



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Proces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliği

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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10 OCTOBER 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **Kurdistan's long and uncertain road to independence**

The sounds of honking car horns and celebratory cheers on the streets that followed the Kurdish referendum on independence in Iraq have long disappeared. While a sense of determination for statehood continues, it is underscored by uncertainty about the road ahead – and the cost of getting there.

More Details:

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/kurdistans-long-and-uncertain-road-to-independence/article36528617/>

- **Dozens in Tal Afar Mass Grave; 143 Killed in Iraq**

A civil war could erupt over contested city of Kirkuk if disputes concerning the Kurdish referendum go unresolved, according to Iraqi Vice President Ayad Allawi. He asked both Kurdish President Massoud Barzani and Shi'ite militia forces to show restraint. Peshmerga forces recaptured the city shortly after Islamic State militants claimed it in 2014. Allawi believes if Shi'ite forces take it upon themselves to try to take Kirkuk, it will destroy any chance for a unified Iraq.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/10/09/dozens-tal-afar-mass-grave-143-killed-iraq/>

- **Regional powers and Erbil referendum**

In this Op-Ed, Iranian political expert and analyst Sadegh Maleki discusses the impact of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region from the viewpoint of the three regional countries including Iran, Iraq and Turkey. Baghdad, Ankara, Tehran and Damascus were the strongest opponents of the referendum and the independence of northern Iraq, but this is not the whole story. While analyzing and making decisions about the referendum, one should pay special attention to the different views of the centers of power on the issue of the Kurds, and refrain from making hasty evaluation and miscalculations.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128427/Regional-powers-and-Erbil-referendum>

- **UN Security Council member France good mediator for Kurdistan: di Borgo**

European nations are hesitant to express support for Kurdistan's referendum in light of a similar secessionist movement much closer to home, in Catalonia, said former French senator Yves Pozzo di Borgo and deputy of the centre-right Union of Democrats and Independents (UDI) party.

More Details:

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/091020175>

- **Sadr calls for million-man march to storm Iraqi Parliament over electoral commission row**

Supporters of Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Monday vowed to storm the Iraqi Parliament “again” if the term of the elections commission was extended. In a statement on Monday, the Central Revolution Committee, affiliated to Sadr, threatened to storm the Iraqi Parliament building if the Parliament extended the Independent High Electoral Commission’s (IHEC) term.

More Details:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/2b7933eb-823e-442f-9266-8ae915e61e9d>

- **Peshmerga Won’t Retreat from Disputed Kurdish Areas: Ministry**

Kurdistan Region’s Peshmerga forces will certainly not withdraw from the Kurdish disputed territories they liberated from the Islamic State (IS), said a ministry official.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/384374>

- **Report: Islamic State Chooses to ‘Surrender En Masse’ to Iraqi Kurds over Martyrdom**

An excess of one thousand Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) terrorists have reportedly surrendered to Iraqi Kurdistan’s Peshmerga troops despite the martyrdom they pledged was their only acceptable end, according to a report.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/09/report-islamic-state-chooses-to-surrender-en-masse-to-iraqi-kurds-over-martyrdom/>

- **Five million displaced in northern Iraq**

As the Iraqi offensive in and near Hawija in Kirkuk Governorate is drawing to a close, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners expressed deep concern on Monday for the safety of civilian populations in the region

More Details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1710/S00113/five-million-displaced-in-northern-iraq.htm>

- **US ‘simulates’ anti-ISIS fight in Iraq as terrorists cross into Syria – MoD**

The Russian Defense Ministry has accused the US-led international coalition of “simulating” the fight against ISIS in Iraq. The coalition conducted fewer airstrikes in Iraq in September while well-armed terrorists crossed into Syria, Moscow added.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/406200-coalition-isis-fight-iraq/>

- **Chevron, Total want to work in Majnoon oil field, says Iraq**

Chevron Corp and Total have expressed readiness to help develop Iraq’s giant Majnoon oil field, which Royal Dutch Shell said it wants to quit, according to Iraqi Oil Minister Jabbar al-Luaibi.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/566838/Chevron-Total-want-to-work-in-Majnoon-oil-field-sa>

- **Gov’t Urged to Pursue Iran-Iraq War Reparations**

Lawmakers have called on the government to follow up on the issue of reparations dating back to the catastrophic eight-year Iran-Iraq war in the 80s, saying that the amount of damages should be determined, though the mechanism and time of payment is negotiable.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/73898/gov-t-urged-to-pursue-iran-iraq-war-reparations>

- **Iraq Asks Neighboring Countries to Stop Oil Trade with Kurdistan**

The Iraqi government escalated on Monday against the Kurdistan Region and placed more sanctions in retaliation to the Sept. 25 referendum on independence by officially asking Turkey and Iran to stop all their commercial dealings with Irbil, especially those related to the Region’s oil.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/iraq-asks-neighboring-countries-stop-oil-trade-kurdistan>

- **Iraqi VP warns of ‘civil war’ over Kurdish-held Kirkuk**

Iraqi Vice President Ayad Allawi warned on Monday there could be a “civil war” over the Kurdish-administered city of Kirkuk if talks over Kurdish independence are left unresolved.

More Details:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/iraqi-vp-warns-of-civil-war-over-kurdish-held-kirkuk/2017/10/09/00521000-acfd-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22_story.html?utm_term=.

- **ISIL Top Explosive Expert Succumbs to Death in Iraq's Diyala**

An ISIL top explosive expert was killed as security troops set up an ambush for the militants in Diyala, a security source said on Monday. “joint troops, backed by Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces set up over the past two days an ambush for ISIL militants near Qurret Tabah, Northeast of Diyala,” Alghad Press reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960717001596>

- **Iraq and Iran Accelerate Oil Exports in Battle with Saudi Arabia**

Iraq and Iran boosted crude exports in September, taking advantage of a slower pace of shipments from rival Saudi Arabia to win buyers in key markets like China and the U.S. Iraq shipped 3.98 million barrels of crude a day, the highest since December, while Iran’s exports rose to 2.28 million barrels a day, the most since February, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Saudi Arabia’s exports were 6.68 million barrels a day, the second-lowest for this year, the data show.

More Details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-09/iraq-and-iran-accelerate-oil-exports-in-battle-with-saudi-arabia>

- **Inaction Could Turn Iraqi Kurdistan Into Another Syria**

Tehran and Ankara must enhance regional cooperation to stop the Iraqi Kurdistan region from becoming another Syria, a political analyst said.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/73899/inaction-could-turn-iraqi-kurdistan-into-another-syria>

- **Qatar provides health care for 10,000 Iraqis in Mosul**

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is working to enhance the medical sector in Mosul, Iraq, with funding from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/09/10/2017/Qatar-provides-health-care-for-10,000-Iraqis-in-Mosul>

- **Iraq to appropriate Kurd region's mobile-phone networks**

The Iraqi government on Monday announced plans to assume control of all mobile-phone networks in northern Iraq's Kurdish region, according to an official statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-to-appropriate-kurd-regions-mobile-phone-networks/931059>

2. SYRIA

- **Russia accuses US of pretending to fight Islamic State group in Syria, Iraq**

Russia accused the United States on Tuesday of pretending to fight the Islamic State group (IS) and of deliberately reducing its air strikes in Iraq to allow the group's militants to stream into Syria to slow the Russian-backed advance of the Syrian army.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/russia-accuses-us-pretending-fight-islamic-state-group-syria-iraq-198329490>

- **ISIS Attacks Al-Nusra in Syria's Southern Idlib**

The ISIS terrorist group launched a surprise offense on Monday against militants from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and Jabhat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria's northern Hama and southern Idlib and were able to control a number of villages after infiltrating from regime-held areas.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/saeed-abdelrazek-and-paula-astih/news-middle-east/isis-attacks-al-nusra-syrias-southern-idlib>

- **Russian aircraft destroy IS economic infrastructure in Syria**

Militants of the Islamic State (IS, terror group, outlawed in Russia) no longer have sources of financing in Syria for purchasing weapons and ammunition and recruiting mercenaries, the group's economic infrastructure in that country has been destroyed, Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Igor Konashenkov told reporters on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/defense/969763>

- **Hezbollah's Nasrallah Escalates Threats as Syria Turns Into Iranian Base**

A recent speech by Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah contained unusually aggressive statements, calling for the ethnic cleansing of Jews from Israel, and claiming that a future war would lead to Israel's "demise."

More Details:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2017/10/09/hezbollahs-nasrallah-escalates-threats-as-syria-turns-into-iranian-base/>

- **Nusra Front, Islamic State clash in Syria's Hama province**

Islamic State took control of some Syrian villages in a rebel-controlled area east of Hama on Monday, opening a new frontline days after the Syrian military said it had cleared Islamic State from a nearby area. Islamic State said in a statement it had taken control of 12 villages and carried out a big attack on the jihadist alliance Tahrir al-Sham.

More Details:

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-islamic-state/nusra-front-islamic-state-clash-in-syrias-hama-province-idUSKBN1CE1TC?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&rpc=401

- **Lavrov, Tillerson discuss coordination for boosting de-escalation zones and means of political settlement in Syria**

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed with his U.S. counterpart Rex Tillerson coordination between the two countries to provide the functioning of de-escalation zones and promote the political settlement in Syria, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=115459>

- **Hezbollah: US Hinders Elimination of ISIS in Syria**

The secretary general of Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah movement in an interview with Press TV stated that the United States does not aimed at faster solution of the Syrian crisis as well as elimination of ISIS terrorist group.

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/10/09/hezbollah-us-hinders-elimination-of-isis-in-syria/>

- **Fight to drive Daesh from Syria bastion Raqa nears end**

S-backed fighters say they are nearing the "final week" of their assault to drive the Daesh (the so-called IS) group from their one-time Syrian bastion Raqa, as the militants' self-described "caliphate" crumbles. Losing Raqa would be only the latest in a series of crushing defeats for the extremist group, which once controlled large swathes of territory spanning the border between Syria and Iraq.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/518969/World/Mena/Fight-to-drive-Daesh-from-Syria-bastion-Raqa-nears-end>

- **Six Yezidi Abductees Freed from IS in Syria**

Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Directorate of Yezidi Abductees' Affairs stated that six more Kurdish Yezidis were rescued from Islamic State (IS) on Monday, October 9. Hussein Qaidi, head of the directorate, told BasNews "a woman aged 30 along with her four children from Solaghi area of Sinjar and another woman aged 24 were freed from the grip of the IS terrorists today and they arrived in Duhok Province to be reunited with their families."

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/384315>

3. IRAN

- **Iran arrests several terrorists**

Iranian security forces have arrested a number of terrorists who intended to carry out operations during the mourning ceremonies across the country earlier this month, the intelligence minister declared on Monday. "A small number of people (terrorists) were identified and arrested by the intelligence ministry and intended to carry out actions against our security" and their plots were foiled, Iranian Intelligence Minister Seyed Mahmoud Alavi said on Monday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960717001398>

- **IAEA reassures Iran about impartiality**

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reassured Iran that political developments, particularly in the United States, will not influence the organization's reporting on the Islamic Republic.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/10/538066/Iran-IAEA-Yukiya-Amano-Ali-Akbar-Salehi>

- **IRGC, FM share similar views on defense, security programs**

IRGC commander Maj. Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari said there is an excellent understanding between IRGC and FM Zarif in stating our stances against the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari made the remarks in the coordination session for celebrating the 40th anniversary of Islamic Revolution, stressing that the IRGC and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif share similar views on Iran's defensive, political and social programs.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128469/IRGC-FM-share-similar-views-on-defense-security-programs>

- **IRGC Navy holds maneuver in Persian Gulf**

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy held a military exercise in the Persian Gulf on Monday with the aim of displaying Iran's preparedness to defend maritime borders. Admiral Mansour Ravankar, an IRGC navy commander, told reporters that 110 rocket-launching speedboats, long-, mid- and short-range missile launchers, mining vessels as well as reconnaissance, defensive and logistic vessels were involved in the maneuver.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417441/IRGC-Navy-holds-maneuver-in-Persian-Gulf>

- **Armenian PM: Iran's regional stances always aimed at maintaining peace, security**

Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan praised Iran's balanced stances on Karabakh dispute, saying that the country's regional stances have always meant for maintaining peace and security. In a meeting with Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani late on Monday, he added, "We believe that regional problem can be solved only through peaceful dialogues and we have no confidence in war and conflict."

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82690708>

- **Europe, Russia, China worried about US action on Iran nuclear deal**

The European Union, Germany, France Russia, and China all expressed concern over new possible measures by the United States against Iran and the 2015 nuclear deal. The EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said Iran's compliance with the nuclear accord had been verified on at least eight separate occasions.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/202073.html>

- **'Iran-France Business Ties Promoted after Nuclear Deal'**

A member Franco-Iranian Chamber of Commerce says Tehran and Paris have promoted their bilateral economic ties following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2016. "Relations between Iran and France have expanded in various fields including auto industry, aviation industry, part-making, environment, sewerage, agriculture and so on," said Mohammad Reza Najafi-Manesh, a board member of Iran-France Chamber of Commerce.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-france-business-ties-promoted-nuclear-deal/>

- **Iran's Top Judge Decries US Hypocrisy over KRG Referendum**

The US has adopted a hypocritical policy towards the Iraqi Kurdistan Region's plan to secede from Iraq, Iran's Judiciary chief deplored, saying Iran, by stark contrast, has explicitly opposed the secession bid which is part of plot to sap the strength of the Muslim nations.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/09/1541179/iran-s-top-judge-decries-us-hypocrisy-over-krp-referendum>

- **Iran to reciprocate US measures against IRGC**

Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif says Tehran will take reciprocal measures against a potential "strategic mistake" by US President Donald Trump to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

More Details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i65471-iran to reciprocate us measures against irgc>

- **Iran to Show Crushing Response If US Declares IRGC Terror Group**

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi warned that if Washington decides to declare the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization, Tehran would make a “firm and crushing” response.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/iran-show-crushing-response-us-declares-irgc-terror-group/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Growing pains: Israelis confront the problems of a booming population**

Israel’s small size, arid environment and complex demographics, combined with its quickly growing population, pose significant challenges as the population is expected to double by the year 2059. Israelis across the spectrum say the stress of population growth on infrastructure and stability is already apparent, and are taking steps to address problems associated with the high birthrate.

More details;

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/growing-pains-israelis-confront-the-problems-of-a-booming-population/>

- **Al Jazeera Admits to Planting Undercover Reporter in U.S. pro-Israel Organizations**

Al Jazeera, the Qatari-owned international news network, publicly admitted on Monday that it had installed an undercover reporter inside pro-Israel organizations last year in Washington, D.C., and that it is planning to air a documentary film based on the reporter's work.

More details;

<https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/1.816486>

- **US wants an Iron Dome of its own**

US Department of Defense considering purchase of Israeli Iron Dome defense system to protect its military crews stationed around the world. Israel has placed an Iron Dome air defense system in Washington, but not to guard against rockets shot at the US - rather, to present the system to American leadership within the framework of the AUSA weapons exhibition taking place in the capital.

More details;

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236538>

- **Israeli co Roboteam unveils TIGR tactical military robot**

TIGR is a highly mobile, all-weather system capable of operating in any terrain, which incorporates best-in-class day and night vision and six HD video cameras. Israeli defense robotic systems developer Roboteam has unveiled its Transportable Interoperable Ground Robot (TIGR) at the AUSA 2017 exhibition in Washington DC. The company develops tactical ground robotic systems and controllers for defense, law enforcement and public safety missions.

More details;

<http://www.globes.co.il/en/article-israeli-co-roboteam-unveils-tactical-military-robot-1001207520>

- **Labour Expels Jewish Anti-Zionist for 'Anti-Semitism'**

Moche Machover, an Israeli-born mathematician, philosopher and radical activist, received an expulsion letter from the Labour Party for his article, 'Anti-Zionism Does Not Equal Anti-Semitism'.

More details;

<http://imemc.org/article/labour-expels-jewish-anti-zionist-for-anti-semitism/>

- **85 Words That Destroyed Palestinian Dream – OpEd**

Some promises are made and kept, others disavowed. The Balfour Declaration, a promise made 100 years ago by the British Foreign Secretary to Jewish leaders in Britain, was honored only in part. A state for the Jewish people was indeed established, but that part of the declaration promising protection for the Palestinian people has been a sham for a century.

More details;

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/10102017-85-words-that-destroyed-palestinian-dream-oped/>

- **Hamas and Fatah to take part in reconciliation talks in Cairo today**

Hamas is in a very difficult situation in Gaza and needs to find a way out," Abu Yousif said in a phone interview. "I am optimistic that we will succeed this time."

More details;

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Hamas-and-Fatah-to-take-part-in-reconciliation-talks-in-Cairo-today-507086>

- **PA's Abbas fears being squeezed out by Egypt-Hamas-Dahlan alliance**

There are worries within Fatah that if this plan fails, Egypt will look to plan B - a deal with Mohammad Dahlan

More details;

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/pa-concerned-reconciliation-efforts-aimed-boosting-hamas-egypt-dahlan-ties-348282459>

- **Thousands of Palestinian, Israeli Women March for Peace**

Women Wage Peace was set up in 2014 after the Gaza war that lasted 50 days killing over 2000 Palestinians, mostly civilians.

More details;

<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Thousands-of-Palestinian-Israeli-Women-March-for-Peace--20171009-0034.html>

- **Hamas Hopes Negotiations Would Coincide with Easing PA Sanctions**

On the eve of the launching of the Palestinian reconciliation talks in Cairo, the Islamic Resistance Movement – Hamas – has put forward what was described as minimum gains and a ceiling of concessions, according to a movement official. There are “irreversible constants, such as the weapons of resistance and equal participation in government,” the official told Asharq al-Awsat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More details;

<https://english.aawsat.com/mohamed-nabil-helmy/news-middle-east/hamas-hopes-negotiations-coincide-easing-pa-sanctions>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Report: U.S. Sanctions against Hizbullah 'Neutralize Army, Banks'**

Concerns linger that Lebanon might be harmed by the US sanctions that will be “officially approved against Hizbullah in three weeks,” but the visits of parliamentary and banking delegations to Washington last spring succeeded at “neutralizing key and important” sectors from the sanctions, al-Mustaqbal daily reported on Tuesday.

More details;

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236528-report-u-s-sanctions-against-hizbullah-neutralize-army-banks>

- **Seven examples of successful gentrification in cities around the world, from Cape Town to Beirut**

Run-down urban areas, once blighted by crime and drugs, are transformed into trendy areas, full of artists' enclaves, boutique hotels, bars and restaurants. These seven cities have been rebranded by developers

More details;

<http://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/travel-leisure/article/2114658/seven-gentrified-cities-around-world-cape-town-beirut>

- **China vows continued support to UN peacekeeping mission in S. Lebanon**

Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon Wang Kejian pledged on Monday that China will continue its support to the UN peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon.

More details;

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/10/c_136668085.htm

- **Hezbollah Leader: 'Americans Working to Hinder Battle against Islamic State**

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah in Lebanon, on Sunday accused the United States of interfering with the Syrian military's alleged efforts to defeat the Islamic State once and for all.

More details;

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/09/hezbollah-leader-americans-working-hinder-battle-islamic-state/>

- **Lebanon Receives 2 Military Aircraft from US**

The Lebanese army says the United States has supplied Beirut with two A-29 Super Tucano light-attack aircraft designed for counter-insurgency operations. The army said in a statement that the aircraft were handed to Lebanon on Monday at the Hamat air base north of the capital Beirut. It gave no further details.

More details;

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-lebabon-military-aircraft-a29-super-tucano/4062654.html>

- **UAE-Jordan Publishing Forum discusses ties**

The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, in cooperation with the UAE Publishers Association, has organised a joint discussion session on the publication movement in the UAE and Jordan under the title, "UAE-Jordan Publishing Forum."

More details;

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/e0f97a59-2f9b-409e-ba6e-57d92e4df850.aspx>

- **UAE Jordan Publishing Forum discuss potential future cooperation, lauds UAE experience**

The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, in cooperation with the UAE Publishers Association, has organised a joint discussion session on the publication movement in the UAE and Jordan under the title, "UAE-Jordan Publishing Forum."

More details;

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302637347>

- **Security, infrastructure, rising taxes and charges, smarter regulation top agenda at IATA Aviation Day – MENA**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) highlighted five priorities which must be addressed in order for aviation to deliver maximum economic and social benefits in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

More details;

<https://www.traveldailynews.com/post/security-infrastructure-rising-taxes-and-charges-smarter-regulation-top-agenda-at-iata-aviation-day-mena>

- **Bou Assi arrives in Washington, to meet officials**

Minister of Social Affairs, Pierre Bou Assi, continued his US tour, arriving in Washington after having attended the North American District Conference for the Lebanese Forces held in Houston this year.

More details;

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84189/Bou-Assi-arrives-in-Washington-to-meet-officials>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Omani air force chief meets Iranian counterpart**

During the meeting held in Tehran on Monday, Brig Gen. Hassan Shah-Safi of Iranian air force highlighted the close relations between Iran and Oman, saying that the Omani's commander's visit was the third meeting between the two countries' air force commanders in the last nine years.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128450/Omani-air-force-chief-meets-Iranian-counterpart>

- **Deputy Prime Minister receives visiting German Federal Parliament president in Oman**

Muscat: 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 on Monday received Prof Norbert Lammert, President of the German Federal Parliament and his accompanying delegation. The guest conveyed greetings of the leadership of the Federal Republic of Germany along with its best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan, the Government further success, and the Omani people further progress.

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/119030/Oman/Government/Deputy-Prime-Minister-Sayyid-Fahd-receives-German-Federal-Parliament-president-Prof-Norbert-Lammert>

- **UAE and Bahrain sign MoU to improve air links**

The UAEs Civil Aviation Authority has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with their counterparts in Bahrain to improve transport services between the two countries. Following a round of negotiations in Manama, Mohammed Thamer Al Kaabi, under-secretary of Bahrain's Ministry of Civil Aviation Affairs, said that the draft agreement "represents a qualitative leap in the leap in the organisation and development of air transport services between the two countries"...

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/industries/transport/380815-uae-bahrain-sign-mou-to-improve-air-links>

- **Qatari FM, French diplomat discuss ongoing Gulf crisis**

Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani on Monday met with former French ambassador to Qatar Bertrand Besancenot in Doha to discuss the ongoing crisis in inter-Arab relations. According to the official Qatar News Agency (QNA), the two men discussed the latest

developments, including Kuwait’s ongoing efforts to mediate between Doha and four Arab states arrayed against it.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/qatari-fm-french-diplomat-discuss-ongoing-gulf-crisis/931168>

- **Saudi Aid to Yemen Exceeded \$8 Billion in Two Years**

Saudi Arabia announced that the amount of aid it has provided to Yemen over the last two years exceeded \$8 billion, including humanitarian, relief, development and governmental assistance, as well as support to the Central Bank of Yemen. The Kingdom, through the King Salman Relief Center (KSRELIEF), said it was targeting the rehabilitation of 2,000 Yemeni children per year, who were recruited by Houthi militias and forces loyal to ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/abdul-hadi-habtoor/news-middle-east/saudi-aid-yemen-exceeded-8-billion-two-years>

- **Yemen launches ballistic missile toward Saudi Arabia**

Yemen has launched a ballistic missile toward Saudi Arabia, according to Press TV of Iran. The medium-range missile hit the Jizan Region in the southwest of the country. No other details are reported. There is no information also about any casualties or damage caused by the incident.

More Details:

<https://news.am/eng/news/414461.html>

- **IMF tells Saudi Arabia: ‘You’re well on track, no need to go so fast’**

It is not often you hear the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urging “spend, spend,” while the client country replies “well, actually we’d rather hold on to the money for a while, if it’s all the same to you.” But something like that seems to have happened during the IMF’s recent country visit to Saudi Arabia. The IMF has a well-deserved reputation as an austerity merchant and usually seeks to impose a rigid regime of fiscal control. “Cut spending, increase taxes,” is the ritual formula.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1175076/columns>

- **Qatar committed to up holding rules of International Humanitarian Law**

HE the Minister of Justice Dr Hassan Lahdan Saqr al-Mohannadi stressed that Qatar's governmental institutions and national committees are keen to uphold the principle of the rule of law and continue their efforts to increase community awareness of this principle. In his opening remarks at the inauguration of the International Humanitarian Law Symposium, organised by the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law in co-operation with its counterpart in the Kingdom of Morocco...

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/566848/Qatar-committed-to-upholding-rules-of-Internationa>

- **Bahrain to invite tenders for \$1bn medical city project**

Bahrain's Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry is set to complete the infrastructure design work for the \$1-billion King Abdullah Medical City in October and the project will be put out for tendering by the end of this year. Work is set to begin on July 30, 2018 and will last for 18 months, said a statement from the ministry. The infrastructure works include the setting up of a 66 kV main power station, a sewage treatment plant, water collection tanks, storm water drainage networks and sewerage networks...

More Details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_331316.html

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's annual urban consumer inflation rate falls to 31.6 pct in September**

Egypt's annual urban consumer price inflation eased slightly in September to 31.6 percent from 31.9 percent in August, the official CAPMAS statistics agency said on Tuesday. Inflation soared to a record high in July on the back of fuel and energy subsidy cuts by the government.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/egypt-economy-inflation/egypts-annual-urban-consumer-inflation-rate-falls-to-31-6-pct-in-september-idUSEONHA60ST?rpc=401&>

- **Ex-Army chief Victor Malu dies at 70**

LT.-Gen. Victor Samuel Leonard Malu, who was Chief of Army Staff during President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, yesterday died in a Cairo hospital, Egypt. One of his relations, Ben Adoor,

who confirmed Malu's demise on telephone, said: "Yes General passed away yesterday at the age of 70 in a Cairo hospital."

More Details:

<http://thenationonlineng.net/ex-chief-army-staff-malu-dies-70/>

- **PA's Abbas fears being squeezed out by Egypt-Hamas-Dahlan alliance**

Amid a flurry of excitement about the reconciliation pact between Hamas and Fatah, the Palestinian Authority is increasingly concerned about the Egyptian role in the talks. In the PA's eyes, Cairo is not even attempting to hide its support for both Hamas and Mohammed Dahlan, both rivals to PA President Mahmoud Abbas, or its intention to place itself in the centre of the so-called "Middle East peace process".

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/pa-concerned-reconciliation-efforts-aimed-boosting-hamas-egypt-dahlan-ties-348282459>

- **Egyptian authorities have not begun process to release Ibrahim Halawa**

The Egyptian legal authorities have not yet begun to process the paperwork for Ibrahim Halawa's release from a Cairo jail. "The first stage hasn't even been done," Amnesty International's Egypt researcher Mohamed Ahmed told The Irish Times, after he received an update from Mr Halawa's legal team in Egypt.

More Details:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/egyptian-authorities-have-not-begun-process-to-release-ibrahim-halawa-1.3250051>

- **Germany to provide Egypt with \$250 mln in 2018 to plug budget deficit**

The German government allocated \$250 million in 2018 to plug Egypt's budget deficit, German ambassador to Cairo Julius Georg Luy said in a press conference Monday, Ahram Arabic news website reported. The German loan is part of the external funding to help Egypt close the financing gap in its budget, which is stipulated by the 2016 \$12 billion IMF Extended Fund Facility agreement.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/278523/-.aspx>

- **CBE launches women's programme to lead future in cooperation with NCW Egypt**

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), in cooperation with the National Council for Women (NCW Egypt) and the Forum 50, will launch the "Women Leading the Future" programme on October 22, the first of its kind between the government and private institutions. The programme aims at graduating women cadres qualified for leadership in various sectors of the state, within the framework of the interest of the state and political leadership in qualifying the Egyptian women for leadership.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/09/cbe-launches-womens-programme-lead-future-cooperation-ncw-egypt/>

- **Egypt to take action against Human Rights Watch**

Egypt's Human Rights Committee have announced that they will be filing an official complaint against Human Rights Watch (HRW) after the NGO released a damning report on state torture, Egyptian newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported on Saturday. A parliamentary delegation is expected to officially raise the issue during its participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in St Petersburg later this week.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171009-egypt-to-take-action-against-human-rights-watch/>

- **Egypt prosecutors seek death penalty for 13 suspected militants**

Egyptian prosecutors are seeking death sentences for 13 members of an Islamist group that have been accused of carrying out numerous attacks on security forces in and around Cairo, justice officials said on Sunday. The defendants are suspected of links to Ajnad Misr ("Soldiers of Egypt"), a militant group that has claimed responsibility for attacks on security forces in the capital and Giza province since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/9/egypt-prosecutors-seek-death-penalty-for-13-suspected-militants>

- **Russian company buys 30% of Egyptian 'Zuhr' gas field in Mediterranean**

Russian company Rosneft bought 30 percent of Egypt's Zuhr gas field in the Mediterranean Sea from the Italian company Eni at US\$1.1 billion, the company announced in a statement on its official website. It added Rosneft will pay Eni the cost of development conducted by the latter in the project.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/russian-company-buys-30-egyptian-zuhr-gas-field-mediterranean/>

- **Health of Qaradawi's daughter deteriorates in Egypt jail**

The health conditions of prominent Muslim scholar Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi's daughter are deteriorating, her family said Monday. Ola al-Qaradawi, 55, and her husband were detained by Egyptian authorities in June for alleged links to the Muslim Brotherhood.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/09/10/2017/Health-of-Qaradawi%E2%80%99s-daughter-deteriorates-in-Egypt-jail>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Russian PM arrives in Algeria on official visit**

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Monday his country and Algeria share similar views on various regional and international issues.

More details,

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2645911&Language=en>

- **Bouteflika unfit for office says Algeria ex-FM**

Three Algerian public figures including a former foreign minister said on Sunday that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika "is no longer able to lead" and should be barred from seeking a fifth term. Bouteflika, who is 80 and has held office since 1999, won a fourth term in a 2014 election despite having suffered a mini-stroke the previous year that affected his speech and mobility. He has since used a wheelchair during his rare appearances in public.

More details,

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/4c0eacf6-19e8-48ea-bf9e-f2126470d36e.aspx>

- **Tunisian-UK relations and ways to develop them discussed as Jhinaoui meets Boris Johnson in London**

Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui met with his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Monday in London.

More details,

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9447397-tunisian-uk>

- **Moroccan, French FM's discuss economic, security ties**

The foreign ministers of Morocco and France met in Rabat on Monday to discuss means of promoting bilateral cooperation in the economic, security and cultural arenas. "Talks focused on means of enhancing the relationship between our two countries," Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita said in a joint press conference with his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, who arrived in Morocco on Monday for a two-day visit.

More details,

<http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/moroccan-french-fms-discuss-economic-security-ties/931204>

- **Tunisia: At Least 8 Migrants Drown in Navy Ship, Boat Collision**

Tunisia's defense ministry said Monday that at least eight migrants have drowned after their boat sank following a collision with a Tunisian navy vessel in the Mediterranean Sea.

More details,

<https://english.aawsat.com/asharq-al-awsat-english/news-middle-east/tunisia-least-8-migrants-drown-navy-ship-boat-collision>

- **Trump is Pulling a Libya on Iran**

Word is out that President Trump this week will "decertify" the nuclear deal with Iran, also known as JCPOA, for Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. This is the deal struck with Tehran not only by the United States but also by France, Germany, Russia, China, the UK, and the European Union. It's a nifty word, "decertify." It hides the real meaning of Trump's planned action. The correct word is "renew."

More details,

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/trump-is-pulling-a-libya-on-iran/>

- **Protesters briefly block Libyan parliament before session**

Benghazi - Dozens of protesters have briefly blocked the gates of the parliament based in the country's east, preventing a crucial session, lawmakers said on Monday, before negotiations ended the standoff.

More details,

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/protesters-briefly-block-libyan-parliament-before-session-20171009>

- **-Libyan authorities to transfer remains of 20 Egyptians killed by IS**

Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating with Libyan authorities to finalise the procedures of transferring the remains of 20 Egyptians who were killed by the Islamic State (IS) group in February 2015 in Derna, eastern Libya, according to a statement.

More details,

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/09/libyan-authorities-transfer-remains-20-egyptians-killed/>

- **Turkish special envoy holds talks with Serraj**

The Turkish president's special representative to Libya has had talks today with Presidency Council (PC) head Faiez Serraj about Turkish political support and continuing economic cooperation.

More details,

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/09/turkish-special-envoy-hold-talks-with-serraj/>

- **Moroccan MP to Former Israeli Defense Minister: "War Criminal, Leave Our Country"**

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,

<http://imemc.org/article/moroccan-mp-to-former-israeli-defense-minister-war-criminal-leave-our-country/>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **NATO chief: Cost of leaving Afghanistan would be 'much higher' than staying**

The cost of withdrawing from Afghanistan would be much higher than staying, the alliance's secretary general said Monday.

More details,

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31619-nato-chief-cost-of-leaving-afghanistan-would-be-much-higher-than-staying>

- **Asif says US targeting Pakistan by using excuse of Haqqani network**

The US had been targeting Pakistan by using an excuse of the presence of Haqqani network in the country, Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said, adding: “we will not take any dictation that harms our national interest.”

More details,

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/235915-Asif-says-US-targeting-Pakistan-by-using-excuse-of-Haqqani-network>

- **Pakistan has offered US joint action against Haqqani network'**

Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif on Monday said that Pakistan had offered the United States a joint operation against the Haqqani network.

More details,

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/10-Oct-17/pakistan-has-offered-us-joint-action-against-haqqani-network>

- **Taliban rejects rumors about unity with ISIS**

Some local media outlets have recently quoted General Abdul Raziq, Afghan National Police chief for the southern city of Kandahar, as saying that the Taliban chief has urged its members to avoid clashes with ISIS elements.

More details,

http://en.abna24.com/news/central-asia-subcontinent/taliban-rejects-rumors-about-unity-with-isis_859367.html

- **Malala Yousafzai attends first Oxford University lecture**

Education rights campaigner Malala Yousafzai has attended her first lecture at the University of Oxford five years after she was shot by the Taliban.

More details,

<http://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/regional/malala-yousafzai-attends-first-oxford-university-lecture-1-8189032>

- **Global logistics body elects Pakistani as president**

Zurich-based Fédération Internationale des Associations de Transitaires et Assimilés (FIATA) has elected Mr Babar Badat as its president at its World Congress, 2017 on Oct 8.

More details,

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1362742/global-logistics-body-elects-pakistani-as-president>

- **Anti-state activities: IHC orders action against IB officials**

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered secretary of Ministry of Interior to take action against Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials involved in anti-state activities.

More details,

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1527042/anti-state-activities-ihc-orders-action-ib-officials/>

- **U.S. airstrikes in Afghanistan increase after Trump's strategy announcement, data shows**

U.S. military has conducted 751 airstrikes in Afghanistan during the month of September, according to data from the U.S. Air Forces Central Command, making it the most intense bombing reported in one month since 2010.

More details,

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31620-us-airstrikes-in-afghanistan-increase-after-trumps-strategy-announcement-data-shows>

- **Pakistan's ex-PM fails to appear in court, son-in-law arrested**

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif failed to appear on Monday before an anti-graft tribunal where he was to be indicted on corruption charges along with several family members and co-defendants in the case.

More details,

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/09/537982/Pakistan-Nawaz-Sharif-Court>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **KRG's oil transfer via Turkey under spotlight**

The government is considering the decision they will take on whether to continue the Kurdish Regional Government's (KRG) oil transfer through Turkey, Turkey's Energy Ministry Undersecretary Fatih Donmez said on Tuesday. Speaking at the eighth Turkey Energy Summit, Donmez said that although no decision has yet been taken on the KRG's oil exports following the illegal independence referendum on Sept. 25, the issue is currently on the agenda and is being examined.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/194847/krgs-oil-transfer-via-turkey-under-spotlight>

- **Turkey praises Pakistan's support in fight against FETO**

Turkey is grateful for Pakistan's support in fight against the Fetullah Terror Organization (FETO) following last year's defeated coup, the country's deputy prime minister said on Tuesday. "Both the Pakistani and our government are in solidarity in the fight against FETO," Bekir Bozdag told a visiting Pakistani press delegation and the Pakistani ambassador to Turkey, Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, in Ankara.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/turkey-praises-pakistans-support-in-fight-against-feto/931965>

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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