



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

18 OCTOBER 2017

NO: 2464

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. IRAQ..... | 4 |
| • Serbian FM starts two-day visit to Iraq | 4 |
| • Saudi Arabia to Launch Coordination Council with Iraq..... | 4 |
| • Lawsuit accuses big pharma firms of funding terrorist organizations in Iraq | 4 |
| • Time for cautious optimism on Iraq | 4 |
| • Envoy takes aim at RCMP after protesters try to storm Iraq embassy | 5 |
| • Iraq president blames Kurdish poll for Kirkuk assault..... | 5 |
| • Turkmens call for cooperation between Turkey, Iraq to prevent PKK threat | 5 |
| • 61,000 flee Kirkuk as Iraq says Kurdish independence 'a thing of the past' | 6 |
| • ISIS down to 6,500 fighters, holds only 3 percent of Iraq | 6 |
| • Iraq-Kurd clash cuts oil output at Kirkuk | 6 |
| • Iraq appoints new governor of oil-rich Kirkuk province..... | 7 |
| • US State Department: Washington tries to calm situation in Iraq..... | 7 |
| • Iraqi forces seize more territory in northern Iraq | 7 |
| • France supports EU security initiative in Iraq - Foreign Ministry | 7 |
| • Iraq plans to build new refinery in seized Kirkuk – oil ministry | 8 |
| • US 'not taking sides' in Iraqi-Kurdish dispute: Trump | 8 |
| 2. SYRIA..... | 8 |
| • Israel's Rare Strike in Syria Is an Explosive Message Delivered Personally to Russia..... | 8 |
| • Iran's Top General in Syria for Talks | 8 |
| • ISIS Loses Its Syria 'Capital' | 9 |
| • Discussing 'red lines': Israel hedges military options in Syria | 9 |
| • A look at simple prefabricated classrooms in Aleppo, Syria | 9 |
| • Doha hosts meeting of Syria donors today October 18 2017 01:25 AM | 10 |
| • Iranian guards commander killed in Syria: Media..... | 10 |
| • Benjamin Netanyahu: 'Israel will not allow' Iranian bases in Syria | 10 |
| • Iran, France Discuss Ways to Resolve Syria Crisis | 10 |
| • ISIS emir of central Syria killed by Syrian airstrike in Quraytayn..... | 11 |
| 3. IRAN | 11 |
| • Leader's Top Aide Dismisses IRGC's Partnership in Kirkuk Operations..... | 11 |
| • US violating spirit, letter of Iran's nuclear deal: Russia..... | 11 |
| • European states after fortifying ties with Iran's Navy..... | 12 |
| • Nuclear deal cannot be renegotiated or altered, Iran tells UN..... | 12 |
| • Tehran prosecutor elaborates on conditions of some security convicts | 12 |
| • Rosatom head to visit Iran..... | 12 |
| • Leader Allocates about \$300,000 to Assist Myanmar's Rohingya | 13 |
| • Norway defies Trump, enters \$4-billion deal with Iran | 13 |
| • Global Support for Iran to Force Trump to Retreat: Rouhani | 13 |
| • Iranian, Uzbek Top Diplomats Discuss Closer Economic Ties..... | 14 |
| 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE..... | 14 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| • Israeli Army Raids Multiple Palestinian Media Outlets across West Bank..... | 14 |
| • Bicyclers from all over the world to pedal for Arab-Israeli peace..... | 14 |
| • P. A Denounces Israel's New Colonialist Plans..... | 14 |
| • Overcoming opposition, Israel elected to UN space committee | 15 |
| • Israeli Cabinet: No negotiations unless Hamas disarms..... | 15 |
| • Despite Reconciliation Deal, Hamas Slams Abbas for Not Lifting Gaza Sanctions..... | 15 |
| • Colonialism links catastrophes in Puerto Rico and Gaza..... | 15 |
| • General Director of Palestinian Crossing and Borders Authority Arrives in Gaza..... | 16 |
| • Anger over Israeli plan for new homes in Hebron | 16 |
| 5. JORDAN and LEBANON..... | 16 |
| • Jordanian FM, Iraqi counterpart discuss relations | 16 |
| • Dilemma of political parties in Jordan..... | 16 |
| • UNICEF - uzoon Almellehan returns to Jordan to meet Syrian refugees striving to get an education..... | 17 |
| • EU approves 100 mln Euro loan for Jordan..... | 17 |
| • Sisi meets Abbas after Palestinian reconciliation..... | 17 |
| • New Report Shows Hezbollah Used Prominent Bank in War-Ravaged DR Congo to Finance Key Terror Network..... | 17 |
| • Bank of Beirut supports OABC networking event with US envoy | 18 |
| • A Glass Half Empty? Taking Stock of Hezbollah's Losses in Syria | 18 |
| • Governor of Riyadh Receives Lebanese Ambassador | 18 |
| • Lebanon grants oil, gas exploration license for waters bordering Israel | 18 |
| 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA..... | 19 |
| • Bahrain, Saudi bolster ties..... | 19 |
| • Kuwaiti aid helps 296,000 worldwide | 19 |
| • Qatar accuses Saudi Arabia of promoting 'regime change' | 19 |
| • Bahrain to buy 16 upgraded F-16 fighter jets | 19 |
| • Saudi Arabia, Germany long-standing partners in changing times | 20 |
| • Bajwa back home after 'quiet' visit to Saudi Arabia, UAE..... | 20 |
| • Yemen's Legitimacy Consolidates its Presence in Besieged Taiz | 20 |
| • Two UAE pilots killed in Yemen military plane crash | 20 |
| • Qatar's leader urges end to trade embargo, calls for talks..... | 21 |
| • Qatar says Gulf crisis 'undermines' fight against IS..... | 21 |
| 7. EGYPT..... | 21 |
| • UAE condemns terror attack in Al Arish, Egypt..... | 21 |
| • We are studying ways to improve national economy: head of Industry Committee | 22 |
| • Portugal, Egypt to discuss cooperation at Oct 19 business forum in Cairo | 22 |
| • News Analysis: Egypt's fruitful mediation in Mideast issues enhances Cairo's regional role: experts..... | 22 |
| • UK launches workshops with Egypt prosecution to combat human trafficking: Embassy | 22 |
| • Sisi's Egypt and the politics of fear..... | 22 |
| • Mideast PR chief urges stronger 'nation brand' for Egypt..... | 23 |
| • President Sisi meets World Jewish Congress President | 23 |
| • MPs sign "Alashan Tabneeha" petition for 2018 Sisi candidacy | 23 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| • Egyptian FM: Cairo ready for normalized ties with Ankara..... | 23 |
| 8. NORTH AFRICA..... | 24 |
| • Algeria denies reports of government reshuffle | 24 |
| • Iran Deepening Ties With Brazil, Indonesia and Algeria | 24 |
| • "EU more than ever determined to assist Tunisia in its counter-terrorism policy" (statement)..... | 24 |
| • Dealing with potential extremists at heart of international meeting in Tunis..... | 24 |
| • Tunisia migrant boat tragedy death toll reaches 44 | 24 |
| • Morocco, UNESCO sign pact to preserve crafts | 25 |
| • New UN envoy in Morocco to restart talks on disputed Western Sahara | 25 |
| • ADCCI Delegation discusses investment opportunities with Moroccan Minister of Industry .. | 25 |
| • UN-backed Libya talks hit new snag..... | 25 |
| • US Resumes Visa Processing for 6 Muslim Nations after Court Ruling | 26 |
| 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN | 26 |
| • Suicide Bomber Arrested In Kabul with an Explosive-Rigged Bicycle..... | 26 |
| • Taliban Commander Killed In Badakhshan Air Strike | 26 |
| • Implementation of TAPI project brings economic opportunities, regional stability | 26 |
| • Via WFP; China provides \$1m assistance in Afghanistan | 27 |
| • Taliban Launch Wave of Attacks in Afghanistan, Killing 74..... | 27 |
| • Truck explosion kills at least six people in Pakistan | 27 |
| • India can help US to keep an eye on Pakistan: Nikki Haley..... | 27 |
| • The enigma that is US-Pak ties: Pakistan must stop providing sanctuaries to terrorists..... | 27 |
| • Call by Pakistan Foreign Secretary on the President of Sri Lanka | 28 |
| • Congo, Pakistan, Afghanistan Elected to U.N. Human Rights Council | 28 |
| 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST..... | 28 |
| • Turkish Air Force hits PKK positions in northern Iraq..... | 28 |
| • Head of Turkey-Iran friendship group talks ties, Syria | 28 |
| • Yildirim reiterates Turkish support for united Iraq | 29 |

1. IRAQ

- **Serbian FM starts two-day visit to Iraq**

The government announced this, and added that Dacic is due to meet with the country's top officials. Dacic will meet with President of Iraq Fuad Masum, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, Minister of Defense Erfan al-Hiyali and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

More Details:

http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2017&mm=10&dd=18&nav_id=102580

- **Saudi Arabia to Launch Coordination Council with Iraq**

Saudi Arabia and Iraq will be cosigning the establishment of a joint Saudi-Iraqi Coordinating Council in Riyadh next week, sources told Asharq Al-Awsat. The body is said to cover various political, economic, security and cultural fields. Abdul Aziz al-Shammari, charge d'affaires of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Baghdad, said that an Iraqi delegation is expected to arrive in Riyadh next week under the chairmanship of Dr. Sulaiman al-Jumaili, head of the Coordination Council from the Iraqi side. Six other Iraqi ministers will also be part of the delegation.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/abdul-hadi-habtoor/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-launch-coordination-council-iraq>

- **Lawsuit accuses big pharma firms of funding terrorist organizations in Iraq**

More than 100 US veterans and relatives of American soldiers killed or wounded in Iraq have sued five major pharmaceutical corporations for knowingly financing Iran-backed terrorist organizations in Iraq. A lawsuit filed in US District Court in Washington, DC on Tuesday claims that AstraZeneca, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Roche Holding financed terrorist organizations that have killed hundreds of American soldiers in Iraq.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/usa/407049-lawsuit-big-pharma-terrorist-organizations-iraq/>

- **Time for cautious optimism on Iraq**

Information from Irbil shows that there is a growing pessimism and an atmosphere of dejection especially among the Barzani administration people. This is only normal because they embarked on a mission impossible by insisting on holding a referendum for independence which was not only illegal but rejected by the whole world and especially by the central government in Baghdad. The Kurds of

Iraq have lost badly in all the "disputed territories" and their forces have been seriously humiliated with the Iraqi army taking over all these areas with no fight.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/columns/ilnur-cevik/2017/10/18/time-for-cautious-optimism-on-iraq>

- **Envoy takes aim at RCMP after protesters try to storm Iraq embassy**

Iraq's ambassador to Canada is asking why his request for more police protection wasn't answered hours before protesters tried to force their way into his embassy. The diplomatic mission in downtown Ottawa was forced into lockdown for about half an hour on Tuesday after protesters pushed their way to the entrance, only to be stopped by heavy glass doors. The protesters also broke into the adjoining parking lot and allegedly hit one of the embassy's staff and burned the mission's Iraqi flag before retreating across the street to hold signs.

More Details:

<http://vancouversun.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/envoy-takes-aim-at-rcmp-after-protesters-try-to-storm-iraq-embassy/wcm/52fbef38-4e25-4c43-91d3-434c90a501e0>

- **Iraq president blames Kurdish poll for Kirkuk assault**

Iraqi President Fuad Masum on Tuesday blamed a Kurdish independence referendum for triggering a military intervention by Iraqi forces to take control of the disputed province of Kirkuk. "Holding a referendum on the Kurdistan region's independence from Iraq stirred grave disagreements between the central government and the government of Kurdistan," Masum, himself a Kurd, said in a televised address.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1179101/middle-east>

- **Turkmens call for cooperation between Turkey, Iraq to prevent PKK threat**

The Federation of Turkmen Associations in Turkey issued a statement yesterday saying that Turkey and the Iraqi central government should increase cooperative efforts and take precautions for the prevention of possible threats from the PKK terrorist organization, the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and Daesh, following the Iraqi army's retake of Kirkuk. While delivering a speech to Turkish press members, the president of the Turkmen federation, Aydın Beyatlı, read the statement suggesting that Turkey should be in cooperation with the Iraqi central government to prevent possible terror attacks by the PKK/PYD.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2017/10/18/turkmens-call-for-cooperation-between-turkey-iraq-to-prevent-pkk-threat>

- **61,000 flee Kirkuk as Iraq says Kurdish independence ‘a thing of the past’**

After the Iraqi army took over Kirkuk, Baghdad has said that Kurdish independence is “a thing of the past” and the controversial referendum should be forgotten, as the UN says 61,000 people have fled the northern city of Kirkuk. “In the past 48 hours, the UN Migration Agency says that some 61,000 people have left Kirkuk and surrounding areas, most of them heading north and east toward the Erbil and Suleimania governorates,” Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, told reporters Tuesday. “We call on all parties to ensure that civilians are protected and [that they] can leave affected areas if they choose.”

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/407034-kurds-flee-kirkuk-iraq/>

- **ISIS down to 6,500 fighters, holds only 3 percent of Iraq**

As the campaign against the Islamic State begins to draw to a close, the terror group is down to an estimated 6,500 fighters, with only about 100 left in Raqqa, its former self-proclaimed capital in Syria, the U.S. military declared Tuesday. “ISIS in Iraq and Syria are all but isolated in their quickly shrinking territory,” said Col. Ryan Dillon, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/isis-down-to-6500-fighters-holds-only-3-percent-of-iraq/article/2637810>

- **Iraq-Kurd clash cuts oil output at Kirkuk**

Crude output in Iraq’s oil-rich Kirkuk province tumbled when two fields halted production as government troops pushed back Kurdish forces in an Iraqi offensive to regain control in the disputed area. The Kurdish KAR Group stopped pumping crude at the Avana and Bai Hassan deposits after technicians failed to report for work and security guards left amid the fighting, an official at the central government-run North Oil Co said on Monday, without specifying how much oil the fields were producing before the halt. While the KAR Group operates the fields, NOC staff work with the Kurds at both sites, the official, asking not to be identified as they’re not authorised to speak to the media. Phone calls to the KAR Group yesterday went unanswered.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/567767/Iraq-Kurd-clash-cuts-oil-output-at-Kirkuk>

- **Iraq appoints new governor of oil-rich Kirkuk province**

Baghdad on Tuesday appointed a new governor in northern Iraq's oil-rich Kirkuk province. "I am taking up my role as governor with a view to restoring everyday life in Kirkuk," Rakan Saeed told reporters Tuesday in Kirkuk. "With the government's help, we can provide the city with needed security. "It will be business as usual at Kirkuk's state institutions and classes will resume in the city's schools," he added.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-appoints-new-governor-of-oil-rich-kirkuk-province/940409>

- **US State Department: Washington tries to calm situation in Iraq**

The State Department on Tuesday declined to criticize the Iraqi central government for partnering with Iran in a fight against an ethnic minority seeking to separate from the rest of the country. "We continue to call for calm," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://news.am/eng/news/415948.html>

- **Iraqi forces seize more territory in northern Iraq**

A day after government troops took control of the city of Kirkuk, Kurdish forces have relinquished more territory to Iraqi forces in disputed areas of northern Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has dismissed Kurdish hopes for an independent state and has called for dialogue.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/iraqi-forces-seize-territory-northern-iraq-171018072915027.html>

- **France supports EU security initiative in Iraq - Foreign Ministry**

The French Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that it is fully behind a new security and assistance mission for Iraq, which aims to bolster Iraqi unity, security and sovereignty. A statement said that Paris was on board for the new initiative drawn up by EU Foreign Ministers and which is dubbed EUAM Iraq, or EU Assistance Mission.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2647205&Language=en>

- **Iraq plans to build new refinery in seized Kirkuk – oil ministry**

Iraqi Oil Minister Jabar al-Luaibi has announced plans to construct a new refinery in the oil-producing region of Kirkuk, which has become the scene of open conflict between Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The Iraqi government also plans to increase oil production from the region to more than a million barrels per day with a foreign oil company to be contracted to implement the plan, according to the minister. Al-Luaibi said all the oil fields in the province are back under government control.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/business/406985-iraq-build-new-refinery-kirkuk/>

- **US 'not taking sides' in Iraqi-Kurdish dispute: Trump**

The United States is not taking sides in an Iraqi-Kurdish dispute, claims President Donald Trump, as Iraqi forces have taken control of the Kurdish-held city of Kirkuk. On Monday, Iraqi forces recaptured military bases, an oil field and other infrastructure held by the Kurdish troops, removed Kurdish flags from top of the government buildings and replaced them with the Iraqi flag.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/17/538928/US-not-taking-sides-in-IraqiKurdish-dispute-Trump>

2. SYRIA

- **Israel's Rare Strike in Syria Is an Explosive Message Delivered Personally to Russia**

Hours after Israel's rare strike in Syria, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that, "If anyone tries to hurt us, we'll hurt them." What was defined by the Israeli army as a Syrian provocation in the morning had become a chance to reinforce Israel's red lines by the afternoon. Monday's unusual incident between Syria and Israel says something about the modern Middle East. Within hours, a routine Israeli surveillance flight over Lebanon had turned into a bombing run 50 kilometers east of Damascus.

More Details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.817629>

- **Iran's Top General in Syria for Talks**

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri has paid a visit to Syria for high-profile military and political meetings and coordination of efforts in the fight against

terrorism. Heading a high-ranking delegation, the senior Iranian general arrived in Damascus on Tuesday evening, and paid a visit to the holy shrine Hazrat Roghaye, the daughter of Imam Hussain (AS), the third Shiite Imam.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/18/1549179/iran-s-top-general-in-syria-for-talks>

- **ISIS Loses Its Syria 'Capital'**

ISIS lost on Monday its de facto capital in Syria, Raqqa, as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced they completely control the city, following four months of fierce battles that ended with the withdrawal of some of the terrorists' militants in an unclear deal that failed to detail the destination of those fighters. "Everything is finished in Raqqa, our forces have taken full control of Raqqa," SDF spokesperson Talal Silo told AFP on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/akoum-sheikho/news-middle-east/isis-loses-syria-capital>

- **Discussing 'red lines': Israel hedges military options in Syria**

Israeli fighter jets on Monday destroyed a Syrian SA-5 anti-aircraft battery east of Damascus, after the missile defense system had fired at Israeli reconnaissance planes conducting routine flights in Lebanese airspace. It reportedly follows numerous unpublicized instances in which Israeli military aircraft were similarly targeted, as well as a close-call episode in March when a Syrian government military installation launched three projectiles at Israeli jets tasked with striking a Hezbollah arms convoy destined for Lebanon.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Discussing-red-lines-Israel-hedges-military-options-in-Syria-507720>

- **A look at simple prefabricated classrooms in Aleppo, Syria**

Students take a class at a simple prefabricated classroom in Ibrahim al-Tanbi School, Aleppo, Syria, on Oct 12, 2017. The school building has been torn to pieces, but students at various ages were studying at simple prefabricated classrooms set up by the government in the courtyard. Once used by the rebels as bases, the schools in the city of Aleppo have now returned to its original function as a place of education for kids.

More Details:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-10/18/content_33397589.htm

- **Doha hosts meeting of Syria donors today October 18 2017 01:25 AM**

The 11th meeting of the major donors group for Syria will open in Doha today under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General's Humanitarian Envoy HE Dr Ahmed bin Mohamed al-Muraikhi. The meeting, which is being hosted in Doha for the second time, aims to strengthen humanitarian dialogue among donors on the humanitarian crisis in Syria, assess efforts in the humanitarian response and strengthen international efforts in this regard.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/567817/Doha-hosts-meeting-of-Syria-donors-today>

- **Iranian guards commander killed in Syria: Media**

A senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander has been killed during fighting in Syria, Iran's state media reported on Tuesday. "Brigadier General Abdollah Khosravi, a senior war veteran, was martyred on Saturday in Syria," the Basij news agency said without giving further details. According to Fars news agency, Khosravi was commander of the Fatehin Battalion, made up of Iranian volunteers fighting in Iraq and Syria.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/97250590-c8b0-4427-805b-4990bdf0cc2a.aspx>

- **Benjamin Netanyahu: 'Israel will not allow' Iranian bases in Syria**

Israel says it "will not allow" Iran to build up a long-term military position on its borders, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu delivered the warning to Russia, which has been Iran's partner in backing Syrian President Bashar Assad, during a meeting in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. The talks occurred as coalition forces are nearly finished liberating the Islamic State's capital of Raqqa as key world powers try to secure long-term strategic gains out of the Syrian civil war.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/benjamin-netanyahu-israel-will-not-allow-iranian-bases-in-syria/article/2637734>

- **Iran, France Discuss Ways to Resolve Syria Crisis**

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber 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://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-france-discuss-ways-resolve-syria-crisis/>

- **ISIS emir of central Syria killed by Syrian airstrike in Quraytayn**

The highest ranking commander for the Islamic State (ISIS) in central Syria was reportedly killed by the Syrian Arab Air Force (SyAAF) inside the historical city of Quraytayn this morning. Syrian national, Bassam Al-Dakhil, was identified as the ISIS emir of central Syria that was killed by the SyAAF in Quraytayn today.

More Details:

<https://www.almazdarnews.com/article/isis-emir-central-syria-killed-syrian-airstrike-quraytayn/>

3. IRAN

- **Leader's Top Aide Dismisses IRGC's Partnership in Kirkuk Operations**

Iranian Supreme Leader's top adviser for international affairs Ali Akbar Velayati rejected media reports that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) forces participated in the Iraqi army operations in Kirkuk. "The IRGC plays no role in the Kirkuk operations," Velayati told reporters in Tehran on Tuesday. Noting that most of the Kurdish people are opposed to the "ambitious measures" by the Iraqi Kurdistan region's president Massoud Barzani, he said that the Iraqi government gained control of the Kirkuk region almost without any resistance by the Kurds.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960725000798>

- **US violating spirit, letter of Iran's nuclear deal: Russia**

Russia has once again sided with Iran in an ongoing standoff with the United States over the fate of the country's nuclear deal. A senior Russian diplomat has censured the US objection to the agreement, saying Washington is violating both the spirit and letter of the multilateral accord, while Tehran has remained fully compliant. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has committed to its obligations under the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) fully and in a most responsible manner, so far and hopefully in the future," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told reporters on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/18/538993/Iran-US-Russia-JCPOA>

- **European states after fortifying ties with Iran's Navy**

A number of European navy commanders met and talked with Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari at Venice Regional Seapower Symposium (RSS) for the Navies of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries. Sayyari, who is in Italy to attend a naval conference and to provide the European country with Iran's experience in ensuring security in high-risk maritime zones, like the Gulf of Aden, saw willingness of various countries' navy commanders to gain Iran's know-how and experience in establishment of security and thwarting pirates in international waters.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128758/European-states-after-fortifying-ties-with-Iran-s-Navy>

- **Nuclear deal cannot be renegotiated or altered, Iran tells UN**

Gholamali Khoshroo, Iran's ambassador to the UN, has said that the 2015 nuclear deal is an international agreement and cannot be renegotiated or altered. "As stressed in Iran's recent statement, the JCPOA (the official name for the nuclear deal) is a valid international instrument. It cannot be renegotiated or altered. It is not a bilateral agreement that can be annulled by unilateral actions," Khoshroo said during a speech at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly on nuclear weapons on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417684/Nuclear-deal-cannot-be-renegotiated-or-altered-Iran-tells-UN>

- **Tehran prosecutor elaborates on conditions of some security convicts**

Tehran Prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi on Tuesday elaborated on the conditions of some convicts being held in Iranian prisons for security offenses. On conditions of Soheil Arabi, Tehran prosecutor said that Arabi has insulted Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Shia Imams and the holy Quran.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82699705>

- **Rosatom head to visit Iran**

A chief executive officer (CEO) of Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation Alexey Likhachev is slated for an upcoming visit to Iran to follow up on power plant projects in Bushehr. An Iranian delegation headed by Spokesperson for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi met with Alexey Likhachev, the CEO of Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation and the corporation's top officials in Moscow on Tuesday, MNA reported.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/202615.html>

- **Leader Allocates about \$300,000 to Assist Myanmar's Rohingya**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei allocated a total of 10 billion rials (about \$300,000) to the assistance for Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar as some international human rights bodies have accused Myanmar's government of crimes against humanity. Following a letter written by the representative of the Leader in the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) about the appalling conditions of Rohingya Muslims and the human tragedy in Myanmar, Ayatollah Khamenei allocated about \$300,000 to the oppressed people.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/18/1549199/leader-allocates-about-300-000-to-assist-myanmar-s-rohingya>

- **Norway defies Trump, enters \$4-billion deal with Iran**

"Norway is fully committed to the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and this is proof that we have taken the opening very seriously, and we will see more investment very soon," AFP quoted Norway's Ambassador to Tehran Lars Nordrum on Tuesday. Nordrum made the comment during the signing ceremony of a deal between Norway's Saga Energy and Iran's Amin Energy Developers aimed at the installation of two gigawatts of solar panels in various locations in the country's deserts.

More Details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i66250-norway-defies-trump-enters-4-billion-deal-with-iran>

- **Global Support for Iran to Force Trump to Retreat: Rouhani**

Iran's president has referred to widespread condemnation of Trump's anti-Iran allegations, and said the US president will finally have to back off from his stances given the world's support for Tehran. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has hit out at anti-Iran remarks by his American counterpart Donald Trump and touched upon the United States' enmities toward Iran since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/global-support-iran-force-trump-retreat-rouhani/>

- **Iranian, Uzbek Top Diplomats Discuss Closer Economic Ties**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Uzbek counterpart, Abdulaziz Kamilov, held talks on a range of issues, incusing ways to promote cooperation between the two countries in the oil and gas industry. In the meeting held in Tehran on Tuesday, Zarif hailed bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic and Uzbekistan and stressed the need to boost the ties in all spheres.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/iranian-uzbek-diplomat-economic/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israeli Army Raids Multiple Palestinian Media Outlets across West Bank**

The Israeli army raided the offices of TV channels and production companies in the West Bank overnight on Tuesday, confiscating equipment and closing some of them down. The IDF Spokesperson said that eight media companies were raided and two Palestinians were arrested.

More Details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.817842>

- **Bicyclers from all over the world to pedal for Arab-Israeli peace**

Some 200 bicyclers from the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and Israel are slated to hop on their bicycles next Tuesday to participate in a bike ride that is dedicated to facilitating a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. Israel Ride 2017- Ride As One, is an initiative of the Israeli Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and is expected to bring together families, couples and individuals who are interested in bringing together their passion for athletic activity as well as their faith in a people-to-people approach to conflict-resolution.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Bicyclers-from-all-over-the-world-pedal-for-Arab-Israeli-peace-507725>

- **P. A Denounces Israel's New Colonialist Plans**

The Palestinian National Authority denounced, Tuesday, the latest Israeli decision to build 300 new units in Beit El illegal colony, north of Ramallah, and 31 units in the heart of Hebron city, in the occupied West Bank.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/p-a-denounces-israels-new-colonialist-plans/>

- **Overcoming opposition, Israel elected to UN space committee**

Overcoming opposition from Palestinian diplomats and several Arab states, an Israeli representative was elected by the UN General Assembly Tuesday to sit on the international body's "Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (COPUOS).

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/overcoming-opposition-israel-elected-to-un-space-committee/>

- **Israeli Cabinet: No negotiations unless Hamas disarms**

Israel will not negotiate with Palestinians until Hamas has been disarmed, Israeli security Cabinet announced on Tuesday night. The announcement also listed a number of other conditions under which Israel said it would politically engage with the Palestinian side.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-cabinet-no-negotiations-unless-hamas-disarms/940491>

- **Despite Reconciliation Deal, Hamas Slams Abbas for Not Lifting Gaza Sanctions**

Despite a reconciliation deal signed last week between rival Palestinian factions, the Palestinian terror group Hamas slammed Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the Fatah party, for not yet lifting crippling sanctions on the Gaza Strip.

More Details:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2017/10/17/despite-reconciliation-deal-hamas-slams-abbas-for-not-lifting-gaza-sanctions/>

- **Colonialism links catastrophes in Puerto Rico and Gaza**

A Zionist satirical website, Mideast Beast, published an article during the 2016 US presidential election campaign caricaturing what the "Trump Solution" for the Palestine conflict would look like: move all Palestinians to Puerto Rico if they "surrender to Israel."

More Details:

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/tamara-nassar/colonialism-links-catastrophes-puerto-rico-and-gaza>

- **General Director of Palestinian Crossing and Borders Authority Arrives in Gaza**

Palestinian Crossing and Borders Authority began assuming its duties of managing Gaza's crossings, according to the Palestinian Public Works Minister Mufeed al-Hasaynah.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/kifah-ziboun/news-middle-east/general-director-palestinian-crossing-borders-authority-arrives-gaza>

- **Anger over Israeli plan for new homes in Hebron**

Palestinians accused Israel on Tuesday of using the Hamas-Fatah reconciliation as a distraction while building illegal new homes in the old city of Hebron. The Israeli Planning Commission has approved the construction of 31 homes in and around Shuhada Street, an area under Israeli security control. New building in the heart of the city is banned under an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, and this is the first such approval since 2001.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1179186/middle-east>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordanian FM, Iraqi counterpart discuss relations**

The Jordanian Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs, Ayman Safadi, and his Iraqi counterpart, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, have discussed the crisis in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302639552>

- **Dilemma of political parties in Jordan**

The dissolution of the Jordanian National Current Party by its founders has raised questions about the viability of political parties in Jordan. This party, founded in 2009, was one of the largest in the country, with prominent founders and members who had previously occupied important positions in the government. As such, it was supposed to be strong. Its chances of survival, where many other smaller parties had successively been disappearing, were thought to be strong, too.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/hasan-abu-nimah/dilemma-political-parties-jordan>

- **UNICEF - uzoon Almellehan returns to Jordan to meet Syrian refugees striving to get an education**

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Muzoon Almellehan travelled to Jordan to meet children who, like her, fled the Syria conflict and are now determined to go to school despite extremely challenging circumstances. It was the first time Muzoon had returned to the country – where she spent three years in refugee camps, before being resettled in the United Kingdom with her family in 2015.

More Details:

<https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Unicef+uzoon+Almellehan+returns+to+Jordan+to+meet+Syrian+refugees+striving+to+get+an+education+17102017154000?open>

- **EU approves 100 mln Euro loan for Jordan**

The European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, approved Tuesday the disbursement of a 100 million Euro (USD 117 million) loan to Jordan under its Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) programme.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleno=36260#.WebyMGi0OM8>

- **Sisi meets Abbas after Palestinian reconciliation**

President Abdel-Fatah El-Sisi received in his residence in New York on Monday the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas following the reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas.

More Details:

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/23464/Sisi-meets-Abbas-after-Palestinian-reconciliation>

- **New Report Shows Hezbollah Used Prominent Bank in War-Ravaged DR Congo to Finance Key Terror Network**

Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shia terrorist group in Lebanon, has been using a bank with close ties to the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo to launder money and maintain a terror-funding network under the control of a Hezbollah financier arrested by US authorities earlier this year, a new investigative report released this week asserts.

More Details:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2017/10/17/new-report-shows-hezbollah-used-prominent-bank-in-war-ravaged-dr-congo-to-finance-key-terror-network/>

- **Bank of Beirut supports OABC networking event with US envoy**

The first OABC Premium Member event of the year was recently held at the Hyatt Rooftop Grill. OABC Premium Members enjoyed a time of connecting with H E Mark J Sievers, U S Ambassador to Oman, as well as networking with other VIP guests from Bank of Beirut, the exclusive sponsor for the evening.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Bank-of-Beirut-supports-OABC-networking-event-with-US-envoy-54bh#ixzz4vq29SCX1>

- **A Glass Half Empty? Taking Stock of Hezbollah's Losses in Syria**

Many scholars studying the civil war in Syria have declared Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shi'ite militant group sponsored by Iran, one of the few “winners” in the conflict. But for all the praise enjoyed by the “Party of God,” much of the analysis has failed to highlight how participating in the war has hurt Hezbollah.

More Details:

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2017/10/a-glass-half-empty-taking-stock-of-hezbollahs-losses.html>

- **Governor of Riyadh Receives Lebanese Ambassador**

Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh Region received here today Lebanese Ambassador to the Kingdom Abdulsattar Mohammed Issa.

More Details:

<http://alriyadhdaily.com/article/fd4b2ebda8a143919813fc4e60c03a80>

- **Lebanon grants oil, gas exploration license for waters bordering Israel**

The Petroleum Administration in the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water has announced that an international consortium won two licenses for exploration for oil and gas, one of which borders on Israel's exclusive economic zone.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Lebanon-grants-oil-gas-exploration-license-for-waters-bordering-Israel-507634>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Bahrain, Saudi bolster ties**

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received Prince Fahad bin Abdulla Al-Saudi at his palace in Riffa yesterday. Prince Fahad is currently on a visit to the Kingdom to participate in the Bahrain International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BIDEC 2017).

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppld=38764&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=1>

- **Kuwaiti aid helps 296,000 worldwide**

The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) said that it has launched over 34,000 development projects for the benefit of 296,000 people in 32 countries around the world. IICO believes in the importance of development projects and their role in improving living, economic, health, and educational conditions for the poor and needy ones, IICO's Chairman Dr. Abdullah Al-Matouq said.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/806086>

- **Qatar accuses Saudi Arabia of promoting 'regime change'**

Qatar has accused Saudi Arabia of trying to engineer "regime change" during its four-month blockade of its Gulf neighbour. Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told CNBC on Tuesday that Riyadh is attempting to destabilise Qatar's leadership.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/qatar-accuses-saudi-arabia-promoting-regime-change-171018034411357.html>

- **Bahrain to buy 16 upgraded F-16 fighter jets**

Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) has announced the signing of a \$3.8 billion-deal with Lockheed Martin to buy 16 upgraded F-16 fighter jets. The deal was concluded on the second day of the Bahrain International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BIDEC 2017), which runs from October 16 to 18, 2017.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/bahrain/bahrain-to-buy-16-upgraded-f-16-fighter-jets-1.2108034>

- **Saudi Arabia, Germany long-standing partners in changing times**

Relations between Germany and Saudi Arabia were formalized as early as 1929 by the signing of the Treaty of Friendship between Germany and the Kingdom of the Hijaz and the Nejd. And Germany has maintained diplomatic relations with the Kingdom since 1954. In an interview to Arab News, German Ambassador to the Kingdom Dieter W. Haller spoke at length about the growing-relations between the two countries, and how the two countries are working closely on a range of regional and international issues.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1179291/saudi-arabia>

- **Bajwa back home after 'quiet' visit to Saudi Arabia, UAE**

Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa returned from a three-day visit to the Middle East on Tuesday, military sources told Dawn. The army chief's 'quiet' visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia coincided with a meeting of representatives from Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the US in Muscat to revive the stalled Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG).

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1364522/bajwa-back-home-after-quiet-visit-to-saudi-arabia-uae>

- **Yemen's Legitimacy Consolidates its Presence in Besieged Taiz**

Yemen's legitimacy has continued to improve its services in Taiz despite the siege enforced by Houthi and Saleh militias. In that regard, deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Civil Service Abdulaziz Jubari inaugurated the local automated passport issuance center in the district and monitored the issuance of the first passport after a nearly three-year shutdown. "The re-inauguration of passport issuance is a significant step in the process of rendering state institutions in Taiz functional," State news agency quoted Jubari as saying.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/yemens-legitimacy-consolidates-presence-besieged-taiz>

- **Two UAE pilots killed in Yemen military plane crash**

The UAE says two of its pilots were killed when their military plane crashed due to a "technical failure" during an operation in Yemen. A statement published by the state news agency Tuesday offered few details on their deaths. Emirati forces are part of a Saudi-led coalition that began bombing Iranian-allied Houthi rebels in March 2015.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/18/two-uae-pilots-killed-in-yemen-military-plane-crash>

- **Qatar's leader urges end to trade embargo, calls for talks**

Qatar's emir urged neighboring states to lift an "unfair" 4-month-old trade embargo and said Wednesday that he's ready to open talks to end the diplomatic crisis. Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who arrived in Indonesia late Tuesday from a state visit in neighboring Malaysia, said at a joint news conference with Indonesia's president that the standoff is hurting all the countries involved.

More Details:

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/national-international/article179448231.html>

- **Qatar says Gulf crisis 'undermines' fight against IS**

The fight against the Islamic State group has suffered in the Gulf crisis, which has seen Doha isolated from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Qatar's foreign minister said Wednesday. The closure of Qatar's only land border and the airspace ban on Qatari planes "undermines the global efforts in countering" IS in Iraq and Syria, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said in an interview with CNBC.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4992482/Qatar-says-Gulf-crisis-undermines-fight-against-IS.html>

7. EGYPT

- **UAE condemns terror attack in Al Arish, Egypt**

The UAE strongly condemned the terrorist attack in the centre of Al-Arish City in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. In a statement, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said that the United Arab Emirates expresses its strong condemnation of these criminal acts and its principled rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism.

More Details:

<https://www.sharjah24.ae/en/uae/260279-uae-condemns-terror-attack-in-al-arish-egypt>

- **We are studying ways to improve national economy: head of Industry Committee**

There are several legislations and issues the parliament's Industry Committee is studying. Those aim to support the national industrial system in a way that contributes to increasing the growth rates of the national economy.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/17/studying-ways-improve-national-economy-head-industry-committee/>

- **Portugal, Egypt to discuss cooperation at Oct 19 business forum in Cairo**

The Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC) is organising next Thursday the second annual Egyptian-Portuguese business forum.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/investment-news/industry-trade/60027-portugal-egypt-to-discuss-cooperation-at-oct-19-business-forum-in-cairo.html>

- **News Analysis: Egypt's fruitful mediation in Mideast issues enhances Cairo's regional role: experts**

Egypt's fruitful mediation in some hot issues in the Middle East region, including the recent inter-Palestinian reconciliation, cease-fire deals in Syria and factional dialogues in Libya, has enhanced Cairo's leading role in the turmoil-stricken region, said Egyptian political experts.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/18/c_136687360.htm

- **UK launches workshops with Egypt prosecution to combat human trafficking: Embassy**

The UK launched on Sunday training workshops in Egypt with the aim of bolstering Egyptian prosecutors' ability to prosecute human trafficking, the UK Embassy in Cairo said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/278954/-.aspx>

- **Sisi's Egypt and the politics of fear**

"Fear does play a prominent role in Egyptian public life," explains Vivienne Mathias-Boon, assistant professor of international relations of the Middle East at the University of Amsterdam. Mathias-Boon specialises in individual and social trauma. Though, by no means, unique to the Sisi regime, fear has

long been a divide and conquer mechanism used by totalitarian regimes the world over to disconnect people from one another and retain power.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/egypts-sisi-and-politics-fear-1730771476>

- **Mideast PR chief urges stronger ‘nation brand’ for Egypt**

A leading Middle East PR strategist says Egypt needs a comprehensive and clearly defined nation branding strategy to fulfil its true potential as an investment destination, regional economic and political powerhouse, and tourism hotspot.

More Details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN_331698.html

- **President Sisi meets World Jewish Congress President**

President Abd Al Fattah Al Sisi received on Tuesday World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder. The meeting focused on strengthening mutual understanding on the nature of the challenges facing the region and ways to address them.

More Details:

<https://en.el-balad.com/2352827>

- **MPs sign “Alashan Tabneeha” petition for 2018 Sisi candidacy**

A dozen Egyptian MPs signed the “Alashan Tabneeha” (To Build It) petition that called on President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to run for another 4-year term, in the upcoming 2018 presidential elections.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/mps-sign-alashan-tabneeha-petition-for-2018-sisi-candidacy/>

- **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.

More Details:

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

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria denies reports of government reshuffle**

The Algerian prime minister's office denied on Tuesday reports of a cabinet reshuffle. A statement by the premier's office said information given by certain sources regarding plans for government's restructuring or cabinet reshuffle.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171018-algeria-denies-reports-of-government-reshuffle/>

- **Iran Deepening Ties With Brazil, Indonesia and Algeria**

Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Masoud Karbasian discussed issues of mutual interest with his counterparts from Brazil, Indonesia and Algeria on Monday.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-business-and-markets/74444/iran-deepening-ties-with-brazil-indonesia-and-algeria>

- **"EU more than ever determined to assist Tunisia in its counter-terrorism policy" (statement)**

- "The European Union is more than ever determined to help Tunisia in its policy of preventing and fighting terrorism," said EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9475623--eu-more-than-ever>

- **Dealing with potential extremists at heart of international meeting in Tunis**

War on terror is a top priority for the government of national unity, said the President of the National Commission for Fight against Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Society/9473097-dealing-with>

- **Tunisia migrant boat tragedy death toll reaches 44**

Tunisian rescuers pulled more bodies from the sea Tuesday a week after a migrant boat sank following a crash with a navy vessel, the defence ministry said, raising the death toll to 44.

More Details:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2017/oct/17/tunisia-migrant-boat-tragedy-death-toll-reaches-44-1676875.html>

- **Morocco, UNESCO sign pact to preserve crafts**

Morocco and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) signed an agreement here on Tuesday to create a "National Living Human Treasures System", an essential component of the national cultural heritage.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/18/10/2017/Morocco,-Unesco-sign-pact-to-preserve-crafts>

- **New UN envoy in Morocco to restart talks on disputed Western Sahara**

The new UN envoy for disputed Western Sahara, Horst Koehler, was visiting Morocco on Monday as part of a regional tour aimed at restarting stalled peace talks between Rabat and the pro-independence Polisario Front.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/17/un-envoy-in-morocco-to-restart-western-sahara-talks>

- **ADCCI Delegation discusses investment opportunities with Moroccan Minister of Industry**

The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry's delegation, headed by Ebraheem Al Mahmood, First Vice Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber, met with Hafid El Alamy, Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, in Morocco, to discuss the scope of cooperation between the two countries

More Details:

<https://www.dotemirates.com/en/details/4061271?from=dot>

- **UN-backed Libya talks hit new snag**

Talks between representatives of rival authorities in strife-torn Libya have hit a new snag after a parliamentary delegation suspended its participation in the UN-backed discussions hosted by Tunisia.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4989284/UN-backed-Libya-talks-hit-new-snag.html>

- **US Resumes Visa Processing for 6 Muslim Nations after Court Ruling**

Nationals from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen now can have their visas processed, after the District Court in Hawaii issued an Order preventing implementation of travel restrictions for nationals of those countries.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/us/201710181058327660-usa-resumes-travel-ban-visa-processing/>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Suicide Bomber Arrested In Kabul with an Explosive-Rigged Bicycle**

Police forces arrested a suicide bomber with an explosive-rigged bicycle in Chahar Asyab district of Kabul province, the Ministry of Interior (Moi) said in a statement on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/suicide-bomber-arrested%C2%A0-kabul-explosive-rigged-bicycle>

- **Taliban Commander Killed In Badakhshan Air Strike**

A Taliban commander has killed in an air strike in Badakhshan province yesterday. Nasratullah Jamshidi spokesman of Shaheen 209 army corps told BNA, the commander was targeted by security forces air attack in Baharak district, Badakhshan province and killed.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/30472-taliban-commander-killed-in-badakhshan-air-strike.html>

- **Implementation of TAPI project brings economic opportunities, regional stability**

TAPI is the abbreviation for a gas transmission pipeline that starts from Turkmenistan, passes through Afghanistan and Pakistan and reaches to India. This project can bring good economic opportunities and regional stability.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/opinions/economic/15184-implementation-of-tapi-project-brings-economic-opportunities-regional-stability.html>

- **Via WFP; China provides \$1m assistance in Afghanistan**

AT Monitoring Desk-KABUL: Chinese government contributed \$1 million to the World Food Program (WFP) which would assist nearly 38,000 vulnerable people in Afghanistan, including repatriates from Pakistan, a statement from WFP said on Tuesday. WFP welcomed Chinese government for urgent food and nutrition assistance to people affected by food crises in Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://afghanistantimes.af/via-wfp-china-provides-1m-assistance-in-afghanistan/>

- **Taliban Launch Wave of Attacks in Afghanistan, Killing 74**

The Taliban unleashed a wave of attacks across Afghanistan on Tuesday, targeting police compounds and government facilities with suicide bombers in the country's south, east and west, and killing at least 74 people, officials said.

More Details:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/taliban-launch-wave-attacks-afghanistan-killing-74-n811731>

- **Truck explosion kills at least six people in Pakistan**

The blast ripped through the truck carrying police recruits, four of whom were killed along with two passers-by, in southwestern city of Quetta, officials say.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/asia/truck-explosion-kills-at-least-six-people-in-pakistan-11437>

- **India can help US to keep an eye on Pakistan: Nikki Haley**

India can help America in keeping an eye on Pakistan and ensure that it is held accountable for giving safe havens to terrorists, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said.

More Details:

<http://www.businesstoday.in/current/world/india-can-help-us-to-keep-an-eye-on-pakistan-nikki-haley/story/262261.html>

- **The enigma that is US-Pak ties: Pakistan must stop providing sanctuaries to terrorists**

Seldom before has Pakistan been confronted by its oldest and closest ally, the US (being replaced by China), over its bad habit of cultivating terrorists on its land than the last week.

More Details:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/analysis/column-the-enigma-that-is-us-pak-ties-2553620>

- **Call by Pakistan Foreign Secretary on the President of Sri Lanka**

President Maithripala Sirisena emphasized the need for further expanding economic relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He made this statement when Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua called on him at the Presidential Secretariat today (October 17).

More Details:

<http://www.asiantribune.com/node/91119>

- **Congo, Pakistan, Afghanistan Elected to U.N. Human Rights Council**

The Trump administration slammed the U.N. Human Rights Council Monday after the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, and Afghanistan were among the countries with abysmal human rights records elected to the body in charge of promoting such rights across the globe.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/17/congo-pakistan-afghanistan-elected-u-n-human-rights-council/>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish Air Force hits PKK positions in northern Iraq**

The Turkish Air Force delivered strikes to the positions of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants in Iraq's northern Zap region, the Turkish General Staff said in a message Oct. 18. "More than five terrorists were killed and ammunition depots were destroyed as a result of the air operation," the message said.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/world/turkey/2809403.html>

- **Head of Turkey-Iran friendship group talks ties, Syria**

Yusuf Beyazit, Turkish ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party lawmaker and chairman of the Turkey-Iran Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group, spoke to Anadolu Agency on Tuesday about the deep historical bonds between the two countries and the need for improved bilateral ties. Beyazit, who is now in Tehran for talks with Iranian officials, recalled Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recent visit to Iran, where he discussed economic, political and security issues with Iranian leaders.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/head-of-turkey-iran-friendship-group-talks-ties-syria/940061>

- **Yildirim reiterates Turkish support for united Iraq**

Turkey's unwavering support for Iraq will remain, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım said Wednesday. Speaking at the TRT World Forum in Istanbul, Yıldırım said all of Iraq's ethnic groups should live side-by-side within a territorially integral country. "The Iraqi government's steps towards establishing its constitutional sovereignty inside the country's borders are valid and we are supporting it," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/195105/yildirim-reiterates-turkish-support-for-united-iraq>

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.*