



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procees of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dış Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

11 MAY 2017

NO: 2369

1. IRAQ.....	4
• In Iraq's Mosul, many survivors face future as amputees.....	4
• Thousands Flee Mosul; 70 Killed in Iraq.....	4
• War in Iraq: Islamic State collapses as military kills ISIS commander in West Mosul.....	4
• Families pour out of Mosul as troops push into last Daesh-held areas.....	4
• 'Stark choices' for 450,000 civilians trapped amid fighting in Mosul's Old Town: ICRC.....	5
• Iraq, Syria: Hundreds more civilian casualties in coalition war.....	5
• Why liberating Mosul won't lead to the end of IS.....	5
• Iraqi PM criticizes PKK posters in Kirkuk.....	5
• OIR Spokesman Reports Progress in Defeating ISIS in Syria, Iraq.....	5
• Battle for Mosul: When the fighting ends, the real test begins.....	6
• Iraqi troops push into last Daesh-held areas.....	6
• ISIS controls no more than %5 of Mosul as Iraqi Army liberates several neighborhoods.....	6
• Libya, Nigeria, and Iraq – A Triple Threat To The OPEC Deal.....	6
• Senior economic official calls for expansion of Iran-Iraq ties.....	7
• Iraq, Algeria favour extending OPEC-led output cut for six months.....	7
• Over 1,300 Daesh terrorists killed in west Mosul battle.....	7
• Senior Shia scholar receives Iranian ambassador to Iraq.....	7
• Iraqi armed forces liquidated 100 ISIS terrorists at border with Syria.....	7
• ISIL Suffers Tens of Casualties in Iraqi Air Raids near Border with Syria.....	8
2. SYRIA.....	8
• Iranian Industry Minister discusses with Syrian Ambassador establishing joint industrial projects.....	8
• SAA Foils ISIS Attacks on Deir Ezzor Airport & Hama Countryside.....	8
• Syrians Arrested in Germany on Terror Charges.....	8
• Syria Tops Agenda in Trump-Lavrov Meeting.....	9
• Analysts say safe havens risk deepening divide in Syria.....	9
• US-led airstrike kills 10 civilians in Syria.....	9
• 20 people killed in Islamic State's weapons depot in Syria.....	9
• Survey Says: Mexico Rated the World's Second Deadliest Conflict Area after Syria.....	10
• Turkey warns U.S. against arming 'terrorist' YPG rebels in Syria.....	10
• The Alleged Failure of Multilateralism in Syria: Beyond a Realist Trap.....	10
3. IRAN.....	10
• Iran vs. Saudi Arabia: Who Is Supporting the Agents of Anarchy in the Region?.....	10
• Iranians in Canada can go to US for May 19 vote.....	11
• Ayatollah Khamenei vows crushing response to enemy.....	11
• Dep. FM dismisses Riyadh claim over Tehran's arms shipment to Yemen.....	11
• Iranian MPs back Bahrain's Sheikh Qassim ahead of cleric's trial.....	11
• Iran's Upcoming Local Elections Are an Opportunity for Women.....	11
• Pakistan and Iran to Discuss Movement of Terrorists across Border.....	12

• Iranian Kurdish party calls on PKK and KRG to de-escalate tension.....	12
• Iran, Guinea okay feasibility report on bauxite JV project	12
4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	13
• Atalya Ben Abba refuses to serve in the Israeli military, gets sentenced to a further 30 days in military detention.....	13
• 'Jewish State' Bill Gets Approved in Preliminary Reading	13
• Palestinian hunger strikers urge Pope to speak out against Israel	13
• Israel Bonds Paid a 3% Fee in 2016	13
• Racism remains a cornerstone of Israeli society	14
• Trump's visit to Israel, Palestine could be decisive: Justin Welby.....	14
• Israel Breaks All-Time Monthly Tourism Record	14
• Israeli Soldiers Abduct Four Palestinians In Bethlehem	15
• Hamas wins student elections at Birzeit University for third year	15
• Abbas has to pin hopes on Trump's words'	15
5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....	16
• Jordan high on agenda for top US military adviser's Israel visit.....	16
• UAE ambassador patronises Arabic calligraphy exhibition in Amman	16
• Jordan Confused by Trump's Flip-Flops on MidEast	16
• Lebanon's culture minister commends China's Belt and Road Initiative	17
• Lebanon: Extending Parliament, extending crisis	17
• Lebanese investors eye Rwanda	17
• Lebanese PM opens UAE's Consular Service Centre in Beirut	17
• Lebanon, Cuba Sign Visa Exemption Agreement	18
• Hariri, ministers oversee "disaster plan" manoeuver in Hermel	18
• Lebanon's Economy Minister Urges Lebanese Expats to Invest in Their Country	18
6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	19
• MPs say 'no' to sanitation fees on expatriates	19
• Bahrain Denies Entry to Human Rights Watch Representative	19
• US ambassador to Qatar appears to criticize Trump in tweet	19
• Qatar's Real GDP Growth to Reach 3.6% in 2018 despite VAT: Report	19
• Tens of Saudi soldiers killed, wounded in Yemeni counter attacks: Report	20
• Dep. FM dismisses Riyadh claim over Tehran's arms shipment to Yemen	20
• UAE renews commitment to continue as tolerant, hospitable society for expatriates.....	20
• King Salman invites leaders of Gulf, Arab & Islamic countries to attend Arab-Islamic-US Summit	20
• Saudi forces kill "wanted man" at Shi'ite district	21
7. EGYPT.....	21
• China, Egypt take steps to share their technology.....	21
• Egypt 'offering big prospects in energy, infra'	21
• Egypt's consumer price inflation reaches 31.5pc.....	21
• Egyptian troops shoot at Sudanese miners near borders: official	21
• Egypt Officials: Islamic Extremists Kill 10 Sinai Tribesmen.....	22
• BP Launches Taurus, Libra Offshore Egypt.....	22
• Where does government stand in implementing terms of IMF loan agreement?	22

• Egypt's Failed War on Terror	22
• Egypt parliament passes law granting bonus for state workers not subject to civil service law	23
• Talks to arrange meeting between Al-Sisi and Jinping this year	23
8. NORTH AFRICA.....	23
• 37 million painkilling pills from India seized in Italy, were meant for IS terrorists in Libya	23
• 5,500 Nigerians to be deported from Libya, Mali	23
• PVEP's joint venture records 10 millionth oil barrel in Algeria	24
• Iraq, Algeria favour extending OPEC-led output cut for six months	24
• EU rebar prices decline as Algerian market remains in limbo.....	24
• Libyan leader arrives in Algeria following peace talks	24
• Libyan coastguard turns back nearly 500 migrants after altercation with NGO ship	25
• Morocco Arrests 6 Daesh Suspects Allegedly Plotting Terror Attacks	25
• Tunisia army deployed to protect oil and gas fields against economic protests	25
• Kuwaiti and Tunisian envoys call on speaker	25
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	26
• Pakistan, Morocco sign MoU to set up JBC.....	26
• NPA Saves 18 Billion AFs by Assessing Contracts Correctly	26
• Malaysia-Afghanistan Bilateral Trade To Grow 10 Pct This Year	26
• Naderi formally obtains UN-Habitat Governing Council membership for Afghanistan.....	26
• TIR conference in Kabul focuses on turning Afghanistan into transit hub.....	27
• Pakistan, Turkey ink MoU for sale of warships, aircraft.....	27
• ICJ President Seeks Pakistan's Cooperation in Kulbhushan Jadhav's Death Sentence Case	27
• Jammu and Kashmir: One killed in Pakistan firing in Rajouri district	27
• BJP not keen on mid-term polls in Maharashtra	28
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST	28
• Turkey increases security measures on Iranian border	28
• Turkish deputy PM calls for Free Trade Agreement, tourism cooperation with Oman.....	28
• Minister says arming PKK/PYD will threaten Turkey.....	29

1. IRAQ

- **In Iraq's Mosul, many survivors face future as amputees**

Wihad Ahmed and her family had hunkered down in their house in western Mosul, hoping to wait out the nearly constant shelling as fighting raged between Islamic State militants and advancing Iraqi government forces.

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ_MOSUL AMPUTEES?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-11-02-15-12

- **Thousands Flee Mosul; 70 Killed in Iraq**

The Iraqi government estimates that over 22,000 people have fled western Mosul since May 4, when a new front against the Islamic State militants was opened.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/05/10/thousands-flee-mosul-70-killed-in-iraq/>

- **War in Iraq: Islamic State collapses as military kills ISIS commander in West Mosul**

The Islamic State militant group (ISIS) has suffered major losses in its last Iraqi stronghold of Mosul in recent days as pro-government forces have rapidly advanced against the jihadists.

More Details:

http://www.newsweek.com/war-iraq-islamic-state-military-kill-isis-commander-mosul-607055?piano_t=1

- **Families pour out of Mosul as troops push into last Daesh-held areas**

Thousands more people are fleeing Mosul every day since Iraqi troops began their push into the last Daesh-held areas of the city last week, with food and water running out and the fighting killing increasing numbers of civilians.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1097691/middle-east>

- **‘Stark choices’ for 450,000 civilians trapped amid fighting in Mosul’s Old Town: ICRC**

As many as 450,000 civilians are trapped in Mosul’s Old City, caught up in house-to-house fighting between Islamic State and Iraqi government forces and cut off from aid, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Wednesday.

More Details

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/05/11/world/social-issues-world/stark-choices-450000-civilians-trapped-amid-fighting-mosuls-old-town-icrc/#.WRQDjCvyjIU>

- **Iraq, Syria: Hundreds more civilian casualties in coalition war**

Hundreds more Iraqi and Syrian civilians have been killed and injured during the first week of May in U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi air strikes, as well as Iraqi army shelling, targeting Islamic State (IS) militants.

More Details:

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/iraq-syria-hundreds-more-civilian-casualties-in-coalition-war/article/492268>

- **Why liberating Mosul won't lead to the end of IS**

Although Islamic State (IS) fighters in western Mosul are cornered within a steadily shrinking area that is expected to be retaken soon, analysts warn that the fight against the group in the country is far from over.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/mosul-hawija-tal-afar-albaaji-iraq-syria-is.html>

- **Iraqi PM criticizes PKK posters in Kirkuk**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has expressed concern over the display of posters for the PKK terror organization as well as banners promoting the terrorists in the city of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq, saying the move could lead to new conflict in the region.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/05/11/iraqi-pm-criticizes-pkk-posters-in-kirkuk>

- **OIR Spokesman Reports Progress in Defeating ISIS in Syria, Iraq**

Partnered forces in Syria and Iraq are making progress in defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the spokesman for Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve said today.

More Details

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1179176/oir-spokesman-reports-progress-in-defeating-isis-in-syria-iraq/>

- **Battle for Mosul: When the fighting ends, the real test begins**

The Iraqi military says the battle for Mosul has entered its final phase, but what comes next will be crucial to the international battle against the Islamic State group.

More Details:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-11/mosul-battle-ends-the-real-test-begins/8516114>

- **Iraqi troops push into last Daesh-held areas**

Thousands more people are fleeing Mosul every day since Iraqi troops began their push into the last Daesh-held areas of the city last week, with food and water running out and the fighting killing increasing numbers of civilians.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/iraqi-troops-push-last-daesh-held-areas>

- **ISIS controls no more than %5 of Mosul as Iraqi Army liberates several neighborhoods**

With the Iraqi Federal Police, and Rapid Response Division holding ISIS in check in central Mosul, the Counter Terrorism Units and 9th Division were able to impose full control over the '2nd Al-Haramat' and Al-Ma'amel districts in western Mosul by noon.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1966428>

- **Libya, Nigeria, and Iraq – A Triple Threat To The OPEC Deal**

Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid al-Falih tried to put the markets at ease by all but confirming that OPEC would extend its production cuts through the end of the year. He tried to talk up oil prices even further by hinting that the group might even agree to a 9-month extension.

More Details:

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Libya-Nigeria-And-Iraq-A-Triple-Threat-To-The-OPEC-Deal.html>

- **Senior economic official calls for expansion of Iran-Iraq ties**

Al-Eshaq made the remarks while speaking to IRNA on the sidelines of a meeting of the Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce held in this provincial capital city in western Iran.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82518657/>

- **Iraq, Algeria favour extending OPEC-led output cut for six months**

May 10 Algeria and Iraq are in favour of extending OPEC and non-OPEC producers' deal on global oil supply cuts for a further six months, the Algerian energy ministry said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/oil-opec-algeria-idUSL8N1IC6ZU?rpc=401&>

- **Over 1,300 Daesh terrorists killed in west Mosul battle**

Iraqi government forces, backed by fighters from allied Popular Mobilization Units, have killed more than 1,300 members of the Takfiri Daesh militant group ever since they launched joint operations to flush the extremists out of the western part of Mosul.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/10/521375/Iraqi-forces-kill-1321-Daesh-militants-western-Mosul>

- **Senior Shia scholar receives Iranian ambassador to Iraq**

Iraj Masjedi, new Iranian ambassador to Iraq, met with Grand ayatollah Bashir al-Najafi in the holy city of Najaf on Tuesday; they discussed critical issues in the Islamic world as well as upcoming regional conditions.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/grand-ayatollahs/senior-shia-scholar-receives-iranian-ambassador-to-iraq_828988.html

- **Iraqi armed forces liquidated 100 ISIS terrorists at border with Syria**

At least 100 fighters of the Islamic state terror group have been liquidated in the result of the strikes of Iraqi armed forces at the border with Syria, reports the TASS news agency with a reference to Shafaq News.

More Details:

<http://www.kaztag.kz/en/news/detail.php?ID=539264>

- **ISIL Suffers Tens of Casualties in Iraqi Air Raids near Border with Syria**

Military sources confirmed on Wednesday that tens of ISIL terrorists have been killed and tens of others have been injured in the Iraqi Air attacks on militants' positions in a region near the border with Syria.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960220000841>

2. SYRIA

- **Iranian Industry Minister discusses with Syrian Ambassador establishing joint industrial projects**

Iranian Minister of Industry Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh on Wednesday met Syria's Ambassador in Tehran Adnan Mahmoud, discussing with him means for implementing MoUs signed by the two countries on establishing joint industrial projects in the fields of cement, tractors, buses and trucks assembly, cables production lines, pharmaceuticals, and dairy products.

More Details

<http://sana.sy/en/?cat=106>

- **SAA Foils ISIS Attacks on Deir Ezzor Airport & Hama Countryside**

The Syrian Arab Army SAA continues to battle the world's filthiest filths the FSA factions of Al-Qaeda aka Nusra Front and ISIS in Deir Ezzor in the northeast of Syria and in Hama countryside, central west of Syria inflicting considerable losses among the terrorists' ranks in personnel and in equipment.

More Details

<http://www.syrianews.cc/saa-foils-isis-attacks-deir-ezzor-airport-hama-countryside/>

- **Syrians Arrested in Germany on Terror Charges**

Germany announced on Tuesday the arrest of two Syrians on suspicion of belonging to terrorist organizations. The General Prosecution announced in a statement that counter-terrorism units arrested the two men for allegedly belonging to foreign terror groups. One is suspected of carrying out the execution of a fellow Syrian in the city of Tabqa.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/majidalkhateeb/world-news/syrians-arrested-germany-terror-charges>

- **Syria Tops Agenda in Trump-Lavrov Meeting**

Syria was at the top of the agenda Wednesday as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov came calling on President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. But as VOA's Peter Heinlein reports from the White House, the meetings touched on several other world hotspots.

More Details

<http://www.voanews.com/a/3847258.html>

- **Analysts say safe havens risk deepening divide in Syria**

The establishment of de-escalation zones in war-torn Syria is a positive first step to end the conflict, but also risks paving the way for the country's eventual disintegration by crystallizing the borders between various armed groups, analysts said.

More Details

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/11/c_136272480.htm

- **US-led airstrike kills 10 civilians in Syria**

At least 10 civilians were killed on Wednesday by an airstrike carried out by the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition on the town in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour, local media reported. The airstrike targeted the town of Sour, some 50 km north of Deir al-Zour, said the report

More Details

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-05/11/content_40789625.htm

- **20 people killed in Islamic State's weapons depot in Syria**

At least 20 people were killed in an explosion that rocked an Islamic State's weapons depot in the city of Der ez-Zor in the east of Syria, Xinhua said on Thursday.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/world/arab/2752327.html>

- **Survey Says: Mexico Rated the World's Second Deadliest Conflict Area after Syria**

A new global survey has named Mexico the second deadliest area in the world after Syria, due to the Central American nation's violent ongoing drug war.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/latam/201705111053484406-mexico-worlds-second-dangerous-area/>

- **Turkey warns U.S. against arming 'terrorist' YPG rebels in Syria**

Turkey's leader on Wednesday warned U.S. President Donald Trump against arming Kurdish rebels in Syria as the resistance looks to take the fight to terrorists in their stronghold of Raqqa.

More Details

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/05/10/Turkey-warns-US-against-arming-terrorist-YPG-rebels-in-Syria/3841494458245/

- **The Alleged Failure of Multilateralism in Syria: Beyond a Realist Trap**

At the dusk of the Cold War, when Francis Fukuyama thought humanity possibly witnessed 'the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government' in a famous article [1], the concept of multilateralism began attracting careful attention [2]. At that time, bipolarity was seen as a frame of the past, and the world was turning to a hegemonic period, dominated by the United States. The speed of globalisation [3], thus an increase of interdependence between countries, expelled the certainties of a balance of power between East and West.

More Details

<http://www.e-ir.info/2017/05/11/the-alleged-failure-of-multilateralism-in-syria-beyond-a-realist-trap/>

3. IRAN

- **Iran vs. Saudi Arabia: Who Is Supporting the Agents of Anarchy in the Region?**

He accused Iran of seeking to take over Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia, and added, "We are a primary target for the Iranian regime. We won't wait for the battle to be in Saudi Arabia. Instead, we'll work so that the battle is for them in Iran."

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=1396022100009>

- **Iranians in Canada can go to US for May 19 vote**

Iran's FM Zarif said Canada has refused to allow polling stations for Iranian expats wishing to vote for the upcoming presidential election on May 19, adding they can go to US instead to cast a ballot.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125314/Iranians-in-Canada-can-go-to-US-for-May-19-vote>

- **Ayatollah Khamenei vows crushing response to enemy**

In comments on Wednesday, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei read the riot act for enemies of the Islamic establishment, vowing to harshly retaliate any possible invasion.

More Details

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/>

- **Dep. FM dismisses Riyadh claim over Tehran's arms shipment to Yemen**

"Saudi Arabia has contributed to the uncontrolled growth of terrorism in the region by attacking the impoverished Yemen. Therefore, international waters are being threatened by terrorist groups in southern Yemen," Amir-Abdollahian noted.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82525052/>

- **Iranian MPs back Bahrain's Sheikh Qassim ahead of cleric's trial**

In a statement issued on Wednesday, a total of 158 lawmakers said that Sheikh Qassim was denied the right to a fair trial, stressing that the cleric's prosecution was in line with efforts to silence the Bahraini nation's call for freedom.

More Details

<http://irannewsdaily.com/iranian-mps-back-bahrains-sheikh-qassim-ahead-clerics-trial/>

- **Iran's Upcoming Local Elections Are an Opportunity for Women**

On May 19, Iranians nationwide will vote for president and for candidates in local elections, selecting representatives for city and village councils. The public's attention has been focused largely on the presidential race, but local elections offer citizens a unique chance to make a direct impact on their communities by choosing officials with their local interests in mind. The elections also present Iranians with the chance to reshape their government by putting more women in politics.

More Details

<https://globalvoices.org/2017/05/11/irans-upcoming-local-elections-are-an-opportunity-for-women/>

- **Pakistan and Iran to Discuss Movement of Terrorists across Border**

Pakistan announced that a joint border commission with Iran will be made up to halt the "terrorist movement", following the statements of Iranian army's chief saying that alleged hideouts in the country would be bombed.

More Details

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=12782&SEO=pakistan-and-iran-to-discuss-movement-of-terrorists-across-border>

- **Iranian Kurdish party calls on PKK and KRG to de-escalate tension**

Arash Saleh, leading member of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDK-I), denied rumours on the social media that the PDK-I would 'respond heavily' if the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) would attack the KRG and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraqi Kurdistan.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/05/iranian-kurdish-party-calls-on-pkk-and-krq-to-de-escalate-tension/>

- **Iran, Guinea okay feasibility report on bauxite JV project**

Mehdi Karbasian, Chairman of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) and Abdoulaye Magassouba, Guinea's Minister of Mines and Geology, approved the ore extraction technology and process proposed by German consultants DMT GmbH, at a meeting held in Tehran. The two government authorities also came to terms regarding financing and operational cost reduction of the project.

More Details

<http://www.alcircle.com/bauxite/newscircle/project/detail/27686/iran-guinea-okay-feasibility-report-for-bauxite-jv-project>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Atalya Ben Abba refuses to serve in the Israeli military, gets sentenced to a further 30 days in military detention**

On 6 February this year I refused to join the Israeli army in defiance of Israel’s policy of conscription. That day, as expected, I was sent to military prison. My objection to serving in the army is grounded in reasons of conscience; I believe that in order to bring security to all people in Israel and Palestine, government policy must change and the occupation must end.

More Details

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/05/conscientious-objector-atalya-ben-abba-sentenced-to-a-further-30-days-in-military-detention-following-her-refusal-to-serve-in-the-israeli-military/>

- **'Jewish State' Bill Gets Approved in Preliminary Reading**

The Knesset plenum on Wednesday approved in a preliminary reading a bill that would enshrine Israel’s status as a Jewish nation-state in its Basic Laws. Forty-eight lawmakers voted in favor of the so-called Jewish state bill by Likud MK Avi Dichter, and 41 Knesset members opposed it.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/jewish-state-bill-gets-approved-preliminary-reading-972884>

- **Palestinian hunger strikers urge Pope to speak out against Israel**

The appeal was delivered in a letter by Fadwa Barghouti, the wife of imprisoned hunger strike leader Marwan Barghouti, at a meeting with the heads of the Catholic Church in Ramallah. The Vatican has recognized Palestine as a state.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/11/521430/Palestine-Pope-hunger-strike-prison-Israel>

- **Israel Bonds Paid a 3% Fee in 2016**

The Israeli government paid the Israel Bonds Organization some \$40 million last year for its help in selling \$1.3 billion of bonds in the United States, a relatively high fee that works out to 3% of the funds raised. The figure came as the Movement for the Freedom of Information, a nonprofit organization dedicated to government transparency, was able last week to obtain figures on how much the Israeli Finance Ministry’s New York delegation spends every year. The delegation is

responsible for assisting Israel's investor relations and managing debt sales in coordination with the Israel Bonds organization.

More Details

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/business/1.788566>

- **Racism remains a cornerstone of Israeli society**

Ahmad Tibi, a leading Palestinian member of Israel's Knesset (Parliament), did not pull any punches when he recently told me the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is racist and the main obstacle to Middle East peace. Elected to the Knesset in 1999, Tibi heads Ta'al (the Arab Movement for Change), one of four parties representing Arabs, who make up 20 percent of Israel's population. "I'm here to tell the truth and the reality," said Tibi, 58, adding that nearly 50 laws discriminate against non-Jewish Israeli citizens. "We're talking about unequal treatment and policies for the Arabs. We're citizens, but we're unequal in all fields of life: Employment, infrastructure, budgets, education, religious places, industry, agriculture, everywhere."

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1097656/columns>

- **Trump's visit to Israel, Palestine could be decisive: Justin Welby**

United States Donald Trump and his team could add to Israeli-Palestinian peace prospects when they arrive in Jerusalem in less than two weeks, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has said. Welby said, "We know from history in this region that determined leadership by the president of the United States, together with patient working by lots of other people in the background, often unknown, can tip things very, very decisively," The Guardian reports.

More Details

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzEzNTMx/trump-039-s-visit-to-israel-palestine-could-be-decisive-justin-welby.html>

- **Israel Breaks All-Time Monthly Tourism Record**

Israel broke its all-time record for foreign tourists last month, the country's Ministry of Tourism announced Tuesday. A record-breaking 349,000 visitors arrived in Israel from abroad in April 2017, a 38% increase from the previous April. The total since the beginning of the year is 1.09 million, a 28% increase on 2016. This has reportedly caused a record influx of six billion shekels (\$1.66 billion) into the Israeli economy so far this year.

More Details

<http://forward.com/fast-forward/371610/israel-breaks-all-time-monthly-tourism-record/>

- **Israeli Soldiers Abduct Four Palestinians In Bethlehem**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Thursday at dawn, the West Bank city of Bethlehem, al-Khader town, south of the city and Wad Rahhal village, east of Bethlehem, and abducted four young Palestinian men. The Bethlehem office of the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) said several military jeeps invaded the al-Khader town, searched a few homes and abducted Firas Khader Mousa, 30, and his brother, Mohammad, 27.

More Details

https://sputniknews.com/art_living/201705111053483244-dublin-to-fly-palestine-flag/

- **Hamas wins student elections at Birzeit University for third year**

For the third consecutive year, Hamas won the most student council seats at Birzeit University, a bellwether of West Bank politics, on Wednesday in Ramallah. Ahmad al-Ahmad, who is in charge of student affairs, announced the election results, saying that Hamas' al-Wafaa Islamic Bloc won 25 seats with a total of 3,778 votes, followed by Fatah's Martyr Yasser Arafat Bloc, which won 22 seats with 3,340 votes.

More Details

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/hamas-wins-student-elections-birzeit-university-third-year-620570975>

- **Abbas has to pin hopes on Trump's words'**

The meeting between Trump and Abbas did not paint an optimistic picture for the Palestinian issue, indicating that the US administration will not take steps towards an acceptable solution, said the UAE's Al Khaleej. "Trump's statements in the press conference following the meeting did not touch on any new serious US approach for a settlement; neither did it indicate a detour on the US's policies towards the Palestinian issue. Trump also did not even hint at the two-state solution, which previous US administrations constantly insisted on."

More Details

<http://gulfnews.com/opinion/media-watch/abbas-has-to-pin-hopes-on-trump-s-words-1.2025069>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan high on agenda for top US military adviser's Israel visit**

A little less than two weeks before US President Donald Trump's scheduled visit to Israel, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, landed in the country. It was the third visit of "Fighting Joe" to the country since becoming chairman in the fall of 2015. On May 9, he met with his Israeli counterpart, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, followed by meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman and four Israeli generals, each representing a different military branch: Chief of Operations Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon; Chief of Planning Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin; the commander of the air force, Maj. Gen. Amir Eshel; and Chief of Manpower Maj. Gen. Moti Almoz.

More Details

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/israel-dunford-us-joint-visit-jordan-is-syria-war-golan.html>

- **UAE ambassador patronises Arabic calligraphy exhibition in Amman**

Bilal Rabee Bilal Al Bodour, UAE Ambassador to Jordan, and Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Founder and Chair, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Group, patronised an Arabic calligraphy exhibition, which was opened in Amman today. The opening of the exhibition was attended by the Jordanian Culture Minister Nabih Shiqim, ambassadors of Italy and Japan, and officials of the UAE embassy in Amman.

More Details

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302613264>

- **Jordan Confused by Trump's Flip-Flops on MidEast**

If it's tough enough for media pundits to keep up with President Donald Trump's flip-flopping on domestic politics, then the task of reading the president's stand on key foreign issues is even more difficult. Jordan, one of America's closest Middle Eastern partners, has been trying to cope with Trump's sudden swerves on Syria, Israel-Palestine, and the war on ISIS. At times, the usually reserved Jordanian diplomacy was taken off-guard, forced to recalibrate, and even walk back on certain positions as a result of the president's rhetoric.

More Details

<http://www.mei.edu/content/article/jordan-confused-trump-s-flip-flops-mideast-issues>

- **Lebanon's culture minister commends China's Belt and Road Initiative**

Lebanon's Culture Minister Ghattas Khouri commended the Chinese leadership for launching the Belt and Road Initiative, saying "it will boost the level of economical, cultural and social exchange between the participant countries." In a special interview with Xinhua, Khouri said that the openness on the countries that historically constituted a part of the Silk Road "is in the interest of these countries in rebuilding a vital road that once was a way of communication and commercial, cultural and social exchange."

More Details

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1046385.shtml>

- **Lebanon: Extending Parliament, extending crisis**

Lebanon is living in a constitutional bubble that is about to burst because of the deficit of its political class and its inability to arrive at a new electoral law. After two consecutive extensions to the House of Deputies with ongoing acute political crises, Parliament is facing a third crunch time amid a hiatus of political forces, underpinned by their failure to reach agreement on such a piece of legislation. On April 12, President Michel Aoun used his constitutional right to postpone the meeting of the House of Deputies for a month. His aim was to block a legislative session called for by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri to extend Parliament's term after an agreement on a new electoral law could not be reached.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1097611/columns>

- **Lebanese investors eye Rwanda**

Leading Lebanese entrepreneurs are set to visit Rwanda later this year to explore investment and trade opportunities, according to an official in the Rwandan embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Eric Rugamba on Wednesday told The New Times that a declaration of interest in one of Africa's fastest growing economies, by Lebanese entrepreneurs, was made by the Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Lebanon (FCCIAL), Mohamed Choucair, at the closure of a Rwanda Trade and Investment seminar at FCCIAL's headquarters, in Beirut, on Monday.

More Details

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/article/2017-05-11/212191/>

- **Lebanese PM opens UAE's Consular Service Centre in Beirut**

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Al Hariri and UAE Ambassador to Lebanon Hamad Saeed Sultan Al Shamsi, opened today the UAE Embassy's Consular Services Centre in Beirut. The opening was

attended by Minister of Tourism Avedis Gidanian, Minister of Telecommunications, Jamal el-Jarrah, State Minister for Women Affair, Jean Oghassapian, State Minister for Refugees Affairs, Mou'een el-Meherbi, State Minister for Planning Affairs, Michel Pharaon, senior officials at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GCC ambassadors and members of diplomatic corps in Lebanon.

More Details

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302613263>

- **Lebanon, Cuba Sign Visa Exemption Agreement**

Lebanon and Cuba today signed a visa exemption agreement for diplomatic, official and service passports as part of their respective governments' purpose of consolidating their relations and multi-sectoral cooperation. Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Caribbean Island, Marcelino Medina signed the agreement that will facilitate exchange and contacts in both directions, besides simplifying travel procedures for officials, businessmen and other authorities, Diplomatic sources told Prensa Latina.

More Details

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=12759&SEO=lebanon-cuba-sign-visa-exemption-agreement>

- **Hariri, ministers oversee "disaster plan" manoeuver in Hermel**

The President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri interrupted for a while the cabinet session held at the Grand Serail and headed with a number of ministers to the operations hall, to follow up through television screens connected to the Bekaa mohafazat a live maneuver for the "disaster and crisis plan for Baalbek-Hermel" in coordination with the mohafez, Bachir Khodr.

More Details

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79073/Hariri-ministers-oversee-disaster-plan-manoever-in-Hermel>

- **Lebanon's Economy Minister Urges Lebanese Expats to Invest in Their Country**

Economy Minister Raed Houry called upon Lebanese expatriates to grab the opportunity of investing in Lebanon. "Lebanon is witnessing today a positive turning point in economy reflected in the great political consensus among the different political parties and the great will to work on developing the economy and creating job opportunities," he said at a session held within the framework of the fourth annual "Lebanese Diaspora Energy Conference" at BIEL.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/lebanon-economy-minister-urges-lebanese-expats-invest-their-country-972668>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **MPs say 'no' to sanitation fees on expatriates**

The majority of Bahraini legislators said 'no' to imposing fees on expats for receiving sanitation services, putting an end to a debate that lasted throughout the previous months.

More details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=33236&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=50>

- **Bahrain Denies Entry to Human Rights Watch Representative**

Bahraini authorities denied an entry visa this morning to a Human Rights Watch researcher. In recent years, Bahrain has denied entry to scores of human rights advocates and critical journalists, as well as the United Nations special rapporteur on torture and jailed Bahraini rights defenders.

More details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/10/bahrain-denies-entry-human-rights-watch-representative>

- **US ambassador to Qatar appears to criticize Trump in tweet**

US Ambassador to Qatar Dana Shell Smith appeared to criticize President Trump in a tweet on Wednesday, expressing frustration at the news coming out of the United States.

More details:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/332878-us-ambassador-to-qatar-appears-to-criticize-trump-in-tweet>

- **Qatar's Real GDP Growth to Reach 3.6% in 2018 despite VAT: Report**

Qatar's real economic growth is expected to rise to 2.6% this year and further to 3.6% in 2018, even as inflation is expected to harden by 2018 in view of the value added tax (VAT) roll-out, according to QNB.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/qatar-real-gdp-growth-reach-36-2018-despite-vat-report-972658>

- **Tens of Saudi soldiers killed, wounded in Yemeni counter attacks: Report**

The Yemeni army has reportedly fired a barrage of missiles on military positions in Saudi border areas, killing and injuring tens of Riyadh's soldiers in the retaliatory attacks.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/11/521431/Yemeni-Saudi-Counterattacks>

- **Dep. FM dismisses Riyadh claim over Tehran's arms shipment to Yemen**

Majlis Speaker Special Aide for International Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Wednesday that Saudi regime's claim about transfer of arms from Iran to Yemen is completely unfounded.

More details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/192536.html>

- **UAE renews commitment to continue as tolerant, hospitable society for expatriates**

The United Arab Emirates has renewed its commitment to continue as an open, tolerant and hospitable community for expatriates and to promote them as contributors to development, not a source of threat.

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302613259>

- **King Salman invites leaders of Gulf, Arab & Islamic countries to attend Arab-Islamic-US Summit**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has sent messages to Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed, Sultan of Oman, President Mahmoud Abbas of State of Palestine, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed and President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan inviting them to attend Gulf-US Summit and Arab-Islamic-US Summit to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

More details:

<http://sites.alriyadh.com/en/article/1158912/King-Salman-invites-leaders-of-Gulf-Arab-Islamic-countries-to-attend-Arab-Islamic-US-Summit>

- **Saudi forces kill "wanted man" at Shi'ite district**

Saudi security forces shot dead a wanted man in eastern Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, a local newspaper reported, after gunmen tried to stop redevelopment work at the old quarter of Awamiya, where authorities say Shi'ite militants are hiding.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4960563,00.html>

7. EGYPT

- **China, Egypt take steps to share their technology**

China is expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with Egypt on May 13, with the aim of developing a cooperative network for technology transfers, top scientists in China and foreign representatives said.

More details:

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-05/11/content_40790563.htm

- **Egypt 'offering big prospects in energy, infra'**

Egypt offers 'very real' opportunities particularly when it comes to the energy and infrastructure sectors, said the managing director of Qalaa Holdings, an African leader in energy and infrastructure.

More details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_324805.html

- **Egypt's consumer price inflation reaches 31.5pc**

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:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/203656-Egypt-consumer-price-inflation-reaches-315pc>

- **Egyptian troops shoot at Sudanese miners near borders: official**

A Sudanese official Wednesday said an Egyptian military patrol has fired at a group of miners at Ibrahim Hussein mine near Wadi al-Aalagi inside the Sudanese territory pointing that one of the miners was injured during the shooting.

More details:

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article62423>

- **Egypt Officials: Islamic Extremists Kill 10 Sinai Tribesmen**

Islamic extremists in Egypt's restive northern part of the Sinai Peninsula ambushed local tribesmen who were securing an area in the region on Wednesday, killing 10, security officials said.

More details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_EGYPT_SINAI?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-10-15-40-28

- **BP Launches Taurus, Libra Offshore Egypt**

BP has started gas production from two fields in its West Nile Delta development offshore Egypt, the second of seven projects the oil and gas company plans to launch this year.

More details:

<http://www.epmag.com/bp-launches-taurus-libra-offshore-egypt-1573166>

- **Where does government stand in implementing terms of IMF loan agreement?**

An International Monetary Fund delegation arrived in Cairo on April 30 to conduct the first review of the economic adjustment program required by the three-year, US\$12 billion loan agreement signed last November. The loan conditions require Egypt to implement fiscal and monetary measures and make structural changes to some sectors in an attempt to address ongoing economic challenges.

More details:

<http://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/05/10/feature/economy/where-does-government-stand-in-implementing-terms-of-imf-loan-agreement/>

- **Egypt's Failed War on Terror**

Earlier this month, U.S. President Donald Trump hosted his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, at the White House. At their meeting, Trump assured Sisi that “together... we will fight terrorism.” That is good news for the Egyptian president. After years of strained bilateral relations, the Trump administration is embracing Egypt as a counterterrorism partner. But it is unclear that Egypt is actually an asset in the most pressing battle against terrorism, the fight against the Islamic State (also known as ISIS).

More details:

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/egypt/2017-05-10/egypts-failed-war-terror>

- **Egypt parliament passes law granting bonus for state workers not subject to civil service law**

Egypt's parliament approved on Wednesday by a two-thirds majority a bill requiring the disbursal of an annual 10 percent social bonus for civil servants who are not subject to the civil service law, the state-owned MENA news agency reported.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/268523/-.aspx>

- **Talks to arrange meeting between Al-Sisi and Jinping this year**

An Egyptian government delegation intends to participate in China's new Silk Road One Belt One Road (OBOR) forum on 14 and 15 May. Chinese ambassador to Egypt Song Aiguo said that the participation of Egypt will strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

More details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/10/talks-arrange-meeting-al-sisi-jinping-year/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **37 million painkilling pills from India seized in Italy, were meant for IS terrorists in Libya**

A ship load of tramadol, a synthetic opioid-like drug, from India to be sold to Islamic State terrorists in Libya to give them greater resilience has been seized by the Italian police, according to media reports today.

More Details:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-37-million-painkilling-pills-from-india-seized-in-italy-were-meant-for-is-terrorists-in-libya-2434455>

- **5,500 Nigerians to be deported from Libya, Mali**

A total number of 5,500 Nigerians are set to be deported from Mali and Libya, over various migration offences ranging from Hunan trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and non possession of valid travel documents.

More Details:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/05/5500-nigerians-deported-libya-mali/>

- **PVEP's joint venture records 10 millionth oil barrel in Algeria**

PetroVietnam Exploration and Production Corporation (PVEP) on Monday announced its Groupement Bir Seba joint venture recorded its 10 millionth oil barrel at Block 433a & 416b of the Bir Seba mine in the Sahara Desert, Algeria.

More Details:

http://bizhub.vn/news/pveps-joint-venture-records-10-millionth-oil-barrel-in-algeria_286055.html

- **Iraq, Algeria favour extending OPEC-led output cut for six months**

Algeria and Iraq are in favour of extending OPEC and non-OPEC producers' deal on global oil supply cuts for a further six months, the Algerian energy ministry said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/oil-opec-algeria-idUSL8N1IC6ZU?rpc=401&>

- **EU rebar prices decline as Algerian market remains in limbo**

Prices for Southern Europe-origin export and domestic rebar have dropped by €15-30 (\$16-33) per tonne over the past week, while the Northern European market has remained broadly steady, sources told Metal Bulletin on Wednesday May 10.

More Details:

<https://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/3716422/Latest-news/EU-rebar-prices-decline-as-Algerian-market-remains-in-limbo.html>

- **Libyan leader arrives in Algeria following peace talks**

Libyan presidency council leader Fayeze Al-Sarraj flew in to Algiers on Wednesday to be briefed on a conference held by Tripoli's neighbours on Tuesday about the ongoing war in Libya.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/5/10/libyan-leader-arrives-in-algeria-following-peace-talks>

- **Libyan coastguard turns back nearly 500 migrants after altercation with NGO ship**

Libya's coastguard said it had intercepted nearly 500 migrants packed onto a wooden boat and returned them to Tripoli on Wednesday after warning off a ship that was preparing to pick them up for passage to Europe.

More Details:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/libyan-coastguard-turns-back-nearly-500-migrants-after-altercation-with-ngo-ship-20170510-01805>

- **Morocco Arrests 6 Daesh Suspects Allegedly Plotting Terror Attacks**

Morocco's Central Bureau of Judicial Investigation (BCIJ) arrested six people on suspicion of belonging to Daesh terrorist group (banned in Russia) and planning to carry out terrorist attacks inside the country, local media reported Wednesday, citing the Moroccan Interior Ministry.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705101053480680-morocco-6-daesh-suspects/>

- **Tunisia army deployed to protect oil and gas fields against economic protests**

Announcing the deployment, President Beji Caid Essebsi said the troops would protect industrial sites being disrupted by general strikes and protests over poverty. "We know this is a serious decision but it must be taken," Essebsi said in a speech in Tunis on Wednesday. "Our democratic path has become threatened and law must be applied but we will respect freedoms."

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/tunisia-army-deployed-to-protect-oil-and-gas-fields-against-economic-protests/a-38791870>

- **Kuwaiti and Tunisian envoys call on speaker**

Ambassadors of Kuwait and Tunisia called on National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on Wednesday and discussed wide range of issues including enhancing parliamentary and economic ties between Pakistan and their respective countries came under discussion.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/11-May-17/kuwaiti-and-tunisian-envoys-call-on-speaker>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistan, Morocco sign MoU to set up JBC**

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Moroccan Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services (FCCIS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the establishment of a joint business council (JBC) at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services, Casablanca.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/203653-Pakistan-Morocco-sign-MoU-to-set-up-JBC>

- **NPA Saves 18 Billion AFs by Assessing Contracts Correctly**

The National Procurement Authority (NPA) on Wednesday said it has saved almost 18 billion AFs by following the correct procedures which resulted in the approval of over 2,000 contracts over the past two years.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/business/npa-saves-18-billion-afs-assessing-contracts-correctly>

- **Malaysia-Afghanistan Bilateral Trade To Grow 10 Pct This Year**

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and Afghanistan is expected to increase 10 per cent this year from the US\$85.1 million recorded in 2016 and driven by enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/bu/newsbusiness.php?id=1354887>

- **Naderi formally obtains UN-Habitat Governing Council membership for Afghanistan**

The Minister Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi formally attained the membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Habitat.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/naderi-formally-obtains-un-habitat-governing-council-membership-for-afghanistan-02712>

- **TIR conference in Kabul focuses on turning Afghanistan into transit hub**

Turning Afghanistan into a transit hub in the heart of Asia was the main topic for representatives from the Afghan government, private sector and donor community who met today during the Transports International Routiers (TIR) National Conference to discuss the future plan of transportation in the country.

More Details:

<http://wadsam.com/afghan-business-news/tir-conference-kabul-focuses-turning-afghanistan-transit-hub-232/>

- **Pakistan, Turkey ink MoU for sale of warships, aircraft**

Pakistan and Turkey have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the sale of four Turkish-made corvette warships and 52 Pakistan-made training planes for Turkey's armed forces.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzEzNTcy/pakistan-turkey-ink-mou-for-sale-of-warships-aircraft.html>

- **ICJ President Seeks Pakistan's Cooperation in Kulbhushan Jadhav's Death Sentence Case**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has sent an urgent communication to Pakistan from the office of its President under Article 74 for Islamabad and New Delhi's cooperation till a decision is reached on the death sentence case of former Indian naval officer and alleged spy Khulbhushan Jadhav.

More Details:

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/icj-president-seeks-pakistans-cooperation-in-kulbhushan-jadhavs-death-sentence-case/969153>

- **Jammu and Kashmir: One killed in Pakistan firing in Rajouri district**

A woman was killed in Pakistan Army's firing on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a defence personnel said on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.newsx.com/national/63357-jammu-kashmir-one-killed-pakistan-firing-rajouri-district>

- **BJP not keen on mid-term polls in Maharashtra**

The Bharatiya Janata Party, which till recently was keen on holding mid-term polls in Maharashtra, is now having second thoughts on the issue because of altered political equations in the state, especially because of the coming closer of Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena, which might make the going a bit tough for the BJP.

More Details:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/bjp-not-keen-on-mid-term-polls-in-maharashtra/articleshow/58623565.cms>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey increases security measures on Iranian border**

Turkey plans to build a wall on its Iranian border as a part of its counter-terrorism measures to stop the cross-border mobility of PKK terrorists. Several camps belonging to the PKK host approximately a thousand terrorists around the Iranian border. In case of military operations against PKK bases in eastern Turkey, terrorists can easily transit the border and shelter in those camps or illegally cross the border and enter the country. To prevent such crossings, a wall will be built along the Iranian border, similar to the one on Turkey's Syrian border. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry of Iran stated that they are ready to help Turkey in the wall-building project.

More Details

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2017/05/11/turkey-increases-security-measures-on-iranian-border>

- **Turkish deputy PM calls for Free Trade Agreement, tourism cooperation with Oman**

Oman and Turkey need better tourism cooperation and a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to bolster trade ties, according to a top Turkish official. On a trade tour of Oman, Mehmet Simsek, the deputy Prime Minister of Turkey said that Oman and Turkey have huge untapped potential for bilateral trade, especially tourism.

More details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/108808/Oman/Government/Turkish-deputy-Prime-Minister-calls-for-Free-Trade-Agreement-tourism-cooperation-with-Oman>

- **Minister says arming PKK/PYD will threaten Turkey**

Weapons held by the Syrian PKK/PYD are a “threat to Turkey”, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Wednesday, following the U.S. decision to arm the group. In the first reaction by a senior Turkish politician to President Donald Trump’s decision, Cavusoglu said: “The YPG and the PKK are both terrorist organizations, there is no difference, only the name is different and every weapon they obtain is a threat to Turkey.”

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/189296/minister-says-arming-pkk-pyd-will-threaten-turkey>

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.*

Bu bülten **ORSAM Ortadoğu Uzman Yardımcısı Firuze Yağmur Gökler tarafından hazırlanmaktadır. Bülten Ortadoğu ülkelerinin yerel haber kaynaklarından derlenmektedir. Belirtilen görüşler bölge ülkelerinin haber kaynaklarına ve ismi geçen yazarlara ait olup ORSAM’ın görüşünü yansıtmamaktadır.*