



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

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Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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20 OCTOBER 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **Al-Hakim meets the German Ambassador and confirms: Iraq has succeeded in defeating terrorism and defeated the partition project**

Head of the National Alliance Ammar al-Hakim discussed with German Ambassador to Iraq Cyril Nan the relations between Iraq and Germany and the expected roles of the international community in the reconstruction of liberated cities and cities of liberators. Al-Hakim said during a meeting with the German Ambassador, according to a statement by his press office today" that Iraq has succeeded in defeating terrorism and defeating the partition plan," he said, adding that Iraq had defended the world in the face of gangs targeted the human being.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?hblqhMsX%252bYI%252byMwyE%252fvBOA%253d%253d

- **Unidentified gunmen kill retired flying officer, south of Kirkuk**

A retired flying officer, with a rank of colonel, has been killed by gunmen in south of Kirkuk, a security source from the province said on Thursday. Speaking to Baghdad Today, the source said, "unknown gunmen opened fire in the evening against retired colonel Yassin abu Nour in the celebrations area, south of Kirkuk, which caused his immediate death."

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/unidentified-gunmen-kill-retired-flying-officer-south-kirkuk/>

- **Iraq's Erbil-Kirkuk road closed amid political tensions**

Iraq's strategic Erbil-Kirkuk highway has been shut -- bringing commercial traffic to a halt -- following recent military deployments by Baghdad in the country's oil-rich Kirkuk province. An important trade route that extends into Turkey, the highway was closed amid ongoing political tension caused by last month's illegitimate referendum on Kurdish regional independence.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-s-erbil-kirkuk-road-closed-amid-political-tensions/942559>

- **Defense secretary in Iraq to talk battle against Islamic State**

This is an archived article that was published on sltrib.com in 2017, and information in the article may be outdated. It is provided only for personal research purposes and may not be reprinted. South of Mosul, Iraq • Iraqi forces advanced Monday into the southern outskirts of Mosul on the second

day of a push to drive Islamic State militants from the city's western half, as the visiting U.S. defense secretary met with officials to discuss the fight against the extremists.

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/e8e12c54-f826-4ff6-ba45-06daef267f8e

- **1 police dies, 4 injured in northern Iraq attack**

One police died and four others were injured in an armed attack by unknown assailants in northern Iraq's oil rich Kirkuk province, a security official said on late Thursday. A group of unknown assailants attacked a check point, formed by anti-terror police of the central Iraqi government, in the Shorka neighbourhood of Kirkuk province, the source said, APA reported quoting foreign media.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/1-police-dies-4-injured-in-northern-iraq-attack.html>

- **Russia's Rosneft enter oil pipeline infrastructure project in Iraq's Kurdistan**

Russian oil major Rosneft and Iraqi Kurdistan announced the launch of a joint infrastructure project on the exploitation of a pipeline in the Kurdish autonomous region, the press service of the Russian company reported. "The accession to the infrastructure project will boost the implementation of the company's strategic goals and help to up the efficiency of oil supplies to consumers, including supplies of oil from Kurdistan to Rosneft oil refineries in Germany," the press service cited Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin as saying, TASS reported.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128798/Russia-s-Rosneft-enter-oil-pipeline-infrastructure-project-in>

- **PM Abadi in NYT: Iraq Will Enforce Status Quo on Kurds**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi threatened in an op-ed published by the New York Times (NYT) this week that he is willing to use military force to keep his country's autonomous Kurdistan region from breaking away from Baghdad. Abadi wrote that as prime minister of Iraq, it is his constitutional duty "to protect all of the Iraqi people and to keep our country united."

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/10/19/pm-abadi-nyt-iraq-enforce-status-quo-kurds/>

- **Iraq's female booksellers turn the page on gender roles**

With its shelves filled with books by Russian and Italian authors alongside contemporary Iraqi writers, Books Town provides a welcome refuge in Baqubeh in Diyala governorate, which is known for sectarian violence and the Islamic State (IS). The bookstore, which is a frequent stop for many intellectuals in Diyala governorate, is owned by Tayseen Ameer, a 31-year-old engineer. A woman who runs a bookstore is a rarity in the area but this has not stopped Ameer, who was dismayed that only a few bookstores cater to customers sitting down and reading.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/iraqi-women-take-another-male-profession-in-bookstores.html>

- **Tensions rise in northern Iraq as KRG soldiers return**

The Peshmerga and the Iraqi army supported by the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMO) exchanged heavy fire on Friday morning in Altin Kopri, also called Pirda, on the Erbil-Kirkuk road. Iraqi armed forces retook Kirkuk region from the control of Peshmerga following a referendum seeking support for Kurdish independence that was rejected by Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/tension-rise-in-northern-iraq-as-krb-soldiers-return-11499>

- **A 'Great Disaster' has just descended on Iraq**

It's remarkable how quickly the tables have turned in northern Iraq. Less than a month ago, Iraqi Kurds voted in what was described as a landmark referendum on Kurdish independence. An estimated 3.3 million people turned out to vote in an atmosphere buzzing with excitement and hope for the future. The results were unequivocal: 92 per cent voted in favour of an independent Kurdistan. But all was not as it seemed. While the voting in Kurdish-dominated cities like the capital Erbil and Suleimaniya played out with an almost festival flare, in ethnically-divided cities like Kirkuk the mood was sombre. Voting stations in Arab and Turkmen neighbourhoods sat empty. The few journalists who ventured into those areas reported shops shuttered and people holed away in their homes, fearing what may come in the aftermath of a vote almost universally condemned by the international community.

More Details:

<http://www.macleans.ca/news/world/a-great-disaster-has-just-descended-on-iraq/>

- **Peshmerga hand over security in disputed parts of Iraq**

Peshmerga forces loyal to northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) have entirely withdrawn from parts of Nineveh province after handing over security responsibility to Iraqi security personnel, military sources say. "Peshmerga units have entirely withdrawn from the Mosul Dam and handed over security responsibility to the Iraqi army," Hassanein Ali, an Iraqi army officer, told Anadolu Agency on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/peshmerga-hand-over-security-in-disputed-parts-of-iraq/942428>

- **Iraqi court issues arrest warrant for Kurdistan's vice president**

An Iraqi court has issued an arrest warrant for the vice president of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), accusing him of provocation against the Arab country's armed forces, which managed to take over Kirkuk province earlier this week. Baghdad's Rusafa Investigation Court on Thursday ordered the arrest of Kosrat Rasul, who had referred to the Iraqi army and federal police as "occupation forces" in a statement he released a day earlier.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539162/Iraq-Kurdistan-KRG-Kosrat-Rasul-arrest-warrant-referendum-Kirkuk>

- **Iraq claims full control of Kirkuk province after clashes**

Iraqi forces clashed with Kurdish fighters on Friday and retook control of the last sector of Kirkuk province in northern Iraq under the control of the Kurds, a security official said. "The army, police and counter-terrorism forces entered the centre of the Altun Kupri region," just 50km from the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Erbil, said the source, asking not to be named. "There were clashes but they managed to launch the assault... and hoist the flag on the municipality building."

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/iraqi-forces-take-control-last-area-kirkuk-province-1515025470>

- **Iraq holds 1,400 Islamic State relatives in 'de facto detention'**

Iraqi authorities are holding more than 1,400 foreign relatives of suspected Islamic State militants in camps in the north of the country, Reuters reports. Security officials and charity workers told the news agency that wives and children of suspected IS fighters are being held at a camp south of the city of Mosul, which was liberated by Iraqi forces at the end of August.

More Details:

<http://www.theweek.co.uk/islamic-state/88321/iraq-holds-1400-islamic-state-family-members-in-de-facto-detention>

2. SYRIA

- **President al-Assad receives letter from Iran's Supreme Leader**

President Bashar al-Assad received on Thursday a letter from the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran Ali Khamenei, handed by Iranian Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri. In the letter, Khamenei congratulated President al-Assad on the victories achieved against terrorism in Syria. For his part, President al-Assad extended greetings and thanks to Khamenei, stressing that the people and the armed forces of Iran are a "main partner" in these victories.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=116112>

- **Israel Strikes Target in Syria in Response to Spillover Fire**

The Israeli military struck targets in Syria after errant fire from the war raging there hit the Israeli Golan Heights, a military spokesperson said on Thursday, a day after Iran's military chief warned against Israeli incursions in Syria. Local reports said that Israel struck a Syrian artillery position near border town of Quneitra.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.818207>

- **Naive and disillusioned Britons returning from Syria should not be prosecuted, says terror law watchdog**

Many Britons who have returned from Islamic State territory are not being prosecuted and instead need to be reintegrated because they were simply naive, the Government's terrorism laws watchdog has said. Hundreds of Britons who went to Syria or Iraq in the past few years are already thought to have returned, but the authorities have decided not to charge them, Max Hill QC said.

More details:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/19/naive-disillusioned-britons-returning-syria-should-not-prosecuted/>

- **Saudi official visits Syria's Raqqa**

A state-linked Saudi news site says a high-level Saudi official is in the Syrian city of Raqqa, which was recently retaken from the Islamic State group, to discuss his country's role in reconstruction efforts. Okaz quoted unnamed Saudi sources on Thursday as saying that Thamer al-Sabhan is in Raqqa to meet with members of the city's civil council to discuss Saudi Arabia's "prominent role in reconstruction." Okaz says the United Arab Emirates will also play a role in rebuilding.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/19/latest-report-saudi-official-visits-syrias-raqqa.html>

- **Syrian forces recover Israeli, NATO-made arms from Daesh hideouts**

Syrian military forces have discovered a large cache of Israeli-made weapons in the strategic city of Mayadin in Dayr al-Zawr province, days after retaking the eastern city from Daesh terrorists. The weapons included several types of heavy, medium and light firearms that beside Israel, came from some European countries as well as members of the NATO military alliance, Syria's state news agency SANA reported Thursday, citing a field commander.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539198/Syria-Israel-Daesh-ISIS-weapons-NATO-Mayadin>

- **DF hits Syria after rocket lands in Golan**

A rocket fired from Syria hit the Israeli side of the Golan Heights Thursday afternoon. The rocket landed in an open field, an IDF spokesperson said, and no injuries or damage were reported. Army officials say the rocket fire was part of the ongoing Syrian civil war, and that the projectile strayed off course and landed in Israeli territory

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236946>

- **Israel strikes Syria, responding to errant mortar fire**

The Israeli military says it has struck Syria in response to a mortar fired from the territory. The military says it "targeted the source of the fire" on Thursday but declined to say what it hit. Earlier in the day, the military said a mortar fell in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, what that it was believed to be errant fire from the civil war.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/19/israel-strikes-syria-responding-to-errant-mortar-fire.html>

- **State Department admits Al-Nusra affiliate using chemical weapons in Syria**

The US Department of State admitted that militants linked to Al-Nusra Front are carrying out terrorist attacks using chemical weapons in Syria. The US military previously said it was concerned with the use of chemical agents by Islamic State. The assertion was made in the latest Syria travel warning issued by the State Department on Wednesday. It also mentions Islamic State [IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL].

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/usa/407267-state-department-chemical-weapons-syria/>

3. IRAN

- **Missile program will ‘expand & continue’ despite US pressure – Iran’s Revolutionary Guards**

Iran will not yield to pressure from the US and is determined to “expand and continue” its missile program, the country’s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) have said. “Iran’s ballistic missile program will expand and it will continue with more speed in reaction to Trump’s hostile approach towards this revolutionary organization (the Guards),” the force said in a statement published by Tasnim, as cited by Reuters.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/407176-iran-missile-program-guards/>

- **Defying Trump, EU leaders commit to Iran nuclear accord**

The leaders of the 28 members of the European Union are showing their support for the Iran nuclear agreement, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's opposition to it. EU spokesman Preben Aaman tweeted that the EU leaders agreed at a summit Thursday to show their joint commitment to the international agreement curbing Iran's nuclear program.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/19/defying-trump-eu-leaders-commit-to-iran-nuclear-accord.html>

- **Iran leader in huge swipe at Trump: ‘Foul-mouthed’ President suffers from ‘retardation’**

The cleric also dismissed the Mr Trump’s aggressive criticism of Iran as "rants and whoppers" while vowing Tehran would stick to its nuclear commitments. Mr Khamenei, hit out in a speech to students in Tehran, published on his Telegram channel. He blasted: “I don't want to waste my time on answering the rants and whoppers of the brute US president.”

More details:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/868601/Ayatollah-Ali-Khamenei-says-US-president-Donald-Trump-foul-mouthed-and-retarded>

- **Commander Hails Popular Support for IRGC**

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari commended the Iranian nation for its fervent support for the IRGC following the US president’s harsh stances and described boosting the country’s defense power as a top priority. In a statement on Thursday, Major General Jafari applauded the national backing and warm voices of support for the IRGC in the wake of the US administration’s recent psychological onslaught against the Islamic Republic.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/19/1550552/commander-hails-popular-support-for-irgc>

- **Iran, Russia talk fight against terrorism**

Senior Iranian and Russian diplomats have agreed to broaden cooperation in fight against terrorism. Iranian deputy foreign minister, Abbas Araqchi, discussed ways for expansion of cooperation on fight against terrorism with his Russian counterpart Oleg Syromolotov, Iranian media outlets reported.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2810531.html>

- **No problems in inspections in Iran: Amano**

The UN atomic watchdog chief said his inspectors had had no problems with Iran a week after US President Donald Trump refused to certify that Tehran was complying with a 2015 nuclear deal. “We haven’t had sufficient time to see (a change) in the attitude of the Iranians, but they are cautious and we continue our control and verification activities without any problems,” International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano said on Thursday after meeting French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, Reuters reported.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82702170>

- **EU reiterates commitment to Iran deal amid US threat to scrap it**

The EU foreign policy chief has reaffirmed the bloc's commitment to the 2015 international nuclear agreement between Iran and six other countries in the face of the belligerent US rhetoric against the accord. "At a time of acute nuclear threats the European Union is determined to preserve the JCPOA as a key pillar of the international non-proliferation architecture," Federica Mogherini said in Luxembourg on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539174/Iran-EU-Federica-Mogherini-JCPOA>

- **Trump not to block European trade with Iran: Tillerson**

Secretary of state says president has told Europe 'You guys do what you want to do,' despite his opposition to nuclear deal . Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the Trump administration isn't seeking to disrupt European business deals with Iran, offering a message of reassurance following President Donald Trump's refusal last week to certify the nuclear deal, reported wall Street Journal.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128800/Trump-not-to-block-European-trade-with-Iran-Tillerson>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Netanyahu: if we are not in the Jordan valley, Iran will be**

We will not let this happen," said Netanyahu, as he made a rare visit to the Jordan Valley where some of the first settlements were built after the Six Day War. The area is beyond the West Bank security barrier, and the future of its settlements was considered tenuous when the Obama administration was in power in Washington. It was feared that Obama's diplomatic plans included Israel withdrawing from the settlements in the valley while leaving an Israeli military presence there.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Netanyahu-If-we-are-not-in-the-Jordan-Valley-Iran-will-be-507932>

- **Balfour Declaration's Legacy Is Toxic for Both Israelis and Palestinians**

Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president and the leader of the Zionist movement in the early 20th century, was not happy with the rather vague wording of Britain's Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour's letter to Lord Rothschild. "His Majesty's government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," Balfour wrote on November 2, 1917. But there was no clear understanding about how the national home would come in to being or what exactly Britain would do to make it happen, beyond it using its "best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object."

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.818186>

- **IOF destroy and drown Palestinian fishing boat off Beit Lahia shore**

Israeli gunboats fired shells at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 2.5 nautical miles. As a result, the boat was destroyed and drowned in the Sea. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) monitored that Israeli forces have escalated their attacks against Palestinian fishermen despite expanding the allowed fishing area from 6 to 9 nautical miles. This proves that Israel continues its policy of targeting fishermen and their livelihoods.

More details:

<http://english.pnn.ps/2017/10/19/iof-destroy-and-drown-palestinian-fishing-boat-off-beir-lahia-shore/>

- **Russia rebukes US, Israel for focusing on Iran at Security Council meeting**

The Russian ambassador to the United Nations took the US and Israel to task on Wednesday for focusing on Iran during a UN Security Council meeting whose agenda called for a discussion of the Mideast "including the Palestinian question." US ambassador Nikki Haley and Israeli envoy Danny Danon both targeted Iran during the meeting, with Haley accusing Iran of "aggressive, destabilizing and unlawful behavior" and urging the Security Council to adopt the Trump administration's comprehensive approach to the country instead of looking solely at its compliance with the nuclear deal.

More details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-rebukes-us-israel-for-focusing-on-iran-at-security-council-meeting/>

- **Israel/Palestine Farmers Unite**

The Near East Foundation's project Olive Oil Without Borders works with farmers from Palestine and Israel to improve farming techniques and oil production. "This project, funded by USAID, aims to promote reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis by strengthening the economic co-operation between the Palestinian farmers and the Israeli farmer, the Palestinian olive traders and the Israeli olive traders, together," said Salah Abu-Eisheh, Near East Foundation Country Director, Palestine.

More details:

<https://www.peacenews.com/single-post/2017/10/19/Farmers-Unite-Across-IsraelPalestine-Borders>

- **Religion and morality drive Israeli-Palestinian conflict, say media experts**

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a "religious, spiritual and moral conflict," said David Parsons, vice president and senior international spokesman for the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ), on Tuesday. "If you ignore that, then you ignore the heart of the problem." Parsons, who was addressing a group of Christian journalists during a panel discussion about media bias on Tuesday as part of the government's Christian Media Summit in Jerusalem, said he believes faith still motivates and drives people in the region far more than the mainstream media understands.

More details:

<http://gatewaynews.co.za/religion-and-morality-drive-israeli-palestinian-conflict-say-media-experts/>

- **Iran's revolutionary guards vow to step up fight against Israel**

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards on Thursday threatened a "relentless fight" against Israel, a day after the US urged the international community to confront Tehran over its "destructive conduct" across the Middle East. "We will continue the relentless fight against the hegemonic system and Zionism more resolutely and powerfully than before and... will not hesitate a moment in defending the Islamic Revolution and the country's national interests," the IRGC said in a statement published by the semi-official Fars news agency.

More details:

<https://www.worthynews.com/28254-irans-revolutionary-guards-vow-step-fight-israel>

- **Israel's "Lone Soldiers".**

About 6500 "Lone Soldiers" serve in the IDF. Almost half of these "Lone Soldiers" are Jews or Israeli citizens, that were raised outside Israel. The other half are Israeli citizens from broken or single-parent homes that find it difficult to support their youngsters during their IDF service.

The soldiers from abroad voluntarily leave a usually pleasant and comfortable life to commit themselves to dangerous military service in the Holy Land. A large percentage of Israel's "Lone Soldiers" serve in combat units.

More details:

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/Newsheadlineslist.aspx>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Joint Statement 2nd Trilateral Political Consultations between the Secretaries-General of Foreign Affairs, of Cyprus, Jordan and Greece**

Following the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Cyprus, Jordan and Greece in Brussels on 18 January 2016 and the Trilateral Political Consultations at the level of the Secretaries-General of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Nicosia on 11 April 2016, the 2nd Trilateral Political Consultations at the level of the Secretaries-General of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs were held in Athens on 18 October 2017.

More Details:

<http://www.balkaneu.com/joint-statement-2nd-trilateral-political-consultations-between-the-secretaries-general-of-foreign-affairs-of-cyprus-jordan-and-greece/>

- **Arabic press review: Alas Hamas, Jordan must pass on new office**

The Jordanian government has refused to reopen an office for Hamas despite the landmark reconciliation between the group and Fatah signed last week, a Jordanian official told al-Ghad newspaper. "Even considering the matter is completely excluded," the official said. "Hamas is a Palestinian party and movement and its natural place and work is in the Palestinian territories, while the Jordanian parties law prohibits the opening of a branch of any non-Jordanian party on Jordanian soil."

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/arabic-press-review-2039607109>

- **Lebanon approves first state budget in 12 years**

Lebanon's Parliament has approved the 2017 state budget, the first in 12 years. The approval is "a real accomplishment resulting from a political consensus," economic expert Issam Al-Jurdi told Arab News. "It will show the whole world that today, the Lebanese state is solid and its institutions have actually begun functioning," he said. "The political crisis — which has paralyzed and divided the

country for years, and harmed it politically, economically and socially — was solved by a one-year deadline to audit the past 12 years of extra-budgetary spending,” he added.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1180416/middle-east>

- **Lebanon ARF Urges Citizens Living Abroad to Register for 2018 Election**

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation Central Committee of Lebanon is urging Lebanese citizens around the world to register to vote in the country’s general election, slated for next year. Lebanese legislators ratified a new parliamentary election law in June that will allow Lebanese in the Lebanese Diaspora to vote from their countries of residence instead of having to travel to Lebanon.

More Details:

<http://asbarez.com/167887/lebanon-arf-urges-citizens-living-abroad-to-register-for-2018-election/>

- **Report: LF Says Any Syrian Envoy Visit to Lebanon 'Provocative'**

The Lebanese Forces party described any future visit by a Syrian minister to Lebanon as “provocative” and “overriding” Lebanon's judicial ruling against the Syrian regime over its involvement in the deadly 2013 bomb blasts in the northern city of Tripoli, al-Joumhouria daily reported on Friday. “The visit of any Syrian minister to Lebanon will be just a tourist visit and a provocative one to a large segment of the Lebanese who stand surprised by the continued disregard of the judicial rulings against the Syrian regime which has been accused in the bombing of the two mosques and Michel Samaha's explosives,” LF sources told the daily.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/237023-report-lf-says-any-syrian-envoy-visit-to-lebanon-provocative>

- **Australia announces JD7m in humanitarian aid to Jordan**

Australia’s Governor General Peter Cosgrove on Thursday announced the provision of 12.5 million Australian dollars (around JD7 million) in humanitarian aid for Jordan over the next three years, during an official visit to Zaatari refugee camp where Canberra’s partnerships with UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP) were launched. “The Australian aid announced today will help make a difference in the lives of many here in Jordan,” said Cosgrove during the official visit.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/australia-announces-jd7m-humanitarian-aid-jordan>

- **Five sentenced to prison on terror charges**

The State Security Court's (SSC) on Thursday handed jail sentences to five defendants over terror-related charges ranging between one and a half year to three years. The court handed one defendant, a university student, a one and a half year prison term, commuted from three years for promoting the ideology of the Daesh terrorist group.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=36282#.WenhoFu0Pcs>

- **Machnoug meets French ambassador: no political team wishes to postpone elections**

Minister of Interior and Municipalities Nuha Machnoug stressed that "the parliamentary elections will be conducted on time, despite the political dust around it," pointing out that "there is no serious political desire from any team to postpone the election." He also stressed that the official position of the government as to the return of displaced Syrians was in favor of "their safe return under international laws."

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84522/Machnoug-meets-French-Ambassador-No-political-team-wishes-to-postpone-elections>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Warning against building rule violators; Bahrain**

Director-General of Civil Defence has asserted the importance to follow general safety standards of buildings and establishments to protect lives. He warned that violators would face legal action. He said that the department continues to take legal steps against unlicensed establishments or properties with no safety certificates.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=38818&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

- **Bahraini rights groups appeal to International community over Manama's abuses against detainees**

A joint statement released by the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR), the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR), SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights (SALAM) and The European-Bahraini Organization for Human Rights

(EBOHR) also calls on Manama to “immediately release prisoners of conscience ...[and] respect international covenants.”

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/bahraini-rights-groups-appeal-to-international-community-over-manama%E2%80%99s-abuses-against-detainees_861392.html

- **Qatar Brings \$20 Billion Back Home to Face Boycott Burdens**

Qatar has brought back more than \$20 billion to cope with the boycott imposed by the Anti-Terrorism Quartet, which is formed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Qatari Finance Minister Ali Shareef al-Emadi said that his country has withdrawn more than \$20 billion from investment funds and injected them into Qatari banks, in an effort to ease the repercussions of the boycott, the Financial Times reported.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/business/qatar-brings-20-billion-back-home-face-boycott-burdens>

- **Qatar-Japan Joint Economic Committee Holds Its 11th Meeting**

The Qatar-Japan Joint Economic Committee held its 11th meeting on Thursday in Tokyo, Japan, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported. Minister of Energy and Industry Dr Mohammad Bin Saleh Al Sada headed Qatar's delegation, while Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko headed the Japanese side. Qatar's Ambassador to Japan Yousef Bilal attended the meeting.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1402029>

- **Tillerson talks tough on China, Saudi-led quartet**

On the eve of a week-long trip to the Middle East, South Asia and Europe, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson spoke with two US news outlets, directing tough rhetoric toward China and setting low expectations for a breakthrough in the diplomatic freeze between Qatar and its neighbors. First, in an interview with Bloomberg News, Tillerson warned that the United States is "expecting to see some movement" from China on areas of historic disagreement between the two countries, "whether it's North Korea, or whether it's South China Sea, or whether it's trade."

More Details:

<http://us.cnn.com/2017/10/19/politics/rex-tillerson-china-saudi/index.html><http://us.cnn.com/2017/10/19/politics/rex-tillerson-china-saudi/index.html>

- **Qatari emir, Kuwaiti FM discuss unresolved Gulf crisis**

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani received Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad Al Sabah in Doha on Thursday to discuss the ongoing crisis in inter-Arab relations, according to Qatar's official QNA press agency. At the meeting, the two men discussed the unresolved political dispute between Qatar and a Saudi-led bloc of Arab states -- along with Kuwait's ongoing efforts to mediate the crisis, the QNA reported.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/qatari-emir-kuwaiti-fm-discuss-unresolved-gulf-crisis/942519>

- **Yemeni Army Snipers Kill 3 Saudi Serviceman**

In the latest military development in Yemen, the Yemeni army and the Popular Committees have also targeted a gathering site of Saudi army and its mercenaries in Motha'an and al-Ramzah district in the kingdom's southwestern Jizan region. In the meantime, as a result of explosion of two bombs near the kingdom's al-Khazrae crossing in Najran region, two Saudi military vehicles were exploded and their crew were killed.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/20/1550985/yemeni-army-snipers-kill-3-saudi-serviceman>

- **It's time for the world to stop ignoring Yemen**

Earlier this year, I left my home in Yemento try to tell the world the story of a collapsing and suffering country, a story that largely has been ignored despite the United Nations calling it "the largest humanitarian crisis in the world". Ignored, despite grave violations committed by all parties to the conflict since 2014, including the use of starvation as a weapon of war. Ignored, despite the war having drivenseven million civilians - more than the entire population of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area - to the brink of famine.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/time-world-stop-ignoring-yemen-171018061514610.html>

- **Referendum Declaration: Another Step toward the “Erbilization” of Yemen’s South?**

It is a gamble that has not paid off for secessionists in Catalonia or Iraqi Kurdistan. Yet Southern Yemeni separatists have announced plans for a referendum on independence, in the apparent hope that the regional political atmosphere is on their side – and that without a functioning central Yemeni state or security services they can succeed where others have struggled in the push toward

independence. Speaking at a separatist rally in the southern Yemeni port city of Aden on October 14, Aidarous al-Zubaidi...

More Details:

<http://www.agsiw.org/referendum-declaration-another-step-toward-erbilization-yemens-south/>

- **Unicef - Endless violence shuts schools, teachers unpaid for a year, threatening education for 4.5 million children in Yemen**

Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa said: “More than two and a half years of renewed conflict in Yemen have once again put the education of 4.5 million children on the line, adding to the long list of bitter hardships that children have endured. Three quarters of teachers have not received their salaries in nearly a year, and the violence has forced one in ten schools across the country to close.”As of July 2017, 1,600 schools have been partially or totally destroyed, and 170 have been used for military purposes or as shelter for displaced families.

More Details:

<https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Unicef+Endless+violence+shutters+schools+teachers+unpaid+for+a+year+threatening+education+for+4.5+million+children+in+Yemen+19102017164000?open>

7. EGYPT

- **Ibrahim Halawa freed from jail in Egypt**

Ibrahim Halawa, an Irishman who has spent more than four years in prison in Egypt, has been freed. Mr Halawa, who is from Dublin, was arrested during a siege at the Al-Fath mosque in Cairo in 2013. He was accused along with 500 others, including three of his three sisters, of inciting violence, riot and sabotage. He was acquitted of all charges more than a month ago, but his release was delayed.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41689289>

- **Volcanoes helped topple ancient Egyptian empire, study finds**

Eruptions in the 3rd and 1st century B.C. — including one of the biggest blasts in the past 2,500 years — coincided with crop failures, large-scale revolts and the withdrawal of Egyptian armies from the battlefield, they reported in the journal Nature Communications. Up to now, researchers had struggled to find an explanation for these events.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2017/10/19/volcanoes-helped-topple-ancient-egyptian-empire-study-finds.html>

- **An Israeli in Egypt: Fear and Lotioning in Sinai**

The border crossing between Israel and Egypt is quite bare and stark, as if implying that Israel would prefer not to call attention to the boundary that dispels its longtime fantasy of being a European country. This is where the country ends – and it's not in Europe. Embarrassing. It seems as if an effort was made to blur this fact cosmetically, to make the border crossing look like a nondescript bank branch and not the dramatic result of wars and peace agreements. On the walls are faded photos of clerks with tense and scary smiles, with captions like "Smile, things are looking up," and "Give a smile, get a smile." The expressions on their faces make it seem like the captions should really say: "Smile, it's just me and you're in the endless maze I created for you in my basement after stalking you for the past three years."

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.818129>

- **Egypt officials nabbed in anti-graft clampdown**

Egyptian authorities have arrested several senior provincial officials in different parts of the nation on suspicion of graft as part of a stepped-up campaign against corruption, legal sources said on Thursday. Eight high-ranking civil servants have been detained for allegedly committing unlawful acts in return for bribes in separate cases, the sources added.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/mena/egypt/egypt-officials-nabbed-in-anti-graft-clampdown-1.2109202>

- **Egypt to tackle overpopulation with '2 children only' plan**

Egypt's government announced this week the implementation of a plan to control the nation's booming population rate under a campaign called "Egypt development: Two children only." Health Minister Ahmed Emad Eddin met this week with Egypt's governors to announce the plan to control population growth in each province, while studying the demographic situation of each governorate and possible mechanisms for birth control.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1180401/middle-east>

- **Egypt refers CEO of Qatari TV network to court**

An Egyptian court is due to start in January the trial of chief executive officer of the Qatari beIN Media Group, Nasser Al Khelaifi, on charges of the network's alleged involvement in monopolistic practices and violating Egypt's competition protection law, judicial sources said on Thursday. Investigations by Egyptian prosecutors found that beIN Sports, a Qatari television network having the exclusive broadcasting rights of several African and European football championships, forced subscribers in Egypt to switch their receiver devices from the Egyptian satellite NileSat to the Qatari Sohail satellite, the sources added.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/qatar/egypt-refers-ceo-of-qatari-tv-network-to-court-1.2109112>

- **Criticized for Egypt Ties, France to Raise Human Rights with Al-Sisi**

President Emmanuel Macron, conscious of criticism of France's policy on Egypt, will raise his concerns over human rights when he meets Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Paris next week, his office said on Thursday. The two countries have nurtured closer economic and military ties in recent years and with Sisi's rise to power that relationship has improved with both sides concerned by the political vacuum in Libya and the threat from jihadist groups in Egypt.

More details:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2017-10-19/criticized-for-egypt-ties-france-to-raise-human-rights-with-al-sisi>

- **Embassy reacts to alleged kidney harvest of Nigerians in Egypt**

The Embassy of Egypt in Nigeria has denied alleged illegal harvest of the kidneys of Nigerians who travel to the North African country for medical attention. In a statement issued yesterday by Ahmed Maher, who is the Head of the Press and Information Office in the Egyptian Embassy, the North African country, said its government had submitted a list of Egyptian certified medical centres and hospitals licensed to perform kidney transplant to relevant authorities in Nigeria.

More details:

<http://dailypost.ng/2017/10/20/embassy-reacts-alleged-kidney-harvest-nigerians-egypt/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Russia's balancing act in North Africa**

Last week, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev went to North Africa on official visits to Algeria and Morocco — two days in each country. In Algeria, Medvedev was privileged to meet with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, prompting the pan-African weekly news magazine Jeune Afrique to remark acidly that French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are still on the waiting list to see Bouteflika. In Morocco, Medvedev was conferred an honorary doctorate from Mohammed V University. Speaking of prospects for the bilateral relationship between Russia and Morocco, Medvedev quoted the movie "Casablanca," saying, "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/russia-medvedev-visit-algeria-morocco-diplomacy.html#ixzz4w25639qv>

- **Governor of Casablanca praises UAE's leading experience in development**

Abdulkabeer Zahud, Governor of Casablanca, has praised the UAE's experience in development and its successes and achievements in all sectors and areas. He made the statement during his meeting with Ibrahim Mahmoud Al Mahmoud, First Vice-President of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in Casablanca, to discuss ways of developing co-operation ties between companies and institutions in Abu Dhabi and Morocco.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302640025>

- **France gives another \$1m to Libya Stabilisation Facility**

The French government has given a further \$1 million to the Libya Stabilisation Facility to support a number of projects across the country. It is the second French donation. Last year, when it was started, France contributed a similar \$1 million. With this latest donation, the fund, administered by the UNDP, has now raised just over \$36 million of its \$40 million target. All of it has come from non-Libyan sources. There was initially a promise from the Presidency Council that it would match foreign giving, but so far nothing has materialised.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/19/france-gives-another-1m-to-libya-stabilisation-facility/>

- **Gadaffi Son Returns To Politics After Five Years In Captivity**

Murdered Libyan leader Muammar Gadaffi's son is set to return to politics, just months after his release from captivity. Saif al-Islam Gadaffi has been meeting politicians and tribal leaders in a bid to reunite the North African country divided between rival governments and factions since the 2011 Nato-led coup, his lawyer Khalid al-Zaidi told Russia's Sputnik news in an interview published on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-8597-Gadaffi-son-returns-to-politics-after-five-years-in-captivity#.Wemt8NSLRto>

- **Localised fighting between rival militias in Libya's capital indicates vulnerability of airport and seaport to collateral damage**

In Tripoli, rival militias engaged in unconnected outbreaks of heavy fighting on 16 and 17 October in the city centre, and in the eastern Ghararat and Souk al-Juma districts. The fighting began when a neighbourhood militia from Ghararat attacked Mitiga airport in an apparent attempt to free one of their number from a detention facility at the site.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/75056/localised-fighting-between-rival-militias-in-libya-s-capital-indicates-vulnerability-of-airport-and-seaport-to-collateral-damage>

- **EU sees 'real chance' to shut migrant route from Libya**

The EU on Thursday pledged more money for Italy's work with Libya to stem migrant flows to Europe, with Brussels seeing a "real chance" to close the central Mediterranean route. Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni has been working with his UN-backed Libyan counterpart Fayeze al-Sarraj to sharply reduce the perilous migrant sea crossings to Italy, the main entry point to the European Union.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20171019-eu-sees-real-chance-shut-migrant-route-libya>

- **Tunisia and Saudi Arabia sign co-operation agreement in tourism field**

An executive agreement in the fields of tourism co-operation, sharing experience and training was signed on Thursday between Tunisia and Saudi Arabia, on the fringes of the 1st Tunisian-Arab Tourism Investment Forum. This three-year agreement aims to co-ordinate the two countries' tourism agencies to organise the exchange of tourism flows, conquer new tourist markets and make the most of the cultural heritage in both countries.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/9482057-tunisia-and-saudi>

- **Algeria To Take Further Measures To Reduce Imports, Says Trade Minister**

The Algerian government will take further measures to further reduce the country's import bill, which continues to weigh on the country's balance of payments, says Trade Minister Mohamed Benmeradi. "The government proposes new proactive measures to reduce the import bill from 41 billion US dollars in 2017 down to 30 billion USD in 2018," he said at a meeting on trade held as part of the Conference of the Algerian Business Managers Forum (FCE) here Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1402103>

- **Algeria: 'unjust law' still denying churches their 'right to worship'**

Churches in northern Algeria continue to clash with the authorities over permission to hold services in non-religious buildings. Authorities in Tizi Ouzou province – 100km east of the capital, Algiers – have said a 2006 law that regulates non-Muslim worship is breached by churches meeting in houses meant only for accommodation or commercial purposes. But the churches have cited the 2016 constitution, which states that religious freedom is guaranteed if in compliance with the law.

More Details:

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/algeria-unjust-law-still-denying-churches-right-worship/>

- **Arab world enters a “new era of democratic transition” says Ghannouchi**

The founder and head of Tunisia's Ennahdha Party, Rached Ghannouchi said, a new era had started in the Arab world despite all negativities and voiced his hope that Arab countries would be “among free countries.” The Arab world is in a worse state today than it was before the so-called Arab Spring uprisings took place in 2011, Ghannouchi, said, reflecting on people's feelings on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/arab-spring-did-not-make-people-happier-today-says-ghannouchi-11462>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **China strongly condemns Taliban attacks in Afghanistan**

China's Foreign Ministry has expressed strong condemnation of the recent Taliban attacks in Afghanistan, which killed at least 71 people and left more than 170 wounded. The Chinese side was "appalled" by the heavy casualties caused by the militant attacks and strongly condemned such attacks, said Lu Kang, the Ministry's spokesperson on Thursday, adding that China also sends sincere condolences to the injured and the bereaved families.

More Details:

<https://gbtimes.com/china-strongly-condemns-taliban-attacks-in-afghanistan>

- **No options other than elimination or surrender left for terrorists: Ghani**

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in reaction to the recent wave of deadly attacks has said that no option is left for the terrorist groups other their elimination or surrender. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, quoted President Ghani in a statement as saying "The criminal groups linked to the outsiders, in the latest terrorist wave of attacks, targeted various parts of the country. After committing crimes and acts of savagery against humanity in Ghazni and Paktia, the terrorists once again martyred some Afghans and security personnel in Maiwand district of Kandahar."

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/no-options-other-than-elimination-or-surrender-left-for-terrorists-ghani-03678>

- **Taliban Must Have No Hope of Winning on Battlefield: CIA Chief**

The United States will do everything it can to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table in Afghanistan, but Pakistan must first deny the militants a safe haven on its soil, CIA Director Mike Pompeo said Thursday. Pompeo said for talks to move ahead, the Taliban must have no hope of winning on the battlefield in Afghanistan, and that means making it no longer possible to cross the Afghan-Pakistani border and hide inside Pakistan, the Associated Press reported.

More Details:

<http://www.toloneews.com/afghanistan/taliban-must-have-no-hope-winning-battlefield-cia-chief>

- **Taliban Continues Attacks on Afghan Security Forces**

The Taliban have ramped up attacks against Afghan security forces in recent days, including one that nearly wiped out an army camp in the southern Kandahar province, officials said Thursday. The

attack, which took place on Wednesday, involved two suicide bombers, and left at least 43 soldiers dead, spokesman Dawlat Wazir told reporters. Elsewhere in the country, an attack by the insurgents in the northern Balkh province late Wednesday killed six policemen, according to Shir Jan Durani, a spokesman for the provincial police chief.

More Details:

<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Taliban-Continues-Attacks-on-Afghan-Security-Forces-20171019-0041.html>

- **The next proxy battleground with Iran and Russia: Afghanistan**

The debate over the future of Washington’s posture towards Tehran has revolved around three basic nuclear options: legitimization of the deal; decertify, waive, and replace; or outright repeal. It has reached a fever pitch as the Trump administration completed its long-awaited Iran policy review. But beyond the headlines, lurks a menacing trend line that is making global hot spots — like Afghanistan — hotter.

More Details:

<http://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/356285-the-next-proxy-battleground-with-iran-and-russia-afghanistan>

- **U.S. Intelligence Chief Says Pakistani Action Needed Before Afghan Peace Talks**

U.S. CIA Director Mike Pompeo says the United States wants to draw the Taliban into peace talks in Afghanistan, but for that to happen, he says Pakistan must first ensure the militants cannot establish safe havens within its borders. In a speech on October 19 at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank, Pompeo said for peace talks to move ahead, the Taliban must have no hope of winning on the battlefield in Afghanistan.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/us-intelligence-chief-pompeo-says-pakistani-action-needed-before-afghan-peace-talks-sanctuary-caitlin-coleman/28805388.html>

- **58 killed in Taliban attack on Kandahar army camp**

Government spokesman Dawlat Waziri said the attack on the army camp late Wednesday, which involved two suicide car bombs and set off hours of fighting, killed at least 43 soldiers. “The base has been destroyed completely and those who were inside the camp were martyred. May God give peace to their souls,” he said. Nine other soldiers were wounded and six have gone missing, he said, adding that 10 attackers were killed.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/238354-58-killed-in-Taliban-attack-on-Kandahar-army-camp>

- **US Secretary to discuss economy, joint efforts against terrorism during Pakistan visit**

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will pay his maiden visit to Pakistan this month during which he would discuss joint efforts against terrorism and expanding economic ties between the two countries, a State Department spokesperson announced on Thursday. The visit to Pakistan is part of Secretary Tillerson's first visit to Asia, which will also take him to India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Geneva, Spokesman Heather Nauert told a briefing at the State Department. "The Secretary will meet with senior Pakistani leaders to discuss our continued bilateral cooperation, Pakistan's critical role in the success of our South Asia strategy...

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/us-secretary-to-discuss-economy-joint-efforts-against-terrorism-during-pakistan-visit/>

- **Sharif pleads not guilty in Flagship Investments court indictment**

Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif was indicted by an accountability court on Friday in a reference related to Flagship Investments and other offshore companies. According to the Dawn, the accountability court charged Sharif in absentia for holding assets beyond his known sources of income, and read out a charge-sheet to his pleader, Zafir Khan.

More Details:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/sharif-pleads-not-guilty-in-flagship-investments-court-indictment201710201251230001/>

- **Bilawal terms differences with Imran ideological, slams his support for Musharraf**

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that his party stands for equal rights for the people of Pakistan irrespective of caste, creed and colour and it is for this reason that the Sindh cabinet has several non-Muslim members, which is not the case in other provinces. He was talking to journalists after cutting a Diwali cake in Shiv Temple in Tando Mohammad Khan on Thursday. He said PPP's parliamentarians in the lower and upper houses were from religious minorities' too.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1364868/bilawal-terms-differences-with-imran-ideological-slams-his-support-for-musharraf>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish jets kill 4 PKK terrorists in northern Iraq**

Four PKK terrorists were killed in an air operation in northern Iraq Thursday, according to the Turkish military, APA reports quoting AA. In a statement, the Turkish General Staff said the air operation was carried out in northern Iraq's Zap and Avasin-Basyan region as part of Turkey's ongoing counter-terrorism operations

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/turkish-jets-kill-4-pkk-terrorists-in-northern-iraq.html>

- **Iran, Turkey stress resolve for bolstering relations**

A joint meeting between Iranian and Turkish delegations called for using all existing capacities to reinvigorate ties between the two countries. A high-ranking Iranian delegation to Turkey, led by Iran's first Vice President Es'hagh Jahangiri, held a joint session with a Turkish delegation. Speaking at the meeting, Jahangiri referred to recent visit of the Turkish president to Tehran and urged both sides remove all barriers to implementation of reached agreements and elevation of bilateral cooperation.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128801/Iran-Turkey-stress-resolve-for-bolstering-relations>

This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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