



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Al-Abadi Office calls on officials in the Kurdistan region to abide by the law and calm and that political differences are not be reflected on the Kurdish citizen**

The media office of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi called on officials in the Kurdistan region to abide by law and order and calm and that political differences are not be reflected on the Kurdish citizen. "We are following closely the developments in the Kurdistan region and the attacks on the headquarters of the parties as well as the media and attempts to cause chaos and disturbances in Erbil and Dahuk, which is detrimental to our citizens in the region and the general situation there," the statement said, and that the political differences are not be reflected on the Kurdish citizen, who was greatly affected by these practices. "

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?od0AB9EB8zpKm8Nc9gl2pg%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?od0AB9EB8zpKm8Nc9gl2pg%253d%253d)

- **Iraqi government: nearly 22.000 refugees repatriated in Mosul in 4 days**

Nearly 22.000 Iraqi refugees have been repatriated to their home regions in Mosul over the past four days, the Iraqi Migration and Displacement Ministry said Monday. Refugee camps in Nineveh and Dohuk saw 21.743 leaving to their home regions in Mosul over the past four days, according to a statement by the ministry.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/features/iraqi-government-nearly-22-000-refugees-repatriated-mosul-4-days/>

- **Iraq Concerned about Catalan Declaration of Independence**

The Iraqi government is concerned about the unilateral move by Catalonia to declare independence from Spain, said Ahmed Mahjub, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry. Iraq supports a unified Spain, the official said in an official statement on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/389115>

- **Macron welcomes ceasefire, negotiations for joint redeployment to disputed territories**

French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated his call for peace and dialogue on Saturday and asked Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in a phone call to do everything within his power to put an end

to clashes with Kurdish forces. In a statement released by the President of France's media office, Macron asked that every measure be taken to avoid "clashes between Iraqi citizens" and that a dialogue between Erbil and Baghdad be initiated "within the framework of unity and the Constitution of Iraq."

More Details:

[http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En\\_NewsReader/942124a7-485b-4c30-9cab-c18804e1efdb](http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/942124a7-485b-4c30-9cab-c18804e1efdb)

- **Canada suspends military assistance to Baghdad and Erbil**

The government of Canada has decided to halt military assistance to Baghdad and Erbil, which continued since 2014, due to tensions between the Iraqi army and Peshmerga forces. The Canadian cooperation with Iraqi and Kurdish forces will resume only when "clarity exists regarding the inter-relationships of Iraqi security forces, and the key priorities and tasks going forward," said Dan Le Bouthillier, a spokesman for Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42154](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42154)

- **Nujaifi calls for solving Iraq's problems peacefully**

Vice President Osama al-Nujaifi stressed on Monday the importance of Iraq's unity and solving all issues peacefully without resorting to force and arms, adding that Kurds are an integral part of the Iraqi people. During a meeting with a Kurdish delegation, headed by MP Muhsen al-Sadoun, al-Nujaifi highlighted the importance of using the constitution as a guide, stressing that it shall not be violated by any party.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18971/Nujaifi-calls-for-solving-Iraq-s-problems-peacefully>

- **Iraqi forces liberate more than 21,000km<sup>2</sup> of territory near Syrian border – map**

The Iraqi Armed Forces have liberated more than 21,000 square kilometers of territory in the Al-Anbar Governorate since launching their Syrian border offensive early last week. Backed by the Popular Mobilization Units (Hashd Al-Sha'abi) and Federal Police, the Iraqi Army managed to reach the southern outskirts of Al-Qa'im this past weekend after advancing north along the Syrian border.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-forces-liberate-21000km2-territory-near-syrian-border-map/>

- **Iraq to deploy soldiers to key Kurdistan border crossing**

Members of the Iraqi Federal Police force are going to be deployed to a key border crossing in the country's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region after Iraqi government forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters reached an agreement in a bid to resolve a conflict about control of border crossings. An Iraqi government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Iraqi and Kurdish military commanders struck a deal in the strategic northern city of Mosul, located some 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of the capital Baghdad, late on Sunday for government forces to take control of Fishkhabur border crossing.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/29/540307/Iraqi-soldiers-to-deploy-at-key-Kurdistan-border-crossing>

- **Iraq, Peshmerga fighters start new round of talks**

Iraqi forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters on Sunday started a second round of talks to resolve a conflict over control of the Kurdistan region's border crossings, Iraqi state TV said. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi on Friday ordered a 24-hour suspension of military operations against Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. The two sides held a first round of talks on Friday and Saturday.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/69131083-1468-4861-b716-f062da36b4aa.aspx>

- **Daunting challenges for Iraq**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi is credited with having succeeded in wresting control of most of his country's territory from Daesh hands; now the attack on the terrorist organisation's last foothold in the north of the country, bordering Syria, is taking place in Al Qaim and Rawa, in the Euphrates River valley. Soldiers, Sunni tribesmen, and Shiite paramilitary fighters and police, are taking part in this assault on the militants who were told by Abadi that they had to "choose between death and surrender".

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/editorial/daunting-challenges-iraq>

- **Barzani announces his resignation as Iraq's Kurdish leader**

President Masoud Barzani has told the Kurdish parliament in Erbil that he will step down as leader of the troubled Kurdistan Regional Government, following mounting criticism. Speaking at a closed parliamentary session on Sunday, Barzani read a letter saying he will not seek to extend his term as president when after 1 November, effectively resigning from government.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/29/barzani-announces-his-resignation-as-iraqs-kurdish-leader>

- **1,000 Christian Families Flee Northern Iraq In Latest Clashes**

Some 1,000 Christian families have fled an area in northern Iraq amid ongoing clashes between Kurdish and Iraqi government forces, local Christians and aid workers say. Among those fleeing are Christians who recently returned to the town of Teleskof after it was liberated from militants of the Islamic State group, BosNewsLife learned.

More Details:

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/37907-1000-christian-families-flee-northern-iraq-in-latest-clashes>

- **Liberals opt to keep combat hospital in Iraq until next year**

The Liberal government has authorized the Canadian military to keep a combat hospital in northern Iraq until next spring, CBC News has learned. Originally deployed in the fall of 2016, the facility's mandate was up this month. It was anticipated the facility would pack up and come home following the battle for Mosul, which finished last summer.

More Details:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/iraq-combat-hospital-1.4377551?cmp=rss>

- **Foreign Secretary statement on Kurdish/Iraq tensions**

Boris Johnson comments following calls with the Prime Ministers of both Iraq and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). The Foreign Secretary spoke with both Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government Nechirvan Barzani and the Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi on Sunday afternoon. He urged both parties to seek a quick, peaceful resolution within the constitution to the current Kurdish/Iraqi tensions and reiterated the UK's continued support to the Kurds within a unified Iraq.

More Details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-kurdishiraq-tensions>

- **Iran-Iraq ties intertwined: Political analyst**

The close relation between adjacent Iran and Iraq is an inevitable reality but it is on a different track after the Iraq's minority party of Baath invaded Iran and left irreparable damage, said an expert on International Relations. In the post-war period, Tehran and Baghdad have enjoyed the closest ties in

political, economic and security fields. Without Iran's effective military advisory contributions, it wasn't clear what Daesh cancerous terrorism would lead to in Iraq, wrote Freydoun Majlesi in Tehran-based Persian language newspaper Iran.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82713401>

- **Iraq adds capacity to oil export terminal**

A new export terminal at the southern Iraqi port city of Basra adds another 900,000 barrels per day of capacity, the Iraqi oil ministry said. Iraqi Oil Minister Jabbar al-Luaibi said a fifth terminal at the Basra export facility could put the total capacity at the southern port at 4.6 million barrels per day. The minister said the new terminal adds flexibility to Iraq's export potential.

More Details:

[https://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/10/30/Iraq-adds-capacity-to-oil-export-terminal/5581509363722/?utm\\_source=sec&utm\\_campaign=sl&utm\\_medium=1](https://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/10/30/Iraq-adds-capacity-to-oil-export-terminal/5581509363722/?utm_source=sec&utm_campaign=sl&utm_medium=1)

- **Iraq ups southern oil exports to 3.45 mln bpd after Kirkuk shutdown**

Iraq has increased exports from its southern oilfields to 3.45 million barrels per day (bpd) to make up for a shortfall from the northern Kirkuk fields, Basra Oil Company Director General Ihsan Abdul Jabbar told Reuters on Monday. Output from Kirkuk fell earlier this month when Iraqi forces took back control of oilfields from Kurdish fighters who had been there since 2014.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/iraq-oil-basra/update-1-iraq-ups-southern-oil-exports-to-3-45-mln-bpd-after-kirkuk-shutdown-idUSL8N1N53MJ?rpc=401&>

- **Iran to lift border closures with Iraq's Kurdish region**

Iran will lift border restrictions with Iraq's Kurdistan region "in the coming days following a closure after last month's Kurdish vote in favour of independence, the Iranian armed forces chief of staff said. In remarks quoted by ISNA news agency yesterday, Major General Mohammad Baqeri also said if Kurdistan implemented its plan to break away from Iraq, "there would be bloodshed in Iraq and neighbouring countries would be affected".

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171030-iran-to-lift-border-closures-with-iraqs-kurdish-region/>

- **Azerbaijan checking number of its women, children in camps in Iraq**

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry is checking the number of the country's women and children who are in camps in Iraq, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov told reporters in Baku. Not only the Foreign Ministry but also relevant services, including the Interior Ministry, are working on this, according to him.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/2814504.html>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Astana 7 meeting on Syria kicks off**

The seventh round of talks on Syria in Astana has kicked off with the participation of the Syrian Arab Republic delegation headed by Dr. Bashar al-Jaafari. The Syrian Arab Republic delegation held a meeting with the Iranian delegation headed by Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari. Similar meeting is scheduled to be held later with the Russian delegation headed by the Russian president special envoy to Syria Alexander Lavrentiev.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=116832>

- **Syria accuses US-led coalition of celebrating Raqqa victory over dead bodies of victims**

The Syrian defence ministry alleged that the US-backed SDF destroyed over 90% of the city and sacrificed the lives of hundreds of civilians. The Syrian government has accused the US-led coalition, which helped the Syrian Democratic Force (SDF) liberate Raqqa from Isis this month, of destroying a majority of the city and sacrificing hundreds of civilian lives.

More details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/syria-accuses-us-led-coalition-celebrating-raqqa-victory-over-dead-bodies-victims-1645061>

- **Russian Envoy for Syria Discussed Political Settlement with Assad**

According to the Russian special presidential envoy to Syria, Syrian president Bashar Assad wants to stick to commitments undertaken previously. "Last week we were in Damascus where we had a thorough discussion with Syrian president Bashar Assad. We were wondering how he assesses the developments in the country, but mainly are interested in what the government's stance on the further political settlement is, and what its vision is.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710301058651325-syria-political-settlement/>

- **Foreign Ministry: Raqqa still occupied, can only be considered liberated when Syrian Army enters it**

Syria considers the claims of the United States and its so-called alliance about the liberation of Raqqa city from ISIS to be lies aiming to divert international public opinion from the crimes committed by this alliance in Raqqa province, an official source at the Foreign and Expatriates Ministry told SANA on Sunday.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=116827>

- **Enraged Israel Bombs Syria, Pimps Takfiri Moti Kahana**

Enraged over Syria's recent military successes in Deir Ezzor, Israel again bombed Syria. Though not a member of the fascist coalition of war criminal countries against the SAR, on 7 September at 0242, Israel bombed the military post in Hama, near Misyaf, martyring two soldiers of the Syrian Arab Army. Israeli media is simultaneously dripping a new propaganda hero, Israeli-US national, Moti Kahana. This report aims to put him under a microscope, but first SyriaNews will take a quick look at how deep state media legitimized Israel's latest war crimes against conscripted soldiers protecting their country within its borders — from the most disgraceful international conspiracy in history.

More details:

<http://www.syrianews.cc/enraged-israel-bombs-syria-pimps-takfiri-moti-kahana/>

- **Their caliphate in ruins, Isis militants melt into the desert**

Isis militants, routed from one urban stronghold after another in Syria, have recently been moving deeper into Syria's remote desert, where experts say they are regrouping and preparing their next incarnation. The Sunni militants' self-proclaimed "caliphate" with its contiguous stretch of land - linking major cities such as Syria's Raqqa and Iraq's Mosul - may have been vanquished, but many agree this territorial defeat will not mark the end of the Islamic State.

More details:

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=11938636](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11938636)

- **Syrian hostages who escaped Islamic State receive rapturous homecoming**

Twenty six Syrian hostages who escaped from their Islamic State captors received an emotional homecoming on Sunday in the central province of Homs, witnesses and officials said. They were among at least 70 people abducted and taken by fleeing Islamic State militants to a secret location in the desert east of the town of al-Qaryatayn on Oct. 21 when the Syrian army and pro-government militias regained control of the town.

More details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-town/syrian-hostages-who-escaped-islamic-state-receive-rapturous-homecoming-idUSKBN1CY0U1>

- **US Trying Hard to Prevent Syrian Army from Capturing ISIL-Held Abu Kamal**

The army men and their popular allies are now in rush towards the ISIL-held town of Abu Kamal after capturing the town of al-Mayadeen and many more regions in the Southeastern territories of Deir Ezzur province. According to field reports, the US-backed SDF have also started to advance towards the strategic border town of Abu Kamal in the Southeastern countryside of Deir Ezzur province, as Kurdish units have reportedly expanded their control over new sites located South of the Al-Umar Fields.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960807000953>

### 3. IRAN

- **Iran in Full Compliance with Nuclear Deal, IAEA**

After holding a series of meetings with Iranian officials in Tehran on Sunday, Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, confirmed Iran is in compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, more commonly referred to as the 2015 nuclear deal.

More details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/iran-full-compliance-nuclear-deal-iaea-1040886>

- **Nuclear Chief: Iran Can Resume 20% Uranium Enrichment at Fordow in 4 Days**

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi warned that his country enjoys the capability to resume enrichment of uranium to the 20% purity level at its Fordow nuclear facility in just 4 days if the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and the world powers is called off. "We can produce 20% (uranium enrichment) at Fordow in 4 days but we don't want the nuclear deal to

collapse," Salehi told reporters after a joint press conference with Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano in Tehran on Sunday.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960807000644>

- **Putin's Tehran visit to mainly focus on INSTC talks**

The main objective on the Wed. visit of Russia's Putin and Azerbaijan's Aliyev to Tehran is to follow up talks on the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), Deputy FM Rahimpour said Sunday. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ebrahim Rahimpour, said Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azeri President Ilham Aliyev will convene on Wednesday in Tehran to hold the second round of trilateral summit with President Rouhani to discuss the North-South Transport Corridor project.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/129058/Putin-s-Tehran-visit-to-mainly-focus-on-INSTC-talks>

- **Iran, Russia facing common problems: ambassador**

Iran's Ambassador to Moscow, Mahdi Sanaei, has insisted on the importance of Tehran-Moscow ties, saying the two countries are faced common problems and threats including terrorism. He also pointed to the increase in academic cooperation between the two immediate neighbors. The number of Iranian students studying at Russia universities as well as Iranian tourists visiting the country are increasing, the Iranian diplomat said.

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/418044/Iran-Russia-facing-common-problems-ambassador>

- **Rouhani rejected Trump's request for meeting**

President Rouhani had declined US President Trump's request for a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session back in Sep., Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghasemi said Sunday. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi responded to a question about a certain note recently published in one of the news media, and confirmed that the US President Donald Trump had made a request for a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the recent UN General Assembly in New York.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/129047/Rouhani-rejected-Trump-s-request-for-meeting>

- **Iran Slams Saudi FM's Claim as "Absurd, Baseless"**

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman has dismissed as absurd and groundless Riyadh's claims that Tehran is obstructing attempts to restore peace to Yemen. "The claim by the Saudi foreign minister that Iran is sabotaging efforts to establish peace in Yemen is absurd and unfounded," Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassem said on Monday.

More details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-slams-saudi-fms-claim-absurd-baseless/>

- **Europe continues to support Iran, JCPOA: Austria**

A senior Austrian Foreign Ministry official says European countries are opposed to any self-willed measure endangering the multilateral 2015 nuclear agreement, throwing his country's weight behind the deal. Austria and other European countries are standing by Iran through their support for the nuclear accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Secretary General for Foreign Affairs at Austria's Foreign Ministry Michael Linhart said in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday with Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/29/540304/Iran-Austria-Alaeddin-Boroujerdi-Michael-Linhart-Mohammad-Javad-Zarif-JCPOA>

- **Iranian Parliament approves Rouhani's picks to head science, energy ministries**

Iran's Parliament has given its vote of confidence to President Hassan Rouhani's nominees for the two remaining cabinet posts. After extensive debates during two Parliament sessions on Sunday, Rouhani's picks for the two ministries obtained the green light from the Iranian lawmakers.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/29/540271/Iran-Parliament-Hassan-Rouhani-Mansour-Gholami-Reza-Ardekanian-confidence-vote>

- **Iran Navy chief to US troops: Don't exceed your limits**

Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari says arrogant powers will not dare to invade the Islamic Republic as long as the country enjoys a high deterrence power. "Our defense means are only for defending ourselves and we do not intend to invade anyone," he said in a TV program on Saturday. Sayyari touched on the presence of trans-regional forces in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, saying the naval forces of the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are capable of returning full security to the waters.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/29/540264/Iran-Navy-Habibollah-Sayyari>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel Reports Plans to Demolish 5 Buildings, 138 Apartments in Palestinian Town**

Israel's Jerusalem Municipality is reportedly planning to demolish five buildings in the Palestinian Jerusalem-area town of Kafr Aqab, according to a Saturday report from Israeli news daily Haaretz. Haaretz reported that the five buildings hold a total of 138 apartments, 20 of which are occupied, and the rest of which have been sold to Palestinian families.

More Details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/israel-reports-plans-to-demolish-5-buildings-138-apartments-in-palestinian-town/>

- **Twenty-two more Palestinians imprisoned without charge or trial**

Israeli occupation authorities issued 22 administrative detention orders for imprisonment without charge or trial on the basis of secret evidence against Palestinian prisoners between 15 and 25 November, reported Palestinian lawyer Mahmoud Halabi. Among those ordered to administrative detention was Khadija Jibril Ruba'i, 30, from Yatta, who was ordered imprisoned for 3 months without charge or trial after occupation forces invaded her home and seized her on 10 October.

More Details:

<http://samidoun.net/2017/10/twenty-two-more-palestinians-imprisoned-without-charge-or-trial/>

- **Israel delays vote on bill to Judaize Jerusalem**

Israel has delayed a vote on a controversial bill that would annex illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank to the Israeli-defined boundaries of the city of Jerusalem. The so-called "Greater Jerusalem bill" was meant to be voted on by a ministerial committee on Sunday before going to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, for approval.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/israel-delays-vote-bill-judaize-jerusalem-171029074608976.html>

- **Meretz debates if it's Zionist**

The confusion came after a Makor Rishon investigation pointed out that Meretz has not called itself Zionist in its platform in the last three electoral campaigns, going back to 2008. Before that, it used the phrase “humanist Zionist,” and in 1999 called itself “the only Zionist faction opposed to the First Lebanon War.”

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Meretz-debates-if-its-Zionist-508692>

- **Israeli Amb. to UN: Human Rights Chief Acts Like ‘BDS Activist’**

The UNHRC has “lost its legitimacy as it focuses obsessively on attacking Israel instead of working on resolving the real human rights problems,” Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon charged. Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Danny Danon on Thursday harshly criticized the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Special Rapporteur on the “human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,” saying he is exploiting his position to spread hateful incitement against Israel.

More Details:

<https://unitedwithisrael.org/israeli-ambassador-to-un-human-rights-chief-acts-like-bds-activist/>

- **Palestinian-Israeli meeting discusses important issues**

A Palestinian-Israeli meeting discussed on Tuesday a number of important issues, foremost of which is the settlement campaign, lifting of the siege off the Gaza Strip and financial issues related to the financial entitlements of the Palestinian National Authority.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=535Zg1a92287681398a535Zg1>

- **Palestine takes its first step as Interpol member state**

On Oct. 12, at a meeting in Ramallah of the committee formed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to follow up on his country’s accession to Interpol, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah decided to establish the Interpol National Central Bureau for Palestine. This comes after Interpol approved the membership of the Palestinian territories at its 86th General Assembly meeting held in Beijing, China, on Sept. 27, with 75 voting countries backing the Palestinian membership.

More Details:

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/palestine-interpol-national-central-bureau-israeli-criminals.html>

- **US: Jerusalem expansion bill an obstacle to peace**

The United States has raised objections to a bill proposal seeking to connect a number of settlements in the West Bank to Jerusalem, with a senior official in the administration of US President Donald Trump saying Sunday the legislation poses an obstacle to the peace process. "The US is discouraging actions that it believes will unduly distract the principals from focusing on the advancement of peace negotiations. The Jerusalem expansion bill was considered by the administration to be one of those actions," the senior American official said.

More Details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5035511,00.html>

- **British Foreign Secretary 'proud' of Balfour Declaration**

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson on Sunday defended his predecessor's role a century ago in paving the way for the creation of Israel, saying two sovereign states for Israelis and Palestinians remains the "only viable solution" for peace, AFP reported. Johnson's comments come ahead of the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration which will be marked this Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/237386>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Beirut says hi, but no thank you to #TelAvivLovesBeirut**

A simple misunderstanding on Twitter crossed into a geopolitical rift and sparked a cascade of witty comments, sarcastic replies and escalating graphic tweets Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Oct-29/424364-beirut-says-hi-but-no-thank-you-to-telavivlovesbeirut.ashx>

- **New capital to be built on state lands — premier**

Prime Minister Hani Mulki on Sunday said that the new capital suggested to be established outside Amman is part of the government's efforts to stimulate the economy and attract qualitative investments. Mulki stressed that the town will be built on state lands and surrounded by state lands,

the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. During a meeting with presidents of Jordanian universities, the prime minister described the project as a great investment opportunity for the private sector.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/new-capital-be-built-state-lands-%E2%80%94-premier>

- **Report: Appointment of Lebanese Ambassador to Syria Raises Controversy**

Lebanon has recently appointed a new ambassador to Syria in a move that raised controversy as the new diplomat prepares to begin his duties next month. President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Saad Hariri have signed a decree appointing the new ambassador, Saad Zakhia, who is expected to begin his duties early in November, said al-Joumhouria daily on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/237478-report-appointment-of-lebanese-ambassador-to-syria-raises-controversy>

- **Jordan does not recognize Catalonia's declaration of independence — Gov't spokesman**

State Minister for Media Affairs, Mohammad Momani, Sunday said Jordan "does not recognize" the Catalan parliament's declaration of independence. "Spain's constitutional norms and laws should be respected", Momani said in a press conference, emphasizing that "Jordan sees the Catalan referendum as unconstitutional and unrecognized."

MoreDetails:

[http://petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=&NewsID=324827&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=&NewsID=324827&CatID=13)

- **Aoun meets Cypriot Minister of Defense, European Parliamentary delegation**

President of the Republic, General Michel Aoun, received at the Baabda Palace the Cypriot Minister of Defense, Christophe Fokaidis, at the head of a delegation, in the presence of the Minister of National Defense Yaacoub Sarraf. The President later welcomed a delegation from the European Parliament concerned with the relations with the Orient countries.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84806/Aoun-meets-Cypriot-Minister-of-Defense-European-parliamentary-delegation>

- **Saudi Minister is surprised about Lebanon’s silence over Hezbollah’s terrorist activities**

Minister of State for Gulf Affairs Thamer al-Sabhan voiced his surprise that the Lebanese government and people are silent over the practices of the Lebanese militia Hezbollah. “It’s not strange for the terrorist militia (of Hezbollah) to participate in a war against the kingdom upon directions from the lords of global terrorism but what’s strange is the Lebanese government and people’s silence,” he said on Twitter.

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2017/10/30/saudi-minister-is-surprised-about-lebanons-silence-over-hezbollahs-terrorist-activities/>

- **Three Lebanese Kidnapped in Iraq Freed**

Three Lebanese nationals kidnapped in the Iraqi capital Baghdad last week have been freed and were expected to arrive in Beirut later on Sunday, Lebanon’s interior ministry said. The three men, named as Imad al-Khatib, Nader Hmadeh and George Batrouni, were kidnapped on arrival in Baghdad on October 22.

More Details:

<http://english.almanar.com.lb/374141>

- **Lebanon's illicit cannabis trade goes up in smoke amid Syria war**

Lebanon's Bekaa Valley is notorious for its highly lucrative cannabis industry. However, in recent years the illicit trade has suffered due to the war in neighbouring Syria. As a result, some are now turning to another crop for better income.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/lebanons-illicit-cannabis-trade-smoke-syria-war-171029141426562.html>

- **Central Bank of Lebanon Hints at State-Backed Cryptocurrency**

Thomson Reuters’ Zawya reprinted from The Daily Star, a Lebanese daily, quoting Banque Du Liban Governor, H.E. Mr. Riad Salamé, head of Lebanon’s central bank. Mr. Salamé said he understands “that electronic currency will play a prominent role in the future.”

More Details:

<https://news.bitcoin.com/central-bank-of-lebanon-hints-at-state-backed-cryptocurrency/>

- **Jordan 'good candidate' for Internet Universality Indicators pilot Project**

UNESCO is eyeing Jordan as one of the pilot countries to implement the Internet Universality Indicators, which aims to develop indicators for governments and other stakeholders to measure Internet development at the national level and promote the norms and values based on the ROAM principles (Rights, Openness, Accessibility and Multi-stakeholder participation).

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-good-candidate%E2%80%99-internet-universality-indicators-pilot-project>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Jared Kushner travelled unannounced to Saudi Arabia: report**

Washington: US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor, Jared Kushner travelled unannounced to Saudi Arabia last week to continue discussions over peace in the Middle East, a White House official told CNN

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/jared-kushner-travelled-unannounced-to-saudi-arabia-report-1.2115423>

- **Gulf information ministers stress fight against terrorism**

Bahrain. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt said that confronting Qatar's interference in the domestic affairs of Arab countries was highly significant. The information ministers of the four countries that severed their relations with Qatar on June 5 after accusing it of supporting extremists and funding terrorism, said that Doha interfered in other countries through supporting the concept of political Islam that embraced terrorism as a means to achieve goals.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/bahrain/gulf-information-ministers-stress-fight-against-terrorism-1.2115421>

- **Bahrain foreign minister calls for freezing Qatar out of GCC**

Bahrain will not attend the upcoming GCC summit if Qatar does not change its stand, and the right step to preserve the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is to freeze Qatar's membership, Bahrain's foreign minister said on Twitter on Sunday. Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa also said on his account on Twitter that "if Qatar thinks that its current playing with time and evading will buy it time till the

upcoming GCC summit, then it's mistaken. If the situation remained as it is we won't attend this summit."

More details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-missiles/rouhani-says-iran-will-keep-producing-missiles-state-tv-reports-idUSKBN1CY04S>

- **Arab Coalition Accuses Iran, its Proxies of Destabilizing Regional Security**

Foreign Ministers and Chiefs of Staff of States from the Coalition Supporting the Legitimacy in Yemen denounced on Sunday the negative role played by Tehran in supporting coup militias with weapons, ammunition, ballistic missiles and mines in a flagrant violation of Security Council Resolution 2216, stressing the Iranian regime and its proxies are responsible for destabilizing regional security.

More details:

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1067886/arab-coalition-accuses-iran-its-proxies-destabilizing-regional-security>

- **Saudi Shoura member discloses move to raise women's representation in diplomatic positions**

This came during a meeting organized by the King Abdul Aziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND) on "The role of women in achieving the objectives of Vision 2030." "As Saudi women, we must help the political leadership achieve the vision's goal of increasing our participation in the labor market and building the country," Al-Mushait said.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1185336/saudi-arabia>

- **Bahrain Foreign Ministry gets first woman Undersecretary**

Dr Shaikha has been working as Assistant Under-Secretary for Arab and Afro-Asian Affairs and Organisations in the Foreign Ministry since April 2011. Her appointment as Foreign Affairs Ministry Undersecretary follows a Royal Decree (63) issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday.

More details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=39081&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=1>

- **Ankara, Riyadh poised for greater cooperation'**

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey have witnessed a rapid qualitative and quantitative improvement and are poised for major intensification in near future because the two countries today stand as "main pillars for regional stability," said Turkish Ambassador Yunus Demirer. Speaking on the occasion of Turkish national day, the Turkish envoy said that "the depth and diversity of our relations, our joint commitment to stability and well-being of the region, and intertwined interests lead our countries to propel the existing relationship to higher levels. We are two brotherly countries bound by strong historical, social and cultural ties."

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1184786/saudi-arabia>

- **Kuwait prime minister offers resignation: Arabiya TV**

Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak al-Sabah offered the resignation of his government on Monday, pan-Arab satellite channel Al Arabiya TV reported. Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak al-Sabah tendered his resignation earlier on Monday to the Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has the final say in state matters.

More information:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kuwait-government/kuwait-prime-minister-offers-resignation-arabiya-tv-idUSKBN1CZ14A?il=0>

- **Qatar emir says open to Trump-hosted talks over Gulf crisis: CBS**

Qatar's ruler said he is ready for U.S.-hosted direct talks aimed at solving the worst diplomatic crisis in the Gulf in years but has yet to hear a response to U.S. President Donald Trump's invitation to the four Arab states boycotting Doha. Speaking to U.S. broadcaster CBS News, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said he wanted an end to the dispute, which erupted on June 5 and pits Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt against Qatar.

More details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gulf-crisis-qatar/qatar-emir-says-open-to-trump-hosted-talks-over-gulf-crisis-cbs-idUSKBN1CY0WK>

- **Qatar emir: Our sovereignty is a red line**

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, has said he will not bow to pressure from a group of Arab states blockading his country, calling the independence and sovereignty of the Gulf nation a "red line". "Our sovereignty is a red line. We don't accept anybody interfering our sovereignty," Sheikh Tamim told US television programme 60 Minutes.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/qatar-emir-blockading-countries-regime-change-171029194842654.html>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's Sisi orders security reshuffle after attacks**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has replaced senior security officials in the wake of an ambush that left 55 soldiers dead in the Western Desert. The reshuffle on Saturday saw 11 security officials, including the head of the National Security Agency (NSA), lose their jobs or become assigned to other positions, according to Egyptian state media.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/egypt-sisi-orders-security-reshuffle-attacks-171029060808139.html>

- **Government prefers to close churches instead of punishing extremist assailants: Minya Coptic Archbishopric**

The Coptic Archbishopric of Upper Egypt's governorate of Minya released a statement on Sunday in which it said that four churches were closed during October and expressed condemnation towards the government for total inattention. According to the statement churches, located in different villages inside the governorate, closed by security officials or due to clashes that erupted following assaults from extremists.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/government-prefers-close-churches-instead-punishing-extremist-assailants-minya-coptic-archbishopric/>

- **Egypt-Cyprus maritime border deal should be sent to parliament: Court commissioner's authority**

A Cairo Administrative Court's commissioner's authority recommended on Sunday that a border demarcation deal between Egypt and Cyprus should be approved by parliament and put to a public referendum before it is passed. In its report to the administrative court, the commissioner's authority said that according to Article 151 of the constitution, the president must ratify deals with foreign nations after gaining the approval of parliament, and as such the Cyprus deal should be sent to parliament.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/280632/Egypt/Politics-/EgyptCyprus-maritime-border-deal-should-be-sent-to.aspx>

- **Court cancels release of three policemen accused of helping Hassan Malik**

Giza Criminal Court cancelled on Saturday the decision of releasing three of Muslim Brotherhood businessperson Hassan Malik's partners pending investigation in the case known in the media as "damaging the national economy", state media reported. The court renewed the defendant's detention for 45 more days. The three defendants are policemen accused of facilitating Malik's smuggling foreign currency to finance the banned in Egypt Muslim Brotherhood organisation, according to local media.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/29/court-cancels-release-three-policemen-accused-helping-hassan-malik/>

- **Egypt rebuilds regional leader status**

It is hard to determine at this point whether it was Fatah or Hamas that won in the new reconciliation agreement. But there is definitely a second winner — Egypt. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi activated his intelligence services to pressure both sides into signing this deal, which offers Cairo considerable clout over both Palestinian movements.

More Details:

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/israel-egypt-palestine-multilateral-diplomatic-negotiations.html>

- **Egypt-Cyprus maritime border deal should be sent to parliament: Court commissioner's authority**

A Cairo Administrative Court's commissioner's authority recommended on Sunday that a border demarcation deal between Egypt and Cyprus should be approved by parliament and put to a public referendum before it is passed. In its report to the administrative court, the commissioner's authority said that according to Article 151 of the constitution, the president must ratify deals with foreign nations after gaining the approval of parliament, and as such the Cyprus deal should be sent to parliament.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/280632/Egypt/Politics-/EgyptCyprus-maritime-border-deal-should-be-sent-to.aspx>

- **Copts call for action over church closures in southern Egypt**

Coptic Christians in the south of Egypt renewed calls on local authorities for an end to discrimination, after a number of churches have been closed down in recent weeks. Two churches in two separate villages in the southern province of Minya have been shut down by the authorities, a statement by the Minya diocese said.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-religion/copts-call-for-action-over-church-closures-in-southern-egypt-idUSKBN1CY0NV>

- **Egypt court orders ban of 'anti-Islam' TV broadcast**

An Egyptian court ruled on Sunday that a television programme deemed contrary to Islamic law should not be broadcast, following a request from the country's highest institution of Sunni Islam. Grand Imam Ahmed al-Tayeb of Al-Azhar had demanded that the authorities ban "With Islam," presented by controversial intellectual reformer Islam Behairy and aired by private channel Al-Qahera Wel Nass.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-court-orders-ban-anti-islam-tv-broadcast-191237001>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Discovery of bodies puts Libya's Haftar under scrutiny**

Khalifa Haftar, who controls eastern Libya, has ordered an investigation after 36 unidentified bodies were found in an area to the east of Benghazi. The bodies showed signs of torture and bullet wounds to the head.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/libya-haftar-orders-probe-bodies-signs-torture-171029185915017.html>

- **How Europe exported its refugee crisis to north Africa**

Something happened to the deadly migrant trail into Europe in 2017. It dried up. Not completely, but palpably. In the high summer, peak time for traffic across the Mediterranean, numbers fell by as much as 70%. This was no random occurrence. Even before the mass arrival of more than a million migrants and refugees into Europe in 2015, European policymakers had been desperately seeking solutions that would not just deal with those already here, but prevent more from coming.

More Details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/30/how-europe-exported-its-refugee-crisis-to-north-africa>

- **Crisis-hit Algeria Earmarks 25% of its Budget to Defense**

Despite announcing austerity measures to fend off an impending crisis, Algeria maintained its lavish spending on defense to which it earmarked 25% of its 2018 budget, that is equivalent to \$10.4 billion. Whatever happens never reduce spending on arms.

More Details:

<http://northafricapost.com/20407-crisis-hit-algeria-earmarks-25-budget-defense.html>

- **Pak-Tunisia: trade agreement expected this year**

Pakistan and Tunisia are negotiating a preferential trade agreement (PTA), Tunisian Ambassador Adel Elarbi said on Saturday, adding that it is expected to be formalised within the year. Addressing members of the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said that Tunisia was a gateway for Pakistan to enter the larger African market.

More Details:

<http://tdailynews.net/story-z9484080>

- **Marzouki calls on democratic forces to defend Constitution**

President of Al Irada movement Moncef Marzouki said Sunday that for his party as well as for the democratic forces, the challenge today is to defend the Constitution. Marzouki asserted, however, that he was not opposed to the revision of certain points without touching the fundamental principles.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9511309-marzouki-calls-on>

- **King Mohammed VI's Throne Day Celebration speech**

Here follows King Mohammed VI's full text of his Throne Day Celebration speech: "Praise be to God, May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, His Kith and Kin Dear Citizens, Today, we are celebrating the eighteenth anniversary of my accession to the throne, in a national environment characterized by achievements as well as challenges..."

More Details:

<http://themoroccantimes.com/2017/07/22491/king-mohammed-vis-throne-day-celebration-speech>

- **One year on, tensions simmer in neglected Moroccan north**

Tensions still simmer in Morocco's neglected north a year after a fishmonger was crushed to death in a rubbish truck, sparking a wave of protests for social justice. On Saturday, residents of the port city of Al-Hoceima marked the first anniversary of Mouhcine Fikri's death as he tried to retrieve swordfish confiscated by authorities because they were caught out of season.

More Details:

<https://citizen.co.za/news/news-africa/1708180/morocco-unrest-politics-rif/>

- **Algeria: Surge in Deportations of Migrants**

Algerian authorities have been rounding up sub-Saharan Africans in and around Algiers and have deported more than 3,000 to Niger since August 25, 2017, without giving them an opportunity to challenge their expulsion, Human Rights Watch said today. Those expelled include migrants who have lived and worked for years in Algeria, pregnant women, families with newborn babies, and about 25 unaccompanied children.

More Details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/30/algeria-surge-deportations-migrants>

- **Bodies of 36 'jihadists' found in Libya**

The bodies of 36 people shot dead have been found near Benghazi, in eastern Libya, a security official said Sunday. The bodies, found in Al-Abyar, around 70 kilometres (45 miles) east of Benghazi, were of suspected jihadists including 19 foreigners, the official said.

More Details:

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/world/2017-10-30-bodies-of-36-jihadists-found-in-libya/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **9 police killed, 5 wounded in attacks on Ghazni checkpoints**

Nine police personnel have been killed and five others wounded in Taliban attacks in southern Ghazni province, an official said on Monday. Provincial Council Chairman Khaliqdad Akbari told Pajhwok Afghan News security check-posts in the Surkh Qala area of Ghazni City came under attack on Sunday night. He said nine policemen were killed and five others wounded.

More details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/30/9-police-killed-5-wounded-attacks-ghazni-checkpoints>

- **Two attackers from Afghanistan killed in Khyber Agency**

Two attackers were killed and several others sustained injuries when they stormed a centre of the Zakhakhel Amn Lashkar in Darband Kandao area in the Landikotal Tehsil of Khyber Agency, tribal sources said on Sunday. Dozens of armed men attacked the pro-government peace Lashkar's centre, locally known as Commander Muslim Markaz, on late Saturday night. "Militants from Afghanistan attacked the peace committee centre manned by around 40 volunteers," an official said on condition of anonymity. He said the attack, which continued for hours, was later repulsed by the Zakhakhel Amn Lashkar volunteers.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/240648-Two-attackers-from-Afghanistan-killed-in-Khyber-Agency>

- **Road between Bamyan, Northern provinces closed**

Militants have blocked a key road between central Bamyan province and northern parts of the country by blowing up part of a mountain in Shibar district, local officials said on Monday. Mohammad Azim Farid, administrative chief of Shibar district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the road was blocked at two points in Baghak area after the militants blew up the mountain.

More details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/30/road-between-bamyan-northern-provinces-closed>

- **Better Af-Pak ties key to regional stability, says Sherpao**

The ongoing wave of terrorism in Pakistan and Afghanistan has put regional stability at stake, says senior political leader from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Qaumi Watan Party head Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao urged Islamabad and Kabul to overcome their trust deficit and improve bilateral relations for restoring sustainable peace and strengthening trade in the region.

More details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/30/better-af-pak-ties-key-regional-stability-says-sherpao>

- **Taliban Top Leader Killed In Baghlan**

A top leader of Taliban was killed in Baghlan province yesterday. Zabiullah Shoja spokesman for Baghlan security command told BNA, Mirwais a top leader of Taliban with his man was killed in police ambush while wanted to carry out suicide attacks in Burka district, Baghlan province.

More details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/30623-taliban-top-leader-killed-in-baghlan.html>

- **Taliban says condition of US hostage in Afghanistan deteriorates**

The Taliban says the condition of one of its captives in Afghanistan has deteriorated and that the American is in poor health, AP reports. Kevin King is suffering from heart and kidney problems, and often loses consciousness, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. He also said Monday the Taliban will hold the US government responsible if anything happens to King. King and an Australian identified as Timothy Weekes were abducted outside the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul, where they worked as teachers, in August 2016. Since then, the Taliban has released two videos of the captives.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/newsline/408185-taliban-afghanistan-us-hostage/>

- **India starts new trade route to Afghanistan via Iran**

India has shipped its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan by sea through Iran's strategic Chahbahar Port, launching a new trade route to bypass Pakistan. The shipment, an Indian gift for Afghanistan, was sent on Sunday from the western seaport of Kandla. It will be taken by trucks to Afghanistan from the Iranian port, AP reports. The new trade route follows an air freight corridor introduced between India and Afghanistan in June last year. It is intended to provide greater access for Afghan goods to the Indian market.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/newsline/408180-india-trade-route-afghanistan/>

- **Ex-Taliban group member labels Taliban-led insurgency against Islam**

A former member of the Taliban group who surrendered to the security forces in northeastern Badakhshan province of Afghanistan, has called branded the insurgency led by Taliban as a move against Islam.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/ex-taliban-group-member-labels-taliban-led-insurgency-against-islam-03743>

- **China Provides Emergency Food Aid to Afghanistan**

Chinese embassy in Afghanistan said Sunday that China will provide Afghanistan with 4,242 tons of rice which is emergency food aid to the militancy-hit country.

More details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/social/item/30630-china-provides-emergency-food-aid-to-afghanistan.html>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Iran's FM Zarif to Visit Turkey Soon: Turkish Envoy**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will pay an official visit to Turkey in the next few days, Turkish Ambassador to Iran Reza Hakan Tekin announced. "... (Iranian Foreign Minister) Zarif will travel to Turkey in the coming days," Hakan Tekin said on Sunday during a ceremony in Tehran commemorating his country's Republic Day.

More details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/30/1560013/iran-s-fm-zarif-to-visit-turkey-soon-turkish-envoy>

- **Turkish foreign minister meets counterpart in Oman**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu discussed bilateral ties and latest regional developments with his counterpart Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah in capital Muscat on Sunday. Speaking after his meeting, Cavusoglu highlighted "excellent" ties between Turkey and Oman, noting that economic relations were also improving.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/195467/turkish-opposition-party-hopes-for-improvement-in-erbil>

- **Turkish opposition party hopes for improvement in Erbil**

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) hopes for normalization in northern Iraq following the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) President Masoud Barzani's announcement that he would be stepping down, according to the party's deputy chairman. Speaking to the media on

Monday, Ozturk Yilmaz said: "We hope that Kurdish Regional Government arranges a new deal under the Iraqi constitution.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/politics/turkish-opposition-party-hopes-for-improvement-in-erbil/951532>

*\*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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