



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dış Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

1. IRAQ,	4
• Barzani Discusses War on Daesh with a Number of Delegations of Davos World Economic Conference	4
• Al-Sadr says abstained from Mosul battles because Americans are involved	4
• Unknown Armed Men Attack Iraqi Minister's Residency	4
• Iraq counts on U.S. advisers, mostly out of sight, in war on Islamic State	5
• Iraqi Army liberate Tel Kaif-Mosul.....	5
• UN gangster deported to Iraq directly from Fraser Valley prison.....	5
• US army transfers authority in Iraq ahead of Trump inauguration.....	5
• Danish gov't mulls sending special forces to Iraq, Syria to combat IS: report	6
• What defines victory for Iraq in Mosul.....	6
• Not even Iraqis know Iraq's future: Anderson	6
• Pentagon Head Admits Inconvenience of Intervention in Syria and Iraq	7
• Serbia, Iraq liberalize visas, establish political communication	7
• Iraqi VP blames US for 'bloodshed in Iraq, Syria, Yemen'	7
• Carter: more US troops will not fix Iraq or Syria	7
• Iran Appoints Terrorist Chief as Ambassador to Iraq.....	8
• Iraq: journalist beaten by party officials	8
• Obama government created ISIS terrorist group: Iraq's Maliki	8
• Iraq: Retreating ISIS leaves behind unfinished fighter jet in Mosul	9
• Militants Execute Civilians in Mosul; 101 Killed Across Iraq	9
2. SYRIA	9
• Meeting on humanitarian crisis in Aleppo	9
• Al-Qaeda leader killed in American air strike in Syria	9
• Qatar denies receiving invite to Astana talks on Syria	10
• Homs Province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights	10
• Syrian lawmaker Reisman says Aleppo is gradually recovering	10
• Oil and Gas Sales to the Syrian Regime Are Now ISIS's Largest Source of Funds, Report Says	10
• Islamic State increases oil and gas sales to Assad, officials say	11
• Peace Prize to Syria: Obama the realist	11
3. IRAN	11
• Leader Urges All-Out Rescue Efforts after Tehran Building Collapse.....	11
• Redding Police Chief's sympathy over Plasco event	11
• Denmark arrests six over attack on Iran embassy in Copenhagen	12
• Bin Laden Worried Iran Might Plant Tracking Devices on Sons	12
• Germany, France, Italy to take part in Iran's airport projects.....	12
• Chinese envoy urges eliminating external interferences in solving Iran nuclear issue.....	12
• Iran promises to 'surprise' Trump if he cancels nuclear deal.....	12
• Thousands Honor Alberto Nisman, Prosecutor Who Took on Iran, Two Years Later	13
• 17 floors business-center collapsed in Teheran after fire.....	13

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	13
• Islamic organization indirectly condemns Trump plan to move Israel embassy	13
• Erdan Calls to Probe Arab MKS after Policeman’s Deat	13
• Stun grenade thrown at Fatah official's home in Gaza amid PA-Hamas tensions	14
• Arabs in Israel observe a day of mourning and general strike	14
• Don’t give up two-state solution, Obama tells Trump	14
• Canada continues tightrope walk on Middle East.....	14
• Gaza residents lack food security due to Israeli practices	14
• Cuban support for Palestine should mirror Castro’s anti-colonial legacy.....	15
• What Will Trump Do About Israel, Palestine? How Netanyahu is Preparing for New US President	15
• Israeli Army Abducts A Palestinian In Hebron.....	15
5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....	16
• Jordan lawmaker accuses his nation’s army of protecting Israel.....	16
• Jordan parliament endorses state budget for 2017.....	16
• Jordan Boosts Border Forces Amid IS Threat From Iraq, Syria.....	16
• Lebanon’s president in Saudi Arabia	16
• Hariri, UN officials launch Lebanon crisis response plan.....	17
• Lebanese PM seeks \$10 billion foreign investment amid refugee crisis.....	17
• Hezbollah Claims IDF Breached Lebanon Border to Install Spy Gear	17
• The regime forces and Hezbollah advance in al-Bahariyah farms in the Eastern Ghouta	17
• Aoun: Parliamentary Vote to be Held on Time under Consensual Law	18
6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	18
• A triple execution in Bahrain has provoked national outrage – and international silence.....	18
• Qatar denies receiving invitation to attend Syria talks in Astana	18
• Four Detainees Transferred From Guantanamo on the Last Full Day of Obama's Presidency.	18
• Lebanon’s president in Saudi Arabia	19
• Sheikh Mohammed approves tripling the size of Dubai's International Humanitarian City.....	19
• Yemen on the brink	19
• Rocket fire kills 9 civilians in Yemen’s Taiz	19
• Bahraini Police Attack Peaceful Rally near Manama.....	20
• Qatar condemns military camp attack in Mali	20
• Saudi Arabia aims to be renewable leader: minister	20
7. EGYPT.....	20
• President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reopens Egypt's Islamic museum damaged in bombing	20
• Diplomacy in action	21
• Egypt’s PM says nominations for ministers to be submitted to parliament by end of Jan - MENA.....	21
• Egypt's economy grew at 3.4 pct in Q1 of FY 2016-17.....	21
• Egypt to try 304 suspects for militant attacks.....	21
• Libyan military chief makes unannounced visit to Cairo.....	21
• Egyptian prosecution blames Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas for establishing Hasam movement.....	22
• Egypt PM says cabinet reshuffle likely to be approved by month-end.....	22
• Egypt extends detention of Al Jazeera's Mahmoud Hussein	22



ORTADOĞU STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES
مركز الشرق الأوسط للدراسات الاستراتيجية

• Nevine Kashmiri appointed United Bank of Egypt's assistant Managing Director of funding large enterprises, SMEs.....	22
8. NORTH AFRICA.....	23
• US stealth bombers kill more than 80 IS fighters in Libya.....	23
• Trump, Putin and Libya.....	23
• Haftar forces battle extremists in Libya's Benghazi	23
• Italy strengthens ties with Tunisia after Berlin attack.....	23
• INLUCC handed over 120 cases of corruption to justice	24
• Morocco envoy calls for better bilateral trade ties.....	24
• German minister: 'Morocco and Tunisia face a real threat of terrorism'	24
• Morocco, UK Discuss Means to Enhance Bilateral Cooperation on Security Issues	24
• Next 20 years, an era of real development for energy	25
• Citizen "at the heart" of security equation	25
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	25
• Nawaz renews support for Afghan-led peace effort.....	25
• Trump hopes to see better US-Pakistan relations: Ambassador Jillani.....	26
• Will Trump go after Pakistan's terrorists?.....	26
• Aggression can't suppress Kashmiris' struggle, says AJK president	26
• Final batch of Osama bin Laden documents show he saw US occupation of Iraq as positive for al-Qaeda	26
• Efforts to consolidate budding peace process in Karachi would continue unabated: Qamar Bajwa	27
• Afghan among 3 Gitmo inmates transferred to UAE	27
• Airstrike kills 4 IS militants in E. Afghan province	27
• Ghani, Sami discuss ways to restore peace in Afghanistan.....	27
• NUG Urges Trump Govt to Put Pressure on Pakistan.....	28
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....	28
• 23 Daesh terrorists killed in airstrikes, shelling in northern Syria.....	28
• US not giving air cover for Turkey's fight with IS: Cavusoglu	28

1. IRAQ,

- **Barzani Discusses War on Daesh with a Number of Delegations of Davos World Economic Conference**

President of Iraqi Kurdistan, Massoud Barzani discussed, on the sidelines of the Davos World Economic Forum, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi ways to strengthen relations between the two sides and the war on "Daesh" and the latest developments in Iraq and the region. A statement by the Presidency of the Kurdistan said that "Jordanian Foreign Minister transferred greetings of Jordan's King Abdullah II to Barzani, stressing the need to strengthen and develop relations between the Kurdistan region and Jordan."

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?%252fpBd3DnXdgreGTyfnkP8sA%253d%253d

- **Al-Sadr says abstained from Mosul battles because Americans are involved**

Influential Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has said his militias were not involved in the battles to retake the city of Mosul from Islamic State because U.S. forces were involved in the process. Sadr, a central political and militant player, who for sometime following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq was branded an enemy to the United States, told NRT on Thursday that Saraya al-Salam militia, which he commands, did not partake in the three-month-old campaign for Mosul due to the involvement of "occupier" American troops, as he put it. "I do not deal with Americans," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/al-sadr-says-abstained-mosul-battles-americans-involved/>

- **Unknown Armed Men Attack Iraqi Minister's Residency**

A group of unidentified armed men on Wednesday attacked an Iraqi minister's home in south of the country with officials blaming those whose corruption cases are being investigated by the government. According to a press release by Ministry of Transportation, the armed men opened fire at Minister Kazem Finjan's residency in Basra province, but no details on possible casualties were revealed.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/325441>

- **Iraq counts on U.S. advisers, mostly out of sight, in war on Islamic State**

When Iraqi forces faced a fierce Islamic State counter-attack last month at a hospital in Mosul they had stormed without enough troops to hold it, U.S. advisers behind the front lines shepherded them to safety. And as they punched through the city's northern limits a few weeks later, it was again the Americans who counseled them how best to avoid roadside bombs and head off Islamic State suicide car bombers. Washington, leading an international coalition against the jihadists in Iraq and Syria, has launched thousands of air strikes over the past 2-1/2 years and provided aerial surveillance vital to pushing them back.

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/c813f4aa-d096-4b73-93fe-620792150c08/Iraq-counts-on-U-S--advisers--mostly-out-of-sight--in-war-on-Islamic-State

- **Iraqi Army liberate Tel Kaif-Mosul**

The ninth division of the Iraqi army announced on Thursday, 19 Jan. the liberation of Tel Kaif district-north of Mosul, killing more than 20 ISIS terrorists as well for finding stores of weapons and equipments. A military official in the Iraqi army said in a statement to PUKmedia that the Iraqi troops are in full control over Tel Kaif district and the Iraqi flag was raised on the buildings in the area.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=39509

- **UN gangster deported to Iraq directly from Fraser Valley prison**

A high-ranking member of the United Nations gang has been deported to his native Iraq after finishing his sentence for plotting to kill the Bacon brothers. Postmedia has learned that Barzan Tilli-Choli, who came to Canada as a teenager in 1999, was transported to Iraq on Tuesday by officers with the Canada Border Services Agency. On Monday, he left Kent prison in the Fraser Valley, where he was serving his term after pleading guilty in July 2013 to conspiracy to commit murder.

More Details:

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/crime/gangster+deported+iraq+directly+from+fraser+valley+prison/12741946/story.html>

- **US army transfers authority in Iraq ahead of Trump inauguration**

The U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division completed their transfer of authority with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division – Air Assault, at forward operating base Union III, Iraq, on Jan. 19, 2017, the US-led coalition said in a statement on Thursday. The 101st Abn. Div. Blackheart Soldiers, commanded by U.S. Army Col. Brett Sylvia, was deployed to Iraq in May 2016 to serve as the

lead element for the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command's advice and assist mission for the US-led coalition against ISIS.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/01/us-army-transfers-authority-in-iraq-ahead-of-trump-inauguration/>

- **Danish gov't mulls sending special forces to Iraq, Syria to combat IS: report**

The Danish government is considering sending Special Forces to the border area between Iraq and Syria to combat the Islamic State (IS), local media reported on Thursday. Local newspaper Politiken cited unidentified sources as saying that the plan will be discussed on Friday at a meeting of the parliament's Foreign Policy Committee, where Defense Minister Claus Hjort Frederiksen and Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen are expected to account for the new tasks.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/20/c_135998129.htm

- **What defines victory for Iraq in Mosul**

Some of the most welcome images coming out of the war against Islamic State (IS) have been pictures of Sunni civilians, especially children, flashing V signs at Iraqi Army soldiers during the ongoing liberation of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. The soldiers are mainly Shiites yet they have acted with patriotic discipline as they steadily defeat the terrorist group, aid the city's Sunni residents, and reunite Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2017/0119/What-defines-victory-for-Iraq-in-Mosul>

- **Not even Iraqis know Iraq's future: Anderson**

While Iraqi and coalition forces celebrate the liberation of the eastern half of Mosul, a senior Canadian military officer is admitting uncertainty over what will happen to Iraq once the rest of the city is finally freed. "Nobody really knows what the political situation is going to look like post-Mosul, and I would suggest that includes the Iraqis," Brig.-Gen. David Anderson told The Canadian Press in an interview from Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://www.therecord.com/news-story/7075503-not-even-iraqis-know-iraq-s-future-anderson/>

- **Pentagon Head Admits Inconvenience of Intervention in Syria and Iraq**

US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter recognized today that a military intervention by the United States, with thousands of soldiers in Iraq and Syria to fight the Islamic State (IS) would be counterproductive. That action would cause more anti-US resistance and would spoil 'some of the crucial advantages of our armed forces,' he added.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=8221&SEO=pentagon-head-admits-inconvenience-of-intervention-in-syria-and-iraq>

- **Serbia, Iraq liberalize visas, establish political communication**

Serbia and Iraq have agreed to cancel visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports of their respective countries, as well as to establish political communication on issues of mutual interest, the Serbian foreign ministry stated Thursday in a press release. Speaking at a press conference after meeting with his visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Serbian foreign minister Ivica Dacic said the two governments had signed an agreement on mutual cancelation of visas for bearers of diplomatic and service passports, as well as a memorandum on the establishment of political dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/20/c_135997865.htm

- **Iraqi VP blames US for 'bloodshed in Iraq, Syria, Yemen'**

After the US Secretary of State blamed Iraqi Vice President for his sectarian tendencies, the VP on Wednesday accused the United States of creating Islamic State (IS). Nuri al-Maliki, the Vice President of Iraq, told reporters that "The outgoing Obama administration is responsible for the creation and rise of Da'esh [an Arabic acronym for IS] terrorist organization and the bloodshed in Iraq, Syria and even in Yemen."

More Details:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/6a2092d2-d6cd-4873-8c95-b461262cee2f/Iraqi-VP-blames-US-for-%E2%80%98bloodshed-in-Iraq--Syria--Yemen->

- **Carter: more US troops will not fix Iraq or Syria**

Sending thousands more American troops into Iraq or Syria in a bid to accelerate the defeat of the Islamic State group would push U.S. allies to the exits, create more anti-U.S. resistance and give up the U.S. military's key advantages, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in an Associated Press interview. Speaking from his Pentagon office overlooking the Potomac River on Wednesday, Carter

said he favors looking for ways to speed up the counter-IS campaign, which administration critics including the president-elect, Donald Trump, have called slow-footed and overly cautious.

More Details:

<http://www.wlwt.com/article/carter-tells-ap-more-us-troops-will-not-fix-iraq-or-syria/8614342>

- **Iran Appoints Terrorist Chief as Ambassador to Iraq**

European Iraqi Freedom Association (EIFA), issued a statement on the recent appointment of Iran regimes ambassador to Iraq, the following is the full text: The recent appointment of Brigadier Iraj Masjadi as Iran's ambassador to Iraq has provided the clearest evidence yet of the theocratic regime's aggressive dominance over its closest neighbour. The appointment has been roundly condemned by the European Iraqi Freedom Association (EIFA), whose President – Struan Stevenson – says that Masjadi's appointment clearly demonstrates how Iran exults in its role as the world's leading exporter of terror. Speaking in Scotland, Stevenson said:

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/terrorism-fundamentalism/21980-iran-appoints-terrorist-chief-as-ambassador-to-iraq>

- **Iraq: journalist beaten by party officials**

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its affiliate the Kurdistan Journalists Union (KJU) have condemned the brutal attack on a journalist by armed militia from the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. On 15 January, Iraqi journalist Karwan Haji, working for Afro and Kanky-Lash newspapers, was brutally attacked by armed militia from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which leads the region.

More Details:

<http://www.ifj.org/nc/news-single-view/backpid/50/article/iraqi-kurdistan-journalist-beaten-by-regional-authorities/>

- **Obama government created ISIS terrorist group: Iraq's Maliki**

Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki says the government of US President Barack Obama is responsible for the rise and spread of the ISIS terrorist group in the Arab country. "ISIS is a creation of the outgoing US President Barack Obama's administration, which has caused bloodshed in Iraq, Syria and Yemen," said Maliki, who is the secretary-general of the Islamic Dawa political party.

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia//archive/2017/01/19/805893/story.html>

- **Iraq: Retreating ISIS leaves behind unfinished fighter jet in Mosul**

The Islamic State group — also known as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) — was seemingly building a fighter jet it intended to use against the Iraqi security forces capturing Mosul from the terrorist group. However, with the forces pushing them back, ISIS has left the unfinished aircraft in Mosul. The fighter jet seems to be one of the many ways in which ISIS was planning to mount an offensive against the US-backed Iraqi security forces. Recently, evidence has surfaced showing that the terrorist group was looking to develop chemical weapons with raw materials at the Mosul University.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/iraq-retreating-isis-leaves-behind-unfinished-fighter-jet-mosul-712914>

- **Militants Execute Civilians in Mosul; 101 Killed Across Iraq**

Lieutenant-General Abdul Ghani al-Assadi of the Counter Terrorism Service said that most Islamic State commanders have been killed in eastern Mosul. Fighting is still taking place in the eastern district of Arabi. Tal Keif, north of Mosul, was captured. The town was home to many Assyrian Christians and is also known as Tel Keppe.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/01/19/militants-execute-civilians-in-mosul-101-killed-across-iraq/>

2. SYRIA

- **Meeting on humanitarian crisis in Aleppo**

A high-level round table meeting on (innovative partnerships to discuss the humanitarian consequences in Aleppo) was held at the initiative of H E Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Muriakhi, the UN envoy for Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was organised by Qatar Charity.

More Details

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/20/01/2017/Meeting-on-humanitarian-crisis-in-Aleppo>

- **Al-Qaeda leader killed in American air strike in Syria**

Pentagon says Mohammad Habib Boussadoun al-Tunisi, an Al-Qaeda leader, was killed in an air strike near Idlib. An American air strike has killed an Al-Qaeda leader in northern Syria, the Pentagon said Thursday, according to the AFP news agency.

More Details

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/223573>

- **Qatar denies receiving invite to Astana talks on Syria**

Qatar said on Thursday it had not received an invite to talks on the Syria conflict to take place in the Kazakh capital Astana later this month, state media said. Earlier on Thursday a Qatari Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that Doha had been invited to the talks.

More Details

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170120-qatar-denies-receiving-invite-to-astana-talks-on-syria/>

- **Homs Province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights**

More than 30 at least of the regime forces and the “Islamic State” organization were killed in the eastern countryside of Homs

More Details

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=59409>

- **Syrian lawmaker Reisman says Aleppo is gradually recovering**

Syria’s Aleppo is gradually going back to normal life after liberation. Of course it was almost completely destroyed, there are problems in the terms of water supply and electricity, but the reconstruction projects of the city are ready, Zhirayr Reisman, lawmaker of the Syrian Parliament from Aleppo told Armenpress

More Details

<https://armenpress.am/eng/news/875308/syrian-lawmaker-reisman-says-aleppo-is-gradually-recovering.html>

- **Oil and Gas Sales to the Syrian Regime Are Now ISIS’s Largest Source of Funds, Report Says**

Revenues from oil and gas sold to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are now the largest source of funds for the Islamic State (ISIS), as the militant group faces mounting military pressure in both Iraq and Syria.

More Details

<http://fortune.com/2017/01/20/oil-gas-isis-syria-assad/>

- **Islamic State increases oil and gas sales to Assad, officials say**

Islamic State has ramped up sales of oil and gas to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, U.S. and European officials said, providing vital fuel to the government in return for desperately needed cash.

More Details

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/01/20/islamic-state-increases-oil-and-gas-sales-to-assad-officials-say.html>

- **Peace Prize to Syria: Obama the realist**

Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize may have confounded critics and created enormous expectations, but ultimately it had little influence on his refusal to get drawn into the bloodshed in Syria.

More Details

<http://news.iafrica.com/worldnews/1043444.html>

3. IRAN

- **Leader Urges All-Out Rescue Efforts after Tehran Building Collapse**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei expressed deep sorrow over the collapse of an old building in downtown Tehran in the wake of a massive fire, stressing that all efforts should be focused on rescuing those trapped under the debris.

More Details

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/01/20/1301999/leader-urges-all-out-rescue-efforts-after-tehran-building-collapse>

- **Redding Police Chief's sympathy over Plasco event**

California State Redding Fire Chief, Gerry Gray, has in a tweet message referred to the Thursday fire and collapse of Tehran's 17-storey Plasco high-rise as 'tragic' .

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82394149/>

- **Denmark arrests six over attack on Iran embassy in Copenhagen**

Danish police have arrested six people who had earlier scaled the walls of the Iranian Embassy in Copenhagen, in an attack that elicited a strong protest from Tehran.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/01/20/506945/Iran-Denmark-Copenhagen>

- **Bin Laden Worried Iran Might Plant Tracking Devices on Sons**

Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, during his years hiding in Pakistan, worried that Iranian officials might implant tracking devices on his sons, according to a document released on January 19.

More Details

<http://www.rferl.org/a/al-qaeda-osama-bin-laden-worried-iran-implant-tracking-devices-sons-wife/28244887.html>

- **Germany, France, Italy to take part in Iran's airport projects**

Iran's Airports Company (IAC) signed a multilateral memorandum of understanding with German companies for expansion of Iranian airports, while talks are underway with French and Italian firms for cooperation in Iran's airport projects.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2711404.html>

- **Chinese envoy urges eliminating external interferences in solving Iran nuclear issue**

A Chinese envoy to the United Nations said Wednesday that all parties concerned should reaffirm their political will and eliminate external interferences while dealing with Iran nuclear issue.

More Details

<http://english.cctv.com/2017/01/20/ARTIzFASLwQTpU1jgFhZgFDb170120.shtml>

- **Iran promises to 'surprise' Trump if he cancels nuclear deal**

U.S. president-elect Donald Trump will be "surprised" by Iran if he annuls the nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Thursday, according to the Trend news agency.

More Details

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/223577>

- **Thousands Honor Alberto Nisman, Prosecutor Who Took on Iran, Two Years Later**

Thousands gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday to commemorate the second anniversary of the killing of Alberto Nisman, a high-level prosecutor who was found lying in a pool of his own blood the night before he was to accuse former president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner of aiding Iranian terrorists.

More Details

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/01/19/alberto-nisman-mystery-two-years-later/>

- **17 floors business-center collapsed in Teheran after fire**

17 story business center collapsed in Teheran, Iran after a massive fire, reports the Trend news agency.

More Details

<http://www.kaztag.kz/en/news/detail.php?ID=518395>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Islamic organization indirectly condemns Trump plan to move Israel embassy**

Foreign ministers from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation didn't mention the US or Trump by name, but rejected any actions that could undermine the ability of Palestinians to claim part of Jerusalem in a future state.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4909916,00.html>

- **Erdan Calls to Probe Arab MKS after Policeman's Deat**

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan wrote to Attorney- General Avichai Mandelblit on Thursday, demanding he open a criminal investigation against Joint List MKs Ayman Odeh, Jamal Zahalka and Haneen Zoabi. Erdan said in the letter that the legislators' incitement sparked the violence in the Negev village of Umm al-Hiran on Wednesday that led to the death of police officer Erez Levi.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Erdan-calls-to-probe-Arab-MKS-after-policemans-death-479052>

- **Stun grenade thrown at Fatah official's home in Gaza amid PA-Hamas tensions**

Two explosive devices blew up in the Gaza Strip between Wednesday and Thursday, with one of them reportedly targeting a Fatah official in the besieged Palestinian enclave. Unknown assailants threw a stun grenade in front of the home of the Fatah party's secretary-general in eastern Gaza, Nayif Khweiter, in the al-Shujaaiya neighborhood of Gaza City late Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=775007>

- **Arabs in Israel observe a day of mourning and general strike**

The Arabs in Israel observed Thursday a day of mourning and a general strike to protest demolition of homes in the Arab village of Umm al-Hiran in the Naqab desert and police killing of Yacoub Abu al-Qeean during protests in the village on Wednesday, according to Arabs 48 website.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=z9nhrqa52140836352az9nhrq>

- **Don't give up two-state solution, Obama tells Trump**

In his final news conference, President Barack Obama advised his successor, Donald Trump, not to abandon the pursuit for a two-state solution in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

More Details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1309480/dont-give-up-two-state-solution-obama-tells-trump>

- **Canada continues tightrope walk on Middle East**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau insists that Canada favors a two-state solution and opposes Israeli settlements. He has restored funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency that helps Palestinian refugees, which the Stephen Harper government had cut. But he condemns the boycott and divestment policy that calls for economic pressure on Israel to push it to accept a just settlement.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/opinion/canada-continues-tightrope-walk-middle-east/>

- **Gaza residents lack food security due to Israeli practices**

There is no end in sight to the suffering of people in the besieged Gaza Strip who have been grappling with food insecurity due to Israel's years-long blockade. As Press TV's Gaza correspondent reports,

the situation is getting worse by the day as Gazans now can hardly afford to buy food. Ashraf Shannon reports from Gaza.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/01/19/506922/Gaza-residents-lack-food-security-Israel>

- **Cuban support for Palestine should mirror Castro's anti-colonial legacy**

Palestine continues to face an increasing contradiction which is becoming normalised in diplomatic arenas. During this year's first UN Security Council session debating the Middle East and the Palestinian Question, Cuban representative Humberto Rivero Rosario made an observation that has been lacking in official rhetoric, but one that was diluted by the adherence to the two-state compromise. Referring to statistics and noting the increase in Israeli demolition of Palestinian dwellings in 2016, Rivero declared: "These figures, alarming as they seem, do not show the real magnitude of this reality for Palestinian families and for future generations of Palestinians."

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170119-cuban-support-for-palestine-should-mirror-castros-anti-colonial-legacy/>

- **What Will Trump Do About Israel, Palestine? How Netanyahu is Preparing for New US President**

Foreign leaders and nations around the globe have been fretting over the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump. But not members of Israel's right wing. Israel's Jewish Home and Likud parties, each considered to the right of the political spectrum, were reportedly "eager" to see if Trump would provide support for the country looking to build more settlements on the lands heavily disputed and claimed by Palestinians, Reuters reported Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/what-will-trump-do-about-israel-palestine-how-netanyahu-preparing-new-us-president-2477837>

- **Israeli Army Abducts A Palestinian In Hebron**

Israeli soldiers abducted, earlier on Thursday morning, a young Palestinian man in Beit Ummar town, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and invaded Bani Neim town, east of the city, and searched homes. The Hebron office of the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) said the soldiers invaded the home of Montaser Wajeih Shehda, 26, in Beit Ummar town, and violently searched it, before abducting him...

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-army-abducts-a-palestinian-in-hebron/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan lawmaker accuses his nation's army of protecting Israel**

Jordanian MP Tariq Khuri accused the Jordanian armed forces of protecting Israel, causing outrage among other lawmakers that ended a parliamentary meeting on Tuesday, Al Jazeera reported yesterday. Khuri, well-known for his support of Syrian dictator President Bashar Al-Assad, also accused Jordan's allies of helping the ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi to attain the presidency in 2012 as they, according to him, supported him financially...

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170119-jordan-lawmaker-accuses-his-nations-army-of-protecting-israel/>

- **Jordan parliament endorses state budget for 2017**

(Jordan parliament on Thursday endorsed the government budget for 2017 despite unpopular government decisions to raise fuel prices and impose taxes to generate revenues.

More Details:

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/economics/2017/01/19/jordan-parliament-endorses-state-budget-for-2017_0db864c4-cc62-4011-ab80-b923bc94a7bd.html

- **Jordan Boosts Border Forces Amid IS Threat From Iraq, Syria**

Jordan is deploying more forces to face a growing threat to its borders, as Islamic State extremists in neighboring Iraq and Syria are being dislodged from some strongholds, the commander of the kingdom's border guards said Thursday.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/jordan-boosts-border-forces-amid-threat-iraq-syria-44880080>

- **Lebanon's president in Saudi Arabia**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun's visit to Saudi Arabia this week signals a desire to restore friendly relations between the two countries, writes Hassan Al-Qishawi

More Details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/19354/19/Lebanon%E2%80%99s-president-in-Saudi-Arabia-.aspx>

- **Hariri, UN officials launch Lebanon crisis response plan**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri together with UN Special Coordinator Sigrid Kaag and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Philippe Lazzarini on Thursday formally launched the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017 - 2020 at the Grand Serail.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/a54f5a8d-11bb-498c-afd5-e0bbf0c65e57.aspx>

- **Lebanese PM seeks \$10 billion foreign investment amid refugee crisis**

Lebanon's prime minister called on Thursday for "adequate and substantial" foreign investments worth nearly \$10 billion to address the Syrian refugee crisis and upgrade the country's crumbling infrastructure. At least 1 million people fleeing neighboring Syria's war have poured into Lebanon since the conflict began in 2011, making up a quarter of the small country's population and seriously straining its public services.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-lebanon-idUSKBN1532SF>

- **Hezbollah Claims IDF Breached Lebanon Border to Install Spy Gear**

The Shi'ite Lebanese terror group claimed that Israeli forces crossed the so-called Blue Line between the two countries, where they excavated dirt embankments constructed by the Lebanese army.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Report-Hezbollah-claims-IDF-installed-spyware-in-Lebanon-border-breach-478961>

- **The regime forces and Hezbollah advance in al-Bahariyah farms in the Eastern Ghouta**

Clashes continued between the rebel and Islamic Factions against the "Islamic State" organization in the eastern Qalamoun mountains, amid exchange of shelling between both parties, and information about casualties in their ranks, also clashes are taking place in the Eastern Ghouta between the regime forces and militiamen loyal to them and the Lebanese Hezbollah against the Islamic factions in the fronts of al-Bahariyah and Hazrma in al-Marj area, where two fighters of Jaysh al-Islam were killed and others were injured, while SOHR received information about the death and injury of members of the regime forces and militiamen loyal to them, where the last mentioned managed to achieve advancement in the area and control places of the farms of Al-Bahariyah town.

More Details:

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=59338>

- **Aoun: Parliamentary Vote to be Held on Time under Consensual Law**

President Michel Aoun announced Thursday that the upcoming parliamentary elections will be held “on time” and according to a law “that enjoys the consensus of the Lebanese.” Aoun also called for voting for “parties and not individuals” in the parliamentary polls...

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/224061-aoun-parliamentary-vote-to-be-held-on-time-under-consensual-law>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **A triple execution in Bahrain has provoked national outrage – and international silence**

In the middle of the night, on January 15 2017, three citizens of Bahrain were executed by firing squad. Abbas al-Samea, 27, Ali al-Singace, 21, and Sami Mushaima 42, had all been found guilty of planting a bomb which killed three policemen – but their convictions were widely seen as unsafe.

More details:

<http://theconversation.com/a-triple-execution-in-bahrain-has-provoked-national-outrage-and-international-silence-71367>

- **Qatar denies receiving invitation to attend Syria talks in Astana**

Qatar has denied receiving an invitation to participate in the Syrian crisis talks to be hosted by Astana, capital of Kazakhstan this month, an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

More details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/528740/Qatar-denies-receiving-invitation-to-attend-Syria->

- **Four Detainees Transferred From Guantanamo on the Last Full Day of Obama's Presidency**

On the final full day of the Obama administration, four detainees at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been transferred to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, leaving 41 detainees still at the facility that the Obama administration unsuccessfully sought to close.

More details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/detainees-transferred-guantanamo-full-day-obamas-presidency/story?id=44902000>

- **Lebanon's president in Saudi Arabia**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun's visit to Saudi Arabia this week signals a desire to restore friendly relations between the two countries.

More details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/19354/19/Lebanon%E2%80%99s-president-in-Saudi-Arabia-.aspx>

- **Sheikh Mohammed approves tripling the size of Dubai's International Humanitarian City**

Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has approved expanding warehouse facilities at the International Humanitarian City (IHC) in response to urgent demand from leading UN and NGO agencies, most notably the Red Crescent, UNHCR, ICRC and the World Food Programme.

More details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/sheikh-mohammed-approves-tripling-the-size-of-dubai-s-international-humanitarian-city-2017-01-20-1.646725>

- **Yemen on the brink**

After two years of bombing by the Saudi-led Arab Coalition of Houthi rebel forces in Yemen, the country stands on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe.

More details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/19355/19/Yemen-on-the-brink-.aspx>

- **Rocket fire kills 9 civilians in Yemen's Taiz**

Twin rockets fired from the rebel-held outskirts of Yemen's third city Taiz killed nine civilians late on Wednesday, a medic and a loyalist military source said.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1041426/middle-east>

- **Bahraini Police Attack Peaceful Rally near Manama**

Police in Bahrain clashed with protesters who took to the streets in the Bahraini village of Sanabis in response to a call by the Persian Gulf country's opposition groups for a rally days after execution of three young activists by the ruling Al Khalifa regime.

More details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/01/19/1301723/bahraini-police-attack-peaceful-rally-near-manama>

- **Qatar condemns military camp attack in Mali**

Qatar has strongly condemned and denounced the attack that targeted a military camp in the northern Mali city of Gao, killing and wounding dozens of people.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/20/01/2017/Qatar-condemns-military-camp-attack-in-Mali>

- **Saudi Arabia aims to be renewable leader: minister**

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of crude oil, plans to beef up its other energy-generation resources like renewables and nuclear and export that electricity to its neighbors, the kingdom's energy minister said Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/saudi-arabia-aims-to-be-renewable-leader-minister-2017-01-20>

7. EGYPT

- **President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reopens Egypt's Islamic museum damaged in bombing**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reopened the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo on Wednesday, three years after a car bombing partially destroyed the building.

More details:

<http://artdaily.com/news/93176/President-Abdel-Fattah-al-Sisi-reopens-Egypt-s-Islamic-museum-damaged-in-bombing#.WIG5dlOLTIU>

- **Diplomacy in action**

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri's latest round of foreign visits reflects Egypt's desire to coordinate international efforts to solve regional challenges.

More details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/19363/17/Diplomacy-in-action.aspx>

- **Egypt's PM says nominations for ministers to be submitted to parliament by end of Jan - MENA**

Egypt's Prime Minister Sherif Ismail said on Thursday that nominations for ministers in cabinet reshuffle will be submitted to parliament by end of January to be approved.

More details:

<http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/details/18344>

- **Egypt's economy grew at 3.4 pct in Q1 of FY 2016-17**

Egypt's economy grew at 3.4 percent during the first quarter of the 2016-17 fiscal year, state newspaper Al-Ahram said on Thursday, quoting the minister of planning.

More details:

http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFL5N1F9789?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2FAfrica+%2FEgypt+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Egypt to try 304 suspects for militant attacks**

Egypt's prosecution has referred 304 suspects including Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Turkey to military trial for allegedly organising militant groups that claimed several attacks in Cairo last year.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/81a0ecce-e497-47c0-a34d-90b6d2786f80.aspx>

- **Libyan military chief makes unannounced visit to Cairo**

Khalifa Haftar, the commander of forces loyal to Libya's Tobruk-based government, arrived in Cairo on Thursday on an unannounced visit, according to a source at Cairo International Airport.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/libyan-military-chief-makes-unannounced-visit-to-cairo/731041>

- **Egyptian prosecution blames Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas for establishing Hasam movement**

The Supreme State Security Prosecution held on Thursday the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group and the Palestinian Islamic Resistance movement Hamas accountable for establishing and training the recently-emerged movement calling itself “Hasam”.

More details:

<http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/details/18343>

- **Egypt PM says cabinet reshuffle likely to be approved by month-end**

Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail said on Thursday he expected parliament to approve nominations for ministers in a cabinet reshuffle by the end of the month, state news agency MENA reported.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-politics-idUSKBN1532JM>

- **Egypt extends detention of Al Jazeera's Mahmoud Hussein**

Al Jazeera denies charges against Mahmoud Hussein and calls for his release as detention is extended for second time.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/egypt-extends-detention-al-jazeera-mahmoud-hussein-170119084709620.html>

- **Nevine Kashmiri appointed United Bank of Egypt's assistant Managing Director of funding large enterprises, SMEs**

The board of United Bank of Egypt has appointed Nevine Kashmiri as the assistant to the managing director of the department for funding large, and small- and medium-sized enterprises

More details:

<http://africabusinesscommunities.com/news/nevine-kashmiri-appointed-united-bank-of-egypts-assistant-managing-director-of-funding-large-enterprises-smes.html>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **US stealth bombers kill more than 80 IS fighters in Libya**

More than 80 Islamic State jihadists were killed in a US aerial blitz on training camps in Libya, including fighters involved in plotting attacks in Europe, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Thursday. The Pentagon made the highly unusual decision to conduct the air strikes with a pair of B-2 stealth bombers that flew to North Africa on a 34-hour mission from their base in Missouri in America's Midwest.

More details:

<http://www.defencetalk.com/us-stealth-bombers-kill-more-than-80-is-fighters-in-libya-68859/>

- **Trump, Putin and Libya**

Today, Donald Trump will be sworn in as President of the US. Foreign policy will crystallise when the full Cabinet is approved by the US Congress. Will Russia now overtly support the LNA (Libyan National Army) and 74-year-old Khalifa Haftar, many years ago an admitted CIA asset? Could that put it at odds with the incoming Trump administration or will this be a welcome and calculated play from Trump's perspective?

More details:

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170120/opinion/Trump-Putin-and-Libya.636989>

- **Haftar forces battle extremists in Libya's Benghazi**

Forces loyal to Marshal Khalifa Haftar, who control large parts of eastern Libya, said on Thursday they were locked in fierce fighting with extremists in second city Benghazi. Fighting was raging in Shaabiyat Al Tira area of Qafunda district, on the western edges of the coastal city, said Mohamad Al Jali, a spokesman for Haftar's Libyan National Army

More details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/haftar-forces-battle-extremists-libya%E2%80%99s-benghazi>

- **Italy strengthens ties with Tunisia after Berlin attack**

Italy's foreign minister pledged on Thursday to strengthen cooperation with Tunisia to combat illegal migration and "terrorism", a month after a Tunisian failed asylum seeker allegedly killed 12 people in Berlin. Angelino Alfano, on a one-day visit to Tunis, met with his counterpart Khemaies Jhinaoui and President Beji Caid Essebsi and promised closer relations between the two Mediterranean nations

More details:

<http://www.thelocal.it/20170119/italy-will-reinforce-ties-with-tunisia-after-berlin-attack>

- **INLUCC handed over 120 cases of corruption to justice**

The National Anti-Corruption Authority (French: INLUCC) handed over 120 cases of corruption to justice, said Thursday its President Chawki Tabib, pointing out that some of these files involve three ministers and CEOs of public institutions. Speaking at a study day in TAP news agency headquarters, Tabib stressed that the names of those involved in corruption cases can not be disclosed because, the law ruling the work of the authority requires professional secrecy, he said.

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/8632756-inlucc-handed-over>

- **Morocco envoy calls for better bilateral trade ties**

Ambassador of Morocco Mohmed Karmoune visited FPCCI Head Office to felicitate the newly-elected president and office bearers of the federation. During the brief discourse, the ambassador emphasized the importance of better trade relations between the two countries in different areas. He said that the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries was essential to identify the trade potential between the two countries for the expansion of bilateral trade.

More details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/business/20-Jan-17/morocco-envoy-calls-for-better-bilateral-trade-ties>

- **German minister: 'Morocco and Tunisia face a real threat of terrorism'**

Development cooperation in Maghreb countries means creating apprenticeships, supporting communities and promoting agriculture, says Gerd Müller. Otherwise, the poorest risk being radicalised, says Gerd Müller. EurActiv's partner Der Tagesspiegel reports.

More details:

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/interview/german-minister-morocco-and-tunisia-face-a-real-threat-of-terrorism/>

- **Morocco, UK Discuss Means to Enhance Bilateral Cooperation on Security Issues**

Minister Delegate to the Interior minister, Cherki Drais, held talks here on Thursday with British Minister of State for Security at the Home Office Ben Wallace. Talks focused on various security issues as well as the means to strengthen bilateral cooperation particularly in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime.

More details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/01/206144/morocco-uk-discuss-means-enhance-bilateral-cooperation-security-issues/>

- **Next 20 years, an era of real development for energy**

Algeria is determined to make the next 20 years an era of real development for sustainable energy, said the minister of Energy Nouredine Boutarfa. “We have set ambitious and promising targets for renewable energy, and we are determined to make the newt 20years an era of real development for sustainable energy,” underlined Boutarfa in an interview to the Oxford Business Group published in its 2016 report on Algeria.

More details:

<http://en.aps.dz/economy/16268-next-20-years,-an-era-of-real-development-for-energy>

- **Citizen “at the heart” of security equation**

The General Director of National Police Major General Abdelghani Hamel said Thursday, in Algiers, that the citizen is “at the heart” of the security equation, recalling the privileged principles in terms of law and order. “As a first step, we started building bridges between the police and civil society. From there on, we started talking about a security partnership between the Police and the citizen and currently, in the third step, the citizen is at the heart of the security equation,” said Hamel on the occasion of the graduation of the first class of policemen of the Dar Al Beida Police Academy.

More Details:

<http://en.aps.dz/algeria/16261-citizen-%E2%80%9Cat-the-heart%E2%80%9D-of-security-equation>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Nawaz renews support for Afghan-led peace effort**

Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process as envisaged under the quadrilateral framework. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, currently on a visit to Davos on Thursday, reiterated the vow at a meeting with Swiss Confederation President Doris Leuthard on the sidelines of the 47th World Economic Forum.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/180528-Nawaz-renews-support-for-Afghan-led-peace-effort>

- **Trump hopes to see better US-Pakistan relations: Ambassador Jillani**

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States (US) Jalil Abbas Jillani has said that US President-elect Donald Trump hopes to see better US-Pakistan bilateral relations in future. In an interview, he said Trump expressed these views during a brief conversation with him at a dinner he hosted for foreign ambassadors.

More details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/01/20/trump-hopes-to-see-better-us-pakistan-relations-ambassador-jillani/>

- **Will Trump go after Pakistan's terrorists?**

His secretary of defence nominee, General James Mattis, says he expects Pakistan to take action against terrorists operating from its soil. 'Any pressure the US can bring on the Pakistani regime terror-wise would pay dividends for India,' says Group Captain Captain Murli Menon (retd).

More details:

<http://uswww.rediff.com/news/column/will-trump-go-after-pakistans-terrorists/20170120.htm>

- **Aggression can't suppress Kashmiris' struggle, says AJK president**

AJK President Sardar Masood Khan has said Indian forces' excesses and aggression cannot suppress the struggle of Kashmiri people for freedom and they will continue their movement till the liberation of their land from Indian occupation. The AJK president was speaking to Kashmiris living in Balochistan at a photo exhibition here on Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1309581/aggression-cant-suppress-kashmiris-struggle-says-ajk-president>

- **Final batch of Osama bin Laden documents show he saw US occupation of Iraq as positive for al-Qaeda**

The fourth and final set of documents on Osama bin Laden released by the Obama administration show attempts by the al-Qaeda leader to continue to control the terrorist organisation despite being confined to his hideout in Abbottabad in Pakistan.

More details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/final-batch-osama-bin-laden-documents-show-he-saw-us-occupation-iraq-positive-al-qaeda-1602104>

- **Efforts to consolidate budding peace process in Karachi would continue unabated: Qamar Bajwa**

Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has reiterated that the efforts to consolidate the budding peace process in Karachi would continue unabated. The Army Chief lauded the operations by Rangers with LEAs, which have restored normalcy in Karachi, significantly reducing terrorism, target killing and kidnapping for ransom.

More details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/Efforts-to-consolidate-budding-peace-process-in-Karachi-would-continue-unabated-Qamar-Bajwa-278053.html>

- **Afghan among 3 Gitmo inmates transferred to UAE**

On the eve of President Barack Obama's departure from the White House, the Pentagon on Thursday delivered four Guantánamo prisoners, including an Afghan citizen, to the Persian Gulf. Afghan national Wali Muhammed was sent to the United Arab Emirates along with Ravil Mingazov of Russia and Yassin Ismail Qasim of Yemen. Saudi Arabian Jabran al Qahtani was repatriated to the kingdom.

More details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/01/20/afghan-among-3-gitmo-inmates-transferred-uae>

- **Airstrike kills 4 IS militants in E. Afghan province**

A total of four militants loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group were killed after aircrafts pounded the armed outfit's positions in Achin district of the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan on Thursday, local media reported Friday. Quoting Nangarhar's provincial government spokesman Attaullah Khogiani, the local media reported two of those killed in the raid were Pakistanis and the remaining two others from Tajikistan.

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/20/c_135999993.htm

- **Ghani, Sami discuss ways to restore peace in Afghanistan**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday talked to chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-S) Maulana Samiul Haq by phone and discussed with him ways of restoring peace in Afghanistan. The telephonic conversation took place in the presence of Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Umar Zakhilwal who was at the Darul Uloom Haqqania, Akora Khattak, at the time.

More details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1309542/ghani-sami-discuss-ways-to-restore-peace-in-afghanistan>

- **NUG Urges Trump Govt to Put Pressure on Pakistan**

Afghanistan's National Unity Government (NUG) on Thursday asked the incoming U.S government to increase pressure on Pakistan in order to get them to stop backing insurgent groups that continue to wage war against Afghans. The spokesmen for President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday warned Pakistan that their current policy would have serious repercussions for Pakistan and Afghanistan, suggesting Islamabad should review its stance on terrorism.

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/nug-urges-trump-govt-put-pressure-pakistan>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **23 Daesh terrorists killed in airstrikes, shelling in northern Syria**

Twenty-three Daesh terrorists have been killed by Turkish airstrikes and shelling as part of the operation to liberate the northern Syrian town of al-Bab from terrorists, the military said on Friday. A total of 205 identified targets were shelled by the Turkish military, destroying shelters, defense positions, command centers, weapons and vehicles used by Daesh terrorists.

More Details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/01/20/23-daesh-terrorists-killed-in-airstrikes-shelling-in-northern-syria>

- **US not giving air cover for Turkey's fight with IS: Cavusoglu**

The US is reluctant to provide direct assistance to Turkey's operations inside Syria, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in an interview with The Washington Post. "They are using my air base, and they are not giving air cover," Cavusoglu said of the US, which launches much of its own air operations against the "Islamic State" (IS) terrorist group in Syria from Turkey's Incirlik base.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/world/2711476.html>

This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle*

Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.

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