



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

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1. IRAQ

- **Airstrike by Iraqi army jets kill Islamic State leader in Hawija**

Prominent Islamic State leader has been killed in an airstrike that targeted Hawija, in Kirkuk province, according to Diyala provincial council's security committee. In remarks to reporters on Wednesday, Sadeq al-Husseini, head of the council, said "prominent IS leader in Hawija known as abu Mohamed al-Shami, a Syrian national, was killed in an airstrike that targeted a group's location in Fudeiha village, in Hawija, southwest of Kirkuk."

More Details

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/airstrike-iraqi-army-jets-kill-islamic-state-leader-hawija/>

- **Political Parties to Convince Gorran and KIG to Participate in Referendum**

A delegation from the political parties will visit Gorran (Change) Movement and Kurdistan Islamic Group (KIG) to settle political difference over the imminent referendum in Kurdistan, said a Turkmen official.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/356117>

- **University of California, Berkeley Delegacy Visit Kurdistan Representatives Office in Poland**

Delegation from University of California, Berkeley visited KRG office the second year in a row and promised to paid another visit in the next year. KRG Representation in Poland hosted a group of 20 students along with their academic adviser Dr Sarah Cramsey from University of California, Berkeley. They are pursuing scientific project: "Contours of Coexistence: Belonging in Modern Europe". Within the frame of it, they are meeting minorities living in East-Central Europe and institutions representing them.

More Details

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40483

- **Kurdistan independence referendum to be held Sep. 25**

The final date of Kurdistan region government referendum on independence will be held September 25, 2017, The Baghdad Post has reported. This date has been specified after a Wednesday meeting between Kurdistan President Massoud Barzani and the region's political parties.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11743/Kurdistan-independence-referendum-to-be-held-Sep-25>

- **Iraqi troops liberate 21 villages on the border with Syria, ISIS expelled from Al-Baaj region**

After imposing full control over the Islamic State stronghold of Al-Ba'aj, the Popular Mobilization Units managed to wrestle control of 21 villages and 3 housing complex in barely 48 hours.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-troops-liberate-21-villages-border-syria-isis-expelled-al-baaj-region/>

- **Bullets fell 'like Rain': Fleeing Iraqis caught in is Ambush**

After days of shelling by Iraqi forces, some 200 residents decided to take their chances and flee from one of the last pockets of Mosul controlled by the Islamic State group. They made it as far as a nearby hospital before militant snipers opened fire from the roof, mowing them down by the dozens.

More Details

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ_MOSUL_AMBUSH?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-08-02-16-12

- **Islamic State armoured vehicles hunted down by Typhoon and Tornado jets**

Tornado and Typhoon aircraft destroyed Islamic State armoured vehicles near Raqqa and attacked eight additional targets in Mosul.

More Details

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/islamic-state-armoured-vehicles-hunted-typhoon-tornado-jets/>

- **Iraqi forces execute hospital employee suspected of ISIS links, journalist tells RT**

Details of the gruesome murder of a hospital employee by members of an elite Iraqi counter-terrorist unit have been shared by photographer Ali Arkady, who in an interview with RT, recalled that the man was shot after soldiers suspected him of trying to lead them into a trap.

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/news/391313-iraq-execution-arkady-interview/>

- **Iraq: Iran-Allied Shiite Troops Expel Kurdish PKK Terrorists from Yazidi-Majority Sinjar**

The Baghdad-sanctioned Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), a predominantly Shiite paramilitary group backed by Iran, has pushed out the U.S.-designated terrorist group known as the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from areas south of the Yazidi-majority Sinjar region in northern Iraq.

More Details

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/06/07/iraq-iran-allied-shiite-troops-expel-kurdish-pkk-terrorists-from-yazidi-majority-sinjar-region/>

- **Chemical Attack in Mosul; 84 Killed in Iraq**

In Mosul, 15 women were shot dead while trying to escape the Farouq neighborhood. A bomb killed 11 soldiers and wounded seven more at a home. Chemical weapons sickened 13 civilians. Security forces killed a suicide bomber. In Zanjili, 34 militants were killed. A prominent leader was killed west of the city.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/07/chemical-attack-mosul-84-killed-iraq/>

- **Iraq: Where Do We Go From Here?**

Briefing on Iraq: Where Do We Go From Here? The discussion by Denise Natali and Nada Bakos, and moderated by Samuel Helfont, provided an outstanding overview of the challenges facing Iraq after ISIS ceases to be a “state.” However, possibly because of the time constraint, the panelists were unable to discuss two issues in greater depth.

More Details

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/08062017-iraq-where-do-we-go-from-here-oped/>

- **Pentagon Awards \$40 Million to Support Avenger Air Defense System in Iraq**

The Pentagon has awarded a \$40 million contract to to acquire engineering and technical services necessary to support the Avenger anti-aircraft defense operated by the Iraqi military.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706081054423016-pentagon-iraq-avenger-defense-system/>

- **Mosul battle a 'deadly game of cat and mouse' with Islamic State**

If there is terror on the streets of the UK and Europe it is a terror stretching to the Middle East as well; a terror brought by Islamic State. In Mosul it is an actual battle, of course. The Old City is the last redoubt of the terror group. The Al Noori mosque, where Islamic State's caliphate was publicly announced, is at its core. The tiny streets around it are a deadly battlefield.

More Details

<http://news.sky.com/story/mosul-battle-a-deadly-game-of-cat-and-mouse-with-islamic-state-10908037>

- **Islamic State families fear persecution in Iraq**

An Iraqi aid worker calls them a ticking time bomb. Almost 170 families are being held in isolation in the Shahama camp, near the city of Tikrit, without access to even a phone to check on their loved ones. Al-Monitor received permission from security forces to visit the camp and spoke with some of the people living there.

More Details

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/iraq-isis-families-shahama-camp-fallujah-tikrit.html>

- **IDPs from Tal Afar tell of horrors under ISIS rule**

Three years under ISIS exposes a hard and difficult life on their faces. Nearly 500 Arab and Turkman families who are more than 3,000 people fled in 3 days. They say they are looking for a place where there is life and safety. They say they came to open a new chapter of their lives and call it post-ISIS life.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/070620174>

- **Iraqi President condemns terrorist attacks in Tehran**

Iraq President Fuad Masum in a message to President Hassan Rouhani condemned terrorist attacks against Majlis (parliament) and Imam Khomeini Mausoleum on Wednesday.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82557317/>

- **Kirkuk to stop sending oil if Baghdad mandates energy sharing**

Kirkuk authorities have strongly warned Baghdad to not move forward with its recent decree to cut some 200 megawatts of power from Kirkuk's national share to offset electricity shortages in other cities, most notably in war-torn Mosul.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/070620172>

- **Iraq/US-Led Coalition: Weapons Choice Endangers Mosul Civilians**

The expected battle involving Iraqi and US-led coalition forces against the Islamic State (ISIS) in west Mosul's Old City poses a considerable threat to civilians and civilian objects, international humanitarian and human rights organizations said today.

More Details

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/08/iraq/us-led-coalition-weapons-choice-endangers-mosul-civilians>

- **Ministry: More than 800,000 civilians displaced from Nineveh since operations began**

Nineveh (IraqiNews.com) Number of civilians displaced from Nineveh province since 2016 has reached 819,000, while number of those displaced from Hawija and eastern Shirqat reached 64,000, the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement announced.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/ministry-800000-civilians-displaced-nineveh-since-operations-began/>

- **Iraqi Forces to Restore Full Security to Western Border with Syria's Cooperation**

The Iraqi premier said at a press conference in Baghdad that the government would definitely not allow ISIL terrorists or any other armed group operating in Iraq to cross into neighboring Syria, adding that Baghdad would not enter the years-long crisis in Syria.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960317000981>

2. SYRIA

- **Russian top diplomat and UN envoy to discuss situation in Syria**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will hold talks in Moscow with UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura on Thursday. The UN envoy is also expected to meet with Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu. This is de Mistura's third visit to the Russian capital in 2017. He came to Moscow in February and March. According to Russian Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and North Africa and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, Lavrov and de Mistura will hold intense consultations on the intra-Syrian talks in Astana.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/politics/950437>

- **Syria: Aid agencies struggle amid battle for ISIL's last stronghold**

The battle for ISIL's last stronghold in Syria - Raqqa - has entered its fourth day. Fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are moving slowly into the city. An estimated 150,000 civilians are trapped there. Aid agencies face a major challenge to care for them.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/06/syria-aid-agencies-struggle-battle-isils-stronghold-170608042546838.html>

- **A long battle for Raqqa may lie ahead – but even defeat will not mean the end for Isis**

Anti-Isis forces are advancing into eastern Raqqa, the de facto Isis capital in Syria, and Iraqi troops have penned surviving Isis fighters into one part of the Old City in Mosul, once the heart of the self-declared Caliphate. "They are down to their last neighbourhoods in Mosul and they already lost part of Raqqa, and the Raqqa campaign from here on can only accelerate," said Brett McGurk, the US envoy to the international coalition fighting Isis. "These are critical elements in the ultimate defeat of Daesh [Isis], but this will be a long-term effort."

More Details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-raqqa-mosul-latest-battle-syria-civil-war-iraq-us-a7778241.html>

- **Russia: US bombing Syrian troops act of aggression**

On Tuesday, US-led warplanes attacked a Syrian military position on the road to the town of al-Tanf, where US forces are based, killing a number of people and causing some material damage. On

Wednesday, Lavrov said the airstrike “was an aggressive act that violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and – deliberately or not – targeted the forces which are most effective in fighting terrorists on the ground.”

More Details:

<http://217.218.67.231/Detail/2017/06/08/524534/lavrov-syria-russia-us-aggression>

- **Syria: Government Troops ‘Posing Threat’ Attacked By US Jets**

US JETS bombed Syrian troops near the Iraqi border for the second time on Tuesday night, both countries’ armed forces confirmed yesterday. A statement from the US-led Operation Inherent Resolve coalition said its aircraft attacked a convoy of “pro-regime forces” headed for the al-Tanf border post, where US, British and Norwegian special forces are in occupation.

More Details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-2566-Syria-Government-troops-posing-threat-attacked-by-US-jets>

- **Syria calls upon ILO to take clear stance and condemn terrorist attacks against civilians**

Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Rakan Ibrahim stressed Syria’s adherence to the International Labor Organization (ILO) strategic objectives, Constitution and conventions. Ibrahim was speaking at the 106 session of the International Labor Conference currently held in Geneva. He called upon the ILO to take a clear stance and condemn the armed terrorist organizations’ criminal acts, demanding the activation of the Organization’s decision on the ILO Director-General’s mission to the occupied Syrian Golan and re-run its programs and activities in Syria.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=107689>

- **US Military Admits Coalition Strike on Pro-Syrian Forces Resulted in Casualties**

The US-led coalition strike against pro-Syrian government forces in the area of At Tanf resulted in casualties, Operation Inherent Resolve spokesperson told Sputnik on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the Pentagon announced the coalition conducted a new strike on pro-Syrian government forces as they entered the de-confliction zone with Russia and posed threat to its personnel. The force comprised of a tank, artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, armed technical vehicles and more than 60 soldiers.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706071054417461-us-coalition-syrian-forces-casualties/>

- **Armenia sends a new shipment of aid to Syria**

According to the Armenian Defense Ministry statement made on June 7, Armenia has sent another major consignment of humanitarian assistance to Syria. It is stated that the humanitarian aid was sent on behalf of the Armenian President within the framework of previous agreements between the ministries. The humanitarian aid includes 18 tons of food and basic necessities. It was delivered by air. The text on the boxes reads “

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/06/07/armenia-sends-a-new-shipment-of-aid-to-syria/>

- **Command Forces Allied to Syria Condemn US Attack**

The Command forces allied to Syria condemned the recent aggression by the United States-led coalition, which it described as a "cowardly act" and demonstrative of Washington's support to terrorists, according to a statement released today. 'The blood of the Syrian children, the Syrian army and its allies is not cheap,' stated a statement that also said to be ready to attack US positions when conditions demand it.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=13904&SEO=command-forces-allied-to-syria-condemn-us-attack>

- **UAE press: Ensure safety of civilians in Raqa**

A UAE newspaper has said that even as the US-backed campaign to capture Raqa in Syria is all set to accelerate, the safety and protection of thousands of civilians there remains a prime concern. "Civilians trapped in Raqa face a dire situation, they risk being killed by Daesh snipers or mines if they try to flee but could also be used by the terrorists as human shields if they decide to remain," said The Gulf Today in an editorial on Thursday. According to the International Rescue Committee, IRC, there has been a drop in the number of people escaping Raqa over the past week, which is an indication that Daesh may use the 200,000 people still trapped in the city as human shields.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302618120>

3. IRAN

- **Iran, France more determined to fight terrorism**

President Hassan Rouhani and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron held a telephone conversation on Wednesday, stressing the importance of the expansion of Tehran-Paris ties to jointly fight against terrorism.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82557909/>

- **Iran weighs whether Saudi Arabia was behind attack**

Iran's military has vowed to take action against the perpetrators of Wednesday's double attacks in Tehran, which killed at least 13 people. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIL) says it was responsible and released a video purporting to show gunmen inside the parliament building.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/06/iran-weighs-saudi-arabia-attack-170608052517161.html>

- **Iran leader shrugs off IS attacks in Tehran**

Iran's supreme leader shrugged off attacks on Wednesday by gunmen and suicide bombers in Tehran that killed 13 people as US president Donald Trump warned the nation was reaping what it sowed.

More Details:

<http://www.manilatimes.net/iran-leader-shrugs-off-attacks-tehran/331614/>

- **Zarif discusses regional issues with Erdogan, Cavusoglu**

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif discussed regional issues with Turkish president and FM on Wednesday in Ankara.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125804/Zarif-discusses-regional-issues-with-Erdogan-Cavusoglu>

- **Iran, China to cooperate in developing new Silk Road**

One of the strategies of the Chinese government is to create what is called the “New Silk Road”; a trillion dollar trade route which is planned to reshape the global economy. The Chinese ambassador to Tehran says Iran will play a significant role in the development of the new Silk Road.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/07/524530/Iran-China-to-cooperate-in-developing-new-silk-road>

- **16 Injured in acid attack in Tehran**

A motor biker has carried out an acid attack on 16 people in the capital Tehran, Iran, informed source said. The incident took place this morning in southern Tehran, APA reports citing Fars news agency.

More Details

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/16-injured-in-acid-attack-in-tehran.html>

- **Iran rejects US statements on Tehran attacks**

Iran’s foreign minister is rejecting U.S. statements about the attacks on Iran’s parliament and the tomb of its revolutionary leader.

More Details:

<http://nypost.com/2017/06/08/iran-rejects-us-statements-on-tehran-attacks/>

- **Iran Gov't Moving Toward Downsizing and Free Market Economy**

President Hassan Rouhani, who was reelected last month, reaffirmed his reform plans to develop a climate conducive to a free and competitive economy.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/65996/iran-govt-moving-toward-downsizing-and-free-market-economy>

- **Iran's Revolutionary Guard blames S.Arabia for attacks, vows revenge**

Iran's Revolutionary Guards has blamed Saudi Arabia for Wednesday's two deadly terror attacks on its parliament and on the shrine of Ayatollah Khomeini.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE4Njlx/iran-039-s-revolutionary-guard-blames-s-arabia-for-attacks-vows-revenge.html>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **What Makes Us-Israel Defense Ties So 'Rock Solid'?**

Three years into his tenure as chief of staff of the Israeli military, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot has a “rock solid” relationship with his American counterpart, General Joseph Dunford, sources around the general say.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/US-Israeli-Army-brass-describe-relations-beyond-daily-politics-496208>

- **Qatari Crisis Could Spell New Trouble for Embattled Hamas**

Qatar, one of the few foreign backers of Hamas, faces massive pressure from its Gulf neighbors to cut ties with the Islamic militant group. If it does, the result could be disastrous for Hamas-ruled Gaza.

More details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_HAMAS_QATAR?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLAT E=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-08-02-18-12

- **Jerusalem: The Heart of the Jewish Nation**

Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of “Yom Yerusalayim” or “Jerusalem Day.” This relatively new holiday is celebrated by Israelis, but also by large segments of the Jewish diaspora. It is a new addition to the Hebrew calendar, celebrating the unification of the city shortly after the Six Day War of June, 1967. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recaptured the Old City of Jerusalem and its Jewish Quarter, which includes the Western Wall - a remnant of Solomon’s Holy Temple.

More details:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/266912/jerusalem-heart-jewish-nation-joseph-puder>

- **Army Invades Homes in Hebron, Fires Gas Bombs Wounding Many Palestinians**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Wednesday at night, several Palestinian homes in Hebron city, in the southern part of the occupied West Bank, searched many homes and confiscated cash and checks, in

addition to firing gas bombs at homes, causing many residents to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/army-invades-homes-in-hebron-fires-gas-bombs-wounding-many-palestinians/>

- **PA: 'Palestine' will be free of 'settlers'**

Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman on Wednesday criticized Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for saying that Israel would strengthen the settlement enterprise in Judea and Samaria.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230736>

- **Israeli Judge Proposes Lighter Charges in Case of Asylum Seeker Mistakenly Killed During Terror Attack**

The judge trying the case of four men who attacked an innocent bystander during a terror attack in Be'er Sheva has proposed that prosecutors lighten the charges against the defendants. The victim, Eritrean asylum seeker Haftom Zarhum, died after being shot and beaten at Be'er Sheva's central bus station, where he was mistaken for a terrorist during an attack in October, 2015.

More details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.794487>

- **Israeli forces kill Palestinian protester in Gaza**

A Palestinian protester died after he was shot in the stomach by Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip late Tuesday night. Fadi Ibrahim al-Najjar, 25, was fatally injured by live fire during confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers along the boundary with Israel east of the Khan Younis area of southern Gaza.

More details:

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/maureen-clare-murphy/israeli-forces-kill-palestinian-protester-gaza>

- **Ryan says Jerusalem will ‘never be divided again’**

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan said Wednesday that Jerusalem will “never be divided again,” remarks he made at a celebration of Israel’s reunification. Mr. Ryan spoke at the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem in Washington, D.C., with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in attendance.

More details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/7/paul-ryan-says-jerusalem-will-never-be-divided-aga/>

- **Hamas: Saudi Demands Aiding Israel**

Hamas leaders attacked Saudi Arabia yesterday over its demands for Gulf pariah Qatar to end support for the Palestinian resistance group and its parent organisation. Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) members Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain severed diplomatic ties and trade with Qatar on Monday, claiming that it supported terrorist groups and their regional rival Iran.

More details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-3e64-Hamas-Saudi-demands-aiding-Israel>

- **IDF head says Hezbollah remains Israel’s main priority**

IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot said on Wednesday that although the Hezbollah terrorist organization suffered a massive blow during its conflict with Israel and in the years since, the group remains Israel’s top security priority.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-head-says-hezbollah-remains-israels-main-priority/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **People need to see a safe, effective transport system in place — King**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Wednesday chaired two meetings to identify progress made in the government’s plans to improve transport in Jordan and achieve goals set for the renewable energy sector, the Royal Court said. During the first meeting, held at Al Husseinia Palace, His Majesty stressed the importance of transport as a vital sector, noting that it should not be neglected or exploited to serve personal interests as deterioration in such services affects the life of every individual and harms the national economy.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/people-need-see-safe-effective-transport-system-place-%E2%80%94-king>

- **Severe criticism against Samaria Council head**

The head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council, David Elahayani, relentlessly excoriated the head of the Samaria Regional Council, Yossi Dagan, during a Wednesday meeting of leaders of communities in Judea and Samaria with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Arutz Sheva learned that Elahayani was angry at Dagan, who called last week to replace Netanyahu with a different leader from the national camp if Netanyahu does not come to his senses and approve massive construction in Judea and Samaria.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230715>

- **Jordan joins gulf countries in boycotting Qatar**

Jordan has joined the bandwagon of gulf nations that boycotted Qatar by asking Qatari ambassador to leave the kingdom within a week, before revoking license of al Jazeera station. "After studying the reasons for the crisis between Saudi, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar the government decided to reduce diplomatic representation of Qatar in the kingdom and revoke al Jazeera license," Government spokesman Mohammad Mumani was quoted by Petra news agency late Tuesday.

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2017/06/07/jordan-joins-gulf-countries-in-boycotting-qatar_97b4a9f0-2785-4928-900e-0d4ac60281be.html

- **Jordan backs UN efforts to solve Yemen crisis**

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, UN special envoy to Yemen, on Tuesday briefed Ayman Safadi, Jordanian Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, about efforts to find a political solution to the conflict in Yemen. According to the Petra News Agency, the Jordanian Minister told the UN envoy that Jordan supported the path of diplomacy to reach a solution to the Yemen crisis based on UN Security Council resolutions, the outcome of national dialogue, and the Gulf initiative.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302617946>

- **Hajjar upbeat about endorsement of new election law**

Member of Parliament, Mohammad Hajjar, on Thursday called for exerted efforts to reach agreement on a new electoral law, especially with the nearing end of the parliament's mandate. "We are truly optimistic about reaching an agreement on a new electoral formula before the end of the set deadline," he added in an interview accorded to the Voice of Lebanon radio station.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80146/Hajjar-upbeat-about-endorsement-of-new-election-law>

- **Jordan Considers Banning 'Wonder Woman' over 'Zionist' Actress**

Jordan is considering banning the film "Wonder Woman" following Lebanon's decision to ban it last week over outrage that the lead actress, Gal Gadot, served in Israel's Defense Forces and openly supports the occupation of Palestine. The country's Communications Commission is currently reviewing it to determine whether it meets its standards and laws.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Jordan-Considers-Banning-Wonder-Woman-over-Zionist-Actress-20170607-0019.html>

- **Senior U.S. General Visits Arsal, Hails 'Progress Made in Securing Lebanon Borders'**

U.S. Central Command Commander General Joseph L. Votel on Wednesday visited the eastern border town of Arsal along with Lebanese Army chief General Joseph Aoun and hailed the "progress" that has been made in "securing Lebanon's borders with Syria." "It is wonderful to be back in Lebanon and here up in Arsal. We deeply value the relationship with the Lebanese Armed Forces and the work they are doing to keep Lebanon safe, as we're seeing here today," Votel said at the Dahr al-Jabal overlook in Arsal.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231095-senior-u-s-general-visits-arsal-hails-progress-made-in-securing-lebanon-borders>

- **Lebanon speaker slams terrorist attack in Tehran**

According to Lebanon National News Agency, in his message to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, Berri said that such terrorist crimes will only increase the Islamic Republic's determination to eradicate terrorism. 'Iran will remain in the front row to overthrow this terrorism and whoever stands behind it,' Lebanon parliament speaker's cable read.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82557443/>

- **Aoun meets Sleiman: to pass law, overcome remaining obstacles**

President Michel Aoun, devoted most of his time today to follow up on ongoing contacts over the electoral law, focusing on "the need to complete the law and overcome the remaining obstacles." President Aoun also followed up on the official exams and the administrative and security coordination accompanying them, praising the "efforts exerted in this regard."

More Details:

<http://mtv.com.lb/EN/News//713480/>

- **Berri: Election law must be approved by a single article**

Speaker of the House, Nabih Berri, stressed at the Wednesday meeting the need to expedite the completion of the electoral law, stressing that "this law must be approved by a single article at the Parliament."

More Details:

<http://en.addiyar.com/article/1386083-berri-election-law-must-be-approved-by-a-single-article>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **US-Saudi Arms Deal Heads towards \$500m Senate Showdown**

The US Senate is headed for a showdown with President Donald Trump over the proposed sale of precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia. Perhaps as early as 8 June, the Senate will vote on a resolution that seeks to block the sale of \$500 million in precision-guided bombs that the administration wants to sell to the Saudi air force, which is currently engaged in a vicious war in Yemen that has killed of thousands of civilians.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/500m-saudi-arms-deal-heads-us-senate-showdown-1025409155>

- **Saudi Arabia said to Tell Banks not to Increase Qatar Exposure**

Saudi Arabia's central bank has ordered lenders in the country not to increase their exposure to any Qatari clients amid the worst crisis in relations among the Gulf Arab monarchies in decades, according to people familiar with the matter.

More Details:

<http://www.businesstimes.com.sg/banking-finance/saudi-arabia-said-to-tell-banks-not-to-increase-qatar-exposure>

- **Kuwaiti Emir Heads to Dubai in Hopes of Containing Gulf Crisis**

Emir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on Wednesday set out for Dubai in hopes of containing an unprecedented diplomatic row between Qatar and a handful of other Arab states, according to the official Kuwait News Agency. The emir is joined on his trip by Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohammad al-Abdullah al-Mubarak al-Sabah, among other high-ranking officials, the news agency reported.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/kuwaiti-emir-heads-dubai-hopes-containing-gulf-crisis-983792>

- **Trump Urges Qatar to Resolve Diplomatic Crisis with Saudi Arabia**

US President Donald Trump has offered to help resolve a worsening diplomatic crisis between Qatar and several Arab countries in the Middle East, a day after praising a move by Saudi Arabia and its allies to cut diplomatic relations with Doha. In a phone call on Wednesday with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Trump urged him to resolve the worst crisis among Persian Gulf Arab states in decades, the White House said.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/08/524551/US-Trump-Qatar-Saudi-dispute>

- **Oman's Foreign Minister Hopes Stability can Be Achieved for Gulf Citizens**

His Excellency Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, has affirmed the Sultanate's support for His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, and his efforts to remove tension with GCC relations, and move towards security and stability in the region.

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/110838/Oman/Government/Oman>

- **GCC Nations Issue more Threats against Qatar**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) threatened to impose an economic embargo against Qatar while Bahrain said "any options" were on the table as the crisis in the Gulf showed no signs of abating on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/gcc-nations-issue-threats-qatar-170608014315094.html>

- **Russian FM Calls for Dialogue To Settle Qatar-GCC Crisis**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has called for dialogue to settle the crisis between three Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Qatar, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported. In a statement Wednesday, Lavrov said the current crisis with Qatar is an issue of great concern, emphasising that "it's important to settle any differences at a negotiating table to ease concerns that emerged and pool efforts in the fight against the main regional threat, terrorism."

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1362825>

- **UAE Orders Immediate Closure of Qatar Airways offices**

The UAE on Wednesday has ordered the closure of all Qatar Airways offices in the country with immediate effect. The decision was taken after Saudi Arabia and Bahrain earlier revoked the licences of Qatar Airways and ordered its offices to close within 48 hours.

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/uae-orders-immediate-closure-of-qatar-airways-offices-677080.html>

7. EGYPT

- **Libya neighbours push for political deal**

Libya's neighbours Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia agreed late Tuesday to push for political dialogue to end the crisis in the North African country and rejected foreign interference or any military solution.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/9f242a95-769f-45ba-a1b3-497de6a606aa.aspx>

- **Anyone could beat Egypt's Sisi in a fair vote, says would-be candidate**

Conditions are so dire in President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's Egypt that anyone could beat him in next year's presidential election if the vote is held fairly, the highest-profile potential challenger told Reuters.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-politics-idUSKBN18Y2FI?rpc=401&>

- **Muslim Brotherhood rejects Saudi terror accusations**

In a statement on its website on Wednesday, a Cairo-based wing of the movement called on the Saudi kingdom to cease its support for military-backed Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/07/524500/Muslim-Brotherhood-Saudi-terror-accusations>

- **Qatar-Egypt trade ties still in effect despite diplomatic rift: official**

The recent diplomatic rift between Egypt and Qatar will not undermine the bilateral trade relations between the two countries, a senior government official told Amwal Al Ghad on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/investment-news/industry-trade/57326-qatar-egypt-trade-ties-still-in-effect-despite-diplomatic-rift-official.html>

- **Egypt and Ethiopia Still in Dispute for Dam on the Nile**

The Egypt and Ethiopia's governments are still analyzing the preliminary report on the environmental and economic impact of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam-hydroelectric station over the Nile, an issue that has caused a dispute between the two countries.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=13931&SEO=egypt-and-ethiopia-still-in-dispute-for-dam-on-the-nile>

- **NGO law continues to provoke controversy**

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) says it is disappointed President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi has ratified Law 70/2017 for Regulating the Work of Associations and Other Institutions Working in the Field of Civil Work without it being amended to comply with international conventions on human rights, writes Gamal Essam El-Din.

More Details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/20688.aspx>

- **Deutsche Bank projects Egypt inflation down to 20% by end of 2017**

Deutsche Bank projected on Monday that Egypt's inflation will decline to approximately 20% by the end of 2017 – a forecast is less optimistic than that of the International Monetary Fund – and therefore the bank do not see the the Central Bank of Egypt cutting rates in the near term from the current 16.75%.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/deutsche-bank-inflation-egypt/>

- **Dana Gas shares soar with Egyptian arrears reduced further**

Dana Gas shares soared yesterday after the company said it received another payment from the Egyptian government, reducing the arrears owed by nearly 30 per cent so far this year.

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/business/energy/dana-gas-shares-soar-with-egyptian-arrears-reduced-further>

- **Egypt's Sisi to meet Bahraini king in Cairo Thursday**

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi is set to meet on Thursday with Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, who will arrive on a short visit to Cairo to discuss developments in the situation with Qatar, days after the two countries severed diplomatic ties with the Gulf state along with a number of Arab countries.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/270513/-.aspx>

- **Egypt, Uruguay condemn Tehran terror attacks**

The foreign ministries of Egypt and Uruguay on Thursday condemned the Wednesday's terrorist attacks in Tehran.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82558300/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisian President calls for settlement through dialogue**

Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi has stressed his country's keenness that GCC states overcome their differences through dialogue and understanding in the wake of cutting ties by a number of these states with Qatar. Addressing the recent developments on the Gulf front with Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui, Essebsi underlined the need to work to reach solutions for the outstanding issues so as to preserve the security of GCC states in particular and national Arab security in general.

More Detail:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/08/06/2017/Tunisian-President-calls-for-settlement-through-dialogue>

- **Tunisia's 'war against corruption' feels like a fake one**

After weeks of protests across the country, the Tunisian government declared late last month that it had launched a "war on corruption". The "war" started with the arrest of several high-profile businessmen on 23 May over corruption accusations. Their investigations cannot be anything but welcomed. However, Tunisians waited until the following day to hear directly from Prime Minister Youssef Chahed about what was happening exactly.

More Detail:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/without-more-guarantees-tunisian-government-s-fight-against-corruption-feels-fake-862047549>

- **Syrian refugees trapped in desert on Moroccan border with Algeria in dire need of assistance**

Moroccan authorities are flouting their international obligations to give protection to refugees by entrapping a group of 25 Syrian refugees in a desert area on the border between Morocco and Algeria and denying them access to asylum and urgent humanitarian assistance said Amnesty International.

More Detail:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/06/syrian-refugees-trapped-in-desert-on-moroccan-border-with-algeria-in-dire-need-of-assistance/>

- **Tunisia: Jhinaoui and businessmen to head for Yaounde**

Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui will head to Yaounde, the economic capital of Cameroon, for an official visit from June 27 to 29, 2017. Businessmen will travel to explore opportunities for partnership and investment.

More Details:

http://africanmanager.com/site_eng/tunisia-jhinaoui-and-businessmen-to-head-for-yaounde/?v=947d7d61cd9a

- **Algeria's Sonatrach, Repsol sign pact to consolidate ties -state media**

Algeria's Sonatrach and Spain's Repsol have signed an agreement to consolidate their partnership in energy exploration and amicably end their differences, APS state news agency said. Repsol sought arbitration last year against Sonatrach over changes made to profit-sharing terms about a decade earlier, local and French media reported.

More Detail:

http://www.zawya.com/mena/en/story/Algerias_Sonatrach_Repsol_sign_pact_to_consolidate_ties-TR20170607nL8N1J42TUX2/

- **Libya's Largest Oil Field Shuttered by Protests after Oil Worker Dies**

A new workers' protest in Libya has shut down the country's largest oilfield, creating yet another hurdle for a war-torn country as it struggles to rebuild its oil output. The demonstrators shuttered the 270,000-barrel per day Sharara oilfield on Wednesday, a source at the site told World Oil. The unrest began when one worker died at the field, another source added. Libyan output had reached 827,000 bpd before Sharara halted production today. Libya and Nigeria are both exempt from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) deal to reduce production by 1.2 million barrels per day through March 2018.

More Detail:

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Crude-Oil/Libyas-Largest-Oil-Field-Shuttered-By-Protests-After-Oil-Worker-Dies.html>

- **Libyan army reveals documents proving Qatar's interference in Libya**

Libyan army spokesman Colonel Ahmed al-Mesmari revealed on Wednesday night documents showing Qatar's interference in Libya. "Since 2012, Qatar has not been dealt with because of its role in supporting terrorist groups in Libya," he told a news conference in Benghazi. "Qatar's destructive role in Libya will soon end."

More Detail:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/north-africa/2017/06/08/Libyan-army-reveals-documents-proving-the-involvement-of-Qatar-in-Libya.htm>

- **315,000-Year-Old Fossils from Morocco Could Be Earliest Recorded Homo sapiens**

A team of European and Moroccan scientists has found the fossil remains of five individuals they believe are the most ancient modern humans (Homo sapiens) ever found. In a remote area of Morocco called Jebel Irhoud, in what was once a cave, the team found a skull, bones, and teeth of five individuals who lived about 315,000 years ago. The scientists also found fairly sophisticated stone tools and charcoal, indicating the use of fire by this group.

More Details:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/06/07/531804528/315-0000-year-old-fossils-from-morocco-could-be-earliest-recorded-homo-sapiens>

- **Morocco parliament passes delayed 2017 budget-state media**

Morocco's parliament has approved the country's 2017 budget after months of delays because of negotiations in forming the new government after October elections, state media said. The budget sees a budget deficit of 3 percent of gross domestic product, down from 3.5 percent in 2016, as the country continues to repair its public finances after the huge deficits amassed in 2012.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/morocco-parliament-passes-delayed-2017-budget-state-media/articleshow/59039782.cms>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Afghan Assembly to Mediate Between gov't, Protesters**

Parliament has intensified its efforts to mediate between the Afghan government and protesters, who are demanding fundamental shake-up in the government following a recent terrorist attack. The protests which erupted after last Wednesday's massive truck bombing in the diplomatic corridor that killed up to 150 people, have entered 6th day.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/afghan-assembly-to-mediate-between-gov-t-protesters/836677>

- **ISIS Suffer Heavy Casualties in East of Afghanistan, 44 Including Foreigners Killed**

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group suffered heavy casualties during the ongoing military operations in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The provincial government media office in a statement said the militants were killed during the airstrikes conducted in Kot district as the Afghan ground forces are busy in clearance and counter-terrorism operations against the terror group.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/isis-suffer-heavy-casualties-in-east-of-afghanistan-44-including-foreigners-killed-02883>

- **Afghan President Strongly Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Tehran**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on his twitter on Wednesday strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Tehran which claimed lives of 12 innocent people and injured 42 others. In his twitter, he wrote 'Afghan government strongly condemns terrorist attacks in Tehran and once again underlines the need for a joint fight against such scourge phenomenon'.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82557311/>

- **Afghanistan, Turkmenistan Discuss Electricity Projects**

Afghanistan's Energy and Water Minister Ali Ahmad Osmani discussed the latest condition of electricity projects with his Turkmen counterpart on the sideline of Energy Charter meeting, which was held in Ashgabat.

More Details:

<http://wadsam.com/afghan-business-news/afghanistan-turkmenistan-discuss-electricity-projects-232/>

- **'Peace Process' in Kabul Called on All Armed Groups for Ceasefire**

The participants of "peace process" meeting in Kabul have called on all armed insurgent groups for ceasefire in Afghanistan and join the Peace Talks. Afghan Ministry of Foreign said the government during the meeting urged all state sponsored terrorism to stop equipping and supporting terrorists and take practical steps in destroying terrorist havens.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/peace-process-in-kabul-called-on-all-armed-groups-for-ceasefire/>

- **Pakistan Wants a Peaceful, Stable, Prosperous & Sovereign Afghanistan: Aizaz**

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Aizaz Chaudhry, Wednesday said Pakistan wanted to see a peaceful, stable, prosperous and sovereign Afghanistan. Participating in a panel discussion titled 'Regional Perspective on US Strategy in Afghanistan' held at the South Asian Centre in Atlantic Council, Washington DC, Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry strongly condemned the tragic Kabul incident.

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-wants-a-peaceful-stable-prosperous-sovereign-afghanistan-aizaz/>

- **Kashmir to Return to Normalcy Soon: Army Chief Bipin Rawat**

In an interaction with ANI, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said that the condition in Kashmir will be normal soon. This statement of the Army Chief comes at a time when the situation in Kashmir remains volatile with protesters carrying out violent demonstrations against the army, some protests taking place in the middle of active operations launched by security forces against Pakistan sponsored terrorists in the valley.

More Details:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/jun/08/kashmir-to-return-to-normalcy-soon-army-chief-bipin-rawat-1614270.html>

- **10 Suspects Detained in Karachi, 25 Held in Lahore in Various Police Operations**

Seven suspects, including an extortionist, were arrested during a search operation conducted late the other day in Mobina Town, police sources revealed. Suspect Haq Nawaz is alleged to have been an accomplice in a number of cases of extortion, security officials stated. According to police reports, suspects Jahangir and Yasir have been alleged of violating Temporary Residents Act, while arrestees Abdul Qadir, Arif, Arshad, and Abid were wanted for various street crimes.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/06/08/10-suspects-detained-in-karachi-25-held-in-lahore-in-various-police-operations/>

- **Ghazan Marri Plans Return to Pakistan after 18 Years of Self-Exile**

Ghazan Marri, one of the alleged founders of the proscribed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), on Thursday said he plans to return to Pakistan after the holy month of Ramazan, ending 18 years of self-imposed exile. "Neither did I have any affiliation with any banned outfit nor did I ever favour the politics of violence," Ghazan, who is currently stationed in the United Arab Emirates, said while speaking to The Express Tribune. "I have taken the decision to fly back to my country after consultation with tribal elders."

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1430278/ghazan-marri-plans-return-pakistan-18-years-self-exile/>

- **CM Sindh shows off batting skills during nocturnal tour of Karachi**

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah took a moment to flaunt his batting skills while he visited various areas of Karachi late Wednesday/early Thursday to survey progress on ongoing development projects. During his late night tour, Shah briefly stopped his motorcade at Suparco Road to play street cricket with a group of youngsters.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1338238/cm-sindh-shows-off-batting-skills-during-nocturnal-tour-of-karachi>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish parliament to discuss Qatar military deals**

Parliament is expected to discuss two military deals between Turkey and Qatar during its Wednesday evening session in Ankara, a move that comes just days after five Gulf States cut ties with Doha. The first agreement would enable Turkish military forces to be deployed on Qatari territory, while the second would enable Turkish gendarmerie forces to train Qatari gendarmerie forces in Qatar. On Monday, five Arab countries -- Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Yemen -- cut ties with Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting terrorism.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190516/turkish-parliament-to-discuss-qatar-military-deals>

- **Turkish court remands 'senior' Daesh suspect in custody**

A court in northwestern Sakarya province remanded in custody Wednesday a suspected senior member of Daesh terror group, according to a judicial source. Halis Bayancuk, also known by his codename Abu Hanzala, is accused of being a Daesh member and attempting to abolish constitutional order, the source said on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on talking to the media.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-court-remands-senior-daesh-suspect-in-custody/836707>

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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