



# 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

**MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN**

**17 OCTOBER 2017**

**NO: 2463**

<b>1. IRAQ.....</b>	<b>4</b>
• US 'not taking sides' between Iraqi forces, Kurds – Trump .....	4
• Iraqi forces seize Kirkuk governor's office in advance on Kurds .....	4
• Coalition strikes against Islamic State continue in Syria and Iraq .....	4
• Baghdad Recaptures Kirkuk and its Oil without Resistance as Irbil Condemns 'Treason' .....	4
• Shiite Hashd al-SHaabi controls Yezidi town of Shingal .....	5
• Oil elevated as Iraq tensions escalate, Asian shares hold firm .....	5
• US 'very concerned' over Kirkuk and McCain warns of 'severe consequences' .....	5
• Iraqis seize Kirkuk, 30 dead, Canadian military personnel safe .....	5
• Iraqi-backed Yazidi group takes over Sinjar after Kurdish pullout .....	6
• The battle of Kirkuk: why it matters.....	6
• Iraqi forces take control of Bai Hasan, Avana oil fields after Kurdish pullout.....	6
• Trump claims neutrality in Iraqi-Kurdish clash, but meets substantial criticism .....	6
• Peshmerga: Baghdad to pay heavy price for declaring war.....	7
• Talabani's Son: We Will Not Push Our Sons to Die For Barzani's Chair.....	7
• Peshmerga say agreed with Shia militias to avoid clash in Sinjar .....	7
• \$100m of UK loan allocated to Hillah Sewage Treatment Project .....	7
<b>2. SYRIA.....</b>	<b>8</b>
• Russia Delivers Two Tons of Humanitarian Aid to Syria - Military .....	8
• Egypt invited to Astana talks on Syria as observer.....	8
• Israel Attacks Anti-aircraft Battery in Syria .....	8
• Netanyahu on Syria: 'anyone who tries to harm us will be hit' .....	8
• Kurdish-led fighters to continue battle against foreign IS militants in Syria's Raqqa .....	9
• Int'l community should consider Syria's post-war reconstruction: Putin .....	9
• U.S.-backed forces in final push against Islamic State Raqqa .....	9
• Army seizes Israeli-made weapons in Jib al-Jarrah and Salamyieh Countryside .....	9
• Jaber Ansari, France special envoy talk Syria crisis .....	9
<b>3. IRAN.....</b>	<b>10</b>
• Stop Trump's mocking of JCPOA, Iran asks international community .....	10
• Renegotiation of JCPOA proves impossible.....	10
• EU says committed to full implementation of nuclear deal.....	10
• US isolation in blowing up nuclear deal, Iran's new achievement.....	10
• Iran, Canada diplomats hold talks in Tehran: Qassemi .....	11
• IRGC Pillar of Iran's National Security: Reformist Leader Khatami .....	11
• Iran Hails Election Outcome in Austria, Kyrgyzstan .....	11
• Iran's nuclear deal working well, no need to fix it: Russia .....	11
• Iran Underlines Permanent Fight against Terrorism.....	12
• UK's Johnson calls all sides to comply with N-deal .....	12
<b>4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....</b>	<b>12</b>
• Chinese E-Commerce Giant, Alibaba, Opening Research Lab in Israel .....	12

• Netanyahu Hails Religious Freedom in Jerusalem Under Israeli Rule.....	12
• Syrian air defenses respond to new Israeli violation.....	13
• Israeli envoy takes up duties in Turkmenistan .....	13
• Hezbollah claims 3 Israeli 'collaborators' arrested in Lebanon .....	13
• Submarine affair's secrets are coming to the surface.....	13
• Israeli Soldiers Raid Qalandia Refugee Camp.....	14
• -Netanyahu, in video, tells Iran foreign minister to delete his Twitter account .....	14
• Israeli jets attack anti-aircraft site in Syria territory.....	14
• Israeli Defense Minister welcomes Russian counterpart in Tel Aviv.....	14
<b>5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....</b>	<b>15</b>
• Jordan to impose more sales tax to meet fiscal obligations .....	15
• Jordan condemns Mogadishu blasts .....	15
• Lebanese delegation still partaking in inter Parliamentary Union's conference in Russia .....	15
• Aoun Pushes for a Plan that Guarantees Return of Syrian Refugees.....	15
• Hariri Discusses Military and Economic Support to Lebanon with Italy PM .....	16
• Lebanon president urges refugees to return to safe areas.....	16
• King meets with int'l police, gendarmerie leaders.....	16
• Lebanon's president calls on UN 'Big Five' to help displaced Syrians return home .....	16
<b>6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....</b>	<b>17</b>
• US says airstrikes killed "dozens" of ISIS militants in Yemen .....	17
• UNICEF: 32% of cholera deaths in Yemen are children.....	17
• "Stop the Unconstitutional War in Yemen": Rep. Ro Khanna on Growing Opposition to U.S.- Backed War .....	17
• 4.5 Million Yemen school kids face uncertain future amid Saudi-led aggression.....	17
• Despite Campaign Promises, Arms Shipments to Saudis Skyrocket under Trump .....	18
• Oman on track to become world's largest gypsum exporter, says PAM CEO.....	18
• Bahrain FM: Qatar Orbits Iran, Failed to Present Initiative to Resolve Crisis.....	18
• Qatar international reserves recover to 39bn in August .....	19
• Gulf crisis not affecting Malaysia-Qatar ties, says Najib .....	19
• Qatari Banks Are Said to Reduce Dollar Sales to Foreign Lenders .....	19
<b>7. EGYPT.....</b>	<b>20</b>
• It is not true that the IMF demanded imposition of incremental taxes: Finance Minister.....	20
• Egypt unemployment rates to rise 3 times if population growth continues .....	20
• Mercosur, Egypt free trade deal comes into effect .....	20
• The UK's Balancing Act between Security, Financial Interest, and Human Rights.....	20
• Egypt moves Palestinians toward reconciliation, pressuring Israel on broader peace deal.....	21
• Egyptian FM: Cairo ready for normalized ties with Ankara.....	21
• Saudi Fund for Development investments in Egypt hit \$2.5 bln: minister .....	21
• Egypt Urged To Protect Christians After Murder Orthodox Priest.....	22
• Belarus invited to take part in Egypt's oil and gas projects.....	22
• Egypt's Sisi discusses North Sinai security measures, economic projects with top officials.....	22
<b>8. NORTH AFRICA.....</b>	<b>23</b>
• Bouteflika restructures two-headed Ministry of Foreign Affairs .....	23
• FBI: Alleged Benghazi mastermind was treated fairly while in custody .....	23

• Rada says it has broken up Tripoli attack plot.....	23
• NATO, western countries' mean approach to Libya led to its current dilemma, Lavrov says ..	23
• Morocco, China to set up economic zone to boost bilateral cooperation.....	24
• Boat collision off Kerkennah: another body recovered Monday .....	24
• Bank Al-Maghrib & IMF Extend Investment Agreement.....	24
• Libyan Army Prepares To Take Over Western City Of Zawiya.....	24
• Why is ISIS Regrouping in Libya? .....	25
• European investigations into Schengen visa fraud .....	25
<b>9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN .....</b>	<b>25</b>
• Another US drone strikes in Kurram Agency: sources .....	25
• Truck bombing, fierce clash rock Ghazni's Andar district .....	25
• Paktia Police Chief Believed To Have Been Killed In Bombing .....	26
• Afghan schools closing due to violence, undermining gains in educating girls, says rights group	26
• Afghanistan elected as member of U.N. Human Rights Council for first time.....	26
• 84 lawmakers barred from entering Punjab Assembly after ECP suspension .....	26
• Pakistan's Foreign Secretary to visit SL .....	27
• Uplift of South Punjab a top priority: CM.....	27
• Oman, Pakistan hold political consultations .....	27
<b>10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....</b>	<b>27</b>
• Turkish jets hit PKK targets, killing 8 terrorists in airstrikes in northern Iraq .....	27
• Boroujerdi urges Iran-Turkey swift response to KRG issue .....	28
• EU seeks to cooperate with Turkey on Iraq, Syria.....	28
• Iran's First VP to Visit Turkey on Thursday.....	28
• Turkey closes airspace for flights to northern Iraq .....	28
• Opposition leader rails against PKK in Iraq's Kirkuk .....	29

## 1. IRAQ

- **US ‘not taking sides’ between Iraqi forces, Kurds – Trump**

Washington is “not taking sides” following clashes between Iraqi forces and the country’s Kurds, US President Donald Trump said Monday, as tensions escalate following the autonomous Kurdish region’s independence referendum.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-not-taking-sides-between-iraqi-forces-kurds-trump/>

- **Iraqi forces seize Kirkuk governor’s office in advance on Kurds**

Iraqi forces have seized the Kirkuk governor’s office, key military sites and an oil field as they sweep across the disputed province following soaring tensions with Kurds over an independence referendum.

More Details:

<http://www.atimes.com/article/iraqi-forces-seize-kirkuk-governors-office-advance-kurds/>

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

Coalition military forces continue to attack Islamic State, conducting multiple strikes over the last few days, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve officials reported.

More Deetails:

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

- **Baghdad Recaptures Kirkuk and its Oil without Resistance as Irbil Condemns ‘Treason’**

Iraqi government forces and members of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) seized control on Monday of the city of Kirkuk and pulled down the Kurdish flag from the province headquarters, amid reports of the displacement of Kurdish residents from the city.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/baghdad-recaptures-kirkuk-oil-without-resistance-irbil-condemns-treason>



- **Shiite Hashd al-SHaabi controls Yezidi town of Shingal**

The mainly Shiite Hashd al-Shaabi are now in control of the Yezidi town of Shingal or Sinjar, west of Mosul, after the withdrawal of the Kurdish Peshmerga from their positions, a day after the Iraqi-led forces controlled the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, a Kurdish security official told Rudaw.

More Details:

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/17102017>

- **Oil elevated as Iraq tensions escalate, Asian shares hold firm**

Oil prices clung to this month's high on Tuesday after Iraqi forces seized the oil-rich city of Kirkuk from largely autonomous Kurdish fighters while Asian shares held firm on optimism about upcoming earnings.

More Details:

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/inside-the-market/market-updates/oil-elevated-as-iraq-tensions-escalate-asian-shares-hold-firm/article36610937/>

- **US 'very concerned' over Kirkuk and McCain warns of 'severe consequences'**

The Trump administration is reacting with a heightened level of concern over the violence around Kirkuk as ranking US Senators warn Iraqi government of using US equipment and resources in attacking Kurdish forces.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/us-very-concerned-over-kirkuk-and-mccain-warns-of-severe-consequences-1.667828>

- **Iraqis seize Kirkuk, 30 dead, Canadian military personnel safe**

Just several days after Canadian military leaders dismissed Iraq's threats against the Kurds as "mostly rhetoric", Iraqi troops launched an all-out assault on the city of Kirkuk. Iraqi forces said they have seized the oil fields and the city on Monday. The Kurds have voted to separate from Iraq and were in control of the Kirkuk area, which is home to 40 per cent of Iraq's oil reserves.

More Details:

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/iraqis-seize-kirkuk-30-dead-canadian-military-personnel-safe>

- **Iraqi-backed Yazidi group takes over Sinjar after Kurdish pullout**

An Iraqi Yazidi group affiliated with a Shia-led armed faction took control on Tuesday of Sinjar, said residents of the northwestern city that is claimed by both Kurdish and central Iraqi authorities.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/iraqi-backed-yazidi-group-takes-over-sinjar-after-kurdish-pullout-581352164>

- **The battle of Kirkuk: why it matters**

Kirkuk has found itself at the heart of a long-running dispute between Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region and its central government that reached fever pitch after Kurdish authorities staged a non-binding independence vote in late September. The Yazidi group, called Lalesh, extended control over all of Sinjar after the withdrawal late on Monday of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters who were deployed there, the residents said.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20171017-battle-kirkuk-iraq-oil-kurdistan>

- **Iraqi forces take control of Bai Hasan, Avana oil fields after Kurdish pullout**

Iraqi forces took control on Tuesday of the Bai Hasan and Avana oil fields northwest of Kirkuk, after Kurdish Peshmerga fighters pulled out from the region, security sources said. Iraqi forces took control of the Bai Hasan and Avana oil fields northwest of Kirkuk on Tuesday, after seizing the Baba Gurgur, Jambur and Khabbaz fields on Monday, he said.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-kurds-oil/iraqi-forces-take-control-of-bai-hasan-avana-oil-fields-after-kurdish-pullout-idUSKBN1CM0KN>

- **Trump claims neutrality in Iraqi-Kurdish clash, but meets substantial criticism**

US President Donald Trump held a press conference in the White House Rose Garden on Monday, following a lunch with Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell aimed at repairing the President's tattered relations with Congressional Republicans.

More Details:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/4a470ac3-df31-4495-aa22-6c775f0aa2e8>

- **Peshmerga: Baghdad to pay heavy price for declaring war**

The Kurdish Peshmerga command has said the Iraqi government will pay a "heavy price" for its military campaign in Kirkuk, which it described as "a declaration of war against the nation of Kurdistan". The warning by the Peshmerga General Command (PGC) on Monday came as Iraqi federal forces, backed by Shia militia, said they had taken full control of oil-rich Kirkuk in a swift advance on Kurdish-held positions.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/peshmerga-baghdad-pay-heavy-price-declaring-war-171016172356359.html>

- **Talabani's Son: We Will Not Push Our Sons to Die For Barzani's Chair**

The commander of the anti-terrorism in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Lahore Talabani attacked Massoud Barzani, who described him as the outgoing president of the Kurdistan province, stressing, "the Kurds will not be paid to die for Barzani's chair. Talabani told a news conference "from now on, we will not pay our Sons to die for the chair of outgoing president Massoud Barzani."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?lc2PkkV1wIOpTV7TnX4Qcg%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?lc2PkkV1wIOpTV7TnX4Qcg%253d%253d)

- **Peshmerga say agreed with Shia militias to avoid clash in Sinjar**

Kurdish Peshmerga forces have agreed with Pro-government, Shia-led militias to avoid clash in Sinjar region, west of Nineveh, as reports say Iraqi forces took over the region. Peshmerga command made a statement on Tuesday, saying Yazidi members of the force agreed with Yazidi troops within the Popular Mobilization Forces to avoid clash in Sinjar.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/features/iraqi-forces-pmfs-take-sinjar-region-kurdish-politician/>

- **\$100m of UK loan allocated to Hillah Sewage Treatment Project**

Ministry of Planning has agreed to allocate \$ 100 million of the loan offered by the UK to fund the integrated Hillah Sewage Treatment Project, Babil governor Sadiq al-Sultani revealed Tuesday. In a statement, al-Sultani said the ministry sent a letter to Investors' Authority in the cabinet to inform it of the allocation.

More Details:



<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18386/100m-of-UK-loan-allocated-to-Hillah-Sewage-Treatment-Project>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Russia Delivers Two Tons of Humanitarian Aid to Syria - Military**

The Russian Defense Ministry continues to help the Syrian people's return to normalcy after a several-year long terrorist siege. The ministry's center for Syrian reconciliation has delivered two tons of humanitarian aid to the province of Quneitra, the center's spokesman said Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710171058297384-russia-syria-humanitarian-aid/>

- **Egypt invited to Astana talks on Syria as observer**

Egypt has received an invitation to join the talks on Syria in Astana as an observer, an Egyptian source familiar with the situation around the intra-Syrian settlement informed TASS. "Egypt has been invited to take part in the Astana process as an observer," the source said. "Egypt is expected to join the negotiations."

More Details:

<http://tass.com/world/971042>

- **Israel Attacks Anti-aircraft Battery in Syria**

The Israeli air force carried out an air strike on an anti-aircraft battery near the Syrian capital of Damascus, after it fired a missile targeting Israel Air Force planes flying in Syria.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israel-attacks-anti-aircraft-battery-in-syria/>

- **Netanyahu on Syria: 'anyone who tries to harm us will be hit'**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented on the attack in Syria on Monday afternoon, hours after it was announced by the IDF. "Our policy is clear," he said in a statement. "Anyone who tries to harm us will be hit. Today they tried to hit our planes, which is unacceptable to us."

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Netanyahu-on-Syria-Anyone-who-tries-to-harm-us-will-be-hit-507577>

- **Kurdish-led fighters to continue battle against foreign IS militants in Syria's Raqqa**

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) will continue to fight against the Islamic State (IS) militants who refused to surrender in Syria's northern city of Raqqa, a Kurdish spokeswoman was cited by Kurdish activists as saying Monday.

More Details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-10/16/content\\_41740930.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-10/16/content_41740930.htm)

- **Int'l community should consider Syria's post-war reconstruction: Putin**

Russian President Vladimir Putin called upon the international community to consider the process of post-war reconstruction of Syria and to mobilize aid for that.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/europe/int%E2%80%99l-community-should-consider-syria%E2%80%99s-post-war-reconstruction-putin\\_860640.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/europe/int%E2%80%99l-community-should-consider-syria%E2%80%99s-post-war-reconstruction-putin_860640.html)

- **U.S.-backed forces in final push against Islamic State Raqqa**

U.S.-backed militias battled foreign fighters defending the last pocket of Islamic State's one-time Syrian capital of Raqqa on Monday, bringing their four-month offensive for the city to the brink of victory.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa/u-s-backed-forces-in-final-push-against-islamic-state-raqqa-idUSKBN1CL0T3>

- **Army seizes Israeli-made weapons in Jib al-Jarrah and Salamyieh Countryside**

Army units found arms, ammunition and telecommunication devices, some of which are Israeli-made, inside ISIS dens while combing a number of villages in the countryside of Homs and Hama.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=115864>

- **Jaberi Ansari, France special envoy talk Syria crisis**

Iranian Deputy FM for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaberi Ansari and France's Special Envoy for Syria Franck Gallet have held talks on the latest developments in the Arab country. During the Tuesday meeting held in Tehran, the two sides conferred on regional cooperation between Iran and France, the roots of Syria crisis, and the ways to resolve it.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128727/Jaberi-Ansari-France-special-envoy-talk-Syria-crisis>

### 3. IRAN

- **Stop Trump's mocking of JCPOA, Iran asks international community**

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo has urged the international community to stop US President Donald Trump from mocking the nuclear deal, saying it undermines all non-proliferation regimes.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/17/538862/iran-un-khoshroo-trump-us-jcpoa>

- **Renegotiation of JCPOA proves impossible**

Vice President Mohammad Nahavandian says that while Iran is committed to the deal for now, the new US policy could cause Tehran to 're-think' its position. "I think Mr. Trump, as a new president, lost the opportunity to start a new constructive initiative towards Iran," the Iranian official told a CNN live program adding "he repeated a very negative rhetoric against Iran and the Iranian people which has angered everybody causing all the hostilities of the past to come back to the minds of people."

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128707/Renegotiation-of-JCPOA-proves-impossible>

- **EU says committed to full implementation of nuclear deal**

The European Union issued a statement on Monday after a foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg insisting the 27-nation bloc is committed to the "full and effective" implementation of the nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417637/EU-says-committed-to-full-implementation-of-nuclear-deal>

- **US isolation in blowing up nuclear deal, Iran's new achievement**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani pointed to the US isolation in damaging the Iran Nuclear Deal known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is a new achievement for Tehran. President Rouhani made the remarks Monday in a meeting with members of Combatant Clergy Association.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82698517>

- **Iran, Canada diplomats hold talks in Tehran: Qassemi**

A delegation from Global Affairs Canada has traveled to Tehran and held talks with Iranian officials in the continuation of efforts to re-establish diplomatic relations between the two countries. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Monday that the Canadian diplomatic team's travel to Iran took place after it made an earlier visit to the Islamic Republic back in May.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/202526.html>

- **IRGC Pillar of Iran's National Security: Reformist Leader Khatami**

Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, the former Iranian president and the leader of Iranian reformists, has blasted US President Donald Trump for his recent anti-Iran remarks. Addressing a group of university students in Tehran on Monday, Khatami referred to Trump's Friday speech against the Islamic Republic, particularly his accusations against the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and noted that the IRGC is among the pillars of Iran's national security.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/irgc-pillar-irans-national-security-reformist-leader-khatami/>

- **Iran Hails Election Outcome in Austria, Kyrgyzstan**

Tehran welcomes the results of the recent elections in Austria and Kyrgyzstan, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced, voicing the country's readiness to expand relations with Vienna and Bishkek.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/17/1548060/iran-hails-election-outcome-in-austria-kyrgyzstan>

- **Iran's nuclear deal working well, no need to fix it: Russia**

A Russian deputy foreign minister says the international nuclear deal with Iran is working "quite efficiently" and requires no amendment, dismissing calls by the United States to address "flaws" in the deal.

More Details:

[http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i66129-iran's nuclear deal working well no need to fix it russia](http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i66129-iran's-nuclear-deal-working-well-no-need-to-fix-it-russia)

- **Iran Underlines Permanent Fight against Terrorism**

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani expressed pleasure with the Syrian army and its allies' victories against the terrorist groups, but meantime, stressed the necessity of continued campaign against terrorism.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960724001159>

- **UK's Johnson calls all sides to comply with N-deal**

In the second telephone conversation of Iranian FM Zarif and UK Foreign Secretary Johnson in the past days, the British diplomat reaffirmed Britain's support for the nuclear accord. British Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, reaffirmed UK's support for the JCPOA (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action also known as Iran nuclear deal signed between Iran and 5+1 group countries on July 14, 2015 in Vienna) during the telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Sunday, reported the public and media diplomacy office of Iranian ministry.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/uks-johnson-calls-sides-comply-n-deal/>

#### 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Chinese E-Commerce Giant, Alibaba, Opening Research Lab in Israel**

Alibaba Group Holding of Hangzhou, China, is opening a research lab in Tel Aviv as part of its new global Alibaba Academy for Discovery, Adventure, Momentum and Outlook designed to increase technological collaboration worldwide, advance cutting-edge technology and narrow the technology gap among countries.

More details;

<http://www.thetower.org/5535oc-chinese-e-commerce-giant-alibaba-opening-research-lab-in-israel/>

- **Netanyahu Hails Religious Freedom in Jerusalem Under Israeli Rule**

The Algemeiner reports: JNS.org – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday welcomed representatives from about 70 Christian media outlets as they convened in Jerusalem for a first-of-its-kind summit.



More details;

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/10/17/netanyahu-hails-religious-freedom-jerusalem-israeli-rule/>

- **Syrian air defenses respond to new Israeli violation**

The Syrian air defenses responded to an Israeli violation of the country's airspace near the Lebanese border, forcing the enemy's warplanes to retreat.

More details;

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128712/Syrian-air-defenses-respond-to-new-Israeli-violation>

- **Israeli envoy takes up duties in Turkmenistan**

Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a meeting with the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel Moshe Kamhi, said the Turkmen Foreign Ministry. The diplomat presented copies of his credentials.

More details;

<https://en.trend.az/casia/turkmenistan/2808821.html>

- **Hezbollah claims 3 Israeli 'collaborators' arrested in Lebanon**

Three Lebanese men reportedly admit they had been in contact with Israeli officers and agents. The Arab newspaper Al-Manar, associated with the Hezbollah terror group, reported last night that Lebanese security forces arrested last week 3 Lebanese men suspected of collaborating with Israel, according to Channel 10.

More details;

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236803>

- **Submarine affair's secrets are coming to the surface**

Secret meetings in effort to prevent the suspension of the submarine deal, the changes Israel requested that could indicate capability to launch nuclear missiles from the submarines, and Ya'alon's claims Netanyahu pressed him on the patrol boats deal. Yedioth and DIE ZEIT uncover more details of the affair that complicated Israeli-German ties.

More details;

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5028426,00.html>

- **Israeli Soldiers Raid Qalandia Refugee Camp**

Israeli soldiers, on Monday, raided Qalandia refugee camp, to the south of Ramallah, searched shops and homes, and detained two people before releasing one of them, according to witnesses. The soldiers also seized surveillance cameras.

More details;

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-soldiers-raid-qalandia-refugee-camp/>

- **-Netanyahu, in video, tells Iran foreign minister to delete his Twitter account**

Netanyahu made the order after Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that all Iranians are part of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and give their support.

More details;

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/16/netanyahu-in-video-tells-iran-foreign-minister-to-delete-his-twitter-account.html>

- **Israeli jets attack anti-aircraft site in Syria territory**

Israeli jets fired missiles into Syria yesterday after Damascus said its air defence forces drove off an incursion into its airspace.

More details;

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-104c-Israeli-jets-attack-anti-aircraft-site-in-Syrian-territory#.WeXDJtSLRiw>

- **Israeli Defense Minister welcomes Russian counterpart in Tel Aviv**

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman (R, Front) welcomes his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu (L, Front) at Israel's Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Oct. 16, 2017. (Xinhua/JINI/Gideon Markowicz)

More details;

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/17/c\\_136684613.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/17/c_136684613.htm)

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan to impose more sales tax to meet fiscal obligations**

The government is planning to impose a new taxation regime on a number of commodities and services to mitigate the shortage of funds in the public treasury, including taxation in agricultural input products, senior official said today.

More details,

[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/economics/2017/10/16/jordan-to-impose-more-sales-tax-to-meet-fiscal-obligations\\_58c45c98-7585-4017-8955-0a3df511bd79.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/economics/2017/10/16/jordan-to-impose-more-sales-tax-to-meet-fiscal-obligations_58c45c98-7585-4017-8955-0a3df511bd79.html)

- **Jordan condemns Mogadishu blasts**

Jordan on Sunday condemned the bombings that occurred in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, killing and injuring hundreds of innocent civilians. The Jordan News Agency quoted the State Minister for Media Affairs, Mohammad Momani, as describing the blasts as "a terror act that contravenes all ethical and humanitarian values".

More details,

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302639055>

- **Lebanese delegation still partaking in inter Parliamentary Union's conference in Russia**

The Lebanese parliamentary delegation headed by MP Ali Bazzi continues its participation in the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held Russia's St. Petersburg.

More details,

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84406/Lebanese-delegation-still-partaking-in-Inter-Parliamentary-Union-39-conference-in-Russia>

- **Aoun Pushes for a Plan that Guarantees Return of Syrian Refugees**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun met on Monday with the ambassadors of the United Nations Security Council's permanent members, in presence of the UN, EU and Arab League ambassadors, to discuss Lebanon's stance on the file of Syrian refugees.

More details,

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/aoun-pushes-plan-guarantees-return-syrian-refugees>

- **Hariri Discusses Military and Economic Support to Lebanon with Italy PM**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri met Monday in Rome with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni and the talks focused on military and economic support for Lebanon.

More details,

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236780-hariri-discusses-military-and-economic-support-to-lebanon-with-italy-pm>

- **Lebanon president urges refugees to return to safe areas**

Lebanon can no longer handle vast numbers of Syrian refugees, its president said on Monday, urging world powers to help them return to areas where fighting has eased. More than six years into the Syrian war, 1.5 million refugees now account for a quarter of Lebanon's population. Lebanese President Michel Aoun told international envoys he wanted to find ways for them to return safely but would not force people back to places where they could face persecution.

More details,

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/d8f516f5-5dba-4e1b-82fa-1049b9d1469c.aspx>

- **King meets with int'l police, gendarmerie leaders**

His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army, on Monday visited the Special Police Operations Command affiliated with the Gendarmerie Department. During the visit, King Abdullah met with chiefs and heads of delegations of security apparatuses taking part in the meeting of the higher council of the Association of European and Mediterranean Gendarmeries and Police Forces with Military Status (FIEP) being held in Amman between Sunday and Wednesday.

More details,

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/king-meets-int%E2%80%99l-police-gendarmerie-leaders>

- **Lebanon's president calls on UN 'Big Five' to help displaced Syrians return home**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun called on the permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the UK and the US — also known as the P5), the UN, the EU and the Arab League to focus on addressing the Syrian refugee crisis.

More details,

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1178531/middle-east>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **US says airstrikes killed "dozens" of ISIS militants in Yemen**

The U.S. military said Monday it killed dozens of Islamic State fighters in airstrikes on two training camps in Yemen. In a statement, the Pentagon said the strikes disrupted the Islamic State group's attempts to train new fighters to conduct attacks using AK-47s, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The statement was not specific about how the U.S. attacks were conducted, but a defense official said they were carried out by drones.

More Details:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/us-says-airstrikes-killed-dozens-of-isis-militants-in-yemen-1.492841#.WeWyZtSLRto>

- **UNICEF: 32% of cholera deaths in Yemen are children**

Some 32 per cent of cholera deaths in Yemen are children under the age of 15, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday. "Children under 15 represent 50 per cent of total suspected cholera cases and 32 per cent of the deaths," UNICEF in Yemen said on its official Twitter account. The organisation did not indicate the areas with the highest death rates but noted "the declining rates of infection from the epidemic".

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171016-unicef-32-of-cholera-deaths-in-yemen-are-children/>

- **"Stop the Unconstitutional War in Yemen": Rep. Ro Khanna on Growing Opposition to U.S.-Backed War**

The U.S.-backed, Saudi-led war and naval blockade in Yemen has sparked a cholera epidemic that has become the largest and fastest-spreading outbreak of the disease in modern world history. There are expected to be a million cases of cholera in Yemen by the end of the year, with at least 600,000 children likely to be affected. The U.S. has been a major backer of the Saudi-led war.

More Details:

[https://www.democracynow.org/2017/10/16/stop\\_the\\_unconstitutional\\_war\\_in\\_yemen](https://www.democracynow.org/2017/10/16/stop_the_unconstitutional_war_in_yemen)

- **4.5 Million Yemen school kids face uncertain future amid Saudi-led aggression**

"The future of 4.5 million students hangs in the balance," Rajat Madhok, spokesman of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Yemen, told AFP. Nearly 500 schools have been destroyed by the conflict, repurposed as shelters or commandeered by armed factions in a war that has killed thousands and



pushed the country to the brink of famine. Meanwhile, nearly three quarters of Yemen's educators have not been paid for 12 months, according to UNICEF. Teachers who struggled through a year with little to no pay say they will hold firm to their strike in the year to come.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/4-5-million-yemen-school-kids-face-uncertain-future-amid-saudi-led-aggression\\_860752.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/4-5-million-yemen-school-kids-face-uncertain-future-amid-saudi-led-aggression_860752.html)

- **Despite Campaign Promises, Arms Shipments to Saudis Skyrocket under Trump**

Before President Donald Trump flouted longstanding tradition by choosing Saudi Arabia as the destination of his first foreign visit as president, where he was lavished with gifts and reportedly struck a record-setting arms deal with the kingdom (after his administration called the CEO of Lockheed Martin to get a cheaper deal for the Saudis); before he took part in the male-only sword dance in Riyadh; before he ramped up support...

More Details:

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/despite-campaign-promises-arms-shipments-to-saudis-skyrocket-under-trump>

- **Oman on track to become world's largest gypsum exporter, says PAM CEO**

Eng Hilal bin Mohammed al Busaidi, CEO of the Public Authority for Mining (PAM), said that Oman is on track to become the largest exporter of gypsum in the world by the end of this year, surpassing the current biggest exporter Thailand. Busaidi said the exports of Omani gypsum ore reached 6.1mn tons during the first nine months of 2017, which confirms the competitive strength and high quality of the Omani gypsum ore. He added that exports are expected to exceed 10mn tons at the end of 2018.

MoreDetails:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Business/Oman-on-track-to-become-world-s-largest-gypsum-exporter-says-PAM-CEO-54a6#ixzz4vkbLZtO4>

- **Bahrain FM: Qatar Orbits Iran, Failed to Present Initiative to Resolve Crisis**

Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al Khalifa said that Qatar was still "orbiting Iran", adding: "We have not seen any sign of Qatar's initiative to resolve the crisis, so we are still waiting for this step." "We are not losers," he said. "We are concerned about the stability and prosperity of our countries, the security and progress of our peoples before anything else, and it is up to them – the Qataris – if they want to resolve their crisis or not."

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/obaid-alsuhaymi/news-middle-east/bahrain-fm-qatar-orbits-iran-failed-present-initiative-resolve-crisis>

- **Qatar international reserves recover to 39bn in August**

Qatar's international reserves recovered to \$39bn in August with the disclosure of \$19bn in foreign assets by the Qatar Central Bank, QNB's latest 'Qatar Monthly Monitor' shows. According to QNB, Qatar's imports recovered close to pre-blockade levels as new trade routes and new trade partners were established. The current account surplus widened to 2.4% of GDP while the financial account swung into deficit, while the fiscal deficit narrowed to 5.5% of GDP in the first quarter from 17.9% in Q4, 2016, QNB said.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/567686/Qatar-international-reserves-recover-to-39bn-in-Au>

- **Gulf crisis not affecting Malaysia-Qatar ties, says Najib**

Malaysia's economic ties with Qatar is based on the spirit of cooperation with the Muslim world, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today. He said Malaysia and Qatar had good relationship for the past 43 years and the current Gulf crisis would not affect the ties of both countries. "Malaysia practises the principle of cooperation with all nations and in the context of the Muslim world we adopt the wasatiyyah (moderation) principle.

More Details:

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2017/10/291824/gulf-crisis-not-affecting-malaysia-qatar-ties-says-najib>

- **Qatari Banks Are Said to Reduce Dollar Sales to Foreign Lenders**

Some Qatari banks are becoming less willing to sell dollars to foreign lenders amid a lingering regional standoff with a Saudi-led alliance, according to people familiar with the matter. Foreign exchange activity between local and international banks is almost at a standstill with Qatari lenders increasingly reluctant to provide quotes for dollar sales, the people said, asking not to be identified because the matter is private.

More Details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-17/qatari-banks-are-said-to-reduce-dollar-sales-to-foreign-lenders>

## 7. EGYPT

- **It is not true that the IMF demanded imposition of incremental taxes: Finance Minister**

The Minister of Finance, Amr El Garhy, said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has not requested from Egypt imposing incremental taxes or offering monetary support to citizens in order to reduce the gap between social classes. In a report on Monday, El Garhy continued that none of this was requested at all. He added that the ministry showcased the potential support to be provided to the beneficiaries, in addition to the social protection package in 2017/2018 budget.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/16/not-true-imf-demanded-imposition-incremental-taxes-finance-minister/>

- **Egypt unemployment rates to rise 3 times if population growth continues**

If Egypt's current population growth rates continue the same until 2030, unemployment rates will rise to three times the current rate and inflation will reach record levels, Rapporteur of the National Population Council of the Ministry of Health, Tarek Tawfik, said. He added in his speech during a training course for students of the Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology at Cairo University, that the state seeks to address this increase...

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypt-unemployment-rates-rise-3-times-population-growth-continues/>

- **Mercosur, Egypt free trade deal comes into effect**

The Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) has announced that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between Mercosur bloc and Egypt has come into effect. Mercosur is an economic and political bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and Venezuela. Signed in 2010, the agreement outlines bilateral trade between Egypt and Mercosur, through which 63 per cent of its exports will be covered immediately...

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND\\_331635.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND_331635.html)

- **The UK's Balancing Act between Security, Financial Interest, and Human Rights**

The United Kingdom has long employed a carrot and stick technique when dealing with Egypt, threatening to suspend aid and economic or military dealings in response to the country's

deteriorating human rights situation. However, such ultimatums are often fleeting, as the UK government places its own short-term interests over improvements in Egypt's human rights record. The risk, though, is that this undermines the human rights situation in Egypt, and by doing so could worsen the security situation in the long run.

More Details:

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-uk-s-balancing-act-between-security-financial-interest-and-human-rights>

- **Egypt moves Palestinians toward reconciliation, pressuring Israel on broader peace deal**

It's been a decade since the Palestinian terrorist group turned political party Hamas took over the Gaza Strip. In that time, neither the Hamas nor the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, whose president, Mahmoud Abbas, and secular Fatah ruling party officially lead the Palestinian strongholds in both Gaza and the West Bank, has made strides toward reconciling their bitter differences or meaningful progress toward their shared dream of statehood.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/16/egypts-palestinian-unity-talks-pressure-israel/>

- **Egyptian FM: Cairo ready for normalized ties with Ankara**

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry has called for stepped-up trade relations with Turkey, going on to hint that he may eventually pay a visit to Ankara. In an interview aired Sunday evening on private Egyptian broadcaster ON TV, Shoukry voiced hope that bilateral relations might reach a level that "serves the interests of the peoples of both countries." "We are keen to maintain certain trade relationships because they benefit Egypt..."

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/17/egyptian-fm-cairo-ready-for-normalized-ties-with-ankara>

- **Saudi Fund for Development investments in Egypt hit \$2.5 bln: minister**

The Saudi Fund for Development has so far invested around \$2.5 billion in 23 ongoing projects in Egypt, investment minister Sahar Nasr said Monday. Nasr made her remarks during her meeting with the SFD officials on the sidelines of the World Bank meetings in Washington D.C.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/financial-institutions/59993-saudi-fund-for-development-investments-in-egypt-hit-25-bln-minister.html>

- **Egypt Urged To Protect Christians After Murder Orthodox Priest**

Rights activists have urged Egypt's government to increase the security of Christians and other minorities after a 50-year-old Coptic Orthodox priest from Upper Egypt was stabbed to death, and another was wounded, by a suspected Islamic militant. Samaan Shahata Rizkallah was chased and repeatedly stabbed in the head, neck, and abdomen by a man wielding a meat cleaver, who also imprinted a cross on his forehead, Christians said.

More Details:

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/37853-egypt-urged-to-protect-christians-after-murder-orthodox-priest>

- **Belarus invited to take part in Egypt's oil and gas projects**

Egypt invites Belarusian companies to take part in the implementation of big oil and gas projects in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, Speaker of the Egyptian parliament Ali Abdel Aal said at the meeting with Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Mikhail Myasnikov on 14 October. The talks took place on the sidelines of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in St Petersburg, BelTA has learned.

More Details:

<http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-invited-to-take-part-in-egypts-oil-and-gas-projects-105898-2017/>

- **Egypt's Sisi discusses North Sinai security measures, economic projects with top officials**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi discussed the security measures taken to fight terrorist organizations in North Sinai as well ongoing economic projects in a meeting with government ministers and top officials in Cairo on Monday, the Egyptian Presidency announced. The meeting was attended by the prime minister as well as the ministers of defense, foreign affairs, interior, health, justice, and public sector, in addition to the heads of the country's General Intelligence Service and the Administrative Control Authority, according to the presidency spokesperson Alaa Youssef.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278905/-.aspx>



## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Bouteflika restructures two-headed Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Algerian media reported that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika reorganized the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because it was “two -headed” and due to the necessity of rationalizing public funds.

More details,

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171016-bouteflika-restructures-two-headed-ministry-of-foreign-affairs/>

- **FBI: Alleged Benghazi mastermind was treated fairly while in custody**

FBI agents who assisted in the capture and detention of 2012 Benghazi attack suspect Ahmed Abu Khattala testified Monday about the arrest and treatment in custody, as prosecutors attempted to dispel any notion of abuse or coercion into making statements.

More details,

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/16/benghazi-mastermind-was-treated-fairly-while-in-cu/>

- **Rada says it has broken up Tripoli attack plot**

The Rada (Deterrence) force is claiming to have disrupted a planned mercenary attack in Tripoli and arrested two of the plotters. The details remain sketchy. However Rada has said that an armed group including 120 Sudanese members of their country’s Justice and Equality Movement had arrived at a camp in Warshefana after having first clashed with security forces in Ghariyan.

More details,

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/16/rada-says-it-has-broken-up-tripoli-attack-plot/>

- **NATO, western countries’ mean approach to Libya led to its current dilemma, Lavrov says**

Western countries behaved meanly towards Libya by violating the UN Security Council resolution on introduction of a no-fly zone over the country’s territory, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the first Global Young Diplomats Forum held as part of the World Forum of Youth and Students, when asked by the audience, TASS reported Monday.

More details,

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/nato-western-countries-mean-approach-to-libya-led-to-its-current-dilemma-lavrov-says/>

- **Morocco, China to set up economic zone to boost bilateral cooperation**

Morocco and China have agreed to set up an economic zone in Morocco's northern city of Fez, offering a platform for boosting bilateral cooperation in various industries, local media reported Monday.

More details,

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-10/16/content\\_41740488.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-10/16/content_41740488.htm)

- **Boat collision off Kerkennah: another body recovered Monday**

Army units have recovered the body of another victim in the shipwreck of an illegal migrants' boat that collided with a Navy vessel off Kerkennah on October 8, bringing the number of the bodies recovered Monday to 17, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence Colonel Belhassen Oueslati told TAP.

More details,

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9471857-boat-collision-off>

- **Bank Al-Maghrib & IMF Extend Investment Agreement**

Morocco's central bank (Bank Al-Maghrib ) has agreed to extend its investment agreement for the benefit of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) until 2022 in support of IMF's concessional lending to low-income member countries

More details,

<http://northafricapost.com/20206-bank-al-maghrib-imf-extend-investment-agreement.html>

- **Libyan Army Prepares To Take Over Western City Of Zawiya**

Libyan eastern-based army is preparing to launch a large-scale military operation aimed at controlling the city of Zawiya, some 45 km west of Tripoli, China's Xinhua news agency reported a military source as saying on late Sunday.

More details,

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1400928>

- **Why is ISIS Regrouping in Libya?**

Continued political and military fragmentation in Libya is allowing for the regrouping of ISIS in the country after it was largely defeated in 2016, Walid Namane, an independent analyst, and North Africa expert has said.

More details,

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/why-isis-regrouping-libya-1034820>

- **European investigations into Schengen visa fraud**

The European Union investigating potential irregularities in the Schengen visa process, in particular regarding its award of such visas to nationals of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Investigators are trying to uncover a network of intermediaries with intertwined relations within the embassies and consulates of European countries in the three Maghreb countries.

More details,

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171017-european-investigations-into-schengen-visa-fraud/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Another US drone strikes in Kurram Agency: sources**

Another US drone attack has been reported in Kurram Agency near border with Afghanistan on Tuesday. Sources said that two missiles were fired at a house in Kuch Khurram area, fearing casualties in the attack. Flames and smoke could be seen rising from the site, where the missiles were fired.

More details,

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/237666-Another-US-drone-strikes-in-Kurram-Agency-sources>

- **Truck bombing, fierce clash rock Ghazni's Andar district**

A fierce clash erupted following a car bombing in the Andar district of southern Ghazni province on Tuesday, an official said.

More details,

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/17/truck-bombing-fierce-clash-rock-ghazni%E2%80%99s-andar-district>

- **Paktia Police Chief Believed To Have Been Killed In Bombing**

Security officials said two vehicles, a truck and a Humvee, were used in the suicide bombing targeting Paktia police training college. Security officials have confirmed that Toryalai Abdyani, the police chief for Paktia province, was killed in Tuesday morning's deadly suicide bombing in Gardez City.

More details,

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/paktia-police-chief-believed-have-been-killed-bombing>

- **Afghan schools closing due to violence, undermining gains in educating girls, says rights group**

Spreading violence in Afghanistan is forcing many schools to close, undermining fragile gains in education for young girls in a war-ravaged country where millions of girls have never been to school, said a Human Rights Watch report released on Tuesday.

More details,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-education/afghan-schools-closing-due-to-violence-undermining-gains-in-educating-girls-says-rights-group-idUSKBN1CM0JJ?rpc=401&>

- **Afghanistan elected as member of U.N. Human Rights Council for first time**

Afghanistan was elected as member state of the United Nations Human Rights Council by the body's General Assembly on Monday, for the first time in its history. Afghanistan was elected by securing more than two-third of votes, along with 14 other states. All would serve three-year terms beginning on 1st January 2018.

More details,

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/31709-afghanistan-elected-as-member-of-un-human-rights-council-for-first-time>

- **84 lawmakers barred from entering Punjab Assembly after ECP suspension**

Eighty-four lawmakers were barred from attending the session of Punjab Assembly on Tuesday, a day after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) suspended their membership for not submitting their statements of assets and liabilities.

More details,

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1364392/84-lawmakers-barred-from-entering-punjab-assembly-after-ecp-suspension>

- **Pakistan's Foreign Secretary to visit SL**

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua will be visiting Sri Lanka on 17 and 18 October, to participate in the fifth round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The fourth round of talks was held in August 2014 in Islamabad.

More details,

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/article20170401CT20170930.php?id=6645>

- **Uplift of South Punjab a top priority: CM**

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that development of South Punjab is a top priority of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government.

More details,

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1533091/uplift-south-punjab-top-priority-cm/>

- **Oman, Pakistan hold political consultations**

The sixth round of the Oman-Pakistan Bilateral Political Consultations were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in Muscat on Sunday.

More details,

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Oman-Pakistan-hold-political-consultations-54an>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish jets hit PKK targets, killing 8 terrorists in airstrikes in northern Iraq**

Turkish jets and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) targeted PKK positions in northern Iraq, killing eight terrorists, the military said in a statement Tuesday. The military said that six of the terrorists were killed by jets in northern Iraq's Zap region, while two were killed by UAVs, bringing the total number of terrorists killed in Monday's anti-terror operations to 16.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/10/17/turkish-jets-hit-pkk-targets-killing-8-terrorists-in-airstrikes-in-northern-iraq>



- **Boroujerdi urges Iran-Turkey swift response to KRG issue**

Senior MP Boroujerdi called for Iran and Turkey's swift response in addressing the need for preserving Iraq's territorial integrity following Kurdistan region's insistence on separation. Head of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi held talks on bilateral and regional issues with Turkish Parliamentary National Defense Committee head Yusuf Beyazıt in Tehran on Monday.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128713/Boroujerdi-urges-Iran-Turkey-swift-response-to-KRG-issue>

- **EU seeks to cooperate with Turkey on Iraq, Syria**

The EU's foreign policy chief said on Oct. 16 the bloc would strengthen cooperation with Turkey on issues "related to regional dynamics." Speaking to journalists before a foreign affairs meeting in Luxembourg, Federica Mogherini said they will discuss how the EU and Turkey can "coordinate better" on Syria and Iraq.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128708/EU-seeks-to-cooperate-with-Turkey-on-Iraq-Syria>

- **Iran's First VP to Visit Turkey on Thursday**

Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri plans to pay an official visit to neighboring Turkey to meet with senior officials of the country and participate in a conference of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/wired/irans-first-vp-visit-turkey-thursday/>

- **Turkey closes airspace for flights to northern Iraq**

Turkey on Monday closed its airspace for the flights from and to northern Iraq, the Turkish deputy prime minister and government spokesman said Monday. Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting in the capital Ankara, Bekir Bozdag said the decision was taken by the Cabinet on advice of the country's National Security Council.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/195062/turkey-closes-airspace-for-flights-to-northern-iraq>

- **Opposition leader rails against PKK in Iraq's Kirkuk**

The presence of the PKK terror group in Iraq's Kirkuk is a matter of "survival" for Turkey, an opposition leader said Tuesday. Devlet Bahçeli, whose Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) forms the smallest group in parliament, told his party's lawmakers that the PKK's presence in the oil-rich region was "an alarm for Turkey".

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/opposition-leader-rails-against-pkk-in-iraqs-kirkuk/939988>

*\*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.*

*\*Bu bülten **ORSAM Ortadoğu Uzman Yardımcısı Firuze Yağmur Gökler** tarafından hazırlanmaktadır. Bülten Ortadoğu ülkelerinin yerel haber kaynaklarından derlenmektedir. Belirtilen görüşler bölge ülkelerinin haber kaynaklarına ve ismi geçen yazarlara ait olup ORSAM'ın görüşünü yansıtmamaktadır.*