



# 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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**19 JUNE 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Rocket fired north of Salahuddin kills one, injures another**

A civilian was killed and another was injured as a rocket was fired north of Salahuddin province, a local source said on Sunday. Speaking to AlSumaria News, the source said "a rocket fell in the evening on al-Mazra'a village in Biji, north of Salahuddin, leaving a person killed and another wounded."

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/rocket-fired-north-salahuddin-kills-one-injures-another/>

- **ISIS turns Ezidi children into suicide bombers**

The director of the Izadi Affairs Office of the Kurdistan Regional Government was quoted by the DPA as saying on Saturday that these children trained by the Takfiri terrorists are a global threat.

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40529](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40529)

- **Iraq's Abadi, King Salman to discuss anti-ISIS war, counter-terrorism**

Iraqi PM Haider Abadi's visit to Riyadh will tackle means to eradicate ISIS terror group as well as drying up sources of terrorism financing, MP Abdul Bari Zebari said. Zebari from the parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement, "Talks with King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz will include files of terrorism and the ongoing war against ISIS".

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/12243/Iraq-s-Abadi-King-Salman-to-discuss-anti-ISIS-war-counter-terrorism>

- **Iraqi Army begins operation to liberate last Mosul district**

The Iraqi Army, alongside the federal police, began an important operation, Sunday, to clear the last district under the control of the Islamic State (ISIL) in Mosul. With the Islamic State completely surrounded in the Old Mosul District, the Iraqi forces gave the terrorist group one last chance to surrender last night; however, this was ignored.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-army-begins-operation-liberate-last-mosul-district/>

- **Czech doctors returning from Iraq mission**

A Czech surgical team will return from Iraq after a six-month mission to the Czech Republic this evening, General Staff spokesman Jan Sulc has told journalists. Working to the northwest of Mosul, Czech doctors operated on the soldiers injured in the fighting against Islamic State (IS), Sulc said. During their stay, the Czech doctors helped some 50 patients. In early June, their mission was passed to the doctors from Norway.

More Details

<http://www.praguemonitor.com/2017/06/19/czech-doctors-returning-iraq-mission>

- **Troops Launch Operation in Final Mosul District; 151 Killed in Iraq**

Brett McGurk, the U.S. envoy to the Coalition, announced that Iraqi troops have crossed into the Old City neighborhood, the Islamic State's last bastion in Mosul. At least 151 were killed and one was wounded: In Mosul, a dozen civilians were killed in airstrikes. An I.E.D. killed seven troops. Forty militants were killed in Old City. Another 19 militants were killed in Shifa. Five policemen were arrested for killing a couple they believed were militants, instead of arresting them.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/18/troops-move-begin-fight-final-mosul-district-151-killed-iraq/>

- **EU considers Iraq security mission after Mosul falls – diplomats**

The European Union may send a new security mission to help stabilise Iraq after the expected recapture of Mosul from Islamic State, diplomats said, cautioning that plans were at an early stage. EU foreign ministers will hold a first discussion on Monday in Luxembourg and consider the deployment of an EU Security Sector Reform Advice and Assist Team which could train Iraq security officials, according to a draft statement seen by Reuters.

More Details

<http://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-eu-iraq-idINKBN19A0B7?rpc=401&>

- **Iraq seeks developing relations with Kuwait**

Iraqi Prime Minister, Haidar Al-Abadi, said on Saturday that his planned visit to Kuwait aims at boosting relations between the two countries. Speaking at a press conference, Al-Abadi stressed that his country's relations with the Kuwait have been developed "significantly," adding that the main objective of his visit is to maintain this "developed" relationship with the Kuwait government.

More Details

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170619-iraq-seeks-developing-relations-with-kuwait/>

- **Wheel of fate spins at screening centre in Iraq's Mosul**

The Ferris wheel has long stopped spinning but the screening centre set up at its foot sees a constant stream of Iraqis fleeing the battle for Mosul and determines their fate.

More Details

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/wheel-fate-spins-screening-centre-iraq%E2%80%99s-mosul>

- **Iraqi Soil Not for Use against Iran**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said his government would by no means break its deep bonds of friendship with Iran, and his country would not be a staging post for any confrontation with Tehran. "We will not allow Iraq to become a battleground with Iran, or the Iraqi soil be used against Iran. We are not ready for animosity toward Tehran even if we are offered to rule the world or we are told that our country would be reconstructed for free," Abadi told a gathering of media chiefs in Baghdad on Saturday, Fars News Agency reported.

More Details

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/66725/iraqi-soil-not-for-use-against-iran>

- **Humanitarian crisis in Mosul**

The United Nations has said up to 150,000 civilians are still trapped in Mosul's old city where Iraqi forces' battle to retake the area has entered its final stages. ISIS fighters are reportedly shooting at anyone trying to flee. Civilians are also facing a shortage of food with many dying of starvation. The world is clearly turning a blind eye to the plight of civilians stuck in this war zone and the desperate humanitarian situation there.

More Details

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/19-Jun-17/humanitarian-crisis-in-mosul>

- **Coalition Forces Make Final Push to Crush ISIS Forces in Mosul**

Iraqi forces belonging to the U.S.-backed Operation Inherent Resolve coalition started their final push to retake Mosul Sunday, in what is expected to be the last fight for the country's second largest city.

More Details

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/18/coalition-forces-make-final-push-to-crush-isis-forces-in-mosul/>

- **Iran Regime Should Stop Interfering in Iraq, Iraqi VP Allawi Says**

The Iranian regime's support to so-called Shi'ite groups in Iraq is obstructing efforts to bridge the sectarian divide ahead of a parliamentary election next year, Iraqi Vice President Iyad Allawi said on Friday. Iraqi leaders hope to restore control over all Iraqi territory, defeating Islamic State, before an election due by the middle of next year, Reuters reported.

More Details

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/terrorism-fundamentalism/23024-iran-regime-should-stop-interfering-in-iraq-iraqi-vp-allawi-says>

- **PUK conditions support for referendum on reactivated parliament**

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the two main ruling parties in the Kurdistan Region, has voiced their "conditional" support for the forthcoming independence referendum to be held on September 25. The decision came after two lengthy meetings held on Thursday and Sunday.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/180620173>

- **Mosul students return for exams amid devastation**

Amid buildings destroyed by heavy fighting, University of Mosul students are returning to take exams interrupted three years ago when jihadists took control of their city. The university and an army of volunteers are working to clear up rubble and repair the damage left by fierce battles between Iraqi forces and Islamic State militants.

More Details

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/mosul-students-return-for-exams-amid-devastation/article/495399>

- **Fifteen ISIL Militants Killed by Iraqi Jets in Western Mosul**

The Iraqi War Media Cell said in a statement, "air force killed fifteen ISIL militants, including seven foreigners, and destroyed two booby-trapped vehicles near al-Jomhuri hospital in west of Mosul," Iraqi News reported. Federal Police said Iraqi troops have managed to take control over 30 percent of al-Shifa, the last district held by ISIL militants near Western Mosul's Old City.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960328000822>

- **Iraqi forces launch assault on Mosul's Old City**

Iraqi forces have started their assault on Mosul's Old City as they press their battle to retake the northern city from the so-called Islamic State group. Taking back the Old City, a densely populated area of narrow alleyways on the western side of Mosul, is crucial to recapturing the whole of the former IS bastion.

More Details

<https://www.rte.ie/news/world/2017/0618/883610-iraq-mosul/>

- **Iraq's refinery projects can't forever be in the pipeline**

The upstream side of the oil industry often receives more than its good share of media coverage. This is understandable since the highest investment in the oil industry is there, while the greater impact on prices comes from crude supply as well as the political and economic situation in producing countries.

More Details

<http://gulfnews.com/business/analysis/iraq-s-refinery-projects-can-t-forever-be-in-the-pipeline-1.2045401>

## 2. SYRIA

- **US jet shoots down Syrian warplane in Syria**

A US military jet has shot down a Syrian warplane that dropped bombs near US-backed fighters in Syria, the US has said. US Central Command said in a statement that the plane was shot down "in collective self-defence of Coalition-partnered forces". The forces, who were operating near Tabqa at the time, were later identified as fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Syria said earlier that the US-led Coalition had shot down one of its planes while it was on a combat mission against Islamic State fighters.

More Details:

<http://news.sky.com/story/us-jet-shoots-down-syrian-warplane-in-syria-10919816>

- **Iran's Revolutionary Guard strikes Syria for Tehran attacks**

Iran's Revolutionary Guard said Sunday it launched missiles into eastern Syria targeting Islamic State militants in response to an attack on Iran's parliament and a shrine in Tehran, warning that it would similarly retaliate on anyone else carrying out attacks in Iran.

More Details:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/irans-revolutionary-guard-says-hit-syria-for-tehran-attacks/2017/06/18/ea4c9456-545a-11e7-840b-512026319da7\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.c8b3e7c7c75a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/irans-revolutionary-guard-says-hit-syria-for-tehran-attacks/2017/06/18/ea4c9456-545a-11e7-840b-512026319da7_story.html?utm_term=.c8b3e7c7c75a)

- **Syria, Iraq troops link at border for first time in years**

Syrian troops and allied militias met up with Iraqi forces at one crossing point along their shared border Sunday for the first time in years, in a step described as a major achievement by the Syrian military in their fight against the Islamic State group.

More Details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/06/18/aid-convoy-to-besieged-area-comes-under-fire-in-syria.html>

- **Syria aid convoy attacked: Red Crescent**

At least one person was wounded when a convoy carrying aid to a besieged Syrian rebel-held town came under fire. The convoy was attacked on Saturday night as it attempted to access Harasta in the Eastern Ghouta region outside Damascus, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) said. "The gunfire led to the injury of one of the truck drivers, who was seriously wounded and taken to hospital to undergo surgery," it said. The convoy was a joint operation by SARC, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the United Nations, whose top official in Syria condemned the attack.

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/syria-aid-convoy-attacked-red-crescent>

- **ISIS attacks pro-U.S. militants in southeast Syria, executes eight**

Media wing of the so-called "Islamic State" has published a batch of images showing the aftermath of a raid the designated terrorist group conducted on a military camp held by US-backed Jaish Maghawir Al-Thourah ("Army of Revolutionary Guards") near Al-Tanf border crossing.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/pictures-isis-attacks-pro-u-s-militants-southeast-syria-executes-eight/>

- **Syria troops advance in Raqqa towards Deir Ezzor**

The Syrian army on Sunday advanced into the northern province of Raqqa as part of an offensive to reach the neighboring oil-rich province of Deir Ezzor, a monitoring group said. The Britain-based

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said regime troops had reached the edges of Resafa, a town some 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Raqqa city, bastion of ISIS.

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/06/18/Syria-troops-advance-in-Raqqa-towards-Deir-Ezzor.html>

- **US rocket deployment triggers intense speculation**

The move by the US military to shift for the first time the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) into Syrian territory from Jordan is “breaking news.” According to CNN, the deployment will be at the military base in Al-Tanf near Syria’s border with Iraq in the south-eastern region, which is currently an area of contestation between US-backed rebel groups and Syrian government forces.

More Details:

<http://www.atimes.com/us-deploys-missiles-syrian-iraqi-border/>

- **Russia claims it killed two more Daesh commanders in Syria**

The Russian defence ministry said on Saturday it had killed two Daesh field commanders, named as Abu Omar al-Beljiki and Abu Yassin al-Masri, in air strikes near the eastern Syrian city of Deir al-Zor, Interfax news agency reported. The statement came a day after Russia said it may have killed Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in an air strike last month. Washington said it could not corroborate Baghdadi’s death and Western and Iraqi officials were sceptical.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170618-russia-claims-it-killed-two-more-daesh-commanders-in-syria/>

- **Four civilians killed in a coalition strike on Al-Mayadin city on Sunday**

The international coalition carried out several airstrikes that targeted the neighborhoods of the Mayadin city in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, resulting in a massacre in which four civilians were killed.

More Details:

<http://en.deirezzor24.net/four-civilians-killed-in-a-coalition-strike-on-al-mayadin-city-on-sunday/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Iran seizes high ground in Saudi-Qatar dispute**

Hassan Ahmadian explains that Iran's call for dialogue in reaction to the Qatar dispute is already paying dividends. Tehran's tack has been to back Doha while calling for diplomacy, seizing the high ground amid what most parties would probably agree has been an excessive and calamitous turn of events for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) unity. The US-Saudi-Islamic summit, which sought to rally Sunni states along a sectarian fault line against Iran, can now safely be put in the "farce" or "flop" columns.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/iran-qatar-saudi-arabia-dispute-aleppo-narrative-syria.html>

- **Iran, China hold joint naval drill in Persian Gulf**

Iran's navy has conducted a joint exercise with a Chinese fleet near the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. The official IRNA news agency said Sunday's drill included an Iranian warship as well as two Chinese warships, a logistics ship and a Chinese helicopter that arrived in Iran's port of Bandar Abbas last week.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iran-china-hold-joint-naval-drill-persian-gulf-48113444>

- **Iran's supreme leader dismisses Trump: 'Don't mind what this new guy in US fusses about'**

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei took an apparent swipe at President Trump on Sunday, dismissing Trump as "this new guy" and saying the United States "will fail" to change Iran. Khamenei tweeted the Islamic Republic of Iran has "faced animosities since day one." "Don't mind what this new guy in US fusses about," he wrote. "For 40 years they haven't been able to do a damn thing."

More Details:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/irans-supreme-leader-dismisses-trump-dont-mind-what-this-new-guy-in-us-fusses-about/article/2626334#!>

- **IRGC completely dismantles terrorist group in southeast Iran: Commander**

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has managed to kill all members of a Takfiri terrorist outfit and completely dismantle it in a southeastern Iranian town, a senior IRGC commander says. "A terrorist team, which we had engaged a few days ago in the town of Qasr-e Qand, was completely dismantled today after the killing of five more of its elements," Commander of IRGC's Ground Force Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour told Fars news agency on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/06/18/525733/Iran-IRGC-Qasre-Qand-SistanandBaluchestan-Mohammad-Pakpour-Ansar-alFurqan>

- **Tehran nearing gas deal with French oil major Total, Iran oil minister says**

Iran expects to sign a long-delayed gas deal with French oil major Total in the next few weeks, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was quoted as saying on Saturday. "Iran and Total are summing up the discussions on signing the contract for the development of phase 11 of South Pars, and this is almost in the final stages," said Zanganeh, quoted by the oil ministry's news website SHANA.

More Details:

<http://www.the-japan-news.com/news/article/0003768869>

- **Qatar says received 'verbal message' from Iran's Rouhani**

The official website of the ministry said: "HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani received Saturday a verbal message from HE President of Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Hassan Rouhani. "Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari conveyed the message, during a meeting with HE the Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani today." Talking to ISNA news agency on Sunday, Jaber Ansari said the unannounced visit should not be taken to mean that Iran is acting opportunistically.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/414372/Qatar-says-received-verbal-message-from-Iran-s-Rouhani>

- **No Direct Talks between Iran, Saudi Arabia: Official**

A top Iranian official ruled out the possibility of direct negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh, saying any emergency case will be pursued through diplomatic channels. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari says there will be no direct contacts and talks between Tehran and Riyadh, and that diplomatic and indirect channels will be used in urgent cases. In a Farsi interview with IRNA, Jaber Ansari has weighed in on the latest developments concerning Qatar's relations with

Arab countries, Iran's actions in that regard and the possibility of Iranian officials putting consultations and trips on their agenda to help settle the row.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/no-direct-talks-between-iran-saudi-arabia-official/>

- **South Korea plans to build liquefied natural gas plants in Iran**

South Korea will build small-scale liquefied natural gas (Mini-LNG) plants in Iran to meet energy needs in remote areas of the country, media reports said. An agreement was signed in South Korea's Busan last week and the construction of the plant could begin within the next four years, Press TV reported on Sunday. A consortium from Iran and South Korea will be involved in the scheme, said Saeed Pakseresht, Director for research and development affairs of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

More Details:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/south-korea-plans-to-build-liquefied-natural-gas-plants-in-iran/725181/>

- **Iran GDP Growth 12.5%**

Iran economy grew 12.5% in March 2016-17 compared to the preceding year, according to the Central Bank of Iran's latest report released on Sunday. The strong growth is attributed mainly to increased oil production following the removal of international sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program as of January 2016. GDP growth, without taking oil production into account, stood at 3.3%, the CBI said, noting that the oil sector registered a dramatic 61.6% growth last year.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/66731/iran-gdp-growth-125>

- **FM Zarif arrives in Mauritania**

Iran's Foreign Minister arrived in Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott, on Monday morning to talk with the country's officials. Mohammad Javad Zarif was welcomed by his Mauritanian counterpart Isselkou Ould Ahmed Izid Bih upon arriving in Nouakchott. After holding talks with high ranking Algerian officials, Zarif left Algiers Monday morning for Mauritania. He arrived in Algeria on Sunday afternoon and met with the country's Prime Minister Abdelmajid Tebboune and some other senior officials.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82569544/>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel secretly aiding Syria militants: Wall Street Journal**

The paper, citing half a dozen militant commanders and three persons familiar with Israel's thinking, said Israel's "secret engagement" in the war aims to install a buffer zone on the Syrian border with elements friendly to Tel Aviv. The report quoted prominent Israeli journalist and analyst Ehud Ya'ari as saying that Israel's operation in the occupied Golan Heights started under former minister of military affairs Moshe Ya'alon.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/19/525757/Israel-backs-Syrian-Takfiri-militants>

- **Jared Kushner to travel to Mideast to advance Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts**

Senior White House adviser Jared Kushner is expected to travel to the Middle East this week to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials in an effort to advance peace efforts pursued by US President Donald Trump. The White House said Sunday that Kushner, also Trump's son-in-law, will travel along with special envoy Jason Greenblatt to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas separately in the coming days to discuss "their priorities and potential next steps," a senior White House official told The Times of Israel.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/jared-kushner-to-travel-to-mideast-to-advance-israeli-palestinian-peace-push/>

- **Hamas 'not interested' in escalation with Israel**

Deputy Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya said on Sunday that the group, which is the de facto ruler of Gaza, is not interested in an escalation with Israel. Speaking to reporters and quoted by Reuters, al-Hayya said he did not believe that the energy crisis in Gaza would lead to increased tensions.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/231223>

- **Israeli cabinet clears ban on sale of binary options**

Israel's cabinet on Sunday approved a new law banning the sale of binary options overseas by online trading firms based in Israel, a business that has drawn broad international criticism over allegations of illicit practices. The proposed amendment to the country's securities law was drawn up by the

Israel Securities Authority (ISA) and other government offices and submitted to the cabinet by Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon.

More Details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-binaryoptions-lawmaking-idUSKBN19906C>

- **Abbas eyes Merkel as Plan B if Trump fails on Mideast peace**

A senior Palestinian minister close to President Mahmoud Abbas told Al-Monitor that the Palestinian leadership is ready to seriously engage with the Trump administration on moving ahead with plans for a regional deal for Palestinian-Israeli peace. The senior PLO official said on condition of anonymity, "We are showing great flexibility, as directed by President Abbas, on the phrasing of the condition to freeze settlement construction — restraining it to the existing built areas of settlements."

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/israel-us-germany-european-union-france-angela-merkel-trump.html>

- **Israeli forces detain 18 Palestinians in West Bank, East Jerusalem raids**

Israeli forces detained at least 18 Palestinians in military raids across the occupied territory between Saturday night and midday Sunday. The Israeli army told Ma'an that three Palestinians were detained in an overnight raid in the village of al-Mughayyir, east of Ramallah in the central occupied West Bank. A statement from the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) identified two of the detainees as Bahaa Usama Abu Alia and Amir Atif Abu Alia.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777706>

- **Hamas keen on boosting ties with Iran, Lebanon**

Talking to the pan-Arabist satellite TV Channel Al Mayadeen in a telephone conversation, Taher Al-Nono said Hamas is seeking to enhance its cordial relations with all regional countries, those that support the Palestinian nation's resistance Iran and Lebanon in particular. He added Hamas would expand its ties with Iran, Lebanon, Qatar and Turkey.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82569827/>

- **Netanyahu calls to end Palestinian payments to attacker families**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday accused the Palestinian president's party of praising Palestinians who killed an Israeli policewoman, calling for an end to payments to the families of attackers. Two Palestinians on Friday opened fire on a group of Israeli officers just outside the walled Old City in annexed east Jerusalem, while a third stabbed a border policewoman a short distance away.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170618-netanyahu-calls-end-palestinian-payments-attacker-families>

- **Israeli settlers, forces storm Aqsa Mosque again, injures dozens.**

The worshippers protested the move and the Israeli forces brutally attacked them with sticks and pepper spray, causing dozens of injuries, Arabic-language Palestine al-Yawm news agency reported. The regime forces also arrested a number of the Palestinian worshippers.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1984803>

- **Undercover Israeli Officers Invade Al-Aqsa Mosque, Smash Its Doors and Attack Worshipers**

Undercover Israeli officers invaded, on Sunday morning, the Al-Qibli Mosque, of the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, and smashed its doors, before invading it, and clashed with many local youngsters. The undercover officers invaded the mosque while Israeli soldiers and officers occupied its rooftop, while many Palestinians were detained and interrogated in the mosque compound, as the soldiers investigated their ID cards.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/undercover-israeli-officers-invade-al-aqsa-mosque-smash-its-doors-and-attack-worshippers/>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan Approves \$282 Million Worth of PPP Projects**

The Cabinet of Jordan on Saturday approved a number of public-private partnership (PPP) projects funded by capital spending worth JD200 million, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The projects include investment in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) infrastructure between Amman and Zarqa

and inside Amman. Initiated upon the recommendations of the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) and the Transport Ministry, the project, which will deal specifically with the infrastructure of the BRT, is expected to cost JD20 million.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/jordan-approves-282-million-worth-ppp-projects-987648>

- **LF minister defends vote law, says it averted threats**

Lebanese Forces Minister of Social Affairs Pierre Abou Assi defended the newly endorsed electoral law, saying it averted vacuum and paralysis of state institutions, state media reported Sunday. "It is surely not the best law, however, [it averted] vacuum, destruction and paralysis of institutions and security and socio-economic threats," Abou Assi was quoted by the National News Agency as saying in an LF ceremony in Mount Lebanon's Jounieh.

More Details:

<https://dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Jun-18/410030-lf-minister-defends-vote-law-says-it-averted-threats.ashx>

- **Bassil Urges Hariri to be 'Spearhead' in Anti-Corruption Fight**

Free Patriotic Movement chief Jebran Bassil has called on Prime Minister Saad Hariri to be the "spearhead" in what he called the fight against corruption. "Today, we are looking forward to achieving drastic change in the country, and the same as the premier joined forces with us and did everything to facilitate the production of the electoral law, we are now greatly relying on him to cooperate with us and to be the spearhead with us in fighting corruption," Bassil said during an FPM iftar banquet in the Akkar town of Minyara.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231603-bassil-urges-hariri-to-be-spearhead-in-anti-corruption-fight>

- **Quds Day Prevents Palestinian Issue from Fading into Oblivion: Ex-Lebanese Minister**

Speaking to the Tasnim News Agency, Abdul Rahim Mourad pointed to recent crises and tensions in the Middle East and said they are part of a US-Israeli plot to make the Muslim world forget the Palestinian issue. The issue should be always the top concern for the Muslim and Arab world, he said, adding that the conspiracies of the Zionist enemy and the US government should be thwarted. The former Lebanese minister also lauded Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, for initiating the International Quds Day and said the day prevents the Palestinian issue to fade into oblivion.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/18/1440069/quds-day-prevents-palestinian-issue-from-fading-into-oblivion-ex-lebanese-minister>

- **LAF: Enemy gunboat breaches Lebanese territorial waters**

An Israeli gunboat violated the Lebanese territorial waters off Ras Naqoura at 19:17 on Saturday evening at an approximate distance of 260 meters for four minutes, a Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) communiqué said.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80516/LAF-Enemy-gunboat-breaches-Lebanese-territorial-waters>

- **Lebanon Leads the Pack in Closing the Tech Industry's Gender Gap**

The tech sector is notoriously male-dominated. This is ever apparent in Silicon Valley in the U.S., a country where women make up 59 percent of the workforce, but only hold 30 percent of jobs in the tech industry. This disconnect is keeping the industry back, but it doesn't exist everywhere. In Lebanon, things are changing for the better.

More Details:

<https://futurism.com/lebanon-leads-pack-closing-tech-industrys-gender-gap/>

- **QRCS extends helping hand to 32,000 refugees in Lebanon**

Under Qatar Red Crescent's (QRCS) Ramadan campaign 1438 AH, the organisation's mission in Lebanon has launched a Ramadan Iftar project for the benefit of Syrian and Palestinian refugees in that country. It involves the distribution of basic food packages to families with special needs, chronic patients, orphans and widow, according to a press statement from QRCS.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/553649/QRCS-extends-helping-hand-to-32-000-refugees-in-Le>

- **King orders raise of housing loan for military, security personnel**

Upon a directive by His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihath, asked concerned authorities and directorates to look into raising the military housing loan for officers, noncommissioned officers and personnel of the armed forces and the other security agencies.

More Details:

[http://petra.gov.io/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=1&NewsID=306477&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.io/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=306477&CatID=13)

- **Lebanon's new electoral law 'step forward, but not enough'**

Politicians in Lebanon have voted overwhelmingly to change the way they are elected. The new electoral law will be based on proportional representation and 15 electoral districts, replacing the winner-takes-all system for the first time in the country's history.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/06/lebanese-parliament-passes-electoral-law-170617062815260.html>

- **Aoun brings together Lebanese Party Leaders for 'Reform Workshop'**

Soon after Lebanese President Michel Aoun's success in adopting a new parliamentary electoral law, he called on political parties to take part in a "reform workshop" aimed at breathing new life in state institutions and putting an end to corruption in the country. Aoun is expected to invite the heads of the political parties that are part of the government for a meeting at the presidential palace in Baabda to "activate the work of cabinet and let all sides assume their responsibility."

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/aoun-brings-together-lebanese-party-leaders-reform-workshop>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi Arabia strongly condemns explosions in Egypt and Bahrain**

An official source at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly condemned and denounced two explosions that took place in Cairo and Al-Deraz village in Bahrain, which resulted in a number of deaths and injuries among security personnel.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302619726>

- **Oman Air Increases Flight Frequency to Qatar**

Oman Air is increasing direct flights to Qatar to four times a day from Monday in a sign the carrier may be one of the few beneficiaries of the closing of air links between the Gulf state and its neighbours.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/pr/oman-air-increases-flight-frequency-qatar-987792>

- **24 killed in strike on Yemen market**

At least 24 civilians were killed in an air raid on Sunday on a market in northern Yemen, a medical official and witnesses said.

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/24-killed-in-strike-on-yemen-market>

- **Shots Fired as 3 Boats Enter Saudi Territorial Waters**

The incident happened at about 8:30 pm on Friday when three small boats entered Saudi territorial waters and “headed at speed towards platforms of (the) Saudi oil field of Marjan”, a government statement said according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/asharq-al-awsat-english/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/shots-fired-3-boats-enter-saudi-territorial-waters>

- **Bahrain: Explosion kills policeman, wounds two in Diraz**

Bahrain's interior ministry says a member of security forces has been killed and two others have been wounded after a blast in Diraz, the home village of Shia-Muslim spiritual leader Ayatollah Isa Qassim.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/bahrain-explosion-kills-policeman-wounds-diraz-170618232654417.html>

- **Bahrain orders Qatar troops to leave: source**

Bahrain has ordered Qatari troops serving with a coalition fighting the Islamic State group to leave its territory, a source with knowledge of the situation said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170618-bahrain-orders-qatar-troops-leave-source>

- **Army kills dozens of Saudi-paid Sudanese mercenaries in Medi desert**

Dozens of Saudi-paid Sudanese mercenaries were killed and many others injured when the national army and popular forces attack the mercenaries in Medi desert on the Saudi border, a military official told Saba on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.sabanews.net/en/news467223.htm>

- **Turkey troops arrive in Qatar for long-planned drills: Al Jazeera**

Turkish troops have arrived in Qatar for long-planned joint military exercises, al Jazeera reported on Monday, a deployment made possible by legislation fast-tracked by Turkey following a diplomatic rift between Doha and four other Arab states.

More Details;

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-gulf-qatar-turkey-idUSKBN19A0SV>

- **Bomb blast kills police officer in Bahrain: Ministry**

Bahrain says a bomb explosion has claimed the life of a police officer and injured two others in a northwestern village on the Persian Gulf Island.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/19/525768/Bahrain-Diraz-Qassem>

- **Saudi-UAE Actions against Qatar to Go All The Way, Mark A New Start – Analysis**

What started off as a minor spat between the Arab Gulf neighbors ended in severing of ties and harsh tit-for-tat moves. The latest showdown between Qatar and other major players on the Arab scene, especially its Gulf neighbors Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, indicates that the “grey zone” has vanished and the region is headed towards an escalation in the “war on terrorism” and in the confrontation with Iranian expansionist schemes.

More Details:

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/19062017-saudi-uae-actions-against-qatar-to-go-all-the-way-mark-a-new-start-analysis/>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Saudi and Egypt Seeks Hamid Karzai's Support Against Qatar**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt have sought the support of the former Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the stance the coalition of the Arab countries against Qatar. The Office of the former president in a statement said the Ambassador of Egypt and Charge d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Saudi met with Hamid Karzai to discuss the issue surrounding the sanctions imposed on Qatar. The statement further added that the two top diplomats of Saudi Arabia and Egypt demanded from the ex-president to declare his support in the isolation of Qatar.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/saudi-and-egypt-seeks-hamid-karzais-support-against-qatar-02970>

- **Cairo Roadside Bomb Kills Policeman**

An Egyptian policeman has been killed and four others are injured after a roadside bomb exploded near the Cairo suburb of Maadi. "At around 12:45 am on June 18 as a vehicle belonging to the Central Security Forces transported a group of officers and conscripts an improvised explosive device planted on the roadside went off," the Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2017/06/18/11/59/cairo-roadside-bomb-kills-policeman>

- **Khalifa Foundation Distributes Ramadan Food Rations in Egypt's Governorates**

The Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation and al-Orman Association, have distributed 35,000 food cartons to underprivileged segments at villages in Egypt's governorates. The move follows the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302619716>

- **Egypt Urges Syria Opposition Factions to Cease Fire**

Egypt on Sunday called on Syrian opposition factions to declare a cease-fire with a view to implementing the "de-escalation zones" agreement. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry welcomed a cease-fire declaration by the Syrian regime in the southwestern Daraa city on Saturday. It said the

"de-escalation zones" agreement would be a step towards a "permanent and comprehensive cease-fire all across Syria".

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/egypt-urges-syria-opposition-factions-to-cess-fire/844234>

- **Egypt: Morsy's Isolation Violates Rights**

Egyptian authorities have unlawfully prevented former President Mohamed Morsy from contacting or receiving visits from his family and lawyers in the years since the military forcibly removed him from power in July 2013, Human Rights Watch said today. On June 4, 2017, Egyptian authorities allowed Morsy to receive visits from his family and lawyer for only the second time in nearly four years.

More Details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/19/egypt-morsys-isolation-violates-rights>

- **Egypt Steps up Efforts to Extradite Brotherhood Fugitives from UK**

Egyptian authorities hope Britain will change its position on movements embracing political Islam following the Manchester bombing May 22 and the London Bridge attacks June 3. After the spate of devastating terrorist attacks in Britain, Cairo officials are hoping London will agree to extradite wanted Muslim Brotherhood leaders who sought refuge in the United Kingdom after Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi was ousted in 2013. Egypt has outlawed the group as a terrorist organization.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/egypt-britain-muslim-brotherhood-ban-manchester-terrorism.html>

- **Hamas - War with Israel Unlikely and Relations with Egypt Improving**

Hamas played down on Sunday the possibility that the energy crisis in the Gaza Strip would lead to renewed hostilities with Israel and said relations between the Islamist group and Egypt were improving. "We in Hamas do not initiate wars and we do not expect one, this is our political assessment," Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas's deputy leader in the Gaza Strip, told reporters in Gaza. The two adversaries have fought three wars, most recently in 2014. "We do not expect war because we are not interested and the occupation also say they are not interested," he said, using the group's term for Israel.

More Details:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-israel-palestinians-gaza-egypt-idUKKBN1990PP?rpc=401&>

- **11 Released Following Arrest Campaign Targeting Tiran and Sanafir Opponents**

Dostour Party member and lawyer Tarek Hussein was released on LE2,000 bail on Sunday after he was arrested from his home early Saturday on charges of inciting protests and belonging to a terrorist group, according to lawyer Malek Adly. He was among many arrested in connection to protests against Parliament's recent approval of the Tiran and Sanafir agreement.

More Details:

<https://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/06/18/news/u/11-released-following-arrest-campaign-targeting-tiran-and-sanafir-opponents/>

- **Egypt Rejects Italian Request to Attend Interrogations on Regeni's Case**

Egypt rejected a request filed by Italian prosecutors asking permission to attend the interrogations of seven police officers who investigated researcher Giulio Regeni before his death, Italian news agency Ansa reported. Egyptian law forbids the presence of foreign magistrates during judicial activity, a judicial source told Ansa. Although Italian prosecutors were not permitted to attend the questioning, Rome officials received a summary of the officers' testimonies, without given the full details, judicial sources said.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypt-rejects-italian-request-attend-interrogations-regeni-case/>

- **GE signs \$575m Railway Contract with Egypt**

GE has signed an agreement worth \$575 million with Egyptian authorities to supply 100 locomotives that can be used for passengers or freight rail, as well as a 15-year contract for parts and technical support for GE locomotives. The Letter of Intent for the supply of GE ES30ACi Light Evolution Series as well as the service contract was signed with the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) and Egyptian National Railways (ENR).

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND\\_326501.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND_326501.html)

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria Military Kills 3, Captures Several Militants**

Algiers: Algeria's army said on Sunday that it had killed three armed militants and captured several others in an ongoing operation in the country's east. The joint operation by the army and other security forces in Constantine and Skikda, under way since June 11, has led to "the elimination of three terrorists, the capture of three others and eight people who were supporting criminal groups, and the surrender of another terrorist," a defence ministry statement said.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/84e3bdcb-f6e5-4355-8756-bb576b879b9d.aspx>

- **Iran's Foreign Minister Arrives in Algeria**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has just arrived in the Algerian capital on the first leg of his two-day visit to three North African countries. Zarif, who left Tehran earlier on Sunday, arrived in Algiers and was welcomed by his counterpart Abdelkader Messahel. The two sides immediately started their talks on bilateral issues and latest regional developments at the Algerian Foreign Ministry.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-foreign-minister-arrive-algeria/>

- **Uganda to Send Medics to Eastern Libya for Work, Ugandan Activists Criticise**

Uganda is planning to send about 1,000 medical workers to Libya, an official said on Friday, a plan criticised by health activists who believe it would further weaken the country's struggling health care system. Over the last decade, foreign recruiters and employers from the Middle East have increasingly turned to the east African nation for cheap labour. Thousands are already there working as waitresses, domestic servants, store clerks and in other jobs.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/uganda-to-send-medics-to-eastern-libya-for-work-ugandan-activists-criticise/>

- **UN Report Points to 'Gaddafi millions' in SA**

The South African government, the ANC and Denel ignored the UN's panel of experts on Libya when they inquired about the so-called Gaddafi millions and a strange weapons transaction. This is

contained in the UN panel's report to the UN Security Council, relating to the flow of weapons and capital in conflict-ridden Libya and South Africa.

More Details:

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/un-report-points-to-gaddafi-millions-in-sa-20170617>

- **OPEC Deal In Jeopardy As Libyan Oil Output Nears 1 Million Bpd**

Libya—whose production has been hampered by civil unrest, political divides, and oil export terminals blockades over the past few years—is now targeting to further increase its oil output. Its most immediate goal is to reach 1 million bpd of production by the end of July, which would further complicate OPEC's desperate efforts to reduce global inventories and prop up oil prices. And its ambitions seem plausible.

More Details:

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Crude-Oil/OPEC-Deal-In-Jeopardy-As-Libyan-Oil-Output-Nears-1-Million-Bpd.html>

- **Iran, Algeria Review Regional Developments in Yemen, Libya, Syria and Iraq**

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Algeria have very consolidated relations on economic and political issues both in the international scene. Zarif made the remarks in a joint press conference on Sunday with his Algerian counterpart Abdelkader Messahel focusing on regional developments mainly those in Yemen, Libya, Syria and Iraq. The two sides exchanged views on the expansion of economic cooperation in various sectors such as auto industry, road and building construction.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82569323/>

- **NCHRL Condemns European Parliament President's Call for Setting up Refugee Camps in Libya**

The National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) expressed anger on Saturday about the call of the European Parliament's President, Antonio Tajani, for setting up refugee camps in Libya. In a statement, the NCHRL condemned Tajani's statements that he made to Italian newspaper, Il Giornale, voicing dismay at the EU attempts to settle immigrants in Libya and prioritize Europe's interests to those of Libya's national security.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/nchrl-condemns-european-parliament-presidents-call-setting-refugee-camps-libya>

- **UN Chief set to Name New Libya Envoy after US Blocked Palestinian Candidate**

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was set to name a former Lebanese culture minister as new UN envoy to Libya, ending an unusually contentious four-month search that followed US rejection of his first suggestion. Guterres on Friday officially put forward Ghassan Salame, a professor of International Relations and Conflict Resolution at Sciences-Po in Paris, according to a letter seen by Reuters on Saturday. Diplomats said objections were unlikely and the UN Security Council will greenlight the appointment on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170618-un-chief-set-to-name-new-libya-envoy-after-us-blocked-palestinian-candidate/>

- **Hamma Hammami: "Ruling Coalition Unable to Deal with Difficult Situation Country is living through"**

Popular Front (PF) spokesman Hamma Hammami said on Saturday that the ruling coalition is unable to cope and deal with the difficult and deteriorating situation the country is living through, a situation marked by a high living cost and rising unemployment and corruption. "The ruling coalition does not seek solutions to these problems because it defends the interests of corrupt minorities who have benefited from the old regime and who still continue to serve their narrow interests," Hammami added.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9125213-hamma-hammami>

- **Restive Morocco-Spain Border Hit by New car Ramming Incident**

A car with five migrants hidden inside rammed its way through a border post between Morocco and the Spanish territory of Melilla on Saturday, the second such incident in two days at the restive frontier. This method to get migrants into the Spanish territory had not been used in years, but it happened once in March, and again on Friday and Saturday.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/restive-morocco-spain-border-hit-new-car-ramming-incident>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Daesh to be vanquished in Nangarhar: MP**

Measures on central and regional levels would be taken to purge eastern Nangarhar province of Islamic State militant group, a parliamentary delegation said on Saturday.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/14225-daesh-to-be-vanquished-in-nangarhar-mp.html>

- **Afghan forces clear strategic Tora Bora of ISIS militants: Gen. Waziri**

The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have cleared the strategic Tora Bora area of ISIS militants, inflicting heavy casualties to the fighters of the group, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) spokesman General Dawlat Waziri said Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/afghan-forces-clear-strategic-tora-bora-of-isis-militants-gen-waziri-02973>

- **Six cops killed in Afghan police headquarters' suicide attack**

At least six policemen were killed and dozens of people wounded when as many as six gunmen and a suicide bomber attacked a police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday morning, officials said.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/211529-Six-cops-killed-in-Afghan-police-headquarters-suicide-attack>

- **The Pentagon plans to send nearly 4,000 additional troops to Afghanistan**

The news comes as President Donald Trump recently gave Secretary of Defense James Mattis the authority to establish troop levels and as concerns have come from “the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan that he doesn’t have enough forces to help Afghanistan’s army against a resurgent Taliban insurgency,” according to the Post. Trump has not spoken to or met with Iraq or Afghanistan commander once.

More Details:

<http://www.salon.com/2017/06/18/the-pentagon-plans-to-send-nearly-4000-additional-troops-to-afghanistan/>

- **2 Pakistani Diplomats Go Missing in Afghanistan**

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry on Sunday said that two officials of its Consulate General in Jalalabad, Afghanistan have been missing for the past two days.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960328001490>

- **Pakistani president, Bahrain PM praise King Salman for serving Islam**

Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain hailed the great efforts being made by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman in serving Islam and Muslims as well as in taking care of the Two Holy Mosques.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/pakistani-president-bahrain-pm-praise-king-salman-serving-islam/>

- **Pakistan interested in boosting trade with Uzbekistan**

Pakistani Ambassador-designate to Uzbekistan Dr Irfan Yousaf Shams urged traders to explore business opportunities in Central Asian countries, and Uzbekistan in particular, Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported. He made such a statement addressing traders at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in Pakistan June 18.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/casia/uzbekistan/2767931.html>

- **Journalists in Pakistan under threat from several different enemies and cannot count on government for protection**

The three men are journalists in Pakistan, considered one of the most dangerous places in the world for this profession. But even by Pakistan's standards, things have gotten worse, according to journalists, Pakistani and international human rights activists, and advocacy groups.

More Details:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/2098968/journalists-pakistan-under-threat-several-different-enemies-and>

- **Senate Standing Committee to take issue of Pak Army plan to shift Headquarters to Islamabad**

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence is meeting here today (Monday) to take up a host of important matters, including “the Pakistan Army’s plan to shift the Army’s General Headquarters to Islamabad”, reveals agenda for the meeting issued by the Senate Secretariat.

More Details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/Senate-Standing-Committee-to-take-issue-of-Pak-Army-plan-to-shift-Headquarters-to-Islamabad-278950.html>

- **Pakistan: Police arrests U.S. Embassy official for causing accident**

A U.S. embassy official was arrested after he rammed his vehicle into four other vehicles here. First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad Michael Wright smashed his vehicle into two private and two police vehicles in Abpara area on Sunday, Dunya News reported.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzlwNDMw/pakistan-police-arrests-u-s-embassy-official-for-causing-accident.html>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **PKK/PYD kills 4 civilians in NW Syria: Turkish military**

At least four family members including a child were killed on Sunday after PKK/PYD terrorists carried out two artillery attacks on civilians in Syria’s northwestern province of Aleppo bordering Turkey, the Turkish military said. The incident in Marea town left twenty others wounded, a statement said, adding four of them were heavily injured.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/pkk-pyd-kills-4-civilians-in-nw-syria-turkish-military/844364>

- **2 PKK terrorists killed in northern Iraq, Turkish military says**

Two PKK terrorists were killed by a drone strike during a security operation in northern Iraq on Saturday. According to a statement issued by the Turkish General Staff, Turkish security forces used drones to target PKK terrorists in the Nirva Seytu Mountain region.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/06/17/2-pkk-terrorists-killed-in-northern-iraq-turkish-military-says>

*\*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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