



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

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## 1. IRAQ,

- **Russia and US Strongly Oppose the Partition of Iraq, Syria and Libya**

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia and the United States strongly oppose dividing Iraq, Syria and Libya. Lavrov said at a news conference in Zurich after a meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry, according to the Russian Sputnik news agency: "We talked about the situation in Iraq and Libya and our general conclusion on the various conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa is that Russia and the United States strongly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states in the region. "

More Details:

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

- **Iraqi volunteer forces dismantle 5 booby-trapped vehicles north of Tikrit**

A source within al-Hashed al-Sha'bi militia said on Thursday, that the security forces dismantled five vehicles belonging to ISIS north of Tikrit. The source said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "A force from Ali al-Akbar Brigades had managed, this evening, to dismantle 4 vehicles and an armored vehicle belonging to ISIS in the area of al-Fatha (80 km north of Tikrit)," pointing out that, "The dismantlement did not leave any casualties among the elements of the brigades."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-volunteer-forces-dismantle-5-booby-trapped-vehicles-north-tikrit/>

- **Presidents Meets Hakim**

President Fuad Masum discussed with the head of the Iraqi Islamic Supreme Council Ammar al-Hakim developments in the political and security situation and regional developments and the financial and economic situation. The two sides, during the meeting, which took place in Masum's office, according to a presidential statement, praised "liberating Anbar province and other victories achieved by armed forces against terrorism, and it has also been emphasizing the importance of strengthening the constrictive cooperation between the armed forces, the popular defense forces, Peshmerga and volunteers in all areas and continue to work together until the liberation of Mosul and all other regions.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?5YknjCEom20kUjgl6SHrtA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?5YknjCEom20kUjgl6SHrtA%253d%253d)

- **Security forces destruct ISIS tunnel east of Ramadi**

A security source in Anbar province said on Thursday, that the security forces had managed to destruct an ISIS tunnel that links between al-Madiq and Husaiybah east of Ramadi. The source reported for IraqiNews.com, "The security forces were able to find a tunnel for ISIS that extends from the area of al-Madiq to the area of al-Husaiybah east of Ramadi," noting that, "The force found explosive materials and devices in the tunnel, in addition to dead bodies belonging to the ISIS elements."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/security-forces-destruct-isis-tunnel-east-ramadi/>

- **America Calls for Anti- Daash Coalition Countries to Meet In Brussels**

The US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter said his country called for a meeting of defense ministers of 26 countries participating in the coalition of anti-Daash in addition to Iraq to hold a meeting in Brussels in three weeks. Carter said at a news conference in Paris after talks with key members of the coalition: "Each country must come and be ready to increase its contribution to the discussion in the fighting."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?p1u9WDFMsrNW%252fTByVwzz%252fg%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?p1u9WDFMsrNW%252fTByVwzz%252fg%253d%253d)

- **Iraqi security forces kill 13 ISIS elements in eastern Ramadi**

The commander of the federal police, Raed Shaker Jawdat, announced on Thursday killing 13 ISIS elements during a raid operation that was carried out in eastern Ramadi. Jawdat said in a statement received by IraqiNews.com, "A force from the federal police had managed to attack a number of ISIS shelters in the area of Husaibyah (7 km east of Ramadi), resulting in the death of 13 elements of the organization."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/147327/>

- **Satellite pictures suggest oldest Christian monastery in Iraq razed to ground**

A 1,400 year-old Christian monastery -- the oldest in Iraq - was "razed to the ground" just months after ISIS took over the Iraqi city of Mosul, satellite pictures show. The Saint Elijah monastery -- also known as Dair Mar Elia -- was located on the outskirts of Mosul. Despite its age, it's unlikely the monastery collapsed naturally, according to experts at AllSource Analysis, an imagery intelligence company which studied the photos.

More Details:

<http://english.shafaaq.com/politics/17308-satellite-pictures-suggest-oldest-christian-monastery-in-iraq-razed-to-ground.html>

- **5 ISIS leaders killed in coalition strike in central Mosul**

A local source in Nineveh province said on Thursday, that five ISIS leaders had been killed in an aerial bombing by the international coalition in central Mosul. The source said in a statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, "This evening, warplanes of the international coalition bombed a group of ISIS leaders on Huriya Bridge in central Mosul, resulting in the death of five leaders of the organization, including two elements of foreign nationalities."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/5-isis-leaders-killed-coalition-strike-central-mosul/>

- **U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State grow more lethal in Iraq**

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said that defense ministers from France and five other nations have agreed to intensify the campaign against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. (Jan. 20) AP having trouble replacing quality with quality." Defections appear to be increasing, and the group's ability to mount offensives has waned, MacFarland said. "We take that as a positive indicator that we're starting to hit them where it hurts."

More Details:

<http://english.shafaaq.com/politics/17309-u-s-airstrikes-against-islamic-state-grow-more-lethal-in-iraq.html>

- **8 ISIS elements killed, 3 bulldozers destroyed in western Samerra**

A security source in Salahuddin Province announced, that eight elements of the ISIS organization were killed and three bulldozers belonging to the organization had been destroyed in an aerial bombardment in western Samerra. The source said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "The Army Aviation shelled ISIS headquarters in al-Layn area in western Samerra, killing eight elements of the ISIS organization and destroying three booby-trapped bulldozers belonging to the organization."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/8-isis-elements-killed-3-booby-trapped-bulldozers-destroyed-in-western-samerra/>

- **US Approves \$1.95Bln Sale of Weapons, Munitions for F-16 Jets to Iraq**

The US Department of State has approved a potential \$1.95 billion sale of additional weapons, munitions and equipment for Iraq's fleet of F-16 fighter jets, the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a press release. The requested order includes 24 air-to-air AIM-9M Sidewinder missiles, 150 air-to-ground tactical Maverick missiles and more than 16,000 warheads, among other equipment, according to the release. Iraq purchased earlier 36 F-16 fighter jets from the United States.

More Details:

[http://english.shafaag.com/politics/17310-us-approves-\\$1-95bln-sale-of-weapons,-munitions-for-f-16-jets-to-iraq.html](http://english.shafaag.com/politics/17310-us-approves-$1-95bln-sale-of-weapons,-munitions-for-f-16-jets-to-iraq.html)

- **ISIS cuts fighters' salaries to \$200**

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights released a document disseminated by ISIS in al-Raqqa, Syria confirming that ISIS will reduce its fighters' salaries in Syria and Iraq by half – from \$400 to \$200 USD. ISIS suffered financial distress due to shelling of the coalition forces, in addition to Russian Air Force attacks directed against oil resources controlled by the organization. According to a statement obtained by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights ISIS stated, "Because of the exceptional circumstances that ISIS is passing through, a decision was taken to cut the salaries of the fighters in half."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/document-isis-reduces-its-fighters-salaries-from-400-to-200-in-syria-and-iraq/>

- **Daesh Barbarians Destroy 1,400-Year-Old Christian Monastery in Iraq**

historic St. Elijah monastery, situated on a hill near Mosul and dating from the 6th century, was razed by Daesh in late 2014, following the occupation of the area by the terrorist organization, Associated Press reported on Wednesday. Satellite images released by AP show that the ancient monastery has been completely demolished. Over 100 historic sites are thought to have been destroyed by Daesh extremists. Christians in Iraq and Syria have been systematically persecuted, their properties expropriated and lives put under constant threat as a result of the violent extremist group. Some Christians have been executed for their faith.

More Details:

<http://english.shafaag.com/politics/17311-daesh-barbarians-destroy-1,400-year-old-christian-monastery-in-iraq.html>

- **Iraq doubts Iranian link with missing Americans**

Iraqi Prime Minister Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said on Thursday that three Americans who disappeared in Iraq last week “just went missing,” and he very much doubted any Iranian involvement. Asked by a pool reporter at the start of a meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Davos if he thought there was an Iranian link to their disappearance, Abadi said: “I don’t know about that. I doubt it very much. We don’t know if they have been kidnapped ... They just went missing.”

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/middle-east/news/868716>

- **ISIS extremists abduct two Yezidis north Iraq**

Militants of the Islamic State (ISIS) abducted on Thursday two Yezidi men from Shingal (Sinjar) district in northern Iraq, local sources reported. “ISIS terrorists kidnapped two men in the Sakiniya village in Shingal on Thursday evening. The abductees are believe to have been taken to the ISIS-held Baaj area near Mosul,” a Yezidi activist told ARA News, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2016/01/isis-extremists-abduct-two-yezidis-north-iraq/>

- **Iraq seeks to link oil firms’ fees to crude price**

Iraq is in talks with foreign oil companies to link the fees they receive for developing its fields to oil prices and have them share the burden when markets go down, Iraqi Oil Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi told Reuters on Thursday. Current service agreements with oil companies are straining Iraq's budget as the government pays the firms a fixed fee for increasing production at ageing fields, when its own revenue is dropping with falling oil prices.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN\\_299246.html?](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_299246.html?)

- **PM launches clampdown on Iraq War legal claims**

DAVID Cameron has ordered ministers to take action to clamp down on lawyers pursuing claims against veterans of the Iraq War. Ministers on the National Security Council have been tasked with drawing up options to end “spurious” claims, including measures to curb the use of “no win, no fee” arrangements.

More Details:

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/pm-launches-clampdown-on-iraq-war-legal-claims-1-7690005?>

- **Franklin Graham says radical Islamists are causing the 'demise' of Iraq**

Reverend Franklin Graham believes that the Islamic State (ISIS) would be the downfall of Iraq. If the ISIS jihadists are not neutralised, Graham worries that the same atrocities they are implementing in the country would expand to other nations.

More Details:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/franklin.graham.says.radical.islamists.are.causing.the.demise.of.iraq/77270.htm?>

- **Iraq to sell local bonds to public for first time since 2003**

Iraq plans to sell local bonds to the public for the first time since 2003, with a 5 trillion dinar (\$4.24 billion) issue expected this year, the finance minister said on Thursday, as the country seeks to cover a widening budget deficit. The three-year bonds will carry an interest rate of 10 per cent and will be sold to "citizens and employees", Hoshiyar Zebari told a news conference in Baghdad.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/BANK\\_299230.html?](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/BANK_299230.html?)

## 2. SYRIA

- **Russia's Success in Syria Ruining Obama's Plan to Oust Assad**

Now, Washington lacks clear reasons to demand Syrian leader Bashar Assad's resignation, The Washington Post reported. "But after 3½ months of relentless airstrikes [...], they have proved sufficient to push beyond doubt any likelihood that Assad will be removed from power by the nearly five-year-old revolt against his rule," the article read.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941101000891>

- **Endgame? Syrian Army Flushes Terrorists Out of Homs, Cuts Supply Routes**

The Syrian Army and popular forces have regained more Daesh-controlled territories across the country's central Homs province effectively cutting off the terrorists' supply routes, Iran's Fars news agency reported on Thursday. On Wednesday, the Syrian Air Force pounded Daesh and al-Nusra

gathering centers across the Central province and Homs killing many terrorists and causing considerable damage to their lines of supply.

More details:

<http://sputniknews.com/middleeast/20160122/1033529948/syria-army-advance.html?>

- **Kerry, Lavrov meet to end impasse over Syria talks**

Secretary of State John Kerry held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Wednesday in hopes of resolving differences over Syria peace talks that threaten to derail the process. Negotiations between the government of President Bashar al-Assad and members of the Syrian opposition are scheduled to start next week, the first step in a U.N.-backed 18-month timeline for political change in Syria. But divisions over who will represent the Syrian opposition may force the U.N. to postpone the talks.

More details:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/20/politics/john-kerry-sergey-lavrov-syria-talks/index.html?>

- **Exclusive: U.S. Admits to Bombing 29 Civilians in ISIS War**

Up until last week, the U.S. military had only admitted to killing six innocents in two incidents. Now, there are 14 more cases of civilian casualties. The U.S. military will announce it killed or wounded civilians on at least 14 occasions in Iraq and Syria, The Daily Beast has learned. That's a seven-fold increase in the number of cases of civilian casualties it has acknowledged since the airstrike campaign against the self-proclaimed Islamic State began 17 months ago.

More details:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/01/21/exclusive-u-s-admits-to-bombing-29-civilians-in-isis-war.html?>

- **Syria peace talks scheduled to start next week**

The United States and Russia say talks aimed at ending the conflict in Syria should begin before the end of the month. But disagreement continues over which Syrian rebel groups should attend. Meeting in Zurich on Wednesday U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov said Syrian peace talks between the government and opposition groups should begin as scheduled next week.

More details:

<http://english.cntv.cn/2016/01/21/VIDE879CuiD3o2Dk1RIJc0zs160121.shtml?>

- **A new era in Syria and Syrian Turkmens**

A new era is starting in Syria with the meetings in Geneva and Vienna in 2016. Every actor in Syria is reviewing its position and renewing its strategies for these talks. One of the most important actors in Syria is the Turkmen community, which is one of the historical groups in the region. As one of the oldest communities in Syria, Turkmens have maintained their lives in the region since the seventh century. The Turkmens are spread throughout a wide area in Syria in the regions of Aleppo, Latakia-Idlib (Bayırbucak), Homs, Hama, Tartus, Raqqa, Dera, Damascus and Golan. Today, Syrian Turkmens have been fighting on every front to protect their territories and identity.

More details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2016/01/22/a-new-era-in-syria-and-syrian-turkmens?>

- **Russian warships make Soviet-era display of might off coast of Syria**

Russian has paraded its naval might in the Mediterranean, inviting reporters aboard a destroyer cruising off Syria's coast in scenes reminiscent of the Soviet era. The military demonstrated its global presence on Thursday by bringing Moscow-based journalists aboard the Vice Admiral Kulakov destroyer, which sailed alongside the flagship of the Russian naval group, the Varyag missile cruiser.

More details:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/22/russian-warships-make-soviet-era-display-of-might-off-coast-of-syria?>

- **Syria talks face short delay, Kerry says**

Next week's planned start of Syria peace talks may be delayed by "a day or two" for logistical reasons, but the process will begin roughly on time, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday. Kerry said any delay in the United Nations-led negotiations would be from the need to send invitations to participants. Kerry met earlier with the U.N. special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, who is to convene the talks between the Syrian government and the opposition on Monday in Geneva.

More details:

<http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2016/jan/22/syria-talks-face-short-delay-kerry-says/?>

### 3. IRAN

- **S Korea after \$2 billion insurance deal with Iran**

The government of the South Korea announced readiness to sign a \$2-billion insurance deal with Islamic Republic of Iran.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113767/S-Korea-after-2-billion-insurance-deal-with-Iran>

- **Govt. officials gathering ahead of election**

Iranian governors and provincial officers have gathered in Interior Ministry ahead of next month Parliament and Assembly of Experts elections. President Rouhani addressed the meeting.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/photo/113763/Govt-officials-gathering-ahead-of-election>

- **JCPOA to pave way for closer Tehran-Baku ties: Rouhani**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the lifting of anti-Iran sanctions as part of the nuclear agreement with world powers will pave the way for the promotion of Tehran-Baku relations. Rouhani made the comments during a Thursday phone conversation with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev, who for his part congratulated Tehran on the implementation of the nuclear deal, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

More details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/01/21/446768/Iran-Azerbaijan-Rouhani-Ilham-Aliyev--JCPOA/>

- **Iran-IAEA cooperation should not be marred by politics: Russia**

Russia has expressed hope that the Islamic Republic's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will not be affected by politics as a nuclear agreement between the Islamic Republic and six world powers is being implemented.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/01/21/446767/Russia-Iran-IAEA-Maria-Zakharova/>

- **Japan lifts nuclear sanctions on Iran**

Japan on Friday lifted sanctions on Iran, falling in line with major world powers after the United Nations atomic energy agency confirmed last weekend that Tehran had fully taken steps to curb its peaceful nuclear program.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81930603/>

- **US makes new limits on visa waiver program**

The US President Barack Obama administration announced on Thursday that it has begun to implement restrictions to the visa waiver program Congress passed as part of the budget deal last month. The restrictions prevent nationals of 38 countries who have either traveled to Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since March 1, 2011, or those who hold citizenship from those countries, from coming to the United States under the program. The visa waiver program offers expedited electronic processing and short-term visa-free travel to tourists and business travelers.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81930568/>

- **Rouhani criticizes extensive disapprovals of reformist MP candidates**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has criticized the conservative-dominated vetting body of the Guardian Council for failing to qualify a large number of reformist candidates to run for the upcoming parliamentary election, to be held on Feb. 26. He questioned the legitimacy of the upcoming election in which a political group that is backed by a large number of people will not be allowed to participate. "The Islamic Consultative Assembly [Iranian parliament] is the house of the nation, not a house for one political group," Rouhani said.

More details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2483732.html>

- **-IRGC Commander: Iran Will Not Allow Disintegration of Iraq, Syria**

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari voiced Iran's strong opposition to the enemies' scenarios to disintegrate Iraq and Syria, and vowed to stand against them.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941101000329>

- **Iran, Britain Discuss Latest Regional Developments**

Iranian and British officials in a meeting in Tehran conferred on the latest developments in the region, voicing concern about the spread of terrorism.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941101000288>

- **FM Underlines Iran's Interest in Broadening All-Out Ties with Oman**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a meeting with representative of Oman's Sultan Qaboos underscored that Tehran favors strengthening of all-out relations with Masqat.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941101000249>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **China supports East Jerusalem as capital of sovereign Palestinian state – President Xi**

China has openly declared that it supports the independence of a Palestinian state which has East Jerusalem as its capital. Addressing the Arab League, the Chinese president also announced a \$7.6mn grant for a solar power project to improve Palestinians' well-being. Speaking for the first time at Arab League headquarters in Egypt, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that the Palestinian issue should not be marginalized, as he declared Beijing's support for the Palestinian peace process.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/329765-sovereign-palestine-jerusalem-china/>

- **Herzog: Two-State Solution Unrealistic Right Now**

Isaac Herzog, the leader of the opposition in the Knesset and the head of the center-left Zionist Union, admitted in an interview Wednesday that an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement is unrealistic in the near term. "I don't see a possibility at the moment of implementing the two-state solution," he told Army Radio. "I want to yearn for it, I want to move toward it, I want negotiations, I sign on to it and I am obligated to it, but I don't see the possibility of doing it right now."

More details:

<http://www.thetower.org/2850-herzog-two-state-solution-unrealistic-right-now/>

- **2015: 130 Palestinians Detained for Social Media Posts**

The Palestinian Detainees and Ex-detainees Committee, on Wednesday, reported that Israeli forces have arrested some 130 Palestinians for their activities on social media throughout the year 2015. The report by the committee said that 27 of those detained were accused of “incitement,” while others were held in administrative detention for different periods of time. The majority of the arrests were reportedly carried out in Jerusalem.

More details:

<http://www.imemc.org/article/74681?>

- **Israel warms to Sunni powers, questions US' Palestinian focus**

While the U.S. is pressing Israel to make peace with Palestinian leaders, it is missing the much bigger story of the Jewish State improving relations with several Muslim nations in the Middle East, according to a top Israeli official. Outlining the fast-developing relationship between Israel and other Sunni states in the region, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, the official went beyond earlier comments by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and expressed Israel’s dismay at U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/01/21/israel-warms-to-sunni-powers-questions-us-palestinian-focus.html?>

- **Abbas: I agreed to meet Netanyahu, he didn't respond**

Speaking to Israeli reporters on Thursday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that for the past two months his office and Prime Minister Netanyahu's office have been communicating in an attempt to arrange a meeting, but that Netanyahu did not respond to the latest message. "There have been talks between my office and Netanyahu's office and the US was not in the picture at all," Abbas said Thursday. "Among other things, there were talks about a meeting between us." The Prime Minister's Office rejected the claims, saying: "This is not true. This is an attempt by Abbas to avoid his responsibility for the lack of negotiations. Today as well, in Davos, Netanyahu called for Abbas to come and negotiate without preconditions."

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4756303,00.html?>

- **Two Months after Freezing EU Out of Peace Process, Netanyahu Meets with Mogherini**

Less than two months after he ordered the Foreign Ministry to suspend all talks with the European Union on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Thursday

with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini to discuss that very issue. The Prime Minister's Office declined to say whether this meeting, Netanyahu's first with Mogherini since issuing that order, marks the end of the suspension.

More details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.698876?>

- **Israel to seize more West Bank land and demolish EU-funded buildings**

Israel confirmed on Thursday it was planning to appropriate a large tract of fertile land in the occupied West Bank, close to Jordan, a move likely to exacerbate tensions with Western allies and already drawing international condemnation. In an email sent to Reuters, COGAT, a unit of Israel's Defence Ministry, said the political decision to seize the territory had been taken and "the lands are in the final stages of being declared state lands".

More details:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/israel.to.seize.more.west.bank.land.and.demolish.eu.funded.buildings/77379.htm?>

- **UN chief calls on Israel to change policy**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for "substantial policy changes on the ground" by Israel, voicing deep concern at reports that the Government has declared of 370 acres in the occupied West Bank south of Jericho as so-called "state land." "If implemented, this declaration would constitute the largest land appropriation by Israel in the West Bank since August 2014," a statement issued by his spokesman said last night.

More details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2016-01/22/content\\_37640185.htm?](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2016-01/22/content_37640185.htm?)

- **Arab League welcomes EU opposition to Israel settlements**

The Arab League has welcomed European Union, EU, opposition to expanding illegal Jewish settlements in Palestine. Dr Saeed Abu Ali, the Arab League's Assistant Secretary-General, said, "The Arab league welcomes the EU's opposition to Israel's settlement policy. The league is grateful for this monumental step that the EU has taken to ensure the authority and legitimacy of international law."

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/d810faeb-ccac-403c-87c9-6980515bca78.aspx?>

- **Netanyahu: Sunni states more realistic about Israeli conflict than EU**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested Thursday that many countries in the Arab world now view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a more realistic light than many countries of the European Union do. Speaking in an onstage interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Netanyahu said that "Saudi Arabia recognizes that Israel is an ally rather than an enemy because of the two principle threats that threaten them, Iran and Daesh," he said, using the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/netanyahu-sunni-states-more-realistic-about-israeli-conflict-eu-796250>

- **Israelis fear next Gaza war is not far off**

After a relatively calm year around the Gaza Strip, Israel is concerned that an escalation down south is approaching once again. In recent weeks, Israeli intelligence has updated its assessments of the progress made by Hamas in rebuilding the tunnels destroyed by Israel during the 2014 Gaza conflict.

More details:

<http://www.thejc.com/news/israel-news/152576/israelis-fear-next-gaza-war-not-far?>

- **4 Palestinians Accused of Terror Killings Lose Israeli Residency Rights**

Israel has revoked the residency rights of four eastern Jerusalem Palestinians who are charged with killing Israelis in terrorist attacks. The men lost their permanent resident status on Thursday. Interior Minister Aryeh Deri carried out the process that was initiated by his predecessor, Silvan Shalom, who resigned in December.

More details:

[http://forward.com/news/breaking-news/331203/4-palestinians-accused-of-terror-killings-lose-israeli-residency-rights/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Main](http://forward.com/news/breaking-news/331203/4-palestinians-accused-of-terror-killings-lose-israeli-residency-rights/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Main)

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Israel 'will seize West Bank land close to Jordan'**

Israel confirmed on Thursday it was planning to appropriate a large tract of fertile land in the occupied West Bank, close to Jordan, a move likely to exacerbate tensions with Western allies and already drawing international condemnation.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/region/israel-will-seize-west-bank-land-close-jordan%E2%80%99>

- **Qahwaji in U.S. Next Month, Reviews Deals on Arming Troops**

Army Commander General Jean Qahwaji is scheduled to travel to Washington early next month at the head of a delegation for talks with U.S. officials regarding military cooperation between the two countries, An Nahar daily reported on Friday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/200063-qahwaji-in-u-s-next-month-reviews-deals-on-arming-troops>

- **Hariri Criticizes Bassil 'Unilateral' Stance at Arab League**

Al-Mustaqbal movement chief Saad Hariri criticized on Friday the stance of the Foreign Ministry at the Arab League meeting on Iran, stressing that it does not reflect the opinion of the majority of the Lebanese.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/200090-hariri-criticizes-bassil-unilateral-stance-at-arab-league>

- **Political ploys gather pace in Lebanon**

Tensions in Lebanon, linked directly to the war in neighboring Syria, could be dramatically eased due to a radical change of heart from one of the nation's key presidential candidates, who has decided to pull out of the race to support his nemesis.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/political-ploys-gather-pace-in-lebanon/a-18996610>

- **Hollande Hopes Iran, Saudi Arabia Would 'Help End' Lebanon's Presidential Vacuum**

French President Francois Hollande lamented on Thursday the ongoing vacuum in the presidency, warning that it could become “dangerous.” He hoped that “Iran and Saudi Arabia would contribute in ending the vacuum.” Lebanon has been without a head of state since the term of President Michel Suleiman ended in May 2014.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/199989-hollande-hopes-iran-saudi-arabia-would-help-end-lebanon-s-presidential-vacuum>

- **Royal visit to U.S. underscores growing ties with Jordan, says ambassador**

His Majesty King Abdullah II's recent visit to the United States and the key talks he held with top U.S. administration officials and congress members underline the importance of the Jordanian-U.S. relationship and Washington's commitment to supporting the Kingdom, U.S. ambassador in Amman, Alice G. Wells said.

More Details:

[http://petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=1&NewsID=233888&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=233888&CatID=13)

- **Prince Faisal meets with Greek Defence Minister**

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein on Thursday met with Greek Defence Minister Panos Caminos and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of common interest and means of improving them to serve the interests of the two counties.

More Details:

[http://petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=1&NewsID=233956&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=233956&CatID=13)

- **Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in fear of deportation**

On his release from prison in January 2012 after being arrested for his activism, Ahmad al-Homsi left Syria. There is now a death sentence with his name on it, so he cannot return home. He has taken shelter in Lebanon, but has no money to go anywhere else.

More Details:

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/worldNews/Syrian-refugees-in-Lebanon-live-in-fear-of-deportation-409695>

- **Tusk, Salam vow to bolster EU-Lebanon ties**

Prime Minister Tammam Salam and European Union Council President Donald Tusk vowed during a meeting in Brussels Thursday to strengthen Lebanese-European ties, shortly before the premier headed to Davos to attend the Global Economic Forum.

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2016/Jan-22/333304-tusk-salam-vow-to-bolster-eu-lebanon-ties.ashx>

- **Lebanon strains under weight of refugees**

While the flow of migrants into Europe and the West has sparked controversy, Lebanon continues to bear the brunt of absorbing massive numbers of refugees. A commonly cited figure is that one in four people in Lebanon is displaced from Syria. “They are everywhere ... in all of Lebanon,” Father Paul Karam, president of Caritas Lebanon, told Catholic News Service of the presence of Syrian refugees in the country, which is roughly two-thirds the size of the state of Connecticut.

More Details:

<http://www.georgiabulletin.org/news/2016/01/lebanon-strains-under-weight-of-refugees/>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Al-Jubeir: Attacks on Saudi Diplomatic Mission Came within Aggressive Policies of Iran**

Adel bin Ahmad Al-Jubeir, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stressed that it is important to note that attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's diplomatic mission comes within the framework of the aggressive policies of the government of Iran and its continued interference in the internal affairs of the countries in the region.

More details:

<http://www.alriyadh.com/en/article/1121648/Al-Jubeir-Attacks-on-Saudi-Diplomatic-Mission-Came-within-Aggressive-Policies-of-Iran?>

- **Saudi warplanes attack residential areas in Sana'a, Yemen**

Saudi warplanes attack the Yemeni capital, targeting residential buildings and areas near the presidential palace, a day after several families were targeted in deadly bombings.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/01/22/731477/story.html?>

- **Why Is Pakistan Interested in Brokering Peace Between Iran and Saudi Arabia?**

It's been a particularly interesting week for Pakistani diplomacy. In a rare display, both Nawaz Sharif, the country's prime minister, and General Raheel Sharif (no relation), the chief of army staff, jointly traveled to Saudi Arabia and Iran, in what was billed as an attempt by Islamabad to mediate between the quarreling Middle Eastern giants.

More details:

<http://thediomat.com/2016/01/why-is-pakistan-interested-in-brokering-peace-between-iran-and-saudi-arabia/>?

- **Exports from Kuwait-Saudi oil field 'to resume'**

Kuwait's emir has said operations and exports from oil fields jointly operated with Saudi Arabia will resume soon, local media reported on Thursday.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/kuwait/exports-from-kuwait-saudi-oil-field-to-resume-1.1657716>

- **Three reporters from Al Jazeera captured in Yemen**

Al-Jazeera has announced that three of its reporters working in war-torn Yemen are likely to have been kidnapped.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/three-reporters-al-jazeera-captured-yemen-796328>

- **Russia's role in the Yemen conflict**

Russia's presence in the Middle East has for long been viewed as a controversial matter. Its actions in Syria and Iraq, and facilitation of Iran's expansionist policy, have become a favoured topic of discussion. Because of its support for dictatorial regimes and its openness about ensuring its sphere of influence, to many, Russia is the foreign antithesis of the Arab Spring. These sentiments arise mainly from the Kremlin's staunch support of Syrian dictator Bashar Al-Assad, but Moscow has not shown such strong public support for any party in Yemen. Despite this, Yemen's ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Houthis have made numerous attempts to warm their relations with Russia in order to build some support for their plight within the international community.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/articles/middle-east/23475-russias-role-in-the-yemen-conflict?>

- **Iran to negotiate using Oman's LNG vacant capacity**

Petroleum Minister Bijan Zangeneh said on Thursday that Iran will start within the next ten days negotiations on how to use Oman's unused LNG capacity.

More details:

<http://en.trend.az/business/energy/2483842.html?>

- **UAE condemns terrorist attack on Bacha Khan University**

The United Arab Emirates has condemned the terrorist attack on Bacha Khan University in Charsada and expressed solidarity with Pakistan.

More details:

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2016/uae-condemns-terrorist-attack-on-bacha-khan-university?>

- **Afghan, Taliban Envoys Expected to Meet in Qatar**

Afghan government and Taliban representatives are expected to meet in the gulf state of Qatar Saturday for an unofficial two-day discussion on ways to end the conflict in Afghanistan.

More details:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/afghan-taliban-envoys-expected-to-meet-in-qatar/3157313.html?>

- **UAE, Bahrain space agencies sign co-operation deal**

Bahrain's King visited the joint pavilion of the UAE Space Agency and the Bahraini National Space Science Agency at the ongoing Bahrain International Airshow.

More details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND\\_299253.html?](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND_299253.html?)

## 7. EGYPT

- **Chinese president starts visit to Egypt**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has started his two-day visit to Egypt, where he is expected to hold talks with President Sisi. Xi's visit to Egypt is part of the second stage of his 10-day tour that started on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia and will continue on Friday to Iran, which represents his first visit to the region since he took office in November 2012.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113766/Chinese-president-starts-visit-to-Egypt>

- **Egypt, China Sign 21 Agreements in Bid to Boost Bilateral Cooperation**

Egyptian and Chinese authorities signed a total of 21 agreements and memorandum of understanding on Thursday, according to a statement from Egypt's State Information Service.

More details:

<http://egyptianstreets.com/2016/01/22/egypt-china-sign-21-agreements-in-bid-to-boost-bilateral-cooperation/>

- **ISIS Claims Responsibility for 10 Killed in Cairo Explosion**

In a statement released on social media, the ISIS-affiliated Ansar Bait Al-Maqdis (Wilayat Sinai) claimed responsibility for an explosion in Cairo's Haram area that killed 10 people. The explosion in Haram killed seven policemen and three civilians on Thursday, according to a statement from the Ministry of Interior.

More details:

<http://egyptianstreets.com/2016/01/22/isis-claims-responsibility-for-10-killed-in-cairo-explosion/>

- **Terror in Cairo: Nine people dead and 10 injured after bomb explodes during police raid in tourist area near pyramids**

Bomb killed nine people including police officers near pyramids in Cairo. 10 people were also injured in the blast near the pyramids on Thursday . Interior Ministry said bomb was planted by Muslim Brotherhood militants.

More details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3410631/Bomb-attack-kills-three-policemen-Cairo.html>

- **Middle East economic slowdown will cut oil demand growth**

The Middle East was the fastest growing region for oil consumption except China over the last decade as young populations and booming economies simulated a surge in fuel demand.

More details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/190045/news/middle-east-economic-slowdown-will-cut-oil-demand-growth>

- **2nd metro line suspended Friday morning**

The second line in the metro system stopped operation in both directions Friday morning due to a breakdown at Ataba Station.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/2nd-metro-line-suspended-friday-morning>

- **Egypt court postpones, changes venue for Mubarak's final trial**

The trial was postponed after the former president failed to show up to court for health reasons. Egypt's Court of Cassation postponed on Thursday the first session in the final trial of ousted president Hosni Mubarak on murder-related charges after he failed to show up to court. The court adjourned the retrial until 7 April and ordered that it be moved from the High Court building in downtown Cairo to a "more convenient location."

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/185560/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-court-postpones,-changes-venue-for-Mubaraks-.aspx>

- **Cairo gets updates on dam from Khartoum, Addis Ababa, not media: Egypt FM**

Egypt's foreign ministry spokesperson Ahmed Abu Zeid said in press statements on Thursday that Egypt receives its information on Ethiopia's controversial Renaissance Dam through coordination with Khartoum and Addis Ababa, not media reports.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/185570/Egypt/Politics-/Cairo-gets-updates-on-dam-from-Khartoum,-Addis-Aba.aspx>

- **Five Egyptian policemen killed in North Sinai attack**

Five Egyptian policemen were killed late on Wednesday when unidentified assailants opened fire on them in Egypt's North Sinai, the interior ministry has said.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/183531/Egypt/Politics-/Five-Egyptian-policemen-killed-in-North-Sinai-atta.aspx>

- **Egyptian police raid Cairo homes as country prepares to mark 2011 uprising**

Security officials say campaign based on surveillance and intelligence, though some Cairo residents claim raids not targeted.

More details:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/21/egyptian-police-raid-cairo-homes-2011-uprising>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Trade Minister announces new regulation for wholesale markets for fruits, vegetables**

Trade Minister Belaib Bakhti announced Thursday in Algiers new regulation for the wholesale markets for fruits and vegetables, reaffirming the government's commitment to maintaining prices subsidy of widely consumed products.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/economy/10439-trade-minister-announces-new-regulation-for-wholesale-markets-for-fruits,-vegetables?>

- **UN efforts for resolution of Sahrawi issue hampered by Morocco's obstacles**

United Nations efforts for the resolution of the Western Sahara issue have been undermined by Moroccan hindrances, said Thursday in Algiers Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10436-un-efforts-for-resolution-of-sahrawi-issue-hampered-by-morocco-s-obstacles?>

- **Tunisia: demonstrations, extraordinary meeting of parliament**

Tunisian Parliament convened at the Bardo, this morning, for an extraordinary meeting to address the social and security situation in the country, President Mohamed Ennaucer announced.

More details:

[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2016/01/22/tunisia-demonstrations-extraordinary-meeting-of-parliament\\_3f188cf9-e853-4852-a7eb-0029c6db5466.html?](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2016/01/22/tunisia-demonstrations-extraordinary-meeting-of-parliament_3f188cf9-e853-4852-a7eb-0029c6db5466.html?)

- **Tunisian police and rioters clash as job protests grow**

Tunisian police firing tear gas clashed on Thursday with hundreds of protesters who set fire to police posts and tried to storm local government buildings in towns across the country in the largest protests since the 2011 "Arab Spring" uprising.

More details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0V00CT?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0V00CT?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&rpc=401)

- **Essid on one-day visit in Paris**

Prime Minister Habib Essid arrived, Friday morning in Paris, on a one-day visit instead of the initially scheduled two days.

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/32776-essid-on-one-day-visit-in-paris>

- **Egypt pushes for int'l conference to reconstruct Libya**

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry is preparing for an international conference for the reconstruction of Libya days after the formation of Libya's U.N.-brokered national unity government, Youm7 reported.

More details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/190076/news/egypt-pushes-for-intl-conference-to-reconstruct-libya?>

- **Isis reportedly executes 3 men for not adhering to Sharia laws in Libyan town of Sirte**

The Islamic State (Isis) is reported to have publicly executed three men in the Libyan town of Sirte for not obeying their Sharia interpretation of blasphemy, banditry and apostasy. Four other men were also beaten mercilessly in full public view for drinking alcohol, which is against Sharia laws.

More details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/isis-reportedly-executes-3-men-not-adhering-sharia-laws-libyan-town-sirte-1539437?>

- **European Parliament Rejects Expansion of MINURSO's Mandate in Western Sahara**

The European Parliament adopted on Thursday a resolution that is in favor of Morocco with regards to the situation of human rights in the North African country.

More details:

<http://www.morocoworldnews.com/2016/01/177884/european-parliament-rejects-expansion-of-minursos-mandate-in-western-sahara/?>

- **Daesh sets sights on Tunisia, Morocco in new video**

In the wake of growing civil unrest in Tunisia and Morocco, ISIS [Daesh] has launched a new media campaign directed at Muslims in the Islamic Maghreb, which focuses mainly on the 'apostate' governments of Tunisia and Morocco.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/daesh-sets-sights-tunisia-morocco-new-video-796172>

- **Libya: Fires Erupt At Oil Facilities After 'Islamic State' Attack**

Four storage tanks at Libya's Ras Lanuf terminal have been set ablaze following an attack by "Islamic State" ("IS") militants. Libya's National Oil Corporation said the situation was "catastrophic for the environment."

More details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201601211643.html>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Bacha Khan Varsity Attack: Kabul rejects Islamabad claim**

Afghanistan on Friday rejected Pakistani Army's claim that terrorist attack on Bacha Khan University was orchestrated from Afghan territory. Afghanistan has never supported terrorists or provided them with safe havens on its soil, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

More Details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2016/01/22/bacha-khan-varsity-attack-kabul-rejects-islamabad-claim>

- **FARAKHABAR: Attack On TOLO TV Staff Named 'Black Wednesday'**

Afghanistan Journalists Federation (AJF) on Thursday condemned the attack on TOLO TV and said it was as an act of violence against humanity. The federation named the day as 'Black Wednesday' in the history of Afghanistan's media. The federation urged government to identify and dismiss those security officials that neglected preventing the tragic incident.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/fara-khabar/23413-farakhabar-attack-on-tolo-tv-staff-named-black-wednesday?>

- **Afghan,Taliban Envoys Expected to Meet in Qatar**

Afghan government and Taliban representatives are expected to meet in the gulf state of Qatar Saturday for an unofficial two-day discussion on ways to end the conflict in Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/afghan-taliban-envoys-expected-to-meet-in-qatar/3157313.html?>

- **Pakistan has 110-130 India-specific Nukes: Report**

Pakistan's nuclear warheads estimated to be between 110 and 130 are aimed at deterring Indian aggression, says a latest US Congressional report. The Indian media has reported, quoting Washington sources, that the report also expressed concern that Islamabad's "full spectrum deterrence" doctrine had increased the risk of a nuclear conflict between the two South Asian neighbours.

More Details:

<http://www.geo.tv/latest/100501-Pakistan-has-110-130-India-specific-nukes-report>

- **NA Passes PIA, Tax Amnesty Bills Despite Opposition Protest**

A strong protest by the opposition parties on Thursday could not deter the government from getting two separate bills passed by the National Assembly. The bills pertained to the conversion of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation into a public company limited and providing an opportunity to traders to whiten their black ort up to Rs50 million by paying 1pc tax.

More Details:

<http://www.geo.tv/latest/100500-NA-passes-PIA-tax-amnesty-bills-despite-opposition-protest>

- **16 militants killed, 14 wounded in Afghan armed forces operations**

At least 16 anti-government armed militants were killed and 14 others were wounded in counter-terrorism operations conducted by the Afghan armed forces in the past 24 hours.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/16-militants-killed-14-wounded-in-afghan-armed-forces-operations-0032>

- **UN condemns suicide attack targeting media in Kabul**

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) today condemned the suicide attack against media workers in Kabul yesterday that killed eight and injured 24 civilians, many of them from the media sector, as well as women and children.

More Details:

<https://www.oximity.com/article/UN-condemns-suicide-attack-targeting-m-1>

- **US Military Allowed to Strike Daesh Affiliate in Afghanistan**

The US military has been given permission to target Daesh (Islamic State/ISIL) fighters not only in Syria and Iraq, where the militants have established a large occupying presence, but also in Afghanistan, where an affiliate of the violent extremist group has surfaced.

More Details:

<http://sputniknews.com/us/20160122/1033527658/pentagon-targets-daesh-afghanistan.html?>

- **Two elite force cops shot dead in Peshawar**

Unknown militants shot dead ort he of Khyber Pakhtunwa Police's Elite Force Unit in Rasheed Ghari area on the outskirts of the provincial capital.

More Details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1234676/two-elite-force-cops-shot-dead-in-peshawar>

- **Pakistan Says Campus Attack Orchestrated by Militants in Afghanistan**

Pakistan said Thursday that a deadly assault on a university this week was orchestrated by militants in Afghanistan, part of a pattern of cross-border terrorism that is undermining peace efforts in the region. At least 21 people died in the gun attack Wednesday on a university campus in the northwest of Pakistan. A splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban led by a commander called Omar Mansoor claimed responsibility ort he attacks.

More Details:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/pakistan-says-campus-attack-orchestrated-by-militants-in-afghanistan-1453404166>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish Delegation Provides A New Vision To Resolve The Syrian Crisis And The Problems Of Terrorism In Iraq**

The Turkish delegation participating in the meeting of the executive committees of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC countries stressed that his country will provide a new vision to resolve the Syrian crisis and the problems of terrorism in Iraq. A member of the delegation, MP Ahmad Ozdemir told the National Iraqi News Agency / NINA / that "his country will offer detailed files on the fight against terrorism and extremism to the participating countries in the Islamic Parliaments conference in Baghdad " expressing hope the all member states and societies of the region to response and cooperation for the elimination of the common enemy of the Islamic world, which is terrorism and extremism."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?ugvPLSDwzGqrRf5BUki0%252fw%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?ugvPLSDwzGqrRf5BUki0%252fw%253d%253d)

- **Turkish PM: US not pressuring Turkey over border control**

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Thursday ruled out the possibility of the United States pressuring Turkey to better monitor the border with Syria. "The concept of pressure is not an approach between allies. But there is a very close coordination between Turkey and the US to fight against terrorism and find a political situation." Davutoglu said during a session titled "Turkey's Global Role" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkish-pm-us-not-pressuring-turkey-over-border-control-32477>

- **Turkish, German defense chiefs meet at Incirlik airbase**

The German defense minister thanked her Turkish counterpart for Ankara's support in the deployment of German warplanes at Incirlik airbase. Turkish Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz met Ursula Von Der Leyen at Adana Incirlik Base Command. "We are shoulder to shoulder in counter-terrorism. That's why our warplanes and tanker aircraft are here at Incirlik airbase. We know the refugees in Europe fled from terrorism," said Von Der Leyen, speaking at a joint press conference.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/168656/turkish-german-defense-chiefs-meet-at-incirlik-airbase>

- **Turkey: Saudi-led coalition will not have combat forces**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Thursday that the Saudi Arabia-led anti-terror international coalition would not have combat forces. Cavusoglu said that once it was spoken about a military coalition, “operations come to everyone’s mind.” But, the minister added: “There will be no combat force...there are misunderstandings at this point.”

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-saudi-led-coalition-will-not-have-combat-forces/508624>

- **Migrant crisis tops agenda at German-Turkey gov't meeting**

Europe's migrant crisis is the main issue at a meeting in Berlin Friday of top officials from Germany and Turkey. Germany saw an unprecedented 1.1 million asylum seekers arrive last year, many of them fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.startribune.com/migrant-crisis-tops-agenda-at-german-turkey-gov-t-meeting/366167981/?>

*\*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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