



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Proces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliği

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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05 OCTOBER 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **Allawi: Unconditional Dialogue under the Constitution Is the Reasonable Solution To End The Current Crisis**

Vice President of the Republic Iyad Allawi confirmed that the unconditional dialogue and under the roof of the Constitution is a reasonable solution to end the crisis between the federal governments and the Kurdistan region of Iraq. "Allawi received Maxim Maximov, the Russian ambassador to Iraq, and discussed with him the developments of the political situation and the current crisis," the office of the vice president said in a statement.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?orXqwfl5z2txBE4JLLRGnw%253d%253d

- **Three IS suicide bombers killed in confrontations with security in Ramadi**

Three Islamic State militants were killed in confrontations, south of Ramadi, Anbar Operations Command announced. "Security services managed to kill three IS suicide attackers after confrontations in al-Tash region, south of Ramadi," a source from the command told AlSumaria News on Thursday.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/three-suicide-bombers-killed-confrontations-security-ramadi/>

- **Iraqi Sunnis Seeking to Establish Self-governing Region**

Following Kurdistan Region's independence referendum, Sunni Arabs in central and Northern provinces of Iraq are planning to organize a referendum on establishing an autonomous region for their areas. Sheikh Muzahim al-Hwet, a Sunni Arab tribal figure and the spokesperson for the Sunni tribes in Nineveh Plain, told BasNews that the Sunni region will include Nineveh, Anbar, Diyala, Salahuddin and the Sunni-majority areas in Baghdad which is called the Baghdad Belt.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/383354>

- **UN Secretary-General Spokesman's daily briefing and remarks on Iraq in New York**

Excerpts from the remarks on Iraq by Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, at the daily briefing at UN Headquarters in New York, on 03 October 2017: We have been asked in recent days about our efforts to deal with the authorities in Baghdad and Erbil. And I can say that we welcome efforts to resolve the issues between Baghdad and Erbil based on the Constitution, notably

the intervention of the religious authority Ayatollah [Ali] al-Sistani last Friday that urged respect for the Constitution and the Supreme Federal Court's decision as regards to the referendum. We also welcome other initiatives to resolve the crisis within the constitutional framework and in full respect of Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, to re start dialogue and cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil on this basis.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=42061

- **France to grant €430m loan to Iraq - Abadi**

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced on Thursday that France would grant a €430 million loan to Iraq for the rehabilitation of districts that have been liberated from ISIS terrorists. France is a key member of the US-led coalition that has been battling ISIS in Iraq and neighboring Syria.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17817/France-to-grant-430m-loan-to-Iraq-Abadi>

- **Iraq warns KRG against deploying peshmerga in Kirkuk, calls for joint administration**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi warned the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) on Tuesday not to mobilize its armed peshmerga forces in the disputed northern city of Kirkuk and called for a joint administration in the governorate. Abadi, however, did not elaborate on the further details on how the joint administration would work. The remarks came during the prime minister's weekly press conference at the government headquarters in Baghdad following a cabinet meeting.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2017/10/05/iraq-warns-krp-against-deploying-peshmerga-in-kirkuk-calls-for-joint-administration>

- **Former Rep. Frank Wolf: Christianity in Iraq Will 'End' Without 'Bold Action'**

The United States must take "bold action" by the end of 2017 to prevent Christianity in Iraq — the cradle of Christendom — from disappearing in just "a few short years," warns former Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA). Wolf's comments came via written testimony prepared for a Senate panel hearing Wednesday on the future of Iraqi minorities after the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) is defeated.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/04/former-congressman-christianity-in-cradle-iraq-will-end-absent-bold-action/>

- **Iraq forces retake centre of IS bastion Hawija: army**

Iraqi forces said Thursday they had retaken the centre of Islamic State group stronghold Hawija and were pushing forward in their assault on one of the last IS enclaves in the country. Troops, police and paramilitaries "liberated the whole of the centre of Hawija and are continuing their advance," the operation's commander, Lieutenant General Abdel Amir Yarallah, said.

More Details:

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/23/iraq-forces-retake-centre-bastion-hawija-army>

- **Defence minister: Czechs to send unit to Iraq next year**

The Czech military may send a unit of 200-300 soldiers from various fields to Iraq next year, Martin Stropnický (ANO) told journalists on Wednesday, but the plan is yet to be approved by the government and the Chamber of Deputies to arise from the October election. At the beginning of next year, a 12-member training team for weapons of mass destruction will fly to Iraq, Stropnický said. At present, there are over 30 Czech soldiers from an air force training team helping Iraqis in the piloting and servicing of the Czech-made L-159 aircraft.

More Details:

<http://www.praguemonitor.com/2017/10/05/defence-minister-czechs-send-unit-iraq-next-year>

- **Leaders of Iraq, France meet on fight against Islamic State**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris for talks on the international fight against Islamic State group extremists and rebuilding Iraq's economy. Macron has been reticent about the escalating tensions between Iraq's government and its Kurdish region following its independence referendum.

More Details:

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2017/10/05/leaders-iraq-france-meet-on-fight-against-islamic-state.html>

- **Breakup of Iraq serves interests of US, Israel: Analyst**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the United States and Israel benefit from the recent referendum in Iraq's Kurdistan region, stressing that Washington and some of its allies seek to create a new Israel. The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Tehran on Wednesday. Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that holding the Kurdish vote in Iraq was an act of betrayal against the region and posed a threat to the future of the Middle East, warning about the long-term repercussions of the vote for Iraq's neighbors.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/05/537530/Iraq-Kurdistan-secession-Iran-Turkey-US-Israel>

- **Iraq delivers gas to Kuwait as part of Gulf War compensation**

Kuwait has approved an Iraqi offer to received natural gas as part of the Gulf War compensation it is due, Kuwaiti oil minister Essam Al-Marzouq announced yesterday. “The Kuwaiti and Iraqi sides are currently discussing the price details,” Al-Marzouq told Kuwait’s Al-Watan at a press conference.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171005-iraq-delivers-gas-to-kuwait-as-part-of-gulf-war-compensation/>

- **Iraq's PM says doesn't want armed clash with Kurds**

Iraq’s prime minister said on Thursday he did not want an armed clash with Kurdish Iraqi authorities and urged Peshmerga forces in disputed areas to work with Iraqi security forces under the control of the central government. “We do not want an armed confrontation, we don’t want clashes, but the federal authority must prevail and nobody can infringe on the federal authority,” Haider al-Abadi said in a statement alongside French President Emmanuel Macron.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-france-iraq/iraqs-pm-says-doesnt-want-armed-clash-with-kurds-idUSL8N1MG1QA?rpc=401&>

- **Iran, Iraq discuss bilateral ties, regional developments**

Iranian Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs Mohammad Hossein Zolfaqari and the Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Ja'fari in a meeting in Baghdad on Thursday discussed mutual cooperation as well as international and regional developments. The top officials discussed the recent developments in the region, recent developments in fighting Daesh, and bilateral cooperation, the aftermath of Iraqi Kurdistan referendum, especially holding Arbaceen annual rituals.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82686027>

- **US seeks ‘new Israel’ in region, Khamenei says of Iraq Kurd referendum**

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Wednesday that the United States and Israel were some of the only countries benefiting from the recent referendum in Iraq’s Kurdistan region and that Washington and other Western powers were seeking to “create a new Israel” in the Middle

East. Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who was in Iran on a state visit.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-seeks-new-israel-in-region-khamenei-says-of-iraq-kurd-referendum/>

- **Iraq's PM Urges Kurdish Peshmerga Forces to Join Iraqi Army after Referendum**

Haider Abadi said that Baghdad respects "ambitions" of Kurdish citizens but stressed that the authority of the federal government should extend to all regions of Iraq. "I ask the Peshmerga to cooperate with the Iraqi Armed Forces, like they did in Mosul earlier," Abadi said at a joint news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710051057968979-abadi-peshmerga-referendum-iraqi-army/>

- **Iraq eases financial restrictions on Kurdistan region**

Iraq's central bank yesterday eased financial restrictions imposed on the Kurdistan region, after receiving a cooperation pledge from Kurdish banks, an Iraqi banking source said. Dollar and foreign currency transfers were allowed to continue yesterday, with the exception of four Kurdish-owned banks, the source told Reuters.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171005-iraq-eases-financial-restrictions-on-kurdistan-region/>

- **France's Emmanuel Macron urges dialogue between Kurds and Iraq government**

France's President Emmanuel Macron has offered to mediate between the Iraqi government and Kurds seeking independence after a controversial referendum. Mr Macron made the offer after meeting Iraqi prime minister Haider al-Abadi in Paris on Thursday in wide-ranging talks about French support for the fight against the Islamic State group and rebuilding Iraq's economy.

More Details:

<https://guernseypress.com/news/world-news/2017/10/05/frances-emmanuel-macron-urges-dialogue-between-kurds-and-iraq-government/>

2. SYRIA

- **Syria war: Russian strike 'critically injures' jihadist leader Jawlani**

Russia says one of its air strikes in Syria has critically injured the leader of an al-Qaeda-linked jihadist alliance and 12 of his field commanders. The defence ministry cited its sources as confirming that Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani lost limbs in the attack in the north province of Idlib on Tuesday. The strike came after Russia's military learnt where Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) commanders were due to meet, it added.

More details:

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-41496773?intlink_from_url=http://www.bbc.com/news/topics/45d1e6e1-6001-4449-801d-ba85eed04025/syrian-civil-war&link_location=live-reporting-story

- **Hezbollah commander killed in clashes with Daesh in Syria**

The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement says one of its senior commanders has been killed during clashes with Takfiri Daesh terrorists in central Syria. Hezbollah said on Wednesday that 44-year-old Ali al-Hadi al-Ashiqon, also known by his nickname Alhaj Abbas, was martyred in Syria's central desert of Palmyra on Monday, AP reported.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/10/04/537447/Syria-Lebanon-Hezbollah-Daesh-Russia>

- **Syrian regime forces enter buffer zone surrounding US base**

Forces aligned with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad made an incursion Wednesday into the 55km "de-confliction zone" surrounding the US base located at the At Tanf garrison in southeastern Syria, according to the US-led military coalition fighting ISIS. "There was an incursion into the de-confliction zone," coalition spokesman US Army Col. Ryan Dillon told CNN, adding that after the pro-regime troops entered the zone, the US-led coalition used the pre-established de-confliction hotline and communicated the incursion to the Russians. Following that communication, the pro-regime forces withdrew.

More details:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/10/04/politics/syria-russia-us-assad-at-tanf/index.html>

- **Full report: Situation in eastern Syria following ISIS offensive**

One week ago, the ISIS terrorist group launched a powerful multi-front offensive against the Syrian Arab Army in eastern Syria. The offensive, code-named 'Abu Mohammad al-Adnani,' saw the jihadist faction take control of large sections of the M20 highway and make threatening gains in the direction of as-Sukhnah and the T-3 military airport. Pro-government forces quickly counter-attacked and have since reversed most ISIS gains. The first thing worth clarifying is that the strategic towns of Kattajb and ash-Shoula –

More details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/full-report-situation-eastern-syria-following-isis-offensive/>

- **Russian captive in Syria identified as Cossack**

A paramilitary Russian group says it has identified one of the men reportedly captured in Syria by the Islamic State group as its member. The development comes after IS released a video on Tuesday purporting to show two Russian soldiers the extremists claim to have captured in fighting in eastern Syria. Russia's Defense Ministry insisted no Russian servicemen have been taken in Syria.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/04/latest-russian-captive-in-syria-identified-as-cossack.html>

- **Russia says IS attacks in Syria come from location near US forces**

A spokesman for Russia's Defense Ministry said on Wednesday that a series of attacks launched by Islamic State in Syria on government forces had come from an area near the border with Jordan where a U.S. military mission was located. The spokesman, Major-General Igor Konashenkov, said in a statement the attackers had the precise coordinates of the Syrian government forces, which could only have been obtained through aerial reconnaissance.

More details:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/04/russia-says-is-attacks-in-syria-come-from-location-near-us-forces.html>

- **Russia's new mine-clearing hardware gets high praise in Syria**

Russia's advanced mine-clearing vehicles and combat engineer protective gear have demonstrated high results in Syria, Commander of Russian Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant-General Yuri Stavitsky said on Thursday. "Perhaps, we have advanced quite enough in protective gear and I can say responsibly that we have probably taken up the leading role. This has been proven in Syria as we

have not sustained losses, although there have been instances but personnel are alive," he said at an international conference on humanitarian mine clearing.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/defense/969160>

- **Syria violence at worst level since Aleppo: ICRC**

The worst fighting since the battle for eastern Aleppo last year is raging in several regions of Syria, causing hundreds of civilian casualties, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said. Up to 10 hospitals have been reportedly damaged in the past 10 days, cutting off hundreds of thousands of people from access to health care, the aid agency said in a statement on Thursday, voicing alarm at the situation from Raqqa to Idlib and eastern Ghouta.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/syria-violence-worst-level-aleppo-icrc-171005104329409.html>

- **Job fair offers hope for Syria refugees in Jordan**

After five years without work, Syrian refugee Mohammed Ahmad was nervous but hopeful as he registered with as many firms as possible at a unique job fair in Jordan's sprawling Zaatari camp where he lives. Around 50 companies were represented at the one-day event Wednesday as they scouted for candidates to fill some 1,000 job opportunities, compiling lists of applicants by name, age and qualification.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4951530/Job-fair-offers-hope-Syria-refugees-Jordan.html>

- **"Everywhere the bombing followed us" Forced displacement and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas - Perspectives of Syrian women refugees in Lebanon**

Handicap International today published its new report 'Everywhere the bombing followed us'. Based on a survey of 205 Syrian refugees in Lebanon and in-depth interviews of 14 Syrian women refugees, the report reveals the multiple forced displacements caused by bombings. The report highlights the specific impact of destruction caused by these bombings on women.

More Details:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/everywhere-bombing-followed-us-forced-displacement-and-use-explosive-weapons>

3. IRAN

- **Iran sentences member of nuclear negotiating team to five years in jail**

The nuclear deal reached in 2015 between Iran, the United States and five other major powers led to the lifting of most of the international sanctions against Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme. But the potential detente with the west has alarmed Iranian hardliners, who have seen a flood of European trade and investment delegations arrive in Tehran to discuss possible deals, according to Iran experts.

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/04/iran-sentences-member-of-nuclear-negotiating-team-to-five-years-in-jail>

- **Nuke deal hangs in balance as Trump plans Iran policy speech**

President Donald Trump could announce his secret decision on the future of the Iran nuclear deal next week. U.S. officials familiar with the president's planning said Wednesday he is preparing to deliver an Iran policy speech in which he is expected to declare the landmark 2015 agreement contrary to America's national security interests.

More details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/face-saving-fix-trump-decide-iran-deals-future-50271025>

- **Iran rejects US human trafficking report as baseless**

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi has rejected as "baseless" a recent US report linking Tehran to human trafficking. On Wednesday, Qassemi stressed that the report had been compiled with "invalid information and baseless accusations" against Iran.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/10/04/537504/iran-qassemi-us-human-trafficking>

- **Iran's Decision on Reacting to US JCPOA Withdrawal to Be Taken at Highest Level**

An Iranian vice president voiced the country's readiness to deal with all scenarios regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying a decision on reaction to the possible US withdrawal from the nuclear deal would be made at the highest level. Asked by reporters about Iran's response to the US administration's possible move to scrap the JCPOA, the nuclear agreement between Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany), Mohammad Nahavandian said on Wednesday that any decision about such a reaction would be made at the highest level.

More details

<http://irannewsdaily.com/irans-decision-reacting-us-jcpoa/>

- **Shoot-down of Iran Air Flight 655 still defines US-Iran relations**

Even more shocking than the number of people who have forgotten about Iran Air Flight 655, is the number of people who've never heard about it in the first place. Quite frankly, it is nothing short of astounding.

More details

<http://www.news24.com/Columnists/GuestColumn/shoot-down-of-iran-air-flight-655-still-defines-us-iran-relations-20171004>

- **Iran's H1 non-oil trade up 6% yr/yr**

According to the latest report published by IRICA, Iran's exports of non-oil goods stood at \$20.544 billion during this year's first half, indicating 3.2 percent fall from the non-oil exports figure in the first six months of the preceding year. Gas condensate, polyethylene grades used in film application, liquefied propane, low-density oils and methanol were the major exported products with China, Iraq, the UAE, South Korea and India on top of the Iranian goods' buyers.

More details

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417279/Iran-s-H1-non-oil-trade-up-6-yr-yr>

- **Border violation: 11 mortar shells fired from Iran land in Panjgur**

Iranian troops fired at least 11 mortar shells into a town in Panjgur district in Balochistan in a new act of border violation on Wednesday. Islamabad strongly protested at the diplomatic level against the aggression and continued border violation by shelling into its territory.

More details

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1523002/11-mortar-shells-fired-iran-land-panjgur-district/>

- **Leader's Top Military Aide Warns of Long War by Changing Regional States Borders**

Top Military Aide to the Iranian Supreme Leader Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi blamed the US and Israel for coaxing the Iraqi Kurdistan region officials into holding an independence referendum, warning that any change in the regional states' geopolitical borders can lead to long tensions and war. "We think that creation of a new country or government in the region is desired by the arrogant system, headed by the US and the Zionists, because changing the region's geopolitical borders means permanent tensions and long war between four regional states and a de facto government in the

future which wants to be formed and this insecurity and tension is desired by the Zionist regime and the Americans for permanent deployment in the region," General Rahim Safavi said on Wednesday.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960712000933>

- **Iran against foreigners' secessionist plot in region**

On his Instagram page, President Rouhani wrote, "the people of Iraqi Kurdistan are our good neighbors and dear brothers, but we never accept the secession policy that foreigners have plotted for our region." "We do not accept the separatism and the escalation of ethno-religious conflicts created by aliens against our region," Rouhani underlined.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128366/Iran-against-foreigners-secessionist-plot-in-region>

- **Congress needing proof to quit Iran Deal**

James Mattis' support for the Iran Deal affected the Congress positively; apart from the Democrats, Republicans are worried about withdrawing from the Iran Deal, said former Chief of Staff to United States Secretary of State. Referring to his counseling to the US Congress about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), often referred to as Iran Nuclear Deal, Colonel Larry Wilkerson told IRNA that Congress people won't accept US' quitting the deal without documents that prove Iran has violated it.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82686223>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel won't let Palestinians cross from Gaza and West Bank over Succot**

Crossings between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza will be closed to Palestinians for 11 days beginning with the start of the Succot holiday. Exceptions for the Oct. 4-14 closings will be made for humanitarian, medical and unusual cases with the approval of the Israeli military's coordinator of government activities in the territories.

More Details:

<http://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/israel-wont-let-palestinians-cross-from-gaza-and-west-bank-over-succot/>

- **Hamas elects ex-West Bank terror commander Saleh al-Arouri as political chief's deputy**

Hamas, the terror organization ruling in the Gaza Strip, announced Thursday that it has elected Saleh al-Arouri as deputy political chief who will act as second in command to Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based broadcaster reported.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Hamas-elects-ex-West-Bank-terror-commander-Saleh-al-Arouri-as-political-chiefs-deputy-506757>

- **US leader calls Netanyahu, Abbas 'problematic': Haaretz**

U.S. President Donald Trump has described both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as “problematic”, Israeli daily Haaretz has quoted several diplomatic sources as saying. “Trump said both leaders are problematic,” Haaretz quoted both western and Israeli sources -- all of them unnamed -- as saying in its Wednesday online edition.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-leader-calls-netanyahu-abbas-problematic-haaretz/927222>

- **Egypt Denies Reports of Land Concession to Palestine**

Egypt has dismissed reports about conceding any territory as part of “the deal of the century” that is being promoted by U.S. President Donald Trump as the formula for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. “President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi cannot give up a single inch of Egyptian land,” Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said in an interview with Egypt’s flagship newspaper Al-Ahram on Wednesday.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/egypt-denies-reports-land-concession-palestine-1030136>

- **Hamas won’t disarm before peace deal with Israel, Egypt said to tell Abbas**

Egypt has informed Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that Hamas will not discuss disarmament as part of reconciliation talks with Fatah, and will not consider the possibility before a peace deal is reached with Israel, the London-based pan-Arabic daily Rai al-Youm reported Thursday.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-wont-disarm-before-peace-deal-with-israel-egypt-said-to-tell-abbas/>

- **Arab states coordinate efforts to block Israel's UN Security Council bid**

Attempts by Arab countries to oppose Israel's candidacy for a nonpermanent seat at the UN Security Council have not gone unnoticed in the Arab League and Arab foreign ministers' meetings.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/09/arab-countries-counter-israeli-candidacy-non-permanent-seat.html#ixzz4uctf0z5a>

- **Zionist Regime Trying to Establish A 'New Israel' in Region: Ayatollah Khamenei**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday warned about a plot hatched by Zionists and a number of foreign powers to establish a new Israel in the region.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/05/1536080/zionist-regime-trying-to-establish-a-new-israel-in-region-ayatollah-khamenei>

- **Palestinian reconciliation moving forward, but unity will take time**

Palestine's unity government met in Gaza for the first time since 2014 on Tuesday as steps continue to be taken toward reconciliation of the long-standing divide between the Fatah-led, West Bank-based Palestinian Authority and the Hamas-controlled strip.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1172391/middle-east>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Human Rights Watch: Jordan Is Deporting Refugees without Due Process**

Since the beginning of the Syrian popular uprising-turned-civil war, well over 5 million Syrians have fled the country in search of safety. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Turkey, there are currently 5,233,712 registered Syrian refugees in the Middle East and North Africa. An additional 6,300,000 estimated refugees are internally displaced in Syria itself and another 1,000,000 have sought asylum in Europe and North America.

More Details:

<https://muftah.org/human-rights-watch-jordan-deporting-refugees-without-due-process/#.WdYHWxO0MdU>

- **Jordanian FM, Indonesian counterpart discuss issues of common concern**

Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, Ayman Safadi, on Wednesday met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and discussed ways to strengthen Jordanian-Indonesian relations and regional and international issues of common concern.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302636533>

- **Indonesia, Jordan to Make Greater Use of Strategic**

Indonesia and Jordan on Wednesday (04/10) made agreements to step up counterterrorism efforts and increase economic cooperation during a meeting between foreign ministers of the two countries in Amman, Jordan, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://jakartaglobe.id/news/indonesia-jordan-make-greater-use-strategic-positions-asean-middle-eastern-markets/>

- **Marsudi pays courtesy call on Jordanian King Abdullah II**

Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi paid a courtesy call on Jordanian King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein in Al-Husseiniya Palace of Amman, Jordan on Wednesday. Press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received here on Thursday stated that during the visit, Marsudi called on a stronger cooperation among Islamic countries to face global challenges.

More Details:

<http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/112934/marsudi-pays-courtesy-call-on-jordanian-king-abdullah-ii>

- **Jordan's parliament passes human rights reforms**

Jordan's parliament has approved a series of important human rights reforms, Human Rights Watch said yesterday (4 October 2017). Positive changes include a new law that improves rights of people with disabilities, the full repeal of a controversial penal code article that allowed people who commit sexual assault to avoid punishment if they marry their victims, and new limits on pretrial detention and other criminal justice reforms.

More Details:

<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/24411>

- **280,000 Syrian refugees still out of school in Lebanon - and many work to feed their families**

The start of a new school year should be an exciting time for children. But not for more than 280,000 of them in Lebanon. That's how many Syrian refugees are still out of school there. Some haven't had an education for many years - younger ones have never set foot in a classroom.

More Details:

<http://theirworld.org/news/syrian-refugee-children-lebanon-miss-school-work-to-feed-families>

- **Congress takes aim at Lebanese politicians with Hezbollah bill**

Congress is moving ahead with a Hezbollah sanctions bill that targets the Iran-backed Shiite militia's allies in government, sending shock waves across Lebanon's political elite.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/congress-hezbollah-bill-lebanon-government-concerns.html#ixzz4ud51uHmv>

- **Hariri Will Visit the Vatican**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri is expected to visit the Vatican during the first half of October where he will meet with Pope Francis, al-Joumhouria daily said on Wednesday. "The visit is of great importance at this stage, especially that it is the first visit by a Muslim Arab official to the Holy See, at a time when the world is experiencing tensions in the face of growing extremist currents," a source told the daily on condition of anonymity

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236243-hariri-will-visit-the-vatican>

- **Ambassador of Switzerland meets MP Khalil**

Head of the Lebanese-Swiss Parliamentary Friendship Committee, MP Anwar Khalil, received on Wednesday at his office in Koreitem the Ambassador of Switzerland, Monika Kirgoz, and discussed with her the relations between the two countries, especially at the parliamentary level.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84026/Ambassador-of-Switzerland-meets-MP-Khalil>

- **Lebanese Hezbollah commander killed fighting Islamic State in Syria**

Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says one of its top commanders has been killed while fighting Islamic State militants in Syria. The 44-year-old Ali Al-Hadi Al-Ashiq is the latest fatality for the Shiite group that has fought alongside Syrian government forces in the civil war next door since 2012.

More Details:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/lebanese-hezbollah-commander-killed-fighting-islamic-state-in-syria-1.490885#.WdYPzRO0MdU>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi king's visit to Russia heralds shift in global power structures**

Russia will host its first visit by a Saudi monarch on Thursday, in an attempt to seal an alliance that would confirm Moscow as a major independent force in the Middle East capable of shaping worldwide oil prices and the outcome of regional conflicts such as those in Syria and Libya. With diplomatic alliances shifting across the Middle East, Moscow hopes that King Salman's historic four-day visit will show that Moscow can forge close alliances with all the key Middle East players, including Turkey, Iran and now Saudi.

More details

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/05/saudi-russia-visit-putin-oil-middle-east>

- **Saudi Arabia arrests 22 for social media videos**

Saudi Arabia has arrested 22 people, including a Qatari national, for "inciting public feelings" on social media, authorities said Wednesday, following a crackdown on dissent. Those detained had posted video clips online, the official Saudi Press Agency said citing a security source, adding that authorities were investigating their motives and connections.

More details

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-arrests-22-for-social-media-videos-1.2100823>

- **Yemen war: UN 'to list Saudi coalition for killing children'**

A Saudi-led multinational coalition fighting in Yemen has been included on a draft United Nations list of parties that kill and maim children in war. The text says the coalition's actions resulted in 683 child casualties during 2016, and accuses it of carrying out 38 attacks on schools and hospitals. Yemeni

government forces, which the coalition is supporting, and the rebel Houthi movement are also on the list.

More details

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-41501672>

- **Qatar Capable of Supporting Banks Amid Boycott**

Qatar, the gas-rich nation boycotted by three of its Gulf neighbors since June, is capable of supporting its banks with assets in the emirate's vast sovereign wealth fund and foreign currency reserves, the central bank governor said. Stress tests routinely conducted by the central bank show the strength and efficiency of Qatari banks in the face of the "arbitrary measures" imposed by boycotting countries, Governor Abdullah bin Saoud Al Thani said in statement on the regulator's website on Wednesday.

More details

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-04/qatar-capable-of-supporting-banks-amid-boycott-governor-says>

- **25,000 jobs to be created for Omanis, says Council of Ministers**

A total of 25,000 jobs will be created for Omanis in the state's public and private sectors beginning December 2017, the Council of Ministers decided in a meeting on Tuesday. The Council also urged the private sector to offer attractive employment opportunities to Omanis. In a statement on Wednesday, the Council of Ministers said: "In implementation of the continuous attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said towards the welfare of Omani youths, the upgrading of their capabilities and the utilisation of their capacities to effectively contribute to the country's comprehensive development march in the current prosperous reign, the Council of Ministers has reaffirmed that it is pressing ahead with all the steps that support this Royal approach.

More details

<http://timesofoman.com/article/118627/Oman/Government/25000-jobs-to-be-created-for-Omanis-says-Omans-Council-of-Ministers>

- **Bahrain: Sayed Ali al-Mosawi arrested for 15 days pending investigation**

The Bahraini Public Prosecution decided on Tuesday (October 3, 2017) to arrest Shiite cleric Sayed Ali Al-Mosawi for 15 days pending investigation. Activists said that Al-Mosawi was arrested yesterday (October 2) from Diraz, without knowing the reasons. The charges brought against him were not known. The security authorities launch

More details

<http://www.shiitenews.org/index.php/bahrain/item/30863-bahrain-sayed-ali-al-mosawi-arrested-for-15-days-pending-investigation>

- **Why Washington will be watching the Saudi king's visit to Moscow**

Saudi Arabia's King Salman arrived in Moscow on Wednesday for a state visit, and Russian officials have prepared an impressive reception for the 81-year-old royal: The Russian capital will celebrate a highly publicized “Saudi Culture Week” as the king arrives, and the Saudi delegation, which typically travels in a grandiose style, is taking over the entire Moscow Ritz-Carlton. The sense of occasion is understandable. This is the first official visit by a Saudi king to Russia in the two nations' histories. And it will be watched closely around the world — perhaps especially in Washington.

More details

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/10/04/why-washington-will-be-watching-a-saudi-kings-visit-to-moscow/?utm_term=.ebcd26aa4c81

- **Saudi UN envoy issues stark warning over Yemen**

Al Mukalla: If the international community does not pressure Al Houthis in Yemen, there will be pro-Iranian theocratic regime in Yemen with a Hezbollah-type militia holding the reins of power, the Saudi envoy to the UN, Abdullah Al Mouallimi, has said. In an opinion piece published in the New York Times on Tuesday, he said that Al Houthis held the key to peace.

More details

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/saudi-un-envoy-issues-stark-warning-over-yemen-1.2100540>

- **Female inmates go on hunger strike at Bahraini jail over restrictions on visits**

Female inmates at a prison in Bahrain have gone on open-ended hunger strike in protest at the recent restrictions imposed on family visits there. The collective decision for the hunger strike at the Isa detention facility came after prison officials placed a glass barrier at the visiting area, which prevents the inmates from getting close to their visitors.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/05/537540/Bahrain-hunger-strike-prison>

- **Kuwait keen on supporting global anti-torture efforts - diplomat**

Kuwait is keen on supporting global efforts against torture, said Kuwait's delegate to the UN and international organizations headquarters in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim Thursday. Speaking to KUNA ahead of the 16th regular meeting for the United Nations Convention against

Torture, Ambassador Al-Ghunaim affirmed that Kuwait was interacting positively with various accords and international agreements connected with human rights, affirming that his country stood firm against all acts of torture.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2645273&Language=en>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt Reportedly Ordered 30,000 Rockets From North Korea in \$23m Deal Foiled by U.S.**

The bust prompted a UN probe and led to Trump's cut in aid for Egypt, according to the Washington Post, which is said to be the reason for Cairo's recent decision to halt its military ties with Pyongyang. Egyptian business executives ordered \$23 million worth of rockets from North Korea for the Egyptian army in a complex and illicit arrangement that was thwarted by U.S. intelligence services, The Washington Post reported on Monday.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.815268>

- **Egypt: Made in China**

The story of the Chinese community in Egypt which has grown in recent years along with trade between the two countries. The Chinese community in Egypt has grown to over 10,000 people, thanks to a burgeoning commercial relationship between the two countries. Increasing numbers of Chinese have come to study, work and open businesses in the Arab world's most populous country, where many have developed an affinity for its life, culture and its people.

More details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2017/10/egypt-china-171001122401865.html>

- **Germany keen on continued cooperation with Egypt: Merkel tells Sisi**

Germany is keen on continuing to boost economic relations with Egypt, German Chancellor Angela Merkel told Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi in a phone call on Wednesday, according to statement by the presidency. El-Sisi congratulated Merkel for winning her fourth term as Chancellor in September. Merkel stressed the importance of continued coordination and intensive dialogue between the two countries on a number of regional issues.

More details

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278288/Egypt/Politics-/Germany-keen-on-continued-cooperation-with-Egypt-M.aspx>

- **Lawyer: Egypt arrests 7 Nubians protesting detentions**

A lawyer says Egyptian police have arrested seven Nubians who were protesting outside a courthouse against a judge's decision to extend the detention of relatives and friends who were also detained for protesting. Moustafa al-Hassan said on Wednesday the arrests took place the day before in the southern city of Aswan. He says police used tear gas to disperse the protest.

More details

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/lawyer-egypt-arrests-7-nubians-protesting-detentions-20171004>

- **From death to no-contact, ancient martial art revived in Egypt**

Turn the clock back just over half a century and a contest between two men in the ancient Egyptian martial art of tahteb could see the loser injured, or even killed. Today however, striking is no longer permitted in this form of stick-fighting, references to which were discovered written inside ancient Egyptian tombs. In the city of Sohag which lies on the banks of Nile in central Egypt, one martial arts school is working to keep the ancient sport alive.

More details

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/lifestyle/from-death-to-no-contact--ancient-martial-art-revived-in-egypt-9279276>

- **Pope: 'May the Lord protect Egypt, the Middle East and the world from terrorism'**

Pope Francis on Wednesday had a special greeting for an Egyptian delegation led by the country's Tourism Minister, in Rome to promote a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt. Speaking during the Wednesday General Audience in St. Peter's Square, the Pope recalled his Apostolic Journey to Egypt last April saying that he has fond memories of the visit.

More details

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/10/04/pope_may_the_lord_protect_egypt_the_middle_east_and_the_w/1340820

- **Korea, Egypt expanded military cooperation: Korean embassy**

The charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Korea in Egypt, Chung Kwang-kyun, said Korea and Egypt actively expanded military cooperation this year through the visits of high-ranking government officials. He added that Egypt's keenness to inaugurate the defense attaché's office in Seoul, despite all challenging circumstances, reflects the advanced level of the bilateral relations, the Korean embassy in Cairo stated on Wednesday.

More details

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/26094/Korea-Egypt-expanded-military-cooperation-Korean-embassy>

- **UAE 'Bankrolling' Lobbying Campaign in Washington to Whitewash Egypt's Sisi**

Reports said the United Arab Emirates has reportedly been bankrolling efforts to improve the image of Egypt's oppressive government in the US, according to leaked emails of the UAE's ambassador to Washington. Emails allegedly belonging to Yousef al-Otaiba, released on Wednesday in The Intercept, revealed that the UAE has been essentially covering the costs of a campaign to establish credibility for the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, New Arab reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960713000841>

- **Amb. Badr says Italy-Egypt 'cooperation will be transparent'**

Egypt's Ambassador to Italy, Hisham Badr, on Wednesday evening said Italy and Egypt "have a lot to work on" in terms of protecting their "economic, political, and security interests, but also cultural interests", speaking at an event in Rome organised by the Egyptian Tourism Board. The event, which was also attended by Egyptian Tourism Minister Mohamed Yahia Rashed, took place to present the itinerary "The Path of the Holy Family in Egypt".

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2017/10/05/amb.-badr-says-italy-egypt-cooperation-will-be-transparent_df917a82-4f20-470d-8b7b-1d5bc27c4b79.html

- **Egypt: We have fulfilled all requirements for Russian flights resumption**

Egypt has fulfilled all the security requirements of its airports for the resumption of the Russian flights, Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation, Sherif Fathy, announced on Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference held in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, Fathi said that "the measures taken by Egypt to secure its airports are currently in the hands of the Russian government," adding the Russian officials have modified the security requirements "more than once."

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171005-egypt-we-have-fulfilled-all-requirements-for-russian-flights-resumption/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algerian Army Kill 86 Terrorists In 8 Months**

Algerian counter-terrorism troops have killed 86 armed militants and arrested 22 others in the first eight months of this year, the Defense Ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that 126 individuals were arrested over charges of supporting terrorist groups.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1397441>

- **Dubai, Algeria to boost trade ties**

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman and CEO, met with the Algerian Minister of Public Works and Transport, Abdelghani Zalene, to discuss plans for development of DP World Algiers.

More Details:

<http://gulfoday.ae/portal/98968775-2855-4980-b64c-0b3571b21ebb.aspx>

- **Tunisian-Algerian professional and partnership meetings October 9 to 12 in Oran**

The Export Promotion Centre (CEPEX) is holding Tunisian-Algerian professional B to B and partnership meetings, on the sidelines of the 8th edition of the International Building and Urban Management Exhibition to be held from October 9 to 12, 2017 in Oran, Algeria.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/9434254-tunisian-algerian>

- **Arab League Secretary-General condemns bombing in Misrata, Libya**

The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, has condemned the terrorist attack on a court house in the Libyan city of Misrata, for which Daesh has claimed responsibility, which resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of civilians.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302636559>

- **Captures suicide blast that killed 4 in Libyan court**

A suicide blast that killed at least four people in the main court building in the Libyan city of Misrata has been caught on video obtained by Ruptly. The attack, claimed by Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) terrorists, was carried out by several assailants. A suicide bomber detonated himself inside the court building, while gunmen opened fire with assault rifles.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/405726-libya-court-blast-video/>

- **French prime minister in Tunis for cooperation council**

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, accompanied by a delegation of businessmen, is visiting Tunisia on Thursday and Friday to inaugurate the work of the high-level bilateral Tunisia-France cooperation council. The initiative, which French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian announced in June, is aimed at strengthening collaboration between the two countries and foresees the signing of several accords in various sectors.

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/economics/2017/10/05/french-prime-minister-in-tunis-for-cooperation-council_aefb2502-02a7-4d6a-9cea-2aca8d1feb6f.html

- **Tourists trickle back to Tunisia after 2015 militant attacks**

Dozens of tourists pack beach chairs at a Tunisian luxury hotel, where everything from the swimming pool to the wall paint, the furniture at the shiny reception hall, the police post at its gate and even its name is new.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/tunisia-tourism/tourists-trickle-back-to-tunisia-after-2015-militant-attacks-idUSL8N1MD5NC?rpc=401&>

- **Morocco: Global Energy Transition Offers Opportunities for Developing Countries, Official**

Global energy transition offers opportunities for developing countries, said, on Wednesday in Marrakesh, minister of energy Aziz Rabbah.

More Details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710050006.html>

- **Morocco seizes 2.5 tons of cocaine in 3-city drug bust**

Moroccan authorities say they seized a staggering 2.5 tons of raw cocaine and arrested 13 people in a three-city operation. Morocco's Central Bureau for Judicial Investigation announced Wednesday that the drugs were seized in the Atlantic coastal towns of Skhirat and Bouznika and the Mediterranean town of Nador. Police also seized cars, rifles and \$480,000 in cash.

More Details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/04/morocco-seizes-2-5-tons-cocaine-in-3-city-drug-bust.html>

- **Latin America Reaffirms Support of Moroccan Autonomy Initiative in Sahara**

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) reaffirmed on Monday evening its full support for the Moroccan autonomy proposal that favors a “political, mutually acceptable solution” to the Moroccan Sahara issue.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/10/230134/latin-america-reaffirms-support-of-moroccan-autonomy-initiative-in-sahara/>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **'Halal Dasta': Pakistan's ISI launches new terror outfit to target India**

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has allegedly launched another militant outfit named "Halal Dasta" which consists of members of the banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The new terror outfit literally means "Killer Squad". Halal Dasta is operating along with Pakistan Army's Border Action team or BAT, reports Zee News based on inputs from top Indian intelligence sources.

More Details:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-halal-dasta-pakistan-s-isi-launches-new-terror-outfit-to-target-india-2550707>

- **US trying to blame Pakistan for failures in Afghanistan: FO spokesperson**

The Foreign Office Thursday stated that the US cannot scapegoat Pakistan for its failures in Afghanistan, rejecting comments by a top US military official regarding Pakistan's contribution to the war against terrorism.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/05/us-trying-to-blame-pakistan-for-failures-in-afghanistan-fo-spokesperson/>

- **Pakistan desires good relations with all countries on equal basis**

Answering to a question by IRNA at his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said his government is fully focused on exploiting the potential of the important geographic location that Pakistan has. "Pakistan is located at the confluence of four regions; South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia and Western China and in that context we want to exploit our geographical location and act as a facilitator for these four regions," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82686197>

- **ISPR discusses security, civil-military relations and regional policy in wide-ranging press conference**

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor on Thursday addressed a press conference at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The press conference followed a visit to Kabul by Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1361884/ispr-discusses-security-civil-military-relations-and-regional-policy-in-wide-ranging-press-conference>

- **Row over Pakistani paramilitary unit fuels political confusion**

An unexplained dispute between Pakistan's interior minister and an elite paramilitary unit under his command is adding to political confusion in Islamabad, prompting questions about a rift in ties between civilian leaders and the powerful military.

More Details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/pakistan-politics/row-over-pakistani-paramilitary-unit-fuels-political-confusion-idINKBN1CA144?rpc=401&>

- **'Despite challenges, we are making progress', Ghani says at SOM**

Addressing Senior Officials Meeting in Kabul on Thursday, President Ashraf Ghani said that despite challenges, the government is making progress. The president said that the unity government was committed to rooting out corruption.

More Details:

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31552-despite-challenges-we-are-making-progress-ghani-says-at-som>

- **Hamid Karzai slams US new policy on Afghanistan**

Karzai made the remarks in an interview with the BBC Urdu on Wednesday, adding he believed that Washington's new policy "has some hidden conspiracy or strategy for this region." Back in 2014, the US-led occupying forces in Afghanistan officially announced the end of their combat operations in the country, saying they now had a mission to "train, advise, and assist" Afghan troops.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/central-asia-subcontinent/hamid-karzai-slams-us-new-policy-on-afghanistan_858393.html

- **US to ask NATO allies for 1,000 more troops for Afghanistan**

The United States is to ask NATO allies to contribute around 1,000 additional troops to help in the battle against the resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan, the new US ambassador to the alliance said Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4951730/US-ask-NATO-allies-1-000-troops-Afghanistan.html>

- **Amnesty accuses Britain of unlawfully deporting Afghans during deadliest year on record**

Britain and other EU countries have been accused of breaking international law for the mass deportation Afghan asylum seekers during the deadliest year on record for civilians in the war-torn Central-Asian country. According to Amnesty International, Britain is violating international law because it is deporting people who are entitled to asylum, as they are fleeing persecution, torture and death threats, including unaccompanied children and Christian converts.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/uk/405762-afghanistan-asylum-seekers-amnesty/>

- **Project Document Signed To Support Afghan Elections**

UNAMA said a Project Document has been signed between the electoral bodies in order for the UN and donors to help support and strengthen upcoming polls.

More Details:

<http://www.toloneews.com/afghanistan/project-document-signed-support-afghan-elections>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Erdogan, Iran present common front after Iraq Kurd referendum**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian leaders presented a united front in their opposition to Iraqi Kurdish aspirations of independence, on a visit on Wednesday that signalled a warming of ties. "Some leaders of Iraq's Kurdistan region have made erroneous decisions which must be corrected," Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said after talks with Erdogan, visiting Tehran for the first time since 2015.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/erdogan-iran-present-common-front-after-iraq-kurd-referendum>

- **Rouhani: Iran, Turkey anchors of stability in Middle East**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says Iran and Turkey are "anchors of stability" in the Middle East region, and fighting terrorism is top on the agenda of the two countries. "Fighting terrorism is one of the important objectives of the two countries. We need to fight any terrorist group anywhere, be it Daesh... or the al-Nusra Front or the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) or whatever name they have. Terrorists should know that regional governments will not allow them to carry out their cowardly and inhumane activities," Rouhani said at a joint press conference with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan following their meeting in Tehran on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/10/04/537468/Iran-Turkey-Erdogan-Rouhani-referendum-Iraq-Kurdistan>

- **Tehran, Ankara to boost trade volume to \$30bn**

In a Wed. meeting of High Council for Strategic Partnerships of Iran and Turkey in Tehran, Iranian President Rouhani and his Turkish counterpart stressed resolve for increasing the volume of trade transactions up to \$30 billion. In the meeting that was held on Wednesday in Tehran, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani referred to the good, amicable relations between the two countries, adding "Tehran and Ankara are resolute to deepen relations and economic cooperation based on mutual interest."

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128365/Tehran-Ankara-to-boost-trade-volume-to-30bn>

- **Bahrain's Gulf Air signs codeshare deal with Turkish Airlines**

Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, and Turkish Airlines have signed a codeshare agreement that will be effective from November 1. The agreement will expand the travel opportunities for the passengers of both airlines with jointly operated double daily flights between Bahrain and Istanbul, a statement said. Gulf Air's deputy CEO, Captain Waleed Abdul Hameed Al Alawi, and Turkish Airlines' deputy chairman and CEO, Bilal Eksi, signed the agreement.

More details

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/industries/transport/380406-bahrains-gulf-air-signs-codeshare-deal-with-turkish-airlines>

- **KRG leader should annul referendum: Turkish deputy PM**

Turkey's deputy prime minister on Thursday urged Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) President Masoud Barzani to nullify the illegitimate northern Iraq referendum held late last month. "The Barzani administration should declare that the referendum is annulled and has no validity for them," Bekir Bozdag told a ceremony marking the new school year at Istanbul's Aydin University.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/194681/krg-leader-should-annul-referendum-turkish-deputy-pm>

- **Turkey hails Palestinian unity Cabinet meeting**

Turkey has welcomed the Palestinian unity government's Tuesday Cabinet meeting in the Gaza Strip, the first such meeting since 2014. "Turkey will continue in the period ahead its support for efforts to conclude as soon as possible the process of Palestinian reconciliation, which we consider essential for the two-state solution and indispensable for lasting peace and stability in the Middle East," said a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement late Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/politics/turkey-hails-palestinian-unity-cabinet-meeting/927396>

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*

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