke Citizenship of Critics**

In response to government proposals to postpone presidential elections, strip Egyptians of their citizenship for activities deemed to "undermine national security," and re-establish "emergency courts" empowered to ignore fundamental rights, Freedom House issued the following statement: "Egyptian authorities are working to extend President el-Sisi's term of office, establish courts that would deny citizens fair trials, target the LGBT community for prosecution, and silence critics by threatening to take away their citizenship," said Dokhi Fassihian, senior program manager for Middle East and North Africa programs at Freedom House.

More Details:

<https://freedomhouse.org/article/egypt-government-moves-increase-el-sisi-s-powers-revoke-citizenship-critics>

- **Egypt raising awareness about mental illness**

During the month of October, hospitals across Egypt affiliated with the General Secretariat of Mental Health, under the Ministry of Health and Population, is participating in Al-Saraya al-Safra, a campaign to raise awareness about mental health services and to counter the stigma surrounding mental illness. The Arabic "al-saraya al-safra" means "yellow palace," which is a colloquial Egyptian term for a mental institute. The secretariat oversees and controls all services related to mental health in the country.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/egypt-health-campaign-mental-illnesses.html#ixzz4vHkQ3alf>

- **Presidential election commission formed**

Preparations for the 2018 presidential election gained momentum on Tuesday when President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi issued a decree naming the members of the National Electoral Commission's (NEC) board. Decree 503/2017 ratified Lashin Ibrahim, deputy head of the Court of Cassation, as

chair of the NEC and Mahmoud Al-Sherif, second deputy head of the Court of Cassation, as deputy chair.

More Details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/22685.aspx>

- **Egypt Expects Russian President Putin to Visit Cairo in Soon – Ambassador**

"Russian and Egyptian leaders met twice in China two years in a row, and, as a result, they have established a general framework for the bilateral relations. And we are hoping to receive President Putin in Cairo in the near future, as soon as we agree on the date," Egypt's Ambassador to Russia has said.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710111058128724-egypt-russia-putin-visit-date-arrange/>

- **Sisi opens first phase of Egypt new capital flagship**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has opened Wednesday the first phase of projects in the county's new administrative capital.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/real-estate/59855-sisi-opens-first-phase-of-egypt-new-capital-flagships.html>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria sees energy revenue at \$31 bln by year- end**

Algeria's earnings from energy exports are expected to reach 31 billion dollars in 2017 against 27.5 billion dollars in 2016 but down from 60.3 billion dollars three years ago.

More Details:

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/10/algeria-sees-energy-revenue-31-bln-year-end/>

- **Russia is ready to actively expand the volume of agricultural exports to Algeria**

Russia is ready to export to Algeria of civil aircraft, vehicles, equipment for farmers, and also discussed cooperation in the fields of subsoil use, water transport, aerospace and pharmaceuticals, said Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev

More Details:

<http://www.blackseagrains.net/novosti/russia-is-ready-to-actively-expand-the-volume-of-agricultural-exports-to-algeria>

- **Military heats up battle in Libya as Islamic State militants seek refuge**

The U.S. military is ramping up operations and bombing raids against the Islamic State in Libya, where the terrorist group's fighters have increasingly found refuge as their territorial base shrinks in Syria and Iraq. U.S.-backed militias largely crushed the Islamic State's Libya operation in late 2015, but signs that the group is gaining a new foothold in the North African nation began emerging last month. Images of Islamic State fighters moving through the vast deserts around their former stronghold in Libya's northern coastal city of Sirte circulated through the terrorist group's social media and online propaganda sites in mid-September.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/11/isis-draws-battle-to-libya-us-military-responds/>

- **Oil recovery at stake, Libya state oil firm declares**

Libya said it's struggling to restore oil production and fellow OPEC members are sparing the nation from having to participate in their deal to cut output, Bloomberg reported. The country has revived output to almost 1 million barrels a day, but it's "very difficult" to say when that could increase to 1.25 million a day, said Mustafa Sanallah, chairman of the National Oil Corp. That's a production target Libya gave to fellow producers at a meeting in July, Bloomberg added.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/oil-recovery-at-stake-libya-state-oil-firm-declares/>

- **UN urges compromise in Libya**

The UN Security Council on Tuesday urged Libyans, divided with rival governments and beset by violence, to work together ahead of hoped-for elections. Separately, the European Union is seeking to reopen its embassy in Libya pending security conditions, officials said on Tuesday, offering further political support for the Tripoli government struggling to establish control.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/c17f0851-b192-4216-846e-df67166632dc.aspx>

- **Morocco, Russia Promote Cooperation with Signing of 11 Agreements**

Morocco and Russia boosted bilateral cooperation on Wednesday with the signing of 11 agreements in energy, agriculture, culture, education, investment and trade sectors, following talks between Prime Minister Saadeddine al-Othmani and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Medvedev is on an official visit to Morocco, along with a number of members of the Russian government, businessmen and senior officials.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/l-arosni/business/morocco-russia-promote-cooperation-signing-11-agreements>

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco on cooperation in field of water resources**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of water resources. The MoU intends to enhance cooperation in the field of water resources development and management within the framework of their expertise and their respective legislations

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/cabinet-approves-mou-between-india-and-morocco-on-cooperation-in-field-of-water-resources201710112308430006/>

- **Tunisia Becoming Next Major Mass Migration Hub**

In the last six weeks, Tunisia has become a focus for mass migration as authorities worry that now the Libyan route has been all but closed, many migrants are looking to get to Europe from the Tunisian coast instead.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/london/2017/10/12/tunisia-becoming-next-major-mass-migration-hub/>

- **Money laundering: judicial and financial division charged with case involving businessman Mohamed Fekih, 12 public officials**

Thirteen people involved in a money-laundering case, including businessman Mohamed Fekih, a regional trade director and the central director of a private bank were placed in police custody a Prime Ministry inside source said on Wednesday.

More details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9455629-money-laundering>

- **Orphan of Islamic State parents held in limbo returns home**

A 3-year-old Tunisian orphan whose parents left home to join the Islamic State group has returned to his grandfather's custody after over a year in a Libyan prison.

More Details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/12/orphan-islamic-state-parents-held-in-limbo-returns-home.html>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Taliban Takes Captive Two Tribal Elders for Refusing to Pay Islamic Tax**

The Taliban militants take captive two tribal elders in Ghazni province after they refuse to pay the Islamic Taxation (Ushur and Zakat), local officials said Thursday. The incident has occurred in Khawaja Omari district of Ghazni province about three days ago.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/taliban-takes-captive-two-tribal-elders-for-refusing-to-pay-islamic-tax/>

- **Karzai reiterates his stance regarding the Durand Line**

The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai reiterated his stance regarding the controversial Durand Line separating Afghanistan and Pakistan, insisting that he has never and will never accept the line as the formal border between the two nations.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/karzai-reiterates-his-stance-regarding-the-durand-line-03631>

- **EU Putting Thousands of Lives at Risk with 'Illegal Deportations' to Afghanistan**

Amnesty International is calling for a moratorium on deportations from Europe to Afghanistan, warning that the security situation there has become worse rather than better in recent years and deportees seriously risk being tortured, kidnapped or murdered, the NGO's Afghanistan expert Horia Mosadiq told Radio Sputnik.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201710121058163123-afghanistan-refugees-europe-illegal-deportations/>

- **USAF further increases use of air power in Afghanistan**

The US Air Force (USAF) stepped up the use of air power in Afghanistan in September, releasing more ordnance than in any other month over the past seven years, according to recently released data by US Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT).

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/74832/usaf-further-increases-use-of-air-power-in-afghanistan>

- **Russian defense minister warns situation in Afghanistan worsening**

The situation in Afghanistan is rapidly changing for the worse, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said at Thursday's meeting with Tajik Defense Minister Sherali Mirzo.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/defense/970193>

- **Senior U.S. Diplomats In Islambad For Talks**

A high-level U.S. diplomatic delegation is visiting Pakistan for the first time since President Donald Trump announced a new strategy for Afghanistan in August. Alice Wells, the acting assistant secretary for South and Central Asia and acting special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Lisa Curtis, a senior director for South and Central Asia at the National Security Council, met with Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua on October 12, a U.S. Embassy spokesperson told Radio Mashaal.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/senior-united-states-diplomats-pakistan-talks/28789634.html>

- **Jammu and Kashmir: One soldier, one civilian killed in ceasefire violation by Pakistan in Poonch**

One soldier and one civilian lost their lives in a ceasefire violation today by Pakistan in Poonch's Krishna Ghati sector, reported news agency ANI.

More Details:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/oct/12/jammu-and-kashmir-one-soldier-one-civilian-killed-in-ceasefire-violation-by-pakistan-in-poonch-1672045.html>

- **Afghan delegation, Khyber tribal elders discuss border-related matters**

In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations and resolve rifts and misunderstanding between the two neighbouring countries, a delegation of Afghan ulema visited Torkham and Landi Kotal Khyber Agency on Wednesday.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/12/afghan-delegation-khyber-tribal-elders-discuss-border-related-matters/>

- **EU-Pakistan joint commission and its sub-groups met this week**

The 8th meeting of the EU-Pakistan joint commission and its sub-groups on Governance and Democracy; Trade; and Development Cooperation was held in Brussels this week.

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/eu-pakistan-joint-commission-and-its-sub-groups-met-this-week/>

- **Pakistan's election body seeks arrest of Imran Khan**

Pakistan's election commission is seeking the arrest of the country's top opposition leader, cricket-star-turned-politician Imran Khan, on contempt charges.

More Details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/pakistans-election-body-seeks-arrest-of-imran-khan/articleshow/61051048.cms>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **US doesn't sell Turkey weapons, but arms PKK in Syria for free - Erdogan**

The US claims to be Turkey's ally, but Washington does not even sell weapons to Turkey, while arming the Syrian wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) for free, Turkish media quoted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying Oct. 12. Erdogan noted that his country knows perfectly well that the weapons the US gives to PKK's Syrian wing will be further used against Turkey.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/world/turkey/2807122.html>

- **Turkey is Closing its Border with Northern Iraq**

Turkey will gradually close border crossings with northern Iraq in coordination with the central Iraqi government and Iran in response to the Iraqi Kurdistan independence referendum, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Khalil told Reuters. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım is expected to visit Baghdad on Sunday to meet with Iraqi counterpart Hayder al Abadi, informs 24chasa.

More Details:

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/184211/Turkey+is+Closing+its+Border+with+Northern+Iraq>

- **Turkey: 3 sentenced to jail over ISIL links**

A Turkish court Wednesday sentenced three people to over six years in jail in absentia over links to the terrorist group ISIL. The Adana court in southern Turkey sentenced Nureddin Ocak, Umit Hazar and Ipek Suysal to six years and three months in prison for "being a member of an armed terrorist group".

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/194875/turkey-3-sentenced-to-jail-over-isil-links>

- **Civilians hail Turkish deployment in Syria's Idlib**

Turkish deployment in Syria's northwestern Idlib province near Turkish border is raising high hopes among civilians in the area. On Monday, the Turkish military said that its troops began reconnaissance activities in Idlib as part of an international agreement to establish de-escalation zones.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/civilians-hail-turkish-deployment-in-syria-s-idlib/932895>

- **Turkey in Idlib to establish peace corridor, PM Yıldırım says**

The Turkish military crossed into Idlib, Syria, earlier this week to establish a peace corridor rather than terror, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım said Wednesday. Delivering a speech at an event in Ankara, Yıldırım said that Turkey is aware of a plan to establish a terrorist corridor within Syria. "We are on the field to make our precautions in advance," he said, asserting: "We are trying to establish a peace belt rather than terror."

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/10/12/turkey-in-idlib-to-establish-peace-corridor-pm-yildirim-says>

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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