



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dış Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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27 OCTOBER 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **Al-Sayhud ruled out a dialogue with the Region even if it announced the freezing or cancellation of the results of the referendum on secession**

Member of the National Alliance, MP Mohammad Saadoun Al-Sayhud ruled out the dialogue with the Kurdistan Region even if it announced the freezing or cancellation of the results of the referendum on secession. "There is no dialogue with the separatist rebels on the freezing or cancellation of the separatist referendum, and the dialogue should be with the legitimate representatives of the Kurds who stood up against the Zionist –American division project," Al-Sayhud said in a press statement today, adding that Barzani and his gangs want to impose themselves on the will of the Kurdish people, calling for change and end the file of corruption and spoilers who stripped wealth. "

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?luAL4PZqYIVbUeNO5X%252bndQ%253d%253d

- **Army forces kill dozens of Islamic State members west of Anbar**

Iraqi army forces killed on Friday dozens of Islamic State members as operations launched to retake the group's last bastions in Iraq in western Anbar, a military source was quoted saying. Alsumaria News quoted the source saying that the army's 8th division engaged with a group of Islamic State militants at south of al-Qaim, killing 25. Another source told Almaalomah news website that army warplanes killed dozens others of militants in Qaim's desert.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-forces-kill-25-islamic-state-members-west-anbar/>

- **Iraqi PM Abadi demands Kurds cancel secession bid as price for talks**

"We won't accept anything but its cancellation and the respect of the Constitution," Haider al-Abadi said in a statement during a visit to Tehran. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) proposed on Wednesday an immediate ceasefire, a suspension of the referendum result and "starting an open dialogue with the federal government based on the Iraqi Constitution".

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42149

- **Iraqi forces launch 2nd phase of Anbar recapture operations**

Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi airforces launched on Friday the second phase of Qa'im and Rawa in western Anbar recapture operations, according to a security source. The source said that the Iraqi forces attacked their designated targets near the Iraqi-Syrian borders.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18826/Iraqi-forces-launch-2nd-phase-of-Anbar-recapture-operations>

- **Iraq is 'refusing to extradite' German jihadi schoolgirl facing EXECUTION for running away to Mosul and marrying an ISIS fighter**

Iraq is refusing to let a 16-year-old German schoolgirl who faces execution for joining ISIS return home, it was reported today. ISIS bride Linda Wenzel was dragged from Mosul rubble in July as Iraqi forces liberated the city and is now being held in Baghdad where her fate rests in the hands of the country's court system.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5023651/Iraq-refusing-extradite-German-jihadi-schoolgirl.html>

- **PM Abadi's Leadership Prevented Disintegration of Iraq: Iran**

Iran's Parliament speaker says Iraq has secured three important achievements under the leadership of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Iran's Parliament speaker Ali Larijani has congratulated Iraqi Prime Minister al-Abadi on the achievements of the Baghdad government on different fronts. "During your tenure, Iraq secured three important accomplishments which will go down in history," Larijani told the Iraqi premier in a meeting in Tehran.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/pm-abadi-prevented-disintegration-iraq/>

- **Iraq Forces Move to Capture Last ISIS Stronghold**

Iraqi federal troops continued their push to regain control over a Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish triangle border area where an oil pipeline was used by the Kurdish region to export oil to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, federal military command sources told Arab News on Thursday. Iraq lost almost a third of its territories to Daesh when its militants swept the northern and western parts of the country in June 2014, after the dramatic collapse of the Iraqi army.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/iraq-forces-move-capture-last-isis-stronghold-1039824>

- **UNSC Concerned With Tension In Iraq, Calls For Unity Talks**

The UN Security Council on Thursday voiced concern over "increased tensions and reports of violence" between Iraqi federal forces and Kurdish militants known as Peshmerga and called for dialogue for the sake of Iraqi unity, China's Xinhua news agency reported. The members of the council called on the parties to refrain from the use or threat of use of force and to engage in constructive dialogue as a pathway to de-escalation and as a means to preserve Iraqi unity, said Francois Delattre, the French ambassador to the UN, who serves as Security Council president for the month.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1404202>

- **Iraq Overtakes Saudi Arabia in Supplying U.S. With Oil**

Iraq surpassed Saudi Arabia as a crude supplier to the U.S. in September, and it's poised to repeat that this month. Iraq's 18.8 million barrels in oil shipments to the U.S. last month topped those from the kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, by about 2.9 million barrels, according to U.S. Customs Bureau data compiled by Bloomberg oil-market specialist Bert Gilbert. So far in October, Saudi Arabia lags Iraq by about 3.2 million barrels.

More Details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-26/iraq-overtaking-saudi-arabia-in-supplying-u-s-with-oil>

- **UN Security Council reaffirms support for Iraq's integrity after Kurdish vote**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has "reaffirmed" support for Iraq's territorial integrity amid tensions between the central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in the wake of a highly controversial independence referendum the semi-autonomous region held last month in open defiance of Baghdad. French Ambassador to the UN Francois Delattre made the remarks during a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday, calling on Baghdad and Kurdish leaders to hold talks.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/26/539995/Iraq-Kurdistan-KRG-referendum-UNSC-integrity>

- **Iran's media unconcerned with Iraq-Saudi Arabia rapprochement**

The rise of the Islamic State (IS) in 2014 created the opportunity to make Haider al-Abadi Iraq's prime minister. Since then, he has had to manage a balancing act between Iran and the United States, a task he has addressed openly with Western media. With US President Donald Trump and a revised American Middle East policy much more inclined toward Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia, the United States has tried to curb Iranian influence in Iraq and the region. Abadi's recent trip to Saudi Arabia is one initiative welcomed and facilitated by the United States in their goal to reduce Iranian regional influence.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/iran-iraq-saudi-rapprochement-abadi-tehran-rouhani-khamenei.html>

- **'Never Trust' the US, Ayatollah Khamenei Warns Iraq**

During a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Al Khamenei advised his guest to remain vigilant of U.S. plots. Stay "cautious about the Americans' deceptions, and never trust them," he said while expressing support for Iraqi attempts to strengthen historical ties in the region, according to PressTV.

More Details:

<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Never-Trust-the-US-Ayatollah-Khamenei-Warns-Iraq-20171026-0016.html>

- **French Int. Min. says 240 "foreign" fighters returned from Syria, Iraq**

More than 240 so-called "foreign" fighters have returned to France since 2012 and another 50 minors came back from the conflict zones in Syria and Iraq, Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said Thursday. Speaking at the French Senate, Collomb said that French security services had the situation under control and that since 2015, fighters, male or female, and their children systematically detained for questioning, French media reported.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2652614&Language=en>

- **Iraq Rejects Kurdish Offer to 'Freeze' Independence Referendum Results**

The government of Iraq has rejected an offer from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to "freeze" the results of September's referendum, in which over 90 percent of KRG residents said they would support secession from Iraq. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a statement that the nation would "only accept only the canceling of the referendum and following the constitution,"

according to the Iranian news outlet Tasnim (Abadi is in Iran this week to discuss suppression of the Kurdistan region).

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/26/iraq-rejects-kurdish-offer-freeze-independence-referendum-results/>

2. SYRIA

- **Syria regime responsible for gas attack on rebel-held town, UN finds**

Bashar al-Assad's forces are responsible for a deadly sarin gas attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhun that killed scores of people, UN investigators have said, as the United States renewed its warning that the Syrian president has no role in the country's future. The expert panel's report and tough remarks by the US secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, overshadowed the announcement that UN-sponsored peace talks will resume next month.

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/26/syria-gas-attack-bashar-al-assad-un-tillerson>

- **Assad should have 'no role' in Syria's future, Rex Tillerson says**

President Bashar al-Assad and his family have no role in the future Syria, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Thursday ahead of peace talks aiming at a political transition scheduled to resume next month. Tillerson said that the Trump administration backed the Geneva peace talks as the only way to end the more than six-year-old war and move to a political transition and elections.

More details:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-tillerson-syria-assad-1.4373050>

- **Ottawa pays \$31.3M to Canadian men tortured in Syria**

The Liberal government has paid a total of close to \$31.3 million in settlements to three Canadian men wrongfully accused of links to terrorism and tortured in Syria— 15 years and two federal inquiries after their detentions, sources confirmed to CBC News. Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin will split \$31.25 million, but it's not clear from officials how much each man

More details:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/torture-syria-31-million-1.4372689>

- **Syria war: Assad Government to blame for deadly chemical attack, UN says**

The continuing use of chemical weapons, including by non-State actors, is deeply disturbing," the report said. "If such use, in spite of the prohibition by the international community, is not stopped now, a lack of consequences will surely encourage others to follow."

More details:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-27/syrian-government-to-blame-for-april-sarin-attack/9092306>

- **UN panel blames Syrian forces for Khan Sheikhoun attack**

A new report by the UN and the chemical watchdog says the Syrian government was responsible for a chemical attack that killed scores of people in April. More than 80 people, including many women and children, died when, on April 4, the nerve agent sarin or a sarin-like substance was dropped onto the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun in the northern province of Idlib.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/panel-blames-syrian-forces-khan-sheikhoun-attack-171026212414046.html>

- **Bashar al-Assad's forces responsible for deadly Syria sarin gas attack, UN finds**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces are responsible for a deadly sarin gas attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed scores of people, a UN investigative panel said on Thursday. The joint UN-Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) panel said in a much-awaited report that the "sarin was delivered via an aerial bomb that was dropped by an airplane".

More details:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/26/bashar-al-assads-forces-responsible-deadly-syria-sarin-gas-attack/>

- **Tillerson Demands Assad Leave Power in Syria Peace Process**

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reaffirmed a long-standing U.S. demand that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad step down as part of the war-ravaged nation's political transition after the defeat of Islamic State in its former stronghold of Raqqa. "We do not believe there is a future for the Assad regime and the Assad family," Tillerson told reporters in Geneva Thursday after meeting with Staffan de Mistura, the United Nations envoy for Syria, at the U.S. embassy. "The reign of the Assad regime is coming to an end, and the only issue is how should that be brought about."

More details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-26/tillerson-demands-assad-leave-power-under-syria-peace-process>

- **Catalonia, Syria, Emmanuel Macron: Your Friday Briefing**

Catalonia's separatist leader, Carles Puigdemont, said that he would let regional lawmakers decide on independence from Spain. Their vote could come as early as today, just as the Spanish Senate approves emergency measures to impose Madrid's direct rule on the region. "Now each side is backed in a corner," a reader commented. Here are three books (including one by our correspondent) that explore the dispute's roots.

More details:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/27/briefing/catalonia-syria-macron.html>

- **Assad regime responsible for deadly sarin gas attack in Syria: UN**

The regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was responsible for a deadly sarin gas attack on a rebel-held town in April, a UN report found on Thursday. "The panel is confident that the Syrian Arab Republic is responsible for the release of sarin at Khan Sheikhun on 4 April 2017," stated the report seen by AFP. More than 87 people died in the nerve gas attack on the town in Syria's northwestern Idlib province.

More details:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/10/27/assad-regime-responsible-deadly-sarin-gas-attack-syria-un>

- **As Wars Wind Down in Syria and Iraq, Jordan Sees Opportunity**

Squeezed by the wars in neighboring Syria and Iraq, Jordan has survived the regional mayhem—and is starting to look at the future with guarded optimism now that both conflicts show signs of winding down. Few countries will be as affected as Jordan by the Syrian war's endgame. Some 1.3 million Syrians live in a kingdom of 10 million people, and many could return if the fighting ceases. Islamic State's rise in Iraq, meanwhile, had cut off Jordan's once-lucrative trade

More details:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-wars-wind-down-in-syria-and-iraq-jordan-sees-opportunity-1509010202>

3. IRAN

- **Israel Will Take Military Action to Stop Iran Nuclear Program if Trump's Efforts Fail, Intel Minister Warns**

Israel is willing to resort to military action to ensure Iran never acquires nuclear weapons, the intelligence minister said on Thursday in Japan where he is seeking backing for U.S. President Donald Trump's tougher line on Tehran. Trump said on October 13 he would not certify Iran is complying with an agreement on curtailing its nuclear program, signed by his predecessor, Barack Obama, opening a 60-day window for Congress to act to reimpose sanctions.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.819203>

- **The U.S. is on a collision course with Iran in the Middle East**

President Trump's assertive new strategy toward Iran is already colliding with the reality of Tehran's vastly expanded influence in the Middle East as a result of the Islamic State war. The launch of the strategy signaled an important shift in U.S. Middle East policy away from an –almost exclusive focus on fighting the Islamic

More details:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/the-us-is-on-a-collision-course-with-iran-in-the-middle-east/2017/10/26/904c38d8-b03c-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22_story.html?utm_term=.0c4c49fbd9e0

- **House approves bill to sanction Iran for ballistic missiles**

The Republican-led House overwhelmingly approved bipartisan legislation Thursday that would slap new sanctions on Iran for its pursuit of long-range ballistic missiles without derailing the 2015 international nuclear accord that President Donald Trump has threatened to unravel. Reps. Ed Royce and Eliot Engel sponsored the bill, which requires the Trump administration to identify for sanctions the companies and individuals inside and outside of Iran that are the main suppliers of Tehran's ballistic missile programs.

More details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/house-approves-bill-sanction-iran-ballistic-missiles-50735658>

- **Iraqi leader visits Iran as Tehran seeks to drive wedge with Washington**

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told Iraq's U.S.-backed prime minister on Thursday that he should not rely on the United States in the fight against Islamic State, seeking to drive a wedge between Washington and one of its close allies.

More details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-iran/iraqi-leader-visits-iran-as-tehran-seeks-to-drive-wedge-with-washington-idUSKBN1CV14G>

- **Iran expects to sign more than \$20bn of energy contracts in 2018**

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More details:

<https://www.ft.com/content/b3c6149a-b8b2-11e7-8c12-5661783e5589?mhq5j=e5>

- **House votes to impose non-nuclear sanctions on Iran**

The House passed legislation on Thursday to expand sanctions on Iran for its ballistic missile development and support for Hezbollah, weeks after President Trump declined to certify that Tehran is complying with an international accord to curb its nuclear program. The four measures targeting Iran's ballistic missile program and Hezbollah support all passed easily with bipartisan backing.

More details:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/357314-house-votes-to-impose-non-nuclear-sanctions-on-iran>

- **'Israel prepared to use force to stop Iran from acquiring nukes'**

Israeli Intelligence and Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz (Likud) declared Thursday that the Jewish state is prepared to use military force to prevent the Iranian regime from obtaining nuclear weapons. During an interview in Tokyo, Katz said that Israel was hopeful that President Donald Trump's October 13th decision not to recertify Iranian compliance with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) would lead to the renegotiation of the deal, but added that Israel would use whatever means necessary to ensure that Tehran does not achieve nuclear capabilities, Reuters reported.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/237250>

- **Iran Offers Sympathy to Indonesia over Deadly Blast**

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman has expressed regret over the recent explosion incident in Indonesia which killed and wounded dozens of people. In a statement on Friday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi sympathized with the Indonesian nation and government and the bereaved families of the blast's victims. Two explosions tore through a fireworks factory on the outskirts of Indonesia's capital on Thursday, killing at least 47 people and injuring doze

More details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-offers-sympathy-indonesia-deadly-blast/>

- **Iraq walks tightrope as US and Iran brawl**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi insisted he would keep close ties with the US and Iran even as tensions rise between the two, and warned them both away from competing on Iraq's turf as he reclaims it from the retreating forces of Islamic State and the Kurds. Mr Abadi also said in an interview that he wanted US forces to remain in Iraq after the last remaining Islamic State redoubts were liberated, and he pledged to disarm Iranian-backed Shia Muslim militias that refuse to come under his contr

More details

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/wall-street-journal/iraq-walks-tightrope-as-us-and-iran-brawl/news-story/8c03aa250c12ee5a06de2d6d1910c6d1>

- **Tehran, Baku study ways to expand all-out economic co-op**

Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Masoud Karbasian and Azerbaijan's Economy Minister Shahin Mustafayev have attended a meeting of joint economic commission of the two countries in Baku. During the meeting on Oct. 26, the sides discussed expansion of cooperation in various sectors including transportation, agriculture and health.

More details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/business/2813426.html>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **US on Jerusalem annexation bill: Israel, Palestinians must support peace**

The bill, which is authored by MK Yoav Kisch (Likud), was originally intended to annex to Israel 19 West Bank settlements surrounding Jerusalem by making them part of the capital city. The bill's language has now been toned down so that the legislation would annex the Jewish communities to Jerusalem, but not to sovereign Israel.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/US-on-Jerusalem-annexation-bill-Israel-Palestinians-must-support-peace-508614>

- **Israeli Settlers Attack Palestinians during Olive Harvest in Nablus**

Israeli settlers reportedly attacked Palestinians who were harvesting olives in the northern occupied West Bank district of Nablus on Thursday, injuring three Palestinians, including one woman. Ghassan Daghlas, an official who monitors settlement activity in the northern West Bank told Ma'an that Israeli settlers from the illegal Itamar settlement assaulted Palestinians picking olives in the Ras Hazem area in Deir al-Hatab village.

More details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/israeli-settlers-attack-palestinians-during-olive-harvest-in-nablus/>

- **New Details Emerge on Greek Orthodox Church's Massive Asset Sell-off in Israel - and the Mystery Only Deepens**

The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, is in the midst of an international public diplomacy campaign regarding the management of his church's lands. On Monday he met with Pope Francis at the Vatican, and over the past two weeks he has met with Jordan's King Abdullah and Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. Next week he's scheduled to meet the Greek prime minister and after that, the head of the Anglican Church.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.819264>

- **Meet the Swedish activist walking to Palestine**

Benjamin Ladraa is a Swedish activist who is currently walking to Palestine to raise awareness about Israel's occupation. He started his journey from Sweden in August, and will be walking for 4,800

kilometres across Europe and then all the way to Cyprus and Turkey. He plans to reach the West Bank carrying a Palestinian flag on his backpack. Many pro-Palestinian activists in Europe have praised Ladraa for his project, and he found help from quite a few supporters along the way, including free accommodation. Ladraa fundraised most of the money he needed, and is on a very tight budget (three to 10 euros a day, depending on the cost of living in each country).

More details:

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=7ikpr6a16465yvi7isdiog>

- **Israel's 'predictive policing' sees online crackdown on Palestinians**

Israeli security agencies are using advanced technology to trawl through Palestinian social media posts to identify and detain users who have not yet committed a crime. The practise of predictive policing, which uses algorithms to search huge amounts of data for keywords, has been heavily criticised as it leads to the suppression of online freedom of expression for Palestinians.

More details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/26/israels-predictive-policing-sees-online-crackdown-on-palestinians>

- **Did British Mandate pave way for Israeli occupation?**

While the British Mandate in Palestine lasted for 31 years, notorious remnants of its legacy are still felt by the Palestinians on a daily basis at the hands of the Israeli army. For seven decades, the military occupation of Palestinians has been ongoing, but some of the repressive tactics used by the Israeli army were not necessarily Israeli.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/british-mandate-pave-israeli-occupation-171026082329187.html>

- **World Jewish Congress pressures FIFA to block Palestinian attempts to expel Israeli teams**

The World Jewish Congress and its member communities around the world have been actively urging the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and its national Council representatives to block an attempt by the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) to kick out Israel from FIFA. Following the Palestinian attempt to expel six Israeli teams operating across the Green Line, the Israel-Palestine Monitoring Committee at the FIFA Congress (the organization's supreme body) deliberated at its last session this issue including taking punitive measures against the Israel Football Association (IFA). At the time, it was decided to postpone the vote on three recommendations for

action proposed by the FIFA Monitoring Committee on Israel and Palestine, led by Tokyo Sexwale of South Africa.

More details:

<http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/world-jewish-congress-pressures-fifa-to-block-palestinian-attempts-to-expel-israeli-teams-10-4-2017>

- **Canadian columnist is latest to say, Israel is ‘an apartheid state**

Yesterday Neil Macdonald, a columnist and longtime DC and Middle East correspondent for Canadian Broadcasting, wrote that it’s time to call a duck a duck: “Israel already is an apartheid state.” Macdonald’s evidence is hardly obscure. It includes Netanyahu’s declaration that Israel is never leaving the West Bank, the boom in settlement construction, Israeli officials bullying the Palestinians that they will never have a state, and the cruel joke of the peace process. Most importantly, he cites the two sets of laws based on ethnicity:

More details:

<http://mondoweiss.net/2017/10/canadian-columnist-apartheid/>

- **Israel’s Intelligence Minister Katz: IDF will stop Iran from acquiring nukes**

Israel is willing to resort to military action to ensure Iran never acquires nuclear weapons, Israel’s intelligence minister said on Thursday in Japan where he is drumming up support for U.S. President Donald Trump’s tougher line on Tehran. On Oct. 13, Trump said he would not certify that Iran is complying with an agreement on curtailing its nuclear program, signed by predecessor Barack Obama, opening a 60-day window for Congress to reimpose sanctions.

More details:

<https://www.israelandstuff.com/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan Reportedly Furious Over Palestinian Reconciliation Deal**

Jordan’s King Abdullah expressed strong disapproval of the recent Fatah-Hamas reconciliation deal during a meeting with Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas in Amman, Palestinian and Jordanian sources told Israel Hayom this week. In the meeting, Abdullah said he was apprehensive about the possibility that former Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal will vie for the PA presidency as well as the Gaza-ruling terror group’s influence in the West Bank.

More Details:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2017/10/26/jordan-reportedly-furious-over-palestinian-reconciliation-deal/>

- **Jordan Supports Political Solution to Yemeni Crisis, FM Says**

Jordan's Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Ayman Safadi, Thursday discussed with the United Nations special envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, efforts to end the Yemeni crisis, the Jordan News Agency (Petra) reported. During the meeting, the UN envoy briefed Safadi on the latest developments and contacts made with the regional and international parties, as well as his proposals to activate the political process and put an end to the conflict.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1404226>

- **Hamas' call reassures Jordan about its regional role, analysts say**

According to former Jordanian information minister and former chief of the royal court Adnan Abu Odeh, a serious effort to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict cannot be carried out by only one regional partner. "It is clear that you can't solve the Palestinian problem only with Egypt on board. Jordan has to have something to do with it.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1183786/middle-east>

- **Hamas discusses Palestinian developments with Jordan**

Chief of Hamas' Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh yesterday discussed the latest developments on the Palestinian arena with the Jordanian King Abdullah II, Quds Press reported. In a telephone call, Haniyeh outlined the political situation and the issue of Palestinian unity. He stressed on the strong ties between Palestinians and Jordanians, recalling historical incidents where Jordan had stood beside Palestine.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171026-hamas-discusses-palestinian-developments-with-jordan/>

- **In completing the process of restoring the remaining of Syrian – Lebanese border, the regime forces escalate the aerial and ground shelling at the southwest of Rif Dimashq**

The southwest of Rif Dimashq the capital Damascus is witnessing intense shelling by the regime forces using rocket and artillery shells, in conjunction with the continuous and violent bombing by the helicopters on areas in Beit Jen and its farms, as well as other areas in the southwest of Rif

Dimashq, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitored on Thursday the 26th of October 2017 regime's helicopters dropping about 50 barrel bombs targeting areas at Beit Jen farm and other areas near it.

More Details:

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=77196>

- **House Foreign Affairs Committee Passes Measures Targeting Iran's Terror Proxy Hezbollah**

The House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday announced that it passed three bipartisan measures that target Hezbollah, the Iranian regime's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)'s Lebanese Shia proxy. "Hezbollah is Iran's leading terrorist proxy, and it is only growing more dangerous," Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) said in a statement announcing the new pieces of legislation. "It now has an arsenal of more than 100,000 rockets aimed at Israel and has become battle-hardened while propping up the murderous Assad regime alongside the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps."

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/10/26/house-foreign-affairs-passes-measures-target-hezbollah/>

- **Lebanon's enduring contradictions**

Ever since it was created by the French colonial (or mandatory) authorities in 1920, Lebanon was dotted by all sorts of ideological, social, and economic contradictions. The cultural identity of the new polity has always been at the core of these contradictions. Two competing 'visions of Lebanon'[1] – in Albert Hourani's memorable words – emerged at the time: Lebanism and Arabism, associated respectively with the Christian and Muslim communities. Whereas the former anchored Lebanon's identity, cultural orientation, and foreign policy in the west, the latter insisted on the new country's Arab origins, culture, and political choices.

More Details:

<http://www.transconflict.com/2017/10/lebanons-enduring-contradictions-270/>

- **Lebanese women entrepreneurs push for success**

In Lebanon, women count for 3.1% of the deputies in parliament compared to 22% on average elsewhere in the world. Meanwhile, Lebanese parliamentarians refused to pass in June a quota guaranteeing that women must represent 30% of decision-making positions in politics. In this context, succeeding professionally as a Lebanese woman is challenging. But some incentives and

business organizations are pushing potential candidates to try and launch their own businesses in this sexist climate.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/lebanon-women-entrepreneurs-business.html#ixzz4whLzq0oW>

- **Giving Palestinians Right to Work Can Save Lebanese Economy**

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, the offspring of nearly 800,000 ethnically cleansed from their homes in Palestine during the 1948-50 Nakba, are today variously labeled by their Lebanese hosts as refugees or sometimes described as a particular category of "quasi-residents." Or as "foreigners" or sometimes during Arab emotional nationalist events or rising national sentiments or Israeli attacks, Palestinians have been described more congenially as "Arab residents" or "Arab brothers." Or at other times they are claimed by 'Resistance' factions as "Our religious, moral and political duty to liberate and return to Palestine."

More Details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1710/S00272/giving-palestinians-right-to-work-can-save-lebanese-economy.htm>

- **Hezbollah: U.S. interfering in Lebanese affairs**

Hezbollah on Thursday denounced new U.S. measures designed to thwart its cash flow including a bill targeting its finances, calling the move an "aggression" against Lebanon. In a statement quoted by The Associated Press, the Iranian-backed terrorist group said the new measures were a "blatant intervention in Lebanese internal affairs, a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and an unacceptable targeting of the Lebanese people."

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/237278>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Bahrain first to file report to UN on North Korea sanctions**

Bahrain has become the first country to submit an implementation report to the United Nations regarding the latest sanctions against North Korea, according to a report. Arabian Business, quoting the implementation report posted on the website of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea, said the move is in response to UN Resolution 2375 on September 11 that imposed restrictions on North Korea.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=39004&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

- **US strikes ISIS in Yemen again, killing 60 terrorist targets in total**

U.S. aircraft launched two airstrikes against ISIS targets in al-Bayda Governorate of Yemen on Wednesday killing nine ISIS fighters, according to officials at U.S. Central Command. Wednesday's strikes are only the second series of strikes against ISIS militants in Yemen. In mid-October, U.S. unmanned aircraft struck an ISIS training camp in the same region, killing dozens of ISIS fighters.

More Details:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2017/10/26/us-strikes-isis-in-yemen-again-killing-60-terrorist-targets/>

- **Senior Houthi leader killed in coalition airstrike**

A senior Houthi militia leader was killed along with a number of his other soldiers in Hajja province in north-west Yemen by an Arab Coalition air strike on Thursday. A Yemeni military source confirmed that Houthi leader Ibrahim Abdullah al-Moayed, one of the most prominent field commanders in the Saada battlefield. A fifth military region command statement issued by the media center said that coalition aircraft targeted al-Moayed and his soldiers in the Mazraq area, while heading towards the Alba front after attending a meeting with militia leaders.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/520375/World/Mena/Senior-Houthi-leader-killed-in-coalition-airstrike>

- **Mohamed offers condolences to Emirati martyrs**

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has offered his condolences to the families of the Emirati martyrs, Major Pilot Ali Saeed Saif Al Mesmari, and First Lieutenant Pilot Badr Yahiya Mohammad Al Marashdeh, who fell while performing their national duty as part of the Saudi-led Arab coalition's Operation Restoring Hope in Yemen.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/dbda966a-7b68-44af-88d5-1e6312e44d8e.aspx>

- **Saudi Interpol Extradites Wanted Figure to Pakistani Authorities**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Interpol has received a request from its Pakistani counterpart for the arrest of one of its nationals wanted in a murder crime following a dispute over a plot of land in Pakistan, in which he fired into a group of people and shot dead one of them before he has managed to escape to the kingdom.

More Details:

<http://alriyadhdaily.com/article/fe5320eb56a0461581596db9f6ed59b9>

- **America's Appalling Role in Yemen War Will Never End**

Although the bill requires the removal of US forces from the “unauthorized hostilities” in Yemen within 30 days under the War Powers Act, it will never happen, even if the measure reaches the floor for a vote. As maintained by the same lawmakers, the bill would not prevent the Pentagon regime from going after Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIL, which for the first time has established a foothold in Yemen. The bill would not end US drone strikes either, which in many cases target civilians in the war-ravaged country. After all, the US is aiding and abetting the Saudi-led war that is designed to restore the ousted government of President Hadi to power - Riyadh's own puppet.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960804001265>

- **US treasury secretary Mnuchin back Saudi Vision 2030**

The United States treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin gave his government's strong and clear support to recent announcements by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in an address given at the Future Investment Initiative being held in Riyadh. Referring to the public statements by crown prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, chairman of the Public Investment Fund, Mnuchin said that the call for moderation and tolerance will lead Saudi Arabia to a “brighter future” and that NEOM was an impressive new pillar in the country's development plans.

More Details:

<http://www.breakingtravelnews.com/news/article/us-treasury-secretary-mnuchin-back-saudi-vision-2030/>

- **Saudi crown prince backs extending production cut**

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman backs the extension of OPEC production cuts beyond March 2018, making it all but certain the cartel and its allies will continue the cutbacks at a November meeting. The prince said in an interview with Bloomberg News “of course” he wanted to

extend the cuts, totaling 1.8 million barrels per day of crude (MMBPD). “We need to continue stabilizing the market,” he said.

More Details:

<http://www.kallanishenergy.com/2017/10/27/saudi-crown-prince-backs-extending-production-cut/>

- **Emir of Qatar warmly welcomes the President**

President Maithripala Sirisena who is on a two-day state visit to State of Qatar met with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, yesterday (26th Oct.). The President was warmly welcomed by the Emir of Qatar when he arrived at the Emir’s Palace in Doha and President Maithripala Sirisena was received with a Guard of Honour at the Palace. A Bilateral meeting between the two leaders was commenced after the cordial discussions.

More Details:

<https://www.news.lk/news/politics/item/18489-emir-of-qatar-warmly-welcomes-the-president>

- **Qatar introduces minimum wage for migrant workers**

The tiny Gulf state host of the 2022 football World Cup, Qatar, has said it will introduce a minimum wage for workers amid global outcry over the alleged ill-treatment faced by migrant workers in the country. The announcement on Thursday by labour and social affairs minister Issa Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi comes the day before a meeting of the UN’s International Labour Organisation (ILO) – which has previously warned that Qatar could face action over the appalling conditions faced by its two-million strong migrant work force.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/qatar-minimum-wage-workers-migrant-introduction-salary-pay-a8022226.html>

7. EGYPT

- **In some affluent circles in Egypt, the hijab and burkini just won't do**

Nada Kabil thought her friends had checked in advance about whether it was OK to wear a hijab at the ACE Club, a country club for expatriates in Cairo’s upscale Maadi district. So, she was taken aback when she arrived and was told that she needed to either take off her head covering or tie it backward, Spanish-style, to get into the place. The exclusive club permits Egyptians entry if accompanied by a foreigner — but hijabs are prohibited, an employee told Kabil. That policy was later confirmed over the phone by a manager of the club.

More details:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/26/some-affluent-circles-egypt-hijab-and-burkini-just-wont-do/801873001/>

- **Germany, Russia issue travel warnings to some parts in Egypt**

Travel warnings to some parts of Egypt were issued recently by both Germany and Russia in the wake of the deadly military confrontations that took place earlier this week between police forces and anonymous militants inside El-Wahat El Baheria area located between Giza and Fayoum. According to a press release issued by the German Embassy in Cairo, there is a travel warning that has been released from the German Foreign Affairs Ministry to German nationals from visiting some regions in Egypt.

More details:

<https://www.egyptdailynews.com/detail/germany-russia-issue-travel-warnings-to-some-parts-in-egypt>

- **Egypt's navy receives corvette as gift from S. Korea**

The Egyptian navy received on Thursday at a naval base in the coastal province of Alexandria a corvette granted by South Korea as a gift to Egypt, the Egyptian military spokesman said in a statement. "The corvette has been gifted to Egypt in the framework of distinguished military relations between the Egyptian and the South Korean armed forces," said Egyptian military spokesman Tamer al-Refaay in the statement.

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/26/c_136707759.htm

- **Egypt election in view, Sisi supporters fire up campaign for mandate**

Six months before Egypt's election, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's supporters are petitioning for him to run, rallying around the former military commander whose popularity critics say has been dimmed by austerity reforms, security problems and a crackdown on dissidents. Four years ago, Sisi won a landslide victory after he led the military ouster of then president Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood, promising stability following Egypt's 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

More details:

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2017/10/27/egypt-election-in-view-sisi-supporters-fire-up-campaign-for-mandate>

- **Scatec Solar closes financing for 400 MW in Egypt**

Oslo, October 27, 2017: Scatec Solar ASA (SSO) and partners have achieved financial close for six solar PV power plants in Egypt totaling 400 MW. A consortium of international Development Finance Institutions is providing a non-recourse project finance of USD 335 million, which accounts for 75% of the capex. The consortium consists of EBRD, the United Nations' Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Dutch development bank, FMO, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). This is the consortium's first joint projects in Egypt's renewable energy sector.

More details:

<http://www.euroinvestor.com/news/2017/10/27/scatec-solar-closes-financing-for-400-mw-in-egypt/13697922>

- **Egypt, France sign agreement to develop entrepreneurship**

Egyptian Trade and Industry Minister Tareq Qabil signed on Wednesday with Deputy Director General of the French Treasury Thomas Courbe a cooperation agreement to develop entrepreneurship. In statements, Qabil said that under the agreement, the French side will provide Egypt with mobile vending vehicles for youth to help them set up their own businesses.

More details:

<http://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/119220?lang=en-us>

- **Egypt court slaps ex-president's son with jail term**

An Egyptian court on Thursday sentenced the son of Egypt's first democratically elected president -- who was ousted in a 2013 military coup -- to three years in jail for possessing an illegal weapon, according to a local judicial source. Osama Morsi, son of ousted President Mohamed Morsi, was also ordered to pay a modest fine, the source, preferring anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to the media, told Anadolu Agency.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/egypt-court-slaps-ex-president-s-son-with-jail-term/948689>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria Delays Start Of Southern Touat Gas Field**

Algeria will delay the start of the southern Touat gas field until first-quarter 2018, almost a year later than planned, the head of state energy firm Sonatrach said. "Of the 21 wells, only three are ready to

come online,” CEO Abdelmoumene Ould Kaddour told reporters Oct. 24 during a visit to the planned field located deep in south Algeria. “I acknowledge that our business in the deep south is very difficult, very complex, but definitely we need to improve our efficiency,” he said. “We are always late. It is becoming very serious.”

More Details:

<https://www.epmag.com/algeria-delays-start-southern-touat-gas-field-1665401>

- **) 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. The regulation, introduced by the Algerian Central Bank on October 22, requires importers of finished goods for resale, to provide a financial guarantee worth 120% of the value of the imported products.

More Details:

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

- **Italy, Malta and Tunisia pact for 'blue economy' development**

A pact between Italy, Malta and Tunisia to relaunch the 'blue economy' through sharing infrastructure and industrial projects with emerging countries of the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) area is the aim of the Med Festival Experience International. The official presentation was in Valletta at the Royal Malta Yacht Club.

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2017/10/27/italy-malta-and-tunisia-pact-for-blue-economy-development_c86d1847-a80d-4a2a-bc4f-c6e93af6a1b1.html

- **Government seeks to "raise contribution of Tunisia's exports to GDP from 38% to 42%" (Aziza Htira)**

"Raising the contribution of Tunisian exports to GDP from 38% now to 42% and increase the rate of coverage of imports by exports are the main objectives targeted by the current government," said Exports Promotion Centre (CEPEX) CEO Aziza Htira. She called for focusing on high value-added sectors, capturing new markets and overcoming obstacles to Tunisian exports, noting that export is the backbone of the economy and that the contribution of exports to the GDP has reached in some countries 60%.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/9504221-government-seeks-to>

- **-Tunisia to lay off 16,500 public sector workers in 2017 and 2018**

Tunisia will ask the United States for a \$500 million loan guarantee as it seeks to lay off about 16,500 public sector workers in 2017 and 2018, a senior government official told Reuters. The layoffs, which the government aims to make voluntary but which are demanded by its international lenders, come from a public sector workforce of around 700,000.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/tunisia-economy-reform/update-1-tunisia-to-lay-off-16500-public-sector-workers-in-2017-and-2018-idUSL8N1N15E0?rpc=401&>

- **Challenges in Libya Complicate EU Measures to Stem Migration**

In recent weeks, allegations have surfaced that Italy has been paying armed groups in Libya to cease smuggling migrants into the country. Some estimate that the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean into Italy has reduced by half compared to the same time period last year. At the heart of the issue is a governance vacuum that allows armed groups to control the flow of migrants in and out of Libya, presenting a unique challenge for governments in North and West Africa and EU policymakers. In 2015, most migrants to Europe traveled through the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey to Greece.

More details:

<https://isnblog.ethz.ch/migration/challenges-in-libya-complicate-eu-measures-to-stem-migration>

- **Another 161 Nigerians return from Libya**

Another batch of 161 Nigerians in Libya were yesterday repatriated back to the country courtesy of the assistance of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and European Union. The conveying aircraft, Boeing 737-800 with registration number 5A-DMG, landed at the Cargo Wing of Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), at 7:37 p.m. with the voluntary returnees.

More Details:

<http://guardian.ng/news/another-161-nigerians-return-from-libya/>

- **Islamic State takes credit for Libya checkpoint attack that left two soldiers dead**

– Two soldiers were killed and three wounded at a military checkpoint in northeastern Libya on Wednesday, witnesses and officials said, in an attack claimed by Islamic State. A witness said about a

dozen armed vehicles had been used in the dawn assault on a checkpoint 60 km (37 miles) south of the city of Ajdabiya run by the eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA).

More Details:

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/10/26/world/islamic-state-takes-credit-libya-checkpoint-attack-left-two-soldiers-dead/#.WfMLOtSLRto>

- **SDX Energy Spuds KSR-15 Well On Sebou Area In Morocco**

SDX Energy Inc announced Friday the spudding of the KSR-15 well on the Sebou area in Morocco.SDX said the well is expected to take 21 to 30 days to drill and if successful the well will be complete, flow tested, and connected to the existing infrastructure.The company said it expected this to be carried out within 30 days of the drilling rig departing the location.

More Details:

http://www.lse.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=41jkzft&headline=SDX_Energy_Spuds_KSR15_Well_On_Sebou_Area_In_Morocco

- **Refugees can be a driver of development in Morocco, says UNHCR**

UNHCR's protection chief Volker Türk has praised Morocco for its efforts to protect refugees, on a visit to the capital of Rabat.Although Morocco remains a transit country for refugees and migrants, it is also fast becoming a country of destination. It works to offer protection to refugees under its National Policy on Immigration and Asylum (NPIA), which was launched in September 2013 under the instructions of King Mohammed VI.

More Details:

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/latest/2017/10/59f1d50a4/refugees-driver-development-morocco-says-unhcr.html>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **China Wants 'Mutual Trust' In US-Pakistan Relations**

In response to recent remarks by US officials, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Geng Shuang, said Pakistan is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and that they hope that the US-Pakistan relationship will be based on a mutual trust."We have said many times that we are happy to see India, the United States and Pakistan, as well as the rest of the countries in the world, develop friendly relationships and cooperation with each other.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/china-wants-mutual-trust-us-pakistan-relations>

- **'UN has failed to stop violence in Kashmir,' says Raza Rabbani**

The Senate on Friday passed a unanimous resolution condemning the atrocities being committed in India-held Kashmir (IHK). Speaking during the session on Friday, Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani said that the United Nations has failed as an international body responsible for keeping peace. "How can the UN protect human rights when it is taking part in human rights violations itself?" Rabbani asked.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1366603/un-has-failed-to-stop-violence-in-kashmir-says-raza-rabbani>

- **Afghan war: Prince still trying to sell his plan**

Despite the rejection of his proposal, the Blackwater founder is still pushing for the privatisation of the war in Afghanistan, a news report says. Speaking to a UK-based media outlet, Erik Prince suggested he would continue trying to convince the US intelligence community into considering his controversial idea. He was seeking advice from lawyers on different aspects of the idea, including how to hold contractors accountable for wrongdoing, Prince told Reuters.

More Details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/27/afghan-war-prince-still-trying-sell-his-plan>

- **Taliban leader among seven dead in Afghan operation**

At least seven Taliban insurgents have been killed and five others wounded following clashes with the Afghan security and special operations forces in central Maidan Wardak province of Afghanistan. The military commission chief of the group was also among those killed, reported the Khaama Press, quoting an Afghan official. The police commandment, in a statement, stated that the Taliban leader killed during the operation has been identified as Qari Noor Aqa.

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/taliban-leader-among-seven-dead-in-afghan-operation201710270816190001/>

- **Afghan Shiites under attack as IS seeks to stir up sectarian violence**

The massacre at a Kabul mosque last week highlighted the vulnerability of the country's Shiite minority, increasingly the target of the Sunni Islamic State group that is trying to stir up sectarian violence. Victims of last Friday's suicide blast inside the Imam Zaman prayer hall told AFP they saw

the bomber but no sign of security checks, despite the government's promise to beef up protection of Shiite mosques.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-5023115/Afghan-Shiites-attack-IS-seeks-stir-sectarian-violence.html>

- **Karzai visits Iran and criticize the US counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan**

The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited Iran and criticized the US counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan as he was speaking during a conference in Tehran. The office of the former President, ARG Palace, in a statement said the former president in his speech at Institute for political and international studies, said the US counter-terrorism policy in Afghanistan has not only resulted into eradication of terrorism but has resulted into more violence led by the other terrorist groups, including the ISIS group.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/karzai-visits-iran-and-criticize-the-us-counter-terrorism-mission-in-afghanistan-03723>

- **United States failed in Afghanistan: Khawaja Asif**

Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday said that the United States had failed in Afghanistan after deploying its forces for over 16 years and a political solution was needed. He was briefing the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. "Pakistan wants to have ties with the US based on self-respect and dignity; the country would not compromise on its sovereignty and dignity," the foreign minister said.

More Details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/United-States-failed-in-Afghanistan-Khawaja-Asif-279728.html>

- **Terrorism in Pakistan: The Implications for the EU's GSP+ programme**

For decades, security experts have been aware that Pakistan has been acting as a "safe haven" for terrorist organisations. Well-known and respected think tanks such as the Brookings Institution, have listed Pakistan as the "world's most active sponsor of terrorist groups." The propensity of the Pakistani authorities to shield terrorists is a problem for the international community, but it also wreaks havoc within their territory.

More Details:

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/blog/terrorism-pakistan-implications-eu%E2%80%99s-gsp-programme>

- **Pakistani President congratulates Xi Jinping on re-election**

On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, and on my own behalf, it is my profound pleasure to congratulate your Excellency on re-election as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Under the paramount banner of the Communist Party of China, the brave and resilient people of China have travelled a long journey of historic transformation. At a time when the world is mired in chaos and disorder, with unity of purpose and sense of commitment, the CPC has opened new horizons in the realms of national and global governance. Today, the CPC stands high as the torchbearer of stability, order and endurance.

More Details:

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1072147.shtml>

- **Kashmir witnessing state terrorism: Pakistani ambassador**

Seventy years ago the Indian army started the occupation of Kashmir, and the occupation is still ongoing despite the relevant UN resolutions, Pakistani Ambassador to Azerbaijan Saeed Khan Mohmand said at a press conference on October 27 - the day of Kashmir's occupation, APA reported. He said that every year 27 October is marked as a "black day" in Pakistan in connection with this event that took place in 1947. Touching upon the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the diplomat said that Azerbaijan has experienced a similar tragedy as has Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-politics/foreign-news/kashmir-witnessing-state-terrorism-pakistani-ambassador.html>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey, Iran may launch joint operation against PKK in Iraq**

Turkey and Iran can launch joint military operations in the north of Iraq against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Turkish media reported Oct. 27 citing a military source. Meanwhile, Iran and Turkey will exchange military information.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/world/turkey/2813396.html>

- **Turkey, Iraq open to nothing less than annulment of KRG referendum**

Turkey is siding with the Iraqi central government regarding the Kurdish Regional Government's (KRG) offer to freeze the referendum results, saying that although it is an important step, an annulment is definitely necessary to end the crisis. According to experts, the KRG has experienced a huge disappointment since the referendum, failing to accurately calculate Turkey's stance on the matter and losing its alliance with Ankara, deeply weakening the Kurdistan region. According to Turkish journalist Mehmet Akif Ersoy, the decision to freeze is related with the movement of the Shiite militia group, the Hashd al-Shaabi, as well as economic problems.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/27/turkey-iraq-open-to-nothing-less-than-annulment-of-krq-referendum-1509047151>

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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