



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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Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

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10 MAY 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **NATO steps up training of Iraqi security personnel**

NATO trainers and advisors and Iraqi high ranking officers concluded a three day-workshop designed enhance Iraqi leadership and training skills in the domains of countering improvised explosive devices, explosive ordnance disposal, and demining, the Alliance announced on Tuesday

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2610210&Language=en>

- **UN relief workers concerned about civilians in Mosul threatened by Iraqi forces, ISIL**

As a new front opens in the fight between Iraqi forces and the group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) in north-western Mosul city, United Nations humanitarian staff are raising concern about hundreds of thousands of civilians still living in the area.

More Details:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56717#.WRKtYvyjIU>

- **Iraq forces retake key area in Mosul**

Iraqi forces announced on Tuesday they had retaken yet another neighbourhood of western Mosul, tightening the noose around militants holed up in the Old City.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/08411065-f068-4c8d-9252-e45bae37f49e.aspx>

- **Iraqi anti-corruption activists released after kidnapping**

Seven young Iraqi anti-corruption activists were released on Tuesday, a day after being kidnapped by armed men in central Baghdad, the interior ministry said.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/iraqi-anti-corruption-activists-released-after-kidnapping-1412415433>

- **Iraq's Turkmens express concern over PKK presence in Kirkuk**

Portraits of the terror group's leader Abdullah Öcalan, jailed in Turkey, and PKK banners were seen at the center of the northern Iraqi city. Kirkuk's population is mainly composed of Arabs, Turkmen, and Kurds.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/05/10/iraqs-turkmens-express-concern-over-pkk-presence-in-kirkuk>

- **Iraq: Calls To Release 7 Kidnapped Students**

Iraq's students union and communist party demanded the release of seven students kidnapped in Baghdad early Monday morning.

More Details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-edd0-Iraq-Calls-to-release-7-kidnapped-students#.WRKt9CvyjIU>

- **Iraq's Parliament Is 'Convinced' There's No Corruption Under Health Minister Hamoud. But Are Iraqis?**

A video recording has been making the rounds on Iraqi social media of a lively celebration welcoming health minister Adilah Hamoud, member of the State of Law Coalition and current ruling Iraqi National Alliance, back to work after she was questioned by legislators over corruption concerns.

More Details:

<https://globalvoices.org/2017/05/09/iraqs-parliament-is-convinced-theres-no-corruption-under-health-minister-hamoud-but-are-iraqis/>

- **Iraqi forces recapture new areas in western Mosul**

Iraqi forces battling Islamic State (IS) militants on Tuesday extended grip into northern Mosul on the sixth day of a new push that initiated a new front in the northwestern edge of IS stronghold in the western side of Mosul, the Iraqi military said.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/10/c_136269541.htm

- **Poverty, war, bureaucracy: The obstacles hindering Iraq's education sector**

Across northern Iraq, including in the autonomous Kurdistan region, politics and war have taken a heavy toll on education, from children in school to students at universities.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2017/5/9/poverty-war-bureaucracy-the-obstacles-hindering-iraqs-education-sector>

- **Dismantle bombs — or die trying. The life of a bomb defuser in Iraq**

It is only days before he is due to return home on leave, and commanders have sent him behind enemy lines for one last mission: take some of the explosives the Iraqi army has salvaged from Islamic State and resow them like deadly seeds in the no man's land they call ard al haram — the forbidden zone.

More Details:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/dismantle-bombs-or-die-trying-the-life-of-a-bomb-defuser-in-iraq-1.467580#.WRK3JCvyjIU>

- **ISIS Executes Prisoners; 117 Killed in Iraq**

In Mosul, at least 10 civilians were killed in air or artillery strikes that struck the 17 Tammuz district. Militants killed a civilian and wounded three more as they tried to escape Daesh territory. Clashes left a policeman dead and four wounded; eight militants were also killed. Militants killed three militiamen and wounded six more. Twenty militants were killed in the Industrial Area.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/05/09/isis-executes-prisoners-117-killed-in-iraq/>

- **Battle for Mosul: 400k Iraqis displaced in two months**

More than 400,000 people have been displaced from western Mosul about two months into the Iraqi army's battle against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), according to the UN.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/400k-iraqis-displaced-months-mosul-battle-170510040349709.html>

- **Iraq: the widening of the gap between Karbala and al-Anbar ended**

The Iraqi Prime Minister announced the completion of the digging of the ditch between the provinces of al-Anbar and Karbala, a ditch intended to protect pilgrims from the mausoleum of Imam Hossein, the third Imam of the Shiites.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/09/521229/Irak-foss-entre-Karbala-et-alAnbar>

- **Iraqi boys recount horrors of captivity, training by IS**

They made the captive children, weak from hunger, fight over a single tomato. Then the Islamic State militants told them that in paradise they could eat to their hearts delight, but they could only get there by blowing themselves up.

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_ISLAMIC_STATE_CHILDREN_IN_CAPTIVITY_ABRIDGED?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-10-02-37-03

- **Victims or collaborators? In Iraq's hunt for ISIS, Mosul families deal with disappearances and death**

On May 1, about a hundred men squatted inside a tent, manned by officers of Iraq's Counter-Terrorism Service. They had just emerged from western Mosul, where backed by the firepower of the US-led international coalition, Iraqi forces are fighting to dislodge the Islamic State or ISIS from its last remaining strongholds. An officer of the Counter-Terrorism Service said that 3,000 people were escaping western Mosul every day. While women and children waited outside, the men, looking forlorn, clutched the laminated pieces of paper, essential to proving to the Iraqi government that they were ordinary citizens and not collaborators of ISIS.

More Details:

<https://scroll.in/article/837069/victims-or-collaborators-in-iraqs-hunt-for-isis-mosul-families-deal-with-disappearances-and-death>

- **Almost 10,000 Yazidis 'killed or kidnapped in ISIS genocide', says study**

As many as 9,900 members of Yazidi community have been "killed or kidnapped in ISIS genocide," yet the true scale of the genocide during the brutal sweep by the ISIS through Iraq may never be known as thousands remain in captivity, a study says.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzEzMzM3/almost-10-000-yazidis-039-killed-or-kidnapped-in-isis-genocide-039-says-study.html>

- **Algeria energy minister to visit Iraq, backs supply cut extension – source**

Algeria's Energy Minister Nouredine Bouterfa will travel to Baghdad on May 10-11 for talks on OPEC issues with his Iraqi counterpart, the ministry said in a statement on Tuesday, as oil producers consider extending a global supply cut.

More Details;

http://af.reuters.com/article/algeriaNews/idAFL8N1IB3TG?feedType=RSS&feedName=algeriaNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaAlgeriaNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Algeria+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Iraq Exports First Shipment of Crude Oil to Egypt**

The ministry of oil has declared the exportation of the first shipment of crude oil, which was two million barrels to Egypt through the southern ports.

More Details:

<http://africabusinesscommunities.com/news/iraq-exports-first-shipment-of-crude-oil-to-egypt/>

- **Suicide Bombings are ISIS' Last Choice in Mosul**

Mosul- Iraqi forces tightened the noose on ISIS militants in western Mosul on Tuesday after one day at a time being able to shrink the group's areas of control in the city.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/d-abdullah/news-middle-east/suicide-bombings-isis-last-choice-mosul>

2. SYRIA

- **Syrian teams ranked 1st in three competitions at the ARC3 in Beirut**

The Syrian teams participating in the third Annual Robotics Competition (ARC3) achieved the first ranks in three of the competitions within the tournament that was held in Beirut last Saturday. In a statement to SANA, Head of the Syrian Computer Society (SCS) Dr. Moheeb al-Naqari said that more than 650 participants representing 107 teams from more than 70 Arab educational institutions participated in the six competitions of the tournament which are: WRO Football for primary category, Line Race for preparatory category, Open Sumo for secondary category, SUMO University and Project Challenge for secondary and university categories.

More Details

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=105779>,

- **US to arm Kurdish fighters in Syria**

The United States on Tuesday announced it would supply arms and military equipment to Kurdish fighters battling the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), a move likely to anger key ally Turkey which considers the Kurdish forces to be terrorists.

More Details

https://article.wn.com/view/2017/05/10/US_to_arm_Kurdish_fighters_in_Syria/

- **Al Jazeera Filming Fake 'Poisonous Substance' Attacks**

SyriaNews editor preface: This is an important short report from the Syrian Arab News Agency, as it caused the Gulfie toilet Qatar/absolute monarchy owned al Khanzeera to throw a it and issue a condemnation. Such denunciation from a monarchy notorious for sponsoring terror against the Syrian Arab Republic suggests that the debut of the staged event was forced to be postponed into the indefinite future. al Khanzeera is illegally in Syria, and is a key part of terrorism against the country. Please see addenda following this SANA report, for a partial list of Qatari-Khanzeera war crimes against the Syrian people.

More Details

<http://www.syrianews.cc/sana-al-jazeera-filming-fake-poisonous-substance-attacks/>

- **Homeless Syrian refugee toddler bitten by rats**

Sitting in a dimly lit room with his three-year-old son on his lap, Taha points to the boy's lips where a rat had bitten him twice while he was sleeping in the night. With a look of hopelessness, Taha, a refugee from Syria, explains how he and his family of seven now live in a horse barn in the Bekaa Valley after they were served eviction notices to leave their camp by the Lebanese army last month. Taha and his family are among an estimated 10,500 Syrian refugees ordered to leave the makeshift camp, with the Lebanese military citing security reasons as the refugees were camped near the Rayak air base.

More Details

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170509-homeless-syrian-refugee-toddler-bitten-by-rats/>

- **Syria's New Opposition Leader on Gaining Public Trust and Future of Syria**

In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency, Riad Seif, the newly-elected head of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, stressed his intention to make the coalition "more inclusive" and establish a better relationship with the Syrian public. According to Seif, the coalition's internal structure and guidelines -- which, as they currently stand, hinder new members from getting involved, he said -- are in urgent need of reform.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/syria%E2%80%99s-new-opposition-leader-gaining-public-trust-and-future-syria-972346>

- **Next Syria Peace Talks to Start in Geneva on May 16**

A new round of United Nations-backed peace talks for war-ravaged Syria is set to begin in Geneva next week, the office of the U.N. mediator said Monday. "Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura will reconvene the intra-Syrian talks under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva on 16 May 2017," the U.N. said in a statement. The announcement comes days after regime backers Russia and Iran and rebel supporter Turkey signed a deal in the Kazakh capital Astana to strengthen a ceasefire agreed upon last December by implementing "de-escalation zones" where the government and opposition will halt hostilities.

More Details

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229769-next-syria-peace-talks-to-start-in-geneva-on-may-16>

- **Major Evacuation of Fighters, Civilians since Beginning of War in Syria**

London – During the years of the Syrian war that erupted in 2011 as many areas were besieged by all conflict parties, the country has witnessed several evacuations involving tens of thousands of civilians and fighters, especially from the strongholds of the opposition factions.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/major-evacuation-fighters-civilians-since-beginning-war-syria>

- **Syrian Air Forces Strike Daesh Positions in Deir ez-Zor Province**

According to the Syrian Satellite Channel, the Syrian forces struck Daesh targets in a number of settlements in the Deir ez-Zor province, eliminating many militants, including foreign mercenaries, and destroying 15 vehicles with heavy machine guns.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705091053437824-syria-air-forces-daesh/>

- **Fancy Bear hackers using Trump's missile strike on Syria as bait in fresh cyberattacks**

Fancy Bear hackers' cyber assaults continue as researchers uncover evidence of fresh attacks. The Kremlin-linked hacker group is now going after targets in fresh phishing attacks using US President Donald Trump's actions against Syria as bait to lure victims into clicking on malicious email attachments.

More Details

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/fancy-bear-hackers-using-trumps-missile-strike-syria-bait-fresh-cyberattacks-1620827>

3. IRAN

- **Iran's Intelligence Minister: 75 Terrorist Groups Disbanded in 3 Years**

Last (Iranian) year (ended on March 20), 30 terrorist teams which sought to carry out terrorist operations were identified and clamped down and during the two years before the last year, 45 terrorist teams were identified and disbanded," Alavi said in an interview with the state-run TV on Monday night.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960219000545>

- **EU urges commitment to Iran nuclear deal**

In her annual briefing to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, Federica Mogherini underlined the need for all sides to comply with the accord, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "The nuclear deal with Iran shows the way forward to us, the Europeans. It set a milestone for non-proliferation," said the top EU diplomat.

More Details

<http://217.218.67.231/Detail/2017/05/10/521291/Iran-EU-Federica-Mogherini/>

- **Nuke-free ME possible only with intl. pressure on Israel**

The Iranian ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Reza Najafi made the remarks in an address to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Austrian capital city of Vienna on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125302/Nuke-free-ME-possible-only-with-intl-pressure-on-Israel>

- **Canadian political delegation in Iran for talks**

The Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday that a Canadian political delegation is in Tehran for talks on bilateral relations. Also in a phone conversation with his Canadian counterpart Chrystia Freeland on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said it is necessary to provide the condition for Iranian residents in Canada to vote in the May 19 presidential elections.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/413297/Canadian-political-delegation-in-Iran-for-talks>

- **Iran, Cameroon set to promote ties**

Foreign Ministry's Director General for African Affairs Mehdi Aqajafari in the last leg of his visit to western Africa on Tuesday underlined Iran's resolve to consolidate bilateral ties with Cameroon.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82523643/>

- **Iranian FM Congratulates Haniya on Appointment as New Hamas Chief**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif congratulated Ismail Haniya on his post as the new chief of Palestinian resistance movement Hamas' political bureau, reaffirming Tehran's commitment to supporting Palestinians in their battle against Zionist occupation.

More Details

<http://ifpnews.com/wired/iranian-fm-congratulates-haniya-appointment-new-hamas-chief/>

- **Pakistan, Iran to settle trade transactions through banking channels**

The central banks of Pakistan and Iran have finally devised a detailed mechanism to settle trade transactions between the two countries through banking channels.

More Details

<http://paktribune.com/news/PakistanIran-to-settle-trade-transactions-through-banking-channels-278738.html>

- **Iran's Geostrategic and Geoeconomic Advantages for Northern Neighbors – OpEd**

Iran's rail network has many extraordinary advantages, including the potential to get connected to railroads in Central Asia in northeast, to Pakistan in east, and to Iraq in west. This position can help Iran have access to a number of international rail networks. Two of the aforesaid three networks can connect Iran to Northern and Southern Europe.

More Details

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/10052017-irans-geostrategic-and-geoeconomic-advantages-for-northern-neighbors-oped/>

- **Iran: Mine Incident Fatalities Reaches 43**

The Iranian Regime's officials and state media announced on Tuesday that the number of victims of a deadly explosion last week at a coal mine in northern Iran has reached 43.

More Details

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/society/22751-iran-mine-incident-fatalities-reaches-43>

- **Raisi: At the Behest of Khamenei, We Do Not Pay Tax**

Raisi, a presidential candidate who is the trustee of the "Astan Qods Razavi" (the super wealthy administrative organization which manages the Imam Reza shrine and various institutions belonging to it), in response to Hassan Rouhani said that Astan Qods Razavi Since the establishment of the regime according to Khomeini's decree do not pay taxes and current supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, has extended that command until today.

More Details

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/election/22750-raisi-at-the-behest-of-khamenei-we-do-not-pay-tax>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Palestinian 'hunger strike' raises tension**

A hunger strike by more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners over their treatment in Israeli jails has turned into a heated dispute over whether the leader of the protest secretly broke the fast, and whether Israel tempted him to do so. The strike, which began on April 17, followed a call by Marwan Barghouti, the most high-profile Palestinian in Israeli detention, for a protest against poor conditions and an Israeli policy of detention without trial that has applied to thousands of prisoners since the 1980s. Barghouti, a leader of the Fatah movement, has seen his popularity grow among Palestinians

since he was convicted of murder over the killing of Israelis during the second intifada and sentenced in 2004 to five life terms.

More Details

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/547474/Palestinian-hunger-strike-raises-tension>

- **Abbas meets with German counterpart, reiterates commitment to two-state solution**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reiterated his commitment to a two-state solution on the 1967 borders on Tuesday during the start of an official visit by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Ramallah in the central occupied West Bank. Steinmeier was officially welcomed by Abbas and several Palestinian Authority (PA) officials. He was then brought to the tomb of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the presidential compound, where the German leader laid flowers beside the tomb.

More Details

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776949>

- **Palestinians blast Pizza Hut for ad mocking prisoners**

Palestinians are calling for a boycott of Pizza Hut after the food company's Israel branch shared a picture on social media mocking the leader of a mass hunger strike in Israeli prisons. The franchise's official Facebook page on Monday posted an image released earlier by Israeli prison authorities, allegedly showing Marwan Barhgouti breaking his hunger strike.

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/palestinians-blast-pizza-hut-ad-mocking-prisoners-170509160753189.html>

- **After 49 years, Israel news show scrapped hour before airing**

With an emotional signoff, Israel's longest running TV news program aired its last episode Tuesday after a sudden cancellation following a political battle with the prime minister. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the shutdown of the struggling state-run broadcaster is part of reforms to create a new replacement organization, but staffers and opposition lawmakers accuse him of trying to control the media and defang the public news outlet.

More Details

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/feeds/canadian-press/world/after-49-years-israel-news-show-cancelled-hour-before-airing/article34932217/>

- **Palestinian Minister of Finance promotes Palestinian state in Belgium**

Palestinian Minister of Finance Shukri Bishara delivered a speech during a forum in Brussels on Tuesday in the presence of politicians from the European Union and the United States Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt, where the Palestinian leader underscored the longstanding “colonial projects” of the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority’s commitment to state building.

More Details

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776945>

- **Palestinians appeal to UN over hunger striking prisoners**

The Palestinians sent a letter to the UN Security Council late Tuesday appealing to the international community to support hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. The letter from Palestinian Charge d’Affaires Feda Abdelhady-Nasser claimed Israel has not responded to the prisoners’ grievances, calling for an end “to solitary confinement, torture, medical negligence, and administrative detention, as well as for proper access to education, medical care and family visitation.” It demanded that Israel respect their rights, dignity and humanity.

More Details

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinians-appeal-to-un-over-hunger-striking-prisoners/>

- **Army Abducts Three Palestinians in Bethlehem**

Israeli soldiers abducted, on Wednesday at dawn, three young Palestinian men, from Bethlehem governorate, in the occupied West Bank, and summoned one woman for interrogation. The Bethlehem office of the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society (PPS) said several army vehicles invaded Teqoua’ town, east of Bethlehem, before the soldiers stormed and searched homes, and abducted two young men, identified as Mousa Mahmoud al-’Amour, 17, and Hussein Khaled al-Badan, 21.

More Details

<http://imemc.org/article/army-abducts-three-palestinians-in-bethlehem/>

- **Palestinian officials begin prep for Trump/Abbas/Netanyahu meet**

Al-Hayat newspaper reported that senior Palestinian officials have begun preparations for a three-way summit between US President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, according to the report. Another round of negotiations, which were developed within a period of nine months to a year, during his visit to the region, was denied by Abbas's diplomatic advisor.

More Details

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4959972,00.html>

- **Palestinian Girl 'Executed' by Israeli Police 'In Cold Blood'**

A Palestinian teenager was "executed in cold blood" by Israeli forces on Monday, witnesses have said, as more information emerges about the killing of Fatima Afif Abd al-Rahman Hjeiji in Jerusalem. Rahman was killed when Israeli forces in occupied Jerusalem fired a hail of bullets at the 16-year-old, close to the iconic Damascus Gate which leads to the Old City.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/palestinian-girl-executed-israeli-police-cold-blood-972356>

- **Israel ranks second in OECD in income inequality**

The "Shoresh Foundation" research institute reported that inequality in Israel is one of the highest in the developed world. In a socio-economic study prepared at the request of the National Economic Council, Israel's Gini Index, which represents inequality in income, is compared to the OECD countries. Israel ranks second after the United States.

More Details

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4959958,00.html>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Syrian planes strike rebel outposts near Jordanian border**

Syrian government warplanes struck rebel outposts near the Jordanian border early on Tuesday, rebels said, bringing the war closer to Syria's U.S.-allied neighbor to the south. The air strikes, at around 3 a.m. (0000 GMT) were the first near that part of the border, a Jordanian official said. They came hours after Syria's foreign minister warned Jordan against sending troops into his country.

More Details

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-border-idUSKBN1851KY?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Electoral Law Ministerial Panel Holds 'Positive' Meeting amid Reports of Agreement on Proportional Law**

The ministerial committee tasked with devising a new electoral law held a “positive” meeting on Tuesday, several ministers said. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Saad Hariri and attended by the ministers Youssef Fenianos (Marada), Ghattas Khoury (Mustaqbal), Talal Arslan (Lebanese Democratic Party), Ayman Shuqair (Progressive Socialist Party), Ali Hassan Khalil (AMAL), Avedis Guidanian (Tashnag), Hussein al-Hajj Hassan (Hizbullah), Jebran Bassil (Free Patriotic Movement) and Pierre Bou Assi (Lebanese Forces).

More Details

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229784-electoral-law-ministerial-panel-holds-positive-meeting-amid-reports-of-agreement-on-proportional-law>

- **Aoun: Our Stance on Electoral Law is Not Sectarian, Proportional Representation Must Have Restraints**

President Michel Aoun announced Tuesday that his Free Patriotic Movement's stance on the electoral law “is not sectarian,” while stressing that a proportional representation system should have “restraints” or else it would be equivalent to a sudden abolition of political sectarianism. “Changing the electoral law is aimed at achieving fair representation,” Aoun told his visitors at the Baabda Palace.

More Details

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229781-aoun-our-stance-on-electoral-law-is-not-sectarian-proportional-representation-must-have-restraints>

- **Hezbollah and the Balance Of Power in Lebanon – OpEd**

Lebanon’s president, Michel Aoun, is a fervent Hezbollah supporter; Lebanon’s Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, most certainly is not. Hariri’s position is scarcely surprising, since he has every reason to believe that back in 2005 his father, Rafik, was brutally assassinated by Hezbollah operatives, acting on the orders of Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad.

More Details

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/09052017-hezbollah-and-the-balance-of-power-in-lebanon-oped/>

- **Lebanese–UAE House inaugurated in Al Batroun, Lebanon**

The Lebanese-UAE House was inaugurated in the Al Batroun area during the fourth session of the Lebanese Diaspora Energy Conference, in the presence of Gebran Bassil, Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Hamad Saeed Sultan Al Shamsi, UAE Ambassador to Lebanon, and

several other Lebanese ministers and members of parliament. This follows the initiative of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants to promote social, cultural, educational and commercial bonds between Lebanon and the world's civilisations. It represents the desire of the Lebanese community in the UAE to strengthen communication with the nation.

More Details

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302612916>

- **US aid to Jordan in 2017 totals \$1.3 billion, Minister**

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury said Tuesday that US basic aid to Jordan this year totaled about \$1.3 billion under the budget endorsed by Congress late last week. The aid is in recognition of the Kingdom's pivotal role in the region and the burdens it bears as well as its reform and developmental model, he said at a meeting with a delegation of US congressional aides, currently visiting Jordan, in which he outlined the economic challenges facing the Kingdom.

More Details

http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=301182&CatID=13

- **Lebanese MP Calls New Electricity Plan a 'Suspicious Deal'**

Kataeb Party Chief MP Samy Gemayel on Monday lashed out at the proposed electricity plan, stressing that what he described as a "suspicious deal" shall not pass. "We will not accept that the electricity file be exploited for partisan calculations, and this issue is not for political gains and overbidding," Gemayel said at a press conference, urging a solution to the power generation crisis.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/lebanon-electricity-plan-suspicious-deal-gemayel-mp-972336>

- **Hajj Hassan, Khoury target drop in import, export growth of \$2 billion**

Industry Minister, Hussein Hajj Hassan, and Economy Minister, Raed Khoury, announced that their target for the next two years would be a drop in the volume of imports and an increase in exports of two billion dollars. The Lebanese Industrialists Association on Tuesday sounded an "industrial alarm", urging the State to "take a salvation action and put an end to the illegal competition by Syrian refugees."

More Details

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79034/Hajj-Hassan-Khoury-target-drop-in-import-export-growth-of-billion>

- **How the IDF Boosts security along the border with Lebanon**

Israel has begun building an upgraded security fence along two stretches of the Lebanese border after an unarmed Lebanese citizen infiltrated into the area and walked several kilometers to Kiryat Shmona, the Defense Ministry confirmed on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/How-the-IDF-boosts-security-along-the-border-with-Lebanon-490276>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Oil rises after report of Saudi Arabia cutting supply to Asia**

Oil futures rose in Asian trading on Wednesday after Reuters reported Saudi Arabia would cut supplies to the region as oil cartel OPEC battles against rising US output that is threatening to derail its attempts to end a sustained global glut in crude.

More Details:

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/markets/2017-05-10-oil-rises-after-report-of-saudi-arabia-cutting-supply-to-asia/>

- **Cholera Compounds Suffering in a Yemen Torn by War**

Cholera, a waterborne disease that can quickly explode into a public health disaster, has begun to spread in Yemen, a war-ravaged country ill equipped to fight it.

More Details

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/09/world/middleeast/cholera-yemen-war-humanitarian-crisis.html?_r=0

- **Doha Bank Exchange traded fund (ETF) in final phase**

Qatar Exchange and HSBC organized the Annual Investment Forum 2017 on 8-9 May 2017 at New York Palace Hotel. Mr. Rashid Ali Al-Mansoori, Qatar Exchange CEO said, "Qatar exchange aims to provide more products this year to encourage investments from global investors. The Exchange traded fund (ETF) is part of this initiative of Qatar Exchange. This would result in increase in inflows to Qatar economy both from the region and from globe and thereby promote sustainability."

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/pr/doha-bank-exchange-traded-fund-etf-final-phase-972576>

- **Dubai Supreme Energy Council ratifies incentive programme for electric cars**

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, has ratified an incentive programme to promote the use of electric cars in Dubai, which was presented by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, and Dubai Municipality at the 45th meeting of the Supreme Council of Energy.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302613066>

- **60pc Bahrain youth worried about unemployment: Survey**

Bahraini youth are extremely worried about unemployment, according to ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey conducted by PSB Research.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=33210&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

- **Oman a market with great potential for Thailand: HE Jesda Katavetin**

Thailand's Ambassador to Oman, H E Jesda Katavetin, has said that Oman and Thailand could form a strategic partnership. H E Katavetin emphasised Oman's geographical location the reason for this partnership.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Oman-a-market-with-great-potential-for-Thailand-H-E-Jesda-Katavetin-50nm>

- **King Salman invites leaders of Gulf, Arab and Islamic countries to participate in Arab, Islamic and US summit**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has sent a message to King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco. The message included an invitation to attend the Arab, Islamic, U.S. summit to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://sites.alriyadh.com/en/article/1158849/King-Salman-invites-leaders-of-Gulf-Arab-and-Islamic-countries-to-participate-in-Arab-Islamic-and-US-summit>

- **Helping to Alleviate Hunger in Yemen**

Yemen's two-year conflict between the Houthi rebels and the country's elected government, supported by a Saudi-led coalition, has left the people of Yemen, in the words of Norwegian Humanitarian leader Jen Egeland, "facing a famine of Biblical proportion".

More Details:

<http://editorials.voa.gov/a/helping-alleviate-hunger-yemen/3844878.html>

- **Bangladesh, Qatar to deepen banking cooperation**

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Qatar Central Bank Governor Sheikh Abdulla Bin Saoud Al-Thani signed a MoU Monday to further deepen cooperation between their two central banks.

More Details:

<http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bangladesh-qatar-want-deepen-cooperation-1403266>

- **Trump set to meet Abu Dhabi Crown Prince**

US President Donald Trump will meet with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan next week in Washington, the White House announced on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/5/10/trump-set-to-meet-abu-dhabi-crown-prince>

7. EGYPT

- **Egyptian expats in US call for annual meeting with Sisi**

The president of the Egyptian-American Association for Entrepreneurship, Nasser Saber, called on President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to organize an annual conference with Egyptian expatriates to discuss economic, political and social issues and ways in which Egyptians living abroad can contribute to supporting the Egyptian economy, Al-Shorouk newspaper reported.

More Details

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/egyptian-expats-us-call-annual-meeting-sisi>

- **Egypt's annual urban consumer price inflation reaches 31.5 pct in April**

May 10 Egypt's annual urban consumer-price inflation hit a three-decade high in April, adding pressure on the government to lower prices before the holy month of Ramadan begins at the end of the month.

More Details

<http://www.reuters.com/article/egypt-economy-inflation-idUSL8N1IC154?rpc=401&>

- **Egypt FM spokesman comments on Hamas document**

In an interview about Hamas' new political document presented last week, an spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said, "There is a change in some of Hamas' positions regarding the Palestinian issue—the agreement to the 1967 lines, the vision regarding solutions and sources of authority for a political settlement, the connection with Israel."

More Details

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4959955,00.html>

- **Poland working with Egyptian authorities over Hurghada death**

In a statement published on Tuesday, the ministry said that it is “constantly monitoring” the progress of the post-mortem investigation. The 27-year woman, identified as Magdalena Ż. (name withheld under Polish privacy laws) was holidaying alone in Egypt when she started feeling unwell, according to media reports. She reportedly visited two local hospitals before being admitted.

More Details

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/306153,Poland-working-with-Egyptian-authorities-over-Hurghada-death>

- **Sayed Abdellatif: Interpol to review status of Egyptian asylum seeker held in Australia**

An Egyptian asylum seeker held in Australian immigration detention for five years without charge or trial, on the basis of information obtained under torture, is having his Interpol Red Notice reviewed by the global policing agency.

More Details

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/may/10/sayed-abdellatif-interpol-to-review-status-of-egyptian-asylum-seeker-held-in-australia>

- **Egypt's age of intellectual fascism**

Egyptian walls have often had 'ears', but since 2011, it is not Big Brother that we fear. Millions of Little Brothers have emerged among us to police what we are meant to say and think.

More Details

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/egypt-s-age-intellectual-terrorism-940558559>

- **Egyptians Can Splurge Overseas Again as Banks Ease Card Curbs**

Egyptian banks are lifting restrictions on customers' overseas credit card purchases, the latest indication that a foreign-currency crunch that crippled the economy is easing.

More Details

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-09/egyptians-can-splurge-overseas-again-as-banks-ease-card-curbs>

- **Gawad headlines PSA World Series Finals**

Egypt's dominance of world squash continues with a seven-strong contingent of players heading to Dubai next month for the PSA Dubai World Series Finals which will be played at the Dubai Opera from June 6-10.

More Details

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/f296eb62-73f3-4112-8f28-936698a653ae.aspx>

- **Belt and Road initiative injects vitality into Egypt-China ties**

The future of economic relations between Egypt and China under the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative is promising and we urge further Chinese investments in Egypt to fasten the pace of Egyptian-Chinese economic integration, said the Egyptian trade and industry minister in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

More Details

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1045999.shtml>

- **Egypt's CBE obliges banks to not deal with over 7 exchange bureaus**

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) issued directives to banks operating in the Egyptian market to not deal with more than seven exchange bureaus.

More Details

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/banks/56749-egypts-cbe-obliges-banks-to-not-deal-with-over-7-exchange-bureaus.html>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Germany urges political solution in Libya**

Finding a political solution to the crisis in Libya is key to addressing the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/europe/germany-urges-political-solution-in-libya-/814952>

- **Smugglers en route to Europe 'forcing migrants to bury alive sick or injured travellers'**

Migrants trying to reach Europe often spend months in squalid and dangerous conditions while they waiting for boats to across the Mediterranean, according to reports. Humanitarian groups have revealed that by the time boats are ready, some migrants are too sick or injured to travel as they have fallen victim to diseases or suffered gunshot wounds from local Libyan militia groups.

More Details:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/802550/migrant-crisis-smugglers-forcing-travellers-to-bury-alive-sick-injured-Libya-Mediterranean>

- **Clashes between rival militias cause panic in Tripoli**

At least one person was killed and a number of others injured today in central Tripoli when two rival local militias battled it out for control of the area.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/05/10/clashes-between-rival-militias-cause-panic-in-tripoli/>

- **Foreign Minister Meets with Speaker of the Algerian People's National Assembly**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir met here today with the Speaker of the People's National Assembly of Algeria Dr. Mohamed El-Arabi Ould Khalifa.

More Details:

<http://sites.alriyadh.com/en/article/1158879/Foreign-Minister-Meets-with-Speaker-of-the-Algerian-Peoples-National-Assembly>

- **Tunisia Lost \$17.8 Billion in Foreign Currency between 2006-2016: Report**

Tunisia has lost 43 billion dinars (\$17.8 billion) in foreign currency equivalents over the period 2006-2016, due to the exception regime granted to non-resident companies in the law 72, according to an analysis note which has just been published by the Tunisian Economic Observatory (OTE), under the title "Law 72: A huge loss in foreign currency".

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/tunisia-lost-178-billion-foreign-currency-between-2006-2016-report-972430>

- **Secretary General discusses the fight against terrorism with Tunisian Foreign Minister**

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg welcomed Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui to NATO Headquarters on Tuesday (9 May 2017) for talks on regional security and the partnership between the Alliance and Tunisia.

More Details:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_143521.htm?selectedLocale=en

- **Tunisia sets up task force with NASDAQ Dubai to pave way for issuing first Sukuk**

Nasdaq Dubai and the government of Tunisia, together with Bourse de Tunis, have set up a task force to pave the way for Tunisia's first ever issuance of a Sukuk.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302613055>

- **US may extend its ban on laptops in cabin baggage to fliers from Europe**

The United States is considering banning passengers from carrying large electronic devices in their cabin baggage on flights from Europe, AFP reported on Tuesday. Currently, passengers flying in to the US from 10 airports fall under the ambit of the ban that was introduced in March. The 10 airports are located across eight countries: the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and Morocco.

More Details:

<https://scroll.in/latest/837157/us-may-extend-its-ban-on-laptops-in-cabin-baggage-to-fliers-from-europe>

- **Cambodian UN Peacekeeper killed, 8 wounded in CAR**

Attackers in Central African Republic ambushed a convoy of UN peacekeepers from Cambodia and Morocco, killing one Cambodian soldier and wounding six other peacekeepers, Cambodian officials said Tuesday, PressTV reported.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/world/other/2751840.html>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Chaman border crossing will stay closed until Afghan govt addresses Pakistan's reservations: Sartaj Aziz**

Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday remarked that Chaman border crossing will stay closed until Afghanistan government addresses Pakistan's reservations.

More Details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/Chaman-border-crossing-will-stay-closed-until-Afghan-govt-addresses-Pakistan%E2%80%99s-reservations-Sartaj-Aziz-278736.html>

- **Despite the dangers, I took the risk to visit Afghanistan and it was a thrilling experience**

Our paths crossed at the arrival hall of the Islamabad airport, next to a baggage conveyor belt. No, we were not arriving passengers, but outgoing passengers whose PIA flight to Kabul had been cancelled virtually at the last minute. The reason given was bad weather, but something else seemed to be in the air.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1332046/despite-the-dangers-i-took-the-risk-to-visit-afghanistan-and-it-was-a-thrilling-experience>

- **Bomb attack in Afghanistan kills 2, including tribal leader**

An Afghan official says a bomb planted on a car killed a tribal leader and another civilian in the southern Kandahar province.

More Details:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/feeds/canadian-press/world/bomb-attack-in-afghanistan-kills-2-including-tribal-leader/article34942794/>

- **Putin's Russian roulette in Afghanistan**

The recent Taliban attack on an Afghan army post outside Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan—the deadliest-ever by the Taliban on a military base, killing some 150 recruits—underscores the terrorist group's growing strength more than 15 years after they were ousted from power. The attack confirms yet again that Afghanistan still has a major security problem, and it's not about to be resolved.

More Details:

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/putins-russian-roulette-afghanistan/>

- **UN operations should be more effective in Afghanistan, President Ghani**

President Ghani received special representative of the UN secretary-general Jan Kubiš at the Presidential Palace the other day, his office said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/13906-un-operations-should-be-more-effective-in-afghanistan-president-ghani.html>

- **Tampering of EVMs 'biggest fraud': AAP**

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government at the Centre after the special Assembly session called to discuss the alleged tampering of EVMs, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday said it was the 'biggest fraud.'

More Details:

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/fullnews-242899.html>

- **India won't sit idly if its soldiers are attacked: US lawmaker**

Asking Pakistan to clamp down on extremist groups inside its territory, a top US lawmaker has cautioned Islamabad that India would not sit idly if its soldiers or citizens were being attacked.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-wont-sit-idly-if-its-soldiers-are-attacked-us-lawmaker/articleshow/58604822.cms>

- **Pakistan summons envoy over Iran comments**

Pakistan on Tuesday conveyed its concerns to Tehran over reported warning by Iranian armed forces chief to carry out strikes inside Pakistani territory on suspected bases of militants.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/asia/pakistan/pakistan-summons-envoy-over-iran-comments-1.2024634>

- **Iran threatens to hit 'terror safe havens' in Pakistan**

Pakistan's foreign office has summoned the Iranian ambassador over an ultimatum by the head of Iran's armed forces that his country will attack areas sheltering "terrorists" in Pakistan unless it tightens control over its borders and stops what he calls cross-border attacks.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/iran-warns-hit-terror-safe-havens-pakistan-170509080940300.html>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish, US ministers discuss Raqqah operation**

Defense Minister Fikri Isik and his U.S. counterpart James Mattis spoke over the phone on Tuesday about the planned military operation in the northern Syrian city of Raqqah. The two ministers discussed the ongoing crises in Syria and Iraq, according to a Turkish Defense Ministry source, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on talking to media.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-us-ministers-discuss-raqqah-operation-/814957>

- **US defense chief Mattis says will address Turkish concerns on arming YPG**

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Wednesday he was confident the United States would be able to resolve tensions with Turkey over the U.S. decision to arm PKK-linked YPG forces in Syria, saying: "We'll work out any of the concerns."

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2017/05/10/us-defense-chief-mattis-says-will-address-turkish-concerns-on-arming-ypg>

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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