



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Military operations launch to retake Islamic State's bastions in Anbar**

The Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi has announced launch of operations to liberate Qaim and Rawa towns, Islamic State's last strongholds in western Anbar. In a statement issued on Thursday, Abadi addressed the people saying that troops have swept through Qaim, Rawa and al-Qasabat. "We will continue our achievements in all fields to our people."

More Details:

<https://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/military-operations-launch-retake-islamic-states-bastions-anbar/>

- **Abadi to Visit Damascus**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is planning to soon visit neighbouring Syria and meet with Bashar al-Assad, an Iraqi lawmaker said. Abadi will be exchanging views with Damascus on the recent political and security developments in the region, said Jasim Mohammed Jaafar, an MP from the State of Law Coalition bloc.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/388207>

- **An Official Reception Ceremony for Prime Minister Haider Abadi at the Saadabad Historical Cultural Complex in Tehran**

An official reception for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi was held on Thursday morning at the Saadabad Historical Cultural Complex in Tehran. The First Vice President of the Republic, Ishaq Jahangiri, was at the head of the receptors of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi at the Saadabad Historical Cultural Complex. "

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?cUOMlvm51v5eCMTSS21QGA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?cUOMlvm51v5eCMTSS21QGA%253d%253d)

- **A Times Correspondent Describes Meeting ISIS Militants in Iraq**

The New York Times's International correspondent at large, first went to Iraq in the 1980s, during the Iran-Iraq war. In the years since, including several as a correspondent for The Times in Baghdad, Mr. Nordland has covered the complex political and social currents of a nation seemingly in perpetual turmoil. Earlier this month, the Iraqi army freed the city of Hawija from control by the Islamic State, leading 1,000 militants, who had operated a regime of comprehensive violence in the city, to

surrender to Kurdish authorities. Mr. Nordland was able to interview some of the men in detention — an experience he described on Facebook Live on Oct. 24.

More Details:

[http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En\\_NewsReader/77d203d7-b610-48d9-ac91-5c1e168577a4](http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/77d203d7-b610-48d9-ac91-5c1e168577a4)

- **UN Calls for Greater Women Role in Future of post-Daesh Iraq**

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), jointly with UNWOMEN within the context of the observing the Global Open Day and the 17th Anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325, held consultative forums with senior political leadership in Baghdad and Erbil on 23 and 24 October 2017, with the focus on strengthening women's political participation.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42146](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42146)

- **Iraq forces assault last IS group stronghold, advance on Kurds**

Iraqi troops launched an assault on the last Islamic State group bastion in the country on Thursday even as the Kurds said Baghdad's forces had attacked their fighters near the border with Turkey. There had been fears that the bitter dispute that has raged between the Baghdad government and Iraqi Kurdish leaders since they held a referendum for independence last month would hamper the campaign against the jihadists.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20171026-iraq-forces-assault-last-group-stronghold-advance-kurds>

- **Iraq's Abadi heads to Iran for regional security talks**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is set to meet Iran's leaders for talks on regional security, including the future of Iraq's Kurdistan and the role of the Tehran-backed Shia militias in his country. Abadi's meeting on Thursday with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani marks his second visit to Tehran in four months, highlighting his effort to rally support behind the central government in Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/iraq-abadi-heads-iran-regional-security-talks-171025145541045.html>

- **Iraq launches military operation to recapture western border region**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi announced early on Thursday an offensive to recapture the western border region of al-Qaim and Rawa, close to the Syrian border, from the Islamic State militant group. Al-Qaim and Rawa are the last patch of Iraqi territory still in the hands of Islamic State. The group also holds parts of the Syrian side of the border but the area under its control is shrinking as the militants retreat in the face of two sets of hostile forces - a U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led coalition and Syrian government troops with foreign Shi'ite militias backed by Iran and Russia.

More Details:

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq/iraq-launches-military-operation-to-recapture-western-border-region-idUSKBN1CV058?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq/iraq-launches-military-operation-to-recapture-western-border-region-idUSKBN1CV058?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **Iraq's Shiite militia 'must go home'**

During a recent visit to Saudi Arabia, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said that Shiite militias in Iraq "must go home," citing the impending end of the anti-Daesh campaign. It was noteworthy that Mr. Tillerson made the above statement at a meeting of the Saudi-Iraqi Coordination Council in Riyadh. In an effort to stop Iran from exerting total control over the administration of Haider al-Abadi, the United States has been promoting closer cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. At the same time, Washington tries to find ways to limit Iran's influence in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/columns/duran-burhanettin/2017/10/26/iraqs-shiite-militia-must-go-home>

- **USA lacks power to resolve Iraq crisis: former US State Dept. official**

Former US State Department official Wa'el Alzayat, remarking on the role of United States in resolving the conflict between Baghdad and Erbil, said that it lacks the power to facilitate dialogue between both the sides. "The United States does not have enough power in Iraq to facilitate dialogue between Baghdad and Erbil in order to resolve the ongoing crisis," Alzayat was quoted as saying, by Sputnik, on the sidelines of a panel discussion at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/usa-lacks-power-to-resolve-iraq-crisis-former-us-state-dept-official201710260527520001/>

- **Will KRG write off vote results as sought by Turkey and Iraq?**

The Kurdish Regional Government's offer to freeze the results of September's independence referendum for peace talks hasn't moved Turkey or Iraq, who've repeated their view that the vote was illegal. The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) appears to be offering a concession to end a violent standoff with Iraq's central government. The KRG said it's prepared to freeze the results of the independence referendum.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/will-kr-g-write-off-vote-results-as-sought-by-turkey-and-iraq--11661>

- **Iraq's Al-Abadi in Tehran for High-Level Meetings**

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA reports that Iraq Prime Minister, Haidar al-Abadi arrived in Iran last night for a one day visit. IRNA says that al-Abadi will meet Supreme Leader ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Hassan Rouhani and Speaker of Parliament Ali Larijani. Al-Abadi visited Turkey on Wednesday where he met President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The two leaders discussed military and economic steps they could take after what Erdogan called "illegitimate" Iraqi Kurdish independence referendum last month.

More Details:

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iraq-abadi-visit-iran/28816706.html>

- **Iran reopens border crossing with Iraq's Kurdish region**

Iran on Wednesday reopened a border crossing with northern Iraq's Kurdish region after a 10-day closure, according to the Iranian consulate in Erbil. In a statement, the consulate said the Bashmaq crossing was reopened to people and trade. Iranian authorities had shut the terminal in mid-October upon a request from the Iraqi government amid tension between Baghdad and Erbil over last month's illegitimate referendum for regional Kurdish independence.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iran-reopens-border-crossing-with-iraq-s-kurdish-region/947192>

- **Islamic State suicide bomber kills two police officers in Iraq's Ninawa**

Two police officers were killed when an Islamic State suicide bomber detonated his explosives in the Old City area of Mosul in Iraq's Ninawa province on 23 October, Iraqi News reported. Police officers killed two other Islamic State militants who launched an attack directly after the bombing.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/75205/islamic-state-suicide-bomber-kills-two-police-officers-in-iraq-s-ninawa>

- **More Kurds return to Iraq's Kirkuk as city sees more calm**

Iraqi forces continue to secure more areas illegally seized by the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in recent years. The troops have recaptured a number of key regions and border crossings along Iraq's borders with Iran and Syria. At the same time, more Kurdish citizens return to their homes in the city of Kirkuk as calm prevails the city following a row between Baghdad and Erbil.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/25/539885/Iraq-Kurds-Kirkuk>

- **Tillerson in Iraq: 'Concerned and a Bit Saddened' by Reportedly Iranian-Backed Attack**

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson continued his tour through the Middle East and South Asia, joining Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday. "We are concerned and a bit saddened by the recent differences that have emerged between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi central government," Tillerson told reporters after meeting with Abadi, using the most euphemistic language for the violent territorial clashes in and around Kirkuk that threaten to plunge northern Iraq into another round of conflict.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/25/tillerson-concerned-bit-saddened-iraqi-kurd-conflict-looms/>

- **Renewed Saudi-Iraq ties 'to rival Iran's influence'**

A recent warming of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iraq could signal a move away from Iran's influence over Baghdad, analysts say, but with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi arriving on Wednesday in Tehran, that remains to be seen. On Sunday, Saudi Arabia and Iraq inaugurated a coordination committee and signed a number of agreements. The developments come after years of tension between Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/renewed-saudi-iraq-ties-rival-iran-influence-171024151411564.html>

- **Hashed al-Shaabi: controversial force on Iraq's frontlines**

Fighters from Iraq's Hashed al-Shaabi are a controversial irregular element battling on the country's frontlines. The organisation formed in 2014 after the country's most revered Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, urged citizens to take up arms against IS jihadists who had swept aside government forces and seized much of northern Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-5016947/Hashed-al-Shaabi-controversial-force-Iraqs-frontlines.html>

- **Most Kurds after united Iraq: Velayati**

Iranian former foreign minister Velayati says that referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan was a mistake from very beginning as most of Iraqis support unity. “It was predictable that the issue would turn this way as most of Iraqis and Kurds are after unity, national solidarity, and preserving the territorial integrity of Iraq,” said Ali Akbar Velayati, in response to calls to comment on the latest statement issued by KRG suspending the results of the referendum.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128953/Most-Kurds-after-united-Iraq-Velayati>

- **Iraq's Abadi visits Turkey for talks on Kurds**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi has arrived in Turkey to discuss developments in the Arab country's Kurdistan region as Baghdad and Ankara seek stronger bonds to deal with the Kurdish independence drive. Turkey's state broadcaster TRT said on Wednesday that Abadi arrived in Ankara late morning and went right to the presidential palace to meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/iraqs-abadi-visits-turkey-for-talks-on-kurds\\_862528.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/iraqs-abadi-visits-turkey-for-talks-on-kurds_862528.html)

- **Civilians Flee as Clashes Resume in Northern Iraq**

Civilians began fleeing parts of Iraq's northern Nineveh province following the renewal of clashes Wednesday between government forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, according to local sources. Ghassan Abigail, pastor of the Church of Divine Mercy (located in Nineveh's Talqeef district north of Mosul), said that armed confrontations had resumed at dawn Wednesday outside the town of Telasqaf.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/civilians-flee-clashes-resume-northern-iraq-1039210>

- **Referendum in northern Iraq aimed at country's dismemberment - PM**

The referendum in the Kurdish region in northern Iraq is aimed at dismemberment of the country, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said. He made the remarks Oct. 25 in Ankara during a joint press conference with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish media reported.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/world/arab/2812620.html>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Israel unmask new Hezbollah commander on Syrian golan**

The IDF Military Intelligence Directorate has identified Hezbollah's main man on the eastern, Syrian-held side of the Golan as Munir Ali Naim Shaiti, also known as Haj Hasham. The 50-year-old father of four from south Lebanon spends most of his time in Syria where he is in charge of security and directing all Hezbollah operations in the war-torn country.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Israel-unveils-new-Hezbollah-leader-on-Syria-border-508368>

- **Russia says ISIS controls less than 5% of Syria as rights groups raise alarm over Raqqa**

The area controlled by Islamic State in Syria has been reduced to less than 5 percent, the Russian Defense Ministry said, but human rights groups remain concerned about the "dire humanitarian situation" in Raqqa, captured from jihadists by US-backed militias. Russian Air Force operation, IS controlled "more than 70 percent of Syrian territory." According to Shoigu, over the course of two years, the Russian Air Force has helped to destroy nearly 1,000 terrorist training camps, almost 700 factories and munitions manufacturing workshops, and 1,500 units of military equipment belonging to terrorists.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/407718-syria-isis-raqqa-dire-situation/>

- **Syrian Army has recovered more than 57,000km2 of territory this year – map**

For the Syrian Arab Army (SAA), 2017 has arguably been the best year of the war for them and their allies, as they have liberated a large chunk of territory from both the rebel and Islamic State (ISIS) forces. Beginning with east Aleppo, the Syrian Arab Army was able to impose full control over the

eastern countryside of the province, expelling the Islamic State to the southwestern countryside of the Al-Raqa Governorate.

More details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/syrian-army-recovered-57000km2-territory-year-map/>

- **Syria's SDF rebels: ISIL's nemesis or American proxy?**

There was little left of Raqqa by the time the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) officially announced the city had been taken from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant group (ISIL) last week. It was a huge symbolic victory and deprived the armed group of a de facto capital once central to everything from its propaganda videos to the planning of attacks abroad.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/syria-sdf-rebels-isil-nemesis-american-proxy-171025143136500.html>

- **Syria: Footage shows Islamic State drone blowing up stadium ammo dump**

An Islamic State drone filmed itself dropping a bomb which set off a chain of huge explosions at an ammunition dump inside a stadium in Syria. Islamic State's propaganda arm Amaq released the footage of the attack near the town of Deir Ezzor, where Syrian government forces have been fighting with IS for control since September.

More details:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-25/footage-shows-is-drone-attack-on-syrian-government-stadium/9085750>

- **Iraqi forces seize border crossing with Syria after PKK pullout**

Iraqi government forces took over a border crossing with Syria on Wednesday as they seek to impose control over border posts held by Kurdish forces. Bonian al-Jarba, a member of the Nineveh province council, told Alsumaria News that "Iraqi forces tightened their control over the Rabia border crossing with Syria after the withdrawal of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). He said the takeover came as forces had previously deployed in Rabia region.

More details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/official-iraqi-forces-seize-border-crossing-syria-pkk-pullout/>

- **The Fall of the House of ISIS**

ISIS is on the decline, but the catastrophic political divisions in Iraq and Syria that gave rise to it are no closer to being mended. The Middle East today is enduring a replay of World War II, with the Islamic State in the role of Nazi Germany. Having seized much of Europe and parts of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany reached the peak of its expansion by the fall of 1942. Then, stopped at Stalingrad and unable to overwhelm Britain, the Nazis began to fall back, and the war turned into a race between the Soviet troops marching from the east and the Allied soldiers surging from the west. After the war, as a result of the competition between these two sets of armed forces, Europe would remain divided for the next half century.

More details:

[https://www.fairobserver.com/region/middle\\_east\\_north\\_africa/defeating-isis-raqqa-syria-iraq-middle-east-latest-news-71532/](https://www.fairobserver.com/region/middle_east_north_africa/defeating-isis-raqqa-syria-iraq-middle-east-latest-news-71532/)

- **President al-Assad congratulates Chinese President on re-election for second term**

President Bashar al-Assad sent on Wednesday a congratulatory cable to the Chinese President Xi Jinping on his re-election for a second term as Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In the cable, President al-Assad wished President Xi success and the Chinese people further progress and prosperity.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=116571>

- **US Forces, Armed Groups Impede Access to Rukban Camp in Syria**

The Russian Defense Ministry has commented on the humanitarian situation around Syrian refugee camp al-Rukban. "At the same time, the American side and the illegal armed groups operating in the same zone are preventing the Syrian government from organizing a safe corridor and delivering humanitarian supplies to people in the camp from the territory of Syria," the Russian Defense Ministry said.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710251058534532-us-syria-camp-no-access/>

- **Syria defeated terrorists with resistance: Larijani**

Iranian Parliament Speaker Larijani told Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad that the victories against terrorism in Syria were the result of Syrians' resistance. "The ISIL terrorist burdened heavy costs upon Syria but the Syrians managed to accomplish great victories with resistance," said Ali Larijani, the Speaker of Iran's Parliament on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128962/Syria-defeated-terrorists-with-resistance-Larijani>

### 3. IRAN

- **UN urges Iran to stop harassing BBC Persian staff**

A United Nations expert has urged Iran's government to stop harassing BBC Persian staff and their families. David Kaye, the special rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, confirmed he had received a complaint from the BBC about their treatment. It came after Iran initiated a criminal investigation into 150 BBC staff, former staff and contributors for "conspiracy against national security".

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-41750919>

- **Leader: Iran's defense capabilities non-negotiable**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Iran's defense might is not up for negotiation, stressing the country's resolve to strengthen its defense capabilities despite enemy attempts to weaken the nation. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks at a graduation ceremony for Iran's Army cadets in Tehran on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/203099.html>

- **BBC appeals to UN over Iran's crackdown on journalists**

The BBC's director general has accused Iran of "unprecedented collective punishment" as the corporation appealed to the UN over crackdowns on Iranian employees of its London-based Persian service. Iranian authorities have imposed an asset freeze on at least 152 BBC Persian journalists and former contributors, preventing them from conducting financial transactions or selling properties in their homeland because of their affiliation with the British broadcaster.

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2017/oct/25/bbc-pleads-with-un-over-iran-crackdown-on-journalists>

- **Spokesman Blasts Saudi FM's 'Wrong' Anti-Tehran Remarks**

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi slammed recent remarks made by Saudi Arabia's foreign minister against the Islamic Republic as "wrong" and "costly". "It is most unfortunate that Saudi Arabia's foreign minister still insists on keeping the wrong, costly and fruitless approach (toward Iran) and continues to beat the drum for tension, violence and destructive policies," Qassemi said in a statement on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/spokesman-blasts-saudi-wrong/>

- **Iran 'sentences Swedish resident academic to DEATH' after convicting him of spying for Israel**

A Swedish academic has been sentenced to death in Iran after being accused of spying for Israel, human rights observers have said. Ahmadreza Djalali, a father-of-two who was born in Iran but has resident status in Sweden, was arrested in his home country in April 2016. He was accused of handing a list of 30 nuclear and military scientists to the Israelis, before two scientists on the list were killed in explosions in 2010.

More details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5017559/Iran-sentences-Swedish-resident-academic-DEATH.html>

- **Iran: Prisoner endured brutal tortures at the hands of the mullahs**

Amir Nourzehi was arrested in 2014 on the charges of robbery and sentenced to 10 years in prison according to the confessions taken under beating and mayhem. His cousin, who is a juvenile offender, has been sentenced to death in the same case. He says in his letter that his 17-year-old cousin has been sentenced to death on charges of possession of drugs, an issue that, in addition to a violation of the right to life, is a violation of the rights of the child.

More details:

<https://www.mojahedin.org/newsen/58923/Iran-Prisoner-endured-brutal-tortures-at-the-hands-of-the-mullahs>

- **Saudi Arabia backs Trump's hostile policy towards Iran**

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir has expressed his satisfaction with US President Donald Trump's hostile stance on Iran after he broke ranks with the world community and refused to certify Tehran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear pact. Addressing the annual Chatham House conference in London

on Tuesday, Jubeir claimed that the 2015 multilateral nuclear accord, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), had shortcomings.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/25/539811/Saudi-Arabia-US-Iran-Adel-alJubeir>

- **IRGC Disbands Terrorist Team in Northwestern Iran**

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) forces dismantled a terrorist cell in the Northwestern province of West Azerbaijan. According to a statement issued by the IRGC's Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada base, the terrorist team, affiliated to the world arrogant powers, had entered Chaldoran region in West Azerbaijan province on Wednesday night and martyred two local people.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960804000277>

- **Ayatollah Khamenei: Iran's defense capability not negotiable**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei affirmed on Wednesday that Iran's military capability is "not open to negotiation". "As we have repeatedly announced, we announce again that the country's defense capability is not open to negotiation," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told a graduation ceremony of military cadets.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417911/Ayatollah-Khamenei-Iran-s-defense-capability-not-negotiable>

- **Human rights report on Iran influenced by political games: UN envoy**

Iranian envoy at the UN said that he doesn't accept the report of the UN special rapporteur on human rights on Iran because she used inauthentic sources and unrealistic cases. He said that Asma Jahangir's report has been affected by political games and is by no means reporting human rights conditions in Iran. Jahangir had expressed concern about freedom of journalists, and social media activists, and criticized Iran's lex talionis law (the law of retaliation) in her first semi-annual report of 2017.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82709347>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel willing to resort to military action to stop Iran acquiring nukes**

"If international efforts led these days by US President Trump don't help stop Iran attaining nuclear capabilities, Israel will act militarily by itself," Intelligence Minister Israel Katz said in an interview in Tokyo. "There are changes that can be made (to the agreement) to ensure that they will never have the ability to have a nuclear weapon." Israel has taken unilateral action in the past without the consent of its major ally, the United States, including air strikes on a suspected nuclear reactor in Syria in 2007 and in Iraq in 1981. A strike against Iran, however, would be a risky venture with the potential to provoke a counter strike and roil financial markets.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Israel-willing-to-resort-to-military-action-to-stop-Iran-acquiring-nukes-508477>

- **Is Israel breaking laws by abusing Palestinian boys?**

Handcuffed, arrested, and questioned without the presence of a lawyer or their parents. A new report says that is common for Palestinian boys picked up by Israeli police. The Israeli human rights groups B'Tselem and HaMoked accuse Israel of systematically abusing young detainees in occupied East Jerusalem. The report includes statements from 60 boys suspected of stone-throwing. It found 70 percent of them did not know they had a right to remain silent. Three out of 10 did not speak to lawyers before questioning, and in almost all the cases, the boys were in the interrogation room on their own, without parents or any other relative present.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2017/10/israel-breaking-laws-abusing-palestinian-boys-171025181053379.html>

- **Netanyahu's chief negotiator and personal envoy resigns**

In letter thanking Yitzhak Molcho, PM says Israelis will be 'greatly appreciative' of his service when day comes for his contributions to be revealed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chief negotiator and personal envoy Yitzhak Molcho officially resigned from his duties Wednesday after 10 years of service. In a letter accepting Molcho's resignation, Netanyahu told Molcho that he and other government ministers were "deeply appreciative" of his work.

More details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahus-chief-negotiator-and-personal-envoy-resigns/>

- **The Palestinian Plan to Protest the Balfour Declaration's 100th Anniversary**

The Palestinian Authority will begin a campaign in the coming days to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which will include protests in both Palestinian territories and Israel. The Palestinians are also planning a major demonstration in London for the first week of November, along with an official request to the British government to apologize for the declaration and recognize the State of Palestine based on 1967 borders.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium-1.819126>

- **Israel Secretly Using U.S. Law Firm to Fight BDS Activists in Europe, North America**

The Israeli government has been secretly using a U.S. law firm to help it fight the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement in Europe, North America and elsewhere, according to documents obtained by Haaretz. The government has hired the Chicago-based firm Sidley Austin to prepare legal opinions and handle court proceedings. The Justice Ministry and the Strategic Affairs Ministry have declined to reveal the nature of these activities, for which the state has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past two years. The ministries call the activities “diplomatically extremely sensitive.”

More details:

<https://israelpalestineneews.org/israel-secretly-using-u-s-law-firm-fight-bds-activists-europe-north-america/>

- **Israel demolishes Bedouin village for 120th time**

Israel today demolished the Bedouin village of Al-Araqeeb in the Negev desert for the 120th time, according to official Palestinian news agency Wafa. The site reported that staff from the Israel Land Authority (ILA) accompanied Israel Police and bulldozers who raided the village and demolished the makeshift homes made out of tin that the residents build every time the village is demolished.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171025-israel-demolishes-bedouin-village-for-120th-time/>

- **Israel – Mr. Hammouri’s situation**

We are concerned by the situation of our compatriot Salah Hammouri, who has been detained by the Israeli authorities since August 23. He receives consular protection from our consulate-general in Jerusalem, in accordance with the Vienna Convention. The latest appeal of the decision to place him in administrative detention was heard on October 22 at the Supreme Court of Jerusalem. Neither our compatriot nor his lawyers were able to find out what the charges were.

More details:

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/israel-palestinian-territories/israel/events/article/israel-mr-hammouri-s-situation-25-10-17>

- **Israel sentences 22 Palestinians to imprisonment without charge or trial**

Over the course of 10 days, Israeli authorities issued 22 administrative detention orders against incarcerated Palestinians, including one woman, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS). PPS said on Wednesday that the orders were issued between October 15 and 25, adding that a mother of five, identified as 30-year-old Khadija Rabee from the Yatta town in the southern West Bank Hebron district received was sentenced to three months of administrative detention -- Israel's widely condemned policy of internment without charge or trial.

More details:

<https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779387>

- **130 Israeli companies, 60 int'l corporations on UN 'blacklist'**

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights al-Hussein warns Israeli firms of their inclusion in 'blacklist' of companies operating in West Bank, east J'lem, Jordan Valley; list includes prominent companies such as Bezeq, Hot, Ahava, Cellcom, Bank Hapoalim and others; Bezeq CEO scorns 'entirely anti-Israeli propaganda.' In the past few weeks, 130 Israeli companies and 60 international corporations operating in Israel received warning letters from United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Hussein cautioning them of their impending inclusion in a "blacklist" of companies active beyond the Green Line in "violation of international law and UN resolutions."

More details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5034082,00.html>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **When Women Rule: 'No girl should be a gift to a rapist,' says Jordan MP fighting for women**

As Wafa Bani Mustafa commands a circle of male parliamentarians in an informal chat before a Jordanian parliament session, a male colleague looking on points to her saying "I call her the Iron Lady". In her third term as a member of parliament, Bani Mustafa knows how to get her point across with her powerful, unmistakable voice and accompanying hand gestures that get more animated as she discusses women's rights.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171026-when-women-rule-no-girl-should-be-a-gift-to-a-rapist-says-jordan-mp-fighting-for-women/>

- **Austerity imminent as economic woes hit Jordan**

Jordan's high and rising public debt has worried the International Monetary Fund and prompted a downgrade from Standard & Poor's. So the government is planning a blast of austerity by year-end. Tax hikes and subsidy cuts - likely to be highly unpopular - are on the agenda as the country's debt to GDP ratio has reached a record 95 percent, from 71 percent in 2011.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/25/539875/Jordan-Economy-Austerity-Tax>

- **Israelis Work with Jordanians, Palestinians in EU-Sponsored Disaster Training Drills**

Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian firefighters along other emergency personnel participated in a two-day training exercise, which was sponsored by the European Union, on how to respond to natural disasters, The Times of Israel reported Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.thetower.org/5566-watch-israelis-work-with-jordanians-palestinians-in-eu-sponsored-disaster-training-drills/>

- **Hamas chief, Jordan king talk Palestine reconciliation**

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday phoned Jordanian King Abdullah II to discuss recent political developments in the region, especially the issue of inter-Palestinian reconciliation, according to a Hamas statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/hamas-chief-jordan-king-talk-palestine-reconciliation/947470>

- **Jordanian Agriculture minister, UAE Ambassador discuss cooperation**

Khaled Hneifat, Jordanian Minister of Agriculture, and Mattar Saif Sulaiman Al Shamsi, UAE Ambassador to Jordan, have discussed cooperation relations in the field of agriculture, and means of boosting them.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302641340>

- **Lebanon looks to recreate Palestinian society in refugee camp**

A few streets away from Mohammad al-Hajj Hussein's home, a piece of graffiti scrawls across a wall. It reads, "Typical neighborhood." Compared to residential neighborhoods in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Arab world, the statement rings true.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/lebanon-palestine-refugee-camp-unrwa-reconstruction.html#ixzz4wbE9Aakq>

- **Lebanese Information Minister receives Acting Charge D'affaires of Saudi Embassy**

Lebanese Minister of Information Melhem Al-Riachi received here today Acting Charge d'Affaires of Saudi Embassy in Lebanon Waleed bin Abdullah Bukhari. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries.

More Details:

<http://alriyadhdaily.com/article/fb94cac3380f4c5a876bd53c503ab770>

- **Report: Ministerial Committee on Refugees Studies Solution Plan**

A ministerial committee tasked with handling the file of displaced Syrians in Lebanon will convene on Thursday to study an outline prepared by the ministries of interior, foreign and the displaced affairs in cooperation with a work group of the Prime Minister, al-Mustaqbal daily reported.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/237295-report-ministerial-committee-on-refugees-studies-solution-plan>

- **Lebanese army chief boycotts conference because of Eizenkot**

Lebanon's chief of staff, Gen. Joseph Aoun, boycotted a major conference of chiefs of staff hosted by the United States, which was attended by IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/237218>

- **Geagea praises Frangieh, Zgharta leaderships' positions**

Leader of the Lebanese Forces Party, Samir Geagea, praised the positions of all the political leaders of Zgharta, namely that of MP Sleiman Frangieh "because their statements left no room for some ill-willed persons to turn a small mishap into something bigger, and interpret it in a different way."

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84670/Geagea-praises-Frangieh-Zgharta-leaderships-39-positions>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Qatar, Russia sign defence agreement**

His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoygu and his accompanying delegation at his office at Al Bahr Palace yesterday evening. At the outset of the meeting, the Russian minister conveyed the greetings of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his wishes to the Emir and the Qatari people of continued progress and prosperity.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/568830/Qatar-Russia-sign-defence-agreement>

- **Saudi Arabia is opening up its stock market to foreign investors**

Foreign investors are now able to participate in initial public offerings (IPO) within Saudi Arabia and will be given access to a stock market aimed at small and medium-sized businesses.

More Details:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/26/saudi-arabia-is-opening-up-its-stock-market-to-foreign-investors.html>

- **UAE citizens granted visa-free travel to Chad**

UAE nationals can make visa-free visits to the Republic of Chad starting this week, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has announced.

More Details:

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/UAE-citizens-granted-visa-free-travel-to-Chad>

- **Korea intent on joining bid for Saudi nuclear reactors: ministry**

The South Korean government on Thursday expressed its intention to join a bid to build atomic power plants in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, which is seeking to adopt its first commercial nuclear reactors.

More Details:

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20171026000845>

- **Pakistan and Bahrain: A celebration of friendship**

Prominent members of Pakistani and Bahraini communities joined in celebrating the longstanding business, trade and economic ties between both countries at a special ceremony organized by Ejaz Chaudhary and Akram Chaudhary at the Gulf Hotel, where the Ambassador of Pakistan, Javed Malik was the Chief Guest.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=38990&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

- **UAE distributes food aid in areas of Rudum District, Yemen**

The Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, has delivered thousands of food baskets to people living in poor conditions in rural areas of Yemen. Five convoys packed with food supplies reached a number of villages in Rudum District of the Shabwa Governorate on Wednesday, as part of the UAE's humanitarian efforts to ease the suffering of people in the aftermath of the war launched by the coup militias in the country.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302641640>

- **Facing war, famine and pestilence in Yemen, UN calls for aid**

The UN's emergency relief coordinator has arrived in Yemen's capital Sanaa to see the deteriorating humanitarian crisis for himself. The war in Yemen has killed more than 10,000 Yemenis and injured 40,000 more.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/facing-war-famine-pestilence-yemen-calls-aid-171026073127232.html>

- **Yemen/UAE: Aden Hunger Strike Highlights Detainee Abuse**

A hunger strike by dozens of detainees in Yemen's provisional capital of Aden highlights the mistreatment of prisoners throughout Yemen, Human Rights Watch said today.

More Details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/26/yemen/uae-aden-hunger-strike-highlights-detainee-abuse>

- **Qatar–Sri Lanka ties reach new highs: President**

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, yesterday praised the bilateral relationships with Qatar and said that his ongoing visit to the country will pave way to further enhance ties between the two countries.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/26/10/2017/Qatar%E2%80%93Sri-Lanka-ties-reach-new-highs-President>

- **Omantel to acquire additional 12.1 per cent stake in Kuwait's Zain for OMR520m**

A share purchase agreement to acquire an additional 12.1 per cent stake in Kuwait's Mobile Telecommunications (Zain) Company was signed by Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) with three stake holders of the Kuwait telecom firm.

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/120425/Business/Omantel-to-acquire-additional-121-per-cent-stake-in-Kuwait's-Zain-for-OMR520m>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Pence to visit Israel, Egypt in December**

Vice President Mike Pence announced Wednesday that he will travel to Israel and Egypt in late December, and said the U.S. will redirect funds aimed at helping persecuted Christians and other minorities away from the United Nations. Pence discussed his plans at a religious dinner in Washington, where he stressed the Trump administration's commitment to helping Christian minority groups across the Middle East.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/10/25/pence-to-visit-israel-egypt-in-december.html>

- **Egypt parliament debates politics and religion at public youth centres**

Egypt's parliamentarians debated on Tuesday a draft of a new "youth institutions law", but the house is expected to resume discussion on the 47-article draft legislation in a full quorum in its next general session on 6 November. The first article of the draft legislation, which would ban members of state-owned youth clubs from engaging in political activity, caused a controversy on the house floor.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/280338/Egypt/Politics-/-Egypt-parliament-debates-politics-and-religion-at.aspx>

- **Egypt pledges to tackle wheat crisis**

Egypt will issue a streamlined guide on wheat imports within two weeks that will detail all specifications, procedures, and regulations for traders selling to the world's largest buyer, Supply Minister Ali Moselhy told Reuters on Wednesday. Egypt is looking to calm nervous suppliers who have been adding risk premiums of up to \$500,000 per cargo because of what they said are inconsistent import rules and erratic inspection procedures.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1183226/business-economy>

- **Egypt: Sisi Says Egypt Keen on Adhering to Human Rights Obligations**

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi said on Tuesday 24/10/2017 Egypt is keen on adhering to human rights obligations. During a press conference with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, Sisi expressed his keenness on establishing a modern civil democratic state in Egypt, stressing that the Egyptian people reject all forms of violence and dictatorship. The Egyptian government does not resort to torture, Sisi said, stressing the importance of validating the authenticity of data that could be published by NGOs.

More details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710250844.html>

- **Egyptian president meets with French business leaders**

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi met on Wednesday with French finance minister Bruno Le Maire and a dozen business leaders on the third day of his official visit to France. Several French companies, including oil giant Total and underground metro operator RATP, were hoping to secure future deals. Al-Sisi's visit is focusing on economic cooperation and the fight against extremism.

More details:

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/egyptian-president-meets-with-french-business-leaders-20171025>

- **Macron Refuses to Intervene in Egypt's Domestic Affairs, Upholds Support to Combat Terrorism**

French President Emmanuel Macron and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi attend a news conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, October 24, 2017. REUTERS/Philippe Wojazer

France's president Emmanuel Macron stated on Tuesday during a press conference with Egypt's president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi that he refuses to intervene in Egypt's domestic affairs. "I believe in the sovereignty of states, and therefore, just as I don't accept being lectured on how to govern my country, I don't lecture others," Macron said.

More details:

<https://egyptianstreets.com/2017/10/25/macron-refuses-to-intervene-in-egypts-domestic-affairs-upholds-support-to-combat-terrorism/>

- **Cairo police investigate after churches targeted in multiple burglaries**

The Cairo Police Department is investigating a spree of attempted burglaries over the past two weeks that appear to be targeting churches. Police reports show that eight different churches have reported incidents since October 15. Four of those incidents happened over the past three days.

More details:

<http://www.walb.com/story/36684082/cairo-police-investigate-after-churches-targeted-in-multiple-burglaries>

- **Will Egyptian bonds remain attractive to foreign investors in a low interest rate environment?**

As the Central Bank of Egypt is expected to bring its tightening cycle to an end by the year-end with inflation falling towards its target, foreign investors interest in Egypt debt market is at doubt with yields likely to tumble in a low interest rate environment. With inflation likely to fall sharply over the next six-to-nine months, most of research house expect that the MPC will start to ease monetary policy by the end of the year.

More details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/26/will-egyptian-bonds-remain-attractive-foreign-investors-low-interest-rate-environment/>

- **Saudi Arabia futuristic robot city includes former Egypt islands**

Saudi Arabia has announced plans to build a futuristic economic zone along the kingdom's northwestern coastline that will include two islands that were recently ceded by Egypt. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday announced the \$500 billion project, dubbed NEOM, which he billed as a hub for technological innovation. A map published on the project's website shows that the new zone will include the Red Sea islands of Tiran and Sanafir, which Egypt controversially handed over to Riyadh.

More details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/25/saudi-arabia-futuristic-robot-city-includes-former-egypt-islands>

- **‘There are no political prisoners in Egypt,’ says Sisi**

There are no political prisoners in Egypt, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has said in an interview with France 24. “We have imprisoned no political activists,” Sisi told the French channel, stressing that “everything has been done according to the law, within its jurisdiction. Our friends can come and confirm this themselves”.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171025-there-are-no-political-prisoners-in-egypt-says-sisi/>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **New Algerian import rules likely to reduce demand for rebar imports**

A new regulation affecting finished goods imported into Algeria is likely to reduce demand for rebar imports in the country, sources told Metal Bulletin on Wednesday October 25.

More Details:

<https://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/3762123/Latest-news/New-Algerian-import-rules-likely-to-reduce-demand-for-rebar-imports.html>

- **Iran, Algeria to enhance tourism cooperation**

Algerian Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts Hacene Mermouri said on Wednesday that his country is ready to provide necessary facilities to promote exchange of tourists between the two countries. He made the remarks on the sidelines of the 22nd Algeria International Book Fair while visiting Iran’s pavilion and talking to Iran’s Ambassador to the country Reza Ameri.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82708722>

- **Morocco vs Algeria: Economic Indicators in the Aftermath of Messahel Statements**

Invited by the Forum of Business Leaders to express his vision of Algerian foreign trade, Abdelkader Messahel, Algeria’s Foreign Minister, went into a violent rant against Morocco, making sweeping accusations against Moroccan banks and financial systems.

More Details:

<https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2017/10/232020/morocco-algeria-abdelkader-messahel-statements/>

- **Libyan eastern forces inches away from conquering Tripoli, spokesman says**

The spokesman of the eastern forces of Operation Dignity led by Khalifa Haftar, Ahmed Al-Mismari, said in a press conference Wednesday that their forces are ready to enter western region and “liberate” it from the militias, as he described.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/libyan-eastern-forces-inches-away-from-conquering-tripoli-spokesman-says/>

- **Italy is paying Libya to intercept migrants on the Mediterranean**

In the first six months of 2017, the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy dropped by around half. This drastic fall in numbers was likely a result of a \$236 million deal, signed in February, in which Italy funds and trains the Libyan coastguards to divert migrants right back to Libya.

More Details:

<https://news.vice.com/story/italy-is-paying-libya-to-intercept-migrants-on-the-mediterranean>

- **Morocco's King Is Taking on Corruption**

The seven-month protest movement has shaken the northern Moroccan city of Al Hoceima, as a result of the failed policies of former Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane’s Islamist government, has finally led to a real political earthquake.

More Details:

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/moroccos-king-taking-corruption-22897>

- **Tunisia-US relations, international issues of mutual interest discussed as Jhinaoui meets Rubinstein**

Ways to boost the Tunisian-US relations, the upcoming bilateral events and regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed at a meeting Wednesday between Minister of Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui and U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Daniel Rubinstein.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9500582-tunisia-us>

- **Tunisia's president must boost economy without repeating mistakes of the past**

The Tunisian government signaled a tough decision last week to reduce the public-sector payroll by 3,000 to lower its budget deficit. This may be a long-awaited sign that President Beji Caid Essebsi is prepared to make the economic reforms his country needs to achieve true stability and sustainable progress in a region that badly needs a democratic success.

More Details:

<http://thehill.com/opinion/international/357135-tunisia-president-must-boost-economy-without-repeating-mistakes-of-the>

- **Tunisia grants amnesty to officials accused of corruption**

Tunisian President Béji Caid Essebsi yesterday approved a controversial law that grants an amnesty to public officials accused of corruption under the regime of ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171025-tunisia-grants-amnesty-to-officials-accused-of-corruption/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Afghanistan plans regional meetings with India's help**

The Afghan ambassador in New Delhi says Kabul wants to arrange a trilateral meeting and a regional assembly with India's mediation.

More Details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/26/afghanistan-plans-regional-meetings-india%E2%80%99s-help>

- **U.S. Air Force Adds Six More A-29 Aircraft to A-29 Afghanistan Program Fleet**

Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) and its partner Embraer Defense & Security have received orders from the U.S. Air Force's (USAF) A-29 Afghanistan Program for six more A-29 Super Tucano aircraft.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/75209/u-s-air-force-adds-six-more-a-29-aircraft-to-a-29-afghanistan-program-fleet>

- **Afghan Forces Kill 10 Militants in Logar**

At least 10 militants were killed during a joint operation by Afghan security forces in eastern Logar province, officials said Thursday. Provincial police chief General Esmatullah Alizai said the operation was conducted in Charkh district of the province.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/afghan-forces-kill-10-militants-in-logar/>

- **New deadly US airstrike target ISIS hideout in Nangarhar, 22 killed, wounded**

The United States forces based in Afghanistan conducted a new airstrike on the hideout of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/new-deadly-us-airstrike-target-isis-hideout-in-nangarhar-22-killed-wounded-03718>

- **CIA role to carry out covert operations in Afghanistan under the new South Asia**

The recent troops surge and expansion of CIA role to carry out covert operations in Afghanistan under the new South Asia strategy are unlikely to succeed as the United States needs to build a credible support system to win the war against Taliban in Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/cia-role-to-carry-out-covert-operations-in-afghanistan-under-the-new-south-asia/>

- **Arrest Warrant Issued For Ousted Pakistan Prime Minister**

An arrest warrant has been issued for former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif after he failed to appear in court to face allegations of corruption

More Details:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/26/560152949/arrest-warrant-issued-ousted-pakistan-prime-minister>

- **U.S. gives Pakistan list of 75 wanted persons, including from Haqqani and Taliban**

During his visit to Islamabad this week, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson handed over to Pakistan a list of 75 wanted persons, Pakistan's foreign minister said.

More Details:

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31821-us-gives-pakistan-list-of-75-wanted-persons-including-from-haqqani-and-taliban>

- **Nawaz indicted against spirit of constitution: Talal Chaudhry**

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Thursday stated that the only way to deal with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party head is to continue working under the ambit of law and constitution.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/26/nawaz-indicted-against-spirit-of-constitution-talal-chaudhry/>

- **Pakistan and Bangladesh are most at risk of cyber attacks globally**

Microsoft's most recent Security Intelligence Report (SIR) shows Bangladesh and Pakistan to be most at risk of malicious software attacks.

More Details:

<https://asiancorrespondent.com/2017/10/pakistan-bangladesh-risk-cyber-attacks-world/#fyeOmjBYSjGFYSrB.99>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey 'absolute defender' of Iraq's unity, says PM Yildirim**

In a display of solid ties with Iraq, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has said that Turkey is an "absolute defender of Iraq's territorial integrity and political unity." "Iraqis' joy is our joy, their sorrow is our sorrow. That's why Turkey is an absolute defender of Iraq's territorial integrity and political unity," Yildirim said at a news conference with his Iraqi counterpart Haider al-Abadi, at Ankara's Cankaya Palace. As per Anadolu agency, Yildirim also expressed to extend support to Iraq "unhesitatingly in the wake of the slightest development that harms its unity."

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/middle-east/turkey-absolute-defender-of-iraqs-unity-says-pm-yildirim201710260621000001/>

- **Turkey, Iraq join forces against Kurdish independence bid**

Turkey and Iraq declared on Wednesday their willingness to boost bilateral cooperation and join forces against northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), following last month independence referendum. "Turkey had to impose sanctions as the illegitimate referendum was held despite all of our warnings," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters at the presidential complex after meeting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi who is visiting Ankara, insisting that "Turkey is supporting the territorial integrity of Iraq."

More Details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-10/26/content\\_41795739.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-10/26/content_41795739.htm)

- **Ankara ready to support Iraq reopening oil pipeline**

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday Turkey was ready to give all support to Baghdad as it seeks to reopen a crude oil pipeline from the Kirkuk oilfields to Turkey, through which Iraq stopped sending oil in 2014.

More Details:

<https://news.am/eng/news/417396.html>

- **Turkey to support Iraq rebuilding, raise it from ashes, Erdoğan says**

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Monday in Ankara that Turkey will lend support to Iraq in so that it will rise again from the destruction, and Ankara is ready to take joint steps for the peace and security of the region. He also stressed that Turkey's position on the controversial independence vote in Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has not changed. "Our wish is that Iraq will rise again from the ashes and destruction. We will lend our support for this and take the steps necessary for the peace and security of the region," Erdoğan said at a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/25/turkey-to-support-iraq-rebuilding-raise-it-from-ashes-erdogan-says>

- **Erdogan warns about PKK presence in northern Iraq**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned against the presence of PKK terrorists in northern Iraq's Sinjar and Qandil areas Wednesday. Speaking to the media after his meeting with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in capital Ankara, Erdogan said Turkey remains in solidarity with Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/politics/erdogan-warns-about-pkk-presence-in-northern-iraq/947410>

- **KRG poll results must be cancelled: Turkey's Cavusoglu**

Turkey's foreign minister on Thursday said beyond anything northern Iraq's regional government has proposed, it must cancel outright the results of last month's illegitimate referendum. "Northern Iraq's step back is an important step but an inadequate one. This referendum must be cancelled," Mevlut Cavusoglu told a joint press conference in Ankara with his Kosovar counterpart Behgjet Pacolli.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/195356/krp-poll-results-must-be-cancelled-turkeys-cavusoglu>

*\*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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