



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procees of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

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Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dış Aktörler

Relations with the West

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1. IRAQ

- **Germany warns Iraqi Kurds against 'one-sided' referendum plans**

Germany said on Thursday it was concerned plans by Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region to vote on independence in September, could exacerbate tensions in Iraq. Comments by Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel marked the first international response to Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani's announced plans for a referendum to take place on Sept. 25.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/germany-warns-iraqi-kurds-one-sided-referendum-plans/>

- **Kurdistan Referendum Cornerstone of Peace: KRG Chief of Foreign Relations**

Head of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)'s Department of Foreign Relations described Kurdistan referendum on independence the foundation stone of peace. Moments ago Falah Mustafa wrote on his Twitter "Kurdistan referendum will be cornerstone for peace, unity, strength and development in building a democratic and prosperous independent state."

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/356359>

- **Huge Park Opens in Kirkuk for the First Time**

The area of is approximately 6 acres and was provided by Kirkuk's municipality. It cost 4 million and 500 thousand US Dollars to build the park area and the restaurants.

More Details

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40486

- **Security forces eliminate ISIS sniper network in Mosul**

Federal Police forces killed five ISIS terrorists at al-Zanjili neighborhood in the right bank of Mosul, a security source said on Thursday. The source revealed that these five terrorists were part of an ISIS sniper network to halt Iraqi security forces advancement towards Pepsi factory at al-Zanjili.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11791/Security-forces-eliminate-ISIS-sniper-network-in-Mosul>

- **UN launch investigation into reports on civilian deaths in Mosul**

The UN is investigating reports which say up to 80 civilians have been killed by an airstrike in a terrorist-held part of western Mosul. It also accused the jihadists of killing at least 231 residents attempting to flee the Iraqi city.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/un-launch-investigation-reports-civilian-deaths-mosul/>

- **U.S. Opposes Kurdish Region's Move to Vote on Independence from Iraq**

The United States on June 8 said it opposes a decision by Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region to hold a referendum in September on independence from Iraq. "The United States supports a unified, federal, stable, and democratic Iraq," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

More Details

<https://www.rferl.org/a/u-s-opposes-kurdish-iraq-independence-vote/28537236.html>

- **US State Department 'not aware' of torture & extrajudicial executions by Iraqi forces**

Last month, Iraqi photojournalist Arkady shared a trove of video and photo material of civilian torture and murder around Mosul which he managed to obtain while being embedded with the elite Emergency Response Division (ERD), a special-forces unit under the command of the Iraqi Interior Ministry

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/usa/391522-state-department-iraqi-torture/>

- **KRG adding fuel to the regional fires**

The KRG's declaration that it will be holding a referendum next September is an irrational decision that will surely lead to turmoil in the problematic region

More Details

<https://www.dailysabah.com/columns/ilnur-cevik/2017/06/09/krp-adding-fuel-to-the-regional-fires>

- **ISIS Ramps Up Attacks on Civilians; 477 Killed in Iraq**

The United Nations said the organization is investigating airstrikes that took place on May 31 in Mosul. At the time, it was unclear whether they occurred or which forces were behind what was described as a "carpet bombing." About 50-80 people were killed; 47 deaths were previously recorded. The U.N. also reported hundreds more Islamic State killings in recent weeks.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/08/isis-ramps-attacks-civilians-477-killed-iraq/>

- **Sushma Swaraj meets kin of 39 Indians missing in Iraq since 2014**

The family members, who were meeting her for the first time since October 2016, wanted to know what efforts the government was taking to locate the missing men now that most of Mosul had been liberated

More Details

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/sushma-swaraj-meets-kin-of-39-indians-missing-in-iraq-since-2014-4695576/>

- **Kurdish leaders face balancing act at home, abroad in pursuit of independence**

The Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) message when they meet with foreign leaders and representatives hesitant to publicly support Kurdish independence aspirations is to at least not stand in the way, while at home they continue to work to bring all parties to the table.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/080620173>

- **'Excessive risk': Leading NGOs unite to criticize Mosul bombing campaign**

"All warring parties should cease using explosive weapons with wide area effects and inherently indiscriminate weapons in densely populated west Mosul. ISIS's unlawful use of civilians as 'human shields' and the difficulty of identifying civilians in buildings increase the risk of civilian casualties."

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/news/391416-mosul-hrw-amnesty-airstrikes/>

- **Russia says supports Iraq's unity as Kurds decide to hold referendum**

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday "Russia supports Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, provided that the legal rights of all ethnic and religious groups are respected, while the Kurds are one of those groups,"

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/russia-iraqs-unity-kurds-2017-06-09>

- **Iraqi Kurdistan News in brief – June 9, 2017**

The speaker of the now-closed Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament Yusuf Mohammed Sadiq met on Thursday with European lawmakers and officials from the EU during his stay in the Belgian capital of Brussels. Sadiq held talks about the stalemate in Kurdistan's Parliament and the region's current situation, NRT reported.

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/iraqi-kurdistan-news-in-brief-june-9-2017-2017-06-09>

- **Iraqi Kurds set date for historic statehood vote**

Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region will hold a historic referendum on statehood in September, its presidency said on Wednesday, despite opposition to independence from Baghdad and possibly beyond.

More Details

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/512998a2-1def-42d4-9c6a-94f00bff8eac.aspx>

- **Iraq Seeks to Triple Refining Capacity with Slew of New Projects**

Processing capacity will increase to 1.5 million barrels a day from just over 500,000 now, not including Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, Deputy Oil Minister Fayyad Al-Nima said in an interview in Baghdad. The country spends more than \$2 billion a year importing gasoline and gasoil, he said.

More Details

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-06-08/iraq-seeks-to-triple-refining-capacity-with-slew-of-new-projects>

- **Iraqi President receives UAE Ambassador**

Iraq President Fuad Masum and UAE Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Ahmed Al Shehhi on Thursday discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic and investment domains.

More Details

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302618200>

- **Iraqi Security Forces Thwart Suicide Attack on Civilians in Eastern Mosul**

Spokesman for the Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the 16th brigade of Nineveh Police, Nineveh Intelligence Directorate and Counter-Terrorism brigade managed to foil a suicide attack, launched by a suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt, and killed the terrorist before he can blow up himself in al-Noor neighborhood, in Eastern Mosul, Iraqi News reported.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960318000894>

- **KRG independence referendum would distract from ISIL fight, US warns**

The United States on June 8 warned that a decision by Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region to hold an independence referendum could distract from the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group.

More Details

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=114119&NewsCatID=352>

- **Iran paying for fight against terrorism: Iraqi MP**

A member of the Iraqi Parliament's Foreign Relations Commission has commented on terrorist attacks in Tehran saying that Tehran is paying the price for supporting the fight against terrorism.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82558789/>

2. SYRIA

- **Syrian 'Drone' Shot Down After Firing at Coalition Forces**

The desert area in southern Syria witnessed on Thursday a new escalation between the Washington-led coalition and the Syrian regime and its linked militias after a US warplane shot down a pro-Assad drone that fired towards coalition forces near al-Tanf base. Coalition spokesperson Colonel Ryan Dillon told reporters during a closed session from Baghdad that the drone shot down on Thursday did not cause damages to the coalition forces.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/paulataha/news-middle-east/syrian-drone-shot-firing-coalition-forces>

- **Russian FM, UN envoy agree to strengthen cease-fire in Syria**

Russia has called for a strengthening of the cease-fire arrangement in Syria's de-escalation zones with the objective of accelerating peace talks during a meeting with a UN special envoy in Moscow on Thursday. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu met UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura in Moscow and stressed the importance of consolidating the positive results achieved during the intra-Syrian consultations in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations, including with regard to constitutional reform.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE4Nzg1/russian-fm-un-envoy-agree-to-strengthen-cess-fire-in-syria.html>

- **US airstrikes shoot down drone, kill 17 civilians in Syria**

According to Colonel Ryan Dillon, the spokesman for the US-led coalition in Syria, a US airstrike hit the drone near the coalition's al-Tanf garrison close to the Jordanian border on Thursday. Dillon said although the missile the drone had fired hit only dirt and no one was hurt, it was meant to target coalition forces patrolling outside a so-called "deconfliction zone."

More Details:

<http://217.218.67.231/Detail/2017/06/08/524660/Syria-drone-US-airstrike-raqqa>

- **Anti-Daesh fighters near Raqqa delight in American weaponry**

Chorche was like a kid in a candy store in front of crates packed with US weapons to help an Arab-Kurdish alliance take the Daesh terror group's Syria bastion Raqqa. "We're going to rain these sophisticated weapons down on Daesh," said the member of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/anti-daesh-fighters-near-raqqa-delight-american-weaponry>

- **US-led coalition carries out third strike against Syrian government forces**

A U.S. aircraft shot down an armed pro-Syrian regime Unmanned Aerial Vehicle after it fired on Coalition forces in Tanf, in Southern Syria on 8 June. The US-led coalitions said the strike was conducted to protect Syrian rebels and coalition forces against the Syrian government.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/us-led-coalition-carries-third-strike-syrian-government-forces/>

- **US disputes claim Syria strike killed civilians**

The Pentagon denied on Wednesday that large numbers of civilians were killed in a March strike by a Syrian mosque, acknowledging only one possible civilian death at an adjoining religious compound. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has claimed that the March 16 strike in the village of opposition-held Al-Jineh in northern Aleppo killed 49 people -- most of them civilians.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/21046e58-2fce-4ea2-9bf7-dd1b017efaa4.aspx>

- **Al-Qadiri, UN Resident Coordinator in Syria discuss prospects of joint cooperation**

Minister of Social Affairs Rima al-Qadiri discussed Thursday with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria Ali al-Zaatari issues related to bilateral cooperation and work mechanisms between the government and UN affiliated agencies and organizations. The two sides reviewed holding an illustration workshop on the Ministry's work and legislations regulating the work of charities.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=107786>

- **Syria: Gunmen Evacuated from Damascus Return Home due to Bad Conditions in Idlib**

8 families of militants living in al-Tal city of Damascus province who had been transferred to Idlib in January returned to the city again due to the inhumane behavior of the terrorist groups stationed in Idlib province. The development came after tens of gunmen and their family members that had left al-Wa'er district in Homs for the border town of Jarabulus in Northern Aleppo within the framework of an evacuation deal with the Syrian army could not tolerate the awful conditions in the militant-held region and moved back to al-Wa'er in May 7.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960318000741>

- **Syria Calls on US-led Coalition to Stop Conducting Air Strikes on Pro-government Forces**

On June 7, Syrian Foreign Ministry called on the US-led international coalition to stop conducting air strikes on the positions of the Syrian Army and pro-government forces. In addition, a letter that was sent by Syrian Foreign Ministry to the UN Security Council and UN General Secretary reported that conducting air strikes against the government forces, the coalition spreads terrorism and violates the international law.

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/06/08/syria-calls-on-us-led-coalition-to-stop-conducting-air-strikes-on-pro-government-forces/>

- **Assad sympathizes with Rouhani over phone**

President Assad said that Syria stands by Iran in combating terrorism and expressed solidarity with the Iranian people and government. He added the fact that terrorists and their supporters use such hideous methods to demonstrate that their other methods against the Islamic Republic have failed.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82558318/>

3. IRAN

- **After Daesh attacks, Iran draws UN attention to Saudi threats**

Iran writes to the UN Security Council, reminding the world body that the recent Daesh terror attacks in Tehran came hot on the heels of Saudi Arabia's repeated threats against the Islamic Republic.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/09/524669/Iran-Saudi-Daesh-UN-Security-Council>

- **U.S. Shoots Down Drone Launched By Iran-Backed Hizballah Forces in Syria**

A drone that U.S. officials say was likely provided by Iran to Hizballah forces in southern Syria fired on troops allied with the United States on June 8 and was shot down by an American fighter jet.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/us-shoots-down-drone-launched-iran-backed-hizballah-forces-southern-syria-tanf-jordan-border-islamic-state-/28537161.html>

- **Tehran police increase patrols after twin terror attacks**

Police increased their patrols in the streets and subway stations of Tehran on Thursday, a day after a pair of deadly Islamic State-claimed attacks on Iran's parliament and the tomb of its revolutionary leader killed at least 16 people and wounded over 40.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/tehran-police-increase-patrols-as-iran-recoups-from-attacks/>

- **Iran says IS attackers fought in Syria and Iraq**

According to a statement by Iran's Intelligence Ministry, the attackers behind the first Islamic State (IS) bombing inside Iran's borders have been identified. Iranian news agencies shared graphic pictures of the corpses of the attackers and their first names. They withheld the family names. Some Iranian social media users shared the pictures of Seryas Sadeghi, one of the individuals who blew himself up in the attacks. Sadeghi was reportedly active in promoting extremism online.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/iran-tehran-attacks-isis-intelligence-ministry-statement.html>

- **Moscow and Tehran call for resolving Qatar crisis through dialogue**

Iran and Russia share stances that the Qatar diplomatic crisis should be resolved through dialogue, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on Friday.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/politics/950672>

- **Zarif, UN chief review latest regional developments**

Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif reviewed the latest regional developments in a meeting with the UN Secretary General António Guterres in the Kazakh capital, Astana, on Friday morning.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82558787/>

- **Iran's Khamenei says attacks to increase hatred toward U.S., Saudi TV**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Friday attacks in Tehran by Islamic State that killed at least 17 people will increase hatred towards the United States and Saudi Arabia, state TV reported.

More Details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/iran-security-funeral-idINKBN1900RN?rpc=401&>

- **Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran promise to bolster economic cooperation with Afghanistan**

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met with the leaders of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran on the sidelines of the Shanghai Summit which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

More Details:

<http://wadsam.com/afghan-business-news/tajikistan-uzbekistan-iran-promise-bolster-economic-cooperation-afghanistan-232/>

- **Attacks in Iran are acts of terror**

A United Arab Emirates newspaper has said the two coordinated attacks on the Iranian parliament and the tomb of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic republic, that left 13 dead and more than 40 people seriously injured, were vicious acts of terror.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302618265>

- **Iranian Police Arrest Two More Suspects after Tehran Terrorist Attacks**

The Iranian police managed to arrest two terrorist suspects in the western province of Kermanshah in connection with two recent terror attacks in Tehran, which was claimed by Daesh (ISIS or ISIL) terrorist group.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/09/1431343/iranian-police-arrest-two-more-suspects-after-tehran-terrorist-attacks>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Settler Leader: Netanyahu Says Building Not Limited to Blocs**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised settler leaders that construction would not be limited to the blocs and that it could be based on their priority list, said Avi Ro'eh who heads the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea and Samaria.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Settler-leader-Netanyahu-says-building-not-limited-to-blocs-496366>

- **30 haredi paratroopers sworn into IDF at Western Wall**

Fifty years after the liberation of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount and Western Wall from Jordanian occupation by IDF paratrooper units during the 1967 Six Day War, a special swearing-in ceremony was held Thursday night at the Western Wall Plaza for 30 new haredi paratroopers.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230799>

- **Abbas Will Drop Settlement Freeze as Condition for Talks with Israel, Top Adviser Says**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas intends to give up on his demand for a freeze of Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank as a pre-condition for restarting peace negotiations, a top adviser to the Palestinian leader told Bloomberg in an article published on Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.794551>

- **Israel rearrests Palestinian former hunger striker for incitement**

A Palestinian who had been released from Israeli prison after a year without trial following a two-month hunger strike was again arrested overnight for "incitement," security forces said on Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-rearrests-palestinian-former-hunger-striker-for-incitement/>

- **Qatar FM: Hamas in Doha to facilitate Palestinian unity**

Qatar's foreign minister has said the presence in Doha of political leaders belonging to the Gaza-based Palestinian group Hamas is "coordinated with the US" and aimed at facilitating Palestinian unity.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/qatar-fm-hamas-doha-facilitate-palestinian-unity-170608191120249.html>

- **Hamas could be next victim of Qatari-Gulf brawl**

On June 3, media reports claimed Qatar had asked some Hamas officials to leave its territories after their names were listed alongside Palestinian detainees in Israeli intelligence investigations as being involved in armed attacks against Israel. Although no Qatari officials confirmed the news, other

reports said Qatar expressed regret about having to make such a move because of pressure by foreign parties, who were not identified.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/hamas-leave-qatar-crisis-palestine.html#ixzz4jU5PcoDH>

- **Heavy security at the Pride parade in Tel Aviv: a ban on weapons and bicycles**

Hundreds of police officers will secure the Gay Pride parade in Tel Aviv. No weapons, bicycles or dogs will be allowed in. MDA is also preparing for the parade that will take place in a heavy heat and urges participants to drink plenty of fluids.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4973461,00.html>

- **Israel: Arab Citizens Arrested in Hamas Assassination Plot**

Israel says seven Arabs were arrested over a plot to kill army officers for Gaza's Islamic militant Hamas rulers to avenge the killing of one its members. The Shin Bet security service said Thursday one of the suspects was asked to avenge Mazen Faqha, a senior Hamas figure, killed in March.

More details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/israel-arab-citizens-arrested-in-hamas-assassination-plot/3892067.html>

- **Palestinian citizens of Israel charged over planning alleged 'revenge attack'**

Four Palestinian citizens of Israel were charged with crimes related to an alleged plan to kill an Israeli army officer in revenge for the killing of Hamas leader Mazen Fuqahaa in March, Israeli media reported on Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777553>

- **All sides must work to revive hope for a just Israel-Palestine peace**

Peter Beaumont's article (UN urges end to Israeli occupation, 50 years on, 7 June) highlights the pressing need to restore hope in a viable peace process. Today, there are 4.7 million Palestinians living under occupation. The current situation is unsustainable, and is a principal cause of poverty, marginalisation and denial of rights in the occupied Palestine territory. Renewed violence continues

to cause civilian deaths, both Israeli and Palestinian. Political leaders on both sides fail to protect the lives and livelihoods of their people.

More details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/08/all-sides-must-work-to-revive-hope-for-a-just-israel-palestine-peace>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **State Security Arrests Syrian in Bekaa over Terror Links**

State Security agents in the Bekaa region arrested a Syrian national who infiltrated Lebanon's territory and confessed to having links to terror groups in Syria, LBCI reported on Friday. The State Security managed to arrest the man who was identified by his initials as D.A.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231169-state-security-arrests-syrian-in-bekaa-over-terror-links>

- **Saudi Leadership congratulates King of Jordan**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence have sent cables of congratulations to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the anniversary of His Majesty's coronation.

More Details:

<http://sites.alriyadh.com/en/article/1159769/Saudi-Leadership-congratulates-King-of-Jordan>

- **Foreign Ministry calls for a review of trade agreements to protect national produce**

Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil on Thursday addressed a letter to the ministries of Economy, Industry and trade, asking them to review trade agreements with some countries abroad to protect national produce. This initiative comes in the wake of a series of incoming complaints to the Foreign Ministry from the Lebanese Industrialists Association about plunging the Lebanese productive sectors with products imported from abroad.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80183/Foreign-Ministry-calls-for-review-of-trade-agreements-to-protect-national-produce>

- **Lebanon stresses importance of Qatar's role in its stability**

Lebanon is closely following the crisis between three member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Qatar considering the special place of Doha in the hearts of many Lebanese, among them 24,000 citizens resides in Qatar. Qatar has played an important role in supporting various Lebanese issues including reconstruction projects following the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in 2006; the Doha Agreement which ended the political crisis in 2008 and the support provided for the displaced Syrians in a country burdened with debt of more than \$73 billion.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/08/06/2017/Lebanon-stresses-importance-of-Qatar-s-role-in-its-stability>

- **Cyprus an asset to Lebanon**

Cyprus' presence in Europe is a major asset to Lebanon, the country's Defence Minister Yaacoub Riad Sarraf said on Thursday, underlining the "tremendous prospects" that open up with the forthcoming visit of President Nicos Anastasiades to Beirut. Sarraf, who is on an official visit to Cyprus, was received by his Cypriot counterpart Christoforos Fokaides at the National Guard headquarters in Nicosia.

More Details:

<http://cyprus-mail.com/2017/06/08/cyprus-asset-lebanon/>

- **Lebanese, Georgian, Belarus presidents condemn Tehran terrorist attacks**

In a message to President Hassan Rouhani, Aoun said that the two attacks showed that terrorism doesn't follow any religions, and terrorists make blind attacks. Saying that he was deeply touched by the news, Margvelashvili added in these tough moments, he sympathize with the government and people of Iran, and offered his condolences to the families' of the victims.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82558178/>

- **Hezbollah condemns Iran terror attack as death toll rises to 16**

The Lebanese terror group Hezbollah Thursday condemned the twin terror attacks in Tehran the day before, describing them as part of an "international, destructive plan" backed by various regional governments. Hezbollah is seen as an Iranian proxy in Syria and Lebanon and has aligned itself with Tehran amid mounting regional tensions with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-condemns-iran-terror-attack-as-death-toll-rises-to-16/>

- **King attends army ceremony to mark national days**

His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) on Thursday attended the ceremony organised by the armed forces to mark the 18th Accession to the Throne Day, the Great Arab Revolt anniversary, and Army Day, a Royal Court statement said. Upon the King's arrival to the Martyr Memorial, the artillery performed a 21-gun salute and the national anthem was played. His Majesty was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihath and senior officers.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/king-attends-army-ceremony-mark-national-days>

- **Hashemite banner raised at main entrance of Royal Court**

Upon an order by His Majesty King Abdullah II, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, the Hashemite banner was raised at the main entrance of the Royal Court for 3 days on the occasion of the Great Arab Revolt and the Army Day. The Hashemite flag's colours and motifs combine elements of history, legitimacy, religion and Arabism found in the Hashemite family and the Great Arab Revolt.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=305326&CatID=13

- **Moussa: No one can tolerate burden of vacuum**

Member of Parliament, Michel Moussa, confirmed on Thursday that not a single Lebanese side could handle the burden of political void and its deadly repercussions. During an interview, the lawmaker pushed for the implementation of the Lebanese constitution, "which preserves parity, even if this entailed political support."

More Details:

<http://mtv.com.lb/EN/News//713842/>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Qatar: No Military Solution to Crisis with Saudis**

Qatar's foreign minister says his country prefers diplomacy to resolve Doha's dispute with Saudi Arabia and its allies, stressing that there would never be a military solution to the crisis. "We don't see a military solution as an option" to the problem, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told reporters in Doha on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/08/524635/Qatar-Saudi-Arabia>

- **Saudi, Bahrain, UAE and Egypt Link Terror Groups to Qatar**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Bahrain are unified in their ongoing commitment to combatting terrorism, drying up the sources of its funding, countering extremist ideology and the tools of its dissemination and promotion, and to working together to defeat terrorism and protect all societies from its impact.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/8b198105-767d-44a3-8ce4-096526b8712b.aspx>

- **Bahrain says to Follow UAE in Jailing Qatar Sympathisers**

Bahrain on Thursday followed the United Arab Emirates in announcing that expressing sympathy for Qatar over sanctions imposed by its Gulf neighbours was an offence punishable by a lengthy jail term. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt on Monday cut diplomatic ties with Qatar over accusations that the emirate is a champion of extremist groups in the region.

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/bahrain-says-follow-uae-in-jailing-qatar-sympathisers--677242.html>

- **UAE Foreign Minister Slams Qatar for Asking Iran, Turkey for Help**

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash on Thursday slammed Qatar's decision to ask Iran and Turkey for help following several Gulf countries' decision to cut diplomatic ties with Doha. Earlier in the day, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani said that Turkey would deploy its troops to Qatar for regional security reasons amid the ongoing diplomatic crisis in Doha's relations with several Arab states.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706091054458431-uae-qatar-turkey-iran-help/>

- **US, Kuwait Step up Efforts to End Qatar Blockade**

In addition to Turkey's efforts, the U.S. and Kuwait have also stepped up efforts to mediate an ending to the Qatar crisis. On Wednesday, the White House announced that U.S. President Donald Trump called Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani offering to serve as a mediator to help the parties resolve the crisis between Doha and Arab countries by inviting them to the White House for a meeting, if necessary.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/06/09/us-kuwait-step-up-efforts-to-end-qatar-blockade>

- **Oman Air Boosts Flights to Qatar**

National carrier Oman Air is upping capacity to Doha after a diplomatic row between Qatar and some of its neighbours resulted in the immediate suspension of flights to the state, said a report. On Monday, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, and Egypt announced the severing of diplomatic ties with Qatar, Times of Oman reported.

More Details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN_326111.html

- **Embargo on Qatar Disrupts Bunkering, LNG Shipments**

On Thursday, the shipping industry's concern over the economic sanctions that six Sunni nations have placed on Qatar deepened, and the full extent of the embargo's implications for marine insurance, port access, bunkering and the LNG trade remain unclear. In a circular to clients Thursday morning, leading marine insurers Gard detailed the latest restrictions on shipping to and from Qatar.

More Details:

<http://maritime-executive.com/article/embargo-on-qatar-disrupts-bunkering-lng-shipments>

- **UAE Needs Qatari Gas to keep Dubai's Lights on**

When it comes to natural gas shipments, the United Arab Emirates needs Qatar more than Qatar needs the UAE. The UAE joined Saudi Arabia in cutting off air, sea and land links with Qatar on Monday. But the UAE, which depends on imported gas to generate half its electricity, avoided shutting down the pipeline supplying it from Qatar, which has the world's third-largest gas deposits.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/08/06/2017/UAE-needs-Qatari-gas-to-keep-Dubai-s-lights-on>

- **Qatar's Al-Jazeera Says Battling Cyberattack**

Qatar-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera said on June 8 that it was under a widescale cyberattack which had targeted "all systems", according to a statement released on social media by the broadcaster. "Al Jazeera Media Network under cyberattack on all systems, websites & social media platforms," it said on Twitter.

More Details:

<http://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2017/06/09/qatars-al-jazeera-says-battling-cyberattack/>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt, France should coordinate on Libya to stop terrorists from exploiting the country's instability: French FM**

Egypt and France should increase their coordination on Libya, as terrorists groups who exploit the ongoing instability in the country threaten both Egyptian and European security, France's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian told Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry during a press conference after the two held talks in Cairo on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/270530/-.aspx>

- **Egypt interested in expanding cooperation with Belarus in agriculture**

Egypt is interested in expanding cooperation with Belarus in various areas of agriculture. This topic was high on the agenda of a meeting between a delegation of the food safety department at Egypt's National Service Products Organization and Belarus' Agriculture and Food Minister Leonid Zayats, BelTA has learned.

More Details:

<http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/egypt-interested-in-expanding-cooperation-with-belarus-in-agriculture-102158-2017/>

- **Greek Embassy takes over Egypt's diplomatic representation in Qatar**

Greece accepted Egypt's request to take over the diplomatic representation for the country in Qatar, after the two countries severed ties.

More Details:

<http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/Greek-Embassy-takes-over-Egyptys-diplomatic-representation-in-Qatar>

- **Egypt, Ethiopia call to suspend ICC case against Sudan's Bashir**

Egyptian and Ethiopian diplomats have called on the United Nations Security Council to suspend the investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir, who is charged with masterminding a campaign of genocide in Darfur.

More Details:

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article62677>

- **El-Sisi sees vindication in moves against Qatar**

The alliance with Gulf countries to isolate Qatar has given a significant boost to Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, who over the past three years has been trying to find backers in what he calls a "comprehensive" war on militancy.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1112316/middle-east>

- **Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Bahrain Issue a Joint Statement on Combating Terrorism**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Bahrain are unified in their ongoing commitment to combating terrorism, drying up the sources of its funding, countering extremist ideology and the tools of its dissemination and promotion, and to working together to defeat terrorism and protect all societies from its impact.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/asharq-al-awsat-english/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia-egypt-uae-bahrain-issue-joint-statement-combating-terrorism>

- **Egypt accuses Qatar of paying huge ransom to IS-linked group**

Egypt on Thursday asked the United Nations to investigate an enormous ransom that Qatar allegedly paid an IS-linked terror group in order to free members of its royal family detained in Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-accuses-qatar-of-paying-huge-ransom-to-is-linked-group/>

- **Egypt's role in the push to cut off Qatar**

After four years of Egyptian-Qatari skirmishes since the ousting of former President Mohammed Morsi for his affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood, Cairo has now decided to respond to Qatar's harassment by following in the footsteps of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain and sever diplomatic ties with Qatar.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/egypt-saudi-arabia-uae-bahrain-cut-diplomatic-ties-qatar.html>

- **Egypt calls for U.N. inquiry into accusation of Qatar ransom payment**

Egypt on Thursday called for the United Nations Security Council to launch an investigation into accusations that Qatar paid a ransom of up to \$1 billion to "to a terrorist group active in Iraq" to release kidnapped members of its royal family.

More Details:

http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFL1N1J516H?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Egypt's annual inflation down for first time**

Egypt's annual inflation rate edged down to 29.7 percent from 31.5 percent in April, marking the first fall since the government floated the local currency in November 2016, according to Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, CAPMAS, the official statistical agency of Egypt.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/101d8474-7bd8-48ca-86ee-7699e2b27fa7.aspx>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisian Kuwaiti officials discuss religious agreement**

The need to begin the enactment of an agreement between Tunisia and Kuwait aimed at encouraging moderate religious thought was urged on Thursday. The calls were made by Tunisia's Minister for Religious Affairs Ahmed Adhoum during talks with the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhifeeri.

More Detail:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2615660&Language=en>

- **Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia push Libya political deal over military solution**

Libya's neighbors Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia agreed on Tuesday to push for political dialogue to end the crisis in the North African country and rejected foreign interference or any military solution. The "Algiers declaration" came after Egyptian jets last month carried out repeated air strikes targeting camps for Islamist militants inside Libya who Cairo says were responsible for an attack on Egyptian Christians.

More Detail:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypt-algeria-tunisia-libya/>

- **Manchester suicide bomber not 'radicalised' in Libya, say Tripoli police**

The suicide bomber who killed 22 people at a concert in Manchester last month was radicalised in 2015 while living in Britain, his brother has told Libyan counter-terrorism investigators in Tripoli. Salman Abedi's brother Hashem also said he had bought equipment for the attack in Britain, though he did not know where it would be carried out, Ahmed Bin Salem, a spokesman for Tripoli's Special Deterrence Force (Rada), told Reuters.

More Detail:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/manchester-suicide-bomber-not-radicalised-libya-says-libyan-police-2002826593>

- **Rising oil output in Libya and Nigeria could rein in surging US crude exports, analyst says**

American oil exports are surging thanks to "bargain basement prices" for U.S. crude, but rising output elsewhere in the world could put a lid on the U.S. shipments, according to Matt Smith, head of commodity research at tanker-tracking firm ClipperData.

More Detail:

<http://www.cnbc.com/2017/06/08/rising-oil-output-in-libya-and-nigeria-could-rein-in-surging-us-crude-exports-analyst-says.html>

- **Libya plans to take Qatar to ICC — army spokesperson**

Libya plans to file a case against Qatar at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for its 'destructive role' in the country. Addressing a press conference in Benghazi on Wednesday evening, Ahmad Mesmari, spokesperson for the Libyan National Army, known as Haftar's forces, said that Qatar

destroyed the whole Arab country. He said Libya did not have any dealing with Qatar since 2012 because of its support to the terrorist groups”.

More Detail:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/mena/libya/libya-plans-to-take-qatar-to-icc-army-spokesperson-1.2040613>

- **With eyes on Libya, France cements Egypt security ties**

France's foreign minister said on Thursday he had firmed up security ties with Egypt, which was the "central element" to ensuring regional stability as the two countries seek to break the political impasse in neighbouring Libya.

More Detail:

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/with-eyes-on-libya--france-cements-egypt-security-ties-8930864>

- **Hamas declines Haftar's accusations that it sent fighters to Libya**

The Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, has denied the claims of the leader of Operation Dignity Khalifa Haftar that it had sent fighters to Libya. Khalifa Haftar accused the Gaza-based resistance group of sending members of its armed wing to fight in Libya on behalf of Qatar. “Hamas has not — and will not — send its fighters and weapons abroad,” leading Hamas member Khalil al-Hayya said in a Thursday statement, reported Anadolu Agency.

More Detail:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/hamas-declines-haftars-accusations-that-it-sent-fighters-to-libya/>

- **Panama court dismisses Western Sahara phosphate claim: Morocco's OCP**

A Panama court dismissed a case by the Western Sahara Polisario independence movement to block a Moroccan shipment of phosphate in Panama saying there was no evidence the cargo belonged to the group, the Moroccan phosphate producer said on Thursday. Polisario in May filed a claim to hold the Danish charter vessel Ultra Innovation, carrying 55,000 tonnes of phosphate rock from Morocco's Office Cherifien de Phosphate (OCP), through Panama to the Port of Vancouver for the Canadian company Agrium.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-westernsahara-morocco-panama-idUSKBN18Z2SC>

- **Morocco's admission in ECOWAS is anti-Nigeria, says Akinyemi**

Former External Affairs Minister, Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi, on Thursday said that the admission of Morocco into ECOWAS was meant to whittle down Nigeria's influence in the sub-regional body, and by extension, the world. Akinyemi also said in a statement that the recent admission of Morocco into the regional organisation, was an anti-Nigeria move.

More Details:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/06/moroccos-admission-ecowas-anti-nigeria-says-akinyemi/>

- **Total looks at downstream in Morocco, S.Africa to spur gas demand**

France's Total SA is looking to invest in gas and power infrastructure projects in Morocco and South Africa as it seeks to open new markets, the company's head of gas said on Thursday. Total will roughly double its liquefied natural gas (LNG) portfolio by 2020 to 15 million tonnes per year, but the company needs to look at deals that will give it footholds in new markets and capture new gas buyers, Laurent Vivier said.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/total-gas-safrica-morocco-idUSL8N1J54FP>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Ghani, World Leaders Discuss Terror, Expansion of Trade Ties**

Presidential Palace said in a statement that Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran have vowed to bolster cooperation with Afghanistan in various sectors. In his meeting with world leaders on the sidelines of the Shanghai Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, President Ashraf Ghani discussed fighting against terrorism and expansion of Afghanistan's trade ties with regional countries – including Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/ghani-world-leaders-discuss-terror-expanding-trade-ties>

- **Afghan Mini-Surge has a Strategy Deficit**

After prolonged internal debate, the Donald Trump administration seems to be nearing a decision on how to proceed in America's long war in Afghanistan. Trump's military advisers are said to be pushing a plan to send several thousand additional troops into that conflict.

More Details:

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/ZZZDwBaPls0JHYAqfigOBN/Afghan-minisurge-has-a-strategy-deficit.html>

- **22 Daesh, 3 Taliban Killed in Nangarhar Clashes, Airstrikes**

At least 22 Daesh and three Taliban militants have been killed in clashes and air raids in Pachirawgam and Kot districts of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Wednesday. Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News local residents clashed with Daesh fighters in cooperation with local security forces, killing 12 Daesh gunmen and wounding two others.

More Details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/06/08/22-daesh-3-taliban-killed-nangarhar-clashes-airstrikes>

- **Ghani Met Chinese President on Sidelines of 'SCO' Summit**

President Ashraf Ghani met Chinese President Xi Jinping on margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Astana capital of Kazakhstan. President Ashraf Ghani with a high level delegation has arrived in Astana to attend the (SCO) summit, a statement from Presidential Palace said today.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/ghani-met-chinese-president-on-sidelines-of-sco-summit/>

- **Hekmatyar Supports State System, Urges for National Unity**

The leader of the Hezb-e-Islami Party, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Thursday announced his strong support from the current state system, calling on the nation to protect their unity. Speaking at a press conference, Hekmatyar called the peaceful protest as the "certain right of every citizen", but said that nobody has the right to block public ways and cause harassment to the people.

More Details:

<http://afghanistantimes.af/hekmatyar-supports-state-system-urges-for-national-unity/>

- **Pakistan to Send Military Contingent to Qatar**

Pakistan decided to send military contingent to Qatar after a similar decision was made by Turkey, Pakistani media outlets reported June 9. Pakistan is expected to send more than 20,000 soldiers to Qatar. This decision was made under the military agreements signed by Pakistan and Turkey.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/world/2764577.html>

- **20 Detained in Raids Across Karachi City**

About 20 suspects were arrested during overnight raids conducted in various parts of Karachi city early Friday morning. Additionally, five people were injured in a knife attack when a dispute between two groups at Korangi's Bilal Colony erupted. In a police operation carried out in PIB colony, a wanted criminal, Ghulam Kabeer was arrested and weapons were also recovered from him.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/06/09/20-detained-in-raids-across-karachi-city/>

- **India been Cautioned against any Strategic Miscalculation: FO**

India could be seeking conflict with Pakistan, warned Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria at his weekly media briefing on Thursday. The spokesman's statement has come amid escalating tension along the Line of Control (LoC), which is witnessing a sharp increase in ceasefire violations. Mr Zakaria said India had been cautioned against any "strategic miscalculation". The operations chiefs of Pakistani and Indian armies had, during an unscheduled hotline conversation earlier this week, traded threats of retaliatory actions.

More Details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/India-been-cautioned-against-any-strategic-miscalculation-FO-278915.html>

- **France Investors in Pakistan after 12 Years**

France has so far made an investment of \$1.4 billion and the visit of French investors – after a gap of 12 years – will attract more investment in the near future, said Philippe Fouet, Head of Economic Department of the French Embassy in Islamabad.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1430975/france-investors-pakistan-12-years/>

- **Pakistan to Continue LNG Imports from Qatar: Minister**

Pakistan yesterday said it would continue to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar to meet its energy requirement despite a simmering crisis in the Middle East. Minister for Petroleum Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told local English daily Express Tribune that Islamabad would continue to import LNG from Qatar under the February 2016 agreement as "there are no sanctions on Qatar as far as we know". "There is no possibility of cancellation or delay in LNG import from Qatar," Abbasi was quoted as saying.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/09/06/2017/Pakistan-to-continue-LNG-imports-from-Qatar-Minister>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey's president ratifies Qatar military deals**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan late on Thursday ratified two deals on deploying Turkish troops in Qatar and training the Gulf nation's gendarmerie, according to the presidency. Turkey's parliament had earlier ratified the agreements on Wednesday. The votes came just days after five Arab countries cut ties with the Gulf state.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkeys-president-ratifies-qatar-military-deals/837704>

- **Turkey: Independence poll for northern Iraq a 'mistake'**

The decision by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) to hold an independence referendum later this year is a "grave mistake", the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Friday. Reacting to KRG President Masoud Barzani's announcement that a vote would be held on Sept. 25, the Foreign Ministry said Iraq's territorial integrity should be guarded.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190585/tillerson-to-attend-world-petroleum-congr-in-istanbul>

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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