



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Unidentified jet shells paramilitary troops in west of Mosul**

The paramilitary troops of Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi have declared being shelled by an unidentified aircraft in west of Mosul. A statement by Saraya al-Jihad militia said “troops deployed in west of Mosul have been shelled.” “At 3 AM on Monday, a rocket fired from a fighter jet targeted our troops on the main road linking between Tal Abta and Addaya regions, which lead to Mosul. The road is a main used for Islamic State supplies in Mosul. The rocket made a huge whole with a diameter of 12 meters and depth of 10 meters,” the statement added.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/unidentified-jet-shells-paramilitary-troops-west-mosul/>

- **Abadi Meets with Saudi Arabia’s King Salman**

After arriving in Saudi Arabia late on Monday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi met with King Salman bin Abdulaziz to discuss mutual relations and regional developments.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/middle-east/358892>

- **Kurdish Journalist Martyred and Three French Ones Wounded in Mosul**

A Kurdish journalist was martyred on Monday and three French journalists were wounded in an explosion as they covered military operations in the old city of Mosul, a security source said.

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40536](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40536)

- **Abadi to discuss IMIS during trip to Iran: Lawmaker**

Iraqi Forces' Alliance said on Tuesday prime minister Haider al-Abadi will discuss key issues during his trip to Iran. Mohsen Hamdun, a lawmaker affiliated with the Alliance, said the key issues that Abadi will discuss in his meetings with Iranian officials include IMIS, which is closely tied and strongly backed by Mullahs.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/12295/Abadi-to-discuss-IMIS-during-trip-to-Iran-Lawmaker>

- **Peshmerga repels another ISIS assault on Khurmatu, fatalities reported**

Kurdish Peshmerga forces defeated a widespread ISIS assault on their bases in the town of Khurmatu, south of Kirkuk on Tuesday. In the confrontation, which lasted three hours, a number of ISIS militants and a Peshmerga soldier were killed.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/20062017>

- **Iraq '17 target for oil expansion within reach, says WoodMac**

An Iraqi labourer works at an oil refinery in the southern town Nasiriyah. OPEC's second-biggest producer reluctantly agreed in November to participate in production cuts to end a global oil glut, arguing it deserved to be exempt while reviving its economy and battling Islamic State insurgents.

More Details

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/553838/Iraq-17-target-for-oil-expansion-within-reach-says>

- **Kurdistan representative: Iranian-backed Shia militias undermine Kurdish region**

The top Iraqi-Kurdish representative to the U.S. said Iranian-backed Shia militias could undermine the security and stability of the Kurdish region once the Islamic State threat to the country is defeated. The Iranian-backed Hajd Al-Shaabi militias have been an integral fighting force in operation to liberate Mosul — a battle largely seen as winding down since the offensive was launched in February — and other areas under the control of the Islamic State, yet Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the U.S.

More Details

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/19/bayan-sami-abdul-rahman-says-iranian-backed-shia-m/>

- **Just 300 Isil militants left fighting in back alleys of Mosul's Old City**

Isil fighters defended their remaining stronghold in the Old City of Mosul yesterday, moving stealthily along narrow back alleys as US-backed Iraqi forces slowly advanced. The Iraqi army estimated the number of Isil fighters at no more than 300, down from nearly 6,000 in the city when the battle of Mosul started in October.

More Details

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/middle-east/just-300-isil-militants-left-fighting-in-back-alleys-of-mosuls-old-city-35844862.html>

- **Iraqi forces tell Islamic State ranks ‘surrender or die’ as fighting goes house-to-house in Mosul’s Old City**

Iraqi forces pushed deeper into Mosul’s Old City on Monday after launching a final assault on the Islamic State group, warning civilians to stay inside and telling jihadis to “surrender or die.

More Details

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/06/20/world/iraqi-forces-tell-islamic-state-ranks-surrender-die-fighting-goes-house-house-mosuls-old-city/#.WUjHYNSLSmU>

- **An uncertain referendum for Iraqi Kurdistan**

The Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government’s (KRG) President Masoud Barzani announced on June 7 that a referendum will be held in Iraqi Kurdistan on Sept. 25 this year. It will be a non-binding referendum — meaning that the proclamation of independence will be left to the discretion of the Kurdish leaders even if the outcome of the referendum is in favor of independence.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1117626>

- **Iraqi official: No preparations for Kirkuk referendum**

The head of the Kirkuk election commission said the central government in Baghdad has yet to make a decision about a referendum for the independence of the northern city of Kirkuk.

More Details

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/06/20/iraqi-official-no-preparations-for-kirkuk-referendum>

- **No International Support for Kurdistan Referendum? No Problem, Says Erbil**

On Monday, the European Union joined the United Nations, the United States, Turkey, and Iraq to discourage Iraqi Kurds from holding an independence referendum on Sept. 25. That was to be expected, and won’t deter regional government authorities in Erbil, said Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, the Kurdistan Regional Government representative in Washington.

More Details

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/19/no-international-support-for-kurdistan-referendum-no-problem-says-erbil/>

- **Iraqi forces warn Mosul civilians, tell ISIS ‘surrender or die’**

Iraqi authorities have dropped leaflets over Mosul warning civilians to stay inside and are telling jihadists to “surrender or die” after launching an assault to retake the Old City.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/iraqi-forces-warn-mosul-civilians-tell-isis-surrender-or-die/>

- **Envoy: Iraqi PM's upcoming visit to help boost economic exchanges**

Iran's Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi said on Monday that the upcoming visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to Tehran will help broaden economic relations between the two countries. Speaking to IRNA, Masjedi said the upcoming regional tour of the Iraqi premier will take him to three countries in the region, and it will open a new chapter in expansion of economic cooperation with Iran.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82570491/>

- **Iraqi Shiite militias undermine Kurdistan region, Kurdish envoy to U.S. says**

The top Iraqi-Kurdish representative to the U.S. said Iranian-backed Shia militias could undermine the security and stability of the Kurdistan region once the Islamic State threat to the country is defeated.

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/iraqi-shiite-militias-kurdistan-2017-06-20>

- **Mosul battle is now house to house: Iraqi commander**

The battle against the Islamic State (IS) in Mosul’s Old City is now “house to house,” according to an Iraqi commander. IS militants are continuing to defend their last remaining stronghold in the city, using narrow alleyways and destroyed homes to attack US-backed Iraqi forces.

More Details

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/7fadcdb0-89b9-467a-9f5c-4cf3d6fadf3c>

- **Ericsson Extends Managed Services Deal With Zain Iraq to 2021**

Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) has been awarded an extension of its Managed Services contract with Zain Iraq until 2021, after successfully providing Managed Services for Networks, IT and value-added services to the operator since 2012.

More Details

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/pr/ericsson-extends-managed-services-deal-zain-iraq-2021-988352>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Russia to Target US, Coalition Aircraft over Syria**

Russia condemned the U.S. shutdown of a Syrian Su-22 fighter bomber over Syria on Sunday, saying it will now track aircraft of any kind near its airspace in Syria with surface-to-air missiles. The Russian Ministry of Defense said it will begin tracking joint coalition aircraft west of the Euphrates River and treat them as targets, officials said in a statement Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/06/19/russia-target-us-coalition-aircraft-syria.html>

- **US Sets Up Military Base in Syria, Province of Raqqa**

According to local sources, US-led coalition forces have begun setting up a new military base in Tabqah town in the province of Raqqa. The new base will be located in the military housing area, the Mohammed Fares school as well as the military and security buildings in the third district of the town. US forces reportedly intend to build a command center and residential buildings for its troops. According to opposition sources, USA wants to adopt the new base in Tabqah town as a long-term base in Syria.

More Details:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/breaking-us-sets-up-military-base-in-syria-province-of-raqqa/5595264>

- **State Senator Calls US Base in Syria a Violation of International Law**

The US base in Syria's At Tanf area is a clear violation of international law, State Senator from Virginia Richard Black told Sputnik. "We've even set up a base at Al Tanf in the southern part, it's an American base within the country of Syria," Black said. "You can't get a more obvious violation of international law than to actually move in and set up a military base in a sovereign country that has never taken any offensive action towards our country."

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706201054783501-us-base-syria-violation-international-law/>

- **Life goes on in war-torn Syria**

Syrian residents of the rebel-held town of Douma, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus, broke their fast with the "iftar" meal on a heavily damaged street on Sunday, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

More Details:

<http://www.straitstimes.com/multimedia/photos/life-goes-on-in-war-torn-syria>

- **Ahrar Al-Sham signs four ceasefire deals with Syrian government: sources**

Information emerged on the network claiming that one of the largest Syrian islamist groups, Ahrar Al-Sham, signed ceasefire agreements with Syrian government with the help of Russian mediators in 4 different regions of the country. Ahrar Al-Sham, being a Syrian offshoot of Muslim Brotherhood movement, has been under direct influence of Qatar since the beginning of the Syrian war, as Qatar, alongside with Turkey, is the main international state sponsor of Muslim Brotherhood.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/ahrar-al-sham-signs-four-ceasefire-deals-syrian-government-sources/>

- **Sixth Quarterly Report on Besieged Areas in Syria, February - April 2017**

Syrian government forces are bombing and starving out hundreds of thousands of Syrians in Eastern Ghouta in what may quickly become the next Aleppo. Nearly 420,000 people are suffering from severe shortages of food and medical supplies, and are unable to move about freely due to the bombing.

More Details:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/sixth-quarterly-report-besieged-areas-syria-february-april-2017>

- **Israel 'giving secret aid to Syrian rebels', report says**

Israel has allegedly provided Syrian rebels with substantial funding and aid in order to maintain a buffer zone in the Golan Heights border area between the country and its war-torn neighbour, it has emerged.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israel-giving-secret-aid-syrian-rebels-bashar-al-assad-golah-heights-hezbollah-fursan-al-joulan-a7797151.html>

- **Netanyahu: Israel Doesn't Get Involved in Syria War, but Does Provide Humanitarian Aid**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel doesn't intervene in the Syrian civil war, but does provide humanitarian assistance. Netanyahu made the remarks after The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel has been secretly providing aid to Syrian rebels in the Golan Heights for years, with the goal of maintaining a buffer zone of friendly forces to keep ISIS and forces aligned with Iran at bay.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.796537>

- **Pentagon: US pilots in Syria will defend themselves against any attacks by Russian jets**

US pilots over Syria will defend them if attacked by Russians, a Pentagon spokesman said Monday, following a report that Russia will treat U.S. or coalition aircraft as targets if they fly over areas in western Syria controlled by Russia.

More Details:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/pentagon-us-pilots-syria-will-defend-themselves-russian-attacks-2017-6>

- **Syrian army captures over 20 villages from IS in Raqqa**

The Syrian army captured over 20 villages and towns in the countryside of the northern province of Raqqa, the de facto capital of the Islamic State (IS) group, state news agency SANA reported on Monday. In a statement carried by SANA, the general command of the Syrian army said the government forces and allied troops captured over 20 villages and towns and the key city of Rasafeh in the southern countryside of Raqqa.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/20/c\\_136378616.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/20/c_136378616.htm)

### 3. IRAN

- **Iran and Saudi Arabia offer clashing accounts of offshore confrontation**

The Saudi navy said it had captured three members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards from a boat seized last week as the vessel approached Saudi Arabia's offshore Marjan oilfield, Riyadh has said. Iran's interior ministry denied the Saudi claim, however, saying that the Saudi navy had opened fire on two Iranian fishing boats. Relations between the two countries are at their worst in years, as they support

opposite sides in conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, and each accuses the other of destabilising regional security.

More Details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/19/saudi-navy-captures-members-of-iranian-elite-force-on-intercepted-boat-revolutionary-guards>

- **Iran's Speaker Urges Muslim World to Beware of Saudi Plots**

Iranian parliament speaker on Monday referred to the good-faith policy of the Islamic Republic in its relations with regional countries, and said, "Our policy is based on establishing unity among the regional states. The recent developments in the region, however, have unveiled the ugly face of some regional countries."

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/irans-speaker-urges-muslim-world/>

- **Iran missile strikes 'huge step' toward fighting terror**

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said IRGC's missile attack on Takfiri terrorists' bases in Deir Ezzor, eastern Syria, was a 'decisive' and 'timely' response to the terrorist attacks on Tehran, adding that the strikes were carried out with prior knowledge of Syrian government.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/126036/Iran-missile-strikes-huge-step-toward-fighting-terror>

- **Iran summons Swiss envoy over 'meddlesome' US remarks**

Iran has summoned the Swiss charge d'affaires to Tehran to protest at the US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's recent "meddlesome" remarks against the Islamic Republic, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman says. In a meeting on Monday, the director general for the Americas at Iran's Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Keshavarz-Zadeh, handed over a strongly-worded official letter of protest to the Swiss envoy, which represents the US interests in Tehran, Bahram Qassemi said.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/06/19/525849/Iran-US-Switzerland-charge-daffaires-Rex-Tillerson-Mohammad-KeshavarzZadeh>

- **Krauthammer: Iran Trying to Take ISIS' Lands After They Lose**

Charles Krauthammer said the Iranians are trying to essentially reclaim territory now run by ISIS terrorists in Syria. He was reacting to the downing of a Syrian jet by American forces, which drew the ire of the Russians. "This is like the last year of World War II. We're all fighting the Nazis but we know they're finished," he said.

More Details:

<http://insider.foxnews.com/2017/06/19/charles-krauthammer-isis-war-terrorism-syria-iran-territory-iraq>

- **Revolutionary guards kill leader of militant group in Southeast Iran- State Media**

The leader of a Sunni Muslim militant group was killed by the Revolutionary Guards in southeast Iran during operations in recent days, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on Monday. Three members of the Ansar al-Furqan group, which has attacked security forces and civilians, according to Iranian officials, were also killed by Iranian forces in the southeast region of the country last week, state media said.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Revolutionary-Guards-kill-leader-of-militant-group-in-southeast-Iran-state-media-497313>

- **Leader: Iranian nation will slap U.S. in the face**

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks while hosting for iftar (fast breaking) a number of families whose sons or fathers have been martyred in the fight against terrorists in Syria and Iraq as well as those whose family members have been martyred while guarding national borders against terrorists and hooligans. "Since the victory of the Revolution, U.S. statesmen have always sought to change the establishment of the Islamic Republic but they won't manage to slap the Iranian nation, but it is the Iranian nation who will slap them," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/414401/Leader-Iranian-nation-will-slap-U-S-in-the-face>

- **Iranian official on Syrian attack: 'Israel understood the message, it should be worried'**

Advisor to Iranian foreign min. states after rare missile attack in Syria that 'Israel is our main enemy and it should be worried'; PM Netanyahu responds: 'Do not threaten Israel.' An advisor to Iran's foreign minister said Monday the Islamic republic's missiles attack against ISIS in Syria also served as a message to Israel, adding "I think (Israel) understood the message... it now has to worry" about its actions.

More Details:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4978110,00.html>

- **Strike on Daesh Shows Height of Iran's Missile Power: Adviser**

An Iranian official said the recent missile attack on the Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor destroyed the command center that Daesh (ISIL or ISIS) terrorists had earlier used to orchestrate two terror attacks in Tehran, noting that it showed the country's growing missile power.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/19/1440796/strike-on-daesh-shows-height-of-iran-s-missile-power-adviser>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Netanyahu slams Abbas on Twitter: 'Stop poisoning the minds of Palestinian youth'**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went on a Twitter tirade to slam Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas just two days ahead of the beginning of the US-led peace talks. The prime minister said Abbas should refrain from "poisoning the minds of Palestinian youth" against Israel. Netanyahu's sharp remarks come amid the US' attempt to reinvigorate the peace process in the Middle East. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and senior Washington adviser, Jason Greenblatt, are set to land in the region this week. Netanyahu's ire was expressed against the backdrop of Palestine naming a new square after Khaled Nazzal, who Israel regards as a terrorist.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/netanyahu-slams-abbas-twitter-stop-poisoning-minds-palestinian-youth-1626970>

- **New Arab neighborhood planned in Jerusalem**

While plans to expand the Palestinian Authority city of Qalqiliya by some 14,000 to 15,000 housing units has dominated the headlines in Israel over the past week, a massive new building project in Israel's capital has been largely ignored. Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Dov Kalmanovich spoke with Arutz Sheva recently regarding the new Arab a-Sawarah neighborhood planned in Jerusalem.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/231292>

- **Bank of Israel Chief Laments Two Israeli Economies**

Bank of Israel Governor Karnit Flug told a conference on Monday that the country really had two economies – a high-tech locomotive pulling “old and decrepit cars” – and that the situation was creating unacceptable income gaps. “Reducing the gap between two parts of the economy is a necessary step in reducing [income] gaps and forging a single society. The path to get there does not pass through slowing the locomotive, but through inclusive growth – such that will lead to an increase in efficiency in 'the other economy,'" Flug told the Eli Hurvitz Conference on Economy and Society.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/business/1.796727>

- **Israel Cuts Power Supplies to Gaza in Palestinian Authority Move to Oust Hamas**

Israel has started cutting down on the electricity it provides to the Gaza Strip, fulfilling a request filed by the Palestinian Authority, according to a statement by The Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA). According to the statement, Israel has already decreased the amount of supplied electricity by eight megawatt-hours. This is the first decrease from the 125 megawatt-hours it supplied for over two months, which was enough electricity for Gaza to run for four to six hours a day, according to Times of Israel.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706201054784187-israel-palestine-gaza-electricity-cuts/>

- **Muslim states' alliance with Israel 'disaster'**

Ali Larijani made the remarks in a meeting with ambassadors of Muslim countries ahead of the International Quds Day in Tehran on Monday. Quds Day is an annual event held on the last Friday of Ramadan initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979 to express solidarity for the Palestinians and oppose Israel's occupation.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/126043/Muslim-states-alliance-with-Israel-disaster>

- **Trump's son-in-law heading to Palestine**

The senior aide is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday for meetings in Jerusalem al-Quds and Ramallah, a White House official said Tuesday. Trump's international envoy, Jason Greenblatt, will also join meetings involving Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu among other high-ranking officials from both sides, said White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer.

More Details:

<http://217.218.67.231/Detail/2017/06/19/525860/Kushner-heading-to-Palestine/>

- **Israel reportedly freezes construction on 6,000 illegal settlement units**

The report came as the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) released data showing a 70 percent rise in construction of settlements during the past year, compared to previous year, with settlement watch dog Peace Now warning of increasing numbers in the coming months. Quoting a report from the Israeli Army Radio on Monday morning, The Jerusalem Post said 2,200 settlement units were expected to be halted in the Gilo and Pisgat Zeev settlements -- located in the Jerusalem district of the West Bank -- and Har Homa settlement in the southern West Bank district of Bethlehem.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777722>

- **Palestinian Envoy Calls for High Turnout in Quds Day Rallies Worldwide**

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Monday, Nasser Abu Sharif highlighted the importance of massive participation in rallies marking the International Quds Day, which falls on Friday, June 23, this year. He said the Palestinian issue is an important concern for all Muslims. "The Zionist regime (of Israel) is committing crimes against the Palestinian people with all its power," Abu Sharif said

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/19/1441076/palestinian-envoy-calls-for-high-turnout-in-quds-day-rallies-worldwide>

- **Hamas delegation reaches 'understandings' with Egypt and meets Dahlan reps**

Hamas has announced that a delegation of its senior officials which visited Cairo last week also met with representatives of ousted Fatah leader Mohamed Dahlan in the Egyptian capital. In a meeting in Gaza on Sunday, senior Hamas official Khalil Al-Hayya briefed journalists on the results of the trip. "The last trip was an extension of several previous visits over 15 months," explained Al-Hayya, "but it was the most fruitful. We reached understandings that we hope to see implemented on the ground soon."

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170619-hamas-delegation-reaches-understandings-with-egypt-and-meets-dahlan-reps/>

- **Including Father and His Two Sons, Israeli Soldiers Abduct Seven Palestinians In Bethlehem**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Monday at dawn, the West Bank governorate of Bethlehem, broke into and searched homes, and abducted seven Palestinians, including a father and two of his sons, the Bethlehem office of the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) has reported. The PPS said the soldiers invaded Bethlehem city, before searching and ransacking homes, and abducted Anwar Abdul-Hamid 'Adawy, 60, in addition to his sons, Midhat, 26, and Ibrahim, 22.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/including-father-and-his-two-sons-israeli-soldiers-abduct-seven-palestinians-in-bethlehem/>

- **Netanyahu: Liberman withheld info on Palestinian city expansion**

Deepening a rift within the government over a decision to allow the Palestinian Authority to expand the city of Qalqilya in the West Bank, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Monday that Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman had failed to present the cabinet with the full details of the potentially explosive plan ahead of a ministerial vote on it last year.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-liberman-withheld-info-on-palestinian-city-expansion/>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan, France keen on stronger strategic partnership**

His Majesty King Abdullah and French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday held talks in Paris that focused on the latest regional and international developments and means to enhance cooperation and partnership between the two countries.

More details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-france-keen-stronger-strategic-partnership>

- **Jordan Embracing Economic Stimulus and Green Growth to Reverse Economic Doldrums**

Jordan has embarked on a "Green Growth" drive that aims to tap into natural resources, lessen dependence on fuel imports and create decent jobs in a nation saddled with spiraling unemployment and a sluggish 2.3 percent projected economic growth for 2017.

More details:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/06/19/jordan-embracing-economic-stimulus-and-green-growth-to-reverse-economic-doldrums>

- **Jordan: Prime Minister Reshuffles Government, Again**

A Royal Decree was issued on Sunday approving a reshuffle in Prime Minister Hani Mulki's government. The newcomers include Hala Lattouf for the social development portfolio, Jamil Ali Salim Mujahed as transport minister, Muhannad Shehadeh as minister of state for investment affairs and head of the Jordan Investment Commission (JIC), and Saleh Kharabsheh as minister of energy and mineral resources.

More details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/jordan-prime-minister-reshuffles-government-again-988032>

- **Lebanon nabs IS suicide bomber ahead of terror attack**

Lebanon's General Security Directorate said Monday that it arrested a Lebanese member of the terrorist Islamic State group (IS) who was plotting to carry out a "suicide bombing" in the country.

More details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/20/content\\_41061257.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/20/content_41061257.htm)

- **Compromise and concessions: Lebanon's new electoral law**

After an eight-year suspension of the polls, a constitutional crisis and extensions of the Parliament, Lebanon finally has a new electoral law. The move paves the way for parliamentary elections next spring, the first since 2009.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1117621#>

- **Lebanese official meets Qatari Ambassador**

Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon Nabih Berri met yesterday with Qatar's Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic Ali bin Hamad Al Marri. Talks during the meeting covered bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them, as well as issues of common concern.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/20/06/2017/Lebanese-official-meets-Qatari-Ambassador>

- **Lebanon's civil society groups gear up for 2018 elections**

Lebanon's parliament approved a new electoral law June 16, and several political activists and “alternative” parties are already preparing themselves for the next elections, expected in May 2018.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/lebanon-civil-society-non-partisans-prepare-for-elections.html>

- **Bassil Lauds Hizbullah, Hariri on Electoral Law, Calls for 'More Restraints'**

Free Patriotic Movement chief Jebran Bassil on Monday credited Hizbullah and Prime Minister Saad Hariri for the approval of the new electoral law, which the FPM says will improve Christian representation in parliament.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231658-bassil-lauds-hizbullah-hariri-on-electoral-law-calls-for-more-restraints>

- **Govt to hold polls despite terror threats: minister**

The government is determined to hold the legislative elections despite extremist threats, Deputy Prime Minister Ghassan Hasbani told local media.

More details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Jun-20/410255-govt-to-hold-polls-despite-terror-threats-minister.ashx>

- **Rahi presides over presidents of Catholic Universities meeting**

Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Beshara Boutros Rahi presided over a meeting for Presidents of the Catholic Universities in preparation for the centenary of the Declaration of Greater Lebanon. Rahi, who delivered a word on this occasion, said that the Patriarchate issued a National Memorandum in 2014 to revive the centenary of declaring Greater Lebanon. "I have asked for establishing a national committee to organize a ceremony to celebrate the first centenary, but no one responded," Rahi said.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80577/Rahi-presides-over-Presidents-of-Catholic-Universities-meeting>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Yemeni government welcomes UN Security Council statement**

The Government of Yemen has welcomed the statement of the United Nations, UN, Security Council, issued on 15th June, 2017, about the conditions in Yemen, despite some misgivings with certain important points in the statement that need to be discussed and clarified.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302619828>

- **Cholera death toll rises again in Yemen**

More than 1,000 people have died because of the bacterial infection Cholera in Yemen. People there not only suffer from epidemics, but from an ongoing civil war, attacks and famine.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/cholera-death-toll-rises-again-in-yemen/av-39315031>

- **Egypt, UAE Agree on Need for Joint War on Terror amid Row with Qatar**

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed Al Nahyan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi confirmed Monday the need for a joint fight against terror funding amid the diplomatic rift with Qatar over respective allegations, Sisi's office said in a statement.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706201054783173-egypt-uae-terror-fight-qatar/>

- **Qatar Not Cutting Gas Supply to UAE**

Qatar will not cut off gas to the United Arab Emirates despite a diplomatic dispute and a "force majeure" clause in its contract, the chief executive of Qatar Petroleum told Al Jazeera network, two weeks after some Persian Gulf Arab states severed ties with Doha.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/energy/66785/qatar-not-cutting-gas-supply-to-uae>

- **Saudi Arabia claims to have captured Iranian vessel near oil field**

Saudi Arabia claims to have arrested three members of Iran's elite security forces who were on a boat headed towards its offshore Marjan oil field.

More Details:

<https://www.meed.com/sectors/oil-and-gas/saudi-arabia-claims-to-have-captured-iranian-vessel-near-oil-field/5017663.article?blocktitle=Latest-News-from-MEED&contentID=10833>

- **Turkey to send 11 tons of aid to Qatar**

Turkey will continue to help Qatar and plans to send the Gulf country another aid ship carrying 11 tons of humanitarian aid, according to the economy minister on Monday.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-to-send-11-tons-of-aid-to-qatar-/845132>

- **Doha Will Not Enter Negotiations until Neighbouring States Lift Blockade**

Qatar's foreign minister called on neighbouring states to lift their "blockade" of his country on Monday, before Doha takes part in any negotiations on ending the Gulf diplomatic crisis.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/doha-will-not-enter-negotiations-until-neighbouring-states-lift-blocka-988284>

- **One dead in new Bahrain bombing: ministry**

A bomb in a Shiite village outside the Bahraini capital has killed one person, the second blast in a suburb of Manama this week, the interior ministry said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/world/2017-06-20-one-dead-in-new-bahrain-bombing-ministry/>

- **Bahrain makes arrests over Diraz explosion**

Bahrain has arrested several suspects in connection with an explosion in the village of a Shiite spiritual leader, the ministry of interior said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/bahrain-makes-arrests-over-diraz-explosion>

- **King Salman, Abadi Discuss Bilateral Ties, Regional Developments**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman discussed with Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Haider al-Abadi at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah bilateral ties and regional developments.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/nayef-alrasheed-and-aharq-alawsat/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/king-salman-abadi-discuss-bilateral-ties-regional-developments>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt, Diraz terror blasts condemned**

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the terrorist bombings which hit the Egyptian capital, Cairo, and Diraz in Bahrain, leaving several innocent people dead and injured.

More details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=34667&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

- **Mohammad Bin Zayed, Al Sissi emphasise combating terrorism funding**

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, on Monday held talks with Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al Sissi over bilateral relations and a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/government/mohammad-bin-zayed-al-sissi-emphasise-combating-terrorism-funding-1.2046397>

- **Egypt launches initiative to save nature reserves**

Egypt has launched a new initiative aimed at documenting nature reserves across the country with the hope of preventing them from falling into oblivion.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/egypt-launch-initiative-nature-reserves-environment.html#ixzz4kWRLB7gw>

- **Hamas is feeling the pain of Qatar's crisis, and looking to Egypt for help**

Five years ago, Gaza's streets were decked out with maroon-and-white flags to welcome the emir of Qatar, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani.

More details:

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-qatar-hamas-egypt-20170619-story.html>

- **Egypt's parliament raises minimum income tax threshold**

Egypt's parliament has voted to raise the minimum income tax threshold to 7,200 Egyptian pounds(\$400) a year from 6,500 pounds and gave tax breaks to the first three brackets.

More details:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/egypts-parliament-raises-minimum-income-tax-threshold-20170619-01092>

- **Egyptian MP Tantawi referred to parliament's ethics committee for 'violating code of conduct'**

Independent MP Ahmed Tantawi, who is affiliated with the leftist parliamentary coalition known as the 25-30 group, is to be referred to the ethics committee for alleged violations of parliament's code of conduct.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/271229/Egypt/Politics-/Egyptian-MP-Tantawi-referred-to-parliaments-ethics.aspx>

- **Hasm claims responsibility for Sunday Cairo attack**

The Hasam Movement has claimed responsibility for the Sunday attack in Cairo, which killed two police officers and injured three conscripts. The unidentified assailants shot the gas tank of a central security force personnel carrier from a Jeep near the Cairo suburb of Maadi early Sunday.

More details:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/06/19/hasm-claims-responsibility-sunday-cairo-attack/>

- **Egypt islands deal with Saudis pits government against courts**

Tiran and Sanafir command access to southern ports of Israel and Jordan; agreement to transfer them to Riyadh's control earned Cairo billions in much needed cash

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-islands-deal-with-saudis-pits-government-against-courts/>

- **Egypt to Sign for Ka-52K Katrans**

Along with their Ka-52 Alligators, the Egyptian military is receiving Ka-52K Katran helicopters. A contract has not been signed as of yet, reports Defence Web. Viktor Kladov from Rostec has commented that the signing is only a “technical issue.”

More details:

<http://helihub.com/2017/06/19/egypt-to-sign-for-ka-52k-katrans/>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Latest Algeria Anti-Terror Operation Kills 3 Armed Men**

Three armed men, believed to be Islamists, were killed and several others were arrested in Algeria yesterday as the government cracked down further on terror-related activity. The joint operation by the army and security forces took place in the eastern cities of Constantine and Skikda.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170619-latest-algeria-anti-terror-operation-kills-3-armed-men/>

- **Dodsai wins \$1.1bn Algeria Energy Project Contract**

The Dodsai Group, a Dubai-based business conglomerate currently operating in countries across the Middle East and North Africa (Mena), East Africa and India, has been awarded a \$1.1-billion engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) by Sonatrach, Algeria's state energy producer, to execute a separation and compression centre (CSC) at the periphery area of South HGA-Hassi Messaoud. The work, which includes detailed engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of the plant, will begin shortly and is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN\\_326554.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_326554.html)

- **Tunisia, Morocco sign 9 Agreements, Executive Programmes and MoU**

Tunisia and Morocco, on Monday, signed nine co-operation agreements, executive programmes and memoranda of understanding, at the end of the 19th session of the Tunisian-Moroccan High Joint Commission held in Rabat. The agreements, signed by Prime Minister Youssef Chahed and his Moroccan counterpart Saadeddine El Othmani, concern Signed by the head of government Youssef Chahed and his Moroccan counterpart, Saâdeddine El Othmani, these agreements concern youth,

vocational training, employment, investment, export, consumer protection and legal and scientific and industrial metrology.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9128818-tunisia-morocco>

- **Iran Proposes Regular Political Talks with Tunisia**

In a meeting with his Tunisian counterpart, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif raise the idea of Tehran and Tunis holding continuous political negotiations. In the final leg of his three-nation tour of North Africa, Foreign Minister Zarif arrived in Tunis on Monday evening. After a meeting with Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi, the senior Iranian diplomat met his Tunisian counterpart Khemaies Jhinaoui.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/20/1441416/iran-proposes-regular-political-talks-with-tunisia>

- **Morocco's ECOWAS Gambit**

WE commend the Association of Retired Career Ambassadors of Nigeria (ARCAN) for its timely warning on Morocco's bid to install itself as a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Noting that Morocco, by reason of its geographical location in North Africa, does not qualify for membership, ARCAN called on the Nigerian government to resist attempts by other ECOWAS member states to support the admission of Morocco into the West African body.

More Details:

<http://sunnewsonline.com/moroccos-ecowas-gambit/>

- **Morocco's Ministry of Economy: Sharp Increase of Budget Deficit Over the Last Decade**

During the last decade, Morocco has witnessed a sharp increase of the budget deficit, hitting a new record according to the Directorate of Financial Studies and Forecasting (DEPF). "Over the last decade, the fiscal situation has led to a widening of the budget deficit, from an average of 2.6 percent of GDP between 2000 and 2007 to 4.1 percent of GDP in 2008-2016, setting a record deficit in 2012 with 6.8 percent of GDP," according to the public finance dashboard published recently by the department under the Ministry of the Economy and Finance.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/06/220420/moroccos-ministry-economy-sharp-increase-budget-deficit-last-decade/>

- **IOM: 126 Refugees Feared Dead after Shipwreck off Libya**

At least 126 refugees are feared to have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea after the motor of their boat was stolen, causing it to sink, the United Nations' migration agency has said. According to testimony from four survivors brought to Italy, the refugees - mainly Sudanese - left on Thursday from Libya trying to make the dangerous crossing to Europe, Flavio Di Giacomo, spokesman for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/iom-126-refugees-feared-dead-shipwreck-libya-170619194833920.html>

- **Islamic Call Members Arrested in Tripoli after Protest, Strike Planned Tuesday**

Four members of staff of the Dawa Islamiya (Islamic Call Society) are reported to have been arrested in Tripoli today following an attempt yesterday by a number of staff yesterday to eject top management from the organisation's headquarters. The four who are unnamed, are said to have been arrested by members of Misrata's Halbous Battalion 301 which was called in by management.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/06/19/islamic-call-members-arrested-in-tripoli-after-protest-strike-planned-tuesday/>

- **Libya's Haftar Militias Burn 6,000-Plus Books Accused of Promoting Jihad**

Armed groups loyal to the leader of the opposition to the United Nations-backed government in Libya, former Gen. Khalifa Haftar, reportedly burned more than 6,000 books that allegedly promote jihadi ideology affiliated with the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). Russia-backed Gen. Haftar has been dubbed the "new Gaddafi," after the former dictator who was removed and executed by U.S.-backed militias in 2011, plunging the North African country into chaos.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/06/19/libya-haftar-loyalists-burn-6000-plus-books-accused-of-promoting-islamic-state-muslim-brotherhood-ideology/>

- **UN report sheds light on hidden wealth of former Libyan dictator Gadhafi**

In the murky and corrupt world of weapons dealing and illicit money, a new wild card has emerged: the billions of dollars that mysteriously vanished after the death of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The vast oil wealth of the toppled dictator, hidden in bank accounts and locked boxes across Africa, has become a key target for Libyan armed factions that seek the money for weapons purchases to fuel their chaotic war, according to sources cited in a new United Nations report.

More Details:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/un-report-sheds-light-on-hidden-wealth-of-libyan-dictator-gadhafi/article35386044/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **India & Afghanistan open air freight corridor**

The first flight from Kabul to Delhi, establishing air freight corridor between the two countries, landed here yesterday with the dedicated air cargo link aimed to help boost bilateral trade, hampered by Pakistan that disallows Indian goods along the road route.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/20/06/2017/India-Afghanistan-open-air-freight-corridor>

- **Keralite 'IS man' killed in Afghanistan**

A Kerala resident who is said to have gone to Afghanistan to join the Islamic State terror group was reportedly killed, an intelligence official said on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/keralite-is-man-killed-in-afghanistan/article19105814.ece>

- **Iran, Afghanistan hold talks on comprehensive strategic partnership**

The negotiations were held in Tehran on Sunday afternoon with a 35-strong delegation of Afghan deputy ministers and other high-ranking officials of the country comprising five committees, Tasnim News Agency reported.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/195097.html>

- **-Trump seen hardening line toward Pakistan after Afghan war review**

President Donald Trump's administration appears ready to harden its approach toward Pakistan to crack down on Pakistan-based militants launching attacks in neighboring Afghanistan, U.S. officials tell Reuters.

More Details:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/exclusivetrump-seen-hardening-line-toward-pakistan-after-afghan-war-review-20170620-00033>

- **Pak Motorway Police struggling to patrol CPEC citing insufficient resources**

Pakistan's National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) has expressed its inability to patrol the length of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), citing insufficient funds and human resource.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzlwNj1/pak-motorway-police-struggling-to-patrol-cpec-citing-insufficient-resources.html>

- **Bilateral Ties: Pakistan, Lebanon to boost trade links**

A high-profile delegation comprising 28 business dignitaries from various business sectors of Pakistan visited Lebanon on the invitation of Lebanon Prime Minister Saad Hariri from May 13-18, 2017. The delegation, headed by FPCCI Vice President Irfan Sarwana, held several meetings with government officials and business community representatives of Lebanon. During the meetings, Sarwana apprised the hosts of Pakistan's business-friendly environment and the attractive opportunities it offered to foreign investors in several areas including agriculture, capital goods, sports and surgical instruments.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1439928/bilateral-ties-pakistan-lebanon-boost-trade-links/>

- **2 naval personnel killed in SW Pakistan terrorist attack**

At least two personnel working for Pakistani navy were killed and four others injured when some unknown militants sprayed bullets at their vehicle in the countrys southwest Gwadar district on Monday, local Urdu media reported.

More Details:

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-06/20/content\\_29813926.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-06/20/content_29813926.htm)

- **Militant leader reportedly killed on Iran-Pakistan border**

Jalil Qanbar-Zahi, leader of Ansar al-Furqan, a Baloch militant organization dubbed a terrorist group by Iran authorities, has been killed on the Iran-Pakistan border, according to a Monday statement issued by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, APA reports quoting Anadolu Agency.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/militant-leader-reportedly-killed-on-iran-pakistan-border.html>

- **At Least Two Injured in Explosion in Eastern Afghanistan**

At least two people were injured as a result of an explosion in eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, local media reported Tuesday, citing officials.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201706201054787203-eastern-afghanistan-explosion/>

- **Militants planning suicide attack on Afghan parliament with some MPs support**

The anti-government armed militants are planning to carry out a suicide attack on the parliament building with the support of some lawmakers.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/militants-planning-suicide-attack-on-afghan-parliament-with-some-mps-support-02982>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey to deliver aid to Gaza before eid festival**

Turkey will deliver 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza just before the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement late Monday. "Turkey with its people and institutions will continue to support the Palestinian state and people," according to the statement. The aid convoy, aimed at offering relief to Gazans suffering from an Israeli blockade, is expected to arrive in Gaza in the coming days and before the festival of Eid al-Fitr that marks the end of Ramadan.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-to-deliver-aid-to-gaza-before-eid-festival/845123>

- **Turkish Ambassador, Tourism Delegation Meet Hariri**

A Turkish Tourism and Commercial Delegation currently on a visit to Lebanon met on Monday with Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, in the company of Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon Cagatay Erciyes.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80544/Turkish-Ambassador-tourism-delegation-meet-Hariri>

- **Turkey records largest number of Syrian refugees, UN reports**

Turkey, for the third consecutive year, has hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees worldwide, as the number of people displaced from their homes across the world due to war and persecution climbed slightly to a record 65.6 million last year, according to a new U.N. report released yesterday. Turkey has taken in the largest number of Syrians with a total of 2.9 million at the end of 2015. It has since exceeded 3 million, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2017/06/20/turkey-records-largest-number-of-syrian-refugees-un-reports>

*\*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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