



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procees of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dış Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

1. IRAQ.....	4
• 4,176 Killed in Iraq in January.....	4
• US awards \$51.8 million rocket fuses contract for Afghan and Iraqi forces	4
• The battle for Mosul; 'I have never seen such hard fighting like this'	4
• Trump's Immigration Order Separates a Boy Urgently Needing Surgery from His Family	4
• Kurdish security forces arrest ISIS cell, prevent attacks in Kirkuk.....	5
• U.S. ambassador says Iraqis stranded following Trump ban given entry	5
• Muslim ban: 'Why are they closing the door on us?'	5
• As IS loses ground, militants will move to new territories: Former Turkish anti-terror chief.....	5
• Islamic State's 'Scariest' Decapitator Stabbed to Death	6
• Islamic State imposes curfew on civilians' movement in old Mosul.....	6
• With Daesh gone, East Mosul residents face uncertain future.....	6
• Green card holder dies after Trump's Muslim ban stops her from boarding flight	6
• Shiite militias open offices in Iraq's liberated Sunni areas.....	7
• US Firm Wins \$200M Iraq Defense Contract.....	7
• Iraqi jets destroy IS boats, kill 17 militants in western Mosul.....	7
• Bomb blast in popular market near Baghdad, 5 casualties.....	7
• Abadi will not retaliate against US visa ban, prioritizes anti-ISIS alliance.....	7
2. SYRIA.....	8
• President al-Assad: Affected Syrian industrialists who stood their ground are a source of pride.....	8
• Kazakh Foreign Minister: We have no information on a second Astana meeting on Syria	8
• Syrian Regime Forms All-female Military Force in Kurdish Heartland	8
• Over 4,000 Syrians Received Humanitarian Aid in Past 24 Hours.....	8
• US confirms armored vehicles delivery to Syrian group	9
• Syrian government disagrees with Russia on Kurdish autonomy	9
• Syrian militias see more US support for IS fight.....	9
• People's will to live helped Syria to stand its ground: Bashar Assad	9
3. IRAN.....	10
• Shamkhani denounces MKO terrorists' free operations in France	10
• Iran, France agree to boost ties.....	10
• Iran, Libya 'arms' couple to be heard by Rome prosecutors.....	10
• US uses missile program as pretext to mount pressure on Iran: Scholar	10
• Build bridges with Iran: 8 surprises from the Iranian people	11
• Million people ready to sacrifice themselves for Islam: Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani.....	11
• Missile Test Is Iran's Absolute Defensive Right	11
• Iran's President Reiterates Global Cooperation against Terrorism.....	11
• No Prohibition on American Oil Companies.....	11
4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	12
• Israel approves construction of 3000 illegal settlements in occupied West Bank.....	12
• Israel Apologises To Mexico for Pro-wall Tweet	12

•	Palestinian Official Calls Jerusalem Embassy Move a 'War Crime'	12
•	Invitation to hold Palestine-Israel talks in Moscow remains in force — Lavrov	12
•	Normalization of Turkey-Israel relations to gain pace with highest level visit in years	13
•	Honor Nazi victims by speaking out against anti-Semitism	13
•	Israeli forces detain 5 Palestinians during West Bank raids.....	13
•	Hamas Threat to Israel, May Provoke New Conflict at Any Moment	13
•	Israel stops partnership with EU programme	13
•	PNA government, Hamas bitterly divided over municipal elections	14
5.	JORDAN and LEBANON.....	14
•	Jordan’s King Abdullah is the first Arab leader to meet with Trump administration	14
•	Jumblat: Stop Breaching the Constitution, Implement Taef Accord.....	14
•	Jordanian Prince on Syrian Refugees: ‘We Can’t Vet These People’	14
•	IMF calls for 'plausible policy mix' to reduce Lebanon's mounting debt	15
•	Hariri meets PSP delegation	15
•	UNIFIL Head of Mission Major General Beary meets with Minister of Interior Nouhad Machnouk.....	15
•	Lebanese president says oil production to start in 2018	15
•	World Bank units back \$485m Jordan power plant	15
•	Jordan to increase fuel prices.....	16
•	Jordanian teen sent to Chicago for detainment after being held in Texas	16
6.	ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	16
•	'We want the same thing' - Saudi oil minister welcomes Trump era.....	16
•	Yemen: America’s Shame	16
•	Saudi money supply growth picks up as economy strengthens.....	17
•	Trump's first overseas raid kills 8-year-old girl in Yemen.....	17
•	Envoy submits credentials.....	17
•	Azerbaijan and Qatar discuss closer economic ties	17
•	TCA Abu Dhabi commissions installation for upcoming Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Exhibition ...	17
•	Mohamed bin Zayed, King of Bahrain discuss fraternal ties	18
•	Oman Oil Company to Invest \$1B in Oil, Gas Projects In 2017	18
7.	EGYPT.....	18
•	IMF team in Egypt to review loan installment	18
•	Egypt may consider yen, yuan bonds: Minister	18
•	Egypt’s Banks Attract \$9 Billion in Inflows since Pound Float.....	19
•	Egypt's Sisi suffers fresh batch of purported leaks from inner circle.....	19
•	Questions surround Egypt's plan to scrap subsidies for cash transfers.....	19
•	Daesh Claims Killing, Wounding 20 Egyptian Troops in Sinai.....	20
•	Tiran and Sanafir: Who will write the final chapter?	20
•	Siemens overdelivers on promise in Egypt megaproject	20
•	Sudan, Egypt split difference over Halayeb dispute.....	20
•	'Iran ensured Egypt's presence' at Syria peace talks.....	21
8.	NORTH AFRICA.....	21
•	Algeria invites global bids for \$6bn oil plants	21
•	Messahel leads Algerian delegation to Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Abu Dhabi	21



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• King Mohammed VI of Morocco sheds tears following Morocco's readmission to the African Union	21
• Morocco Brings the Western Sahara Issue Back to the AU	22
• African countries will benefit from Morocco-Nigeria Trans Sahara pipeline.....	22
• Tunisia-Guinea: Common will to strengthen cooperation.....	22
• Tunisia to investigate nationals fighting in war zones	22
• Libyan coastguards shot at by people smugglers.....	23
• Siala attacks US ban on Libyans; calls it illegal	23
• EU must involve Libya in decisions on migrants - navy.....	23
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	23
• Taliban executes woman in northern Afghan province	23
• Minister Hakimi Meets U.S. Embassy Charges d' Affaires.....	24
• US Watchdog Offers Bleak Statistics for Afghan Progress	24
• Clash leaves 24 militants dead in S. Afghanistan	24
• Afghan government and Taliban	24
• Pakistan inflation rate falls to 3.66 pct y/y in Jan - statistics bureau	25
• NAB voluntary return and plea bargain schemes discussed by Senate committee.....	25
• Speaker, Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan discuss prospects of Kyrgyz-Pakistan relations	25
• The Dangers of Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons.....	25
• Pakistan, Australia launch water prog.....	25
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....	26
• Turkish president meets Syrian 'Teardrop' girl	26
• Germany rejects Turkish request to share intelligence in campaign against Daesh.....	26

1. IRAQ

- **4,176 Killed in Iraq in January**

The January casualty figures in the Iraqi conflict are 4,176 dead and 1,433 injured. The number of fatalities is higher than the December figure with was 3,174 killed. Another 1,939 were wounded last month. Most of the fighting this month took place in Mosul, but reports from there are unreliable.

More details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/01/31/4176-killed-in-iraq-in-january/>

- **US awards \$51.8 million rocket fuses contract for Afghan and Iraqi forces**

The United States has awarded a contract worth \$51.8 million for the delivery of rocket fuses for the Afghan and Iraqi forces. The Department of Defense on Tuesday informed regarding the award of the contract to L-3 Fuzing and Ordnance Systems Inc.

More details

<http://www.khaama.com/us-awards-51-8-million-rocket-fuses-contract-for-afghan-and-iraqi-forces-02779>

- **The battle for Mosul; 'I have never seen such hard fighting like this'**

The counter-terrorism force's Mosul brigade had made its temporary headquarters in the small residential street just a few days earlier. As the truck bomb exploded it felt as if the ground was lifted into the air and dropped back down again. The force of the blast flattened two houses, damaged several more and incinerated four of the unit's vehicles.

More details

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/01/battle-for-mosul-iraq-isis-fighting>

- **Trump's Immigration Order Separates a Boy Urgently Needing Surgery from His Family**

An Iraqi child sent to the U.S. for treatment after suffering serious burns at a refugee camp has reportedly been separated from his family by President Trump's executive order barring travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations.

More details

<http://time.com/4656179/badly-burned-iraqi-child-separated-family-trump-immigration-executive-order/>

- **Kurdish security forces arrest ISIS cell, prevent attacks in Kirkuk**

The Kurdish security forces on Tuesday arrested a group of Islamic State's (ISIS) jihadists northwest of Kirkuk city, in northern Iraq, officials said. The ISIS-affiliated cell was reportedly preparing to carry out terror attacks in Kirkuk.

More details

<http://aranews.net/2017/02/kurdish-security-forces-arrest-isis-cell-prevent-attacks-in-kirkuk/>

- **U.S. ambassador says Iraqis stranded following Trump ban given entry**

Meeting with Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki on Tuesday, Silliman said the executive order, signed by Trump on January 27th, involves many "exceptions" that will allow domestic security agencies to grant travellers entry to the United States. He added that a number of Iraqis held at American airports were already allowed in following the order.

More details

<http://www.iraqnews.com/features/u-s-ambassador-says-iraqis-stranded-following-trump-ban-given-entry/>

- **Muslim ban: 'Why are they closing the door on us?'**

One night in December 2006, Farah Marcolla's life changed forever. She was living in Baghdad and had just returned home from her work at Camp Victory, a US military base in the Iraqi capital. She was sitting with her family when armed men dressed in Iraqi military uniforms banged on her front door and stormed into her house.

More details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/02/muslim-ban-closing-door-170201050223763.html>

- **As IS loses ground, militants will move to new territories: Former Turkish anti-terror chief**

As Islamic State (IS) loses ground in Syria and Iraq, and could face ultimate defeat there, many militants will disperse across the globe where they will aim to blend into society before trying to launch terrorist attacks, former Turkish counter-terrorism police Chief Ahmet S Yayla has warned.

More detail

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/as-is-loses-ground-militants-will-move-to-new-territories-former/3472190.html>

- **Islamic State's 'Scariest' Decapitator Stabbed to Death**

One of the Islamic State's most prominent decapitators, allegedly responsible for beheading more than 100 people, has been stabbed to death in the outskirts of northern Iraq's city of Mosul, reports Iraqi News, citing the Arabic-language al-Sumaria News.

More details

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/01/31/report-islamic-states-scariest-decapitator-stabbed-death/>

- **Islamic State imposes curfew on civilians' movement in old Mosul**

A local source in Nineveh Province revealed that the Islamic State group imposed a curfew on the movement of citizens in the neighborhoods of old Mosul after 5 pm for unknown reasons, Alsumaria News reported on Tuesday.

More details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-imposes-curfew-civilians-movement-old-mosul-night/>

- **With Daesh gone, East Mosul residents face uncertain future**

Iraqi government forces have now pushed the militants out of East Mosul and are poised to attack the west. While Younes is thrilled, like many other small businessmen in the city, his joy is tempered by uncertainty as he tries to revive his former life. Daesh imposed a radical version of Islam in Mosul after establishing the country's second biggest city as its de facto capital: banning cigarettes, televisions and radios, and forcing men to grow beards and women to cover from head to toe.

More details

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/daesh-gone-east-mosul-residents-face-uncertain-future>

- **Green card holder dies after Trump's Muslim ban stops her from boarding flight**

A local business owner in Detroit flew to Iraq to bring his mother to the United States for medical treatment, but she passed away one day after being denied entry as a result of President Donald Trump's sweeping bans on citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations, Fox 2 reported Tuesday.

More details

<https://mic.com/articles/167274/green-card-holder-dies-after-trump-s-muslim-ban-stops-her-from-boarding-flight#.UhTI14MRI>

- **Shiite militias open offices in Iraq's liberated Sunni areas**

The Popular Mobilization Units are expanding their domination in Sunni-majority areas liberated from Islamic State, raising concerns among the local population.

More details

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/01/shiite-militias-iraq-sunni-pmu-fallujah.html>

- **US Firm Wins \$200M Iraq Defense Contract**

US-based Sallyport Global Holdings has been awarded a \$200-million modification on a previously awarded contract for base life support, base operations support, and security for Iraq's Balad Air Base.

More details

<http://www.iraqdailyjournal.com/story-z14711273>

- **Iraqi jets destroy IS boats, kill 17 militants in western Mosul**

Iraqi fighter jets killed 17 Islamic State militants and destroyed six of their boats in western Mosul, the defense ministry media said Tuesday. The defense ministry's War Media Cell said the strike, which targeted the district of Badush, was carried out based on intelligence information. Six vehicles belonging to the group were also burned in the strike, according to the media service.

More details

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-jets-destroy-boats-kill-17-militants-western-mosul/>

- **Bomb blast in popular market near Baghdad, 5 casualties**

A police source revealed that five civilians were wounded in the explosion of an improvised explosive device, near a popular market, west of Baghdad, Alsumaria News reported on Tuesday. The source said, "An improvised explosive device, emplaced near a popular market in Radwaniyah area, west of Baghdad, exploded today, injuring five civilians."

More details

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/bomb-blast-popular-market-near-baghdad-5-casualties/>

- **Abadi will not retaliate against US visa ban, prioritizes anti-ISIS alliance**

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi will not act on the parliament's recommendation to respond in kind to the US travel ban on Iraqi nationals, stressing the need to maintain good relations during the ongoing war with ISIS.

More details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/310120177>

2. SYRIA

- **President al-Assad: Affected Syrian industrialists who stood their ground are a source of pride**

President Bashar al-Assad received on Tuesday a number of industrialists from Damascus and its countryside who were affected due to the crisis and lost their facilities, but have been back to work with small workshops.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=99306>

- **Kazakh Foreign Minister: We have no information on a second Astana meeting on Syria**

Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov affirmed that his ministry does not yet have information about the possibility of holding a second meeting in Astana on the settlement of the crisis in Syria.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=99320>

- **Syrian Regime Forms All-female Military Force in Kurdish Heartland**

The Syrian government has created an all-female military unit in a predominantly Kurdish city in northeastern Syria where U.S.-led Kurdish forces have been battling Islamic State.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/syrian-regime-all-female-military-force-kurdish-heartland/3700636.html>

- **Over 4,000 Syrians Received Humanitarian Aid in Past 24 Hours**

Over 4,300 civilians in the Syrian provinces of Aleppo, Latakia and Jarmana town in the Damascus province received humanitarian aid in the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201702011050221561-4000-syrians-humanitarian-aid/>

- **US confirms armored vehicles delivery to Syrian group**

The U.S. is to deliver armored vehicles to a contingent of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Pentagon said Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-confirms-armored-vehicles-delivery-to-syrian-group/738833>

- **Syrian government disagrees with Russia on Kurdish autonomy**

The Syrian government completely rejected any form of Kurdish autonomy and has reportedly proposed amendments to change the Russian draft proposal for a new Syrian constitution.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/02/syrian-government-disagrees-with-russia-on-kurdish-autonomy/>

- **Syrian militias see more US support for IS fight**

The US-led coalition against Islamic State has boosted support for its Syrian allies since President Donald Trump took office, supplying armoured vehicles for the first time as they prepare to launch a new phase in their campaign for Raqqa, a spokesman for the militia said yesterday.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/531209/Syrian-militias-see-more-US-support-for-IS-fight>

- **People's will to live helped Syria to stand its ground: Bashar Assad**

President Bashar al-Assad received on Tuesday a number of industrialists from Damascus and its countryside who were affected due to the crisis and lost their facilities, but have been back to work with small workshops.

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2017/01/31/808527/story.html>

3. IRAN

- **Shamkhani denounces MKO terrorists' free operations in France**

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani, pointing to free activities of MKO terrorists in France, said any support for the terrorist group would mean unfriendly signals to the Islamic Republic.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/123182/Shamkhani-denounces-MKO-terrorists-free-operations-in-France>

- **Iran, France agree to boost ties**

President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday said the ground is now paved well than ever for boosting Iran-France ties in economic, political and cultural fields.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/176800.html>

- **Iran, Libya 'arms' couple to be heard by Rome prosecutors**

Rome, January 31 - Rome prosecutors probing the abduction in Libya of four workers from the Bonatti oil infrastructure company are set to quiz a couple from San Giorgio a Cremano near Naples implicated in suspected arms trafficking to Iran and Libya, judicial sources said Tuesday.

More Details:

http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2017/01/31/iran-libya-arms-couple-to-be-heard-by-rome-prosecutors_dd73a06b-dfc6-4f54-9cc5-428ef0e6c031.html

- **US uses missile program as pretext to mount pressure on Iran: Scholar**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned the United States to avoid turning the issue of Iran's missile program into a pretext for political games.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/01/31/508540/Iran-US-Missile-Test-Khoshcheshm>

- **Build bidges with Iran: 8 surprises from the Iranian people**

I am deeply saddened by President Trump's executive order banning many Muslims from entering the United States. I also am sad to see the Iranian response: Iran To Ban U.S. Visitors In Retaliation To Trump Order.

More Details:

<http://realiran.org/build-bidges-with-iran-8-surprises-from-the-iranian-people/>

- **Million people ready to sacrifice themselves for Islam: Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani**

At the beginning of the meeting, senior Shia cleric congratulated the crowd on 10 days of Dawn marking the 38th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/grand-ayatollahs/archive/2017/01/31/808530/story.html>

- **Missile Test Is Iran's Absolute Defensive Right**

"I emphasize the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled stance that conducting any ballistic missile test by the Islamic Republic of Iran is in full compliance with its absolute rights and international obligations," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/news/politics/security/2017/01/missile-test-is-irans-absolute-defensive-right/>

- **Iran's President Reiterates Global Cooperation against Terrorism**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani underscored Tehran's resolve to fight terrorism in the region, but at the same time urged global cooperation against the inauspicious phenomenon.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/02/01/1314443/iran-s-president-reiterates-global-cooperation-against-terrorism>

- **No Prohibition on American Oil Companies**

Iran's oil minister says there is no ban on American companies wanting to work in the oil industry.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/energy/58637/no-prohibition-on-american-oil-companies>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel approves construction of 3000 illegal settlements in occupied West Bank**

Israel has approved the construction of more than 3,000 housing units in West Bank settlements, as the country's army prepares to evacuate the unauthorized settlement of Amona, local media reported late Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/israel-approves-construction-3000-illegal-settlements-occupied-west-bank-932058>

- **Israel Apologises To Mexico for Pro-wall Tweet**

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin on Tuesday apologised to Mexico for its prime minister's controversial tweet, which favoured the erection of a border wall between the United States and Mexico, China's Xinhua news agency reported.

More details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1325370>

- **Palestinian Official Calls Jerusalem Embassy Move a 'War Crime'**

A senior Palestinian official said the U.S. moving its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would constitute a “war crime” and would definitely end any semblance of U.S. leadership in the peace process.

More details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Palestinian-Official-Calls-Jerusalem-Embassy-Move-a-War-Crime-20170131-0054.html>

- **Invitation to hold Palestine-Israel talks in Moscow remains in force — Lavrov**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says Vladimir Putin’s offer to hold direct talks in Moscow between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders on resolving the conflict remains in force

More Details:

<http://tass.com/politics/928326>

- **Normalization of Turkey-Israel relations to gain pace with highest level visit in years**

The director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yuval Rotem, will arrive in Ankara today, becoming the highest Israeli official to visit Turkey since relations took a nosedive following the May 31, 2010 Mavi Marmara massacre.

More details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/02/01/normalization-of-turkey-israel-relations-to-gain-pace-with-highest-level-visit-in-years>

- **Honor Nazi victims by speaking out against anti-Semitism**

Israel's UN Ambassador calls on Jewish people to unite against anti-Semitism, libels, and inappropriate Holocaust comparisons.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/224213>

- **Israeli forces detain 5 Palestinians during West Bank raids**

Israeli forces Tuesday detained at least five Palestinians during overnight raids across the occupied West Bank, according to Israeli army sources.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=775225>

- **Hamas Threat to Israel, May Provoke New Conflict at Any Moment**

The truce at the Israeli-Gaza border is deceptive and the new conflict may erupt at any moment as the Palestinian Hamas movement and other groups in the Gaza Strip still want to destroy Israel, country's Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said on Tuesday.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201701311050209869-hamas-israel-threat-conflict/>

- **Israel stops partnership with EU programme**

Israel has decided not to partner with an EU cultural programme because it includes an article banning cooperation with illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories, QudsPress reported yesterday.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170131-israel-stops-partnership-with-eu-programme/>

- **PNA government, Hamas bitterly divided over municipal elections**

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) consensus government decided on Tuesday to hold municipal elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on May 13, while Islamic Hamas movement said the decision is "illegal" and it will boycott it.

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/01/c_136023532.htm

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan's King Abdullah is the first Arab leader to meet with Trump administration**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Monday met with US Vice President Mike Pence. His Majesty and the vice president emphasised the strength of the strategic Jordanian-US relationship as well the role the US plays in ensuring regional stability.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/jordan%E2%80%99s-king-abdullah-first-arab-leader-meet-trump-administration-931702>

- **Jumblat: Stop Breaching the Constitution, Implement Taef Accord**

In light of the political flurry over agreeing on an election law that meets approval of all parties, Progressive Socialist Party leader MP Walid Jumblat voiced calls for the implementation of the Taef Agreement and slammed threats about vacuum at the parliament as "unconstitutional."

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/224711-jumblat-stop-breaching-the-constitution-implement-taef-accord>

- **Jordanian Prince on Syrian Refugees: 'We Can't Vet These People'**

Prince Faisal bin Hussein told GOP North Carolina Congressman Mark Walker the Jordanian government could not vet Syrian refugees, The Washington Examiner reports.

More details:

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/01/31/jordanian-prince-on-syrian-refugees-we-cant-vet-these-people/#ixzz4XQ2CzNs8>

- **IMF calls for 'plausible policy mix' to reduce Lebanon's mounting debt**

The International Monetary Fund called on the Lebanese government to capitalize on its political breakthrough by focusing more on reducing the mounting public debt and stimulating the economy.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/imf-calls-plausible-policy-mix-reduce-lebanons-mounting-debt-932040>

- **Hariri meets PSP delegation**

Prime Minister, Saad Hariri met on Tuesday night at the Grand Serail with a delegation of PSP which included Minister Marwan Hmedeh and Deputy Wael Abou Faour.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/74774/Hariri-meets-PSP-delegation>

- **UNIFIL Head of Mission Major General Beary meets with Minister of Interior Nouhad Machnoug**

UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Michael Beary today met with the Lebanese Minister of Interior Nouhad Machnoug, in Beirut.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/74772/UNIFIL-Head-of-Mission-Major-General-Beary-meets-with-Minister-of-Interior-Nouhad-Machnoug>

- **Lebanese president says oil production to start in 2018**

Jan 31 Lebanon expects to start oil production in 2018 and will deposit the resulting revenues into a sovereign wealth fund, President Michel Aoun said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/lebanon-president-oil-idUSL5N1FL690?rpc=401&>

- **World Bank units back \$485m Jordan power plant**

International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (Miga), members of the World Bank Group, are backing the design, construction, ownership and operation of a 485-megawatt gas-fired power plant in Jordan to increase the country's power generation capacity.

More details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_320054.html

- **Jordan to increase fuel prices**

Jordan decided on Tuesday to increase fuel prices, said the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. In February, prices will increase from three to nine percent, the ministry said.

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/31/c_136023362.htm

- **Jordanian teen sent to Chicago for detainment after being held in Texas**

A 6-year-old boy traveling on a Jordanian passport is being held in Chicago after being detained at a Houston airport for two days amid the chaotic rollout of President Donald Trump's executive order on travel restrictions, according to Texas attorneys working to reunite the boy with his family.

More details:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-jordanian-teen-detained-chicago-20170131-story.html>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **'We want the same thing' - Saudi oil minister welcomes Trump era**

Saudi Oil Minister Khalid al-Falih has told the BBC's Chief International Correspondent Lyse Doucet he is pleased that US President Donald Trump plans to pursue a more fossil fuel-oriented energy policy.

More Details

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38818050>

- **Yemen: America's Shame**

The ridiculous truth is that the imposition of a travel ban on Yemen – in addition to six other countries – has evoked more anguish than America's major role in making that country unlivable. Here's a very sad story about the plight of a young Yemeni girl who is being blocked from entering the US – but where is the outrage about what's being done to her homeland with our tax dollars and in our name?

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2017/01/31/yemen-americas-shame/>

- **Saudi money supply growth picks up as economy strengthens**

Saudi Arabia's money supply growth picked up in December in a sign that the economy is regaining strength after a slump last year caused by low oil prices and government austerity measures, central bank data showed.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1047251/business-economy>

- **Trump's first overseas raid kills 8-year-old girl in Yemen**

Donald Trump's first foreign military raid as US president left an eight year old girl dead this week, in an attack in Yemen that killed dozens, including women and children.

More Details

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/2/1/trumps-first-overseas-raid-kills-8-year-old-girl-in-yemen>

- **Envoy submits credentials**

Bucharest: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Romania Teodor Melescanu has received a copy of credentials of Abdullah bin Nasser Al Humaidi as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Qatar to Romania. Romania's Foreign Minister wished the Qatari Ambassador success during his mission and the bilateral relations further development and progress.

More Details

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/31/01/2017/Envoy-submits-credentials>

- **Azerbaijan and Qatar discuss closer economic ties**

The foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Qatar discussed boosting trade, investment and economic cooperation at talks in the Azeri capital Baku on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/azerbaijan-qatar-discuss-closer-economic-ties-661668.html>

- **TCA Abu Dhabi commissions installation for upcoming Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Exhibition**

Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, TCA Abu Dhabi, has commissioned artists Hesam Rahmanian, Ramin Haerizadeh, and Rokni Haerizadeh to create an installation inspired by the core

themes of "The Creative Act: Performance - Process - Presence", the second exhibition of works from the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi collection.

More Details

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/emirates-tourism-and-culture/1395306754339.html>

- **Mohamed bin Zayed, King of Bahrain discuss fraternal ties**

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, discussed on Tuesday ways to strengthen fraternal ties between the two countries, as well as a number of regional and international issues.

More Details

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/emirates-international/1395306728957.html>

- **Oman Oil Company to Invest \$1B in Oil, Gas Projects In 2017**

State-held Oman Oil Company plans to invest US\$1 billion in developing various upstream and downstream projects in Oman this year, the firm's chief executive Isam Al Zadjali said on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Oman-Oil-Company-To-Invest-1B-In-Oil-Gas-Projects-In-2017.html>

7. EGYPT

- **IMF team in Egypt to review loan installment**

A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has arrived in Egypt to prepare for a review required before disbursing the second installment of a three-year \$12-billion loan, sources at the Finance Ministry told Reuters on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1047221/business-economy>

- **Egypt may consider yen, yuan bonds: Minister**

Egypt may issue bonds in other international currencies after successfully selling \$4 billion of Eurobonds last week, Finance Minister Amr El Garhy said. He told a news conference that potential issuing currencies included the Japanese yen and China's yuan but that it was too early to say when

or how much Egypt might seek to borrow. Egypt sold \$4 billion of Eurobonds in three tranches on Tuesday, raising twice as much as targeted and at lower yields than initially expected.

More Details

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/1d03aeb3-d2ab-47a4-9497-321653504c1b.aspx>

- **Egypt's Banks Attract \$9 Billion in Inflows since Pound Float**

Egypt's central bank said commercial lenders attracted \$9 billion in inflows since the pound was floated three months ago, "Trust in the system is growing," Assistant Sub Governor Rami Aboul Naga told Bloomberg News late on Tuesday. "We have seen a notable improvement in foreign currency inflows to banks over the past few weeks."

More Details

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-02-01/egypt-s-banks-attract-9-billion-in-inflows-since-pound-float>

- **Egypt's Sisi suffers fresh batch of purported leaks from inner circle**

The inner circle of Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been hit by a fresh wave of leaked alleged audio recordings, casting doubt on the security of the president's confidants. The purported leaks, first broadcast by opposition news channel Mekameleen on Tuesday night, appear to contain significant revelations about the level of internal opposition to Sisi from within the upper echelons of his political circle.

More Details

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypts-sisi-suffers-fresh-batch-purported-leaks-inner-circle-1093917354>

- **Questions surround Egypt's plan to scrap subsidies for cash transfers**

The Egyptian government is planning to roll out an ambitious plan to replace subsidies with direct cash payments in an attempt to eliminate graft and give subsidies only to those who deserve them.

More Details

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/01/egypt-cash-subsidies-poor-cash-transfers-economy.html>

- **Daesh Claims Killing, Wounding 20 Egyptian Troops in Sinai**

Daesh (also known as ISIL or ISIS) in Egypt claimed on Tuesday that its fighters killed and wounded 20 Egyptian soldiers in four days of clashes in northern Sinai. In a statement posted on a pro-ISIS website, the Egyptian affiliate of the Sunni militant group said the fighting took place south of the coastal city of el-Arish and that the militants also destroyed two tanks, a Humvee and two other military vehicles.

More Details

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/02/01/1313252/daesh-claims-killing-wounding-20-egyptian-troops-in-sinai>

- **Tiran and Sanafir: Who will write the final chapter?**

There was jubilation over Egypt's Supreme Administrative Court's (SAC) January 16 ruling not to transfer sovereignty over Tiran and Sanafir islands to Saudi Arabia.

More Details

<http://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/01/31/feature/politics/tiran-and-sanafir-who-will-write-the-final-chapter/>

- **Siemens overdelivers on promise in Egypt megaproject**

Siemens was awarded its single biggest order ever for the expansion of the Egyptian power supply. Now, only 18 months after the signing of the contract, Siemens has set a new worldwide benchmark for the execution of fast-track power projects. Together with its local partners Orascom Construction and Elsewedy Electric, the company has made great progress in its effort to boost Egypt's power generation capacity by 45 percent, upon final completion of the three power plants. The first phase of the megaproject in Egypt has been finalized.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/pr/siemens-overdelivers-promise-egypt-megaproject-932074>

- **Sudan, Egypt split difference over Halayeb dispute**

Sudan and Egypt agreed on Tuesday not to raise the issue of Halayeb Triangle disputed between the two countries, official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

More Details

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/01/c_136023437.htm

- **'Iran ensured Egypt's presence' at Syria peace talks**

Iran lobbied for Egypt to be involved in the Syria peace talks last year, despite the US preferring not to extend an invitation to Cairo, a batch of new leaks revealed on Tuesday.

More Details

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/2/1/iran-ensured-egypts-presence-at-syria-peace-talks>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria invites global bids for \$6bn oil plants**

Algeria's state energy firm Sonatrach has called on international engineering firms to bid on four major petrochemical plants worth a total of up to \$6 billion, a report said.

More Details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_320048.html

- **Messahel leads Algerian delegation to Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Abu Dhabi**

Minister of Maghreb Affairs, African Union and Arab League Abdelkader Messahel will lead the Algerian delegation to the works of the 4th Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum, to be held Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.aps.dz/algeria/16491-messahel-leads-algerian-delegation-to-arab-russian-cooperation-forum-in-abu-dhabi>

- **King Mohammed VI of Morocco sheds tears following Morocco's readmission to the African Union**

Following an overwhelming majority of African countries supporting Morocco's bid to adhere to the African Union (AU) during yesterday's plenary session, King Mohammed VI gave a speech today in front of the heads of states and representatives of the 55 African Union block, a speech qualified by "mesmerizing and historic" by Moroccan media.

More Details:

<http://themoroccantimes.com/2017/01/21989/king-mohammed-vi-morocco-sheds-tears-after-moroccos-admission-crying-african-union>

- **Morocco Brings the Western Sahara Issue Back to the AU**

The African Union vote on January 30 to readmit Morocco is a landmark decision in the tumultuous relations between Morocco and fellow African states. The vote followed the kingdom's unprecedented year-long diplomatic and economic offensive to garner support for its bid. The move temporarily shifts the focus of the Western Sahara issue from stalled negotiations at the UN to diplomatic wrangling at the AU on the status of the Polisario independence movement and its Algeria-backed state, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). Yet there are few prospects for a fresh start or innovative approaches to settle the Western Sahara dispute.

More Details:

<http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/?fa=67850>

- **African countries will benefit from Morocco-Nigeria Trans Sahara pipeline**

Morocco's monarch, King Mohammed VI, on Tuesday said African countries would benefit from the Morocco-Nigeria joint Trans Sahara pipeline project. Mohammed, who stated in his address to the 28th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, also pledged to avail his country's vast mineral resources to the benefit of the continent.

More Details:

<http://sunnewsonline.com/african-countries-will-benefit-from-morocco-nigeria-trans-sahara-pipeline/>

- **Tunisia-Guinea: Common will to strengthen cooperation**

(Minister of National Defence Farhat Horchani stressed the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Tunisia and Guinea in the fields of training, intelligence, counter-terrorism and exchange of expertise, especially as the two countries face common security challenges.

More Details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/8669918-tunisia-guinea->

- **Tunisia to investigate nationals fighting in war zones**

Tunisia's parliament has voted to draw up a fact-finding committee tasked with investigating networks that allegedly recruit Tunisian youth for conflicts in the Middle East. In a Tuesday vote, 132 MPs voted in favor of the proposed committee while one voted against and another abstained...

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/tunisia-to-investigate-nationals-fighting-in-war-zones/738732>

- **Libyan coastguards shot at by people smugglers**

A Libyan coastguard boat was reportedly caught in the midst of a gun battle from the shore by people-smugglers, as it intercepted approximately 700 sub-Saharan migrants off the coast of Sabratha, in the western side of Libya, near to the border of Tunisia.

More Details:

<http://libyaprospect.com/index.php/2017/01/31/libyan-coastguards-shot-at-by-people-smugglers/>

- **Siala attacks US ban on Libyans; calls it illegal**

In the first official Libya response to the Trump administration's decision to ban Libyan and a number of other Arab and Middle Eastern nationals, the Presidency Council's foreign minister, Mohamed Siala, has lambasted the move, saying that banning Libyan citizens from the US was in contravention of international law and the US constitution.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/01/31/siala-attacks-us-ban-on-libyans-calls-it-illegal/>

- **EU must involve Libya in decisions on migrants - navy**

The EU plan to stem the flow of migrants through Libya that is due to be discussed at the upcoming informal summit in Malta on Friday cannot be enacted without the involvement of the Tripoli government, Libyan navy spokesman General Ayoub Omar Qassem said on Tuesday. "Unfortunately this matter must be discussed with the Libyan government: it cannot be that the Europeans decide and Libya enacts their decisions," General Qassem told ANSA by telephone. "We do not want to be Europe's police force in the Mediterranean," he added.

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2017/01/31/eu-must-involve-libya-in-decisions-on-migrants-navy_d9e03fec-0436-44a2-b38a-25f2c0d42d8f.html

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Taliban executes woman in northern Afghan province**

Taliban militants have executed a woman on charge of adultery in Yamgan district of Badakhshan province with Faizabad as its capita, head of Women Affairs department in the province Zofenon Nateq said.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/01/c_136024458.htm

- **Minister Hakimi Meets U.S. Embassy Charges d' Affaires**

Minister of Finance Eklil Hakimi met U.S. Embassy Charge d' Affaires and Herbert Smith, USAID/Afghanistan Mission Director here in ARG yesterday, the ministry said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/27345-minister-hakimi-meets-us-embassy-charges-d%E2%80%99-affaires.html>

- **US Watchdog Offers Bleak Statistics for Afghan Progress**

In his first report to the new Trump administration, a U.S. watchdog that monitors billions of dollars in aid to Afghanistan issued a bleak progress report, saying the Afghan government controls barely half the country, its security forces numbers are on the decline and drug production is on the rise, while eradication is down.

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_AFGHANISTAN_BLEAK_REPORT?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-02-01-00-31-16

- **Clash leaves 24 militants dead in S. Afghanistan**

Up to two dozen Taliban militants have been killed and 25 others injured in Sangin district of the southern Helmand province in Afghanistan, according to a statement of 215 Miwand Corps released here Wednesday.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/01/c_136024386.htm

- **Afghan government and Taliban**

Last year deadly and unending terrorist attacks bled Afghanistan profusely and shocked the entire nation. Finding itself ill-equipped to ensure security of life to its citizens or eliminate the terrorist threat, Kabul government directed public anger towards Pakistan. An entire year was lost in mutual finger-pointing. Failing to persuade China and the US to put pressure on Pakistan to eliminate Taliban which Kabul claimed were attacking from inside Pakistan, President Ghani bid farewell to Quadrilateral Talks.

More Details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/02/01/afghan-government-and-taliban/>

- **Pakistan inflation rate falls to 3.66 pct y/y in Jan - statistics bureau**

Pakistan's inflation rate eased to 3.66 percent year-on-year in January, a touch lower from 3.70 percent in December, the Bureau of Statistics said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/pakistan-inflation-rate-falls-to-366-pct-yy-in-jan--statistics-bureau-20170201-00070>

- **NAB voluntary return and plea bargain schemes discussed by Senate committee**

Voices against the controversial plea bargain and voluntary return provisions in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws echoed in the parliament again on Tuesday when members of a Senate body called for amendments.

More Details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1311957/nab-voluntary-return-and-plea-bargain-schemes-discussed-by-senate-committee>

- **Speaker, Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan discuss prospects of Kyrgyz-Pakistan relations**

Speaker of the Parliament Chynybai Tursunbekov received the newly appointed Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan Erik Beishembiyev, the press service of the Parliament.

More Details:

<http://akipress.com/news:588365/>

- **The Dangers of Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons**

Nuclear weapons today are a part of Pakistan's belief system, having been built up over the years because they seem to have provided a credible deterrent against Indian aggression. Pakistan is convinced, maybe rightly so, that its nuclear capability has been able to deter India from escalating hostilities in the last three decades. Pakistan is now on a journey to strengthen its deterrent.

More Details:

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/02/the-dangers-of-pakistans-tactical-nuclear-weapons/>

- **Pakistan, Australia launch water prog**

Federal Minister for Science and Technology Rana Tanveer Hussain and Australian High Commissioner Margaret Adamson on Tuesday launched the Australia-supported water programme

with the amount of 15 million Australian dollars to continue longstanding bilateral collaboration on building capacity to improve water management and boost agricultural productivity in Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/01-Feb-17/pakistan-australia-launch-water-prog>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish president meets Syrian 'Teardrop' girl**

A young Syrian girl whose heartfelt offer to donate her eyes to her blinded father touched the world met President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday. Dema Nasir, whose father Mamoon Khaled Nasir also lost his legs and several fingers in a barrel bomb attack, was greeted by Erdogan and his wife at the Presidential Palace in Ankara. Dema was joined by her father, 27, and sister Sidre.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/turkish-president-meets-syrian-teardrop-girl/738790>

- **Germany rejects Turkish request to share intelligence in campaign against Daesh**

Germany has ruled out giving Turkey unfiltered access to imagery gathered by Tornado fighter jets operating out of Incirlik air base in southern Turkey as part of the broader fight against Daesh militants, the Defense Ministry said. German lawmakers, concerned that Turkey could use the high-resolution aerial imagery in its military campaign against autonomy-seeking YPG terrorists, have put strict limits on how German forces can share the data they gather.

More Details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/02/01/germany-rejects-turkish-request-to-share-intelligence-in-campaign-against-daesh>

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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