



# 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**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Senior IS member, aides killed in coalition airstrikes west of Mosul**

A senior Islamic State member and four other aides were killed in airstrikes by the United States.-led coalition west of Mosul on Tuesday, according to an Iraqi officer.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/features/senior-member-aides-killed-coalition-airstrikes-west-mosul/>

- **Over 500 IDPs Arrive at Peshmerga Frontline near Mosul Dam**

Fearing intensified military clashes, hundreds of civilians on Tuesday escaped their homes in the suburb of Tel Afar, seeking refuge in the areas under the control of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/355876>

- **Saadi Pira Holds Role of South Korea High**

Pira held role of South Korea high in assisting Kurdistan especially in the sectors of education and health. "Your acts are deeply appreciated and will forever stay in our hearts," says Pira.

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40477](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40477)

- **Barzani to discuss independence referendum with Kurdistan parties**

Kurdistan President Massoud Barzani will meet with Kurdistan Parties to discuss several issues, among them is Kurdistan independence referendum. Kadehein Party top leader Saad Khalid said that this meeting will be held on Wednesday.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11689/Barzani-to-discuss-independence-referendum-with-Kurdistan-parties>

- **Iraqi military will coordinate with Syrian gov't to secure border: Abadi**

The Iraqi military will coordinate with the Syrian government forces to secure the border between the two countries, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-'Abadi said during press conference on Tuesday.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-military-will-coordinate-syrian-govt-secure-border-abadi/>

- **UN: ISIS Murdered 163 Mosul Residents in One Day**

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein accused on Tuesday the ISIS extremist group of murdering 163 people as they were attempting to flee the western part of the Iraqi city of Mosul on June 1. He told the UN Human Rights Council: "The brutality of ISIS and other terrorist groups seemingly knows no bounds."

More Details

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/un-isis-murdered-163-mosul-residents-one-day>

- **Displaced Mosul Families Speak out against Detention over Alleged ISIS Ties**

For two months, Yusra Mohammed, a refugee from the embattled city of Mosul, heard nothing from her two children, Qusay and Saddam, who were detained by Kurdish forces. They were held after fleeing the battleground in the city.

More Details

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/displaced-mosul-families-speak-detention-alleged-isis-ties>

- **Siblings who escaped ISIS in Mosul tortured to death by elite Iraqi unit**

Successfully fleeing ISIS-held Mosul does not necessarily guarantee safety and an end to the misery for Iraqi civilians, especially for military-age males, according to a photographer who has witnessed and documented the brutal and sometimes deadly interrogation tactics of an elite unit.

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/news/391182-siblings-tortured-iraq-forces/>

- **Iraqi Prime Minister Says Baghdad, Damascus Have Common Goal of Destroying Daesh**

The prime minister pointed out that Baghdad was striving for establishing control over the areas close to the border with Syria in coordination with the Syrian government.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706071054383964-iraq-syria-common-goal-daesh/>

- **Kurdish security boss: UK terror laws 'too soft'**

Lahur Talabany, the head of Kurdish counter terrorism and a key ally of western agencies, also said that many more attacks like those in London and Manchester are likely as Islamic State loses ground in Iraq

More Details

<http://news.sky.com/story/kurdish-security-boss-uk-terror-laws-too-soft-10906702>

- **Iraqi soldier barely flinches as alleged terrorist tank triggers explosion during interview**

An Iraqi soldier barely flinched when an alleged terrorist tank triggered an explosion just metres behind him during an interview live to air

More Details

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2017/06/07/10/58/iraqi-soldier-barely-flinches-as-alleged-terrorist-tank-triggers-explosion-during-interview>

- **Iraq: Shi'ite Militia Continue Push towards Syrian Border**

Iraqi Shi'ite militia continued their march towards the Syrian border yesterday, taking a string of villages from Isis west of Mosul. Capitalising on their capture of Baaj at the weekend, the Popular Mobilisation Units (PMU) pushed another 10 miles south-west towards the desert frontier.

More Details

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-f4ba-Iraq-Shiite-militia-continue-push-towards-Syrian-border#.WTelT9SLSmU>

- **Kurdish president Barzani receives top US general in Erbil, discuss Sinjar situation**

President Masoud Barzani received a United States military delegation headed by General Joseph Votel, the Commander of the Central Command.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/kurdish-president-barzani-receives-top-us-general-erbil-discuss-sinjar-situation/>

- **Iraq faces obstacles in efforts to lift output**

Iraq is looking to reboot its long-thwarted ambition to push oil output capacity back up among the top ranks of world producers, but it still faces a number of high hurdles.

More Details

<http://www.thenational.ae/business/energy/iraq-faces-obstacles-in-efforts-to-lift-output>

- **Iraqi Hashd al-Sha'abi forces achieve fresh territorial gains west of Mosul**

Iraqi pro-government fighters from Popular Mobilization Units have registered more territorial gains against Daesh terrorists west of Mosul as they continue their joint operations with army soldiers to flush the extremists out of the country's second largest city.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/06/524390/Iraqi-Hashd-alShaabi-fighters-liberate-villages-Baaj>

- **Iraq plans additional budget to access IMF funds**

The war-torn country is currently working through a three-year \$5.34bn programme with the fund, with aims including restoring balance to the public finances, achieving debt sustainability and curbing corruption.

More Details

<http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/news/2017/06/iraq-plans-additional-budget-access-imf-funds>

- **Iraq: Lives Of 100,000 Children In Danger As Fighting Continues In West Mosul**

Some 100,000 children remain in extremely dangerous conditions in western sections of Iraq's Mosul city as fighting between Government and terrorist forces continues, the United Nations children's agency today reported, warning that "children's lives are on the line."

More Details

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/06062017-iraq-lives-of-100000-children-in-danger-as-fighting-continues-in-west-mosul/>

- **Korean special forces in UAE to cheer for nat'l football team in friendly vs. Iraq**

South Korea, led by head coach Uli Stielike, will take on Iraq at the 5,200-capacity Emirates Club Stadium in Ras Al Khaimah at 9 p.m. Wednesday (local time), or 2 a.m. Thursday in Seoul. This match is a tune-up for South Korea's upcoming World Cup qualifier against Qatar in Doha next Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20170607000816>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Russian senators condemn US-led coalition's air strike in Syria**

The Air Force of the U.S.-led antiterrorism coalition in Syria on Tuesday delivered a strike on the pro-government forces in a zone of de-escalation in the south of Syria, the staff of the Inherent Resolve operation said in a statement. The operation's command claimed that the Syrian troops allegedly posed a threat to the forces of the coalition and its partners stationed at the Al-Tanf base. US-led coalition's Air Force deliver air strike at pro-government forces in Syria. "Eventually, such actions by the United States undermine the process of political settlement, because they give the terrorists grounds to think that they are not alone in fighting the government forces, that a great power like the United States is also on their side. It may give them some additional power to continue fighting on the territory of Syria, and in Iraq too," Viktor Ozerov said.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/politics/950211>

- **Baghdad, Damascus have common goal of destroying ISIL**

The Pentagon announced on Tuesday that the Washington-led international coalition launched a new air strike against forces linked to the regime in east Syria for ignoring previous warnings not to enter the area. It was the second time in less than a month that the US forces attacked pro-regime militias in Syria. The coalition said these forces included tanks and other vehicles in addition to a group of about 60 pro-regime soldiers.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125773/Baghdad-Damascus-have-common-goal-of-destroying-ISIL>

- **Raqa campaign cements rising profile of Syria's Kurds**

Syria's Kurds were once a marginalised minority, but now they are leading the charge for the Islamic State group's Raqa bastion and hoping to cement their gains in the war. The surprise turnaround in their fortunes is the result of several factors, including the Syrian regime's decision to focus attention elsewhere and a key alliance with Washington against IS.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170607-raqa-campaign-cements-rising-profile-syrias-kurds>

- **US-backed rebel spokesman: 'Time has come' to advance on Deir e-Zor**

The American-led coalition and US-backed Syrian rebels built a new outpost deep in the Syrian desert Sunday, as a rebel spokesman tells Syria Direct that the "time has come" to advance on the Islamic State in the eastern province of Deir e-Zor. The newly constructed a-Zakaf outpost is located in the Syrian Badia—the stretch of desert in southern Syria spanning Homs and Deir e-Zor provinces—120km away from Islamic State-held al-Bukamal city along the Euphrates River.

More Details:

<http://ar.syriadirect.org/news/us-backed-rebel-spokesman-%E2%80%98time-has-come%E2%80%99-to-advance-on-deir-e-zor/>

- **Hundreds of Syrian fighters join Manbij military council to support Raqqa campaign**

At least 237 fighters have joined the Manbij Military Council after receiving at the academy of martyr commander Faysal Abu Layla. The fighters include Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen. The ceremony was attended by the General Commander of the Manbij Military Council, Abu Amjad, and FSA commanders Abu Adel, Anwar Ismail, and members of the Manbij council.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/hundreds-of-syrian-fighters-join-manbij-military-council-to-support-raqqa-campaign/>

- **US-led coalition hits Syrian forces in south**

The coalition claimed in a statement on Tuesday that the Syrian forces had entered the so-called de-escalation zones near the border with Jordan and Iraq despite several warnings. "Despite previous warnings, pro-regime forces entered the agreed-upon de-confliction zone with a tank, artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, armed technical vehicles and more than 60 soldiers," the statement said.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/06/524420/USled-coalition-Syrian-forces-deescalation-zones>

- **Some 60,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon in Jordan could lose assistance, warns UNHCR**

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sounded the alarm that humanitarian programmes supporting Syrian refugees and their host communities are quickly running out of resources. Citing critical gaps in Lebanon and Jordan, UNHCR spokesperson Andrej Mahecic told journalists in Geneva that vital parts of its response to Syrian refugees were critically underfunded.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302617909>

- **Syria: As airstrikes hit Raqqa, UN sounds alarm over plight of civilians**

The United Nations humanitarian wing today said it is deeply concerned for the safety and protection of more than 400,000 civilians “who continue to be exposed to daily fighting and airstrikes” in Syria's war-torn Raqqa Governorate. “The humanitarian situation in Al-Raqqa governorate remains dire, with the majority of the population reportedly facing critical problems in meeting their immediate needs,” Alessandra Vellucci, Director of the UN Nations Information Service in Geneva on behalf of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) told reporters at today's regular press briefing.

More Details:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56914#.WTeiZNSLTGh>

- **Syrian Army successfully attacks ISIS in Deir-ez-Zor**

In the Syrian province of Deir ez-Zor, the Syrian air forces carried out massive air strikes on the positions of ISIS terrorists. At the same time, the Syrian artillery units caused significant damage to the militants during a large-scale rocket and artillery shelling of their fortifications. At the same time, the Arab media reported about massive losses in the ranks of terrorists, both in manpower and in military equipment. At the moment, the Syrian army continues preventive air strikes and artillery along the routes of the column of terrorists, who are trying to penetrate the capital of the same province. Nowadays, we know about a large number of destroyed military equipment of ISIS, including armored cars.

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/06/06/syrian-army-successfully-attacks-isis-in-deir-ez-zor/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Inside Iran's Parliament: Armenian MP says sitting continues, despite attack**

Armed men opened fire at the Iranian parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Khomeini in the capital this morning, causing a number of casualties.

More Details:

<http://www.armradio.am/en/2017/06/07/inside-irans-parliament-armenian-mp-says-sitting-continues-despite-attack/>

- **Iran hits back at India, inks gas field deal with Russian firm**

Iran has signed a basic agreement with Russian energy giant Gazprom for development of Farzad B gas field, discovered by a consortium of Indian state-run companies, in an apparent retaliation against India's bid to pressure Tehran for a formal deal by cutting purchase of Iranian oil.

More Details:

[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/59028350.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/59028350.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

- **Trump, Saudis playing into Iran's hands**

Turkey has been warning friends and foes that Iranian expansionism is one of the leading menaces in our region. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has stressed this point over and over again on various occasions, underlining the fact that Iranian expansionism uses sectarianism as a cover to further its goals and thus create a Sunni-Shiite rift.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/columns/ilnur-cevik/2017/06/07/trump-saudis-playing-into-irans-hands>

- **Iran's FM Confers with European Diplomats on Regional Developments**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif discussed the latest regional developments in telephone conversations with a number of his European counterparts.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/07/1429557/iran-s-fm-confers-with-european-diplomats-on-regional-developments>

- **Iran-Russia coalition changed equations in Syria**

Iran's SNSC Head Shamkhani said the coalition among Iran, Russia, Syria, Iraq and Hezbollah succeeded in changing the equation in the Syrian scene.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125778/Iran-Russia-coalition-changed-equations-in-Syria>

- **Several wounded in attacks on Iran parliament, tomb: reports**

Several people were reported injured after armed men burst into Tehran's parliament building and the mausoleum of revolutionary founder Ruhollah Khomeini, with state media reporting at least one suicide bombing.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170607-several-wounded-attacks-iran-parliament-tomb-reports>

- **Iranian deputy FM discusses water issue with Afghan president**

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour met the Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday to talk about water management issues.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82556769/>

- **Iran airspace traffic rises as Qatari flights transfer**

The number of flights passing through Iran's airspace has increased by 100 to 150 to about 1,100 per day owing to transferring of Qatar Airways flights, a top official was quoted as saying by Irna on Tuesday.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN\\_326049.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN_326049.html)

- **Iran Gasoline Imports Decline**

Gasoline imports reached 10 million liters per day on average since the beginning of the current fiscal in March, down almost 2 million liters from the previous fiscal, the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) managing director said.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/energy/65913/iran-gasoline-imports-decline>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Palestinian Authority: Israel will loosen restrictions in Area C**

PA leader Rami Hamdallah on Tuesday spoke about his meeting with Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon (Kulanu) and emphasized the fact that the meeting had been initiated by Kahlon.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230675>

- **Israeli Soldiers Injure Five Palestinians, Abduct One, In Qalqilia**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Wednesday at dawn, Qalqilia city, in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, shot and injured three with live fire, and two others who were hit with bullets' fragments, and abducted a young man.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-soldiers-injure-five-palestinians-abduct-one-in-qalqilia/>

- **Palestinian Sources: US Ideas Ripe For Negotiation**

Palestinian sources expected on Tuesday the US administration to suggest ideas ripe for negotiation concerning the most sensitive and disputed issues with Israel in the framework of reaching a peace agreement between the two sides.

More details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/kifah-ziboun/news-middle-east/palestinian-sources-us-ideas-ripe-negotiation>

- **After 8-month hiatus, Ethiopian immigrants land in Israel**

Surrounded by Israeli flags and dozens of balloons, more than 200 families and supporters gathered at Ben Gurion Airport on Tuesday night to welcome 72 new Ethiopian immigrants to Israel, the first group to immigrate since the government "resumed" Ethiopian immigration last October.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/after-8-month-hiatus-ethiopian-immigrants-land-in-israel/>

- **Amnesty calls for ban on all imports from Israeli settlements to mark 50 years of occupation**

Amnesty International has called for an international ban on all goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements to mark 50 years of occupation of Palestinian territories.

More details:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2017-06-07/amnesty-calls-for-ban-on-all-imports-from-israeli-settlements-to-mark-50-years-of-occupation/1677026>

- **Does the UN Have an Anti-Israel Bias?**

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations put the organization's Human Rights Council on notice Tuesday, saying it needs to reform or the U.S. will withdraw from it. Nikki Haley, who also is a member of President Donald Trump's cabinet, has been very vocal about what she says is the 47-member, Geneva-based council's bias against Israel.

More details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/united-nations-israel-bias/3889691.html>

- **Former Israeli Defense Minister: Turkey's Erdogan Is 'Intentionally Islamicizing Europe'**

In an interview with the Times of Israel, former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon accused Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of "intentionally Islamicizing Europe" by flooding it with Muslim immigrants, both from Turkey and elsewhere.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/06/06/former-israeli-defense-minister-turkeys-erdogan-intentionally-islamicizing-europe/>

- **Why Israel Can't Afford to Destroy Hamas**

An uneasy balance of escalatory and de-escalatory factors exists in Gaza making another round of hostilities between Israel and Hamas—a constant possibility. Judging from the statements made by Israeli defense minister Avigdor Lieberman, and following the recent state comptroller's report on the failings during the 2014 operation, the next round of hostilities in Gaza is likely to be more intensive than the past three series of fights, which took place in 2009, 2012 and 2014. Lieberman envisions that the next conflict in Gaza will bring an end to Hamas' control through the use of all-out military force. In an interview with the Palestinian newspaper Al-Quds (October 24, 2016), he said that if Hamas were to force a new round of hostilities on Israel, then it would be its last "because we will completely destroy them."

More details:

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-israel-cant-afford-destroy-hamas-21033>

- **Benjamin Netanyahu Promises to Continue Settlement Activity in West Bank**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised on Tuesday that the construction of Israeli settlements will go on and that the enterprise will be safeguarded.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706071054380065-netanyahu-israel-settlement-activity/>

- **Brglez starting two-day visit to Israel and Palestine**

Parliamentary Speaker Milan Brglez will start on Wednesday a two-day official visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, as part of which he will meet his Israeli counterpart Yuli-Yoel Edelstein and representatives of the Palestinian authorities.

More details:

<https://english.sta.si/2395832/brglez-starting-two-day-visit-to-israel-and-palestine>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Mauritania cuts ties with Qatar, Jordan to downgrade representation**

Earlier Tuesday, Jordan said it will downgrade its diplomatic representation with Qatar after examining the “cause of the crisis” between Doha and several other Arab states. Jordan also revoked the license of Doha-based TV channel Al Jazeera, government spokesman Mohammad al Momani said.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1111061/middle-east>

- **Lebanon’s President: We are Determined to Combat Terrorism**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Tuesday that Lebanon was “determined to combat terrorist organizations and uncover all terror rings”. “The army is still carrying out air and land strikes against terrorist organizations’ bases, leaving major losses among the ranks of terrorists,” Aoun said during his meeting with US Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander General Joseph Votel, at the Baabda palace.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/lebanons-president-determined-combat-terrorism>

- **Hariri explains steps taken to keep Beirut 'the jewel of the Arabs'**

Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, on Tuesday maintained that the sons of Beirut were the guardians of coexistence, vowing to protect the capital's civilized face. This is the speech delivered by the President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri during the iftar held tonight by the Future Movement in BIEL: "Beirut the capital is precious to the hearts of all the Lebanese and is the symbol

of Lebanon's message of coexistence between Muslims and Christians," Hariri told an Iftar hosted by Future Movement at BIEL last night.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80074/Hariri-explains-steps-taken-to-keep-Beirut-39-the-jewel-of-the-Arabs-39>

- **Jordan imported commodities worth JD4.5b this year — sector leader**

The value of commodities imported to Jordan from around the world this year up to the end of May, amounted to more than JD4.5 billion, according to Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) President Issa Murad. Quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Tuesday, Murad said the commerce sector comes second in terms of share in the credit granted by banks, noting that the value of credit extended during the first quarter of this year amounted to JD4.036 billion.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-imported-commodities-worth-jd45b-year-%E2%80%94-sector-leader>

- **Lebanon captures ISIS attack plotter**

Lebanese authorities have arrested a Lebanese man accused of planning a suicide attack on behalf of ISIS, state news agency NNA reported on Tuesday. The man told police that militants had trained him in north Lebanon and that an ISIS operative in Iraq had taught him via the Internet to make an explosive belt, NNA reported.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/lebanon-captures-isis-attack-plotter/>

- **Mashnouq Confirms IS Plot to Blow Up Dahieh Restaurant Foiled**

Interior Minister Nuhad al-Mashnouq confirmed Tuesday that Lebanon's security agencies have foiled an Islamic State plot to blow up a restaurant in Beirut's southern suburbs during the holy month of Ramadan. Mashnouq made the confirmation during a meeting at the ministry with British Ambassador to Lebanon Hugo Shorter during which he offered condolences over the victims of the London terrorist attacks.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231036-mashnouq-confirms-is-plot-to-blow-up-dahieh-restaurant-foiled>

- **The Rise of Katibat Dir' al-Watan: A Journey to the Lebanon-Syria Border Areas**

Four years ago, Lebanon's north-eastern borderlands with Syria came to the forefront of media attention as the entry point for Hezbollah fighters to participate in the battle to capture the key Homs countryside town of al-Qusayr from Syrian rebels. Though there had already been reports of Hezbollah 'martyrs' through fighting in Syria, al-Qusayr was the first major engagement in the Syrian civil war in which Hezbollah's role became widely publicised, not unjustified considering that the group lost dozens of fighters in the battle.

More Details:

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/syriasource/the-rise-of-katibat-dir-al-watan-a-journey-to-the-lebanon-syria-border-areas>

- **Middle East: Lebanon central bank's Salamé prepares for the next storm**

Every time Lebanese bankers jump a hurdle, another one rises before them. Twelve months ago, on a quiet evening during Ramadan, a bomb exploded outside the headquarters of Blom Bank in Beirut. Responsibility for the attack was never claimed, but it was widely interpreted as a warning sent by Hezbollah to the Lebanese banking community, which was in the process of implementing a US law – the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act, or HIFPA – curbing the Shi'ite party's access to the financial sector. Fortunately there were no fatalities. Eventually tensions surrounding the new regulation faded.

More Details:

<http://www.euromoney.com/Article/3723160/Middle-East-Lebanon-central-banks-Salam-prepares-for-the-next-storm.html>

- **Aoun chairs meeting to Discuss Israel's Theft of Lebanese Water**

President of the Republic, Michel Aoun, chaired on Tuesday a meeting by the committee tasked to seek solutions to Israel's theft of Lebanese water in presence of Water and Energy Minister, Cezar Abi Khalil.

More Details:

<http://en.addiyar.com/article/1385124-aoun-chairs-meeting-to-discuss-israels-theft-of-lebanese-water>

- **Hariri meets U.S., Canadian Ambassadors**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri met, at the Grand Serail on Thursday, with Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon, Michelle Cameron, over the current general situation and the bilateral relations. Hariri also

met with Minister of Finance, Ali Hassan Khalil, and MP Bahiya Hariri, in presence of Head of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, Nabil Jisr.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80062/Hariri-meets-Canadian-Ambassadors>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

### • **Yemen: Resisting Oppression, Uniting a Movement**

Yemen today I believe has become the forefront of a grand resistance movement whose reach, architecture and goals will transcend differences. June 5th, 2017 marked 800 days of war in Yemen. Allow me to rephrase that statement so that maybe you will appreciate the gravity it carries for a people whose only crime was to demand that which is our birthright: freedom.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/opinion/Yemen-Resisting-Oppression-Uniting-a-Movement-20170606-0037.html>

### • **UAE: Social Media Users Face Jail for Qatar Sympathy**

The United Arab Emirates has banned people from publishing expressions of sympathy towards Qatar and will punish offenders with a jail term of up to 15 years, the UAE-based newspaper Gulf News and pan-Arab channel Al-Arabiya reported. In a statement released on Wednesday, UAE's Attorney-General Hamad Saif al-Shamsi said sympathising with Qatar was a cybercrime punishable by law.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/uae-social-media-users-face-jail-qatar-sympathy-170607053416087.html>

### • **3 Saudi Military Men Killed by Yemeni Snipers in Jizan**

Yemeni snipers killed 3 Saudi troopers in the kingdom's Southern region of Jizan in another retaliatory attack against Riyadh's full-scale war on the impoverished nation. "Three Saudi soldiers were killed by the Yemeni snipers in al-Karas and al-Shabakeh regions of Jizan and 12 Saudi mercenaries, including a commander, were targeted in al-Jahmaliyeh region of Ta'iz province," a Yemeni military source said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960316001549>

- **Kuwaiti Emir Trying to Mediate Row between Persian Gulf Arab States**

The Kuwaiti emir has engaged in shuttle diplomacy to help mediate a solution to the dispute between Qatar on the one side and Saudi Arabia and its allies on the other, the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the Persian Gulf region in years. Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported on Tuesday that Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al Sabah had paid a “brotherly visit” to Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/07/524446/Kuwait-Qatar-Saudi-Arabia>

- **Jordan Downgrades Qatari Ties**

Jordan announced on Tuesday that it was reducing its diplomatic ties with Qatar amid a deepening political crisis in the region. After "examining the cause" of the crisis, the Jordanian government also decided to revoke licenses for the Doha-based broadcaster Al Jazeera.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/jordan-downgrades-qatari-ties/a-39138359>

- **Trump, Saudi King Talk Over Phone on Gulf Unity**

President Trump threw his weight behind the Saudi-led isolation of Qatar, calling it just punishment for the country's financial support for Islamic extremists and taking sides in a dispute among U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf. Riad Hamade reports on "Bloomberg Markets Middle East."

More Details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2017-06-07/trump-saudi-king-talk-over-phone-on-gulf-unity-video>

- **Kuwaiti Emir in Riyadh in Hopes of Healing Gulf Rift**

Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on Tuesday arrived in Saudi Arabia as part of ongoing efforts to contain an unprecedented diplomatic row between Qatar and five other Arab states. Al-Sabah was received at Jeddah’s King Abdulaziz International Airport by Prince Khalid al-Faisal, governor of Mecca and adviser to Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz, and other Saudi officials.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/kuwaiti-emir-in-riyadh-in-hopes-of-healing-gulf-rift/835889>

- **Oman Air to Boost Flights to Qatar**

National carrier Oman Air will fly larger capacity planes to Doha after some countries suspended flights to Qatar. The airline is upping capacity on the route and helping by organising extra charter flights. Speaking to the Times of Oman, a senior official of Oman Air said: "Oman Air is upgrading its flights to bigger aircraft with more capacity from June 8 until June 14."

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/110725/Oman/Transport/Oman-Air-to-boost-flights-to-Qatar>

- **Flights to Qatar Operate Normally**

The Transportation Ministry has said that all flights en route to Qatar continue to operate normally despite several Arab nations, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt, cutting their diplomatic ties with the country. "The policy has a least impact to our flights operation," the Ministry's Aviation Director Maria Kristi Endah Murni informed ANTARA here on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.antaraneews.com/en/news/111269/flights-to-qatar-operate-normally>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt, UAE can hamper Turkey's mediation in Qatar crisis settlement**

Currently, Turkey has a number of problems with Egypt and United Arab Emirates, Murat Yesiltas, director of security policy program of the Turkish Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA), told Trend over phone. He added that those Arab countries will likely to hamper Ankara's mediation in resolving the Qatar crisis. The expert said that Ankara is sure that the Qatar crisis is a threat to the region and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is also working to resolve the crisis.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/world/turkey/2763384.html>

- **Sisi, Putin discuss latest developments in Middle East in phone call**

Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi discussed on Tuesday over the phone the latest updates in the Middle East region, state news agency MENA reported.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/270409/-.aspx>

- **Hongkongers stranded in Egypt**

Some 52 Hongkongers were stranded in Egypt due to flight suspensions after several Middle Eastern countries and their allies cut diplomatic ties with Qatar. Qatar Airways said it has suspended all flights to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt until further notice. The four nations - along with Yemen and the Maldives - accuse Qatar of supporting extremism.

More Details:

<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news.php?id=183698>

- **Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia assert importance of political agreements in Libya**

Algerian Prime Minister (PM) received on Tuesday Egypt and Tunisia's ministers of foreign affairs for a two-day discussion with the Algerian minister of foreign affairs regarding the Libyan issue, according to a press statement.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/06/06/egypt-algeria-tunisia-assert-importance-political-agreements-libya/>

- **Gulf falls as Qatar crisis worries investors, Egypt continues ascent**

June 6 Most Gulf stock markets fell on Tuesday as the diplomatic crisis surrounding Qatar worried investors, while Egypt's equities index climbed for an 11th straight day to a fresh record high.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/mideast-stocks-idUSL8N1J32DJ?rpc=401&>

- **Mexico's Cemex to pump \$20 mln into Egypt operations this year**

Mexico's Cemex, one of the world's largest cement producers, plans to boost its investments in Egypt to \$1.220 billion, said Cemex Egypt's president Ramon Piza.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/investment-news/industry-trade/57299-mexicos-cemex-to-pump-20-mln-into-egypt-operations-this-year.html>

- **Egypt to suspend air links with Qatar from today**

Egypt said it will suspend air links with Qatar from Tuesday, 6 June 2017, after it and other Arab states cut diplomatic ties with the Gulf emirate and accused it of supporting extremism.

More Details:

<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/389/162862.html>

- **Why is Egypt involved in the latest GCC crisis?**

In a move that is sure to have far-reaching consequences, three Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain - and Egypt announced on Monday that they would sever diplomatic ties with Qatar. The acting countries, who were later joined by a few of their regional partners, didn't leave their motivations to the imagination. The collective decision was explicitly billed as part of these nations' broader fight against terrorism; the Saudi Arabia-led axis accuses Qatar of supporting terrorist groups.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/06/egypt-involved-latest-gcc-crisis-170606065259237.html>

- **Egypt Creates Gov't Board to Monitor Situation after Cutting Ties with Qatar**

The Egyptian government created on Monday a special commission to monitor the situation around Qatar, with which Cairo cut diplomatic ties over alleged links to terrorism, local media reported, citing Manpower and Immigration Minister Mohamed Mahmoud Ahmed Saafan.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706061054340442-egypt-comission-qatar/>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisia radical Islamist party banned for one month**

Tunisian judicial authorities on Tuesday slapped a one-month ban on radical Islamist party Hizb ut-Tahrir, notably for incitement to hatred, the prosecution said. "The activities of the party have been suspended for a month from today," said prosecution spokesman Sofiene Sliti. The decision was taken because of the party's "incitement to hatred and its calls to put in place a caliphate", said Sliti.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4578370/Tunisia-radical-Islamist-party-banned-one-month.html>

- **Tunisia, France to establish joint higher council**

France and Tunisia have decided to establish a Higher Council which will hold its first meeting in Tunisia before the end of the year. The French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean Yves Le Drian, announced the establishment of the body which will be under the chairmanship of Tunisian President Béji Cayed Essebsi and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170606-tunisia-france-to-establish-joint-higher-council/>

- **Syria refugees still stuck between Morocco and Algeria: NGOS**

Dozens of Syrian refugees remained stranded in no-man's land between Morocco and Algeria on Tuesday, non-governmental groups said, despite an Algerian offer to help. Algiers said last week it would take in the refugees after the United Nations urged both sides to help the Syrians, who include a pregnant woman and have been stranded in the desert area since April 17.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4578464/Syria-refugees-stuck-Morocco-Algeria-NGOS.html>

- **Algeria calls on Arab states to resolve differences by dialog**

Algeria expressed "deep concern" on Tuesday after several Arab states cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, appealing to the countries involved to resolve their differences through dialogue. "While calling on all the countries concerned to adopt dialogue ... Algeria appeals for the need to observe, in all circumstances, the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of states," said a foreign ministry statement carried by state news agency APS.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-gulf-qatar-algeria-idUSKBN18X0YL>

- **Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia assert importance of political agreements in Libya**

Algerian Prime Minister (PM) received on Tuesday Egypt and Tunisia's ministers of foreign affairs for a two-day discussion with the Algerian minister of foreign affairs regarding the Libyan issue, according to a press statement. Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sameh Shoukry, asserted on Monday that Egypt's latest attack on an eastern city in Libya, targeting terrorist groups, followed evidence of a terrorist's affiliation.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/06/06/egypt-algeria-tunisia-assert-importance-political-agreements-libya/>

- **Libya wants to try Qatar at the ICC, Libyan eastern ambassador to Saudi Arabia says**

The Libyan eastern ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Abdelbasit Al-Badri, said the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) wants to file a lawsuit against Qatar at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for what he said the crimes it committed against Libya and Libyan people. “We are trying to do so with the help of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Libyans are trying to bring back peace and security, however; Qatar has always helped divide Libyans.” Al-Badri said.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/libya-wants-to-try-qatar-at-the-icc-libyan-eastern-ambassador-to-saudi-arabia-says/>

- **Morocco Elected Vice-President of UN Conference on Oceans**

Morocco has been unanimously elected to join 12 other countries as co-vice presidents at the United Nations Conference on oceans, which runs until June 9 at the UN’s headquarters in New York. All 193 members of the United Nations approved Morocco’s vice presidency, which will help the organisation “reverse the declining health of our oceans for people, the planet and prosperity.”

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/06/218988/morocco-elected-vice-president-un-conference-oceans/>

- **West Africa: Ecowas Admits Morocco, but Studying Implications**

The Northern African country of Morocco's request to join the West African regional body has been approved in principle by ECOWAS, but West African leaders are studying the implications of its membership before its membership can be formally endorsed. King Mohammed VI of Morocco was expected to take part in the 51st ECOWAS summit but canceled his trip to Liberia due to the controversy surrounding the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the event.

More Details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201706060738.html>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Six Taliban Insurgents Killed in Faryab Clash**

The clash lasted a few hours but eventually security forces were able to push back the insurgents, officials confirmed. At least six Taliban insurgents were killed in a clash with security forces in northern Faryab province on Tuesday morning, local officials said on Wednesday. In addition, a number of other insurgents were injured.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/six-taliban-insurgents-killed-faryab-clash>

- **Kabul Process Conference; Durable Peace, Stability in Afghanistan**

The government of Afghanistan has been fully determined to take the initiative for the peace process, aiming to engage the region in order to address the multiple dimensions of the ongoing violence in the country. The search for peace and security in Afghanistan includes multiple interlinked dimensions – between the government, Afghan society, armed groups, neighbors in the region and involved actors around the globe.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/editorial/14175-kabul-process-conference-durable-peace-stability-in-afghanistan.html>

- **New US Strategy to Ensure ‘Terrorists Never Retake Afghanistan’**

US state and defence secretaries have said that the new Afghan strategy that the Trump administration is working on would ensure that terrorists do not use Afghanistan as a safe haven again. A transcript released by the Pentagon in Washington quotes the two leaders as confirming media reports that the Trump administration was finalising a new US strategy for Afghanistan, which would seek to eradicate terrorism and ensure the continuation of the present setup in Kabul.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1337902/new-us-strategy-to-ensure-terrorists-never-retake-afghanistan>

- **Four Pakistani Commanders Among 31 ISIS Fighters Killed**

Including 4 Pakistani commander 31 Daesh affiliates were killed in a series of air and ground raids in eastern Nangarhar province. The fighters were targeted by Afghan security forces during the last 24 hours in Achen, Koot and Heska Mina districts of the province.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/28804-four-pakistan-commanders-among-31-isis-fighters-killed.html>

- **President Ghani accuses Pakistan of Launching 'Undeclared War' Against Afghanistan**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has accused neighboring Pakistan of instigating an “undeclared war of aggression” against his country after a series of deadly bombings in the capital Kabul in the past week.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/06/524413/Pakistan-Afghanistan-Ghani-Taliban-Kabul>

- **120kg of Hashish Seized in Separate Raids**

Excise Police Ghotki recovered 120 kg of hashish in raids conducted near Ghotki on Tuesday. According to details, a team, led by Excise and Taxation Officer Yakoob Jagirani, signaled a trailer to stop at Ubaro checkpost and during search recovered 80 kilograms of hashish while driver of the trailer and others managed to escape.

More Details:

<http://nation.com.pk/karachi/07-Jun-2017/120kg-of-hashish-seized-in-separate-raids>

- **China to set up Military Bases in Pakistan – Pentagon Report**

China is set to expand its military capabilities across the globe, with new overseas bases in countries like Pakistan as the world’s largest army seeks an increased role in defending China’s interest abroad, a report by the Pentagon has said.

More Details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/07/china-to-set-up-military-bases-in-pakistan-pentagon-report>

- **Poor Functioning at Government Hospitals**

Private hospitals are extremely expensive and beyond the range of the average person and are only affordable by the upper class. In comparison, government hospitals in Pakistan are in awful conditions.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/06/07/poor-functioning-at-government-hospitals/>

- **Pak Senate Pulls up Army Over LoC Casualty Stats**

Islamabad [Pakistan], June 7 (ANI): The Pakistan Army's refusal to share details of casualties suffered by the military during frequent cross-border exchanges with India along the Line of Control (LoC) has annoyed Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani. The Pakistan Senate had for asked details of the casualties. Speaking on behalf of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Minister of State for Power Abid Sher Ali gave a brief statement in the Senate on Tuesday about the situation along the LoC and provided details about civilian casualties only.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE4NDE2/pak-senate-pulls-up-army-over-loc-casualty-stats.html>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey's Erdogan Holds Talks with Leaders on Lowering Qatar Tension**

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has spoken by phone with the leaders of Qatar, Russia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on lowering tension, presidential sources said, after Arab powers cut ties with Qatar. "The importance of regional peace and stability was underlined in the talks, as well as the importance of focusing on the path of diplomacy and dialogue to lower the current tension," the sources said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/552327/Turkey-s-Erdogan-holds-talks-with-leaders-on-lower>

- **Turkey disapproves of sanctions on Qatar: Erdogan**

Turkey's president Tuesday voiced disapproval of the sanctions on Qatar in the wake of several Arab countries severing diplomatic relations with Doha. "I want to clearly say that we disapprove of the sanctions on Qatar," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "These developments, coming at a time when we need solidarity and cooperation more than ever, are no good for any country in the region."

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190491/turkey-disapproves-of-sanctions-on-qatar-erdogan>

- **Yildirim says Turkey will respond to any Raqqah threats**

Turkey will "give the required response" to any threats to its security arising from the operation to capture Raqqah, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Tuesday. "We will never allow any issue to pose an internal threat to Turkey," he told a meeting of Justice and Development Party lawmakers in

Ankara. “If we face any... threat to our security from Raqqa or any point in that region, we instantly give the required response.”

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/yildirim-says-turkey-will-respond-to-any-raqqah-threats/835588>

*\*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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