



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Procces of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

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**14 MARCH 2016**

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## 1. IRAQ,

- **House Speaker in Anbar to See the Situation in Liberated Areas**

Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jubouri headed to Anbar province on Sunday morning. According to a parliamentary source "al-Jubouri went this morning to Anbar province to see the situation in the liberated areas."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?1xi03a5f%252f6xIJMYM1DXvva%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?1xi03a5f%252f6xIJMYM1DXvva%253d%253d)

- **Italy to start maintaining Mosul Dam in April**

The Head of Uniters for Reform Coalition (Muttahidoon) Usama al-Nujayfi called Italy to speed up the work in Mosul Dam in anticipation of the next flood season, while the Italian side affirmed that the maintenance work in Mosul Dam will begin next month. Nujayfi office said in a statement received by IraqiNews.com, "The Head of the coalition Usama al-Nujayfi received the Italian Ambassador to Iraq Marco Carnelos," pointing out that, "The two sides discussed the Mosul Dam issue."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/business-iraqi-dinar/italy-start-maintaining-mosul-dam-april/>

- **Sadr's Spokesman: The Sit-In Is To Support Abadi Against Those Who Want To "Block The Reform."**

The spokesman for Muqtada al-Sadr, Sheikh Salah al-Obeidi said the sit-ins represent a pressure to support the Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi against those who want to obstruct the reform. Obeidi said in a press statement that "Sadr's call to the sit-in is a clear message to the relevant authorities in the government and parliament confirms our determination to reform," adding that "the most important of the Declaration and the reform's document by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, and his intention to change the group of ministers is actually applied."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?BjV5KLz8kw54kcIPFMPYAQ%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?BjV5KLz8kw54kcIPFMPYAQ%253d%253d)

- **12 ISIS elements killed in artillery shelling by Peshmerga forces north of Mosul**

The Kurdistan Democratic Party announced on Sunday, that 12 ISIS elements had been killed in an artillery shelling by the paramilitary Peshmerga force north of Mosul. Saeed Mamouzini, the spokesperson for the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said in a statement received by IraqiNews.com, "The artillery of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces shelled a convoy belonging to the ISIS in the village of

Bahzany in the district of Ba'shiqah (22 km north of Mosul), resulting in the death of 12 [ISIS] elements."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/12-isis-elements-killed-artillery-shelling-peshmerga-forces-north-mosul/>

- **Abadi discusses with the Iraqi Forces Alliance the reforms document, displaced people and financial crisis**

The Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi discussed, in a meeting today with the political board of the National Forces Alliance the reforms document and overall importance of moving it forward, Ministerial essential change and the fight against corruption as well as topics of displaced people and the financial crisis and the enactment of laws and liberation of areas from the terrorist gangs."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?d%252feSW2dOL%252bQsb%252b%252bV19Uxkw%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?d%252feSW2dOL%252bQsb%252b%252bV19Uxkw%253d%253d)

- **Bomb blast kills, wounds 9 persons southeast of Baghdad**

A source in the Interior Ministry said Sunday, that nine people had been either killed or injured in a bomb blast that took place southeast of Baghdad. The source, who requested anonymity, said in a brief statement received by IraqiNews.com, "An explosive device has went off near the industrial shops in the area of Basmaya southeast of Baghdad, resulting in the death of one persons and wounding eight others," adding that, "A security force rushed to the area and transferred the injured to nearby hospital for treatment and the dead to the forensic medicine authority, while carried out an inspection operation to search for the perpetrators of the attack."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/bomb-blast-kills-wounds-9-persons-southeast-baghdad/>

- **Security forces detain 80 ISIS elements west of Ramadi**

The security committee of Anbar Provincial Council announced on Sunday, that 80 ISIS elements and suspects were detained in areas west of Ramadi. The head of the security committee, Rageh Barakat al-Issawi, said in a press statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "The security forces managed to detain 80 ISIS elements and [other] suspects during the scrutiny which the civilians came under [it] in the areas of Zankura and the modern village as well as areas near Heet District west of Ramadi."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/security-forces-detain-80-isis-elements-west-ramadi/>

- **MP Salhi offers to the / UNAMI / Mission documents to prove exposure of the Turkmen in Taza to toxic gases**

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights Arshad al-Salhi, Head of the Turkmen Front, offered documents and reports to the / UNAMI / Mission in Iraq to show that the Turkmen civilians bombed with poison gas in Taza. Al-Salhi said, during a meeting with Head of the Mission / UNAMI / Jan Kubis that they "handed over documents and reports on recent events that Turkmen Taza has experienced by targeting it with missiles of chemical and poison gas / chlorine and mustard / to be documented in the United Nations," noting that "the suffering of the Turkmen component is of a real genocide after such a large terrorist attack. "

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?kdTwabRpvISAXCSJTJyAGw%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?kdTwabRpvISAXCSJTJyAGw%253d%253d)

- **Joint forces liberate al-Khawda and Banan areas in Heet District**

The Head of the security committee in Anbar Provincial Council Rageh Barakat al-Eissawi announced on Sunday, that the joint forces liberated the areas of al-Khawda and Banan in Heet District west of Ramadi, while pointed out that the operation resulted in the killing of dozens of ISIS members. Eissawi said in a statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, "The joint forces from the army, police and tribal fighters carried out a wide-scale military operation on the headquarters and gatherings of ISIS terrorist gangs," pointing out that, "The operation resulted in the liberation of al-Khawda and Banan areas in Heet District, as well as killing dozens of ISIS members."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/joint-forces-liberate-al-khawda-banan-areas-heet-district/>

- **Iraq Most Wanted Fast Facts**

Revolutionary Command Council vice chairman / Northern Region commander / Deputy secretary general, Ba'th Party Regional Command / Deputy commander, Iraqi armed forces. April 17, 2015: killed in a security operation in Iraq, according to Iraqi state-run television.

More Details:

<http://www.english.shafaaq.com/politics/17506-iraq-most-wanted-fast-facts.html>

- **Security forces advance into Albu Obeid region east of Ramadi**

A security source in Anbar province stated, that the Iraqi security forces had managed to advance into the areas controlled by ISIS in Albu Obeid region east of Ramadi. The source said in a statement

received by IraqiNews.com, "The Anti-Terrorism forces and Anbar police managed to advance into the ISIS-controlled areas in Albu Obeid region located on the international highway road east of Ramadi," noting that, "Those forces entered [the area] after the collapse of the [ISIS] elements in the region."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/148920/>

- **Disputes between Anti-Daesh Forces Impede Liberation of Iraq's Mosul**

The second largest city in Iraq, Mosul, has not been liberated from the Islamists due to the lack of coordination and disputes between the anti-Daesh forces, a representative of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government in Moscow said Monday. "The speculations about Mosul's liberation have been underway for a year now, but the progress is modest. It's not that the liberators do not have the strength. It's about the fact that this operation is being carried out not only by Iraq. The Iraqi Kurds, the Americans, Iran, Turkey, they all participate and, apparently, they have not agreed yet on their roles in the operation," Aso Talabani told RIA Novosti.

More Details:

<http://sputniknews.com/middleeast/20160314/1036236320/iraq-mosul-daesh-terrorism.html>

- **Iraqi officials: IS chemical attacks kill child, wound 600**

The Islamic State group has launched two chemical attacks near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, killing a 3-year-old girl, wounding some 600 people and causing hundreds more to flee, Iraqi officials said Saturday. "What the Daesh terrorist gangs did in the city of Taza will not go unpunished," Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said using an alternative acronym for the IS group during a meeting with village elders in Taza on Saturday. "The perpetrators will pay dearly."

More Details:

[http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/iraqi-officials-is-chemical-attacks-kill-child-wound/article\\_dccba99e-9818-5fe2-b4de-482d220118e1.html](http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/iraqi-officials-is-chemical-attacks-kill-child-wound/article_dccba99e-9818-5fe2-b4de-482d220118e1.html)

- **IS retreats from al-Rutba town in western Iraq**

The Islamic State group retreated on Sunday from the town of alRutba in the western Iraqi province of alAnbar, security officials told EFE. IS jihadists are currently advancing toward the town of alQaem, also in alAnbar and nearby the Syrian borders.

More Details:

<http://www.vidalatinasd.com/news/2016/mar/13/is-retreats-from-al-rutba-town-in-western-iraq/>

- **Iraq is running out of money to fight ISIS**

Is the Iraq army in any better shape to take on ISIS (largely on their own in terms of ground forces) than they were when they initially saw massive routs at the start of this? Perhaps. No... I'll go one step better than that. They're definitely doing better, having retaken a couple of key population centers and limited ISIS' reach in the Baghdad area to some suicide bombers now and again. That's a far cry above their performance when they literally dropped their weapons and ran like sheep when ISIS first came to town. But if they hope to take back Mosul and make any further gains they're going to need some bigger guns.

More Details:

<http://hotair.com/archives/2016/03/13/iraq-is-running-out-of-money-to-fight-isis/>?

- **ISIL Terrorists Leave Strategically Important City in Iraq**

ISIL (Daesh) terrorists have completely retreated from the strategically important city of Al-Rutbah in Western Iraq, the governor of the city said. Terrorists of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or Daesh) militant group have left the strategically important city of Al-Rutbah in Western Iraq, the governor of the city said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941223000589>

- **ISIS Fleeing Anbar Towns; 99 Killed in Iraq**

Islamic State militants are reported to be leaving the cities of Hit, Kubeisa, and Rutba. Witnesses say the militants are trying to hide among refugees leaving the towns and traveling towards Syria. At least 99 were killed and 73 were wounded.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2016/03/13/isis-fleeing-anbar-towns-99-killed-in-iraq/>?

- **Iran, Iraq to interlink ATM bank services**

Head of Iraq's Central Bank Ali al-Allaq on Sunday agreed to interlink bank services of Automated Teller Machines. The ATM will enable travelers in Iraq and Iran to use their debit cards for financial operations. Iran's ambassador to Iraq Hassan Danaeifar in a meeting with the Iraqi CBI chief put forward the proposal to interlink Iranian-Iraqi ATM bank services which was accepted by the Iraqi side.

More Details:

<http://www.irma.ir/en/News/82001098/>

- **Iraq's NOC suspends Kirkuk oil exports through Kurdistan-Turkey pipeline**

The Northern Oil Company in Kirkuk halted pumping oil through Kurdistan Region-Ceyhan pipeline on Sunday, March 13, due to the dispute between Baghdad and Erbil. The Head of the Energy Committee in Kirkuk's Provincial Council, Ahmad Askari, told NRT the cessation of Kirkuk's oil exports came from a decision by the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

More Details:

<http://ekurd.net/noc-suspends-kirkuk-oil-exports-2016-03-14?>

- **Egypt, Iraq Sign Energy MoU**

Egypt and Iraq have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen mutual cooperation in the oil and gas space. Egyptian oil minister Tarik Al-Mulla and his Iraqi counterpart Adel Abdul Mahdi inked the MoU, Egypt's petroleum ministry said in a statement published on its website Friday.

More Details:

<http://www.naturalgasasia.com/egypt-iraq-sign-energy-mou-17937?>

- **Tit-for-tat between Al-Azhar, Iraq over Shiite armed groups**

Al-Azhar has denied it succumbed to "pressures," compelling it to retract alleged statements that support Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF.) "The Iraqi delegation heard with its own ears Al-Azhar's clear and explicit stance on the unity of the Islamic nation (...) and attempts exposed to everyone to allow the dominance of one party over another and hijack homelands for the benefit of foreign affiliations," Al-Azhar said in a Sunday statement.

More Details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/198958/news/tit-for-tat-between-al-azhar-iraq-over-shiite-armed-groups?>

## 2. SYRIA

- **ISIS city of Palmyra under threat as government forces inch closer**

The Syrian Arab Army (SAA) captured the three key high points of Hill 800, Al-Amdan hill and Al-Thar hill in the Ancient Quarries on the western outskirts of Palmyra. Since last week, government troops have advanced hundreds of meters daily towards the ancient city of Palmyra which remains under

ISIS occupation. For now, less than one mile splits Syrian soldiers from entering the first building blocks in the western districts of the city.

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/03/14/740856/story.html?>

- **UN aims to draw up Syria road map in three rounds of peace talks**

Syrian government and opposition negotiators should be able to agree on a road map for political transition in the coming weeks, UN mediator Staffan de Mistura said Monday as he relaunched peace consultations in Geneva.

More Details:

[http://www.dpa-international.com/news/top\\_stories/un-aims-to-draw-up-syria-road-map-in-three-rounds-of-peace-talks-a-48595258.html?](http://www.dpa-international.com/news/top_stories/un-aims-to-draw-up-syria-road-map-in-three-rounds-of-peace-talks-a-48595258.html?)

- **UN Syria Envoy: only Plan B to Talks is 'Return to War'**

The U.N. special envoy for Syria says a resumption of peace talks between government envoys and representatives of the opposition is a "moment of truth" and insists the "only Plan B available is return to war."

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SYRIA\\_TALKS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-03-14-06-02-33](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SYRIA_TALKS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-03-14-06-02-33)

- **Ledbury people visit Dunkirk refugees and help to organise a mercy run to Syria**

Members of the Ledbury Refugee Support Group have recently returned from another mercy mission to the refugee camp at Dunkirk, where conditions are increasingly dire.

More Details:

[http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/regional/herefordshire/14341845.Ledbury\\_people\\_visit\\_Dunkirk\\_refugees\\_and\\_help\\_to\\_organise\\_a\\_mercy\\_run\\_to\\_Syria/?](http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/regional/herefordshire/14341845.Ledbury_people_visit_Dunkirk_refugees_and_help_to_organise_a_mercy_run_to_Syria/?)

- **Sheen's Concern For Syria's 'Lost Generation'**

Actor and activist Michael Sheen has told Sky News thousands of Syrian child refugees are in danger of becoming a "lost generation".

More Details:

<http://news.sky.com/story/1659438/sheens-concern-for-syrias-lost-generation?>

- **161 chemical weapons attacks in Syria's war, new report says**

A new report claims that chemical weapons have been used at least 161 times in Syria's five-year civil war and caused almost 1,500 deaths.

More Details:

[http://article.wn.com/view/2016/03/14/161\\_chemical\\_weapons\\_attacks\\_in\\_Syrias\\_war\\_new\\_report\\_says/](http://article.wn.com/view/2016/03/14/161_chemical_weapons_attacks_in_Syrias_war_new_report_says/)

- **Syria accuses opposition of attempting to derail talks**

Syria's ambassador to the UN says any discussion of a transition in power in the war-torn country is off the table as peace talks get under way on Monday in Geneva.

More Details:

[http://article.wn.com/view/2016/03/14/Syria\\_accuses\\_opposition\\_of\\_attempting\\_to\\_derail\\_talks/](http://article.wn.com/view/2016/03/14/Syria_accuses_opposition_of_attempting_to_derail_talks/)

- **India stresses standing by Syria in counterterrorism**

Indian Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla has stressed India's support to Syria in counterterrorism.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=71846>

- **Depraved ISIS are getting STRONGER while West dithers over Syrian deal**

Islamic State (ISIS) is making major gains while the West dither over a solution to the raging Syrian war, the UN special envoy has warned.

More Details:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/652394/ISIS-Syria-Islamic-State-UN-peace-deal>

### 3. IRAN

- **EU'S Mogherini to Visit Iran April 16**

EU foreign affairs head Federica Mogherini said Monday she will go to Iran next month to build on a deal she helped negotiate to end nuclear sanctions against Tehran.

More details:

<http://www.brecorder.com/world/europe/284713.html?>

- **Iran welcoming to U.S. energy companies**

Energy companies with U.S. headquarters are welcome to do business in Iran, though sanctions may be prohibitive, the country's oil minister said.

More details:

[http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Energy-Industry/2016/03/14/Iran-welcoming-to-US-energy-companies/8941457949312/?spt=sec&or=bn](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Industry/2016/03/14/Iran-welcoming-to-US-energy-companies/8941457949312/?spt=sec&or=bn)

- **Hamas conflict with Iran-backed group at its acme after closure of charity organization**

In a controversial move Hamas's Interior Ministry has ordered the Iranian-affiliated al-Sabireen Movement to close its charity organization operating in Gaza due to "the organization's engagement in political activities."

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Hamas-conflict-with-Iran-backed-al-Sabireen-at-its-acme-after-closure-of-charity-organization-447739?>

- **Iran condemns terrorist attack in Ankara**

Referring to the sad incident on Sunday, he condoled the Turkish government and people on the fatal terrorist attack and voiced sympathy with the families of victims.

More details:

<http://iranfrontpage.com/news/politics/foreign-policies/2016/03/iran-condemns-terrorist-attack-in-ankara/?>

- **Irish delegations heading for Tehran**

Speaking to IRNA on Saturday, the Iranian ambassador said there is strong will on both sides for further expansion of ties in 1395 (2016-2017)."

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82001132/?>

- **EU Considering Sanctions on Iran, Ties With Russia**

European Union foreign ministers are expected to discuss possible sanctions against Iran, as well as the bloc's relations with Russia, when they meet in Brussels on March 14.

More details:

<http://www.rferl.org/content/eu-foreign-ministers-iran-sanctions-russia/27608515.html?>

- **Obama's gift to Iran just keeps on giving**

Iran last week marked Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Israel by shooting off two missiles, each kindly inscribed with the message, "Israel must be wiped off the Earth," in Hebrew.

More details:

<http://nypost.com/2016/03/13/obamas-gift-to-iran-just-keeps-on-giving/>

- **Azerbaijan border guards kill five on Iran border**

Azerbaijani border guards on Sunday shot dead five armed Bangladeshi and Azeri nationals who were trying to illegally cross the ex-Soviet republic's border with Iran, officials said.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/f63f08d5-1506-4d47-b8c8-992cb6706b7a.aspx?>

- **Iran, Syria to confer in Tehran**

The meeting between the deputy foreign ministers will convene simultaneous to the Syrian talks in Geneva, Amir-Abdollahian told IRNA.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82001142/?>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israeli fighting for ISIS killed**

Israeli-Arab from Umm al-Fahm dies in battle in Syria; 50 Israelis are believed to have fought or be fighting alongside ISIS; Israeli indicted for sending funds to his brother, who is fighting alongside ISIS. A 28-year-old Arab from Umm al-Fahm was killed while fighting for ISIS, his family was informed on Sunday. Khalil Saleh was evidently killed in Syria during an American bombing raid on ISIS targets.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4777929,00.html>

- **Israeli tourist killed in extreme sporting accident in Peru**

An Israeli tourist visiting Peru has died in a extreme sporting accident, Israeli media reported Monday. The young Israel man was fatally injured after an apparent malfunction of the cabal hang gliding structure he was on, sending him crashing into a pole.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Israeli-tourist-killed-in-extreme-sporting-accident-in-Peru-447834>

- **Israeli sociologists boycott Ariel University 'since it's not in Israel'**

The head of the Israeli Sociological Society, Uri Ram, told Army Radio: “We will not cooperate with the institute known as Ariel University, which is not located within the bounds of the State of Israel.”

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Israeli-sociologists-boycott-Ariel-University-since-its-not-in-Israel-447830>

- **Four soldiers lightly hurt in Palestinian attacks**

Four Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded Tuesday morning in two shooting and car-ramming attacks outside the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, next to Hebron. During the first incident, shortly before 7 a.m., two Palestinians plowed into a hitchhiking post at the Elias Junction with a car, emerged from the vehicle, and opened fire. One soldier was lightly hurt by gunfire.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-try-to-ram-israelis-with-car-in-west-bank/>

- **In first, Israeli supermarket to open in New York**

Israeli market chain Osher Ad plans to open a branch in New York City, according to a report published Sunday. The proposed store would make the supermarket chain, which specializes in supplying only kosher food, Israel’s first with a foreign outlet.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/in-first-israeli-supermarket-to-open-in-new-york/>

- **Palestinian companies protest Israeli decision to ban their products**

Israeli troops used tear gas to suppress a march held by five Palestinian food production companies on Sunday near the Israeli Ofer prison in the occupied West Bank. The companies protested by parking their trucks near the prison, after Israeli authorities banned their products from entering Jerusalem and Israel.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770679>

- **Indonesia opens honorary consulate for Palestine in Ramallah**

Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi inaugurated the Indonesian honorary consulate in Palestine in an event in Amman, Jordan, on Sunday after Israel denied her entrance to Rammalah following Indonesia's push to boycott Israeli products

More Details:

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/14/indonesia-opens-honorary-consulate-palestine-ramallah.html>

- **Palestinian wins one million US dollars global teacher prize**

Dubai: A teacher from a refugee camp in Palestine today won USD one million Global Teacher Prize, beating nine other finalists from around the world, including an Indian. "I did it, I won. Palestine won. All 10 of us have the power, we can change the world," said Hroub, who is in her early 40s, as her name was announced by Pope Francis via video link.

More Details:

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/world/middle-east/140316/palestinian-wins-one-million-us-dollars-global-teacher-prize.html>

- **Dozens of pro-Palestine activists stage demonstration outside North West Friends of Israel event in city centre**

Dozens of pro-Palestine campaigners have demonstrated outside a meeting of pro-Israel event in Manchester. A crowds of around 100 people holding placards and banners gathered outside the Palace Theatre, where the event was taking place.

More Details:

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/dozens-pro-palestine-activists-stage-11034178>

- **Russia, Palestine to Set Out Economic Cooperation Goals in Ramallah**

Russia and Palestine will draw up a roadmap for economic cooperation at the upcoming meeting of a joint commission in Ramallah this week, an aide to the Russian labour minister said.

More Details:

<http://sputniknews.com/middleeast/20160314/1036229993/russia-palestine-economic-cooperation.html>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Saudis Victimizing Lebanon to Cover Up Mistakes: Iranian Diplomat**

A top Iranian diplomat lashed out at the Saudi regime for mounting an unfair campaign against Lebanon in a bid to whitewash its failure to topple Syria's legitimate government. "Saudi Arabia is still looking for a victim rather than trying to make up for its mistakes in Syria, and is now seeking to punish Lebanon," Iranian Foreign Ministry's Director General for International and Political Affairs Hamid Baeedinejad wrote in a message shared on his Instagram page.

More Details:

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2016/03/13/1026988/saudis-victimizing-lebanon-to-cover-up-mistakes-iranian-diplomat>

- **Third Kuwaiti found killed in Lebanon in matter of days**

Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states urged their citizens to avoid traveling to Lebanon and said those already there should leave. Kuwait's ambassador to Lebanon says a third Kuwaiti citizen has been killed in the Mediterranean country in the past three days.

More Details:

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/region/kuwait/third-kuwaiti-found-killed-in-lebanon-in-matter-of-days>

- **King meets Abu Dhabi crown prince over ties and region**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Sunday met with Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, and discussed bilateral ties and the latest regional developments. At the Abu Dhabi meeting, King Abdullah and Sheikh Mohammad highlighted the "deep and brotherly" Jordanian-Emirati relations, expressing both countries' keenness to enhance them in a way that best serves the two peoples, according to a Royal Court statement.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/king-meets-abu-dhabi-crown-prince-over-ties-and-region>

- **Border guards receive 312 Syrian refugees**

A total of 312 new Syrian refugees from various age groups, entered into the Kingdom through various crossing points during the last 72 hours, a military source said on Sunday. The source said border guards provided the refugees with the necessary aid before transferring them to refugee camps.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=30636&title=Border%20guards%20receive%20312%20Syrian%20refugees#.VuZ8An2LTIU>

- **King meets Bulgarian president in Aqaba**

His Majesty King Abdullah II met in Aqaba on Sunday, with Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev, who is participating in the Aqaba meetings that started on Saturday.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=30637&title=King%20meets%20Bulgarian%20president%20in%20Aqaba#.VuZ9Fn2LTIU>

- **Royal Decree approves 2016 Elections Law**

A Royal Decree was issued approving the 2016 Elections Law as enacted by the Senate and the Lower House of Parliament and in line with Article (31) of the Constitutions.

More Details:

[http://petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=1&NewsID=242752&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=242752&CatID=13)

- **Bahrain Says Lebanese Deported over Hizbullah Ties**

Bahrain's interior ministry announced on Monday the deportation of Lebanese nationals over alleged links to Hizbullah. "Several Lebanese residents were deported after it was found that they had links to or were supporters of Hizbullah," the ministry said in a tweet.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/204487-bahrain-says-lebanese-deported-over-hizbullah-ties>

- **Jordan condemns terrorist attacks in Turkey, Ivory Coast**

Jordan, on Sunday, condemned the terrorist attacks that struck Turkey's capital, Ankara, and the Ivory Coast's seaside town of Grand-Bassam and injured and killed dozens of innocent people.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleno=30644#.VuaEW32LTIU>

- **Jordan warns of school pressure over Syria refugees**

A failure to provide education for refugees escaping the conflict in Syria risks creating a future generation of extremists, the deputy prime minister of Jordan has warned. Mohammad Thneibat said countries such as Jordan faced a "serious problem" in coping with so many young refugees.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleno=30639#.VuaEsX2LTIU>

- **Lebanon 'You Stink' protesters slow traffic on key highways**

Lebanese protesters slowed rush hour traffic on several highways leading towards Beirut on Monday after authorities said they would reopen a landfill to ease an eight-month rubbish crisis. One activist braved rain and laid down on the highway leading north from the capital, an activist from the "You Stink" movement told AFP, adding that she was then detained.

More Details:

<http://news.yahoo.com/lebanon-stink-protesters-slow-traffic-key-highways-080908851.html>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **UAE fighter plane goes missing on Yemen combat mission**

First Emirati jet lost since Saudi-led Arab coalition began its operation against Houthi rebels in March 2015.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/uae-fighter-plane-missing-yemen-combat-mission-160314064105619.html?>

- **Bahrain deports several Lebanese for Hezbollah links: ministry**

The Gulf Kingdom of Bahrain has deported several Lebanese residents for links to the Shiite Hezbollah movement, classified by the Arab League as a terrorist group, the interior ministry said Monday.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/middle-east/374088/bahrain-deports-several-lebanese-for-hezbollah-links-ministry>

- **Kuwait Takes Action to Trial MP Dashti for Vilifying Saudi Arabia**

The National Assembly of Kuwait, on Sunday, approved the claim presented for lifting the immunity of Kuwaiti Member of Parliament Abdul-Hamid Dashti. The request was based on the case on homeland security lawsuit issued against Dashti for incitement against Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2016/03/article55348475/kuwait-takes-action-to-trial-mp-dashti-for-vilifying-saudi-arabia?>

- **Plan B: Kuwait Has Enough Resources to Adapt to Falling Oil Prices**

The economy of Kuwait is strong enough to cope with falling oil prices and develop other sources of income, Central Bank Deputy Head Yousef J. Al-Obaid told Sputnik on Saturday.

More Details:

<http://sputniknews.com/business/20160312/1036175567/kuwait-oil-prices.html#ixzz42sCV0ZSa>

- **Ansarullah: Reports on Yemen Talks Attempt to Divert Attention from Saudi Failure**

Yemen's revolutionary movement, Ansarullah stressed that reports on Yemen-Saudi talks are attempt to divert attention from Royadh's failure in its aggression on the Arab impoverished country.

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/03/14/740873/story.html?>

- **Senior Saudi prince condemns Obama comments on Middle East**

A senior Saudi Arabian prince on Monday condemned comments attributed to U.S. President Barack Obama, saying the American leader had "thrown us a curve ball" in criticizing Riyadh's regional role.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/middle-east/374087/senior-saudi-prince-condemns-obama-comments-on-middle-east?>

- **Rights Group: Bahrain Tightening Noose on Dissidents**

The Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, in its report released on the weekend , documented the gross human rights violations committed against the nation between March 3 and March 11, Press TV reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941224000279>

- **FANR officials participate in major international nuclear conference**

Senior officials from the UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation, FANR, have participated in a meeting to gain the benefits of sharing international experience in nuclear regulation with several thousand representatives of the nuclear energy industry.

More Details:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/emirates/1395292857307.html?>

- **Iran regime's spies to appear in Saudi court today**

A group of 32 people accused of spying for Iran's regime will appear before Saudi Arabia's Criminal Court in Riyadh on Monday, the Saudi Gazette reported.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/terrorism-fundamentalism/20006-iran-regime-s-spies-to-appear-in-saudi-court-today?>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Rights Group Calls on Egypt to Reverse Blasphemy Conviction**

Human Rights Watch on Monday called on Egypt to drop prison sentences against four Coptic Christian teenagers convicted of blasphemy, an appeal made one day after the justice minister was sacked for saying he would imprison the Prophet Muhammad if he committed a crime, remarks widely seen as blasphemous.

More details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_EGYPT\\_BLASPHEMY?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMP\\_LATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-03-14-07-09-29](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_EGYPT_BLASPHEMY?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMP_LATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-03-14-07-09-29)

- **Egypt minister fired after Prophet comment**

Egypt's Justice Minister has been "relieved" of his post, amid widespread criticism of televised comments he made that many considered blasphemous.

More details:

<http://www.wesh.com/national-news/egypt-minister-sacked-after-prophet-comment/38501466?>

- **Hamas official: Saudi mediated delegation's visit to Egypt**

Saudi Arabia intervened to improve relations between Hamas and Egypt which deteriorated after the Egyptian interior minister accused the movement of masterminding the assassination of former Attorney General Hisham Barakat, Hamas member Ahmed Yousef revealed.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/24469-hamas-official-saudi-mediated-delegations-visit-to-egypt?>

- **Islamic studies academic says burqa ban in Egypt will be 'problematic'**

The Egyptian parliament is considering a bill to ban the burqa and niqab in public places on the grounds it is not mandatory to wear under Islamic Sharia law

More details:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/03/10/islamic-studies-academic-says-burqa-ban-egypt-will-be-problematic?>

- **Egyptian Minister of Tourism: Commitments to make sure that tourists have a safe and enjoyable experience when visiting Egypt**

Speaking to a high level group of German Ministers, Parliamentarians and tourism industry leader at the world leading travel industry convention ITB in Berlin, Egyptian Minister of Tourism Hisham Zaazou, outlined Egypt's commitment to make sure that people around the world have a safe, secure and enjoyable experience when visiting Egypt.

More details:

<http://www.traveldailynews.com/news/article/70970/egyptian-minister-of-tourism-commitments?>

- **Belarus-Egypt trade commission to sit in Cairo 14-15 March**

The Belarusian-Egyptian trade commission is set to meet in Cairo on 14-15 March, BelTA learnt from spokeswoman for the Trade Ministry Yelena Malinovskaya.

More details:

<http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-egypt-trade-commission-to-sit-in-cairo-14-15-march-89609-2016/>

- **European Parliament condemns "savage torture and killing" of Cambridge student Guilio Regeni**

The European Parliament has slammed the British government's close relationship with Egypt, following the "savage torture and killing" of Cambridge student Guilio Regeni, pictured.

More details:

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/European-Parliament-condemns-savage-torture/story-28906592-detail/story.html#ixzz42sPaPjD4>

- **Egypt media says it's facing a European-Islamist conspiracy**

Some Egyptian media and lawmakers are accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of bribing European Parliament members to adopt a resolution stating a "grave concern" that Egyptian authorities might be culprits in the torture and killing of an Italian graduate student in Egypt.

More details:

<http://www.10news.com/news/u-s-world/egypt-media-says-its-facing-a-european-islamist-conspiracy-03172016?>

- **New legislative amendments stiffen penalties on Egypt's police for rights violations**

Egypt's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Magdi Al-Agati told reporters that the government submitted new amendments to the Police Law to parliament on Sunday aimed at imposing harsher penalties for rights violations.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/190841/-.aspx?>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria shakes up economy as oil prices plummet**

Algiers, Algeria - In the face of plunging oil and gas revenues and persistently strong imports, the Algerian government has taken steps to alleviate barriers to private investment in the country for the first time in years.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/algeria-shakes-economy-oil-prices-plummet-160302083535850.html?>

- **Algeria in talks with China over iron mining project**

Algeria is in talks with China to exploit one of the North African country's largest mining deposits as the OPEC member tries to diversify its economy away from oil and gas, an industry and mines ministry official said on Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/algeria-china-mining-idUSL5N16I2TR?rpc=401>

- **Arab League declares Lebanese Hezbollah “terrorist organization,” Messahel reaffirms Algeria’s positions of principle**

The Council of the Arab League’s Foreign Affairs ministers, met on Friday in Cairo as part of its 145th session, declared the Lebanese movement Hezbollah, recognized by Beirut, to be a “terrorist organization.”

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/world/11398-arab-league-declares-lebanese-hezbollah-%E2%80%9Cterrorist-organization,%E2%80%9D-messahel-reaffirms-algeria%E2%80%99s-positions-of-principle?>

- **Algeria highlights in Washington progress achieved in business climate improvement**

WASHINGTON-The 4th session of Algeria-US discussion on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) has been an opportunity to highlight the progress achieved in the improvement of the business climate in Algeria, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Mines Rabea Kharfi stressed.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/economy/11410-algeria-highlights-in-washington-progress-achieved-in-business-climate-improvement?>

- **EU ministers want sanctions on Libyan officials**

France is urging the European Union to impose sanctions against officials in Libya accused of blocking the unity government there.

More details:

<http://neurope.eu/article/eu-ministers-want-sanctions-libyan-officials/>

- **Libya unity government takes office despite lack of parliamentary approval**

Libya's UN-back unity government announced Saturday it was taking office despite lacking parliamentary approval, saying that a majority petition signed by lawmakers was equivalent to a vote of confidence.

More details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=75729>

- **UAE, Morocco trade sees remarkable growth**

The bilateral trade relations between the UAE and the Kingdom of Morocco are witnessing remarkable development, according to a report released by the Ministry of Economy.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/282d31a6-2501-4654-a83c-88fea1068539.aspx?>

- **Tunisia interested in Emulating Russia's Fight against Terrorism**

Tunisia is interested in using Russia's experience in the fight against terrorism and is grateful to Russia for the fight against terrorism, Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui said Monday.

More details:

<http://sputniknews.com/world/20160314/1036245110/tunisia-russia-fight-against-terrorism.html#ixzz42sI5YngQ>

- **Libya's UN-sponsored government says ready to take power**

Libya's U.N.-sponsored unity government was gearing up to assume power on Sunday, although major concerns remained over its chances of successfully setting up shop in Tripoli, where some of its security officials were briefly detained and several militias have openly threatened it.

More details:

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160313/API/303139786?>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Australia to forcibly deport Hazara asylum seeker to Afghanistan**

Australia is set to forcibly deport an Afghan man after his last-minute plea to the Australian authorities was rejected to grant him asylum. The man whose identity has not been disclosed belongs to the minority Hazara ethnic group and reportedly fled Afghanistan in 2012 amid fears of persecution from the anti-government armed militants.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/australia-to-forcibly-deport-hazara-asylum-seeker-to-afghanistan-0332?>

- **Irish ended military mission to Afghanistan**

The last remaining Irish troops left Afghanistan after completing their final tour of duty. In all, some 226 Irish troops have served in the country over the past 15 years in Nato-Led missions. A ceremony was held yesterday in Kabul to mark the completion of the Irish Defence Force's military mission to Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/latest-news/irish-ended-military-mission-to-afghanistan/?>

- **India-Afghanistan trade through Pakistan**

Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are multi-dimensional, encompassing political, economic, cultural and people-to-people ties. Because of many unresolved issues, the relationship has been, for the most part, a roller coaster ride. Seldom have the two countries been able to realise and profit from the enormous latent potential of bilateral ties that could have a substantive impact on the lives of their rank and file.

More Details:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1065060/india-afghanistan-trade-through-pakistan/>

- **Pakistani entrepreneur invents power bank that charges in just 14 minutes**

Young Pakistani entrepreneur Abdullah Soomro noticed a very real problem while building his first startup, a hyperlocal delivery business. His delivery riders would be on the road for hours on end and in constant touch with customers on their smartphones.

More Details:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1063306/pakistani-entrepreneur-invents-power-bank-that-charges-in-just-14-minutes/>

- **China, Russia Assuring Cooperation With Afghanistan**

Authorities of China and Russia have assured for providing enough cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly, helping the war-ragged nation reach lasting peace. They said they wanted to provide support to the long stalled peace process to help the Afghan people reach a lasting peace and security.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/21648-china-russia-assuring-cooperation-with-afghanistan.html?>

- **In Afghanistan, it's a simple power struggle between US-led and Pakistan-led players**

While the Afghan war continues to be overwhelmingly projected as a 'Taliban-led insurgency' against the incumbent government, it has greatly assumed the color of a power struggle among various actors. Taliban are no more a homogenous group. Nor are the various states involved in the so-called peace process pursuing identical objectives.

More Details:

<http://atimes.com/2016/03/in-afghanistan-its-a-struggle-between-us-led-and-pakistan-led-state-non-state-players/>

- **Talks underway for the construction of railway from Chabahar to Herat**

Negotiations are underway between the Afghan, Iranian and Indian officials for the construction of railway from the strategic Chabahar port to the western Herat province of Afghanistan. According to the officials in the Ministry of Public Works of Afghanistan, the government of India is mulling the support the construction of the railway from Chabahar to Herat.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/talks-underway-for-the-construction-of-railway-from-chabahar-to-herat-0331>

- **CE Meets NATO’s Special Representative To Afghanistan**

Chief Executive, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah met Ismael Aramaz, NATO’s special representative to Afghanistan here yesterday and exchanged views on matters relating mutual interests including the alliance continued cooperation to the country and equipping the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/21641-ce-meets-nato%E2%80%99s-special-representative-to-afghanistan.html?>

- **World T20 is an assessment of Afghanistan’s progress in last two years**

Afghanistan's entry into the World T20 is no fluke. They have qualified for every edition of the tournament since 2010 and every time through a qualifier. What is more commendable is that within two years of getting the ODI status, they made it to the 2015 ODI World Cup.

More Details:

<http://www.ibnlive.com/cricketnext/news/world-t20-is-an-assessment-of-afghanistans-progress-in-last-two-years-1215914.html?>

- **Japan pledges \$1.5mn to upgrade Afghanistan’s Salang Corridor**

The Government of Japans has pledged to provide USD 1.5mn in grant to support improvement of Afghanistan’s main north-south road corridor transport route. The relevant documents for the “Preparatory Facility of Salang Tunnel Project” were exchanged between Mr. Yasunari Morino, Charge d’affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan and Thomas Panella, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director for Afghanistan on Monday.

More Details:

<http://wadsam.com/afghan-business-news/japan-pledges-1-5mn-to-upgrade-afghanistans-salang-corridor-232/?>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Blast in Turkey's Ankara**

A car bomb has exploded in Ankara, Turkey, killing at least 37 people and injuring 125, announced the Turkish Health Minister Mehmet Muezzinoglu. The terror attack took place at Kizilay district near Guvenpark, which adjoins a major transportation hub of bus and minibus stops, and the central metro station at 6:45 pm local time (1645 GMT) on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/blast-in-turkeys-ankara-66966>

- **World leaders condemn blast in Turkey's Ankara**

World leaders expressed outrage and condemned a car bomb that exploded in Turkey, killing at least 37 people and injuring 125 at a busy transportation hub in Ankara's Kizilay district on Sunday. French President Francois Hollande condemned the attack in a statement released by Elysee. "The President addresses to the Turkish people a profound message of solidarity after the despicable attack which struck central Ankara tonight causing many casualties," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/world-leaders-condemn-blast-in-turkeys-ankara-67355>

- **Turkey strikes PKK bases in northern Iraq**

Turkish warplanes on Monday struck Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) bases in northern Iraq a day after a deadly bomb attack in the capital killed 36 people, the army said. The fighter jets hit arms depots and shelters of the outlawed PKK in the mountainous Kandil and Gara regions in northern Iraq, the army said.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/170441/turkey-strikes-pkk-bases-in-northern-iraq>

- **Turkey bombards Daesh positions in northern Syria**

Turkish artillery fired on Daesh positions in Syria on Saturday, a security source said. Units based in Kilis province fired at targets around Azaz, a town around five kilometers (three miles) to the south of the border, the source said on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-bombards-daesh-positions-in-northern-syria/536074>

*\*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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