



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

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Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

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1. IRAQ

- **UNAMI Condemns Killing of Kurdish Journalist**

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) condemns the killing of a journalist in Kirkuk Governorate today. UNAMI also condemns the assault against a journalist on Sunday in Erbil that left him injured, as well as intimidation and violence against members of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Parliament and political offices in the Kurdistan Region. UNAMI appreciates the stance of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC) that appealed to the people to keep calm in the wake of the political developments on Sunday 29 October, to prevent subversive individuals from carrying out destructive actions, warned against any attempt to target the political branch office of any political faction in the region and called on security forces to prevent any plot against the stability of the Kurdistan Region.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/389397>

- **Iraqi forces recapture more Islamic State havens near Anbar's Qaim**

Iraqi forces recaptured more areas from Islamic State militants on Tuesday as operations continue to retake the group's last bastions in western Anbar. The Joint Operations Command's War Media Cell said the forces recaptured several villages near the town of Qaim besides the town's "phosphate factory". According to the statement, troops became 13 kilometers away from central Qaim.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-forces-recapture-islamic-state-havens-near-anbars-qaim/>

- **President Discusses With Maliki and Najafi Political and Security Developments**

President Fuad Masum discussed with the Vice-President Nuri al-Maliki and Osama Najafi, all political and security developments. A presidential statement said "The meeting focused on the file of the upcoming legislative elections, where they stressed the need to make every effort to resolve all current problems between the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, which deepens national unity and promotes the gains of the federal democratic system. As well as guarantee constitutional rights and freedoms for all citizens.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?OckKc79lkiGEQ4VV8yEbVA%253d%253d

- **Abadi calls for tranquil following violence in Erbil and Duhok**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has issued a statement following violence in Erbil and Duhok, calling for calm and for avoiding chaos in Kurdistan Region. “We are closely watching developments in Kurdistan Region and the assaults on political parties’ offices and media workers, as well as attempts to induce chaos and turmoil in Erbil and Dohuk,” a statement by Abadi’s media office read. “That is something that harms our citizens in the region and the general situation,” it added.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42160

- **Iraqi Kurdish MPs consider next step as Barzani steps down as leader – video**

The Kurdistan Parliament considers dividing presidential powers between legislative, executive and judicial authorities after the term of the incumbent President of Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region, Massoud Barzani, expires on November 1, as announced on Sunday from Erbil. Earlier in the day, the 71-year-old Barzani announced that he would not seek extension of his presidential term, throwing the region’s leadership into doubt.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-kurdish-mps-consider-next-step-barzani-steps-leader-video/>

- **Saudi Arabian Airlines to Resumes Flights to Iraq**

State-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines said it will start flying regularly to Iraq on Monday after a 27-year halt, state news agency SPA said. The carrier’s director general, Saleh bin Nasser al-Jasser, will accompany reporters and passengers on the first flight to depart from the Saudi city of Jeddah to Baghdad, SPA said late on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.aviationpros.com/news/12377908/saudi-arabian-airlines-to-resumes-flights-to-iraq>

- **Iraq’s Kurds on what future holds post-Barzani**

Masoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), has decided not to extend his presidential term beyond November 1. His decision came just weeks after the failure of the independence referendum he championed. The move casts doubt over who will lead the KRG after he leaves office, and what it means for the future of Kurds in the country.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/iraqs-kurds-future-holds-post-barzani-171031131243207.html>

- **Bahraini Activist Deported to Iraq by Authorities after Serving Prison Term**

Authorities in Bahrain deported opposition activist, Ibrahim Karimi, after serving his prison term sentence, local reports said. Karimi was arrested in September 2015 and was accused of publicly insulting the King on Twitter, inciting hatred against the regime and insulting Saudi Arabia, based on tweets published via Twitter account, Bahrain Mirror reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960809001370>

- **Iraqi army takes control of border crossing from KRG forces**

Control of the Ibrahim Khalil border gate between Turkey and northern Iraq has been handed over to Baghdad, Turkey's prime minister announced on Tuesday. Speaking at the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group meeting, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Turkish officials will remain in control of the Habur border gate on the Turkish side of the border, while from now on the Ibrahim Khalil gate on the Iraqi side will be in the control of Iraqi authorities.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkey-and-iraq-conduct-joint-military-exercise-on-krq-border-crossing-11814>

- **Senior MP: Iran-Iraq Borders Safest in Region**

A senior Iranian lawmaker underlined that security has been restored along the Iran-Iraq border in cooperation with Baghdad officials. "The borders of Iran and Iraq are the safest ones in the region," Head of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi said on Tuesday. The senior Iranian lawmaker also praised the role of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) and religious authorities in fighting terrorism while visiting the Western borders with Iraq to inspect their conditions.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960809000842>

- **Iran Cancels Arbaeen Flights to Iraq Due to Dust Storms**

The rising level of dust pollution in Iraq forced Iranian airlines to cancel their flights to the Arab country's cities of Baghdad and Najaf ahead of Arbaeen, the 40th day after the anniversary of the

martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shiite Imam. With dust clouds reducing visibility, Iranian flights heading to Baghdad and Najaf were grounded or delayed for a second straight day on Tuesday, Iranian media reported.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/31/1561246/iran-cancels-arbaeen-flights-to-iraq-due-to-dust-storms>

- **PMF Commander: Hashd Al-Sha'abi Continue to Defend Iraq**

A high-ranking member of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces brushed off calls by the US to lay down their weapons, stressing that they will continue to defend the country. "The future of the PMF is to defend Iraq," The force's deputy chief, Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis said, presstv reported. "The Iraqi army and Iraqi police say they cannot operate without the support of the Hashd," he noted, using the group's Arabic name Hashd al-Sha'abi.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960809000785>

- **Iraq's Turkmen Invest in Kurds' Loss of Kirkuk**

Iraq's Turkmen have sought hard in recent days to exploit the ongoing crisis between Baghdad and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region for their favor, especially after the Iraqi government forces seized the majority disputed regions, including oil-rich Kirkuk. Kirkuk, whose population is 32 percent Turkmen, has been the focus of talks carried out by a Turkmen delegation that has visited Turkey.

More Details:

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1069011/iraq%E2%80%99s-turkmen-invest-kurds%E2%80%99-loss-kirkuk>

- **Daesh militants bribed Kurdish forces to flee Hawijah: Iraqi commanders**

Iraqi army commanders say Kurdish Peshmerga forces have helped members of the Daesh Takfiri militant group and their families escape the town of Hawijah prior to its liberation by the Iraqi military earlier this month. Mahdi Taki, a commander with the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), also known by its Arabic name Hashd al-Sha'abi, told the Middle East Eye (MEE) news portal on Monday that Daesh terrorists had bribed the Kurdish forces to secure their safe passage.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/31/540466/Iraq-Daesh-Peshmerga-Hawijah-Hashd-Shaabi>

- **US Military to Stay in Iraq Until Daesh Defeated © REUTERS/ Ammar Awad**

The United States will maintain military presence in Iraq under the Authorization for Use of Military Force until the Islamic State terror group (also known as ISIL, ISIS or Daesh in Arabic) is completely eliminated, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a congressional hearing. "We will remain in Iraq until ISIS is defeated... under the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs," Tillerson stated before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Monday. "We are there also at the invitation of the Iraqi government."

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710311058676919-usa-stay-iraq-afghanistan/>

- **UK foreign minister encourages Iraq, Kurdistan talks following Barzani resignation**

UK foreign secretary Boris Johnson said on Monday that it is imperative a peaceful resolution for the escalating tensions between the governments of Iraq and Kurdistan is found, in order to drive ISIL from the region. Mr Johnson spoke with both Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and the leader of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Masoud Barzani on Sunday, the same day Mr Barzani announced his resignation from his current role.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/uk-foreign-minister-encourages-iraq-kurdistan-talks-following-barzani-resignation-1.671604>

2. SYRIA

- **'Endless shadow war': Top Trump aides oppose limits on war powers**

Pentagon chief says Congress should not put geographic or time limits on the military's campaign against Islamic State and other militant groups. President Donald Trump's top national security aides on Monday urged US lawmakers reviewing congressional war authorisation to avoid imposing geographic or time limits on the military's campaign against Islamic State (IS) group and other militant groups.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/endless-shadow-war-top-trump-aides-oppose-limits-war-powers-2136817819>

- **13 million inside Syria need aid**

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or D'aesh) may be largely pushed out of Syria's Raqqa governorate, but after years of oppression and nearly a year of intense fighting – marked recently by heavy airstrikes – humanitarian needs will continue to be large for some time, the top United Nations relief official told the Security Council Monday. “Since the beginning of the anti-ISIL offensive in November last year, airstrikes and clashes have resulted in more than 436,000 people being displaced from Raqqa to 60 different locations, including in neighbouring governorates,” UN Emergency Relief Coordinator said briefing the Council via videoconference from Amman, Jordan.

More details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1710/S00309/13-million-inside-syria-need-aid.htm>

- **Convoy rolls into Damascus suburbs with aid for 40,000: U.N.**

A convoy from the United Nations and Syrian Arab Red Crescent entered towns in the besieged Damascus suburb of eastern Ghouta on Monday, bringing aid to 40,000 people for the first time since June 2016, the United Nations said. A tightening siege by government forces has pushed people to the verge of famine in the eastern suburbs, residents and aid workers said last week, bringing desperation to the only major rebel enclave near the Syrian capital.

More details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aid/convoy-rolls-into-damascus-suburbs-with-aid-for-40000-u-n-idUSKBN1CZ1PO>

- **Al-Nusra terrorists may have received Syria ‘aid’ sent to rebels by Qatar, US, Saudis – Qatari ex-FM**

Some of the military aid sent to the Syrian opposition by Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the US may have ended up in the hands of Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra terrorists, the Qatari foreign minister has admitted. The revelations, which are the first of their kind to emerge, were contained in a statement by Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, who served as Qatari foreign minister between 1992 and 2013. When the conflict started in Syria back in 2011, Hamad bin Jassim said that he went straight to the late Saudi King Abdullah, who then supported Doha’s plan on Syria.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/408240-qatar-minister-nusra-aid-syria/>

- **Syria Army News: Regime forces continue their offensive to fully recapture Deir Ezzor**

The Syrian army forces and allied foreign militias are continuing their offensive to fully recapture the city of Deir Ezzor, in eastern Syria, Qasioun News reported on the latest Syria army news on Monday.

Local sources informed that the Syrian army forces are continuing their military operations to recapture the city of Deir Ezzor completely, while aiming to retake al-Hamidya neighborhood, the second largest residential area in Deir Ezzor City.

More details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/arab-world-news/syria-army-news-regime-forces-continue-offensive-fully-recapture-deir-ezzor/>

- **Hundreds of ISIL Terrorists Escaping from Syria**

The websites quoted well-informed sources as saying that almost 1,500 ISIL fighters, including field commanders, have escaped regions controlled by the terrorist groups in Raqqa and Deir Ezzur provinces in the past 6 months. The websites also said that ISIL's death toll rose up to 500 in September, adding that the ISIL has carried out strict measures to prevent members' running away, punishing harshly those who tried to flee the battlefields.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960808000807>

- **Kurdish-led authorities in north Syria invited to Moscow-backed congress, official says**

Russia has invited the Kurdish-led authorities in northern Syria to its proposed congress of Syria's various ethnic groups, a senior Kurdish official told Reuters on Tuesday. "We are studying the issue and our stance has been positive so far," said Badran Jia Kurd, an adviser to the administration that governs Kurdish-led autonomous regions of northern Syria.

More Details:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-syria-kurds/kurdish-led-authorities-in-north-syria-invited-to-moscow-backed-congress-official-says-idUKKBN1D015P?rpc=401&>

- **Syria activists say 4 children killed in government shelling**

Syrian activists say at least four children have been killed when government shelling hit their school in a rebel-held town outside the capital Damascus. The Ghouta Media Center and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights say a shell landed Tuesday at the gate of a school in Jisreen, a town in the Eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus. The shelling killed five, including four children, and left many injured.

More Details:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/article181825526.html>

- **Second day of Syria peace talks begins in Astana**

A seventh round of peace talks aimed at ending the Syria conflict entered their second day on Tuesday in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. The talks, which will focus on strengthening a cease-fire that came into effect on Dec. 30, are brokered by Turkey, which backs the opposition, and Russia and Iran, who support Bashar al-Assad's regime.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/second-day-of-syria-peace-talks-begins-in-astana/952236>

- **Families stranded in Syria's Eastern Ghouta struggle to survive**

Around 400,000 people are trying to survive in the Eastern Ghouta district of Damascus that has been under siege of the Syrian regime for four years. A tightening siege by the regime forces has pushed people to the verge of famine in the Eastern suburbs, residents and aid workers said last week, bringing desperation to the only major rebel enclave near the Syrian capital.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/families-stranded-in-syria-s-eastern-ghouta-struggle-to-survive-11807>

3. IRAN

- **Iran, Russia Coordinate Policies for Syria Peace Talks**

As a new round of Syria peace negotiations is underway in Kazakhstan, top diplomats from Iran and Russia discussed the most recent developments in Syria and coordinated policies to help political efforts for the settlement of Syria crisis yield result. In a telephone conversation on Monday evening, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Russia counterpart Sergei Lavrov discussed the ways for closer coordination between Tehran and Moscow within the framework of the Astana negotiations.

More details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/31/1560895/iran-russia-coordinate-policies-for-syria-peace-talks>

- **Iran Unveils New Home-Made Advanced Radar System**

The Iranian defense ministry in a ceremony on Monday unveiled a new state-of-the-art radar system named 'Afaq' for coastguard forces. The ceremony was participated by Iranian Defense Minister

Brigadier General Amir Hatami. "The coast monitoring radar is capable of monitoring vessels in a range of 200km and it can also trace and hunt aerial targets," General Hatami said.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960808000774>

- **Iran censures Israel's bloody attack on lifeline tunnel in Gaza Strip**

Iran has slammed the Tel Aviv regime's latest attack on the Gaza Strip, which claimed the lives of eight people and injured many more. "The blood thirsty Zionist regime mistakenly thinks that by killing Palestinian youths it can break their will," said Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Monday.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/30/540429/israel-iran-palestine-slams-tunnel-qassemi>

- **Military chief: Iran will surely quit nuclear deal if sanctions return**

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces, said on Monday that Iran will definitely quit the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) if sanctions return. "It is the Islamic Republic of Iran's decision to accept some restrictions in the nuclear area to enjoy removal of nuclear-related sanctions, but if the sanctions return, it will make no sense to stay in the JCPOA," he told a conference on passive defense.

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/418067/Military-chief-Iran-will-surely-quit-nuclear-deal-if-sanctions>

- **Zarif, Lavrov talk on phone ahead of trilateral summit**

Foreign Ministers of Iran and Russia discussed bilateral issues on the phone on Tuesday, just a few hours before start of the Iran-Russia-Azerbaijan summit meeting in Tehran. Mohammad Javad Zarif and Sergei Lavrov discussed the issues of interest to Iran and Russia. The talks came ahead of the trilateral summit meeting of Iran, Russia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is scheduled for today (Oct 31) in Tehran.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82714336>

- **Iran decries Washington's use of propaganda to make statements**

Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani announced the adoption of new decisions on nuclear issues during the session between heads of three branches, and said the nature of Americans' remarks is more propaganda than serious action. Speaking to the reporters following the meeting between the heads of three branches, Larijani said foreign ministry delivers quarterly reports on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and National Security Commission also presents a semiannual report, but considering the recent complications, the commission could present a quarterly report as well in order to offer a clear vision of US action, IRNA reported.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/203462.html?catid=3&title=Iran-decries-Washington-s-use-of-propaganda-to-make-statements>

- **Regional nations must solve their own problems: President Rouhani**

President Hassan Rouhani has called on regional countries to try and resolve their problems via dialog in order to avoid foreign interference. Rouhani made the remarks following a meeting with Iranian Judiciary Chief Sadeq Larijani and Iranian Parliament speaker Ali Larijani on Monday.

More details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i66933-regional-nations-must-solve-their-own-problems-president-rouhani>

- **Iran oil supply risk to stagnate**

There is a risk of stagnating Iranian oil supplies in 2018, the US JP Morgan Bank analysts believe. The report obtained by Trend says that Iran's strong compliance with OPEC deal is mostly due to lower-than-expected new oil supply coming online since the sanctions were lifted.

More details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/business/2814767.html>

- **Teheran 'will keep producing missiles'**

Iran will continue to produce missiles for its defense and does not consider that a violation of international accords, President Hassan Rouhani has said in a speech broadcast on state television. Rouhani spoke days after the US House of Representatives voted for new sanctions against Iran's ballistic missile program, part of an effort to clamp down on Teheran without immediately moving to undermine an international nuclear agreement.

More details:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-10/31/content_33927216.htm

- **Judiciary chief calls for protecting economy in face of sanctions**

Iranian Judiciary Chief, Ayatollah Sadegh Amoli Larijani, urged administrative officials to strengthen the economy to not let Americans pose pressure through sanctions. “The new sanctions are different from CATSA sanctions (the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) which are in effect against IRGC,” said Ayatollah Sadegh Amoli Larijani, Iranian Judiciary Chief, on Monday, in Tehran.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/129072/Judiciary-chief-calls-for-protecting-economy-in-face-of-sanctions>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Bennett slams idf ‘apology’ for killing terrorists in tunnel**

The IDF was wrong to apologize for killing terrorists, Education Minister Naftali Bennett said Tuesday morning, after the military said the deaths were not intentional, drawing sharp criticism from the opposition. “We must not apologize for our success in eliminating terrorists,” Bennett, a member of the security cabinet, tweeted. “I will clarify: These are terrorists who were digging a tunnel of death – in Israeli territory – which was meant to kill Israeli women and children.”

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Bennett-slams-IDF-apology-for-killing-terrorists-in-tunnel-510934>

- **Knesset's legal advisor: PM immunity bill must be passed as Basic Law**

A bill being pushed by the Likud Party seeking to shield a sitting prime minister from police investigation cannot be passed as a regular law, only as a Basic Law, according to an opinion by Knesset legal advisor Eyal Yinon obtained by Ynet on Tuesday. Coalition Chairman MK David Bitan (Likud) announced Sunday that he intends to promote the bill as a regular law after coalition partners Kulanu and Bayit Yehudi raised objections to the legislation, also known as the "French Bill."

More Details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5036437,00.html>

- **Israel will neither support nor oppose Catalanian independence**

Diverging with the United States and the European Union, Israel has decided it would, for the time being, neither support nor oppose Catalanian independence, an Israeli news website reported. Spain on Friday requested that Israel align itself with many other Western nations in rejecting a vote declaring independence, according to the report Monday on the NRG news site. The vote was passed earlier that day by the majority of delegates in the regional government of Catalonia, a semi-autonomous area in the kingdom's northeast.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-will-neither-support-nor-oppose-catalonian-independence/>

- **New UN Plan Pumps \$18 Million into Anti-Israel Organizations**

The initiative represents a “collusion between UN agencies and radical anti-peace NGOs for political warfare.” Numerous organizations targeting Israel will soon be receiving millions of dollars from a UN agency to bolster activities intended to “hold Israel accountable for its obligations under international law,” according to a fresh report published by a Jerusalem-based organization.

More Details:

<https://unitedwithisrael.org/new-un-plan-pumps-18-million-into-anti-israel-organizations/>

- **Israeli forces detain 26 Palestinians in overnight raids**

Israeli forces detained at least 26 Palestinians during predawn raids Monday in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, according to Israeli and Palestinian sources. The Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) said in a statement on Monday that 23 Palestinians were detained from the West Bank and East Jerusalem, while an Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an that 26 Palestinians were detained from the West Bank.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779407>

- **Siblings shot near Ramallah-area settlement, one killed**

Israeli forces Tuesday opened fire at two Palestinian siblings near the illegal Israeli settlement of Halamish, northwest of Ramallah, killing the brother and wounding the sister, Palestinian and Israeli reports said. The Ministry of Health confirmed that Mohammad Abdullah Mousa, 26, from the village of Deir Ballout, west of Salfit, died on his way to an Israeli hospital after soldiers opened fire at his car. His sister, Latifa, 33, was injured in the shoulder and reported in moderate condition.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=LgVjKSa92307668211aLgVjKS>

- **Israel MK: Palestinians' 'Liability' Is That 'They Weren't Born Jews'**

An Israeli parliamentarian has expressed his support for formal apartheid, backing the annexation of the entire West Bank but without its Palestinian inhabitants being granted the right to vote. MK Miki Zohar, who is chair of the Knesset's Special Committee for Distributive Justice and Social Equality, expressed his views in an interview with Haaretz newspaper.

More Details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/israel-mk-palestinians-liability-is-that-they-werent-born-jews/>

- **Palestinian prisoner ordered to administrative detention instead of release after 9-month sentence**

One Palestinian prisoner, Fathi Hammad of al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah, was due to be released at the end of his 9-month sentence in Israeli prison on Saturday, 28 October, but was instead ordered to 6 months in administrative detention – imprisonment without charge or trial. Rather than being released to his friends and family, Hammad was subject to arbitrary detention on the basis of so-called “secret evidence” by military order.

More Details:

<http://samidoun.net/2017/10/palestinian-prisoner-ordered-to-administrative-detention-instead-of-release-after-9-month-sentence/>

- **Tensions rise after Israel blows up tunnel from Gaza**

Tensions rose Tuesday after an Israeli operation to blow up a tunnel from the Gaza Strip killed seven Palestinian militants in one of the deadliest incidents since a devastating 2014 war. The seven men, from the armed wings of Gaza's rulers Hamas and allied group Islamic Jihad, were killed Monday when Israel blew up the tunnel it said had crossed into its territory and was intended for attacks.

More Details:

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/23/tensions-rise-after-israel-blows-tunnel-gaza>

- **Palestinian dead, sister wounded by Israel soldier in West Bank**

Israeli occupation forces this morning opened fire on a Palestinian driver near the illegal settlement of Halamish to the west of the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, leaving the driver dead and his sister with a shoulder injury, the Safa news agency reported. The Palestinian Ministry of Health identified the victims as Mohamed Musa, 26, and his sister Latifa Musa, 33, who is said to be in a stable condition in a Palestinian hospital.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171031-palestinian-dead-sister-wounded-by-israel-soldier-in-west-bank/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Hariri 'Summoned' to KSA, Riyadh Wants Him to 'Distance Himself from Aoun'**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri's previously unannounced visit to Riyadh on Monday was not a normal visit and the premier was “summoned” to Saudi Arabia to be pressed on Hizbullah and on his ties with President Michel Aoun and the Free Patriotic Movement, a media report published Tuesday said. Quoting high-ranking Mustaqbal Movement sources, al-Akhbar newspaper said Hariri “went to Saudi Arabia directly after being summoned.”

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/237526-hariri-summoned-to-ksa-riyadh-wants-him-to-distance-himself-from-aoun>

- **Queen visits community development projects in Al Ardah**

Her Majesty Queen Rania on Monday visited the village of Al Bayoudha in Balqa Governorate, where she met with families, village elders and community leaders to discuss the village's community development projects, a statement from Her Majesty's Office said. The Queen began her visit at the Abdulrahman Bin Awf Charitable Society, where she met with representatives of communities across Al Ardah municipality. Established in 1990, the charitable society has contributed to the launch of several income-generating projects through its financing of sustainable agriculture and provision of training courses.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/queen-visits-community-development-projects-al-ardah>

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

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.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=36359#.WfhqNVu0Pcs>

- **Matias visits Hezbollah official Ammar moussawi**

Head of Hezbollah's International Relations, Ammar Moussawi, on Tuesday met with the Cahir of the European Parliament's Delegation for the relations with the Mashreq, Marisa Matias, in presence of the European Union Ambassador to Lebanon, Christina Lassen. According to a statement by Hezbollah, talks touched on an array of local affairs, in addition to the latest developments in the region and the Lebanese-European ties.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84849/Matias-visits-Hezbollah-official-Ammar-Moussawi>

- **King starts working visit to Kazakhstan tomorrow**

His Majesty King Abdullah II will start an official working visit to Kazakhstan on Tuesday, during which he will meet Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, for talks on bilateral cooperation between the countries. King Abdullah and President Nazarbayev will also discuss the latest regional and international developments.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=324957&CatID=13

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

Hezbollah terrorismSaudi 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/>

- **US Fears War on Iran: IRGC Commander**

Commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Ali Jaafari said Americans must know that Iran's defensive and missile capabilities is the honor of the Iranian nation. Addressing a conference entitled "A World Free of Terror" in Tehran on Tuesday, Major General Jaafari said Americans, considering that they became disappointed with their plots against the Iranian nation, realizing that their previous pressures have made Iranians more resistant, and the

Islamic Republic of Iran is still going its own way, decided to impose economic sanctions against Iranian nation.

More Details:

<http://english.almanar.com.lb/375307>

- **Lebanon PM Summoned to Saudi, Asked to 'Distance Himself' from President Aoun**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri's previously unannounced visit to Riyadh on Monday was not a normal visit and the premier was “summoned” to Saudi Arabia to be pressed on Hezbollah and on his ties with President Michel Aoun and the Free Patriotic Movement, a media report published Tuesday said. Quoting high-ranking Mustaqbal Movement sources, al-Akhbar newspaper said Hariri “went to Saudi Arabia directly after being summoned.”

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/lebanon-pm-summoned-saudi-asked-distance-himself-president-aoun-1041668>

- **Aoun Sounds Alarm on the Number of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun warned on Monday that the presence of Syrian refugees in Lebanon represented a real danger. During a meeting on Monday with a delegation from the European Parliament for Relations with the Arab Mashreq countries led by Marisa Mattias, and in the presence of European Union Ambassador to Lebanon Christina Lassen, Aoun underlined the need for a political solution to the Syrian crisis, but noted that “this solution does not seem imminent and Lebanon can no longer tolerate the simmering refugee situation.”

More Details:

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1069051/aoun-sounds-alarm-number-syrian-refugees-lebanon>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi Arabia to extract uranium for 'self-sufficient' nuclear program**

Saudi Arabia plans to extract uranium domestically as part of its nuclear power program and sees this as a step toward “self-sufficiency” in producing atomic fuel, a senior official said on Monday. Extracting its own uranium also makes sense from an economic point of view, said Hashim bin Abdullah Yamani, head of the Saudi government agency tasked with the nuclear plans, the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE).

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1185891/middle-east>

- **Saudis to open sports stadiums to women in reform push**

Saudi Arabia will allow women into sports stadiums for the first time from next year, authorities said on Sunday, in a landmark move that opens up three previously male-only venues to families. The ultra-conservative kingdom has long barred women from sports arenas by strict rules on segregation of the sexes in public.

More details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/saudi-arabia-to-open-sports-stadiums-to-women-in-reform-push-11775>

- **Cabinet Resigns**

Kuwait's Cabinet has resigned and Prime Minister Sheik Jaber Al Mubarak Al Sabah has submitted the cabinet's resignation to the Amir, the official news agency Kuna confirmed today.

More details:

<http://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/64688-2/>

- **UAE is committed to using nuclear energy to meet national development requirements: Minister of Energy**

The United Arab Emirates is committed to using nuclear energy to materialise its national developmental needs, said Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry, on Monday.

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302642740>

- **Islamophobia declined in the West on 3rd quarter of 2017, says OIC**

The phenomenon of Islamophobia has seen a decline during the third quarter of 2017, especially in Western countries, according to a report released by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, OIC, on Monday.

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302642753>

- **Bahraini ambassador participates in Turkey's 94th anniversary**

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Republic of Turkey, Dr. Ibrahim Yousif Al-Abdullah, conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during a ceremony that was held at the presidential palace in Ankara, on the occasion of 94th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

More Details:

<http://www.4-traders.com/news/Bahraini-ambassador-participates-in-Turkey-s-94th-anniversary--25402381/>

- **Bahrain to boycott GCC summits attended by Qatar**

Manama: Bahrain will not attend any Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit or meeting if Qatar is attending unless Doha corrects its approach, recovers its senses and responds to the demands of the countries that long suffered from it, King Hamad Bin Eisa Al Khalifa said on Monday.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/bahrain/bahrain-to-boycott-gcc-summits-attended-by-qatar-1.2115890>

- **Bahrain woman on hunger strike sentenced to three years**

A detainee at a Bahraini women's prison who has refused food to demand better conditions was sentenced to three years along with her son and nephew Monday, a rights group said. Hajar Mansoor Hassan, her son Sayed Nizar Alwadaei and nephew Mahmood Marzouq were charged under the Gulf state's counter-terrorism law with planting a fake bomb, the Bahrain Institute for Human Rights and Democracy (BIRD) said in a statement.

More details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=85681>

- **Ministry of Manpower warns over hiring illegal expat workers**

Muscat: Oman's Manpower Ministry wants everyone in the country to stop hiring illegal workers - in an effort to curb the curse. In a series of statements posted online, the ministry revealed that regular 24/7 squads are arresting tens of thousands of illegal workers - but that education is the key to stamp out the problem.

More details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/120747/Oman/Ministry-of-Manpower-calls-everyone-in-Oman-to-help-battle-illegal-expat-workers-problem>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt and EU sign Euro 600 mln in deals for social, environmental and infrastructure projects**

Egypt signed three agreements and a memorandum of understanding with the European Union on Sunday, providing for Euro 600 million in funding for social, environmental and infrastructure projects, the investment ministry said in a statement. The documents were signed by Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr and EU commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn.

More details:

<http://www.egyptdailynews.com/detail/egypt-and-eu-sign-euro--mln-in-deals-for-social-environmental-and-infrastructure-projects>

- **UK says investing \$97 mln in Upper Egypt's Benban Solar Park**

The UK is investing over \$97 million in Upper Egypt's Benban Solar Park, set to be the largest solar installation in the world, the British Embassy announced on Monday. In an official statement, the embassy said the investment by CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution, is a part of an International Financial Cooperation (IFC)-led consortium providing a \$653 million debt package to fund 13 new solar-power plants – the Nubian Suns – in the Southern Egyptian city of Aswan.

More details:

<http://www.egyptdailynews.com/detail/uk-says-investing--mln-in-upper-egypts-benban-solar-park>

- **MP drafts law to abolish political parties not represented in parliament**

Egyptian MP Ahmed Refaat said that Egypt has 104 non-effective political parties, which he claims are receiving foreign funding. Refaat recently suggested a draft law that would eliminate political parties in Egypt that are not represented inside of the country's parliament.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/mp-drafts-law-abolish-political-parties-not-represented-parliament/>

- **World Youth Forum to kick off on 4 November**

The World Youth Forum, sponsored by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, is set to kick off on Saturday in touristic destination Sharm El-Sheikh, with the attendance of dozens of youth from different countries.

More details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/30/world-youth-forum-kick-off-4-november/>

- **Official in Minya governorate office detained over bribery**

El-Minya Prosecution headed by Nagaty Al-Bakry ordered on Monday detention of official of public office of the governorate and two others, for four days pending investigation due to charges of bribery.

More details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/30/official-minya-governorate-office-detained-bribery/>

- **Egypt: Middle East's stability one of our foreign policy priorities**

Stability in the Middle East is one of Egypt's most important foreign policy goals, foreign ministry spokesperson Ahmed Abu Zeid said yesterday. "Maintaining Arab national security, safety and stability of the Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf states, is a fundamental pillar in terms of the region's stability," Abu Zeid stressed.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171031-egypt-middle-east-stability-one-of-our-foreign-policy-priorities/>

- **Egypt's Sisi shakes up security sector after recent attacks**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi removed his armed forces chief of staff, Gen. Mahmoud Hegazy, over the weekend and the Interior Ministry is reportedly shaking up security personnel, including removing the chief of national security and other high-ranking security personnel. The changes come after three years in power during which Sisi has attempted to bring security to the country amid challenges from terrorist groups operating in Sinai and along the Libyan border.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Egypt-s-Sisi-shakes-up-security-sector-after-recent-attacks-510921>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Niger Expresses ‘Concern’ over Algeria’s ill-treatment of Sub-Saharan Migrants**

Niamey has had enough with Algeria’s ill treatment of Nigerien nationals, after 950 of them were summarily deported last week to Niger’s borders. As Algeria turns a deaf ear to the calls by international rights NGOs to halt the inhumane treatment of Sub-Saharan migrants, Niger’s Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yacoubou officially expressed his country’s concern over the surge in the numbers who were forcibly expelled by Algeria and abandoned on the borders in harsh conditions.

More Details:

<http://northafricapost.com/20411-niger-expresses-concern-algerias-ill-treatment-sub-saharan-migrants.html>

- **Morocco Hosts Regional African Meeting on Migration**

The Moroccan city of Skhirat, a few kilometers away from the capital Rabat, will host a regional meeting on migration in Africa this Monday October 30. The meeting, which will be held until Wednesday November 1, will be chaired by Morocco’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Nacer Bourita, and is going to be the first step towards the drafting of an “African Agenda on Migration.”

More details:

<http://marocgazette.com/story-z2846283>

- **Tunisian Parliament Still Unable to Elect ISIE President**

The House of People's Representatives (HPR), on Monday, failed again to elect a president of the Independent High Authority for Elections. At the end of the vote held in plenary session last Friday, none of the two candidates who had qualified for the second round:

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9514653-parliament-still>

- **Benghazi attack: US captures a suspect in the consular attack Libya over 2012 raid**

US forces have captured a man accused of involvement in the 2012 attack on an American compound in the Libyan city of Benghazi, President Donald Trump said. Mustafa al-Imam was seized in Libya, the president said in a statement. Mr al-Imam is facing charges including murder. The US ambassador and three other Americans died in the incident.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-41811859>

- **European Parliament President, Antonio Tajani's Official Visit to Tunisia**

Tajani said 'Tunisia is a young democracy, a friend and a key partner of the European Union. We face common challenges requiring a joint response: stability in the Mediterranean and in Africa, the fight against terrorism and radicalisation, the management of migration flows and youth unemployment.'

More details:

<http://tdailynews.net/story-z9487430>

- **UNSMIL chief says no mass killers have been brought to justice**

Regarding the mass killings in Al-Abyar within last two years, Ghassan Salame protested the situation by pointing at the lack of prosecution for perpetrators. Referring to the massacre in Al-Abyar, he said: "I am appalled by this heinous crime. I call for a prompt, impartial and effective investigation to bring perpetrators to justice".

More details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/30/unsmil-chief-says-no-mass-killers-have-been-brought-to-justice/>

- **Adrift in Algiers: African migrants marooned in a new transit bottleneck**

With Libya's civil war closing off usual routes to Europe, desperate sub-Saharan migrants are turning to neighbouring Algeria, where there is little support. The wave of arrests and expulsions of sub-Saharan migrants from the Algerian capital has strained the atmosphere further.

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/31/algeria-african-migrants-libya-civil-war-europe>

- **15 civilians killed in barbaric airstrikes on Derna**

Local media and Derna sources reported that the airstrikes hit civilians' houses and left several casualties most of whom were women and children. 15 civilians, mostly women and children, have been killed, while 25 other people were injured in airstrikes by unknown warplanes on Al-Fatayeh district in Derna.

More details:

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/15C2%A0civilians-killed-barbaric-airstrikes-derna>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistan's DGMO lambasts Indian counterpart for targeting civilians on LoC**

Pakistan's director-general of military operations Major-General Sahir Shamshad Mirza said, "Indian troops are deliberately targeting innocent civilians including children... such deliberate actions are of serious concern and a violation of the 2003 agreement." On allegation of targeting of civilians by Pakistan Army, DGMO Pakistan army stated that as a professional force it has never done this.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/240734-Pakistans-DGMO-lambasts-Indian-counterpart-for-targeting-civilians-on-LoC>

- **Afghanistan: MPs reject president's decree on population law**

The Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Monday rejected a presidential legislative decree seeking amendment to the population registration law. Many people around the country opposed the law and demanded addition of nationality and tribe in new computerized identity cards after the president approved the law in September 2014.

More details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/30/mps-reject-president%E2%80%99s-decree-population-law>

- **Kabul committed to reconciliation both with Taliban and Pakistan: Ghani**

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani says the Afghan government's peace efforts concentrates on two dimensions, including reconciliation with Pakistan as well as the Taliban group. President Ghani said practical steps must be taken to eliminate the sources funding and supporting the terror groups

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/kabul-committed-to-reconciliation-both-with-taliban-and-pakistan-ghani-03750>

- **ISIS and Taliban casualties further rise amid ongoing clashes in Nangarhar**

The casualties of the Taliban and ISIS insurgents have further increased amid ongoing clashes between the two sides in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. Five ISIS and six Taliban insurgents were killed while five Taliban militants and seven ISIS insurgents were wounded.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/isis-and-taliban-casualties-further-rise-amid-ongoing-clashes-in-nangarhar-03745>

- **92 Terrorists Killed Across The Country**

According to national defense ministry press office to BNA, the operations with support of air and artillery forces conducted in Ghazni, Khost, Paktika, Logar, Zabul, Farah, Herat, Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunduz and Helmand provinces, 92 terrorists have been killed while 42 others are injured.

More details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/30640-92-terrorists-killed-across-the-country.html>

- **Abdullah Asks UN to Impose Sanctions on Taliban Leaders**

CEO of the National Unity Government (NUG) Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday called on the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee to improve monitoring mechanisms and impose sanctions on Taliban's leaders.

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan/abdullah-asks-un-impose-sanctions-taliban-leaders>

- **Standard & Poor's maintains Pakistan's investment rating at 'highly speculative'**

Standard and Poor's credit rating agency has kept Pakistan's investment rating unchanged at 'highly speculative', but lowered its expectations for better external and fiscal performance due to an upsurge in imports and higher budget deficit.

More details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1545615/2-standard-poors-maintains-pakistans-investment-rating-highly-speculative/>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Iran, Turkey, Russia discuss documents on Syrian crisis**

Delegations of Iran, Russia, and Turkey to the International Syria Conference in Astana held a trilateral meeting on Monday in the Kazakh capital, Astana. Iran's Hossein Jaber Ansari, Russia's Alexander Lavrentiev, and Turkey's Sedat Ünal, the heads of the three guarantor states' delegations, exchanged views on the documents that are discussed in this round of Astana Process.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/129082/Iran-Turkey-Russia-discuss-documents-on-Syrian-crisis>

- **Turkey and Qatar: Behind the strategic alliance**

The third meeting of Turkey-Qatar Supreme Strategic Committee at the ministerial level kicked off in Istanbul on Monday, October 23. Al Jazeera examines the strategic relationship binding the two countries.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/turkey-qatar-strategic-alliance-171024133518768.html>

- **Turkish, Iraqi forces reach border crossing on Iraqi side**

Turkish and Iraqi military forces have reached the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing between Turkey's southeastern province of Sirnak and northern Iraq, with Iraqi forces due to take control of the gate from the northern Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). The Erbil-based KRG is expected to hand over control of the gate on the Iraqi side of the border -- which faces the Habur gate, on the Turkish side -- in the coming hours, with the KRG flag at the crossing replaced by the flag of Iraq's central government.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-iraqi-forces-reach-border-crossing-on-iraqi-side/952212>

- **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-foreign-minister-meets-counterpart-in-oman>

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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