



# 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

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**09 OCTOBER 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **MP Calls Parliament to Host Abadi to Discuss Implementing the Decisions Taken On the Referendum**

The National Alliance MP Ibtisam al-Hilali called the House of Representatives to host Prime Minister Haider Abadi to discuss the implementation of the decisions taken on the referendum of the Northern provinces. Al-Hilali said in a statement that the House of Representatives voted in its previous sessions on 13 paragraphs, including the commitment of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces Haider Abadi and the government to deploy federal forces in Kirkuk and disputed areas and close the border with the Northern provinces to force them to cancel the referendum.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?RkPaNR49GqE20FF4pnHCcQ%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?RkPaNR49GqE20FF4pnHCcQ%253d%253d)

- **Army jets bombard camouflaged Islamic State camp in Anbar**

Iraqi army warplanes bombarded an Islamic State camp in Anbar's desert on Monday as preparations continue to invade the group's last havens in the province and Iraq, military media said. The Defense Ministry's War Media Cell said army jets detected a camouflaged Islamic State camp in the form of cracks made in the ground at the 160th kilometer region in the center of Anbar's desert.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-jets-bombard-camouflaged-islamic-state-camp-anbar/>

- **Scores of Norwegian Troops Arrived in Anbar**

A total number of 60 Norwegian soldiers have reportedly arrived in Iraq's western province of Anbar to kick off a military training course for Iraqi soldiers. According to an informed source, the troops flew from a military airbase in Kurdistan Region's Erbil province to land in Ain Assad airbase in Anbar.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/384125>

- **Tribes unveil ISIS financing methods in Anbar desert**

Rafi al-Fahdawi, head of Anbar's Tribal Council, unveiled on Monday financing methods of ISIS' camps in Anbar desert. In press statements, al-Fahdawi said that ISIS camps in Anbar desert receive logistic support through two methods. The first one is the road connecting Syria and Anbar Governorate, a safe route ISIS terrorists take at night.

More Details:



<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/17985/Tribes-unveil-ISIS-financing-methods-in-Anbar-desert>

- **ISIS progresses toward mass genocide of Christians and Yezidis**

The Islamic State is inching closer to its goal of eradicating Christians and Yezidis from their historic homeland. Over the past 14 years, the number of Iraq's Christians has dropped from 1.5 million to 250,000. About 3,000 men and women of the Yezidi minority—ethnically Kurdish people whose religion contains elements of Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam—remain enslaved by ISIS.

More Details:

<https://www.mnnonline.org/news/isis-progresses-toward-mass-genocide-of-christians-and-yezidis/>

- **Iran, Iraq discuss preparations for Arba'een**

A group of Iraqi officials in Saladin Province, northern Iraq in a meeting with Iran envoy to Iraq, discussed issues related to hosting Arba'een pilgrims. Arba'een is a Shia Muslim religious observance that occurs forty days after the Day of Ashura. It commemorates the martyrdom of Hussein ibn Ali, the grandson of Muhammad (PBUH), who was killed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram. This year the Day falls on November 9.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82689630>

- **Iraq parliament Speaker to hold talks with Barzani**

The speaker of Iraq's central government was expected to meet Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani on Sunday as the two sides remain at an impasse over Kurdish independence. Iraq's Kurdish region voted for independence in a symbolic but controversial referendum two weeks ago. Baghdad responded by banning international flights out of the region and threatening to suspend Kurdish representatives from the national parliament.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/5ebdb39c-fa13-4a60-ac19-09acacefbb7e.aspx>

- **Iraq take full control on mountains crossing Diyala, Kirkuk**

Iraqi troops managed to impose full control on mountains that stretch out between Diyala and Kirkuk provinces, commander announced. In a statement on Saturday, Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Yarallah, commander of Hawija Operations, said the army's ninth armored division and the pro-government

al-Hashd al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Forces) have imposed full control on Hamreen mountains in northeastern Iraq.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/iraq-take-full-control-on-mountains-crossing-diyala-kirkuk\\_859112.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/iraq-take-full-control-on-mountains-crossing-diyala-kirkuk_859112.html)

- **'They're coming Out With Their Hands Up': Abandoned ISIS Fighters in Iraq are Surrendering**

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces announced Thursday they have retaken one of ISIS' 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 ISIS in Iraq and Syria. "Their leaders are abandoning them."

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/theyre-coming-out-their-hands-abandoned-isis-fighters-iraq-are-surrendering-1031144>

- **Iraq parliament moves towards pre-election showdown**

Amid the climax in the war against ISIL and the uproar over an independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan, Iraq's political class also faces challenges in getting prepared for national and provincial elections next year. Provincial elections, last held in April 2013, were expected to be held in May of this year but were postponed until September. In August, however, parliament decided to postpone the polls again, this time merging them with the next national elections. Iraq last held national elections in April 2014 and is expected to hold them again in April next year, although constitutionally could hold them through the middle of the following month.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/analysis-iraq-parliament-moves-towards-pre-election-showdown-1.665459>

- **FM's Advisor: Iranian Leader's Remarks Defuse US, Israel's Plots to Disintegrate Iraq**

Senior Advisor to the Iranian foreign minister Hossein Sheikholeslam underlined that the recent comments by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei will thwart the plots hatched by the US and Israel to disintegrate Iraq after the independence referendum in the Kurdistan region. "The Supreme Leader's remarks (at the recent meeting with visiting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan) were responsible, constructive and effective in maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and constitution," Sheikholeslam said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960716001496>

- **Over 100 European ISIL Terrorists Face Death Penalty in Iraq**

More than 100 European ISIL terrorists will be prosecuted in Iraq, with most facing the death penalty, the country's ambassador to Belgium said. Jawad al-Chlahawi said Belgians were among those detained, along with terrorists from Russia, Chechnya and Central Asia, Al Waght reported. Militants from around the world joined ISIL's call to arms when the group established its self-proclaimed "rule" across Iraq and Syria in 2014.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960716001367>

- **Iraq launches anti-Daesh operation in Hawija of Kirkuk**

Iraqi army has launched a wide-range operation to retake Daesh-held villages in Hawija town of Kirkuk city, an army officer said late Saturday. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Hawija Commander of the Sunni Hashd al-Ashairi forces, Wasfi Al-Asi said: "Most of the Daesh militants in the region surrendered to the security forces." He added that several Daesh terrorists surrendered to Peshmerga forces on Kirkuk border.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-launches-anti-daesh-operation-in-hawija-of-kirkuk-/929791>

- **Aid workers helped Iraq authorities point out Daesh families — HRW**

Aid workers running camps for people who fled fighting in Iraq have helped authorities identify families suspected of links to the Daesh terror group, Human Rights Watch said Friday. "In mid-September, security officials told several international and local organisations... to draw up lists of so-called 'ISIS families' so they can 'keep an eye on them,'" HRW researcher Belkis Wille said, using another name for Daesh.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/aid-workers-helped-iraq-authorities-point-out-daesh-families-%E2%80%94-hrw>

- **Stabilization in Mosul: 300 projects underway and 10,000 people put to work**

Three years of ISIL occupation and fierce fighting to retake the Mosul caused widespread destruction. In 10 months, nearly one million Iraqis fled the city. 700,000 are still displaced. Mosul is one of the



largest stabilization challenges the people of Iraq and the UN have ever faced. US\$700 million is needed for West Mosul alone. At the request of the Prime Minister of Iraq, UNDP established the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) in June 2015 to help rapidly stabilize newly retaken areas. Iraq and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are changing the way stabilization is done. Iraqi officials assess what needs to be done. They ask UNDP, and UNDP responds.

More Details:

<http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/10/08/stabilization-in-mosul-300-projects-underway-and-10-000-people-put-to-work.html>

- **Speaker's visit to Kurds divides Iraqi parliament**

A leading Iraqi parliamentarian upbraided the legislative body's leader for meeting with Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani on Sunday as Baghdad's politicians voiced their differences over how best to respond to a controversial Kurdish referendum for independence. Iraqi member of Parliament Humam Hamoudi called Parliament Speaker Salim Jabouri's meeting with Barzani "disappointing" and "unfortunate" and said Jabouri went to Barzani in a personal capacity, not as Parliament's representative.

More Details:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/iraq-parliament-speaker-to-visit-kurdish-region-amid-impasse/2017/10/08/56a4f476-ac09-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.1b1090b4f83d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/iraq-parliament-speaker-to-visit-kurdish-region-amid-impasse/2017/10/08/56a4f476-ac09-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22_story.html?utm_term=.1b1090b4f83d)

- **10 Kurdish MPs may lose seats in Baghdad for independence vote**

An Iraqi parliamentary committee has provided the names of 10 Kurdish MPs who voted in the September 25 referendum. These ten names will be put before parliament to consider stripping them of their seats, Rudaw reports. Aliya Nosaif, an MP from the Shiite the State of Law faction, said a temporary committee comprised of the legal and MP's affairs committees named 10 Kurdish MPs who participated in the independence referendum.

More Details:

<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2017/10/08/423754/rudaw-10-kurdish-mps-may-lose-seats-in-baghdad-for-independence-vote.html>

- **Baghdad rejects talks between KRG and Iraqi vice presidents**

Baghdad's central government on Sunday rejected talks between Iraq's vice presidents and Kurdish leader as the two sides remain at an impasse over Kurdistan's independence push. Iraq's Kurdish region voted for independence in a symbolic but controversial referendum two weeks ago against

Baghdad's approval. The central government responded by banning international flights out of the region and threatening to suspend Kurdish representatives from the national parliament.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/baghdad-rejects-talks-between-krq-and-iraqi-vice-presidents-1.665429>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Why Did the U.S. Even Get Involved in Syria?**

A candid memoir by former U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter provides a rare opportunity to better understand President Barack Obama's Syria strategy before it recedes into the historical distance. His many valuable insights raise one big question, however: Why did the U.S. even get involved? The apparent goal of Carter's detailed reminiscences is to establish his role in the defeat of the Islamic State. The former defense secretary asserts that effective operations against ISIS and a specific battle plan, which Carter claims U.S. and allied forces still follow (the two "red arrows" pointing toward Mosul and Raqqa), only took shape after his appointment in February 2015. But, the self-serving part aside, Carter's 45-page report describes an effort that had few supporters in the region it affected.

More details;

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-10-09/why-did-the-u-s-even-get-involved-in-syria>

- **Syrian Army continues advance in Deir Ezzor, encircle ISIL terrorists in al-Mayadeen**

Syrian Army units, in cooperation with the supporting and allied forces, continued to advance from several directions of Deir Ezzor and its countryside. A military source said that the army units established control over Maratt al-Fouqa town to the east of the Euphrates River and encircled ISIL terrorists in al-Mayadeen city.

More details;

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128439/Syrian-Army-continues-advance-in-Deir-Ezzor-encircle-ISIL-terrorists>

- **Syrian Gen. Accuses US of Supplying Daesh, Nusra Front Terrorists With Weapons**

The United States is supplying weapons to terrorists in Syria, not the opposition, Gen. Ali Al Ali, chief of the main operational directorate of the Syrian army, told reporters during a demonstration of weapons seized from militants. "We know that the United States delivered 1,421 trucks with military equipment and weapons between June 5 and September 15 this year to terrorists in Syria. The weapons were allegedly intended to fight terrorists, but eventually they fell into the hands of

militants of the Islamic State [Daesh] and Jabhat al-Nusra [terrorist groups banned in Russia]," Ali said.

More details;

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710091058060816-us-weapons-daesh-nusra-front-supply/>

- **On the ground in Raqqa, capital of Islamic State's caliphate**

The battle for Raqqa, ISIS' de-facto capital in Syria, is nearing completion, but the commanders and medics on the ground are concerned over the safety of civilians still trapped in areas under the jihadists' control.

More details;

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/ISIS-Threat/On-the-ground-in-Raqqa-capital-of-Islamic-States-caliphate-507014>

- **Despite being targeted by airstrikes, Islamic State repels Syrian attack on Mayadeen bastion**

Islamic State group fighters succeeded Sunday in expelling Syrian regime forces from the eastern town of Mayadeen, days after they entered the key remaining jihadi stronghold, a monitor said. Backed by Russian air power, regime forces had managed to fight their way into western Mayadeen on Friday.

More details;

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/10/09/world/despite-targeted-airstrikes-islamic-state-repels-syrian-attack-mayadeen-bastion/#.WdssLFu0PIU>

- **Was US military behind top Russian army official's killing in Syria?**

THE Russian air force arrived in Syria two years ago this week to save President Bashar al-Assad and his army. They succeeded. The Syrian army held out, albeit at the cost of (then) 56,000 of its soldiers. "We're not going to have another Afghanistan here," the Russians told everyone they met in Damascus. But of course, soon they would have forward air observers on the ground to vector their Sukhois onto their targets, de-mining specialists to pull the forests of the militant Islamic State group's bombs out of the soil, military police officers to oversee the passage of Islamist fighters out of Syria's great western cities. And generals to advise — and, last week, to be killed — in Syria.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1362545/was-us-military-behind-top-russian-army-officials-killing-in-syria>

- **Air strike kills 11 civilians in Syria: Monitor**

At least 11 civilians including two children were killed on Sunday in air strikes on a market in northwestern Syria, a monitor said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strikes on the market in Idlib province's Maaret Al Numan were probably carried out by regime forces. Much of Idlib province, including Maaret Al Numan, is controlled by Hayat Tahrir Al Sham (HTS), a group led by Al Qaeda's former Syria affiliate.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/b4ba96a1-7378-42ef-b8dc-b59c0508e7f3.aspx>

- **Israel-Iran conflict in Syria reaching point of no return**

The open conflict taking place between Israel and Iran on Syrian soil is increasingly reaching a point of no return. The Iranian regime, it seems, isn't taking the public warnings issued by the Israeli defense establishment heads seriously and is hectically pursuing its talks with the Syrian regime, as well as patrols in search of a military airport near Damascus which would serve as a base for the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' combat squadrons.

More Details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5025800,00.html>

- **Hezbollah leader says U.S. actions aiding Islamic State in Syria**

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Sunday that the United States was serving the interests of Islamic State by preventing the Syrian army and its allies advancing in some areas of eastern Syria. American jets have this year targeted pro-government militias in eastern Syria that were advancing towards Washington's local allies.

More Details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-hezbollah/hezbollah-leader-says-u-s-actions-aiding-islamic-state-in-syria-idINKBN1CD0OT?rpc=401&>

- **Syria sidelined in UN General Assembly session**

Perhaps it's the dangerous global threat from North Korean nukes. Maybe it's political fatigue and crisis overload. Or it could be the escalating ethnic cleansing in Burma. But the long running and brutal Syrian civil war has become largely an afterthought for many delegates at the current UN Assembly session. Last year Syria's sanguinary headlines and gripping humanitarian saga still dominated UN discussions. Nonetheless a deadlocked Security Council with Western countries, the USA, Britain and France facing off China and Russia seemed to set the conflict in stone, and allow it to slip into near oblivion with new disasters in Yemen and Burma/Myanmar taking the limelight.

More Details:

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2017/10/197\\_237386.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2017/10/197_237386.html)

### 3. IRAN

- **Trump administration under false assumptions on Iran deal: UN ambassador**

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholam-ali Khoshroo said if the US wishes to remain credible in future multilateral negotiations, it cannot attempt to scuttle the JCPOA. "If the United States wants to remain credible in future multilateral negotiations, it cannot go against the international consensus and attempt to scuttle past diplomacy whether as political retaliation against a previous administration, or as part of a constant reassessment of American national interests," said Khoshroo in an OP-ED published in The New York Times on Sunday, presstv.com reported.

More details;

<http://iran-daily.com/News/202038.html>

- **Iran Vows 'Crushing' Response if US Equates Revolutionary Guards to Terror Group**

Iran foreign ministry spokesman allegedly warned that the country's reaction to possible Iran Revolutionary Guards designation as a terror group would be 'firm and crushing'. "We are hopeful that the United States does not make this strategic mistake," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency in a news conference.

More details;

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710091058061957-iran-us-response-revolutionary-guards-terror-group/>

- **Somalia: Forces Shoot and Kill Iranian Sailor in Indian Ocean**

Somali regional officials say the Iranian captain of a fishing boat was killed and another sailor was injured after security forces opened fire during an operation in the Indian Ocean. Officials said the shooting occurred after Puntland Maritime Police Forces spotted two boats suspected to be fishing illegally Friday in Somali waters.

More details;

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710090086.html>



- **Iran, France Ink Deal on Sheep-Breeding**

Iran and France have signed a joint agreement to exchange their knowledge of sheep-breeding, and also sell livestock to each other. The memorandum of undersranfing to supply 13,000 sheep were signed between Kowsar Agricultural Investment Company on behalf of Iran and France's sheep breeders' society. Accordng to a Farsi report by Tasnim, this cooperation document was signed at the governorate headquarters of the city of Clermont-Ferrand. The ceremony was held in presence of the two countries' ministers of agriculture.

More details;

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-france-ink-deal-sheep-breeding/>

- **Iranian security delegation in Kabul for bilateral talks**

A delegation headed by Iranian Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs Hossein Zolfaghari arrived in Kabul on Monday. The visit is slated to address the implementation of agreements between the presidents of the two countries. Iranian delegation will also touch upon the negotiations of specialized working groups in the security, border, citizenship and police fields.

More details;

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128444/Iranian-security-delegation-in-Kabul-for-bilateral-talks>

- **Armenian prime minister off to Tehran on official visit**

Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan is flying today to the Islamic Republic of Iran for a two-day visit at the invitation of Iran's Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, the Armenian government press office reported.

More details;

[http://arka.am/en/news/politics/armenian\\_prime\\_minister\\_off\\_to\\_tehran\\_on\\_official\\_visit/](http://arka.am/en/news/politics/armenian_prime_minister_off_to_tehran_on_official_visit/)

- **Iran attends NPT Int'l in Rome**

Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi participated in the 20th international seminar on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which started work today in Rome, Italy. Salehi who is in Rome heading an Iranian delegation is scheduled to deliver a speech on Tuesday. The event is being held on the eve of the 60th anniversary of establishing European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82690129>

- **German Linde to help Iran to boost petchem output**

Iran's Maroun Petrochemical Company (MPC) has signed two contracts with German Linde group to expand petrochemical production, Rahim Sharif-Mousavi, MPC's managing director, said. MPC, which is located in the southern city of Mahshahr, Iran's second-largest center for petrochemical production, plans to expand its roster of petrochemical products, including ethylene, propylene and ethane.

More details;

<https://en.trend.az/iran/business/2805433.html>

- **Analysis: Asia's Iranian oil importers weigh supply plans on sanctions risk**

While a number of analysts remain skeptical whether the US will actually reimpose nuclear-related sanctions against Iran -- and if the international community would follow suit -- Asian buyers of Iranian oil have started looking into contingency supply plans for 2018 term imports.

More details;

<https://www.platts.com/latest-news/oil/singapore/analysis-asias-iranian-oil-importers-weigh-supply-27877347>

#### 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israeli minister criticizes Trump, expects settlement boom**

A top Israeli minister considered close to Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed rare criticism of President Donald Trump and has warned that he expects Israel to approve more construction in settlements.

More details;

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/israeli-minister-criticizes-trump-expects-settlement-boom/2017/10/09/4fd6bb24-acc8-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.3ff79f6129e1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/israeli-minister-criticizes-trump-expects-settlement-boom/2017/10/09/4fd6bb24-acc8-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22_story.html?utm_term=.3ff79f6129e1)

- **Netanyahu: There Is No Jewish Future Without the Bible**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday hosted a Bible study session at his official residence in Jerusalem. The event was named in honor of Shmuel Ben-Artzi, the late father of the prime minister's wife, Sara Netanyahu.

More details;

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/10/09/netanyahu-no-jewish-future-without-bible/>

- **Netanyahu okays construction of settler homes in Hebron, isolated settlements**

After reaching an agreement in principle with Trump administration, Israel will now be able to announce construction in the West Bank every 3-4 months rather than every few weeks; White House also no longer makes distinction between isolated settlements and major blocs. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has approved the construction of over 3,800 homes in the major settlement blocs in the West Bank, but also in isolated settlements and at the Jewish settlement in Hebron.

More details;

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5026327,00.html>

- **Israeli army shells Gaza after rocket lands in open area in southern Israel**

The Israeli army Sunday night targeted and destroyed an outpost in the besieged Gaza Strip, said to be used by the Hamas movement as an observation post, according to the Israeli army. The Israeli army spokesperson said on Twitter that a tank targeted the outpost in response to a rocket that was fired from Gaza earlier in the evening, which landed in an open area in the Eshkol Regional Council of southern Israel and caused no injuries or damages.

More details;

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?ID=779293>

- **Likud MK: Health Minister ignoring me**

Likud MK Nava Boker on Monday morning criticized Health Minister Yakov Litzman (UTJ) for refusing to hold a meeting with her on the subject of free dental care for all Israelis. In an interview with Channel 10, Boker said she was trying to advance legislation providing free dental care to all Israeli citizens, but has not received any response from Litzman.

More details;

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236480>

- **The Road to Palestinian Statehood**

End of September 2017, INTERPOL announced that the State of Palestine (together with the Solomon Islands) was to become its newest member. The announcement followed a vote which required a two-thirds majority of INTERPOL's General Assembly. The favourable vote came as a surprise to many as the question of Palestine's statehood remains controversial. INTERPOL's acceptance of

Palestine as a member country was not the biggest surprise of the past years. One of the most significant stakeholders in the Palestinian statehood issue is the International Criminal Council (ICC).

More details;

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2017/10/09/the-road-to-palestinian-statehood/#40b53ba63f27>

- **Israelis and Palestinians march through desert for peace**

Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians join Women Wage Peace for march through the desert calling for Middle East peace

More details;

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/09/watchisraelis-palestinians-march-desert-peace/>

- **Israeli Soldiers Fire Three Shells into Central Gaza**

Israeli soldiers fired, late Sunday night, three shells toward a post, run by the al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, east of the al-Maghazi refugee camp, in central Gaza. The Al-Qassam Brigades said in a press release that the Israeli shells caused property damage, but did not lead to any casualties.

More details;

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-soldiers-fire-three-shells-into-central-gaza/>

- **Israel Bans Muslims, Non-Jews from Ibrahimi Mosque for Jewish Holiday**

Israeli authorities have decided to shut down the Ibrahimi mosque to Muslims and non-Jewish visitors and only allow Jewish worshipers access to the holy site, located in the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron, for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

More details;

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/israel-bans-muslims-non-jews-ibrahimi-mosque-jewish-holiday-1031380>

- **Sisi: Hamas-Fatah unity a step towards Israel-PA peace**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said on Sunday that he hopes the prospect of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will pave the way to broader Israeli-Palestinian Arab peace, i24news reported.

More details;

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236466>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Aoun: legislative polls to take place on time under proportional law**

President of the republic, Michel Aoun, today maintained that the legislative polls would take place on their due date under the agreed proportional vote mode, adding that postponing it is out of question, National News Agency correspondent reported on Monday. "The legislative polls will be held on their due date under the proportional law, for the first time in Lebanon's history," he stressed.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84157/UPDATE-Aoun-Legislative-polls-to-take-place-on-time-under-proportional-law>

- **Berri, Hariri and Jumblat Hold Evening Meeting in Clemenceau**

A meeting was held Sunday evening at the residence of head of the Democratic Gathering bloc MP Walid Jumblat in Clemenceau in the presence of Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Saad Hariri, Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil, MP Wael Abu Faour and Taymour Jumblat, al-Joumhouria daily reported Monday.

More details;

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236476-report-berri-hariri-and-jumblat-hold-evening-meeting-in-clemenceau>

- **Hezbollah's Crazy Rhetoric Will Bring Armageddon down on Lebanon – OpEd**

I increasingly hear diplomats and academics talking about the next Lebanon war as if it were simply a matter of time. Perhaps we require no more authoritative conformation of this than statements emerging from Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah himself.

More details;

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/09102017-hezbollahs-crazy-rhetoric-will-bring-armageddon-down-on-lebanon-oped/>



- **Overseas aid projects announced**

Next year's community work projects run by Jersey Overseas Aid will be in Tanzania, Mongolia and Lebanon, it has been announced. Volunteers will be sent to the three countries to help carry out projects which could include helping to build a new school or medical centre.

More Details:

<https://jerseyeveningpost.com/news/2017/10/09/overseas-aid-projects-announced/#YrmmLV5qFK29rDDo.99>

- **Hezbollah secretary general accuses US of helping Daesh**

The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement says the US is helping Daesh in Syria and Iraq. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says US warplanes support the terrorists by preventing the resistance bloc from uprooting the terror group. Our correspondent Mariam Saleh reports from Beirut.

More details;

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/09/537946/Hezbollah-secretary-general-US-Daesh->

- **Jordan's economic new normal**

The official message conveyed to Jordanians is that outstanding economic deterioration is a transitory phase directly linked to temporary developments and regional instability. While such argument reflects part of the reality, it must be acknowledged that Jordan is experiencing a new economic normal that will prevail for many years until a breakthrough is realised.

More details;

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/abdelmonem-alzu%E2%80%99bi/jordan%E2%80%99s-economic-new-normal>

- **Negotiations between Jordan, Syrian Opposition to Reopen Nassib Border-Crossing**

Negotiations between the Jordan government and Syrian opposition factions have intensified in recent days ahead of the reopening of the Nassib border-crossing with Syria. The Jordanian government is working on renovating the crossing ahead of its official reopening in early 2018, two years after its closure.

More details;

<https://english.aawsat.com/youssef-diab/news-middle-east/negotiations-jordan-syrian-opposition-reopen-nassib-border-crossing>

- **Israel invests millions in anti-BDS campaign highlighting Jordan Valley produce**

In response to international BDS anti-Israel movement, Public Security Min. Gilad Erdan launches special initiative at a cost of NIS 7 million to publicize agricultural Jordan Valley produce around the world, and to showcase cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

More details;

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5025517,00.html>

- **Foreign Minister Kasoulides to hold contacts in Kuwait and Jordan**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Ioannis Kasoulides, will pay an official visit to the State of Kuwait on 8-9 October 2017, upon the invitation of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Cyprus and the State of Kuwait.

More details;

<http://www.balkan.eu.com/foreign-minister-kasoulides-to-hold-contacts-in-kuwait-and-jordan/>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Two guards killed in attack on Saudi palace**

An armed man drove on Saturday up to a gate of the king's palace here and opened fire, killing at least two security guards and wounding three others before being shot dead, officials said on Sunday.

More details,

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1362580/two-guards-killed-in-attack-on-saudi-palace>

- **Saudi Arabian Military Industries Announces MOU with Russia**

Based on the agreement reached between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the Russian Federation on the procurement of several armament systems, whereas the Ministry of Defense in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed contracts to procure: the S-400 air defense system, the Kornet-EM system [anti-tank guided missiles—Ed.], the TOS-1A [thermobaric multiple rocket launcher], the AGS-30 automatic grenade launchers] and the Kalashnikov AK-103 [assault rifle].

More details,

<http://www.defencetalk.com/saudi-arabian-military-industries-announces-mou-with-russia-70589/>

- **King Salman arrives in Riyadh after a fruitful 4-day Russia state visit**

King Salman returned to Riyadh on Sunday after a four-day historic state visit to Russia, which had seen Saudi-Russian ties reaching new heights.

More details,

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1174486/saudi-arabia>

- **Arab League says UN report on Yemen requires more accuracy**

The Arab League confirmed that the annual report of the UN Secretary-General on the situation of children in the context of armed conflict and its allegations on the Arab Coalition Countries to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen's violations against children during the armed conflict in Yemen needed more accuracy, investigation and research.

More details,

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302637317>

- **Yemeni Civilians Killed in Saudi Air Raid**

A dozen civilians have lost their lives and several others sustained injuries when Saudi fighter jets targeted a residential area in Yemen's Southwestern province of Ta'izz as the Riyadh regime presses ahead with its atrocious bombardment campaign against its southern neighbor.

More details,

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960716001526>

- **Qatar Boosts Private Sector's Contribution to Economy amid Blockade**

Following the directives of the Emir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani has issued a set of decisions and directives aiming to promote the private sector's contribution to the economic development of the country.

More details,

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/qatar-boosts-private-sectors-contribution-economy-amid-blockade-1031080>

- **Major engineering conference opens in Bahrain**

More than 200 companies from across the region are taking part in Middle East Process Engineering Conference & Exhibition (Mepec) 2017, which opened in Bahrain on Monday (October 9). Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Mepec is organised by the Middle East Energy Events in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority (Noga).

More details,

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS\\_331271.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_331271.html)

- **Sayyid Fahd receives Swiss National Council President**

On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers yesterday received Jürg Stahl, Swiss National Council President and his accompanying delegation who conveyed the greetings of the leadership in the Swiss Confederation to HM the Sultan and wishes of success to the government and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

More details,

<http://timesofoman.com/article/118917/Oman/Government/Oman-Switzerland-review-bilateral-relations>

- **Bahraini minister of health's visit to expand bilateral ties: Javed Malik**

Pakistan's Ambassador to Bahrain, Javed Malik has said that the visit by Bahraini Minister of Health, Mrs. Faiqa Al Saleh, to Pakistan indicates the growing and expanding relations between Pakistan and Bahrain in line with vision of the leadership of both countries.

More details,

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/235633-Bahraini-minister-of-healths-visit-to-expand-bilateral-ties-Javed-Malik>

- **Sheikh Hamdan challenges Dewa, RTA; check out their responses**

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, on Sunday challenged Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (Dewa) to take part in the Dubai Fitness Challenge. The challenge - which will start on October 20 - aims to turn Dubai into the most active city in the world.

More details,

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/dubai/sheikh-hamdan-challenges-dewa-rta-check-out-their-responses>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's Jewish community backs country's UNESCO candidate**

The head of Egypt's minuscule Jewish community has voiced support for the country's UNESCO candidate who has been criticized by Egyptian human rights activists. A statement from Magda Haroun says that Moushira Khattab has shown an impressive and "genuine commitment to our cause to protect Egypt's Jewish heritage."

More details,

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/09/egypts-jewish-community-backs-countrys-unesco-candidate.html>

- **Egypt court refers 13 militants death sentences to grand mufti for approval**

Giza Criminal Court has referred the death sentences of 13 Agnad Masr militants to the Grand Mufti for approval following their conviction on terrorism-related charges, including killing policemen. The court issued the order on Sunday, setting a date of 7 December for handing down the final verdicts in the case

More details,

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278447/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-court-refers--militants-death-sentences-to-g.aspx>

- **Court cancels release of Al-Jama'a Al-Islamiyya leaders**

Cairo Criminal Court renewed Saturday the detention of two prominent leaders of the Al-Jama'a Al-Islamiyya for 45 days pending investigations, thus canceling an earlier release order. The general prosecution authority appealed the release decision issued Wednesday for Safwat Abdel Ghany and Alaa Abu El-Nasr. According to state media, they face accusations of inciting violence and belonging to a terror group.

More details,

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/08/court-cancels-release-al-jamaa-al-islamiyya-leaders/>



- **Egypt, Italy to sign promotion agreement to boost Egypt's tourism industry**

Tourism Minister Yehia Rashed said Sunday that he agreed with Italian Deputy Minister of Culture Dorina Bianchi to ink a cooperation protocol to promote the country's ailing tourism industry. In a press release, Rashed stressed the importance of the protocol that will contribute to boosting the incoming tourism from Italy, as they met on the sidelines of a meeting held on Saturday with Bianchi in the presence of Egyptian Ambassador Hisham Badr.

More details,

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypt-italy-sign-promotion-agreement-boost-egypts-tourism-industry/>

- **Sisi: Hamas-Fatah unity a step towards Israel-PA peace**

Egyptian President says he hopes the prospect of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will pave the way to broader Israeli-PA peace. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said on Sunday that he hopes the prospect of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will pave the way to broader Israeli-Palestinian Arab peace, i24news reported.

More details,

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236466>

- **In Cairo, Hamas declares readiness to form Palestinian unity government**

Head of the Hamas movement's politburo Ismail Haniyeh and other high-ranking Hamas members met with Egyptian intelligence officials in Cairo on Monday night, with talks focusing on cross border security and a readiness for Palestinian national reconciliation.

More details,

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?id=779065>

- **Egypt Arrests 14 Members of Terrorist 'Hasm' Group**

Egypt announced on Saturday the arrest of 14 members of the terrorist Hasm organization. The Interior Ministry said that the detainees include one of its leaders in the Menoufiya province in the Nile Delta region. They were planning on carrying out several terrorist attacks, said the ministry in a statement on its Facebook page.

More details,

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/egypt-arrests-14-members-terrorist-hasm-group>

- **Rosneft acquires 30% stake in Zohr field in \$1.1bn**

Rosneft has acquired a 30% stake in the Zohr field, the largest gas field in the Mediterranean Sea. Rosneft struck the \$1.1bn deal with Italian firm Eni.

More details,

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/152603/rosneft-acquires-30-stake-zohr-field-1-1bn/>

- **Farmers Union call on Egyptian President Sisi to run for 2018 elections**

Chief for the Farmers Union, Hussein Abd al-Rahman, stated that he supports the nomination of President Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi in the 2018 presidential election, during a meeting with the chiefs of the Farmers Union in Egypt on Sunday.

More details,

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/news/egypt-news/59772-farmers-union-call-on-egyptian-president-sisi-to-run-for-2018-elections.html>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Russia Ready to Offer Nuclear Technologies to Algeria**

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said that Russia is ready to offer Algeria its technologies and technical solutions if a decision is made to establish a national nuclear industry as well as to develop cooperation in other spheres.

More details,

<https://sputniknews.com/africa/201710091058060153-russia-offer-nuclear-algeria/>

- **Tunisian health minister dies after charity marathon**

Tunisia's health minister died of a heart attack on Sunday after taking part in a charity marathon to help battle cancer, officials said. Slim Chaker, 56, fell ill after running some 500 metres (yards) and then making a speech at the start of a race in the coastal town of Nabeul aimed at raising funds to build a clinic for children with cancer, his ministry said.

More details,

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4960448/Tunisian-health-minister-dies-charity-marathon.html>

- **Amel Kahloun Afek Tounes' candidate to partial legislative elections in Germany**

The political bureau of the Afek Tounes party chose Amel Kahloun, a member of its national council, as a candidate to the partial legislative elections in Germany, said Zeineb Torki, political bureau member on Sunday evening to TAP.

More details,

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9445902-amel-kahloun-afek>

- **Moroccan MPs protest Israel delegation in parliament**

Moroccan lawmakers protested yesterday against the presence of an Israeli delegation at a conference organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at the Moroccan Parliament in Rabat.

More details,

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171009-moroccan-mps-protest-israel-delegation-in-parliament/>

- **Crimean tanker hit by coast guard reported capsized**

A Crimean oil tanker which was said to have been shot at and holed by the Libyan Coast Guard on Friday is reported to have now capsized. The coast guard said on Saturday that its forces shot at the Comoros-flagged Goeast the previous day after it ignored calls to stop and be boarded. It said that it had been monitoring the vessel, claiming that it had anchored in the Bukhamash area and taken onboard a cargo of fuel. It then fired on the vessel. According to Libyan navy and coast guard spokesman Ayoub Gassem the engine room and the fuel tanks were hit. He said the Goeast then started listing.

More details,

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/09/crimean-tanker-hit-by-coast-guard-reported-capsized/>

- **NATO Should Prevent Increase of Russia's Presence in Libya – Stoltenberg**

NATO should not let Russia strengthen its presence in divided Libya as Moscow's involvement in the peace settlement process in Syria has only created an "even more difficult situation," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday. "We are following closely the situation in Libya more generally. We have seen the effects of Russian presence in Syria, how that has created an even more difficult situation in Syria. Of course, we have to avoid anything similar happening in Libya. And we call on all actors, including Russia, to support the UN-led efforts and UN-recognized government [in Libya]," Stoltenberg said at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Bucharest.

More details,

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710091058065866-nato-russia-presence-libya-stoltenberg/>

- **Ex-Israeli war minister's visit sparks storm in Morocco**

Former Israeli minister of military affairs Amir Peretz has faced angry protests at the Moroccan parliament in Rabat, with several lawmakers calling him a "war criminal" and demanding his expulsion.

More details,

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/09/537962/Israel-Minister-for-Military-Affairs-Amir-Peretz-Morocco>

- **Morocco's oldest political party elects new leader**

Morocco's oldest political party Istiqlal has elected former finance minister Nizar Baraka as its new leader, the party said on its website.

More details,

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/ffc91b6f-8fa6-4927-99f7-a4f319c8a780.aspx>

- **Tunisian ship and migrant boat collide, eight dead reported: media**

At least eight people drowned on Monday when a boat carrying dozens of mostly Tunisian migrants collided with a navy vessel off the country's southeast coast, its defense ministry said. According to testimony from survivors, there were between 70 and 80 people on board, International Organization for Migration (IOM) spokesman Flavio Di Giacomo said. He said at least 20 people were missing and some 40, almost all Tunisians, had been rescued.

More details,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants/tunisian-ship-and-migrant-boat-collide-eight-dead-reported-media-idUSKBN1CE11D?rpc=401&>

- **South Africa: SA to Participate in WTO Ministerial Meeting**

A South African delegation has arrived in Marrakesh, Morocco, to attend the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Informal Ministerial Gathering.

More details,

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710090437.html>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Uzbekistan to participate in SCO-Afghanistan contact group meeting in Moscow**

The delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan will take part in the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Afghanistan contact group in Moscow on October 11, the Foreign Ministry said.

More details,

<http://akipress.com/news:597557/>

- **-Hand over imprisoned Taliban commanders for reconciliation process: Afghanistan to Pak**

Afghanistan has asked Pakistan to hand over five top Taliban commanders imprisoned in that country to step up efforts for peace and reconciliation. Adviser to the Afghanistan President on reconciliation and peace Affairs Muhammad Hanif Atmar handed over a list to Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif comprising 35 commanders, five of whom have a say in the Taliban Shura and could play a role for peace in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

More details,

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/hand-over-imprisoned-taliban-commanders-for-reconciliation-process-afghanistan-to-pak201710091602420001/>

- **Hekmatyar warns war will continue if necessary steps are not taken**

The leader of Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has warned that war and violence will continue in the country if necessary steps are not taken to bring the situation under the control. Hekmatyar made the remarks during a meeting with the tribal elders of Koh-e-Safi district.

More details,

<http://www.khaama.com/hekmatyar-warns-war-will-continue-if-necessary-steps-are-not-taken-03612>

- **Pakistan wants stable Afghanistan: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi**

Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoy fraternal ties and Pakistan wants a stable Afghanistan, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Sunday. Talking to a private TV channel, the PM expressed his intention to visit Kabul. “Both countries have sacrificed for each other. Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa extended an invitation to the Afghan president to visit Islamabad on behalf of the government of Pakistan,” he said.



More details,

<http://paktribune.com/news/Pakistan-wants-stable-Afghanistan-Shahid-Khaqan-Abbasi-279613.html>

- **MoD strongly reacts at Pakistani minister's accusations against Afghan forces**

The Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan strongly reacted at the accusations of the foreign minister of Pakistan against the Afghan security forces. The Ministry of Defense spokesman Gen. Dawlat Waziri said Islamabad is attempting to divert the attention of the international community with baseless accusations.

More details,

<http://www.khaama.com/mod-strongly-reacts-at-pakistani-ministers-accusations-against-afghan-forces-03608>

- **US politicians, Afghan rulers should not believe in Pakistan despite latest pledge**

The experiences of the last four decades imposed and devastating conflicts in our country and Pakistan double games show that Pakistani rulers have never been sincere in their promises, and have been trying to cover their interferences and subversive activities.

More details,

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/opinions/politics/15109-us-politicians-afghan-rulers-should-not-believe-in-pakistan-despite-latest-pledge.html>

- **"Pakistan is no more reliant on US for military requirements," says Prime Minister Abbasi**

Pakistan is no more reliant on the United States for military requirements and will 'reach out to other sources if one source dries up,' PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said in an interview with the Arab News on Sunday.

More details,

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Oct-17/pakistan-is-no-more-reliant-on-us-for-military-requirements-says-prime-minister-abbasi>

- **Pakistani PM says his country no longer depends on U.S.**

The days of Pakistan depending on the U.S. to meet its military and other requirements are over, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said.

More details,

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31606-pakistani-pm-says-his-country-no-longer-depends-on-us>

- **Iranian Health Minister in Pakistan to attend WHO meeting**

The Iranian minister of health, who is visiting Pakistan, said the implementation of bilateral agreements between the two countries especially those related to export of Iranian pharmaceutical products would be discussed with Pakistani authorities.

More details,

[http://en.abna24.com/news/central-asia-subcontinent/iranian-health-minister-in-pakistan-to-attend-who-meeting\\_859212.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/central-asia-subcontinent/iranian-health-minister-in-pakistan-to-attend-who-meeting_859212.html)

- **President Ghani Praises Muhib Group for Investment In Afghanistan**

President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, chaired a meeting of the High Economic Council for investment in Afghanistan, his office said in a statement Sunday.

More details,

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/business/item/30368-president-ghani-praises-muhib-group-for-investment-in-afghanistan.html>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **MP: Iraq's partition Iran, Turkey, Iraq red-line**

Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi said on Sunday that disintegration of Iraq is deemed as red-line for Iran, Turkey and Iraq. Highlighting latest developments in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, he said the fourth round of talks in the parliament commission was held on Sunday to review the latest development in that region.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82689418>

- **Iraq-Iran-Turkey to respond to Kurdish referendum at Baghdad summit**

The debate around the controversial Kurdish independence will be discussed at a high-level meeting between Iraq, Iran and Turkey in the coming days, senior Iraqi sources have told The New Arab. The meeting will bring together Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, Turkey's leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Abadi, according to the leader of Iraq's ruling National Alliance movement Jasim Mohammad Jaafar.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/8/iraq-iran-turkey-to-respond-to-kurdish-referendum-at-baghdad-summit>

- **Erdoğan, Macron discuss Syria, Iraq in phone call**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron held a phone call Saturday to discuss the current situation in Iraq and Syria. Erdogan and Macron exchanged views on developments in the region, and strengthening bilateral ties between Turkey and France. The two leaders also stressed the importance of preserving Iraq and Syria's territorial integrity in their phone call, presidential sources said.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/europe/erdogan-macron-discuss-syria-iraq-in-phone-call\\_858960.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/europe/erdogan-macron-discuss-syria-iraq-in-phone-call_858960.html)

- **Turkey implementing Astana deal in Syria's Idlib, Erdogan says**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that Turkey was implementing a deal agreed with Russia and Iran to reduce violence in Syria's northern province of Idlib. He said the operation was being conducted in cooperation with Free Syrian Army opposition fighters.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/turkey-implementing-astana-deal-in-syria-s-idlib-erdogan-says-11187>

*\*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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