



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

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1. IRAQ

- **Jubouri, Leaders of INFA Hold A Comprehensive Dialogue With Prime Minister And A Number Of Political Leaders In The Coming Days**

Speaker of the House of Representatives Salim al-Jubouri announced that he and leaders of the Iraqi National Forces Alliance will conduct a comprehensive dialogue with the Prime Minister and a number of political leaders in the coming days. Jubouri Office said in a statement that "in light of developments on the Iraqi political scene and to view the ideas and try to crystallize visions aimed at resolving the crises and encircle them and correct them towards the relaxation and solution, the President of the House of Representatives Salim al-Jubouri with leaders of the Iraqi National Forces Alliance will conduct a comprehensive dialogue in the coming days with a number of political leaders in the country as well as a meeting with the Prime Minister."

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?6Sb%252bFwXjYuE9oRWbcLL3Og%253d%253d

- **Iraq warplanes kill 25 Islamic State members in Anbar desert**

Iraqi fighter jets killed 25 Islamic State members in western Anbar desert on Sunday, military media reported as the province awaits liberation offensives. The Defense Ministry's War Media Cell said the militants were killed during search operations carried out near the Syrian borders. It added that 13 vehicles used by the militants were also destroyed.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraq-warplanes-kill-25-islamic-state-members-anbar-desert/>

- **Italy Contributes \$2.7 Million to Stabilization in Iraq**

The Government of Italy has contributed an additional US\$2.7 million (€2.4 million) to UNDP's Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS), which finances fast-track initiatives in areas liberated from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This brings Italy's total contribution to FFS to almost US\$10.6 million (€9.4 million) to date. Based on priorities identified by the Government of Iraq and local authorities, FFS helps quickly repair public infrastructure, provides grants to small businesses, boosts the capacity of local government, promotes civil engagement, and provides short-term employment through public works schemes.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/387408>

- **Al-Sadr, Abadi in Jordan for talks on Baghdad-Erbil crisis**

Sadr's office said in a press statement that "Moqtada al-Sadr was received by Prince Ghazi bin Al Hussein at an official invitation from King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein." During his visit, he will meet with the Jordanian King Abdullah II, to discuss several issues, including Erbil-Baghdad crisis. Sadr's visit coincides PM Haider Abadi's current visit to Amman.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/18650/Al-Sadr-Abadi-in-Jordan-for-talks-on-Baghdad-Erbil-crisis>

- **Pro-Barzani militias behave like ISIS, destroy Iraqi bridges as they retreat**

In their retreat across northwest Iraq, pro-Bazani militias are carrying out the same kind of actions that the Islamic State is infamous for, destroying infrastructures that they cannot hold onto. Recently, Barzani regime forces destroyed two bridges that cross major rivers that connect the main road leading to the city of Erbil via Kirkuk.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/pictures-pro-bazani-militias-behave-like-isis-destroy-iraqi-bridges-retreat/>

- **Iraq raises Basra's oil exports to make up for Kirkuk shortage**

Iraq has increased oil exports from the southern Basra region by 200,000 barrels per day to make up for a shortfall from the northern Kirkuk fields, as reported by Reuters on Saturday. The output from the northern Kirkuk region fell this week in the course of military operations to take it back from Kurdish fighters who have been there since 2014. The Iraqi oil minister, Jabar Al Luaibi said in a statement that the increase in Basra exports keeps Iraq's total output within the quota agreed with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

More Details:

<https://english.mubasher.info/news/3174481/Iraq-raises-Basra-s-oil-exports-to-make-up-for-Kirkuk-shortage>

- **Iraq PM arrives on Saudi visit**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi arrived in Riyadh Saturday in a visit aimed at upgrading strategic ties, amid warming relations between the Arab neighbours. The tour coincides with Saudi Energy Minister Khaled al-Faleh's high profile visit to Baghdad where he called for the strengthening of economic relations to boost oil prices.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20171021-iraq-pm-arrives-saudi-visit>

- **Trump excludes Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces from his Iran strategy**

Donald Trump's exclusion of Iraq from his enumeration of Iranian violations in the Arab world and the IRGC's roles there, and in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon, has interesting implications. Iraq seems to occupy a special position for President Trump. The prime minister in Baghdad, Haider Al-Abadi, may have earned the trust of the US president, and even a preferential position with regard to US support, possibly at the expense of the Kurds, Washington's erstwhile long-standing ally.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1181366>

- **Developments in N Iraq likely to weaken Barzani's hold on power**

Nader Entessar Professor of Political Science says the recent developments in Iraqi Kurdistan region may weaken Barzani's hold on power at least in near future. Despite all warnings and oppositions from regional players, world major powers and some internal political Kurdish parties, on Sep 5 the Iraqi Kurdistan's head, Masoud Barzani unilaterally hold independence referendum not only to materialize his old unrealistic ambition but also to extend his illegal and undemocratic rule over the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128828/Developments-in-N-Iraq-likely-to-weaken-Barzani-s-hold-on-power>

- **Iraq slams pre-planned attack on Iran's consulate in Erbil**

Iraq's Foreign Ministry in a Sat. statement has condemned a pre-planned attack on Iranian consulate in Erbil, holding authorities of the Kurdistan region responsible for endangering lives of the consulate staff. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq condemns the pre-planned attack on Iran's consulate in Erbil and the disrespect to the flag of the neighboring country and the endangering of lives of the consulate staff," Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ahmed Mahjoob said in a statement on Saturday.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/iran/iraq-slams-pre-planned-attack-on-irans-consulate-in-erbil_861847.html

- **Iraq's Kurdish region welcomes US call to cease violence**

The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) on Saturday welcomed the U.S. call on KRG and Iraq to cease violence and restore calm. In a statement KRG said, it was "ready to cooperate with an international coalition led by the U.S. to support a ceasefire between Peshmerga and Iraqi forces."

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraqs-kurdish-region-welcomes-us-call-to-cease-violence/944322>

- **Tillerson seeks Arab help in US effort to isolate Iran**

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took the Trump administration's case for isolating and containing Iran in the Middle East and beyond to two Gulf Arab nations on Sunday, pushing for Saudi Arabia and Iraq to unite to counter growing Iranian assertiveness. He also called for a quick resolution to the ongoing crisis between Qatar and its Arab neighbors, which he said was unintentionally bolstering Iran.

More Details:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/national-politics/article180276276.html>

- **Tillerson attends landmark Saudi, Iraq meeting**

Top US diplomat Rex Tillerson attended a landmark meeting Sunday between Saudi Arabia and Iraq aimed at upgrading strategic ties between the two countries and countering Iran's regional influence. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Saudi King Salman held the first meeting of the joint Saudi-Iraqi coordination council that aims to boost cooperation after years of tensions.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-5005571/Tillerson-attends-landmark-Saudi-Iraq-meeting.html>

- **Iraq sets May 12 for parliamentary elections**

Iraq's election commission on Sunday set May 12 of next year as a date for holding the country's general election. The vote had been originally set to be held in April. In a statement, commission deputy head Katei al-Zobei said the commission has proposed May 12, 2018, for holding the coming parliamentary elections.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-sets-may-12-for-parliamentary-elections/944564>

- **Germany resumes advisory mission in Iraq**

The German armed forces, or Bundeswehr, resumed on Sunday their advisory mission in Iraq, which had been temporarily put on hold due to the situation around Kirkuk, according to an official statement on their website. The German armed forces have been operating in the north of Iraq since 2014, training and advising Kurdish Peshmerga forces fighting the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL).

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/newsline/407446-germans-resume-mission-iraq/>

- **King of Saudi Arabia and Iraq Prime Minister discuss cooperation**

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, today held talks with Iraq's Prime Minister, Haider Al-Abadi, in Riyadh. During the meeting, the parties discussed bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries in various fields, and means of enhancing them through the Saudi-Iraqi Coordination Council, the Saudi Press Agency, SPA, reported.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302640607>

- **Abadi hailed as 'hero' for defeating Daesh in Iraq**

When Haider Al Abadi was tasked with forming a new Iraqi government in August 2014, just weeks after a lightning offensive by the Daesh group, many believed he would fail. Three years later, the stocky prime minister with a close-cut white beard has transformed what many in Iraq considered "mission impossible" into a success story.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/ef976ca9-0a44-430e-a2cb-9c2be7075af9.aspx>

- **Opposition calls on Iraqi Kurd leader to step down**

Iraqi Kurdistan's main opposition party called Sunday for the autonomous region's president to resign after Baghdad seized swathes of disputed territory from Kurdish forces in response to an independence vote. Shores Haji of the Goran movement, which holds 24 out of 111 seats in the Iraqi Kurdistan parliament, said Massud Barzani and his deputy Kosrat Rasul should step down.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=85539>

2. SYRIA

- **No clear US strategy in Syria after Raqqa liberation**

As armoured personnel carriers of the victorious Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) performed doughnuts amid the rubble of Raqqa, the Islamic State's capital, a difficult chapter in Syria's seven years of carnage closed, just as a more uncertain one began. US President Donald Trump was keen to take credit for the coalition advance at Raqqa, telling Washington radio station WMAL that the city's liberation had "to do with the people I put in and it had to do with rules of engagement... I totally changed the attitudes of the military."

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=85537>

- **Syria Considers US Military Presence in Al-Tanf Aggression - Info Minister**

According to the statement of the Syria's information minister, the US military presence in the country, as well as Turkish entry into Edlib, are the acts of aggression. The minister also claimed that Damascus does not consider any region of Syria liberated until the Syrian army enters it, Syria's Information Minister Mohammed Ramiz Tarjaman said in an interview with RIA Novosti.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710231058459147-syria-us-turkey-al-tanf-idlib/>

- **Golan Heights Residents Concerned Over Rocket Attacks from Syria**

The Algemeiner reports: Residents of Israel's Golan Heights region are on edge following the latest exchange of fire on the border with Syria. Early Saturday morning, five rockets were launched from Syria into Israel, hitting open areas, causing no injuries or damage. This prompted an IDF strike later in the day on three Syrian artillery pieces. "Whether errant or not, any future occurrences will force the IDF to intensify its response," the IDF said. "The IDF holds the Syrian regime responsible and won't tolerate any attempt to breach Israeli sovereignty or threaten Israeli civilians' safety."

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/10/23/golan-heights-residents-concerned-rocket-attacks-syria/>

- **Moscow nears 'mission accomplished' in Syria**

By the end of this year, Syria will be free of Islamic State, apart from small pockets that will disappear with time. Russian President Vladimir Putin will have achieved what he set out to with his Syria

intervention back in September 2015: to rid the country of armed jihadist groups, while empowering his allies in Damascus. This month alone, major progress has been achieved, as the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces overran al-Raqqqa, the former capital of the Islamic State, and government troops made steady progress on two other cities along the Euphrates River: Deir ez-Zour and al-Mayadeen. It is only a matter of time before they also retake the last standing ISIS stronghold of Albukamal, on the Syrian-Iraqi border.

More Details:

<http://www.atimes.com/article/moscow-nears-mission-accomplished-syria/>

- **Syria provides reproductive health services almost free**

The UNFPA population report focused on the decline of reproductive health indicators at the level of some states, attributing this to the connection of the primary care and maternal reproductive health with the economic status of the family. The Fund has chosen an issue which concerns all countries, especially the developing ones, where the population problems are clearly evident in these countries. Studies and reports conducted by the fund have shown a clear correlation between the financial status of the family and the extent of its benefiting from reproductive health services and family planning.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=116343>

- **New parties may join Astana talks on Syria**

New players may participate in the seventh international Astana meeting on Syria, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov told reporters on Monday. "I don't rule out such a possibility, everything depends on how the guarantor countries coordinate their activities," he said when asked if new parties could join the Astana talks, according to TASS.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128877/New-parties-may-join-Astana-talks-on-Syria>

- **Children die of hunger in Syria's Eastern Ghouta**

One-month-old Sahar, her ribs protruding under translucent skin, breathed her last on Sunday in Syria's Eastern Ghouta, where a crushing regime siege has pushed hundreds of children to the brink of starvation. Only a trickle of humanitarian aid ever reaches this rebel-held region east of Damascus, under a tight blockade by Assad regime forces since 2013.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/98c0b308-ab01-4f5b-a3f7-d9a8941d7975.aspx>

- **Humanitarian aid convoy arrives in Syria's Hasaka**

A humanitarian and relief convoy arrived in Hasaka province to be distributed among the locals of Hasaka and Qamishli cities and the displaced families who arrived in the province after escaping ISIS terrorism. The convoy, which was provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), was delivered by the staff of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/humanitarian-aid-convoy-arrives-in-syrias-hasaka_862038.html

- **Islamic States 'executed' 116 in Syria town revenge campaign: Monitor**

The Islamic State group killed 116 people it suspected of collaborating with the Syrian regime in Al-Qaryatain this month before losing the desert down to government forces, a monitor said Monday. "IS has over a period of 20 days executed more than 116 civilians in reprisal killings, accusing them of collaboration with regime forces," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor.

More Details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/islamic-states-executed-116-in-syria-town-revenge-campaign-monitor/articleshow/61183346.cms>

- **Israeli media: Damascus setting new rules of game for Israel**

Israeli media outlets suggest that currents of change flowing across the region could signal new equations under which Syria would be setting the new rules of the game for Israel thanks to its alliance with Iran and Russia. Different-minded Israeli media have in recent days been interpreting the latest developments inside Syria — including the Syrian military's move to intercept intruding Israeli warplanes on October 16 — as a "confident" or "defiant" message by Damascus to the Israeli regime.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/23/539583/Syria-Israel-territorial-violations-message-Iran-Russia>

3. IRAN

- **Iranian Leader's Top Military Aide: Trump Playing Role of a Mad Man**

Top Military Aide to the Iranian Supreme Leader Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi underlined that US President Donald Trump is playing the role of a mad man to help Washington meet its interests in the region and the world. "The world arrogance has created all events and turmoil in the region today to confront the Islamic Revolution, and Trump is not a mad man but he plays the role of a mad man because existence of such a person is needed by the US to attain its goals in the region," Rahim Safavi said, addressing a ceremony in the Central city of Qom on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960730000656>

- **US closest allies oppose Trump's anti-JCPOA policies: Iran FM**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says even the staunchest allies of the US have voiced their opposition to US President Donald Trump's policies on the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and Washington's possible withdrawal from it. "The policies of the Trump administration are isolated in the world," Zarif told reporters upon his arrival in the South African capital city of Pretoria on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/22/539548/Iran-South-Africa-US-Pretoria-Mohammad-Javad-Zarif-Donald-Trump-JCPOA>

- **ISIL would have taken over region if not for Iran forces**

Reacting to Rex Tillerson's remarks on asking Iranian forces to exit Iraq, FM Zarif stressed Tehran's role in fighting terrorism, saying ISIL would have taken over Syria and Iraq if it were not for Iran's efforts. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks upon arrival in South African capital early Monday, adding "the policies of the Trump's administration are isolated in the world. Even the closest allies to Washington have publicly taken a stand against Mr. Trump's anti-JCPOA approaches."

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128878/ISIL-would-have-taken-over-region-if-not-for-Iran-forces>

- **Nuclear deal enjoys intl. support, Iran says**

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said that the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, enjoys international support. "The U.S. and Trump are isolated. The majority of the countries and international bodies support the JCPOA," he told IRNA in an interview published on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/417828/Nuclear-deal-enjoys-intl-support-Iran-says>

- **Pres. Rouhani: Nobody entitled to comment on Iran military might**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that nobody has the right to comment on Iran's military power. 'Nobody is entitled to comment on Iran's military might as its development is based on the country's Constitution and defense doctrine,' President Rouhani said at a local gathering held in the Iranian capital this morning. 'Iran's military power is aimed at countering threats and aggressions, therefore, it should have a deterrent nature,' he said.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82705383>

- **Tehran, Colombo sign extradition treaty**

Iran and Sri Lanka on Sunday reached an agreement on extradition of convicts between the two countries. The deal was signed by Iran's Justice Minister Alireza Avaei and Sri Lankan Ambassador to Tehran Anis Zaidi, IRNA reported. Avaei said that there is a great potential in development of relations between Tehran and Colombo and the two nations should use all capacities to boost their ties.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/202890.html>

- **Iran's intelligence forces seize illegal weapons cargo**

Iran's intelligence forces seized a cargo of illegal weapons and ammunition in eastern regions of the country, Islamic Republic's Intelligence Ministry announced Oct. 22. The intelligence forces of the south eastern Kerman province discovered and seized the weapons, belonging to "criminal rings" in South Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/society/2811260.html>

- **Additional Sanctions against Iran to Isolate US Economically: American Prof.**

A senior professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota warned against the consequences of Washington's additional sanctions against Tehran and its withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, saying the US would become "economically isolated" in that case. "If the United States does impose additional sanctions, another effect will be that the United States will gradually become economically isolated," William Beeman said in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/10/22/1551147/additional-sanctions-against-iran-to-isolate-us-economically-american-prof>

- **IAEA not authorized to inspect Iran's military sites: Russia**

A senior Russian diplomat has criticized certain countries' calls for the expansion of the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspections to include Iranian military sites, saying the IAEA has no authority to carry out such inspection. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS on Sunday "I would like to say absolutely clear and directly that acquiring some false topicality [about] the theme of the IAEA work on Section T of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA) over the Iran nuclear program has no topicality for us although it is a talking point now."

More Details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i66511-iaea-not-authorized-to-inspect-iran%E2%80%99s-military-sites-russia>

- **Tehran, Baghdad enjoy stable, strong relations**

Iranian parliamentary official Amir-Abdollahian labelled Iran and Iraq's relations as strong and stable, while criticizing Saudi Arabia's destructive and uncooperative behavior. "It would be a positive turn of events if Iraq-Saudi Arabia relations became normalized, and Riyadh stopped its destructive and uncooperative behavior," Iranian Parliament Deputy General for International Affairs, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, said in a tweet on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/tehran-baghdad-stable-relations/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel police arrest 15 over anti Jewish-Arab dating campaign**

Israeli police detained 15 suspected Jewish extremists following an undercover investigation into a group accused of tracking down and threatening Arab men dating Jewish women, authorities said Sunday. Among those arrested was Benzi Gopstein, a prominent leader of the Israeli extreme-right group Lehava.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=85540>

- **Israel maintains robust arms trade with rogue regimes**

Human rights activists are stepping up efforts to expose Israel's long and covert history of supplying weapons and military training to regimes while they actively commit massacres, ethnic cleansing and genocide. The issue of Israel's trade with rogue regimes has been thrust into the spotlight again after revelations that it is sending weapons to Myanmar, in defiance of a US and European arms embargo.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/israel-maintains-robust-arms-trade-rogue-regimes-171022100816302.html>

- **51 east Jerusalem residents arrested in overnight operation**

Fifty-one Palestinian residents of Isawiya, an east Jerusalem Arab neighborhood, were arrested overnight Sunday when hundreds of policemen and Border Policemen descended on the neighborhood as part of an operation to apprehend people suspected of terrorisms, rioting and other criminal acts. In an attempt to curb the residents' hostile reaction, the police were joined by scores of Jerusalem municipality employees who, in parallel to the arrests, examined the licensing and safety conditions of businesses providing services in the neighborhood, installed and fixed lighting in public spaces, cleared garbage dumps and safety hazards, removed and repaired street signs, erased graffiti and the like.

More Details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5032441,00.html>

- **Hamas visit to Tehran defines the limits of Palestinian reconciliation**

Any hopes that Hamas would become more moderate as a result of its reconciliation process with Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement have been put to rest by the current visit of its leaders to Tehran

and their affirmation there of armed resistance as their unshakable strategic choice. Indeed, the visit – the first stop for Hamas leaders after inking an Egyptian-brokered agreement ten days ago to advance inter-Palestinian rapprochement – amounts to Hamas setting a clear limit on the scope of the reconciliation: handing over daily governance of the Gaza Strip to the PA, yes; changing foreign policy or long term strategy, no.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Hamas-visit-to-Tehran-defines-the-limits-of-Palestinian-reconciliation-508123>

- **Qatari envoy arrives in Gaza amid brewing controversy**

The Qatari envoy to the Gaza Strip, Muhammad al-Amadi, arrived overnight Monday in the Palestinian enclave, where he is expected to clarify his country's stance on the ongoing Egyptian-sponsored reconciliation talks between rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah, Palestinian media reported. Amadi arrived in the Strip accompanied by four other members of the Qatari committee for the reconstruction of Gaza, the Hamas-linked Palinfo news site reported.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/qatari-envoy-arrives-in-gaza-amid-brewing-controversy/>

- **UN Is No Longer Home Court of the Palestinians, Israeli Envoy Says**

Israel's situation at the United Nations is slowly improving, the Jewish state's envoy to the global intergovernmental body said in an interview published by the Hebrew newspaper Makor Rishon on Friday. "The Palestinians are no longer riding the wave," Ambassador Danny Danon stated. "Once, this was their home court and they passed whatever they wanted. Today, the atmosphere is different."

More Details:

<https://unitedwithisrael.org/un-is-no-longer-home-court-of-the-palestinians-israeli-envoy-says/>

- **Israeli forces detain 66 Palestinians, majority teenagers, in overnight raids**

Israeli detained at least 66 Palestinians during overnight raids Monday in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, according to Palestinian and Israeli sources. Israeli raids in Palestinian towns, villages, and refugee camps are a daily occurrence in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. According to United Nations documentation, Israeli forces conducted 121 search and arrest operations across the West Bank and arrested 205 Palestinians, including nine children, between September 26 and October 9.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779362>

- **Ireland describes Israeli settlement expansion as provocative**

Ireland condemned last week Israel's settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories describing them as provocative. "I condemn decisions this week by the Israeli authorities approving the construction of thousands of housing units in Israeli settlements in the West Bank," said Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=VWE6LLa92220106935aVWE6LL>

- **Japan Deplores Israel's Approval of 3,000 Settlement Units in West Bank**

The Government of Japan deeply deplored Israel's approval of plans for the construction of about 3,000 housing units in settlements in the West Bank despite repeated calls from the international community including Japan for freezing such activities, foreign Press Secretary Norio Maruyama said in a press release. The release was issued following reports that Israel has stepped up plans to build almost 3000 new housing units in settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

More Details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/japan-deplores-israels-approval-of-3000-settlement-units-in-west-bank/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordanian King and Iraqi PM discuss regional developments**

King Abdullah II of Jordan yesterday held talks with Iraqi Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, on bilateral relations and regional developments. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, H.M. King Abdullah reiterated Jordan's firm stance in support of Iraq in its efforts to maintain its security, stability, territorial integrity and cohesion of its people, in line with the constitution.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302640747>

- **Berri: Elections are Definite, Ready to Secure Communication Channels with Syria**

Speaker Nabih Berri assured that Lebanon's parliamentary elections will be held, as he expressed readiness to delegate a Lebanese minister to secure channels of communication with Syria in order to return the displaced back to safe zones in their countries. "I am ready to secure a communication

channel (between Lebanon and Syria) and am ready to assign a minister for that purpose if they wish me to,” said Berri in an interview to al-Ittihad .

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/237138-berri-elections-are-definite-ready-to-secure-communication-channels-with-syria>

- **King meets with Utah governor**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Sunday met with Governor of Utah Gary Herbert and an accompanying delegation, a Royal Court statement said. During the meeting, joined by HRH Prince Feisal, the King and the governor discussed strategic partnership between Jordan and the US and the means to enhance cooperation in various fields including energy, water, investment, higher education and cyber security.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/king-meets-utah-governor>

- **King Abdullah and Mahmoud Abbas discuss Palestinian reconciliation agreement**

King Abdullah II of Jordan and President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine yesterday held talks on the latest developments related to the Palestinian issue. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, talks dealt with the Palestinian reconciliation agreement, reached recently in Cairo, for which King Abdullah voiced Jordan's full support, saying that it would contribute to strengthening Palestinian unity.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302640740>

- **Jordan Won't Host Hamas Office after Reconciliation Deal**

Jordanian authorities have decided not to open an official Hamas embassy or consulate in the kingdom, according to a report in the Jordanian Al Ghad newspaper. Al Ghad was reportedly told by a Jordanian official that in the wake of the impending reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah, the Islamic terrorist organization would not be granted official representation in Jordan.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/10/22/report-jordan-wont-host-hamas-office-reconciliation-deal/>

- **King receives Utah Governor**

His Majesty King Abdullah II on Sunday, received Governor of the Utah State, Gary Herbert, his wife and an accompanied delegation, which included a number of political and economic figures in the state. The meeting, attended by HRH Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein, dealt with strategic partnership between Jordan and the United States and ways to promote cooperation between the Kingdom and the state of Utah in the fields of energy, water, investment, higher education and information security. The meeting tackled a number of ideas to expand trade and investment cooperation between Jordan and the state.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=323889&CatID=13

- **Geagea meets Prime Minister of Victoria: If will have candidates across Lebanon**

Lebanese Forces Party leader, Samir Geagea, and his spouse, MP Strida Geagea, and the accompanying delegation traveled to Melbourne, as part of their Australia tour, where he met with the Prime Minister of Victoria, Daniel Andrew, in the presence of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Consumer Rights, the Minister of Culture and parliament members Caesar Melhem and Nazih Asmar. During the meeting, conferees reviewed the situation on the Lebanese and Arab arenas as well as the affairs of the Lebanese community in Melbourne.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84578/Geagea-meets-Prime-Minister-of-Victoria-LF-will-have-candidates-across-Lebanon>

- **Lebanon's parliament finally approves the country's budget**

Lebanese ParliamentBeirut: Lebanon's parliament approved the country's first budget in more than a decade, restoring control over state finances and easing a long-standing political deadlock that has stifled development. After three days of deliberations, 61 members of parliament voted to pass the budget while four voted against and eight abstained, state-run National News Agency reported late Thursday.

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2017/10/22/lebanons-parliament-finally-approves-the-countrys-budget/>

- **Hezbollah Deputy S.G.: Justifying Collaboration with Zionist Enemy Won't Acquit Israeli Agents**

Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General, Sheikh Naim Qassem lashed out at those who justify collaboration with Israeli enemy, stressing that such attempts don't acquit Israeli agents in Lebanon. During a memorial ceremony on Sunday in Beirut's southern suburb (Dahiyeh), Sheikh Qassem stressed that the Zionist occupation was and will remain Lebanon's enemy, adding: "All those who justify collaboration with this enemy can be described as Israeli collaborators themselves."

More Details:

<http://english.almanar.com.lb/370577>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Tillerson visits Qatar in new push to end Gulf crisis**

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says Saudi Arabia is not willing to begin direct talks to resolve the Gulf diplomatic crisis, as his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, expressed frustration over the behaviour of the four countries blockading Qatar. The diplomats made the comments on Sunday during Tillerson's visit to Qatar, where he arrived following a stop in Saudi Arabia as part of a new push to end the months-long dispute.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/tillerson-visits-qatar-push-gulf-crisis-171022171203168.html>

- **Bahrain female activist, 2 others freed from jail**

A Bahraini female political activist and two others have been freed from detention in the island kingdom amid its crackdown on all dissent. The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy said early Monday that Ebtisam al-Sayegh had been freed after being detained since July 3.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/bahrain-female-activist-2-others-freed-from-jail/>

- **Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia discuss ties**

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Minister of Interior of Saudi Arabia, on Oct.19, the Akorda said. Nazarbayev welcomed Saudi Interior Minister and noted the special importance of the established interstate cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://akipress.com/news:598112/>

- **Saudi Arabia: Foreign minister denies contacts with Israel**

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry has denied that official representatives of the Saudi government have travelled to Israel over the past few weeks, according to the English edition of Al Arabiya. The media outlet quoted an official statement as saying that reports of official Saudi visits to Israel are not true. The statement also urged the media to verify reports before publishing them.

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2017/10/23/saudi-arabia-foreign-minister-denies-contacts-with-israel_7aea203a-e5dc-46cd-b4eb-8f6b210e1288.html

- **Foreign Minister receives UN Envoy for Yemen**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir received here today Special Envoy of Secretary General of United Nations for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments of the crisis in Yemen. The meeting was attended by Saudi Ambassador to Yemen Mohammed bin Saeed Al Jaber.

More Details:

<http://alriyadhdaily.com/article/ea8740537fae485582c565ae10245b20>

- **Car bombing kills 2 soldiers in southern Yemen**

Two government soldiers were killed in a car bombing on Monday in southern Yemen, according to a local military officer. The attack targeted a military base in the district of Mudiya in Abyan province, the officer said, requesting anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to media. He said security forces shot dead four bombers, who ran out from the car and towards the base before they detonated their explosive belts.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/car-bombing-kills-2-soldiers-in-southern-yemen/945045>

- **Hamas: Qatar always eager to end internal Palestinian rift**

Hamas Chief in Gaza Yahya Al-Sinwar said yesterday that Qatar has always been eager to end internal Palestinian division and has played a big role in preventing the “collapse” of the Gaza Strip, Shehab News Agency reported. In a statement issued by his spokesperson Al-Sinwar stated that Qatar has

funded construction, infrastructure and humanitarian projects, the effects of which are reflected on the lives of people living in Gaza.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171023-hamas-qatar-always-eager-to-end-internal-palestinian-rift/>

- **Sri Lanka and Qatar to sign MoU's on Energy, diplomatic training and Water Management**

The Government will ink agreements in the fields of energy, water supply and waste management and diplomatic training and research with the State of Qatar during the state visit of Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena. The cabinet approved a joint proposal made by Petroleum Resources Development Minister Arjuna Ranatunga, and Power and Renewable Energy Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, to sign the agreement during the state visit.

More Details:

<http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/sri-lanka-and-qatar-to-sign-mous-on-energy-diplomatic-training-and-waste-water-management/>

- **Terrorist cell to face military trial in Bahrain**

Bahraini authorities have referred a group of civilians accused of targeting security forces to a military court, state media said on Sunday, months after a constitutional amendment expanded the court's reach. General Youssef Rashid Fleifel, the head of Bahrain's military justice department, announced a "terrorist cell" had been charged and would face a military trial, state news agency BNA reported. Fleifel did not give further detail on the number or identities of those to stand trial, a date for which has yet to be announced.

More Details:

<http://gulfoday.ae/portal/08dcd26f-6202-4e36-bf81-44a48ed63334.aspx>

- **Kuwait hosts int'l conf. on Palestinian child suffering in Nov.**

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Saad Al-Kharraz on Sunday underlined the importance of the international conference on the suffering of the Palestinian child that will be hosted by Kuwait next month. He said the two-day conference, in light of the Israeli violations, would seek to set appropriate mechanisms for applying international conventions and programs tasked with protecting Palestinian children and providing them with education and culture.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2651956&Language=en>

7. EGYPT

- **Cairo killing sparks security concerns among Copts**

Christians in Egypt called for increased security following the killing of a priest in a knife attack in Cairo, with some people suggesting that priests be armed. The Reverend Samaan Shehata, a priest from the central province of Beni Suef, was stabbed to death October 12 while visiting Cairo. Authorities said the assailant was “mentally disturbed.”

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=85528>

- **Deadly attack on Egyptian forces prompts security concerns**

After one of the deadliest attacks on security forces in years, Egyptians have become more concerned over the state of security in their country. According to the Egyptian government, 16 officers were killed in a desert ambush southwest of Cairo on Saturday, but other sources say more than 55 policemen died.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/deadly-attack-egyptian-forces-prompts-security-concerns-171022185602105.html>

- **White House: Egypt ready to help Palestinians and assist in peace talks**

Creating a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians “will take time,” a senior White House official said. The official reiterated requirements laid out last week by Jason Greenblatt, President Donald Trump’s special envoy to the peace process, on a Palestinian government that includes Hamas, namely adhering to the Quartet principles: unambiguously and explicitly committing to nonviolence; recognizing the State of Israel; accepting previous agreements and obligations between the parties – including to disarm terrorists; and committing to peaceful negotiations.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/White-House-Egypt-ready-to-help-Palestinians-and-assist-in-peace-talks-508139>

- **Egypt's foreign ministry says respecting Spain's constitution key to resolving Catalanian crisis**

Egypt's foreign ministry stressed in a statement Sunday the necessity of respecting the Spanish constitution as a key factor to solve the Catalanian crisis, affirming that Cairo recognises the situation as an internal Spanish affair. "Egypt is following with concern the developments of the situation following the 1 October referendum, stressing the importance of adherence to the principles of the Spanish constitution and laws, as the cornerstone to overcome this crisis," the statement said.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/280221/Egypt/Politics-/Egypts-foreign-ministry-says-respecting-Spains-con.aspx>

- **Government decries Al-Wahat shoot-out media coverage amid delay of official information**

The leaked audio recording spread on social media networking and aired on some TV talk shows regarding Al-Wahat shoot-out is not supported by known source and does not carry realistic details, said Ministry of Interior on Saturday commenting on their validity. These audio were published in relation with Egypt's Western Desert major shoot-out occurred after state security received information about a hideout of militants 135 kilometres away from Cairo. Upon forces arrival to the scene, terrorists initiated exchange of fire killing 16 police personnel, injuring 13, and causing the missing of one policemen, according to the ministry on Saturday.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/10/22/government-decries-al-wahat-shoot-media-coverage-amid-delay-official-information/>

- **Conflicting Report About Number of Dead in Egypt's Wahat Attack**

A day after deadly clashes transpired between Egyptian police and suspected militants in the Western Desert on Monday, conflicting reports regarding the number of killed security personnel emerge. Egypt's Ministry of Interior said in a statement that 16 members of the security forces, including 11 officers and four conscripts were killed when two patrols were ambushed by terrorist elements during a raid on their hideout southwest of Cairo off the Wahat road.

More Details:

<https://egyptianstreets.com/2017/10/22/conflicting-reports-about-number-of-dead-in-egypts-wahat-attack/>

- **House of Representatives vote to extend state of emergency 3 months following Wahat shootout**

The House of Representatives unanimously agreed on a presidential decree that declared a three-month state of emergency starting October 13, at an evening session on Sunday. House of Representatives' speaker, Ali Abd al-Aal, stated that the members stood twice to announce their final approval. "None of the members had grounds to reject the declaration for a state of emergency," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/house-of-representatives-vote-to-extend-state-of-emergency-3-months-following-wahat-shootout/>

- **Security Forces establish control over Wahat**

Security forces in the Ministry of Interior established control over the kilo 135 area, which witnessed clashes with militants in Wahat in the Western Desert in the early hours of Saturday. The militants took kilo 135 area as a shelter for their training, hiding and preparing for terrorist attacks, exploiting its difficult geographical nature to perform attacks.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptdailynews.com/detail/security-forces-establish-control-over-wahat>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Long road ahead for families of jailed Morocco protesters**

A 1,200-kilometre (750 mile) round bus trip taking about 22 hours: that is the weekly grind faced by families of activists arrested over a protest movement in northern Morocco if they want to see their loved ones jailed in Casablanca. "The families of those detained are exhausted, every week it's the same ordeal," complained Rachid Ahbbad, as he visited his 19-year-old son Bilal who was jailed in June.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=85522>

- **Verbal Blunders against Morocco Will not Help Algeria Make Inroads in Africa**

Morocco's African policy, its triumphal return to the African Union and its largescale investments in Africa are sending shockwaves across Algeria. Outperformed by Morocco in Africa at the economic and political levels, Algerian officials have lost track of diplomatic norms blaming the failure of their

country's policy in Africa on Rabat's use of cannabis money to expand its economic and political influence.

More Details:

<http://northafricapost.com/20295-verbal-blunders-morocco-will-not-help-algeria-make-inroads-africa.html>

- **Visa on arrival for GCC Residents in Tunisia**

in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states can enter Tunisia without the need for a prior visa, the North African country's tourism minister has said. Under the new decision, around 25 million people living in any of the six GCC countries can obtain the visa upon arrival in Tunisia, and upon showing a valid GCC residency permit, Selma Elloumi, the minister, said. Prior to the announcement, residents from countries that do not have visa-exemption agreements with Tunisia had to pay for the visa, which was valid for 15 days.

More Details:

<http://tdailynews.net/story-z9461170>

- **Another adolescent suicide in Beida**

Beida has been shocked by the suicide of yet another young person, this time a 14 year-old boy who, like so many of the 32 other such deaths that are known, took his life by hanging. Suicide is generally a taboo subject. But this April when a young woman in the first year of her English course at the town's The Omar Mukhtar university hanged herself, it emerged that hers was the tenth suicide in just over a month.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/22/another-adolescent-suicide-in-beida/>

- **African Ambassadors 'Shocked' by Algeria's FM's Statements Against Morocco**

The African diplomatic corps in Rabat has distanced itself from the verbal blunders of the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs against Morocco, reported Maghreb Arab Press (MAP). Speaking on behalf of the African ambassadors to Rabat, Nimaga Ismaila, Ambassador of the Central African Republic to Morocco and dean of the African diplomatic corps, said that African ambassadors were taken aback by the recent statements of the Algerian foreign minister, Abdelkader Messahel, who accused Moroccan banks of "laundering drug money in Africa."

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/10/231876/african-ambassador-algeria-fm-morocco-abdelkader-messahel-nimaga-isamila/>

- **Marzouki fears that next presidential elections will not be held in 2019**

President of Tunisia's Al-Irada Movement Moncef Marzouki expressed fears that the next presidential elections will not take place in 2019 or that their results are fraudulent, claiming the existence of indicators that fuel its fears. "The non-examination of the appeals I formed during the last presidential election and the filing of the case by the courts, as well as the friction within the Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) and the attempts to seize control of this body are as many indicators corroborating my words," Marzouki told TAP.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9491680-marzouki-fears-that>

- **U.N. ends month-long Libya talks in Tunisia without proposing new date**

Month-long U.N.-backed talks aimed at bridging differences between rival Libyan factions ended on Saturday with no discernable progress towards stabilizing the country and paving the way for elections. A month ago U.N. envoy Ghassan Salame, the latest in a series of Libya envoys since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising ended Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year rule, announced a one-year action plan for a transition toward presidential and parliamentary elections.

More Details:

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security/u-n-ends-month-long-libya-talks-in-tunisia-without-proposing-new-date-idUSKBN1CQ0MM?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Prince Sultan honored in Tunisia**

Tunisian President Beji Caïd Essebsi decorates Prince Sultan Bin Salman, president of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, with the Tunisian First Order of Merit at a ceremony held at Carthage Presidential Palace in Tunis on Friday. This was in recognition of Prince Sultan's immense contributions at the regional and international levels in various fields, especially in promoting Arab tourism.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/519940/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Sultan-honored-in-Tunisia>

- **In Libya, Muammar Ghaddafi's Son Returns to Politics**

October 20 marked six years since Libyan dictator Muammar Ghaddafi was killed during the U.S.-driven, NATO intervention in that country's civil uprising. Since then, Libya has been entangled in a seemingly unending civil war, with political power split between two rival governments in eastern Tobruk and western Tripoli. Recently, Ghaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam, has reemerged as a political contender, suggesting a resurrection of the Ghadaffi family's disturbing legacy in the country. Captured by local militias in southern Libya in November 2011, only a few weeks after his father's death, Saif al-Islam was held hostage in the mountainous northwestern town of Zintan for over five years. He was released in June 2017 following an amnesty law, which pardoned Ghaddafi-era political prisoners, and was issued by the eastern, Tobruk-based government of Khalifa Haftar.

More Details:

<https://muftah.org/libya-muammar-ghaddafis-son-returns-to-politics/#.We3OOFu0Pcs>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Afghanistan, Iraq stress enhancing cultural relations**

Deputy Minister of Information and Culture on Finance, administrative and Tourism, Associate Prof. Sayeda Mojgan Mostafavi in a meeting with Iraqi deputy minister of information and culture stressed on expansion of cultural relations between the two countries, Bakhtar News Agency (BNA) reported on Saturday. Afterward, Iraqi deputy minister of information and culture assured of his country's cooperation with the mentioned sections, the agency further said.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/15207-afghanistan-iraq-stress-enhancing-cultural-relations.html>

- **Corruption case: SHC dismisses Sharjeel Memon's bail plea**

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday dismissed the bail pleas of former provincial information minister Sharjeel Memon and 12 others in a graft case. SHC Chief Justice Ahmed Ali Shaikh, hearing the Rs5.76 billion corruption case pertaining to alleged awarding of advertisements at exorbitant rates, rejected the pleas seeking extension in their bails in the case.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/239115-Corruption-case-SHC-dismisses-Sharjeel-Memons-bail-plea>

- **Top Russian, Indian diplomats meet on Afghanistan**

A Russian recently visited New Delhi for discussions on Afghanistan with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar. The Times of India reported on Monday the Indian government had kept secret President Vladimir Putin's special envoy Zamir Kabulov's trip, keeping in mind the sensitive nature of the discussions.

More Details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/10/23/top-russian-indian-diplomats-meet-afghanistan>

- **Imran's request to change stance amounts to contempt, PML-N lawyer tells SC**

As the Supreme Court on Monday took up Imran Khan's revised statement – which seeks amendments to his earlier pleadings – the counsel representing PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi once again objected to the submission of the statement, arguing that the court had closed the hearings of the case. "Once the case has been closed, further documents cannot be submitted before the court," advocate Akram Sheikh argued.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1365714/imrans-request-to-change-stance-amounts-to-contempt-pml-n-lawyer-tells-sc>

- **Riaz Pirzada stands by statement about Shehbaz leading PML-N**

Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Riaz Hussain Pirzada reiterated on Monday that Shehbaz Sharif, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's brother and chief minister of Punjab, should take over control of the party. The PML-N leader, while speaking to the media in his chambers, said that he says simple things but everyone gets cross over them.

More Details:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/164057-riaz-pirzada-says-sticks-to-statement-about-shehbaz-taking-over-pml-n>

- **20 ISIS suicide bombers among those killed in US airstrike: Silab Corps**

The Silab Corps of the Afghan National Army in the East has said at least twenty suicide bombers were among the several ISIS militants killed in US airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province. The 201st Silab Corps in a statement said the airstrike was carried out in Pekha area of Achin district, targeting a compound used by the terror group to train the suicide bombers.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/20-isis-suicide-bombers-among-those-killed-in-us-airstrike-silab-corps-03698>

- **President Ashraf Ghani To Visit India, Plans To Review Bilateral Relations**

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani will be in India on Tuesday on the invitation of Prime Minister Modi to review the bilateral relations between the two countries. Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani would be in Delhi on Tuesday for a one day 'working visit' to review the bilateral relations between the two countries. He will be here at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which was extended to him by India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval when the latter visited Kabul on the 16th of October. One of India's most important strategic partners in the neighborhood, President Ghani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold detailed delegation level talks.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics.html>

- **Four Police Killed In Ghazni Attack on Check Post**

Ghazni officials said the policemen were killed in Waghiz district on Sunday night after Taliban fighters attacked a security check post. At least four policemen were killed in a Taliban attack on a security check post in central Ghazni province on Sunday night, local police confirmed on Monday. In addition, two other policemen were wounded.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/four-police-killed-ghazni-attack-check-post>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **More than 170 Syrians held in western Turkey**

More than 170 Syrians have been held since Sunday during two separate operations in western Balıkesir province when they tried to travel to European countries via illegal routes, according to a governor's office Monday. In a statement, the Balıkesir Governor's Office said Kucukkoy gendarme stopped a minivan Monday in the province's Badavut Tekev region in which they found 47 Syrians, including 21 children.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/more-than-170-syrians-held-in-western-turkey/945134>

- **Turkey condemns deadly shootout in Egypt**

Turkish Foreign Ministry on Saturday condemned a deadly shootout southwest of the Egyptian capital, Cairo which left 16 policemen dead on Friday. "We learned with sorrow that yesterday (Oct. 20) many security forces who have been attacked by terrorists in the city of Giza in Egypt have lost their lives and were wounded," a statement said. "We condemn these attacks and convey our condolences to the families of the victims and the people of Egypt and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded," it added.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/195231/turkey-condemns-deadly-shootout-in-egypt>

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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