



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Procces of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

**Energy Security**

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**Ethnic and Secterian Groups**

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Batı'yla İlişkiler

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**12 JUNE 2017**

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# ORSAM

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CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES  
مرکز الشرق الأوسط للدراسات الاستراتيجية

## 1. IRAQ

- **Anbar Operations announces destroying key IS headquarters**

Commander of Anbar Operations, Major General Mahmoud al-Falahi announced, on Sunday, that a key headquarters belonging to the Islamic State was destroyed by an air strike, south of the province.

More Details

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/anbar-operations-announces-destroying-key-headquarters/>

- **Dr. Najmadin: Referendum will be Held in Kirkuk**

The Governor of Kirkuk, Dr. Najmadin Karim, received a Swedish delegation on Sunday, 11/6/2017, including Topas Landerf (Swedish Government Advisor and Prime Minister), Wayne Reidar, Deputy Speaker of the Swedish Parliament and Evin Anger (Project Manager at the Ulf Palme Center).

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40496](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40496)

- **Iraq PM Abadi hails anti-ISIS quick victory**

Iraqi PM Haider Abadi said Sunday that none of the world leaders had dreamed such a quick victory against ISIS terror group, asserting that the banner of victory will soon be lifted.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11973/Iraq-PM-Abadi-hails-anti-ISIS-quick-victory>

- **Iraqi Army storms last ISIS hideouts in Mosul city**

After scoring huge gains in Mosul yesterday, Iraqi forces proceeded to storm the northern sector of the largely ISIS-held Old City, known as the Bab Sinjar area, where deadly close-quarter combat is taking place as we speak.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-army-storms-last-isis-hideouts-mosul-city/>

- **ISIL female sniper killed by Iraqi forces in Mosul**

The forces of the 9th Armored Division and the federal police killed a Libyan woman working as a sniper in the ranks of ISIL. She was operating in a district in western Mosul.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125873/ISIL-female-sniper-killed-by-Iraqi-forces-in-Mosul>

- **Mosul Airstrike Kills Family; 275 Killed in Iraq**

At least 275 were killed and 13 were wounded: In Mosul, an airstrike killed 20 members of the same family in Borsa. A car bomb killed eight people and wounded eight more. Security forces killed 91 militants. Another 27 militants were killed in clashes in the Bab al-Sinjar district. A rocket attack left 11 dead at the al-Nuri Mosque. Three snipers were killed.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/11/mosul-airstrike-kills-family-275-killed-iraq/>

- **Iraq, Qatar grow closer in wake of Gulf crisis**

Although the official Iraqi position indicates that Iraq has been neutral vis-a-vis the escalating crisis between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the recent rapprochement between Iraq and Qatar as well as the sympathetic attitudes of Iraqi politicians with Qatar tell a different story.

More Details

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/iraq-qatar-saudi-maliki-jabouri.html>

- **Iraqi diplomat: Persian Gulf tensions in no party's interest**

Regional cooperation is necessary for fight on terrorism and the Persian Gulf crisis needs to be solved as soon as possible, Iraq's ambassador to Kuwait Alaa al-Hashimi told reporters on Sunday referring to the recent dispute between some Persian Gulf Arab states and Qatar.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82562027/>

- **Iraq says it still has Qatari money sent to free hostages**

Iraq still has millions of dollars sent by Qatar to secure the release in April of Qatari nationals abducted in 2015, Iraq's prime minister said yesterday. Press reports had suggested some of the money had ended up in Iran, angering Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab neighbours of Qatar and contributing to their decision to sever ties with Doha.

More Details

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/552938/Iraq-says-it-still-has-Qatari-money-sent-to-free-h>

- **Official: Kurdistan, like Brexit, will hold a referendum followed by negotiation**

A man sews a flag of Kurdistan bearing the portrait of Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani In Erbil on June 8, 2017. President Barzani has asked the people of Kurdistan to head to the ballot box on September 25 "to determine their own fate" as the region is going to hold the referendum on independence in the Iraqi Kurdistan and the disputed areas, claimed both by Erbil and Baghdad.

Photo: AFP/Safin Hamed

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/110620175>

- **Iraqi PM: Qatari 'ransom' money with us, not armed Groups**

Iraq's prime minister has rejected Saudi and UAE media claims that a \$500m ransom was paid by Qatar to Shia Muslim armed groups in Iraq to secure the release of 26 kidnapped Qatari hunters. Haider al-Abadi said that money was received by the Iraqi government but the sum was still in the Iraqi central bank.

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/06/iraqi-pm-qatari-ransom-money-us-armed-groups-170611202417923.html>

- **Mosul mothers unable to feed their kids**

Wazira rocks her tiny baby pleadingly but he is inconsolable, crying for the milk his mother can neither produce herself nor buy in a camp near the Iraqi battleground city of Mosul. "He's been crying since the moment he was born. He only stops when he's so exhausted that he falls asleep," the 24-year-old Iraqi mother said, sheltering her baby Rakan from the scorching sun with a piece of white cloth.

More Details

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/dce78d62-c75c-4efb-905e-72813e3260a1.aspx>

- **5-Y-O Iraqi Christian Girl Kidnapped by ISIS Returns to Family 3 Years Later**

While Christina has returned home safely, thousands of other Yazidi, Christian and other minority girls and women have been subjected to horrific treatment by men from Islamic State, also known as IS, ISIS, ISIL or Daesh.

More Details

[http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En\\_NewsReader/37e51791-01a3-4e11-9ba5-b1085e86f289](http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/37e51791-01a3-4e11-9ba5-b1085e86f289)

- **Two Killed in Suicide Bombings in Eastern Iraq**

Two people were killed and five others injured in a suicide bombing in Iraq's eastern Diyala province on Sunday, according to a local police officer. A bomber blew up his vehicle at a security checkpoint on the road linking the capital Baghdad to the northern Kirkuk city early Sunday, captain Habib al-Shemari told Anadolu Agency.

More Details

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/two-killed-suicide-bombings-eastern-iraq-985004>

- **Iraqi forces repel Daesh offensive south of Mosul**

Iraqi forces repelled an offensive launched in the early hours of Saturday by Daesh on the Sunni town of Shirqat, south of Mosul, during which 38 military and civilians were killed and about 40 more wounded, security sources said. Daesh lost 24 fighters in the attack, which ended around midday, the sources said.

More Details

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170611-iraqi-forces-repel-daesh-offensive-south-of-mosul/>

- **Iraqi govt. forces find Daesh prison for Izadi women in western Mosul**

Iraqi army soldiers have discovered a detention facility in the western flank of Mosul, which members of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group used to incarcerate women from the Izadi minority group.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/11/524938/Iraqi-forces-uncover-Daesh-prison-Izadi-women-17th-Tammuz-western-Mosul>

- **Iraqi Police Liberate One of Last ISIL-Held Districts of Mosul**

The police chief added that policemen found a terrorist workshop for manufacturing of rockets and a significant amount of explosives, Sputnik reported. "The federal police forces have completed the liberation of the Zanjili district entirely, a large-scale demining process is underway," Jawdat said in a statement.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960321001477>

- **Iran: Kurdistan Region Indivisible Part of Iraq**

Iran voiced on Saturday its opposition to the independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan Region that was called for by Kurdish authorities earlier this week. It joins the Iraqi government and Turkey who have both rejected the vote. "Iran's principal position is to support the territorial integrity of Iraq," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said

More Details

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/iran-kurdistan-region-indivisible-part-iraq>

- **Iraqi forces thwart desperate 'Islamic State' offensive**

The militant group had launched a desperate bid to make gains amid the Iraqi-led offensive to recapture Mosul. Human rights groups warned of mounting civilian casualties as the fight for Mosul enters its "final stages."

More Details

<http://www.dw.com/en/iraqi-forces-thwart-desperate-islamic-state-offensive/a-39196769>

- **Huddersfield business set for 'breakthrough' export boost with new deal to sell oil to Iraq**

A Huddersfield-based company is set to export blended oils to Iraq after seeking help from overseas trade specialist, Chamber International. Sterling Oil Ltd is to start selling its wide range of commercial oils to Iraq after Chamber International completed its verification and registration to trade with the Iraqi government.

More Details

<https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2017/06/12/huddersfield-set-for-breakthrough-export-boost-with-new-deal-to-sell-oil-to-iraq>

## 2. SYRIA

- **50 Displaced Syrian Families Leave Lebanon's Aarsal for Home**

Over 50 Syrian families residing in the northeastern Lebanese border town of Aarsal have decided to return to their war-torn country. Deputy Aarsal municipal Chief Rima Karnaby explained that safe passage has been provided to the refugees, whose security was provided by the Lebanese army.

More DEtails:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/50-displaced-syrian-families-leave-lebanons-arsal-home>

- **America's Political Gamble in Syria May Not Pay Off**

As the Islamic State's territory continues to shrink in the Middle East, its henchmen and those inspired by the extremist group are increasingly lashing out at soft targets in the West. The types of attacks recently experienced in London and Manchester are likely to continue until the radical Islamist ideology that justifies and calls for those terrorist tactics is defeated from within. Muslims are required to give their pledge of bay'a (allegiance) to the caliphate if, according to the Sunni criteria, a legitimate caliph such as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is found. Its mere existence constitutes the greatest recruitment tool. Therefore, a crucial first step is taking away the territory that ISIS claims for its caliphate because it will lessen the magnetic pull on would-be jihadis.

More Details:

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/americas-political-gamble-syria-may-not-pay-21101>

- **Body of Canadian YPG fighter killed by ISIS in Syria returned home**

Nazzareno Tassone, a Canadian volunteer with the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), was killed in the city of Raqqa while fighting militants of the Islamic State (ISIS). Tassone was killed on Dec. 21 in the city of Raqqa while fighting ISIS jihadists. On Sunday, Tassone's body was returned home, according to officials.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/body-of-canadian-ypg-fighter-killed-by-isis-in-syria-returned-home/>

- **New QC project to benefit 94,000 needy in Syria**

Supported by the benefactors of Qatar, Qatar Charity (QC) has allocated additional funds for the "Feed a fasting" projects in Syria at a value of QR500,000. They are expected to benefit about 94,000 people among orphans, displaced and needy families. Since the beginning of Ramadan, QC has allocated more than QR1.5m for the Syrian people to benefit 280,000 displaced individuals throughout the holy month, as expected. The projects were distributed at the fast-breaking dining tables and the distribution of food baskets.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/12/06/2017/New-QC-project-to-benefit-94,000-needy-in-Syria>

- **Fighting hits al Bab**

Turkish-backed rebels fought each other on Sunday in the Syrian town of al Bab in the first bout of rebel fighting since they seized the town this year from Islamic State militants, rebels and witnesses said. It was not clear what triggered the armed clashes between rival rebel groups who hold sway in the city since it was seized last February from Islamic State militants.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170611-fighting-hits-al-bab/>

- **Heavy cost of an ugly war**

The battle for Daesh's stronghold in Syria, the terrorist cult's self-proclaimed capital, Raqqa, has reportedly intensified, with fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters, having captured the western district of Al Sabahia just hours after having taken the eastern district of Al Meshleb. Not unlike the battle for Mosul, in Iraq, the battle for Raqqa is projected to take some time — experts claim it will take considerably less than for Mosul — to dislodge Daesh completely from it.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/editorial/heavy-cost-ugly-war>

- **US-backed forces take more of ISIS stronghold in Syria after two days of fighting**

US-backed forces have seized another part of the district considered to be Islamic State's capital in Syria. Syrian Democratic Forces said they had captured al Romaniya in the western part of Raqqa after two days of clashes with jihadists.

More Details:

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/backed-forces-take-more-isis-10606689>

- **Syrian newcomers host lunch for homeless during Ramadan**

Syrian newcomers hosted a free lunch on Sunday for homeless and low-income Torontonians as a way of giving back during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. "We want to show other people how Muslims are in Ramadan, we need to show others we have ... to give our help to other people," said Mohamad Alhaj, who arrived in Toronto 18 months ago.

More Details:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ramadan-lunch-1.4155751>

- **Iran, Syria to Strengthen Banking Ties**

Central Bank of Iran's Governor Valiollah Seif met with his Syrian counterpart on Sunday to review banking ties and discuss further cooperation to finance economic projects. "Collaborations and meetings between the two countries' central banks due to their common economic goals have had positive outcomes for both sides," the CBI governor was quoted as saying by CBI's website. Seif noted that Iran and Syria could expand their banking ties by using national currencies in mutual trade. Governor of the Central Bank of Syria Duraid Durgham said bilateral economic and banking relations need to expand in proportion to the two countries' level of cooperation. Durgham referred joint economic projects between Iran and Syria and emphasized that by signing agreements and implementing joint projects, bilateral economic relations will expand more than before.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-business-and-markets/66248/iran-syria-to-strengthen-banking-ties>

- **Head of Crimea Republic: Syrian people only to determine the future of their country**

Head of the Republic of Crimea Sergey Aksyonov said on Sunday that the Syrian people alone are to determine the future of their country. In Yalta, Aksyonov added that all peoples have the right to choose their political leaderships and no party has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of independent sovereign states.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=107910>

- **Syrian army and allies step up bombing of rebels in Deraa city**

The Syrian army and Iran-backed militia forces have escalated attacks against a rebel-held part of the southern city of Deraa, a possible prelude to a large-scale campaign to wrest full control of the city, rebels and residents said on Monday. The intensive raids and bombing strikes mainly pounded the southern part of Deraa, strategically located on the border with Jordan and where the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad erupted six years ago.

More Details:

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-deraa-idUSKBN19305V?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-deraa-idUSKBN19305V?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **US, Russia in Talks over 'Safe Zone' In Syria**

None can predict as to how long the dirty war in Syria sponsored by foreign powers led by the USA and Russia will continue and how many more thousands of Syrians will be slaughtered. The Americans, focusing on advantages, may not be interested in ending the war. Yet, apparently, there are talks going on behind the scenes over the increased fighting in Syria by the USA and British Special Ops troops and the militant proxies they have been using to control as much of the Syrian-Jordanian-Iraqi border as possible.

More Details:

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/12062017-us-russia-in-talks-over-safe-zone-in-syria-oped/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Iran kills 4 terrorists, seizes Daesh flag**

Police forces in Iran have killed four terrorists in a southern province, seizing their arms and ammunition as well as a flag of the Takfiri terrorist group of Daesh.

More Details:

<http://217.218.67.231/Detail/2017/06/12/525032/Iran-Daesh-terrorists-Hormozgan-Azizollah-Maleki>

- **India's plan to develop key Iranian port faces US headwinds**

Western manufacturers are shying away from supplying equipment for an Iranian port that India is developing for fear that United States may reimpose sanctions on Tehran, dealing a blow to New Delhi's strategic ambitions in the region.

More Details:

[http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/article9725197.ece?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS&utm\\_campaign=RSS\\_Syndication](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/article9725197.ece?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=RSS_Syndication)

- **Qatari minister acknowledges Iran, Russia's helping hands**

Qatari Foreign Minister acknowledged friendly countries' help offers, including those of Russia and Iran, after some neighboring Arab states cut ties with the gas-rich country and declared an full-scale blockade.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82562356/>

- **Iran invites regional states to talks, restraint**

Iran's FM spokesman Ghasemi said the current challenge straining ties among regional states is the result of Riyadh Summit, calling on countries in region to hold talks and remain calm for settling their issues.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125882/Iran-invites-regional-states-to-talks-restraint>

- **Iran sends five planes full of supplies to Qatar amid blockade**

Iran has sent supplies to Qatar as the country struggles to tide over the regional blockade imposed on it for allegedly funding terror activities, reported BBC. Five Iranian planes full of food and other supplies flew into Qatar on Saturday

More Details:

<https://scroll.in/latest/840391/iran-sends-five-planes-full-of-supplies-to-qatar-amid-blockade>

- **US Senate Advances Iran Sanctions Bill - Irrationality and the Illegal**

The antiquated part: The US Senate voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to advance a bill that would impose new sanctions on Iran.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960321001960>

- **Iran Keen for Closer Ties with Russia**

In a message to his Russian counterpart, Iran's president hoped for a broadened scope of cooperation between the two countries at the international levels.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/12/1433950/iran-keen-for-closer-ties-with-russia>

- **Iran sends naval fleet to Oman, Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden**

Iran has dispatched two warships to Oman to start their mission in the international waters. An Iranian naval flotilla left to Oman on Sunday to progress towards a mission to the north of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE5MjEw/iran-sends-naval-fleet-to-oman-indian-ocean-gulf-of-aden.html>

- **Iran: Unemployment, poverty forcing young men with Master's Degrees to dangerous jobs**

Iran's mullahs have destroyed the country's economy and brought nothing but poverty and increasing unemployment. Currently young men and women graduating college with high degrees are forced to even resort to carry heavy loads.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/economy/22989-iran-unemployment-poverty-forcing-young-men-with-master-s-degrees-to-dangerous-jobs>

- **Founder of Qatari Intelligence: US will never allow Iranian, Turkish presence in Doha**

Ret. Gen. Mahmoud Mansour, the founder of Qatari Intelligence, said he believes it is impossible for Doha to implement its aim to have Iranian and Turkish soldiers deployed in its territory.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1113726/middle-east>

- **Iran arrests almost 50 after deadly Tehran attacks**

Iran has arrested almost 50 people in connection with twin attacks on Tehran that killed 17 people last week, officials said, as security forces stepped up efforts to crack down on suspected militants.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/164b49db-17de-4f68-91bf-c1757af89ca4.aspx>

- **Risks remain as Iraqi militias press ahead with Iran's bridge to Syria**

When ISIL surged across Iraq in 2014, it ushered in a new era of direct Iranian involvement in the country. Soon, Iranian military advisers were a common feature on the front lines, as Shiite militia groups threw themselves at the advancing ISIL fighters. With Iranian help, these militias managed to stop the terror group from penetrating the Shiite-majority areas in the east and south of Iraq. In turn, the Iranians have used the militias to pursue their own goal – establishing a land corridor from Iran to Syria's Mediterranean coast.

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/risks-remain-as-iraqi-militias-press-ahead-with-irans-bridge-to-syria>

- **Iran claims to have killed mastermind of terrorist attacks: 'Sent to hell'**

Iran says it has killed the alleged "mastermind" of the terrorist attacks in Tehran last week claimed by the Islamic State.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/iran-claims-to-have-killed-mastermind-of-terrorist-attacks-sent-to-hell/article/2625627>

- **Iran, Syria to Strengthen Banking Ties**

Central Bank of Iran's Governor Valiollah Seif met with his Syrian counterpart on Sunday to review banking ties and discuss further cooperation to finance economic projects.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-business-and-markets/66248/iran-syria-to-strengthen-banking-ties>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Security Cabinet discusses possible Gaza escalation amid Qatar crisis**

IDF chief, Military Intelligence head and COGAT warn Doha stopping support for Hamas could lead to deterioration in humanitarian situation in the strip, which in turn could spark a military conflict.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4974589,00.html>

- **Israel to test Arrow-3 missile system in US's Alaska**

For the first time, Israel, jointly with the US Missile Defence Agency (MDA), will test the Arrow-3 anti-ballistic missile system in the US state of Alaska. According to a statement yesterday by Israel's Channel 2, the test will take place at Alaska's Kodiak test site and is scheduled to be accomplished within few months. The location was chosen given its relative isolation as there is a possibility of falling shrapnel after the interception.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170612-israel-to-test-arrow-3-missile-system-in-uss-alaska/>

- **The Government House Complex in Jerusalem - whose is it?**

One of the strangest stories in the history of modern Jerusalem is the enigmatic status of the area known as Government House Complex, a strategic set of structures built on the high ground near Armon Hanatziv, south of the Old City, overlooking the valley of Hinnom, the Old City, David's City and beyond that to the Mount of Olives and the distant mountains of Moab. Israel is at present standing by and watching as the UN expands it and gives it a new face. Is all of Jerusalem part of Israel or is it not?

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/20620>

- **Netanyahu slams Hamas for 'using children as human shield'**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Sunday to "dismantle" UNRWA after the aid agency found a Hamas tunnel under two of its schools in Gaza. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Friday that a tunnel was discovered under two schools in the al-Maghazi refugee camp near the city of Dir al-Balah. On Sunday, Netanyahu, speaking at the start of his weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, blamed Hamas for "using schoolchildren as a human shield."

More details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/11/content\\_41009316.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/11/content_41009316.htm)

- **Israel so far advanced highest number of settlements since 1992**

Israel has announced that its settlement building activity has been the highest in more than 20 years. This as many international organizations and rights groups describe settlement activity as an impediment to peace in the region. Mona Kandil reports.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/12/524987/Israel-so-far-advnaced-highest-number-of-settlements->

- **Israel calls for end of UN Palestinian refugee agency**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Sunday for the dismantling of the UN agency that aids millions of Palestinian refugees, accusing it of anti-Israeli incitement and saying he had conveyed his message to the US ambassador to the United Nations.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/israeli-calls-palestinian-refugee-agency-170611214423120.html>

- **Israeli cabinet decides to heed PA request to cut Gaza electricity**

Israel has reportedly decided to heed a Palestinian Authority request to cut electricity supply to the Hamas-run Gaza Strip after the PA announced it would not continue to pay the bill as it stepped up pressure on its main rival.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-cabinet-decides-to-heed-pa-request-to-cut-gaza-electricity/>

- **Liberman Says Bibi's Government Is Best for West Bank Settlers**

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman reacted to criticism from settler leaders claiming that the government has frozen West Bank settlement construction to appease the Trump administration.

More details:

<http://forward.com/fast-forward/374364/liberman-there-hasn-t-been-a-netter-government-for-west-bank-settlements/>

- **Truah letter calls on Israel to end occupation, create Palestinian state**

A letter calling on Israel to end the military occupation of the West Bank and lay the groundwork for a Palestinian state was delivered on behalf 1,800 American rabbis and cantors to the Israeli embassy in Washington DC. The letter addressed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was written on behalf of the members of Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and delivered on Friday, the day 50 years ago that the Six Day War ended.

More details:

<http://www.jta.org/2017/06/11/news-opinion/united-states/truah-letter-calls-on-israel-to-end-occupation-create-palestinian-state>

- **Israel moves forward bill to cut tax transfer to PA over prisoners compensation program**

An Israeli governmental committee advanced a bill on Sunday which would see the Israeli government cease to transfer an estimated 1 billion shekels (\$280 million) per year to the Palestinian Authority (PA) over the controversial "martyrs" compensation program that provides financial allowances to Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and their families.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777594>

- **Al Aqsa Closed by Israeli Authorities**

Israeli police shut down, on Sunday, the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, denying entry and exit of Muslim worshipers to and from the compound. Israeli police claimed, according to WAFA, that the site was shut down after some worshipers at the compound pelted stones at Israeli settlers who were performing rituals near the Moroccan Gate, just outside the compound.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/al-aqsa-closed-by-israeli-authorities/>

- **Palestinian Delegation to Meet Trump Officials in DC This Month**

The Jerusalem Post reports: A delegation of five Palestinian officials is expected to meet with US President Donald Trump's administration in Washington, D.C. later this or next month to discuss reviving the peace process, a senior Fatah official said on Sunday.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/06/11/report-palestinian-delegation-meet-trump-officials-dc-month/>

- **Council of Arab League to discuss Israeli infiltration in Africa**

The Council of the Arab League is holding an extraordinary meeting on Monday at the level of permanent representatives to discuss how to confront the growing Israeli infiltration into the African continent.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/al-aqsa-closed-by-israeli-authorities/>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Former Jordanian MP's Speech at a Large Islamic-Arabic Meeting of Iranian Resistance**

Attended by president-elect of Resistance of Iran Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, a meeting was held on June 3, at which prominent political and religious figures from different Islamic countries and Muslim communities took part and delivered speech. Also present at the meeting was a delegation from Jordan.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/22979-former-jordanian-mp-s-speech-at-a-large-islamic-arabic-meeting-of-iranian-resistance>

- **Saudi Campaign continues distributing food baskets to Syrians in Lebanon**

Saudi National Campaign for Supporting Brothers in Syria distributed 752 food baskets to Syrian refugees in the cities of Tripoli and Shebaa in Lebanon within its stations 39th and 40th, as part of its seasonal program launched at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. The director of the campaign's office in Lebanon Walid Al-Jalal said that the office is targeting as many Syrian brothers in Lebanon as possible by preparing planned plans to distribute humanitarian aid to them, stressing that work is still underway to cover all Syrian refugees included in this program to benefit from Ramadan baskets.

More Details:

<http://sites.alriyadh.com/en/article/1159815/Saudi-Campaign-continues-distributing-food-baskets-to-Syrians-in-Lebanon>

- **Hariri from Baabda Palace: Positive meeting with President Aoun, Election draft law must be ready before Cabinet session**

"The atmosphere of talks with President Michel Aoun was positive," said Prime Minister Saad Hariri on Sunday following his meeting with the President at Baabda Palace, adding that "the draft voting law must be finalized prior to the cabinet's session next Wednesday." Aoun and Hariri held a round of talks on the general situation in the country, current political developments and the outcome of contacts to agree on a new law for the parliamentary elections.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80269/Hariri-from-Baabda-Palace-Positive-meeting-with-President-Aoun-Election-draft-law-must-be-ready-before-Cabinet-session>

- **Cypriot president lands in Beirut for four-day visit**

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades arrived in Beirut Sunday ahead of a four-day official visit, one day after Defense Minister Yaacoub Sarraf visited Cyprus. Several high-ranking officials, including Nicolas Tueni, the minister of state for combating corruption, welcomed Anastasiades on the runway of Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport before he headed to the Phoenicia Hotel with his delegation.

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Jun-12/409347-cypriot-president-lands-in-beirut-for-four-day-visit.ashx>

- **Al-Rahi Warns against 'Parliamentary Extension, Vacuum**

Maronite Patriarch Beshara al-Rahi on Sunday warned against extending parliament's term or reaching so-called parliamentary vacuum despite the latest optimism about the possibility of approving a new electoral law in Wednesday's Cabinet session. "Political officials are preoccupied with their partisan interests with the objective of maximizing gains and minimizing losses, and what's more painful is that their only concern is limited to the new electoral law while they have indefinitely suspended all the other pressing issues that are burdening citizens," al-Rahi said in a Sunday Mass sermon in Harissa.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231261-al-rahi-warns-against-parliamentary-extension-vacuum>

- **Khalil: Vacuum unacceptable, deliberations will continue**

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil Sunday deemed that reaching vacuum is unacceptable, adding "discussions are ongoing with all openness and positivity to yield an understanding agreement." "It is only a matter of days, and the issue has nothing to do with one team scoring imaginary victories over another. We have to work together for the victory of our country by passing a new vote law and holding parliamentary elections with the participation of all sides," Khalil added.

More Details:

<http://en.addiyar.com/article/1388643-khalil-vacuum-unacceptable-deliberations-will-continue>

- **RHIA Head Reassures on Airport Security after Terror Plot Reports**

Head of Rafik Hariri International Airport Fadi al-Hassan has reassured on the airport's security situation after unconfirmed media reports said the facility was one of the targets of the terrorist Islamic State cell that has been busted by security forces in recent days. "The reports were about intentions to stage acts of sabotage and one cannot at all say that the airport's security measures have been breached," al-Hassan told Kuwaiti daily al-Rai in remarks published Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.ezspk.co.uk/2017/06/11/rhia-head-reassures-on-airport-security-after-terror-plot-reports/>

- **Palestinian man killed in Lebanon's Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp**

A Palestinian man was shot dead in unclear circumstances in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh in Lebanon on Saturday.

Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) reported that the man, who was only identified as "A.M.," was shot in the head "by mistake" while he was inside of his shop in the refugee camp.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777583>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **84 Saudi Mercenaries Killed in Yemeni Forces' New Attacks**

The forces of the Yemeni army and Popular Committees, in retaliation for continued acts of aggression by the Saudi-led coalition, launched counterattacks against mercenaries of the Riyadh regime, killing 84 of them in Nihm District in the Sana'a Province. A Yemeni military source said the army and popular forces have carried out a massive operation to prevent the Saudi mercenaries from advancing in Nihm District over the past two days.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/11/1433147/84-saudi-mercenaries-killed-in-yemeni-forces-new-attacks>

- **Iran sends warships to Oman amid Gulf dispute**

Iran is sending two warships to Oman before they start their mission in international waters near the coast of Yemen, the country's navy has said. The Tasnim news agency reported that the two ships, an Alborz destroyer and a Bushehr logistics warship, will depart from the port city of Bandar Abbas on Sunday for an overseas mission to Oman and then on to international waters.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/iran-sends-warships-oman-gulf-dispute-170611165049643.html>

- **UAE violated UN arms embargo in Libya, adding to regional turmoil**

The United Arab Emirates, one of the states that imposed a blockade against Qatar as part of the recent Gulf crisis, violated the U.N. Arms Embargo against forces loyal to Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar, a U.N. report published on Friday revealed.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/06/12/uae-violated-un-arms-embargo-in-libya-adding-to-regional-turmoil>

- **Omani delivers 100 tonnes of aid in Yemen**

After delivering 55 tonnes of aid to war-torn Yemen in February, Nasr al Jadhmi has kept his promise of delivering another 100 tonnes of supplies. Speaking to Muscat Daily from Yemen on Sunday, the 44 year old said that despite security fears and logistical issues, he has succeeded in personally donating the aid to the needy.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Omani-delivers-100-tonnes-of-aid-in-Yemen-51h6>

- **Cholera so far Kills 859 in Yemen**

The number of deaths caused by the cholera epidemic that affected the population of Yemen amounted to 859, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed today. Meanwhile, according to this organization, the people allegedly infected totaled 116,700. These figures, according to the WHO count, represent an increase during the last three days of 70 deaths and 14,880 among those infected by that bacterial infection.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=14064&SEO=cholera-so-far-kills-859-in-yemen>

- **Yemeni President, Russian Ambassador discuss means of achieving peace in Yemen**

President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi of Yemen has discussed with Russian Ambassador to Yemen, Vladimir Dedushkin, means to achieve peace in Yemen. During the meeting, President Hadi hailed Russia's support for Yemen and its constitutional legitimacy, stressing the important role of Moscow and the international community in supporting Yemen to achieve the desired peace.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302618588>

- **Qatar says it'll stick to OPEC production cuts, despite rift**

Qatar's energy minister said Sunday the country remains committed to limiting its oil output through March 2018 under an agreement with other big oil producers, despite the severing of its diplomatic relations with OPEC allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "Circumstances in the region shall not prevent the state of Qatar from honoring its international commitment of cutting its oil production," Mohammed al-Sada said in an emailed statement.

More Details:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/qatar-says-itll-stick-to-opec-production-cuts-despite-rift-2017-06-11>

- **Qatar Airways Profits \$540 Million, Braces for Gulf Crisis**

Qatar Airways announced on Sunday its net profits rose to \$540 million in its latest financial disclosure before the airline took a hit and was blocked from flying to major Arab states. The carrier, which marks its 20th anniversary this year and is one of the Middle East's biggest airlines, said revenue rose last year from \$9.6 billion to \$10.6 billion in the fiscal year ending March 31. Its net profits in 2016 stood at around \$445 million.

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_QATAR\\_EARNS\\_QATAR\\_AIRWAYS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-11-15-03-31](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_QATAR_EARNS_QATAR_AIRWAYS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-11-15-03-31)

- **Kuwait Says Qatar Ready for Talks as Bahrain Moves to Freeze Assets**

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry says Qatar is prepared to enter negotiations aimed at solving the diplomatic row with Arab countries as Bahrain's central bank has issued orders freezing assets and bank accounts of Qatar-linked entities.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1981905>

- **Middle East crisis: PM off to Saudi for one-day visit**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is set to leave for Saudi Arabia on a day-long visit in the backdrop of a deepening diplomatic rift in the Middle East, DawnNews reported. The PM, accompanied is expected to hold talks with Saudi leadership centered on deteriorating relations between Gulf nations after Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1339058/middle-east-crisis-pm-off-to-saudi-for-one-day-visit>

- **Saudi, US extremists likely behind Tehran terror attacks**

Parliament official Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Saudis and extremist agents inside US government may have had a part in the terrorist attack on Iran's parliament on June 7. Iranian Parliament's General Director for International Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stressed that while it is early to

draw conclusions about the elements behind the ISIL terrorist attacks, there were rumors about possible role of Saudi Arabia and extremist agents inside US government.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125879/Saudi-US-extremists-likely-behind-Tehran-terror-attacks>

- **Saudi, UAE show signals of easing tensions with Qatar**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia showed signals of easing tensions with Qatar on Sunday, after a week of a growing diplomatic row with Doha. Earlier in the day, UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Bin Saud both directed that lenience should be shown for Qatari-Emirati and Qatari-Saudi families on humanitarian grounds.

More Details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/12/content\\_41007893.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/12/content_41007893.htm)

## 7. EGYPT

- **Saudi Arabia pumps \$400m into key Egyptian projects**

Saudi Arabia has recently injected an additional \$400 million as part of a Saudi-Egyptian loan agreement to develop the Sinai Peninsula, said a report, citing a senior Egyptian minister.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS\\_326236.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_326236.html)

- **Kuwait Gives Egyptian Daesh Member Life Sentence for Attacking US Troops**

A Kuwaiti court on Sunday sentenced a professed member of the Islamic State group to life in prison for an attack on U.S. troops in the emirate last year.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/kuwait-gives-egyptian-daesh-member-life-sentence-attacking-us-troops-985246>

- **Sisi's trip to Berlin will give 'fresh boost' to bilateral relations: Egypt envoy**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi will fly to Germany on Monday for a visit intended to give a "fresh boost" to Egypt-German relations, according to Badr Abdel Atty, Egypt's ambassador to Berlin.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/270718/-.aspx>

- **Egypt says will retain administration of Red Sea islands after Saudi transfer**

Egypt will maintain administrative control over two Red Sea islands it is looking to transfer to Saudi Arabia, according to a government report advising parliament on the terms of the agreement.

More Details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFC6N1GF019?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29&&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFC6N1GF019?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **Investment Ministry, AmCham cooperate to promote Egyptian economy to American financial community**

Investment Minister Sahar Nasr agreed with the leaders of the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo (AmCham) on a joint cooperation to promote the economic reforms adopted and implemented by the government to the American society.

More Details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/06/11/investment-ministry-amcham-cooperate-promote-egyptian-economy-american-financial-community/>

- **Qatar Dispute Forces Egypt to Raise Security Alert**

A number of countries in the region could be faced with a new terrorist wave after they severed diplomatic ties with Qatar, warned media aide to the Egyptian Interior Minister warned Tariq Atiya.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/mohamedhassanein/news-middle-east/qatar-dispute-forces-egypt-raise-security-alert>

- **LG Chem to supply water filters to Egypt's seawater desalination plants**

South Korea's leading chemical company LG Chem has landed a large-scale contract to supply seawater filters to water treatment company Metito's desalination plants in Egypt, the company said Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20170611000200>

- **Egypt, World Bank, AfDB to start third tranche loan talks this week**

Egypt will resume this week its negotiations with the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to disburse the third tranches of \$1.5 billion and \$3 billion loans.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/banks/57403-egypt-world-bank-afdb-to-start-third-tranche-loan-talks-this-week.html>

- **Russia is set to deliver Ka-52K helicopters to Egypt**

International Cooperation Department Chief of Russia's Rostec state hi-tech corporation Viktor Kladov said: "We have just returned from Egypt. We discussed these issues. The helicopter carriers were initially intended for the Ka-52K rotorcraft. ...

More Details:

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/russia-deliver-ka-52k-helicopters-egypt/>

- **Report: Egypt Demands Hamas Distance Self from Qatar, Iran**

The Algemeiner reports: A Hamas delegation — led by Yahya Sinwar — visited Cairo last week for meetings with Egyptian government officials, the Hebrew news site nrg reported on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/06/12/report-egypt-demands-hamas-distance-self-qatar-iran/>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tribal row over land dispute in Tunisia sends 78 to hospital**

More than 70 people were injured when tribal clashes erupted over land dispute in southern Tunisia on Saturday, regional governor said. Weapons were used in the clashes, Sami El Ghabi said, noting that one of the injured was in a serious condition. "The two tribes used hunting rifles, stones and blunt objects, requiring police to intervene and use tear gas to disperse them and end the violence," Sami El Ghabi told AFP.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/6/11/tunisian-tribal-row-over-land-sends-78-to-hospital>

- **Citizens protest for right not to fast during Ramadan**

Dozens of Tunisians demonstrated Sunday to demand the right to eat and drink in public during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and to protest against non-fasters being arrested. There is no law against eating or drinking in public during Ramadan, but every year the issue comes to the fore in the North African country. Tunisia's constitution guarantees "freedom of belief and conscience", but the state is also the "guardian of religion".

More Details:

<http://www.pulse.ng/world/in-tunisia-citizens-protest-for-right-not-to-fast-during-ramadan-id6819235.html>

- **Tunisia Cracks Down on Suspicious Charity Group Activities**

The Tunisian authorities have given all charity organizations in the country a month to submit a statement on the foreign donations and grants that they receive. The Tunisian government of Prime Minister Yousef Chahed is seeking through this measure to crack down on the suspicious activities of several of these groups. It will also resort to the central bank and finance ministry to inspect the financial accounts of the organizations. The Interior Ministry has meanwhile been tasked with monitoring any suspicious acts, especially in regards to funding terrorism.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/almunji-alsaidani/news-middle-east/tunisia-cracks-suspicious-charity-group-activities>

- **Counter-terrorism troops arrest militants in eastern Algeria**

Algerian counter-terrorism troops on Sunday arrested three armed militants and three elements who provide support to terrorist groups in the province of Constantine, 450 km eastern Algiers, said a statement of Defense Ministry. "As part of the fight against terrorism and thanks to efficient exploitation of intelligence, a detachment of the National People's Army, in coordination with National Gendarmerie and Police troops managed to arrest three terrorists and three elements providing support to terrorists, in addition to retrieving two automatic pistols, a quantity of ammunition, a vehicle, a laptop, eight mobile phones, as well as a sum of money," specifies the source.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/12/c\\_136357597.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/12/c_136357597.htm)

- **Algerian Human Rights organization condemns targeting of Ahmadis**

The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH) has condemned the Government's crackdown on the Ahmadiyya Muslim minority. Referring to the arrests of the Algerian Ahmadis, the LADDH called it an unacceptable infringement of the freedoms of worship, The organization also called for the release of Ahmadi prisoners of conscience. In a statement, the LADDH office in M'sila urged the Algerian Government to respect the international conventions ratified by Algeria, "in particular, those concerning respect for human rights." LADDH also asked the Minister of Justice to apply the constitution in the correct way.

More Details:

<https://www.rabwah.net/algerian-human-rights-organization-condemns-targeting-ahmadis/>

- **Libya: Militia says Gadhafi Son Saif Al-Islam Freed**

Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, son of late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, has been released, according to the militia group that has held him since 2011. Gadhafi was released from the northwestern Libyan city of Zintan under a "General Amnesty Law" passed by Libya's House of Representatives, the Abu Bakr al-Sideeq militia said in a statement Saturday. He has not been shown in public. A close associate of Saif told CNN Gadhafi was released Friday but would not reveal Gadhafi's current location, citing security concerns.

More Details:

<http://www.ozarksfirst.com/news/libya-militia-says-gadhafi-son-saif-al-islam-freed/737901305>

- **Libya claims NGO boats in the Mediterranean are 'migrant taxis'**

Libya has accused NGOs operating in the Mediterranean of being complicit in the exodus of tens of thousands of migrants, claiming the humanitarian organisations are in direct contact with traffickers along the lawless coast of the North African country. Humanitarian groups such as Medecins Sans Frontieres vehemently denied the allegations, as the deadly crossing claimed yet more lives at the weekend. At least 10 migrants drowned after their boat capsized and up to 100 others were missing.

More Details:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/12/libya-claims-ngo-boats-mediterranean-migrant-taxis/>

- **Morocco offers to mediate Qatar-GCC crisis**

Morocco's King Mohammed VI has offered to mediate a diplomatic row between Qatar and three Gulf Arab states that severed diplomatic relations with Doha and have since imposed a debilitating blockade on the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco said in a statement on Sunday that the kingdom was ready to play a "constructive and neutral" role

in this crisis. "If the parties so wish, the Kingdom of Morocco is ready to offer its services to foster a frank and comprehensive dialogue on the basis of non-interference in internal affairs and the fight against religious extremism," the statement read.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/morocco-offers-mediate-qatar-gcc-crisis-170611190417048.html>

- **Thousands protest in Morocco against corruption**

Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets of the Moroccan capital to protest against corruption and abuse of power. The demonstration in Rabat on Sunday was one of the largest of its kind for several years. The march was also to support recent demonstrations in Morocco's impoverished northern Rif region. It has been shaken by protests since the death in October of a fish vendor who was crushed by a garbage compactor while trying to save fish that officials had confiscated.

More Details:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/thousands-protest-in-morocco-against-corruption/2017/06/11/7ef75914-4eb7-11e7-b74e-0d2785d3083d\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.d40e723e0f7e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/thousands-protest-in-morocco-against-corruption/2017/06/11/7ef75914-4eb7-11e7-b74e-0d2785d3083d_story.html?utm_term=.d40e723e0f7e)

- **Sound Energy kicks off new Morocco well programme**

Sound Energy PLC (LON:SOU) has kicked off a new programme at the Sidi Moktar project in Morocco, where it is re-entering the Koba-1 well. The plan is to re-enter the well to perforate and test Lower Liassic reservoir, as well as possibly the Argovian, Sound explained. It is anticipated to be a ten-day work programme, and it will be followed by a similar programme for Sidi Moktar's Kamar-1 well.

More Details:

<http://www.proactiveinvestors.co.uk/companies/news/179048/sound-energy-kicks-off-new-morocco-well-programme-179048.html>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **3 US Soldiers Killed and 1 Wounded by Afghan Commando in Achin**

Three US Special Forces soldiers were killed and one wounded on Saturday (10 June) when an Afghan soldier opened fired on them during a joint operation in Achin in eastern Afghanistan, the Pentagon has said. US forces have been fighting alongside Afghan troops against Islamic State and Taliban militants in the Nangahar province, where the incident occurred.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/3-us-soldiers-killed-1-wounded-by-afghan-commando-achin-1625722>

- **12 ISIS Fighters Killed By Local People**

At least 12 ISIS adherents have been killed, while local people stormed on their hideouts in eastern Nangarhar province. The incident took place in Pachheragam district of the province. Ataullah Khogyani spokesman of Nangarhar governor told BNA reporter, 12 ISIS loyalists were killed and two others were wounded following the event. Khogyani confirmed the martyrdom of two local residents as well.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/28838-12-isis-fighters-killed-by-local-people.html>

- **Herat Police Official Shot Dead; Killers Escape**

A police officer was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the Injil district of western Herat province on Sunday, local authorities said. Jilani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News Mohammad Naeem -- head of logistics -- was killed in Chaharbagh-i-Feroza locality in the morning.

More Details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/06/11/herat-police-official-shot-dead-killers-escape>

- **President Ghani and Nawaz Sharif hold talks on key issues on SCO sidelines**

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said the leaders of the two nations held talks on key issues, including fight against terrorism and Afghan peace efforts during the bilateral meeting.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/president-ghani-and-nawaz-sharif-hold-talks-on-key-issues-on-sco-sidelines-02910>

- **Spiritual Afghan Leader Urges Protesters to End sit-ins 11**

An alliance of senior Jihadi figures and parties in Afghanistan have urged Jamiat-e-Islami-backed protesters in Kabul to end their ongoing sit-in camps against the government in light of the country's critical situation. Sibghatullah Mujadadi, a spiritual Afghan leader and veteran Jihadi figure, told a

gathering of the alliance that the sit-in camps on various busy streets in the capital are bothering people from all walks of life, laypeople and officials alike.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/spiritual-afghan-leader-urges-protesters-to-end-sit-ins/839329>

- **Liberals Face Tough Questions on Afghanistan, Interim Fighter Jets**

Although the Trudeau government launched its long term plan for modernizing the military last week, more immediate realities are tugging for attention on the Liberals' list of defence priorities. In particular, two critical, short-term questions have emerged: what to do about the government's plan to buy "interim" fighter jets, and whether to take on a new role in Afghanistan?

More Details:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/feeds/canadian-press/national/liberals-face-tough-questions-on-afghanistan-interim-fighter-jets/article35280798/>

- **Pakistan, Afghanistan Agree to Target 'Irreconcilable' Taliban**

Afghan presidential palace in Kabul says President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have agreed to take action against 'irreconcilable' Taliban insurgents, at a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, last week.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/12-Jun-17/pakistan-afghanistan-agree-to-target-irreconcilable-taliban>

- **An Afghan Settlement Will Require America to Work with Russia, Iran and Pakistan**

The recent spate of horrific bombings in Kabul has once again highlighted the urgent need for a coherent U.S. strategy to reverse the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan. President Trump's aides have reportedly asked him to consider additional troops and expanded authorities for the U.S. military to address the problem.

More Details:

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/afghan-settlement-will-require-america-work-russia-iran-21099>

- **AGO Suspends Kabul Garrison Chief And Police Chief**

The Attorney General's Office of Afghanistan (AGO) on Sunday announced that it has decided to suspend Gul Nabi Ahmadzai, the commander of Kabul Garrison and Kabul police chief Hassan Shah

Frogh. This comes just days after Afghan police opened fire on protestors at a mass rally following a deadly bomb blast in the capital that left over 150 civilians dead and hundreds wounded.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/ago-suspends-kabul-garrison-chief-and-police-chief>

- **Taliban Shadow District Governor Arrested in Baghlan**

Afghan security forces arrested the Taliban shadow governor for Khost Fereng district of Baghlan province early this morning. A statement released by the interior ministry on Monday said, "today early morning, three armed Taliban including a Taliban shadow district governor for Khost Fereng district of Baghlan province arrested following a military operation".

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/taliban-shadow-district-governor-arrested-in-baghlan/>

- **No Military Solution can fix Jammu & Kashmir Issue: Omar Abdullah**

Former J&K chief minister and National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah on Sunday said Kashmir was a political issue that cannot be resolved with military solutions and New Delhi should engage in sustained talks with all stakeholders in J&K and government of Pakistan immediately.

More Details:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/no-military-solution-can-fix-jammu-kashmir-issue-omar-abdullah/articleshow/59100224.cms>

- **Pakistani Man Sentenced to Death for Blasphemy on Facebook**

A Shiite Muslim has been sentenced to death for sharing blasphemous content about Sunni religious leaders and the Prophet Mohammed's wives on Facebook in Pakistan – the country's first conviction on charges stemming from social media. Judge Shabbir Ahmad Awan announced the verdict on Saturday in Bahawalpur in the eastern Punjab Province, finding Taimoor Raza guilty of insulting the Prophet Mohammed. Under the country's strict blasphemy laws, anyone accused of insulting Islam and its key religious figures risks being sentenced to death.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/391860-pakistan-death-blasphemy-facebook/>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Egypt blocks Daily Sabah and other Turkey-based websites, widening media blackout**

Egypt has blocked all websites of Daily Sabah and the web pages of several other news outlets based in Turkey Sunday, expanding a media blackout initiated last month to curb diverse media.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2017/06/12/egypt-blocks-daily-sabah-and-other-turkey-based-websites-widening-media-blackout-1497228141>

- **Turkish foreign minister meets Gulf envoys in Ankara**

The foreign minister held a joint meeting with Saudi Arabian, Bahraini and Emirati envoys in the capital Ankara on Monday amid the escalating Gulf crisis, according to a Turkish diplomatic source. The meeting comes after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen cut ties with Qatar last week over claims that it supports terrorism in the region. The recent developments in the Gulf crisis topped the meeting, the source, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to the media, said.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190703/turkey-vows-to-help-drought-hit-horn-of-africa-region>

- **Turkish Red Crescent sends \$700M in aid to Syria**

The Turkish Red Crescent has revealed the total amount of humanitarian assistance it has sent to Syria during the country's civil war. Speaking in Istanbul late on Sunday, Turkish Red Crescent president Kerem Kinik said the organization had given nearly 2.5 billion Turkish liras' worth (around \$710 million) of aid.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-red-crescent-sends-700m-in-aid-to-syria/839793>

*\*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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