



# 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

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**06 OCTOBER 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Kirkuk Deputy Governor: The Page of Daesh In Iraq Ended With Hawija's Liberation**

The Deputy Governor of Kirkuk, Rakan Saied al-Jubouri said the Daesh in Iraq ended with the liberation of Hawija today, stressing that "the joint military units will complete today the liberation of Riyadh and villages east of Hawija". "We appreciate and thank all the forces involved in the liberation from the army, the police, the rapid reaction, the popular mobilization and the sons of Hawija," said Rakan Saied al-Jubouri, deputy governor of Kirkuk.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?ARCBIsOXRWAo0LC7%252fa%252f%252bPg%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?ARCBIsOXRWAo0LC7%252fa%252f%252bPg%253d%253d)

- **Suicide bomber killed before attacking army in Ramadi**

Iraqi army forces killed an Islamic State suicide bomber before attacking troops west of Anbar's city of Ramadi, a senior commander said Friday. The militant, wearing an explosive belt, attempted to attack an army location west of the Kilo 35 region west of Ramadi, according to Anbar Operations chief, Mahmoud al-Falahi.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/suicide-bomber-killed-attacking-army-ramadi/>

- **Iraqi VP Calls on Intl Community to De-Escalate Erbil-Baghdad Tensions**

Iraqi Vice President Ayad al-Alawi on Thursday urged the international community to help ease recent tensions between Baghdad and Erbil which occurred as a result of Kurdistan independence referendum. In a meeting with Mathias Walters, Dutch ambassador to Iraq, Alawi warned about the crisis that has been created due to Kurdistan referendum.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/383469>

- **Maliki's State of Law Coalition threatens to invade Kurdistan**

Former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law Coalition threatened on Friday to invade Kurdistan. In a press statement, MP of the coalition Iskandar Watut said that the Iraqi government is capable of restoring security in all of the Iraqi governorates , including the northern ones. He added that this will result in bringing back the legitimate rule to Kurdistan.

More Details:



<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17876/Maliki-s-State-of-Law-Coalition-threatens-to-invade-Kurdistan>

- **Iran Not to Blame Iraq's Kurds for Certain People's Strategic Mistakes: Zarif**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif denounced the recent moves by a few people in Iraq's Kurdistan Region as a "strategic" mistake and said, however, the Islamic Republic does not blame the Iraqi Kurds for the mistake made by some individuals. Speaking on the sidelines of the funeral procession of the Iraqi Kurdish leader and former president, Jalal Talabani, in Sulaymaniyah on Friday, Zarif reiterated Tehran's opposition to the independence vote recently held by Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/06/1538262/iran-not-to-blame-iraq-s-kurds-for-certain-people-s-strategic-mistakes-zarif>

- **Body of Iraq's Talabani arrives in Kurdistan region for burial**

The Iraqi Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah is hosting a funeral ceremony for Jalal Talabani, a former Iraqi president and veteran Kurdish leader, with foreign political personalities in attendance. Talabani passes in Germany on Tuesday, aged 83. His decades-long political carrier saw him playing a key role in Kurdish and national politics. The late Kurdish leader, who became the president of Iraq in 2005, has been hailed as a unifying figure in national politics.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/06/537665/Iraq-Kurdistan-Sulaimaniyah-Jalal-Talabani-Kurdistan>

- **'They're coming out with their hands up – full scale surrender': US General says ISIS fighters in Iraq are giving up after not being fed or paid**

US-backed Iraqi forces announced Thursday they have retaken one of Islamic State's remaining strongholds after hundreds of militants surrendered amid fresh signs the terror group is collapsing and unable to defend its territory. 'They're giving up,' said Lieutenant General Paul Funk, who commands the coalition task force fighting Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. 'Their leaders are abandoning them.'

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4955096/Full-scale-surrender-General-says-ISIS-collapsing.html>

- **Iran's Zarif in Iraq to Participate in Talabani's Funeral**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif started his official visit to neighboring Iraq to take part in the funeral procession of the Iraqi Kurdish leader and former president, Jalal Talabani. Heading a high-ranking delegation, Zarif left Tehran for Sulaymaniyah on Friday to participate in the funeral service for the late secretary-general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/06/1538006/iran-s-zarif-in-iraq-to-participate-in-talabani-s-funeral>

- **France To Maintain Military Presence In Iraq As Long As Necessary: Macron**

France will maintain its military commitment in Iraq until the Islamic State (IS) was completely defeated and as long as necessary, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday, China's Xinhua news agency reported. France, the second leading force in the US-led coalition against IS, was determined to remain engaged in the war against the terrorist group until its "total defeat."

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1397767>

- **Iraqi Troops, Shiite Militias Defeat Islamic State in 'Last Stronghold' in Northern Iraq**

U.S.-supported Iraqi government troops and Iran-allied Shiite militiamen have reportedly retaken the "last" Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) bastion in northern Iraq, marking the latest sign that the jihadist group's so-called caliphate in the region is dwindling. In cooperation with U.S. troops, Iraqi government forces and Iran-backed Shiite Popular Mobilization Units/Forces (PMU/PMF) captured the northern Iraqi town of Hawija and the surrounding territory in the disputed province of Kirkuk, claimed by both Shiite-led Baghdad and the mainly Sunni Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/05/report-u-s-backed-iraqi-troops-shiite-militias-take-last-stronghold-n-iraq-islamic-state/>

- **Isis Continues Its Collapse in Iraq**

The military collapse of Isis continued yesterday, when Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the liberation of Hawija, west of Kirkuk. Speaking in Paris at a press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron, Mr Abadi hailed the city's capture as a "victory not just for Iraq but for the whole world."

More Details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-3b13-Isis-continues-its-collapse-in-Iraq#.Wdd1RFu0Pcs>

- **What Talabani's death means for the future of Iraq**

Probably no president was ever called "uncle" by his eminent counterparts and by the people on the street. Yet in every Middle East country where Kurds live, "mam" ("paternal uncle" in Kurdish) was the honorific title of Jalal Talabani, a legend of Kurdish politics and former president of Iraq from 2005 to 2014. When they use honorific titles, Kurdish men are usually addressed as "kak," which translates to "sir." For example, his followers and Kurds in general often address Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of Iraq, as "Kak Massoud." Such a title of respect never suited Jalal Talabani. "Mam," however, was a sign of affection. I do not recall any time that I have addressed him in any other way in the more than 40 years we knew each other.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/turkey-iraqi-kurdistan-legacy-of-jalal-talabani.html>

- **1,000 ISIS militants surrender as Iraq retakes key town of Hawija**

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces announced Thursday they have retaken one of the Islamic State's remaining strongholds after about 1,000 militants surrendered amid fresh signs the terror group is collapsing and unable to defend its territory. "They're giving up," said Lt. Gen. Paul Funk, who commands the coalition task force fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. "Their leaders are abandoning them."

More Details:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/05/1-000-isis-militants-surrender-iraq-wins-islamic-state-loses-key-iraqi-town-1-000-militants-surrende/736901001/>

- **US-led coalition congratulates Iraq for Hawija mission**

The U.S.-led anti-Daesh coalition on Thursday congratulated Iraq for its victory against the militant group in Hawija, one of the fighters' two remaining strongholds in the country. "Our Iraqi partners fought bravely and professionally against a brutal and determined enemy, safeguarding innocent civilians throughout the entire campaign," Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, Commanding General of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/us-led-coalition-congratulates-iraq-for-hawija-mission/928193>



- **Civilian cost of Iraq takeover of last ISIL-held towns**

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi says his military has retaken Hawija from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) group. It is the main town in one of the last two Iraqi enclaves still partly held by ISIL fighters and the last one in the country's north.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/civilian-cost-iraq-takeover-isil-held-towns-171005164946537.html>

- **Iraq PM calls on Peshmerga to operate under his command**

Haider al-Abadi, Iraqi prime minister and commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, has called on Kurdish Peshmerga forces to operate under his command. According to Iraq's 2005 constitution, the Peshmerga are answerable to Iraq's Defense Ministry. In reality, however, they remain entirely controlled by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) led by KRG President Masoud Barzani.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-pm-calls-on-peshmerga-to-operate-under-his-command/928030>

## 2. SYRIA

- **President Assad: Syria Never to Forget Iran's Support**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said that his country will never forget Iran's support to the Syrian government and nation during the difficult times of war. "Iran has always helped Syria during difficult times," President Assad said in a meeting with Head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi in Damascus on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960714000600>

- **World View: Syria's War Resumes in Full as 'De-Escalation' Agreements Unravel**

Syria's president Bashar al-Assad promised last year that when his air force was finished killing as many people as possible in the battle of Aleppo, then the Syrian war would be end, because his opponents would have nothing left to fight for. A report by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) indicates not only that the war has not ended, but that in fact the level of fighting across much of Syria has reached the levels of the battle of Aleppo.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/06/6-oct-17-world-view-syria-war-resumes-in-full-as-de-escalation-agreements-unravel/>

- **Regime, opposition hammer out truce in Syria's Homs**

The Assad regime and armed opposition groups have concluded a truce in Syria's western Homs province, which already falls within one of four de-escalation zones set up in the war-torn country. According to an Anadolu Agency correspondent based in Homs, the terms of the truce correspond with conditions laid down at earlier peace talks in Kazakh capital Astana.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/regime-opposition-hammer-out-truce-in-syria-s-homs/928679>

- **Russian helicopter makes emergency landing in Syria due to malfunction, crew unharmed**

A Mi-28 Russian combat helicopter made an emergency landing in the Syrian province of Hama due to malfunction on Friday, the Russian Defense Ministry said, adding that the crew is unharmed and was taken to an airfield. The ministry refuted reports that the helicopter was allegedly downed by militants. The chopper, which was escorting a Mi-8 transport helicopter with servicemen from the Russian center for Syrian reconciliation on board, was not shelled from the ground, the ministry stressed.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/newsline/405880-syria-russia-helicopter-landing/>

- **150,000 children in NW Syria to be vaccinated for polio**

Some 150,000 children in Syria's opposition-held Idlib province are set to be vaccinated against polio, according to local medical sources. "Years of conflict have forced millions of Syrian children to go without proper vaccinations," Dr. Abdulsattar al-Subeyh, who runs a health clinic in Idlib's city of Maaret al-Numan, told Anadolu Agency.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/health/150-000-children-in-nw-syria-to-be-vaccinated-for-polio/928608>

- **Coalition strikes continue against Islamic State in Syria, Iraq**

US and coalition military forces continued to attack Islamic State, conducting 48 strikes consisting of 54 engagements, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve officials reported today.

Officials reported details of yesterday's strikes, noting that assessments of results are based on initial reports.

More Details:

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/coalition-strikes-continue-islamic-state-syria-iraq/>

- **Russian strikes kill 14 civilians in eastern Syria**

Russian air strikes killed 14 people fleeing across a river on rafts in eastern Syria as renewed fighting across the country took an ever mounting toll on civilians..The strikes, the latest in a string of such incidents this week, targeted a group crossing the Euphrates near the jihadist-held town of Mayadeen, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the Syrian war.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/russian-strikes-kill-14-civilians-in-eastern-syria-1.664667>

- **Syria fighting worst since Aleppo war: Aid groups**

Syria is in the throes of its worst fighting since the battle for eastern Aleppo last year, with heavy air strikes causing hundreds of civilian casualties, aid agencies said on Thursday. Hospitals, schools and people fleeing violence have been "targeted by direct air strikes" that may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said, without apportioning blame. "September was the deadliest month of 2017 for civilians with daily reports of attacks on residential areas resulting in hundreds of conflict-related deaths and injuries," UN regional humanitarian coordinator Panos Moumtzis said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/16a0e5df-0729-4a15-a251-db4ebaba0dc3.aspx>

### 3. IRAN

- **Europe's heads aim to keep Iran nuclear deal despite US threat**

European Union business leaders have said they are prepared to do everything they can to salvage the Iran nuclear deal in the event of a US withdrawal, as the Danish credit agency extended export guarantees to Tehran ahead of a showdown with Donald Trump. The US president has reportedly decided to decertify Iran's compliance with the landmark nuclear deal next week. On Thursday he warned a meeting of US military leaders that Tehran was not living up to the "spirit of the agreement" and cryptically added they were witnessing "the calm before the storm".

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/06/europes-business-heads-aim-to-keep-iran-nuclear-deal-despite-us-threat>

- **'Calm before the storm': Trump set to walk away from Iran nuclear deal**

Donald Trump has accused Iran of not living up to the “spirit of the agreement” of its nuclear deal amid reports that he plans to withhold endorsement of the landmark agreement with the international community. At a meeting of military leaders, Trump warned cryptically that those present were witnessing “the calm before the storm”. When asked by reporters what he meant, the president, a former reality TV host, said: “You’ll find out.”

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/06/calm-before-the-storm-trump-set-to-walk-away-from-iran-nuclear-deal>

- **Electric cars will wipe out oil demand equal to Iran's output by 2025, Barclays says**

Oil consumption could take a major hit in the coming years as a growing number of countries take steps to yank the internal combustion engine from their streets, Barclays analysts forecast. Adoption of electric vehicles and improved fuel efficiency could wipe out 3.5 million barrels a day of demand from cars by 2025, Barclays commodities analysts projected in a research note on Wednesday. That is roughly equivalent to the total production of OPEC's third-largest producer, Iran, which pumps about 3.8 million barrels a day, Reuters first noted.

More details:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/05/electric-cars-could-cut-oil-demand-roughly-equal-to-irans-output.html>

- **Talabani played important role in Iraq's unity: Rouhani**

President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday offered his condolences over the demise of Iraqi Kurdish leader and former president, Jalal Talabani, saying he played a significant role in preserving Iraq's unity. In a message, Rouhani sympathized with the Iraqi people and government as well as the bereaved family of the late Kurdish leader, Tasnim reported.

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417305/Talabani-played-important-role-in-iraq-s-unity-Rouhani>

- **Iran calls for respecting Islamic states territorial integrity**

In a press conference in Syrian capital on Thursday, he added that the recent Iraqi Kurdistan Region's developments have a clear relation with the decline of Daesh power, as the US and Israel are seeking an insecure and conflict region. Iraqi Kurdistan's move in holding poll for independence is undertaken as a US and Zionist regime's strategic policy following Daesh defeat in Aleppo, Deir Ezzur and Mosul, he said. "When we say Iraq's integrity is our redline, you should know that if it is crossed, we will never stay hand-tied and onlooker," the senior MP said.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82686521>

- **Warning against 'New Israel' in Region**

Leader of Islamic Revolution said the recent independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan indicates that major powers aim to create "a new Israel" in the region. "The United States and unreliable foreign powers want to create a new Israel in the region," Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said in a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Tehran on Wednesday, according to the website leader.ir.

More details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/73604/warning-against-new-israel-in-region>

- **Half of Iran's Banks should Close or Merge**

Closures and mergers of Iranian banks will be needed to modernise an industry laden with toxic loans, according to one of the country's top bankers. Reuters reports that Parviz Aghili [Parviz Aghili-Kermani], chief executive of Middle East Bank, estimated that a full re-organisation of the Iranian banking sector's roughly \$700 billion balance sheet would cost \$180 billion to \$200 billion — "And we cannot afford it," he added.

More details:

<http://www.iran-bn.com/2017/10/05/half-of-irans-banks-should-close-or-merge/>

- **US, Israel afraid of independent Iran: Chomsky**

The United States and Israel cannot tolerate Iran as an "independent force" and that is why Washington and its allies have been "tormenting" the people of Iran over the past decades, says prominent American scholar Noam Chomsky. In an interview excerpted from his upcoming book Global Discontents: Conversations on the Rising Threats to Democracy, Chomsky discussed the real reasons behind his country's years-long animosity towards Iran, dismissing as mere smokescreens



Washington's objections to Iran's nuclear program and its support for resistance groups in Lebanon and Palestine.

More details:

<http://theiranproject.com/blog/2017/10/05/us-israel-afraid-independent-iran-chomsky/>

- **Foreign tourists spectate Muharram rituals in Iran**

Clusters of foreign travelers witnessed rituals of Tasua and Ashura – the ninth and tenth days of the mourning month of Muharram - which were vividly observed by millions of people on Saturday and Sunday in various cities across Iran. "Yazd, Meybod, Isfahan and Kashan are among the cities which hosted the highest numbers of foreign tourists in the days of Tasua and Ashura," Mehr quoted a senior tourism official as saying on Monday.

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417290/Foreign-tourists-spectate-Muharram-rituals-in-Iran>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Army Abducts Six Palestinians in Nabi Saleh**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Thursday evening, Nabi Saleh village, north of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, stopped a bus filled with Palestinians heading to a wedding hall, and abducted six young men.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/army-abducts-six-palestinians-in-nabi-saleh/>

- **When Palestinian Arabs cry "Humiliation"**

In addition to stabbings, car ramming and suicide bombings that have been frequently occurring at checkpoints, Palestinian Arabs claim they feel humiliated and harassed when Israeli authorities search them and their belongings; when they are prevented from traveling freely because of checkpoints, roadblocks, closures and curfews.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/21101>

- **Why a leading Palestinian activist doesn't care about a Palestinian state**

In Washington, a generation of diplomats, politicians and wonks see the prospect of peace between Israelis and Palestinians entirely in the context of the "two-state solution," a scenario in which an independent Palestinian state emerges alongside Israel. It has been an article of faith for successive American administrations, even the current one.

More Details:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/10/06/why-a-leading-palestinian-activist-doesnt-care-about-a-palestinian-state/?utm\\_term=.2acc548c17ee](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/10/06/why-a-leading-palestinian-activist-doesnt-care-about-a-palestinian-state/?utm_term=.2acc548c17ee)

- **Palestine Hopes for Support as Reconciliation Process Underway**

Palestine is looking forward for support from the Malaysian government and its people on the formation of a united Palestine state after Hamas announced its decision to reconcile with rival Fatah party this month, said its Ambassador to Malaysia Datuk Dr Anwar Al Agha. "We always look to Malaysia as a brotherly country.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1397772>

- **How Operation Good Neighbor has brought Syrians from loathe to love**

IDF Lt. Col. explains how Israel's ability to show a more benign face through humanitarian efforts in treating wounded Syrian children will transform civilians into ambassadors; 'The citizens on the other side realize that Israel saves their children's lives, it'll be hard to convince them we want to destroy them.'

More Details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5025157,00.html>

- **Israel to Permit Entry of Palestinian Workers during Sukkot Holiday**

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman and IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot decided Thursday evening to permit the entrance of Palestinian workers into Israel during the Sukkot holiday. According to the army spokesman, the workers whose entry will be allowed "are employed in required sectors of the economy."

More Details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.815921>

- **Family of Jewish man murdered in Kafr Qassem convinced it was terrorism**

The family of a Jewish man murdered in the Israeli Arab city of Kafr Qassem on Wednesday said Thursday night they had “no doubt” the killing was an act of terrorism. “For the ailing family, there is no doubt that this despicable murder was committed on nationalistic grounds,” a statement from the family of Reuven Schmerling, 69, said.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/family-of-jewish-man-murdered-in-kafr-qassem-convinced-it-was-terrorism/>

- **Gazans hope Palestinian reconciliation will end water, power crisis**

Palestinian factions took an important step toward reconciliation this week, as the Palestinian national unity government started to take over the administration of the Gaza Strip from the Hamas movement. But there is still some way to go before the economy recovers and livelihood improves in the coastal enclave.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/gazans-hope-palestinian-reconciliation-will-end-water-power-crisis-11088>

- **National unity 'best weapon' against occupation: Hamas**

National unity is the most effective weapon in the Palestinian arsenal with which to confront Israel’s decades-long occupation, Ali Baraka, Hamas’s representative in Lebanon has said. In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency, Baraka said Hamas “is now at a stage of national liberation that makes it essential to achieve national unity with a view to resuming the Palestinian resistance -- the Intifada -- against the Zionist occupation”.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/national-unity-best-weapon-against-occupation-hamas/927869>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Indonesia, Jordan to intensify counterterrorism cooperation**

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno L. P. Marsudi and her Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi agreed to increase cooperation in the field of counterterrorism during a bilateral meeting held at the Jordanian Foreign Ministrys office, Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.antaraneews.com/en/news/112946/indonesia-jordan-to-intensify-counterterrorism-cooperation>

- **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>

- **Armenia to encourage Jordan and UAE investors**

The Armenian National Assembly ratified Thursday two agreements signed with Jordan and the United Arab Emirates on encouragement and mutual protection of investments. Hovhannes Azizyan, deputy economic development in investments minister, presenting the agreements, said

More Details:

[http://arka.am/en/news/business/armenia\\_to\\_encourage\\_jordan\\_and\\_uae\\_investors/](http://arka.am/en/news/business/armenia_to_encourage_jordan_and_uae_investors/)

- **Judge Indicts 9 Syrians, One Lebanese over Smuggling Terrorists**

Military Investigative Judge Fadi Sawwan indicted nine Syrians and a Lebanese over their involvement in "terror crimes," the National News Agency reported on Friday. Sawwan indicted two Syrians and a Lebanese for smuggling "terrorists from Lebanon to Syria through the Wadi Khaled region for the aim of joining the ranks of the Islamic State terror group," said NNA.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236373-judge-indicts-9-syrians-one-lebanese-over-smuggling-terrorists>

- **Hariri receives Labor Union delegation and chairs economic meeting**

The President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri received today a delegation from the General Labor Union headed by Bechara Asmar, who said after the meeting : "During the meeting with Prime Minister Hariri, we affirmed the basic principle of rejecting taxes that affect people with low income, middle classes, workers and the poor,...

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84067/Hariri-receives-Labor-Union-delegation-and-chairs-economic-meeting>

- **Lebanon's U.N. envoy calls for ending threat of nukes**

Lebanon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Nawaf Salam Wednesday called on the international community to permanently eliminate the dangers of nuclear weapons and the threat of armed nations using them. "Last July 7, Lebanon was among 122 states that voted in favor of adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a historic agreement to outlaw these ugly weapons of mass destruction and establish a pathway for their total elimination,...

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Oct-06/421701-lebanons-un-envoy-calls-for-ending-threat-of-nukes.ashx>

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

Despite promises by world leaders to get all Syrian refugees into school, there are still many barriers preventing children in Lebanon from getting an education. 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:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/280000-syrian-refugees-still-out-school-lebanon-and-many-work-feed-their-families>

- **The dangerous influence of Iran-backed Hezbollah over Lebanon**

In 2013, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) engaged in a daylong military operation against Sunni jihadi leader Sheikh Ahmed Assir and 200 of his well-armed supporters in the Sidon neighborhood of Abra. During the next 25 hours, the LAF reportedly discharged some 400,000 rounds of ammunition while trying to dispatch the jihadis.

More Details:

<https://irannewsupdate.com/news/terrorism/4276-the-dangerous-influence-of-iran-backed-hezbollah-over-lebanon.html>



- **Syrian army nears IS stronghold al-Mayadin -Hezbollah media unit**

BEIRUT (Reuters) - The Syrian army and its allies have advanced to within 10 km (7 miles) of al-Mayadin, a military media unit run by the Lebanese Hezbollah group said on Friday, bringing them close to a city seen as the current main base of Islamic State. They have won control of positions and heights parallel to the main road linking Deir al-Zor and al-Mayadin, located on the Euphrates in eastern Syria, the media unit said.

More Details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN1CB0SW?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAWorldNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+World+News%29&&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN1CB0SW?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAWorldNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+World+News%29&&rpc=401)

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Kalashnikovs set to be made in Saudi Arabia**

The world's most famous assault rifle is set to be made in Saudi Arabia under a string of preliminary defense deals signed with Russia. Russia's Rosoboronexport said it has struck an initial licensing agreement that could lead to the Kalashnikov being made in the Kingdom.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1172846/saudi-arabia>

- **Saudi Arabia busts Daesh cell in Riyadh**

Saudi Arabia said on Thursday it had dismantled a Daesh cell in the capital Riyadh, in connection with a plot to launch a suicide attack on the defence ministry. Two militants were killed and five others arrested in raids on three locations on Wednesday, an official source in the newly-created Presidency of State Security said in a statement on state-run television.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-busts-daesh-cell-in-riyadh-1.2101378>

- **Saudi king, Putin agree deals on historic Russia trip**

Saudi Arabia has signed preliminary agreements to buy S-400 air defence systems from Russia, officials said, on the sidelines of King Salman's "landmark" visit to Moscow. The agreement was announced on Thursday as Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted King Salman - the first sitting Saudi monarch to visit Russia - for talks at the Kremlin.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/saudi-king-putin-sign-deals-historic-russia-trip-171005102100641.html>

- **Yemen's unpaid teachers strike as education crisis deepens**

"I had to quit my job as a teacher to find a way to provide for my family," says Yousef, a former primary school teacher from Sanaa now working as a builder. Yousef is only one of thousands of school teachers in areas of Yemen controlled by the rebel Houthi movement who have been forced to find an alternative income after not being paid for a year.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-41510350>

- **UN blacklists Saudi-led coalition for killing children in Yemen**

The United Nations blacklisted a Saudi Arabia-led military coalition on Thursday for killing and injuring 683 children in Yemen and attacking dozens of schools and hospitals during 2016, but noted the coalition had taken action to improve child protection. The blacklist attached to the UN annual report on children in armed conflict also named the Iran-allied Houthi rebel group, Yemen government forces, pro-government militia and Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula for violations against children in 2016 as it did in last year's report.

More details:

<http://www.ipost.com/Breaking-News/UN-blacklists-Saudi-led-coalition-for-killing-children-in-Yemen-506804>

- **GE Bahrain: Delivering vital energy solutions**

Established in the 19th century, General Electric (GE) continues to serve customers in a range of sectors, such as energy, transportation, aviation and healthcare. Acquiring a rich portfolio, the company successfully integrates hardware and software to enable customers to deliver positive economic and environmental impacts, whilst promoting sustainability, innovation and knowledge sharing throughout its operations. GE has produced multi-million-dollar cost reductions and savings for businesses globally, and expanded into Bahrain in the 1970s to support the inventory of company gas turbines. To this day, the company continues to deliver strong procurement and research services, with a focus on environmentally friendly solutions.

More details:

<http://www.supplychaindigital.com/company/ge-bahrain-delivering-vital-energy-solutions>

- **Oman relaxes visa rules to attract more Indians**

Oman has revised the tourist visa for people from India, China and Russia in order to attract more tourists from these countries. Lubaina Sheerazi, India representative, ministry of tourism, Oman, said, "The outbound segment in India is on a rise with the Indian economy booming and increasingly better standards of living.

More details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/oman-relaxes-visa-rules-to-attract-more-indians/articleshow/60961943.cms>

- **Oman Air selects Jettainer for ULD management**

Oman Air Cargo has signed a five year unit load device (ULD) outsourcing contract with Jettainer, the German airfreight container management company. The Middle East airline will use lightweight ULDs — constructed of carbon fibre and partly recycled composite materials — that will result in lower CO2 emissions, improved payload, and increased aircraft fuel efficiency.

More details:

<http://www.aircargonews.net/news/airline/single-view/news/oman-air-selects-jettainer-for-uld-management.html?Continue=1>

- **US military halts exercises over Qatar-Gulf crisis**

The US military has halted some exercises with its Gulf Arab allies over the ongoing diplomatic crisis targeting Qatar, trying to use its influence to end the months-long dispute, authorities told The Associated Press. While offering few details, the acknowledgement by the US military's Central Command shows the concern it has over the conflict gripping the Gulf, home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet and crucial bases for its campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant group, as well as the war in Afghanistan.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/military-halts-exercises-qatar-gulf-crisis-171006064515792.html>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt: Israel must not take action against Hamas leaders during negotiations**

Details of Egypt's program for Hamas-Fatah reconciliation were presented on Tuesday to Israeli officials in Jerusalem by Major General Khaled Fawzy, the director of the Egyptian General

Intelligence Directorate, Saudi news site Elaph reported. The Egyptian program includes the Palestinian Authority's complete control of the Gaza Strip, including a monopoly on weapons which will be closely monitored by Egyptian security.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Egypt-Israel-must-not-take-out-Hamas-leaders-during-negotiations-506778>

- **Egypt: ‘Obstacles’ threaten agreement over Ethiopia dam**

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said that there are obstacles threatening the tripartite “Declaration of Principles” signed in March 2015 by Cairo, Sudan and Ethiopia over a dam being built by the latter on the Nile River. Shoukry’s remarks came in an interview with the state-run Al-Ahram newspaper yesterday, where he said Egypt “couldn’t overcome” these obstacles.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171005-egypt-obstacles-threaten-agreement-over-ethiopia-dam/>

- **Ahmed Nashaat: Cross Egypt Challenge Will Feature Scooter Riders**

The Cross Egypt Challenge will take place in October to promote the unparalleled beauty of Egypt. Egyptians are generally confident about their nation’s beauty, so they will be promoting it during the upcoming Cross Egypt Challenge to be held from October 12 to 21, 2017.

More details:

<http://www.snjtoday.com/story/36529863/ahmed-nashaat-cross-egypt-challenge-will-feature-scooter-riders>

- **Egypt: Unions support AFP strike**

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and French affiliates –SNJ, SNJ-CGT and CFTD – have backed workers striking for fair pay at the Cairo office of AFP news agency. AFP employees in Cairo staged a 6-hour strike on Tuesday 3 October, 12-hour strike on Wednesday 4 October and are on 24-hour strike today. Strikers claim that since the devaluation of the Egyptian pound in November 2016 their salary and purchasing power have halved.

More details:

<http://www.ifj.org/nc/news-single-view/backpid/30/category/europe-1/article/egypt-unions-support-afp-strike/>

- **Nasr, USAID director discuss activating signed agreements between Egypt, US**

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahr Nasr met Thursday with Director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Egypt Sherry Carlin and President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt Tarek Tawfik. The meeting took up the current economic cooperation between Egypt and the US and the implementation of projects funded within the framework of economic aid program, according to a statement of the Ministry of Investment.

More details:

<http://www.egypttoday.com/Article/3/26150/Nasr-USAID-director-discuss-activating-signed-agreements-between-Egypt-US>

- **EBRD finances solar power plant in Egypt**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said it would provide a \$28.5 million loan for the construction of a 50 MW solar plant in Egypt's Aswan province. Alfano Energy, a Saudi-based construction and electric manufacturing company will build the plant. Projects developed under the EBRD's Egypt Renewable Energy Framework will bring a significant

More details:

<http://daily.hgd.hu/news/ebd-finances-solar-power-plant-in-egypt>

- **Egypt's Sisi Wants to Build Space Agency as Citizens go Hungry on Earth**

A statement released on Wednesday said that the proposed department would launch satellites and serve "development objectives." The draft legislation will now be referred to parliament for approval. The proposed space agency has been a talking point in Egypt since the 1960s and comes after the country previously commissioned a satellite, Misr Sat 1, to be launched outside of Egypt.

More details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/egypt-space-agency-original-1029316>

- **Switzerland committed to fully support Egypt in all fields**

Swiss Ambassador to Egypt Paul Garnier asserted his country's full support to Egypt in all domains, particularly in the economic and social fields. Speaking on the occasion of the Swiss National Day, Garnier cited the Swiss companies' investments in Egypt over the past years that amounted to 1.85 billion dollars, saying the Swiss companies managed to secure more than 30,000 jobs for Egyptians.

More details:

<http://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/118941?lang=en-us>



## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Libya Calls British Foreign Secretary's Bodies Remark 'Unacceptable'**

Senior figures from across Libya's political divides protested against remarks by British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson about clearing dead bodies from the city of Sirte. Johnson told members of his Conservative Party on Tuesday that British investors had a "brilliant vision" to turn Sirte, a former stronghold of Daesh, into the next Dubai if bodies could be cleared away.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1397869>

- **Suicidal rivalries in Libya**

Suicide bomb attacks are not new in Libya but the latest attack on a courtroom in the port city of Misrata could mark a new assault by the terrorists of Daesh (the self-proclaimed IS). Three men attacked the court building on Wednesday. At the end of a prolonged gunfight with security forces, two of the assailants blew themselves up. Daesh immediately claimed responsibility. Four people died, including the deputy prosecutor for the town of Sirte.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/518706/Opinion/Editorial/Suicidal>

- **Morocco 'mule women' in back-breaking trade from Spain enclave**

Along the border between Spain's North African enclave Ceuta and Morocco, thousands of women eke out a living lugging back-breaking loads of goods in an "organised trafficking" operation tolerated by officials. Nicknamed "mule women" on the Spanish side of the frontier, the Moroccan women sometimes struggle under burdens heavier than their own body weight, risking their lives for the job.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4954270/Morocco-mule-women-breaking-trade-Spain-enclave.html>

- **Sound Energy's focus is now entirely on Morocco**

It became clear following the disappointment of the Badile exploration well that Sound Energy PLC's (LON:SOU) future would be in Morocco rather than Italy. Sound had already seen material successes in Morocco, most notably at the Tendrara project, and earlier this week, the company announced plans to accelerate new exploration drilling.

More Details:

<http://www.proactiveinvestors.co.uk/companies/news/185121/sound-energys-focus-is-now-entirely-on-morocco-185121.html>

- **Appointment of Ramtane Lamamra, of Algeria, as African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa**

Addis Ababa, 5 October 2017: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, appointed, today, Ramtane Lamamra, of Algeria, as his High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa. In this capacity, Mr. Lamamra, in close collaboration with all concerned stakeholders, will be assisting the Commission to galvanize support towards ending violence and sustaining peace on the continent.

More Details:

<http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/appointment-of-ramtane-lamamra-of-algeria-as-african-union-high-representative-for-silencing-the-guns-in-africa>

- **Algeria says will not change foreign ownership limit in new energy law**

Algeria is not planning to change the main clauses in its energy law including a rule limiting foreign stakes in oil and gas projects, the government said on Thursday. The OPEC member and gas supplier has announced plans to amend its energy law in a bid to attract foreign investment after its output stagnated in recent years.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/algeria-energy/update-1-algeria-says-will-not-change-foreign-ownership-limit-in-new-energy-law-idUSL8N1MG3FT?rpc=401&>

- **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>

- **"French and Tunisians take interest in putting hand in hand to conquer African market" (Bassem Loukil)**

"The French and the Tunisians are more than ever interested in joining forces to conquer the African market together," said Tunisia-Africa Business Council (TABC) Chairman Bassem Loukil. In a statement to TAP, at the Rencontres Africa 2017, where he attended a plenary conference on "the

transformation of agriculture and rural development: the keys to sustainable growth", he added "it is true that over the last 10 years the French somewhat retracted, compared to the African market, and it was the Chinese,...

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/9437080--french-and>

- **Attacks on Tunisia's transitional justice process threaten women's advancement**

Continued attacks on the transitional justice process in Tunisia will weaken the gains made by women, and prevent an inclusive transition to democracy. Protesters raise slogans in the march called by the Maniche Msamah campaign (I will not forgive) on Habib Bourguiba Street in Tunis September 16, 2017 after the Tunisian Parliament approved the Administrative Reconciliation Act.

More Details:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/north-africa-west-asia/rebecca-turkington/attacks-on-tunisia-s-transitional-justice-process-threaten>

- **Algeria plans to increase budget spending by 25 pct in 2018**

Algeria plans to increase state spending by 25 percent in 2018 despite growing financial pressure caused by a fall in energy earnings, the presidency said on Thursday after a cabinet meeting.

More Details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKBN1CA18Y-OZABS?feedType=RSS&feedName=investingNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAbusinessNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Business+News%29&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKBN1CA18Y-OZABS?feedType=RSS&feedName=investingNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAbusinessNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Business+News%29&rpc=401)

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistan army admits ISI has links with militants, says not the same as support**

Name any intelligence agency which does not maintain links with militant groups - that is how the Pakistani military spokesperson responded when asked about the ISI's links to militant groups.

More Details:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pakistan-army-isi-links-militants-asif-ghafoor/1/1062806.html>

- **Large Taliban convoy moves through Afghanistan unopposed**

The Taliban recently uploaded a new propaganda video which features a long Taliban convoy moving freely during the daytime unopposed. The video titled “Jihadic Process in Nimrooz and Rehabilitation” was published online at the end of September. The video features a large gathering of Taliban militants and vehicles brandishing large white Taliban flags in the open at daytime. As the vehicles drive away in a column, multiple U.S. up-armored Humvees can be seen.

More Details:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2017/10/05/large-taliban-convoy-moves-through-afghanistan-unopposed/>

- **Australia's commitment in Afghanistan to last 'decades'**

Top-ranking Australian commanders in the Middle East tell SBS News reporter Myles Morgan the commitment in Afghanistan is flexible but enduring. If you looked at the Australian military presence in Afghanistan on a map, it would be a blip - especially when compared to other nations. More than 300 Australian Defence Force members work in the country, about half in a combat-orientated force protection roles. They fall under the umbrella of the 13,000 strong NATO-led Operation Resolute Support.

More Details:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/10/05/australias-commitment-afghanistan-last-decades>

- **Russia eyes lng sales to Pakistan**

Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has told the energy ministry to negotiate with Pakistan on the supply of LNG and conclude a three-year contract with the possibility of an extension, the government website said October 6. The talks will be between state giant Gazprom and state Pakistan LNG, but no volume was specified.

More Details:

<https://www.naturalgasworld.com/russia-eyes-lng-sales-to-pakistan-55855>

- **Dr Asim returns to Pakistan, warns Sharif against criticising army**

Former federal minister and senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Dr Asim Hussain returned to Karachi from London on Friday, where he had gone for medical treatment last month. The former minister also accused Sharif of “breaking” Pakistan and attempting to carve out “Greater Punjab”, so that he could “own” it.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/06/dr-asim-returns-to-pakistan-warns-sharif-against-criticising-army/>

- **Pakistan's strong counter-measures have 'turned the tide' against terrorism**

A top Pakistani diplomat has told the United Nations that Pakistan has "turned the tide" against terrorism through a series of determined actions that led to the destruction of terrorist infrastructures and bases in its tribal areas and along the Pak-Afghan border region. Speaking in a debate on terrorism, Ambassador Lodhi highlighted measures such as a dedicated counter "terrorism force, reform of the criminal justice system, and an across the-board military campaign" the largest anti-terrorism operation anywhere in the world, to destroy terrorist infrastructures and bases in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region and Pakistani tribal areas.

More Details:

<http://www.brecorder.com/2017/10/06/373434/pakistans-strong-counter-measures-have-turned-the-tide-against-terrorism/>

- **Lawmakers affected by IB 'terrorism list' demand clarification by government**

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Friday met the director general of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the law minister along with several members of parliament allegedly investigated by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for links to terror outfits, sources said. The lawmakers named in the list informed the prime minister that it could create a lot of issues for them since their opponents could use it to form cases and claim they were not fit to hold public office under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution, sources said.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1362091/lawmakers-affected-by-ib-terrorism-list-demand-clarification-by-government>

- **Pakistan reacts to Indian Air Force chief's comment, says don't expect restraint from us if you plan surgical strikes**

Pakistan's foreign minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday warned India against carrying out a surgical strike or targeting its nuclear installations, saying if that happens nobody should expect restraint from his country. Referring to the statement of India's Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa that the Indian armed forces are ready for a full spectrum operation, Asif said Pakistan wants to live in peace and harmony with its neighbours.

More Details:

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/pakistan-reacts-to-indian-air-force-chiefs-comment-says-dont-expect-restraint-from-us-if-you-plan-surgical-strikes-4113925.html>

- **Senator John McCain has poor sense of history: Khawaja Asif**

Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif has slammed powerful Republican Senator John McCain for comparing the war in Afghanistan with that of Vietnam. Asif's remarks surprised the audience mainly because McCain has often come to the defence of Pakistan and has been opposed to taking any punitive measure against the country. McCain, the Chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, is known as a friend of Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/senator-john-mccain-has-poor-sense-of-history-khawaja-asif/articleshow/60967978.cms>

- **U.S. Has Already Lost the War in Afghanistan: Pakistan FM**

Expressing his opposition to the new South Asia Strategy of the Trump Administration, the Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif says if the way the Afghan problem is being pursued, the United States will lose Afghan War. In fact, the U.S. has already lost the war in Afghanistan, Asif said while speaking at the U.S. Institute of Peace. "You are just trying to salvage the situation over there." Pakistan has long been accused for supporting terror networks in the region and beyond. Now Asif warns that pursuing a military solution will force the Taliban and ISIS to join hands. But the belief in Afghanistan is that Pakistan is still trying to deceive the world.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/u-s-has-already-lost-the-war-in-afghanistan-pakistan-fm/>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish FM: 'Barzani is risking the future of the Kurds in Iraq'**

In an interview with FRANCE 24, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said the Kurdish authorities' decision to hold a referendum on independence was a "grave mistake" that will hurt the interests of the Kurds. He said Ankara was ready to seriously consider shutting the border and the oil pipeline to Iraqi Kurdistan. He added that Turkey believes the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad helped to engineer the referendum, but said this wouldn't hurt the rapprochement between Turkey and Israel.

More Details:



<http://www.france24.com/en/20171006-interview-mevlut-cavusoglu-kurds-kurdistan-iran-usa-pipeline-referendum-barzani-israel>

- **Turkey to close Iraq border, air space, will open new gate with Baghdad**

Turkey wants to open a new border gate with Iraq in cooperation with the central government in Baghdad after it shuts down the existing gate in response to last week's Kurdish independence referendum, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said. "We have proposed opening the new Ovakoy gate, west of currently used Habur gate, to Baghdad and we are expecting their support. We will be happy to discuss this with (Iraqi Prime Minister Haider) al-Abadi," Yildirim told reporters, saying the timing of his visit to Baghdad was a work in progress.

More Details:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-kurds-turkey-iraq/turkey-to-close-iraq-border-air-space-will-open-new-gate-with-baghdad-idUKKBN1CB1FH?rpc=401&>

- **Turkey takes joint steps with Iran, Iraq, Russia for regional stability**

Ankara, Tehran and Baghdad will decide in a trilateral agreement on joint measures against the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Sept. 25 referendum on independence, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told reporters on his way back from an official one-day visit in Tehran on Wednesday. He added that Turkey, Russia and Iran are taking steps on Syria developments in trilateral coordination, particularly on de-escalation zones and developments in Idlib province.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/06/turkey-takes-joint-steps-with-iran-iraq-russia-for-regional-stability>

- **Turkey condemns terror attack in Pakistan**

Turkey condemned a deadly terrorist attack on a shrine in Pakistan, killing at least 18 people and wounding many others, according to a foreign ministry statement. In a written statement issued late Thursday, the ministry described the attack as "heinous." "We learned with great sorrow that many were killed and more wounded due to a terrorist attack perpetrated against a shrine, in Jhal Magsi district of Balochistan province of Pakistan."

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/194704/turkey-condemns-terror-attack-in-pakistan>

*\*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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