



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Procces of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

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**21 JUNE 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Over 700 civilians flee Mosul's Old City**

More than 700 civilians fled the last IS-held district in western Mosul over the past 24 hours, an Iraqi military source said. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Cap. Jabbar Hassan said troops of the ninth armored division of the Iraqi army and Federal Police troops transferred the fleeing civilians, most of whom were women and children, to outside the Old City without naming it.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/700-civilians-flee-mosuls-old-city/>

- **ISIS Media Agency Cameraman Found Beheaded in Kirkuk**

The source said that a cameraman working for Amaq News Agency, ISIL's media wing, was found beheaded at a country road in al-Riyadh, southwest of Kirkuk province, Al Sumariya reported.

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=41541](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=41541)

- **Issues Abadi can't discuss with Khameni during visit to Iran**

As Iranian regime's influence is increasing in Iraq, stripping it of its sovereignty, there are several issues Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has to discuss with Khamenei's administration during his visit to Iran

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/13325/Issues-Abadi-can-t-discuss-with-Khameni-during-visit-to-Iran>

- **Baby pulled alive from wreckage of Mosul school after several days alone**

A one-year-old boy was rescued after reportedly spending days alone in the wreckage of a school in Mosul. Iraqi troops shared video of soldiers washing down the dirt-covered boy and pouring water into his mouth.

More Details

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2017/06/21/16/24/baby-pulled-alive-from-wreckage-of-mosul-school-after-several-days-alone>

- **Chemical Weapons Report in Mosul; 84 Killed in Iraq**

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi met with Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Tuesday. Khamenei warned Abadi not to weaken the Shi'ite militias that Iran is supporting, even though Sunnis are accusing some militiamen of murder, kidnappings, and other crimes. He also expressed his opposition to a Kurdish independence referendum.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/20/chemical-weapons-report-mosul-84-killed-iraq/>

- **Riyadh, Baghdad join forces to confront extremism, terrorism**

At the invitation of King Salman, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday. They held talks attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif and senior officials from both countries.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1118191/saudi-arabia>

- **Turkmen facing 'pressure' to allow Iraq's fragmentation**

The Iraqi Turkmen Front on Tuesday said it was facing "pressure" from certain circles inside Iraq to accept the planned fragmentation of the ethnically-diverse country. "Since 2003, Turkmen have warned of a systematic plan being hatched in [the northern city of] Kirkuk to end Turkmen resistance to Iraq's planned fragmentation and efface the Turkmen identity," the Front said in statement.

More Details

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkmen-facing-pressure-to-allow-iraq-s-fragmentation/845803>

- **Billboards in Iraq Are Warning People Not To Come To Australia By Boat**

Anti-people smuggling adverts paid for by the Australian government have appeared in Iraq's capital Baghdad, warning people they will be sent home if they try to come to Australia illegally by boat.

More Details

[https://www.buzzfeed.com/aliceworkman/boat-turnbacks?utm\\_term=.qyxq4A0xJ#.rv6ZwV6b5](https://www.buzzfeed.com/aliceworkman/boat-turnbacks?utm_term=.qyxq4A0xJ#.rv6ZwV6b5)

- **Christians with 'grave concern' about persecution fight deportations of Iraqi criminals in U.S.**

They are convicted murderers, rapists, burglars and drug traffickers whom the Trump administration is trying to kick out of the country — yet a massive backlash has formed, with activists saying if the

people are sent back home they face persecution and potentially death at the hands of a hostile populace and an uncaring government. The people in question are nearly 200 Iraqis who are either illegal immigrants or who came to the U.S. legally, then committed crimes that make them deportable.

More Details

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/20/iraqi-criminal-deportations-mean-persecution/>

- **Bees, hens and greenhouses help restore livelihoods in Iraq – UN agriculture agency**

Funded by Germany, a project supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will train Syrian refugees in the Erbil and Dohuk governorates in greenhouse vegetable cultivation, and assist Iraqi families with hens to produce eggs and meat along with training and tools for bee-keeping and food processing.

More Details

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57023#.WUoa0NSLSmU>

- **Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Thousands Fleeing Kept Waiting Near Front Line**

The Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Peshmerga forces are stopping thousands of civilians fleeing territory held by the Islamic State (also known as ISIS) for up to three months at checkpoints, including on the front lines, apparently based on general security concerns, and in many cases preventing their access to humanitarian assistance, Human Rights Watch said today.

More Details

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/21/kurdistan-region-iraq-thousands-fleeing-kept-waiting-near-front-line>

- **Iraqi Kurdistan Invites International Observers to Monitor Independence Vote**

The government of the Iraqi Kurdistan autonomous region invites all international organizations to monitor the upcoming independence referendum in order to ensure that the vote will be held in a legal and democratic manner, Kifah Mahmoud, the media adviser to the region's prime minister, told Sputnik Tuesday.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706211054820873-iraqi-kurdistan-observers-independence-vote/>

- **Iraq's army encircles IS in Mosul's Old City**

Iraq's army said it encircled Islamic State's stronghold in the Old City of Mosul yesterday after taking over an area to the north of the densely populated historic district. The army's 9th armoured division seized Al Shifaa district, which includes the city's main hospitals, alongside the western bank of the Tigris river, a military statement said.

More Details

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/554037/Iraq-s-army-encircles-IS-in-Mosul-s-Old-City>

- **DoD Official: Sole Focus in Iraq, Syria Remains on ISIS**

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis briefed Pentagon reporters on operations against ISIS and on recent coalition defensive shoot-downs of two armed unmanned aerial vehicles and a Syrian SU-22 fighter-bomber.

More Details

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1220818/dod-official-sole-focus-in-iraq-syria-remains-on-isis/>

- **Iraqi oil exports fall to 5-month-low**

Oil exports from Iraq in April fell by 25,000 barrels per day month-on-month, to a 5-month-low of 3.754 million barrels per day, according to the report of the Joint Organizations Data Initiative (JODI). This is while the country exported 3.779 million barrels of oil per day in March 2017.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/business/energy/2769011.html>

- **Iraqi forces advance on Mosul mosque where IS declared caliphate**

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces said they began a push on Wednesday toward the mosque of Mosul, where Islamic State declared a self-styled caliphate three years ago. The military said the forces had encircled the jihadist group's stronghold in the Old City of Mosul, where the mosque is located, on Tuesday.

More Details

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19C0NB?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19C0NB?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **After Islamic State is run out of Mosul, what then?**

Islamic State will almost certainly lose control of Raqqa. But that will not make the Middle East any less complicated.

More Details

[https://www.crikey.com.au/2017/06/21/once-islamic-state-loses-mosul-what-then-for-syria-and-the-middle-east/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+CrikeyDaily+%28Crikey+Daily%29](https://www.crikey.com.au/2017/06/21/once-islamic-state-loses-mosul-what-then-for-syria-and-the-middle-east/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CrikeyDaily+%28Crikey+Daily%29)

- **Mohammed Bin Rashid Charity supports Iraqi returnees in Mosul**

The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment, MBRHC, on Tuesday signed an agreement to secure cash assistance for over 1,240 returnee Iraqi families in Mosul. Through this agreement, the MBRHC dedicates some AED367,851 (US\$100,105) of funding to provide life-saving cash assistance to 207 families returning to Mosul

More Details

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302620095>

- **Who Controls The Oil As Kurdish Independence Looms?**

Kurdistan, the autonomous region of northern Iraq that is rich in oil resources and has proven an effective force against the spread of the Islamic State, has announced that it will hold an independence referendum on September 25 of this year, in order to determine whether the region will remain part of the Republic of Iraq or split off to form a new, independent state

More Details

[http://oilprice.com/Energy/Crude-Oil/Who-Controls-The-Oil-As-Kurdish-Independence-Looms.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+oilpricecom+%28Oil+Price.com+Daily+News+Update%29](http://oilprice.com/Energy/Crude-Oil/Who-Controls-The-Oil-As-Kurdish-Independence-Looms.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+oilpricecom+%28Oil+Price.com+Daily+News+Update%29)

- **Iraqi Prime Minister leaves Jeddah**

The Prime Minister of Republic of Iraq Dr. Haider Al-Abbadi and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah today. They were seen off at King Abdulaziz International Airport by Prince Abdullah bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor of Makkah Region, Minister of State and Cabinet's Member Dr. Musaed bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, and a number of officials

More Details

<http://sites.alriyadh.com/en/article/1160050/Iraqi-Prime-Minister-leaves-Jeddah>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Increasing number of US troops in southern Syria illegal**

“It is absolutely illegal as the move was not made in accordance with any decision, reached by the UN Security Council, nor was it made following a request by the legitimate authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic”, said Bogdanov in a press conference held Tuesday. He added that Syria is a sovereign state and a UN member state, affirming that its sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected according to the international law.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/126078/Increasing-number-of-US-troops-in-southern-Syria-illegal>

- **Solar solution brings water to besieged Syria town**

Solar panels on wheels make for a strange sight on the streets of Syria's besieged Douma, but the makeshift generator is helping local residents secure water. Douma lies outside the capital Damascus, in the rebel stronghold of Eastern Ghouta, and has been under a suffocating government siege since 2013.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170621-solar-solution-brings-water-besieged-syria-town>

- **Air strikes pound southwest Syrian city of Deraa**

Government air and artillery bombardments hit rebel-held areas of the Syrian city of Deraa, on the border with Jordan, on Tuesday after a two-day ceasefire expired, witnesses and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, APA reports quoting Reuters. The Syrian military could not be reached for comment on the renewed action, which took place as U.S. and Russian officials were holding held talks on creating a "de-escalation zone" in southwestern Syria that would include Deraa.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/air-strikes-pound-southwest-syrian-city-of-deraa.html>

- **EU to Allocate 3 Million Euros to Syrian Refugees in Armenia**

The allocation is part of the EU's fresh 275 million-euro aid package for millions of Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and other countries. The European Commission said the sum set aside for Syrian Armenians living in their ancestral homeland will support them “by enhancing access to

health and psychosocial services, improving housing conditions, increasing access to economic opportunities, and by facilitating the integration of schoolchildren and students.” A statement by the EU’s executive body gave no further details. Syria was home to an estimated 80,000 ethnic Armenians before the outbreak of the devastating civil war there five years ago. Only up to 10,000 of them reportedly remain in the war-ravaged country now.

More Details:

<http://asbarez.com/164454/eu-to-allocate-3-million-euros-to-syrian-refugees-in-armenia/>

- **Fighters from Syria’s Raqqa battle to oust Daesh from their hometown**

The 25-year-old is one of several members of a Kurdish-Arab alliance fighting Daesh who are originally from the northern city. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces began an operation to capture Raqqa last year, and finally entered the city earlier this month. It was the first time Hussein had been inside his hometown since he fled, following years under terrifying Daesh rule.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/fighters-syria%E2%80%99s-raqqa-battle-oust-daesh-their-hometown>

- **Pilot of Syrian jet downed by US over Raqqa found alive**

Captain Ali fahd was found alive and well by Syrian troops in the village of Shuwaihat in southern Raqqa on Monday. The pilot had landed close to the village after successfully parachuting from his Sukhoi Su-22 aircraft, which was shot down on Sunday. After the Syrian army announced that one of its planes had been shot down, the US claimed that it had targeted the plane "in collective self-defense of coalition-partnered forces" in Syria’s Tabqa.

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/pilot-of-syrian-jet-downed-by-us-over-raqqah-found-alive-837733.html>

- **Coalition forces shoot down Iran-made drone in Syria**

A US warplane shot down an Iran-made drone operated by pro-regime forces in southern Syria early Tuesday, officials said, the second such incident in less than two weeks. The US-led coalition said in a statement that an F-15E Strike Eagle jet destroyed the Shaheed-129 drone around 12:30 am local time northeast of the Al-Tanaf garrison, which is close to the Jordanian border.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/coalition-forces-shoot-down-iran-made-drone-in-syria/>

- **Iran's missile attack kills 65 IS terrorists in Syria**

At least 65 terrorists were killed in Iran's recent missile attack against the "Islamic State" (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) group's targets in eastern Syria, Press TV reported citing a statement by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The IRGC fired six medium-range ground-to-ground ballistic missiles into IS bases in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr on Sunday in retaliation for twin terrorist attacks in the Iranian capital Tehran.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/2768857.html>

- **Rebels face hard choices after evacuation to Idlib**

Thousands of rebel fighters from towns across Syria have left for opposition-held territory in the country's north in recent months after surrendering to the Syrian regime. The rebels board buses, alongside their families and other civilians wishing to leave, and are driven to Idlib province in the northwest. There, powerful Islamist factions dominate the scene, most prominent among them Ahrar a-Sham and the more stringent Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS), a rebel coalition that includes former al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat Fatah a-Sham.

More Details:

<http://syriadirect.org/news/rebels-face-hard-choices-after-evacuation-to-idlib/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Iranian President Calls Anti-Daesh Strike in Syria Correct, Timely Measure**

On Sunday, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired missiles at the bases of terrorists in Syria retaliating for the Tehran attacks. "Iran's approach regarding regional and global issues has not changed, but if a group wishes to harm Iran's glory, it will receive a crushing response. The Islamic Republic will continue its path with grandeur and dignity," Rouhani said as quoted by IRNA news agency. The president added that the strike was correct, timely and necessary.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706211054821558-iran-drone-strike-correct/>

- **Iranian Resistance Reveals Details of Tehran's Missile Posture**

On Tuesday, the Iranian opposition coalition the National Council of Resistance of Iran held a press conference at its Washington DC office to present new information about missile development and testing in the Islamic Republic of Iran. NCRI officials reported that Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had

ordered relevant institutions to accelerate missile activities in the aftermath of the nuclear agreement that went into effect in January of last year.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/nuclear/23046-iranian-resistance-reveals-details-of-tehran-s-missile-posture>

- **Iran, Russia Sanctions Bill Faces Procedural Problem in US House**

A bill aimed at imposing new sanctions on Iran and Russia has hit a roadblock in the US House of Representatives. A procedural problem in the lower chamber of the United States Congress could halt a quick vote for the legislation that passed the Senate nearly unanimously last week, US lawmakers said Tuesday. Last week, senators voted 98-2 to pass the Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act, to which anti-Russia sanctions were also attached.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/20/525988/AntIran-Russia-bill-hits-roadblock-in-US-House>

- **North Korea Helping Iran Grow its Ballistic Missile Program, Details Revealed in Report**

An Iranian opposition group has found 12 sites, not previously disclosed, where the Islamic government is developing ballistic missiles with the help of North Korean experts. The disclosure, one of many in a lengthy and detailed report released Tuesday by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), describes how Iran's missile program has accelerated since it signed an agreement on July 14, 2015, to limit its development of nuclear weapons. The report's material reflects intelligence gathered by the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran.

More Details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/06/20/north-korea-helping-iran-grow-its-ballistic-missile-program-details-revealed-in-report.html>

- **Iran Targets 6,500km of New Railroads in 5 Years**

Iran plans to construct 6,500 km of railroads by 2022, the head of International Transportation Office at Iranian Railways was quoted as saying in a media report. The figure also includes underdeveloped projects, while the construction of further 3,500 km of railroads after 2022 is currently under study, Hossein Ashouri was quoted in an Iran Daily report, which cited Trend News Agency.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS\\_326629.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_326629.html)

- **Iran's Khamenei says Tehran Opposes Referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan**

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has spoken out against a planned independence referendum in Iraq's Kurdistan Region set for September 25. Khamenei received an Iraqi delegation headed by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday in Tehran saying, "Iran as a neighbor of Iraq is against a referendum because it causes division of Iraq."

More Details:

<http://ekurd.net/khamenei-referendum-kurdistan-2017-06-21>

- **Iran's Top Leader Denounces US Military Presence in Iraq**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday the U.S. forces should not be present in Iraq under any excuses. Khamenei said the U.S. forces should not be allowed to enter Iraq "under the pretext of training (Iraqi forces) or other issues," quoted Tehran Times daily. The Iranian leader made the remarks during meeting with the visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. He urged Abadi not to trust the United States, adding that Washington and its allies are against the Iraqi unity and independence.

More Details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/21/content\\_41067662.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/21/content_41067662.htm)

- **Iran Slams 'Brazen Interventionist Plan' After Tillerson's Call for Regime Change**

Iran has accused the United States of interfering in its domestic affairs after calls by the US Secretary of State to support "elements" that would ensure a "peaceful transition" in the Islamic Republic. Tehran also officially delivered a note of protest to the UN. Speaking last Wednesday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rex Tillerson said Washington will support efforts of a regime change in Iran.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/393293-iran-tillerson-interventionist-plan/>

- **ISIS a New Challenge for Iran as 'caliphate' crumbles**

The Islamic Republic has strengthened the Shia nature of the state to the disquiet of Sunni minorities, notes Gareth Smyth. Iran claims to have rounded up the Islamic State (ISIS) group behind the June 7 attacks in Tehran that killed 17 people. Arrests just west of the capital and in Larestan, a mainly Sunni region in southern Iran, were followed by arrests in Hormozgan province also in the south.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=83610>

#### 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel behind Surge in Terrorist Acts: Iranian President**

Speaking at a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Tehran on Tuesday, Rouhani underlined that the increase of terrorist activities in the region is part of “a sinister plot” hatched by the Zionist regime of Israel. “Fighting against terrorism should not sideline and overshadow the issue of al-Quds and the threat of the Zionist regime (Israel) in the region,” the president noted.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/21/1442477/israel-behind-surge-in-terrorist-acts-iranian-president>

- **Forty percent cuts in Gaza’s electricity supply are set to worsen the humanitarian crisis**

Plans for a 40 percent reduction in electricity supply for the Gaza Strip were approved by the Israeli security cabinet, which is bound to worsen the existing humanitarian crisis in the besieged territory. As a result, Gazans will have their access to electricity reduced to only two to three hours per day. On Monday, Israel’s national electricity company released a statement that confirmed its gradual reduction in shipments “so that the electricity supply will match the financial commitment.” The electricity supply cuts were requested by the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority (PA) as a political tactic to put pressure on Hamas, which de-facto rules the Gaza Strip.

More Details:

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=kmuz2ta15932ygnt92p2sx>

- **Former minister to testify in Netanyahu's illicit gifts case**

Former Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik was summoned to testify in the police unit Lahav 433, in the criminal investigation against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on suspicion of receiving illicit favors and gifts from businessmen.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4978883,00.html>

- **Israeli Soldiers Abduct Two Palestinians From Jenin**

Israeli soldiers abducted, on Tuesday evening, two Palestinians from the northern West Bank governorate of Jenin; one of them was taken prisoner from his work in occupied Jerusalem, and the

second was heading to work, trying to cross Barta'a military roadblock. Media sources in Jenin said the soldiers abducted Khader Ahmad Waked, 24, from his work in Jerusalem, reportedly for not carrying a work and entry permit. Waken is from al-'Arqa village of, west of Jenin.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-soldiers-abduct-two-palestinians-from-jenin/>

- **Combating terrorism should never marginalize Quds issue**

At a joint meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Ebadi, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani congratulated victories of the Iraqi government, army and popular forces in their fight against terrorism adding "liberation of Mosul is a symbol of an end to terrorism and victory of Iran, Iraq, Syria and all countries in the region who are combating the scourge of terrorism".

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/126076/Combating-terrorism-should-never-marginalize-Quds-issue>

- **Israel starts work on new settlement amid US peace push**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the start of work on a new settlement in the occupied West Bank Tuesday, as US envoys prepared to discuss a new peace push. The Amichai settlement will be the first new government-sanctioned Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories in some 25 years.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/israel-starts-work-new-settlement-amid-us-peace-push>

- **Haley: Time to say 'enough is enough' to Hamas**

Nikki Haley, the United States Ambassador to the UN, on Tuesday urged the global body to take action against the Hamas terrorist organization as well as countries that support it. "A few weeks ago, UN officials discovered a tunnel underneath two schools run by the UN in Gaza. It was the exact type of tunnel that Hamas has used for years. These tunnels are what Hamas uses to smuggle in the materials they need to make rockets. Or to sneak into Israel to attack civilians or kidnap them in the dead of night," Haley told a UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/231343>

- **Israeli PM, U.S. official meet for reviving Israeli-Palestinian peace talks**

Israeli prime minister and a top U.S. national security aide met here on Tuesday as part of the U.S. effort to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jason Greenblatt, the U.S. aide, held a two-and-half-hour meeting, said a statement released by the prime minister's office, without elaborating on its content.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/21/c\\_136381674.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/21/c_136381674.htm)

- **Palestine: IFJ condemns blocking of websites and arrests of journalists**

Palestinian authorities ordered on 16 June the blocking of twelve web sites, including the sites of the Palestinian Information Center, the Shehab News Agency, the Voice of Fatah and others. All web sites concerned by the measure are critics of the Palestinian government. According to Ma'an News Agency, Palestinian authorities insisted that the web sites were not blocked because of their political affiliations but due to "a number of pending cases for reporting false information and being unethical."

More Details:

<http://www.ifj.org/nc/news-single-view/backpid/50/article/palestine-ifj-condemns-blocking-of-websites-and-arrests-of-journalists/>

- **Israel sees Abbas' silence on police attack as sign of surrender**

"When we see that the Palestinian Authority [PA] not only does not denounce the terror attack, but the Fatah movement of [Palestinian President Mahmoud] Abbas is a partner in backing the terrorists, I think it's clear we have no one to talk to and nothing to talk about. I hope it's now clearer than it was in the past," said Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan. He spoke during a condolence visit to the family of border police soldier Hadas Malka, who was murdered on June 16 in a terror attack in Jerusalem.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/israel-border-police-terrorism-attack-palestine-abbas-fatah.html>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Chinese FM to visit Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will pay an official visit to Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Jordan and Lebanon from June 20 to 23, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1052721.shtml>

- **Jordan Adopts “Green Growth” to Promote Economy**

Jordan has started the implementation of a series of measures to encourage green growth and create new job opportunities.

More details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/mohamed-al-daameh/business/jordan-adopts-green-growth-promote-economy>

- **Jordanian King holds talks with French President in Paris**

King Abdullah II of Jordan held talks in Paris on Monday with the French President, Emmanuel Macron, focusing on regional and international developments and means of cementing cooperation and partnership between the two countries.

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302619954>

- **Lebanon: Hold Soldiers Who Beat Protesters to Account**

Lebanese military personnel who beat and kicked protesters demonstrating against a third extension of parliament’s term on June 16, 2017, should be held to account, Human Rights Watch said today. The military should make the results of their investigation public.

More details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/21/lebanon-hold-soldiers-who-beat-protesters-account>

- **Lebanon's Salameh to Be New UN Libya Envoy**

The UN Security Council on Tuesday backed the appointment of Lebanese academic and former culture minister Ghassan Salameh to be the UN's new envoy in Libya. The appointment capped a four-month search for a new head of the UN political mission in Libya who will lead negotiations on opening up a UN-backed deal to form a unity government.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231744-lebanon-s-salameh-to-be-new-un-libya-envoy>

- **UN approves former Lebanese minister as new Libya envoy**

The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday approved the appointment of a former Lebanese culture minister as the new UN envoy to Libya, diplomats said, ending an unusually contentious four-month search.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/un-approves-former-lebanese-minister-new-libya-envoy-1905042053>

- **FPCCI trade delegation visits Lebanon**

A high profile delegation comprised of 28 business dignitaries from various sectors of Pakistan on the invitation of Prime Minister of Lebanon Mr. Saad Hariri visited Lebanon from May 13-18, 2017. The delegation was headed by Mr. IrfanSarwana, Vice President FPCCI.

More details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/business/20-Jun-17/fpcci-trade-delegation-visits-lebanon>

- **How to host 200,000 refugee students in your education system: an answer from Lebanon**

Today is World Refugee Day, and Lebanon, which hosts more refugees per capita than any country on earth, holds some important lessons. Lebanon almost doubled the size of its national public education system in five years in response to the ongoing refugee crisis, something no country has ever done before. The large increases in primary education seen particularly in African countries in the last decade and a half rarely accounted for more than a 50 percent increase in the total public school population as they were focused on the first six years of school; Lebanon has increased its overall public school population by almost 100 percent.

More details:

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/>

- **Aoun calls to speed up implementation of electricity plan**

President of the Republic, Michel Aoun, on Wednesday highlighted the obligation to implement the electricity plan in the nearest time possible, adding that if the issue was solved back in the mid-1990s, public debt would have dwindled. Aoun chaired today a Cabinet session at Baabda presidential palace, in presence of Prime Minister Saad Hariri, to look into a 67-item agenda, most notably the electricity file.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80628/Aoun-calls-to-speed-up-implementation-of-electricity-plan>

- **ATO tax fraud: Money 'laundered through Lebanon' following alleged extortion**

Some of the money allegedly raised by a \$130 million tax fraud scheme was laundered through Lebanon by a north shore builder before eventually finding its way to an eastern suburbs extortionist, new court documents reveal.

More details:

<http://www.theage.com.au/business/ato-tax-fraud-money-laundered-through-lebanon-following-alleged-extortion-20170620-gwup8n>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Egyptian, UAE leaders, eyeing Qatar, discuss terror funding, media role**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan discussed on Monday the fight against terrorism, especially its funding and those who provide it with media cover, an apparent criticism of Qatar.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1118091/middle-east>

- **Egyptian court voids previous rulings on island transfer to Saudis**

An Egyptian court on Tuesday ruled that previous judicial decisions in favor of transferring two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia were invalid, a judicial official and a lawyer said.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/egyptian-court-voids-previous-rulings-on-island-transfer-to-saudis/>

- **Sudan president meets Saudi monarch**

Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir met with King Salman on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia to discuss its rift with Qatar and to propose his efforts to end the Gulf crisis in support of the Kuwaiti mediation.

More Details:

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article62789>

- **Saudi Arabia, Iraq hail 'leap' in ties after Abadi visit**

Saudi Arabia and Iraq have made a "qualitative leap" in relations, they said Tuesday after a visit by Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi that followed years of strained ties.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/saudi-arabia-iraq-hail-leap%E2%80%99-ties-after-abadi-visit>

- **Army kills Saudi soldiers in Najran, Jizan**

A number of Saudi soldiers were killed on Tuesday when the army and popular forces targeted their gatherings in Najran and Jizan regions.

More Details:

<http://www.sabanews.net/en/news467430.htm>

- **Clashes in south Yemen kill six civilians**

Clashes between Yemeni security forces and gunmen in the southern city of Aden on Tuesday left six civilians dead, a security official said.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170620-clashes-south-yemen-kill-six-civilians>

- **Man killed while 'planting' bomb**

A Bahraini man who was found dead in a farm located in Al Hajar village in the Northern Governorate on Monday is believed to have died while planting a bomb.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=34696&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

- **Bahrain court gives death, jail sentences to two dissidents**

A court in Bahrain has handed down death sentence to an anti-regime activist and sentenced another to life in prison as the ruling Al Khalifah regime presses ahead with its heavy-handed clampdown on political dissidents and pro-democracy campaigners in the Persian Gulf kingdom.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/20/525943/Bahrain-court-defendants-death-sentence-life-imprisonment>

- **Qatar blames news agency hack on ‘neighbors’ who lead economic blockade**

The hacking of Qatari state news agency QNA last month was carried out by the same “neighboring countries,” which then used the resulting diplomatic fallout as a pretext to impose an economic and political blockade on Doha, the country’s Attorney General has said.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/393291-qatar-neighboring-states-hackers/>

- **Aid workers race to contain Yemen cholera outbreak, UN agencies report**

A “race” is under way to contain the cholera epidemic in Yemen where 20 out of 22 governorates are affected, United Nations agencies said today.

More Details:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57022#.WUop-2RjIU>

## 7. EGYPT

- **MP in Egypt Disciplined for ‘Insulting Parliament’ in Red Sea Island Agreement**

Parliament referred on Sunday member of parliament (MP) Ahmed Tantawi to the Disciplinary Committee for investigations on the accusations of insulting the parliament, reported state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram.

More details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/mp-egypt-disciplined-%E2%80%98insulting-parliament%E2%80%99-red-sea-island-agreement-988598>

- **Egypt: Cancel Alexandria Death Penalty**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi should cancel a death sentence confirmed by the country's highest appeals court on April 25, 2017, Human Rights Watch said today. The sentence followed a trial that violated the defendant's due process rights. If carried out, it would be the ninth execution related to an incident of political violence since the military removed the former president in 2013.

More details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/21/egypt-cancel-alexandria-death-penalty>

- **Egypt police kill 3 militants in gunfight**

Egyptian policemen on Tuesday shot and killed three wanted militants from the extremist Hassam group in a shootout in the coastal city of Alexandria, the interior ministry said.

More details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/egypt-police-kill-3-militants-gunfight>

- **Egypt kills 12 militants in Sinai air strike**

Egyptian jets bombed a gathering site of Sinai-based hardliner militants, killing 12 and destroying several four-wheel-drive vehicles, the military said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/e1e62266-1d6b-4912-8bcc-125838e00f87.aspx>

- **Egypt raises monthly food subsidies to 50 pounds per person from 21 –Sisi**

Egypt is more than doubling monthly food subsidies, to 50 pounds per person from 21 pounds now, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Tuesday.

More details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFC6N1GF02D?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2FAfrica+%2FEgypt+News%29&&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFC6N1GF02D?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2FAfrica+%2FEgypt+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **Affiliate of Muslim Group Claims Responsibility for Cairo Attack**

The Muslim Brotherhood-linked Hasm Movement claimed responsibility for a deadly terrorist attack targeting Egyptian security forces in Cairo on Sunday.

More details:

<http://www.newsmax.com/SteveEmerson/brotherhood-cairo-egypt-muslim/2017/06/20/id/797167/>

- **Egyptians struggling to get home from Qatar for Eid**

EgyptAir's office in Doha, Qatar, is working to facilitate the return of Egyptians using other carriers following the boycott of the Gulf state by Cairo, Al-Qabas newspaper reported yesterday.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170620-egyptians-struggling-to-get-home-from-qatar-for-eid/>

- **Russia to provide Egypt with MiG-29 fighter jets, Ka 52 helicopters soon**

Moscow will provide Cairo with dozens of MiG-29 fighter jets, Russia Today reported on Monday, adding that it obtained a tender to sell Ka 52 helicopters.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/moscow-provide-egypt-mig-29-fighter-jets-ka-52-helicopters-soon/>

- **Egypt ranks 4th among African countries in FDI during 2016**

Egypt has ranked fourth in a new UN report on the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) received by African countries during 2016, according to state-run news agency MENA.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/271282/-.aspx>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Zarif Confers With Tunisian Leaders**

In a meeting with his Tunisian counterpart, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif raised the idea of Tehran and Tunis holding regular political negotiations. On the final leg of his three-nation tour of North Africa, Zarif arrived in Tunis on Monday evening. After a meeting with Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi, he conferred with his Tunisian counterpart, Khemaies Jhinaoui, Tasnim News Agency reported. In the latter meeting, Zarif said Iran sees no limits to expansion of relations with the North African country in various fields.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/66878/zarif-confers-with-tunisian-leaders>

- **Yemeni, Algerian Foreign Ministers Discuss Developments**

Aden- Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel received on Monday a telephone call from his Yemeni counterpart Abdulmalik al-Mekhlafi. During the telephone conversation, the two parties discussed bilateral agreements and developments in Yemen and the region. They also discussed Algeria's stance on the crisis in Yemen that called for a solution through dialogue among Yemeni parties.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/yemeni-algerian-foreign-ministers-discuss-developments>

- **We Need Tunisia in the Fight against ISIS**

President Trump's proposed budget, which cuts financial aid to Tunisia, not only represents a stark departure from the president's plan to "demolish and destroy" the so-called Islamic State (ISIS), but could have dangerous consequences for Americans and our allies. Slashing military aid to a country on the front lines with ISIS is both misguided and dangerous.

More Details:

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/06/20/we-need-tunisia-in-fight-against-isis-pub-71311>

- **Morocco Detains Three as Rif Protests Move to Imzouren**

Police have arrested three more members of a protest movement in northern Morocco's neglected Rif region, prompting hundreds of demonstrators to rally demanding their release, activists said Tuesday. Three activists from Al-Hirak al-Shaabi, or "Popular Movement", were arrested Monday in the flashpoint northern port of Al-Hoceima, a member of the grassroots group told AFP.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170620-morocco-detains-three-rif-protests-move-imzouren>

- **Morocco Arrests More Activists: Lawyers**

Moroccan authorities have arrested more activists involved in the country's biggest political protests since the "Arab Spring," lawyers and rights groups said on Tuesday. For months, demonstrators have taken to the streets around the northern city of Al Hoceima to vent frustration over the economic, social and political problems of a kingdom that presents itself as a beacon of stability in a turbulent region.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/a06287fd-a176-4c4f-b93e-712029899dea.aspx>

- **Saadi Qaddafi and Baghdadi Mahmoudi Trials Again Postponed**

The trials of Saadi Qaddafi and Al-Baghdadi Al-Mahmoudi were again adjourned today when they reopened at the Tripoli Appeals Court. A new date has been set for both, 11 July. In the case of Mahmoudi, the reason for the adjournment because his lawyer did not show up. The court also wants more statements from witnesses. Already condemned to death two years ago for war crimes along with Saif Al-Islam, Abdullah Senussi, Abuzeid Dorda, and five other former regime leading figures, Mahmoudi is now facing charges of acts against the 17 February revolution and people's freedom.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/06/20/saadi-qaddafi-and-baghdadi-mahmoudi-trials-again-postponed/>

- **GNC Members of South Libya form Political Bloc**

Former members at the General National Congress (GNC) representing southern Libya formed a political bloc and named it Southern Political Bloc. The coordinator of the new bloc, Naji Mukhtar said the political body aims at improving the living conditions of the southern region. Mukhtar added that what made them form this new bloc is the weak performance of the High Council of State, which they are part of, as it wasn't given clear authorities.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/gnc-members-south-libya-form-political-bloc>

- **Qatar Crisis Spills into Libya**

The Qatar crisis is reverberating in Libya, inflaming political divisions in the war-torn oil exporter and dragging commodity-trading giant Glencore Plc into a dispute over crude sales. The row involves competing administrations of the National Oil that are vying to control crude exports from the Opec member. In eastern Libya, the local military commander is backed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, three of the countries attempting to isolate Qatar.

More Details:

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/qatar-crisis-spills-into-libya-117062100061\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/qatar-crisis-spills-into-libya-117062100061_1.html)

- **Algeria Welcomes African Migrants and Offers Job Opportunities**

Algeria's Interior and Local Assemblies Minister, Nouredine Bedoui, announced on Monday that his government welcomes African migrants and has no objection if they work in the country, Anadolu has reported.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170620-algeria-welcomes-african-migrants-and-offers-job-opportunities/>

- **Sudan Flies Islamic State Fighters' Kids From Libya to Khartoum**

Sudanese authorities on Tuesday brought home from Libya eight children, including a 1-year-old, whose parents are allegedly members of the Islamic State group. The children were flown into Khartoum from the Libyan capital Tripoli, an AFP correspondent said. "Thanks be to Allah, today eight children," were brought back from Libya, Brigadier Tijani Ibrahim of Sudan's powerful National Intelligence and Security Service (NSS) told reporters.

More Details:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/06/21/world/social-issues-world/sudan-flies-islamic-state-fighters-kids-libya-khartoum/#.WUoqDidSDIU>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Taliban Failed Attack on ANSF Checkpoint in Jalalabad**

Taliban attack on Afghan National Security Forces checkpoint thwarted in eastern Nangarhar province. According to reports, nightfall dozens armed oppositions stormed on a security checkpoint in Jalalabad-Torkham highway, but their attack push back by Afghan security troops. Ataullah Khogyani spokesperson of Nangarhar governor told BNA correspondent, casualties didn't incur to Afghan security personnel following the attack.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/28972-taliban-failed-attack-on-ansf-checkpoint-in-jalalabad.html>

- **US mulling expansion of airstrikes against Pakistan-based militants**

The President Donald Trump's administration is mulling to expand airstrikes against the militant groups based in Pakistan as part its approach to harden stance against the country, it has been reported.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/us-mulling-expansion-of-airstrikes-against-pakistan-based-militants-02992>

- **China's Afghanistan-Pakistan mediation: Mission impossible**

China has offered to mediate between Afghanistan and Pakistan to defuse spiraling tensions between the two countries. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is scheduled to visit Kabul and Islamabad soon, where he will discuss ways to improve Afghanistan-Pakistan relations.

More Details:

<http://www.atimes.com/chinas-afghanistan-pakistan-mediation-mission-impossible/>

- **Afghan forces kill over 3,000 militants in last three months: MoD**

As many as 3,000 insurgents have been killed and more than 3,000 more injured since the beginning of fighting season in the ongoing solar year, the Afghan Defense Ministry said other day. In April, Afghan officials said they have launched a large scale military operation under the name of Khalid against insurgents in more than 10 provinces.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/14256-afghan-forces-kill-over-3-000-militants-in-last-three-months-mod.html>

- **Roadside Bombing Kills Six Policemen in Southern Afghanistan**

The policemen, reportedly from the Helmand highway battalion, have been killed in the Popalzai area of the province on Tuesday, the TOLO media portal reported.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201706211054824360-roadside-bombing-southern-afghanistan/>

- **Afghan Forces Recapture Tora Bora Hideout From IS**

Afghan security forces have recaptured Tora Bora, a former fortress of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, from Islamic State (IS) militants, officials confirmed.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-forces-recapture-tora-bora-al-qaeda-bin-laden-hideout-from-islamic-state/28570092.html>

- **Pakistan navy ship visits Muscat**

Pakistan Navy Ship Saif (PNS Saif) docked at the Port Sultan Qaboos recently while on anti-piracy deployment operation attached to the Combined Task Force 151, a counter-piracy naval force operation in the Indian Ocean.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Pakistan-Navy-ship-visits-Muscat-51pi>

- **5 killed, 11 injured as passenger coach collides with truck**

Five people were reportedly killed and 11 injured when a passenger coach collided with a truck on Gujar Garhi Ring Road Wednesday morning.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/06/21/5-killed-11-injured-as-passenger-coach-collides-with-truck/>

- **China May Establish Naval Base in Pakistan**

A recent report released by the Pentagon indicates that China is likely seeking to establish a military base in Pakistan, a country with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship. Wajahat Khan at NBC News report:

More Details:

[http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2017/06/china-may-soon-establish-naval-base-pakistan/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+chinadigitaltimes%2FbKzO+%28China+Digital+Times+%28CDT%29%29](http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2017/06/china-may-soon-establish-naval-base-pakistan/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+chinadigitaltimes%2FbKzO+%28China+Digital+Times+%28CDT%29%29)

- **Trump likely to toughen stance on Pak**

President Donald Trump's administration appears ready to harden its approach towards Pakistan to crack down on militants launching attacks in neighbouring Afghanistan, US officials tell Reuters.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/54b8989a-92db-48a9-b6f0-5c1fcbba083a.aspx>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey tops UNHCR's refugee hosting list**

Turkey tops the list of refugee hosting countries in the world, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Tuesday. Of the 65 million refugees in the world Turkey hosts 2.9 million, mostly from Syria and Iraq, statistics for 2016 state. The UNHCR puts the numbers of refugees from Iraq in Turkey at 30,400.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/191011/borsa-istanbul-flat-at-open>

- **Turkey criticizes measures taken against Qatar**

Ankara Wednesday has once again criticized the measures taken against Qatar by the several Arab and Gulf countries saying the sanctions did not help solve the crisis. "The measures taken against Qatar are indeed disproportionate and do not contribute to the resolution of the crisis," Ibrahim Kalin, a top aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, wrote in a column for Turkey's Daily Sabah newspaper, "The Qatar crisis, Turks and Arabs".

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-criticizes-measures-taken-against-qatar/846261>

*\*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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