



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Procees of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

**Energy Security**

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**Relations with the West**

Batı'yla İliőkiler

**MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN**

**22 JUNE 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **U.S., Islamic State exchange blame for Mosul’s historic minaret bombing**

Mosul/Erbil (IraqiNews.com/Reuters) Islamic State militants and the United States exchanged accusations for the destruction of the minaret of Mosul’s oldest mosque on Wednesday. A senior U.S. general in Iraq called Islamic State militants’ destruction of the Grand al-Nuri Mosque of Mosul and its famous leaning minaret “a crime against the people of Mosul and all of Iraq.”

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-blows-mosul-mosque-declared-caliphate-iraqi-military/>

- **Talabani: We won’t give up on our legitimate Rights**

“Kurds, like any other nation in the world have the right to determine their fate, and all revolutions of the people of Kurdistan were in order to achieve our legitimate goals that we will not give up on,” says Qubad Talabani.

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=41542](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=41542)

- **UN considers means to return displaced Iraqis home**

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is currently considering means of returning displaced people to their homes after the liberation of Mosul from the grip of ISIS terror group, a UN official said Wednesday.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/13394/UN-considers-means-to-return-displaced-Iraqis-home>

- **ISIS blows up Mosul mosque where Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi declared the caliphate**

On Wednesday evening, the Al-Nouri mosque in the Old City of Mosul was blown up by explosives planted by ISIS insurgents, an Iraqi military source told Al-Masdar News. The infamous mosque was reduced to rubbles after the Iraqi Army’s Counter Terrorism Units advanced within 50 meters of the infamous holy site.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-blows-mosul-mosque-abu-bakr-al-baghdadi-declared-caliphate/>

- **Iraqi children face sheer horror, unimaginable violence: UN**

The UN warns against the extremely horrible conditions of Iraqi children as Daesh terrorists resort to more brutal tactics to save their last foothold in the country, saying children, particularly those in Mosul, are dying and suffering amid one of the “most brutal wars in history.”

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/22/526117/Iraq-Mosul-UN-UNICEF-children>

- **Iraq Disintegration Serves Israel’s Interests: Iran’s Larijani**

“The Zionist regime seeks Iraq’s disintegration,” Larijani said during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Tehran on Wednesday. Larijani said that Takfiri terrorists seek two objectives in Iraq; first to create internal conflicts in the country “to raise the issue of Iraq’s partition, which Israel is seeking,” and second to engage Baghdad in domestic issues to undermine its positive role in the region.

More Details

<http://ifpnews.com/wired/iraq-disintegration-serves-israel/>

- **Canadian claims longest sniper kill shot in the world**

A Canadian elite special forces soldier has recorded the world's longest sniper kill shot by nearly 1000m in Iraq. According to The Globe and Mail, the shot took 10 seconds to reach its target who was believed to be an Islamic State (IS) soldier. The shot was reportedly taken from a McMillian TAC-50 sniper rifle from a high rise building in May.

More Details

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/world/2017/06/canadian-claims-longest-sniper-kill-shot-in-the-world.html>

- **U.S. judge urged to halt Iraqi deportations due to Christian persecution fears**

A U.S. judge heard arguments on Wednesday to halt the deportations of around 100 Iraqis arrested by immigration authorities in the Detroit area because many belong to minorities and could face torture or religious persecution in their homeland

More Details

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/06/22/world/social-issues-world/u-s-judge-urged-halt-iraqi-deportations-due-christian-persecution-fears/#.WUtnUtSLSmU>

- **Khamenei warns Iraq not to trust US**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi on Tuesday against any measures that could weaken the Tehran-backed Shiite paramilitary groups, saying such actions would endanger Baghdad's stability.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1118576/middle-eas>

- **Kurdish authorities delaying civilians fleeing Daesh — HRW**

Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday accused Kurdish authorities of delaying thousands of Iraqi civilians fleeing from extremist-held areas at checkpoints, in some cases within range of frontlines.

More Details

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/kurdish-authorities-delaying-civilians-fleeing-daesh-%E2%80%94-hrw>

- **Destroying Daesh would not end problems, says Barzani**

The President of the Northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), Masoud Barzani, has said on Wednesday that destroying the Daesh group would not end problem and urged to address the causes that led to the emergence of the jihadist group.

More Details

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzIxMDMx/destroying-daesh-would-not-end-problems-says-barzani.html>

- **After Mohammed bin Salman's elevation as Saudi crown prince, all eyes turn to Iraq**

Mohammed bin Salman's ascension as crown prince of Saudi Arabia could lead to a more assertive Saudi oil policy within Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as the kingdom puts its own needs first. Expect Iraq to follow Qatar as its next target.

More Details

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/9UyMutQoB0Aheh7UNcxgzN/In-Saudi-princes-great-oil-game-all-eyes-turn-to-Iraq.html>

- **Iran launches exporting gas to Iraq**

Under a long awaited contract, Iran began exporting its gas to Iraq last night. Iran's Deputy Minister of Petroleum for International Affairs and Trading Amir-Hossein Zamaninia has said that in the first phase, the country will export 7 million cubic meters of gas per day to the neighboring Iraq, IRNA reported. The volume of Iran's gas exports to Iraq will reach 35 million cubic meters (mcm) in future, he added.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2769477.html>

- **Kuwaiti emir, Iraqi PM meet to discuss regional issues,**

Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah on Wednesday met with Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi in Kuwait City to discuss recent developments in the Middle East.

More Details

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/kuwaiti-emir-iraqi-pm-meet-to-discuss-regional-issues/846606>

- **'No turning back' on independence vote, Iraqi Kurdish leader tells FRANCE 24**

In an exclusive interview with FRANCE 24, the president of Iraqi Kurdistan Massoud Barzani says he will not back down on plans to hold a referendum on the semi-autonomous region's full independence from Baghdad.

More Details

<http://www.france24.com/en/f24-interview/20170621-exclusive-interview-independence-referendum-iraq-kurdistan-barzani-mosul>

- **Iran, Iraq review security issues**

Visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi conferred with Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi of security on Wednesday on regionally pertinent issues. Iraqi premier on the first leg of his regional tour visited Saudi Arabia and arrived in Tehran on Tuesday and was welcomed by Iran's first vice president at the airport.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82573221/>

- **Supporters of KRG President Barzani aim to form new Kurdish political party in Turkey**

Supporters of Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Massoud Barzani have reportedly concluded preliminary efforts to establish a new political party in Turkey. The Kurdistan Democrat Party (KDP), which will be found with the participation of three groups engaged in politics in support of Barzani, aims to present an alternative to the Kurdish issue-focused Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), daily Habertürk reported on June 21.

More Details

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=114577&NewsCatID=352>

- **More than 5 million children need urgent humanitarian aid in Iraq – UNICEF**

More than 5 million children are in urgent need of aid in Iraq, the United Nations said on Thursday, describing the war on Islamic State as "one of the most brutal" in modern history

More Details

[http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN19D009?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAWorldNews+%28News+%2FAFRICA+%2F+World+News%29&&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN19D009?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAWorldNews+%28News+%2FAFRICA+%2F+World+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **President Barzani: 'We can't wait anymore' for permission on Kurdish referendum**

Kurdish President Masoud Barzani has expressed the Kurdistan Region can no longer wait for foreign nations like the United States to dictate terms for a referendum on independence.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/210620174>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Ankara Hints about Military Operation Against Syrian Democratic Forces in Aleppo**

In the past few hours, the option of a military solution advanced on the talks sponsored by Washington between Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Ankara-backed opposition factions in the countryside of northern Aleppo. While all efforts failed to reach a deal in which Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) would hand over Arab-majority villages to Liwa al-Mutassim, Ankara decided to allude about a military operation, even if such a decision was still not final.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/paulaas/news-middle-east/ankara-hints-military-operation-syrian-democratic-forces-aleppo>

- **Australia resumes air patrols over Syria**

Australia has lifted a suspension on military air missions over Syria imposed after the shooting down of a Syrian jet by US forces. The RAAF temporarily halted flights on Tuesday after a spike in tensions between the US and Russia, which warned it would track coalition aircraft in Syria as potential "targets".

More Details:

<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2017/06/22/10/58/aussie-air-operations-over-syria-resumed>

- **France's Macron sees no 'legitimate successor' to Assad, declares terrorism a common enemy in Syria**

There is currently no viable alternative to Bashar Assad to prevent Syria from turning into a failed state, the new French president has said, departing from his predecessor's position that the Syrian leader must be toppled to stabilize the war-torn country. "The new perspective that I have had on this subject is that I have not stated that Bashar al-Assad's departure is a pre-condition for everything because nobody has shown me a legitimate successor," Emmanuel Macron said in an interview with eight European newspapers.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/393518-france-macron-syria-policy/>

- **Armenian Ambassador Meets with Speaker of the Syria's Parliament**

On June 21, the Speaker of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic (Parliament) Hadiyeh Abbas affirmed the importance of strengthening the relations between Syria and Armenia and the need to promote them in order to best serve the interest of the two countries. Armenia's Ambassador to Syria Arshak Poladian met with the speaker as well as members of the Syrian-Armenian Parliamentary Friendship Association, which is headed by Nora Arissian, reported Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More Details:

<http://armenianweekly.com/2017/06/21/armenian-ambassador-meets-with-speaker-of-the-syrias-parliament/>

- **Protection of civilians in Raqqa, other parts of Syria must be ensured: UN chief**

Expressing alarm over the suffering of people Syria, in particular those in Raqqa and in other locations where fighting continues, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called on all those conducting military operations in the country to ensure the safety and protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/protection-of-civilians-in-raqqa-other-parts-of-syria-must-be-ensured-un-chief/>

- **Iran kills 170 ISIS militants**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered weekend missile strikes on ISIS targets in Syria, Revolutionary Guards said, contradicting a previous report that they were authorised by the country's security council. The Guards statement, published on Wednesday ran counter to a statement by President Hassan Rouhani who said earlier that the strikes were authorised by the Supreme National Security Council, Reuters reported.

More Details:

<http://vestnikkavkaza.net/news/Iran-kills-170-ISIS-militants.html>

- **Israel Funds Syrian Rebel Weapons Purchases – OpEd**

The Wall Street Journal interviewed a Syrian rebel commander and other fighters, who confirmed the worst kept secret of the Syrian conflict: that Israel is directly aiding Syrian rebel factions with both humanitarian and financial aid: Israel provides \$5,000 per month to the above group, which it uses to pay fighters' salaries, and purchase weapons and ammunition for its campaigns against the government in the Syrian Golan.

More Details:

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/22062017-israel-funds-syrian-rebel-weapons-purchases-oped/>

- **Report: Russia Seeking Israeli Help in Bringing Syrian Rebels to Peace Table**

Russia is seeking Israeli assistance in persuading opposition forces in Syria to lay down their arms and enter peace talks, according to a report in The Jerusalem Post on Wednesday. Citing Israel's known contacts with the Syrian rebels, Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federation Council, the upper house of Russia's parliament, argued that it would be in Israel's interest to do so.

More Details:

<http://hamodia.com/2017/06/21/report-russia-seeking-israeli-help-bringing-syrian-rebels-peace-table/>

### 3. IRAN

- **UNESCO 2030 agenda plot by arrogant powers to control nations: Leader**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei slammed the United Nations for seeking to dominate world nations by introducing the UNESCO 2030 agenda. “This is improper and flawed; what right do they have to comment on countries and their traditions and opinions? [What right do they have] to decide what the nations must act upon?” the Supreme Leader said, during a meeting on Wednesday evening with university lecturers, academics and elites.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82573886/>

- **Pakistan shoots down Iranian drone**

Pakistan has shot down an unmanned Iranian drone inside its territory in southwestern Baluchistan province, Islamabad said Wednesday. The Iranian Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) crossed over the border on Monday, Pakistan’s foreign ministry said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/06/pakistan-shoots-iranian-drone/>

- **IRGC Missile Attack Proves Iran Can Counter All Threats: MP**

A senior Iranian lawmaker praised the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for its recent missile raid against Daesh (ISIL) Takfiri terrorists in Syria, saying the measure proved Iran’s capability to nip any threat in the bud. The IRGC missile operation against Daesh was powerful, courageous and dignifying, Rapporteur of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Hossein Naqavi Hosseini said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/06/22/1443585/irgc-missile-attack-proves-iran-can-counter-all-threats-mp>

- **Iran's Zagros Airlines commits to buying 28 Airbus aircraft**

Iran's Zagros Airlines has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to buy 28 new Airbus (AIR.PA) planes, comprising 20 A320neo jets and eight A330neo aircraft, Airbus said in a statement.

Iran has stepped up its orders of planes after international sanctions against the country were lifted in return for curbs on the country's nuclear activities.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-airshow-paris-airbus-zagros-idUSKBN19D0IG>

- **Iran: Appointment of Saudi crown prince a 'soft coup'**

Iranian state media on Wednesday blasted the appointment of Mohammed Bin Salman to the position of crown prince and successor to Saudi Arabia's King Salman, calling it a "soft coup". "Soft coup in Saudi Arabia/Son becomes the successor of the father," read the headline on the Iranian state TV website, as quoted by Reuters.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/231406>

- **Iran to Respond to Any Acts of Aggression, Top General Says**

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri says the country's security is a red line, pledging to firmly respond to any threats or acts of aggression against the Islamic Republic's national security. Baqeri made the remark in a message issued on Wednesday following Iran's missile attack against the Daesh targets in eastern Syria last week.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/iran-respond-any-acts-aggression-top-general-says-989190>

- **64 Years Later, CIA Finally Releases Details Of Iranian Coup**

Declassified documents released last week shed light on the Central Intelligence Agency's central role in the 1953 coup that brought down Iranian Prime Minister Muhammad Mossadegh, fueling a surge of nationalism which culminated in the 1979 Iranian Revolution and poisoning U.S.-Iran relations into the 21st century. The approximately 1,000 pages of documents also reveal for the first time the details of how the CIA attempted to call off the failing coup — only to be salvaged at the last minute by an insubordinate spy on the ground.

More Details:

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-06-21/64-years-later-cia-finally-releases-details-iranian-coup>

- **Iran missile attacks killed over 170 terrorists in Deir Ezzor**

Over 170 Takfiri terrorists were killed in IRGC missile strikes on ISIL commander bases and arms facilities in Deir Ezzor in retaliation for the June 7 attacks in Tehran, Iran Revolutionary Guard said in a statement. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in a statement issued on Wednesday said the June 18 missile attacks on ISIL commander bases and arms facilities in Syria's Deir Ezzor in an operation codenamed 'Lailat al-Ghadr' had followed the military hierarchy and was carried out with full coordination of Armed Forces under command of Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/126101/Iran-missile-attacks-killed-over-170-terrorists-in-Deir-Ezzor>

- **Rift between Iran's ayatollah and re-elected president widens**

Tensions are mounting between Iran's supreme leader and the country's president after the latter's landslide victory in last month's election. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 78, has sharpened his criticism of the reformist president, Hassan Rouhani, including humiliating him in a meeting of the country's most senior officials.

More Details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/22/rift-between-irans-ayatollah-and-re-elected-president-widens>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Army Injures 29 Palestinians near Jerusalem, Abduct One near Jenin**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Wednesday at night, Abu Dis town, east of occupied East Jerusalem, and clashed with local youths, wounding three with rubber-coated steel bullets, and causing twenty-six others to suffer the severe effects of teargas inhalation. The soldiers also abducted one Palestinian near Jenin. The Palestinian Red Crescent in occupied Jerusalem said its medics rushed to Abu Dis town, and providing the needed treatment to three Palestinians, who were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and 26 others who suffered the severe effects of teargas inhalation.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/army-injures-29-palestinians-near-jerusalem-abduct-one-near-jenin/>

- **Kushner meets Abbas, Netanyahu in bid to restart talks**

US President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner has held meetings with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the White House said. Kushner, accompanied by Trump's Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, is attempting to broker a deal to restart negotiations between Israel and Palestine, which were frozen since US-led talks collapsed in 2014.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/kushner-meets-abbas-netanyahu-bid-restart-talks-170622040217406.html>

- **Israeli consulate hosts iftar for first time in south India**

In a gesture of friendship, members of the Israeli consulate in the city reached out to the Muslim community across south India and hosted an iftar for them on Wednesday. The party, a first for Israel in South India, was hosted by Consul General Yael Hashavit and the Indian Economic Trade Organization. Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, chief Imam, All India Organization of Imams of Mosques, was the chief guest.

More Details:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/israeli-consulate-hosts-iftar-for-first-time-in-south-india/article19121583.ece>

- **Jerusalem Synagogue Vandalized With Swastikas, Burned Torahs**

An area search by local law enforcement revealed more swastikas painted on the entranceways of two apartment complexes. Lau, along with fellow Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef and Religious Services Minister David Azoulay, said that such desecration cannot be tolerated, and encouraged police to do all they can to find the guilty party.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706221054863030-jerusalem-synagogue-vandalized-swastikas-torah/>

- **To strengthen steadfastness of Palestinians in Jerusalem**

King Abdullah's iftar banquet for Jerusalemites has become an annual tradition and has grown in importance. His Majesty invited tens of political, religious and social Palestinian leaders from Jerusalem for meetings and the breaking of the Ramadan fast on Sunday. A number of Palestinian members of the Israeli Knesset also participated in the discussions about the status and future of the holy city.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/daoud-kuttab/strengthen-steadfastness-palestinians-jerusalem>

- **Abbas snubs stroke rumours, tours West Bank**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has mingled with ordinary Palestinians in a rare trip outside his West Bank headquarters in an apparent attempt to dispel rumours that he suffered a stroke. The 82-year-old walked in the center of the city of Ramallah from 11:30pm on Tuesday until after midnight, greeting passers-by, holding a baby and sitting in a cafe. The outing was broadcast live on Palestine TV. Earlier Tuesday, persistent rumors had circulated about Abbas having suffered a stroke.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/a83dadb6-3463-47ca-b213-26f0873a00d6.aspx>

- **Israeli forces raid Beit Jala, set up flying checkpoints**

Israeli forces raided the town of Beit Jala, adjacent to Bethlehem city in the southern occupied West Bank, on Wednesday afternoon, setting up several flying checkpoints around the town. Israeli military and police vehicles also raided the al-Deir neighborhood of Beit Jala's old city. An Israeli army spokesperson said they were looking into reports of the raid.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777758>

- **Netanyahu: Trump 'made an indelible impression on the people of Israel'**

President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, arrived in the Middle East on Wednesday for a 24-hour visit designed to breathe new life into long-stalled Israel-Palestinian peace talks. Kushner, whom Trump has put in charge of the peace process, was received with a warm welcome from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. The Israeli leader said Trump's visit to the Jewish state last month was a "historic trip, with fantastic warmth, and made an indelible impression on the people of Israel," according to The Times of Israel.

More Details:

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/338785-netanyahu-trump-made-an-indelible-impression-on-the-people-of-israel>

- **Pak MP stresses unity among Muslims to fight for rights of Palestinians**

In an interview with IRNA, Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi said that Al-Quds day reminds all Muslims that liberation of the holy Quds is their responsibility. The late leader of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution

Imam Khomeini initiated the International Quds Day as an integral part of Ramadan so that Muslims would never forget their responsibility and duty towards Palestine and all oppressed people in the world. The day is held each year on the last Friday of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82573829/>

- **Hamas calls for huge turnout of Palestinian people in Quds Day**

Hamas, the Palestinian political movement that rules the Gaza Strip, called on the Palestinian nation in a statement to hold mass rallies on Friday to vent their anger at the Zionist regime's aggression against Palestine and its sanctities. The upcoming demonstrations are meant to tell the enemy that Palestine will never cave in to aggression, blockade, and Judaization of the Palestinian territories.

More Details:

[http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/hamas-calls-for-huge-turnout-of-palestinian-people-in-quds-day\\_837925.html](http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/hamas-calls-for-huge-turnout-of-palestinian-people-in-quds-day_837925.html)

- **Bolivia Condemns Israel Loathful Settlement Construction**

Bolivia delivered a scathing condemnation of Israel's continued occupation of Palestine at the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, TeleSUR reported. In a statement during a Security Council debate on Palestine, Bolivian ambassador Sacha Llorenti, who is currently the President of the Council for June, expressed "great concern about the grave political, economic, social, humanitarian, and security situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, as a result of ongoing and loathful policies by Israel, the occupying power."

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960331001207>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **IMF Executive Board Completes First Review under the Extended Fund Facility for Jordan**

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today completed the first review of Jordan's economic performance under the Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The completion of the first review enables the disbursement of SDR 51.465 million (about US\$71 million), bringing total disbursements under the program to SDR 102.93 million (about US\$141.9 million).

More details:

<http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/06/21/pr17237-imf-executive-board-completes-first-review-under-the-extended-fund-facility-for-jordan>

- **Israel and Jordan Intensify Cooperation as Iran Tightens Grip on Southern Syria**

Israel and Jordan have intensified diplomatic relations over the last weeks as a response to the changing situation on the ground in Syria and Iraq, Haaretz reported Wednesday. The two countries have noted with growing concern the renewed strength of the Assad regime in southern Syria, particularly in regards to the role played by Iran. Tehran is propping up the regime of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad in order to consolidate power in Syria and Iraq, as well as to ensure that its proxy Hezbollah has the continued capability to wage war against Israel.

More details:

<http://www.thetower.org/5116-israel-and-jordan-intensify-cooperation-as-iran-tightens-grip-on-southern-syria/>

- **UN envoy to Yemen to move from US to Jordan**

The government of Jordan officially accepted the transfer of the United Nations envoy to Yemen's office from the United States, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170621-un-envoy-to-yemen-to-move-from-us-to-jordan/>

- **New electoral law in Lebanon**

After a six-month debate that began after Michel Aoun was elected president and years of discussion, the people of Lebanon have finally decided on an electoral law that may be the most complex of its kind in the world. The law divides the country into 15 electoral districts and extends the tenure of the current parliament by another 11 months.

More details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/20808.aspx>

- **Israel has 'unimaginable' power to strike Hezbollah, Air Force chief tells security conference**

Israel has significantly increased its air superiority in the last decade following Israeli-Lebanese conflict of 2006, its Air Force chief has stated, warning Hezbollah and its allies of dire consequences should another war break out in the future.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/393529-israel-air-force-power-hezbollah/>

- **Israeli commanders reveal plans for mass evacuation of Lebanese civilians in next war**

The next war in Lebanon will be so powerfully punishing — with thousands of targets struck in the first day of an attack — that hundreds of thousands of Lebanese civilians will have to leave their homes or risk falling victim to “collateral damage,” according to top Israeli military commanders here.

More details:

<http://www.defensenews.com/articles/israeli-commanders-reveal-plans-for-mass-evacuation-of-lebanese-civilians-in-next-war>

- **Gemayel Says Ruling Authority Rejects Opposition, Leans towards 'Dictatorship'**

Gemayel accused the political authority of starting to rule the country in a "dictatorial approach" by suppressing the opposition. Gemayel warned against “serious danger of transforming Lebanon into a state governed by a cartel ready to use force and authority to suppress the opposition,” he said in a press conference on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231760-gemayel-says-ruling-authority-rejects-opposition-leans-towards-dictatorship>

- **Cabinet To Convene To Discuss Security In Bekaa**

The cabinet has decided to convene in an extraordinary session to discuss the security situation in the Bekaa. The date of the session is to be set later, the NNA correspondent said.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/80632/Cabinet-to-convene-to-discuss-security-in-Bekaa>

- **Israeli General: 'Full Force' In Future War with Hezbollah**

Israel's air force chief is warning that his country will strike Hezbollah "with full force" in any future war with the Lebanese Shiite militant group.

More details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_ISRAEL\\_HEZBOLLAH?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMP\\_LATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-12-39-33](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_ISRAEL_HEZBOLLAH?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMP_LATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-12-39-33)

- **Zionist Soldiers Cross Lebanon Southern Border**

19 Zionist soldiers crossed on Wednesday morning the technical fence off the bordering town of Mays Al-Jabal in southern Lebanon.

More details:

<http://english.almanar.com.lb/290541>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **UAE offers ten ambulances to WHO Country Office in Yemen**

The Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, has donated ten Toyota Landcruiser 4X4 ambulances to the World Health Organisation, WHO, Country Office in Yemen as part of its continuous support for the health sector in the country.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302620281>

- **Trump's Dubai business partner signs Oman development deal**

The Trump Organization's business partner in Dubai has signed an agreement to help develop a waterfront project in Oman valued at \$1 billion.

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/APFN\\_ML\\_OMAN\\_TRUMPS\\_DUBAI\\_PARTNER?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-11-08-09](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/APFN_ML_OMAN_TRUMPS_DUBAI_PARTNER?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-11-08-09)

- **Oman Air increases frequency to Doha, Cairo to ease travel woes due to Gulf crisis**

To ease pressure on local aviation market emerged from Gulf crisis, Oman Air has not only increased its frequency of flights from Muscat to Doha from three to four daily but also increased Muscat to Cairo flights from weekly eight flights to eleven.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/21/06/2017/Oman-Air-increases-frequency-to-Doha,-Cairo-to-ease-travel-woes-due-to-Gulf-crisis>

- **Donald Trump, Mohammed bin Salman share hardline views on Iran but risks abound**

Saudi Arabia's new crown prince and likely next king Mohammed bin Salman shares U.S. President Donald Trump's hawkish view of Iran, but a more confrontational approach toward Tehran carries a risk of escalation in an unstable region, current and former U.S. officials said.

More Details:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/donald-trump-mohammed-bin-salman-share-hardline-views-on-iran-but-risks-abound/article19124301.ece>

- **Iran Urges Saudi Arabia to Free Arrested Fishermen**

In a statement released on Wednesday, Iran's Interior Ministry has stressed that the two Iranian boats which were recently stranded near the Saudi borders were fishing ones and the Saudi government is required to compensate for the damage and punish those who were behind this irresponsible act.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-urge-saudi-free-fishermen/>

- **Turkey's Erdogan, Saudi leaders discuss efforts to end Qatar tension: sources**

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke by telephone with Saudi Arabia's King Salman and its new crown prince and they agreed to increase efforts to end tension related to Qatar, sources from Erdogan's office said on Thursday.

More Details:

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-gulf-qatar-turkey-saudi-idUSKBN19D0CX?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-gulf-qatar-turkey-saudi-idUSKBN19D0CX?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&rpc=401)

- **Turkey sending foodstuffs by sea**

Turkey is sending food supplies to Qatar by sea to compensate for a recent embargo by Qatar's neighbouring states, according to Turkey's economy minister.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/554189/Turkey-sending-foodstuffs-by-sea>

- **Mohammad Bin Zayed holds talks with Serbia president**

Belgrade: His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia discussed on Wednesday ways of boosting bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation as well as a range of regional and global issues of mutual concern.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/government/mohammad-bin-zayed-holds-talks-with-serbia-president-1.2047622>

- **Saudi government spending to stimulate non-oil growth**

Responding to the oil price downturn, the Saudi government has embarked on a radical and ambitious plan to transform the kingdom's entire economy, restructure its finances and ultimately wean it off its oil dependency. The Saudi Vision 2030 and its associated tactical programs, now provide the basis upon which economic growth and development will be benchmarked. Public expenditures and investment will be redirected towards localizing industries, training Saudis and raising economic competitiveness.

More Details:

<http://ameinfo.com/money/economy/saudi-government-spending-stimulate-non-oil-growth/>

- **Lebanese, Saudi Authorities Foil Captagon-Smuggling Attempt**

In coordinated efforts between Lebanese and Saudi authorities, an attempt to smuggle 6 million pills of Captagon has been thwarted, the Internal Security forces said in a statement on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231817-lebanese-saudi-authorities-foil-captagon-smuggling-attempt>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt Allows Fuel Supply to Gaza, Eases Electricity Crises**

The Egyptian authorities on Wednesday allowed several trucks laden with industrial fuel into the Hamas-run Gaza Strip to allow the enclave's only functioning power plant to resume operations following a two-month hiatus.

More details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/egypt-allows-fuel-supply-gaza-eases-electricity-crises-989188>

- **Decision to Transfer Islands to Saudi Arabia Pending in Egypt**

Supreme Court of Egypt halted the implementation of all previous rulings on the polemic agreement on demarcation of borders with Saudi Arabia, according to which two strategic islands of the Red Sea, Tiran and Sanafir, would be transferred to the latter country.

More details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=14568&SEO=decision-to-transfer-islands-to-saudi-arabia-pending-in-egypt>

- **El-Sisi hikes social spending to ease austerity pain**

Egypt's budget for the next 12 months will include a 75 billion Egyptian pound (\$4.17 billion) social spending package, the Finance Ministry said on Wednesday, a day after President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced measures to ease the pain of austerity for low-income Egyptians.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1118436/business-economy>

- **Egypt's Coptic Christians question whether el-Sissi alliance can protect them from terror**

Pope Francis is long gone from Egypt, but his April trip intensified a growing unease among Coptic Christians about President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's embrace of their 10 million-strong community.

More details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/21/egypts-coptic-christians-seek-abdel-fattah-el-siss/>

- **SBWC boosts ties with Egyptian entrepreneurs**

In a move aimed at enhancing cooperation and sharing expertise with the businesswomen's community in the UAE and beyond, Sharjah Business Women Council (SBWC), a subsidiary of NAMA Women Advancement Establishment, has granted 'Joyoon' membership to 14 Egyptian female entrepreneurs.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/89969b84-ec15-4a61-99e9-ab8b70ec93d8.aspx>

- **Egypt's investment ministry submits new investment legislation bylaws to cabinet**

Egypt's investment ministry has submitted to the cabinet the bylaws to the recently ratified investment law, which is aimed at creating incentives for investors, Investment Minister Sahar Nasr told Reuters on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/271358/-.aspx>

- **Rights groups urge Egypt's Sisi to spare six men on death row**

Human rights groups urged Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to intervene by a Thursday deadline to commute the death sentences of six men convicted of killing a policeman, saying they had been kidnapped and tortured into confessing the crime.

More details:

[http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFL8N1JH4PO?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29&&rpc=401](http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFL8N1JH4PO?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29&&rpc=401)

- **Sisi announces 7 measures aimed at easing economic hardship**

Egypt is set to carry out numerous measures to “ease the burdens of the average Egyptian citizen,” President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi announced on Tuesday, at an iftar ceremony hosted by the Family House organization.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/sisi-announces-measures-easing-economic-hardship/>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisia Elected as Member of UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances**

Tunisia was elected as a member of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances for a period of four years yesterday. Elections were held in New York within the framework of the fourth meeting of States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170621-tunisia-elected-as-member-of-un-committee-on-enforced-disappearances/>

- **Energy: Accord Tunisia-Japan for Electrical Power Station**

Tunisian electrical and gas company Steg has signed an agreement with Japan's Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems for the construction of an electrical power station in Rades, which will boost one built in 1980 to satisfy growing energy demand, said Hela Cheikhrouhou, the Tunisian minister of energy, mining and renewable energy.

More Details:

[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/energy/2017/06/21/energy-accord-tunisia-japan-for-electrical-power-station\\_d0e41c44-fd16-468a-9d96-b64b6ee0fe93.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/energy/2017/06/21/energy-accord-tunisia-japan-for-electrical-power-station_d0e41c44-fd16-468a-9d96-b64b6ee0fe93.html)

- **Morocco to host key hospitality summit**

Hotel, retail and real estate investors will gather in Morocco this October to discuss investment and development opportunities in the African continent at the 2017 Hotelier Summit North Africa. Hosted by leading real estate solutions provider IDE Consulting Service from October 4-6, the prime emphasis of this conclave will be to facilitate consultations between shareholder, owners and investors as well as build a platform for African Governments and African Investors to learn how to make projects bankable.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN\\_326656.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN_326656.html)

- **Global Innovation Index: Morocco Leads North Africa in Agricultural Innovation**

Morocco ranks first in North Africa and fifth in the Arab World in terms of global agricultural innovation, according to 2017 Global Innovation Index. Placed after UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the Arab World, second following South Africa at the continental level and the first in North Africa, Morocco's agricultural innovation strategy is recognized by the GII for its innovation in the sector of agriculture.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/06/220612/global-innovation-index-morocco-leads-north-africa-agricultural-innovation/>

- **Libya Calls for EU Aid to Cope With Migrants**

The leader of Libya's unity government is appealing for European Union funds to help cope with thousands of migrants flooding into his conflict-ravaged country in hope of reaching Europe. Fayed Sarraj said in Brussels on Thursday that "as the number of migrants rises, the economic and social fabric of southern Libya is placed under very significant strain."

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU\\_EUROPE\\_MIGRANTS\\_THE\\_LATEST?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-11-01-10](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_EUROPE_MIGRANTS_THE_LATEST?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-11-01-10)

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs receives British Diplomats**

Tunisian-British relations and means of developing them were the focus of a talk Wednesday in Tunis between Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui and Tunisian Ambassador in Tunis Louise De Sousa who was accompanied by British Ambassador to Libya, Peter Millett. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in Libya and on ways to reach a permanent settlement in Libya.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9135424-minister-of-foreign>

- **Emmanuel Macron Says France's Participation in 2011 Libyan Civil War Mistake**

French President Emmanuel Macron admitted that democracy cannot be brought to the country from the outside without involving the people living in it, saying that France made a mistake in joining the Libyan war.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706221054864493-macron-france-libyan-war-mistake/>

- **UN Experts Say €10 Million in Gaddafi Cash in Malta Went Missing**

€10 million in cash that the son of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi held in Maltese companies could have gone missing when war broke out in the North African state, according to a panel of experts on Libya set up by the United Nations's Security Council. The experts are analysing the bank accounts of three suspected, and interlinked, front companies that the late Muatassim Gaddafi used in Malta – all set up for him by Joe Sammut, who in the past had acted as a treasurer for the Labour Party.

More Details:

[http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78242/un\\_experts\\_say\\_10\\_million\\_in\\_gaddafi\\_cash\\_in\\_malta\\_went\\_missing#.WUtvdSdSIU](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78242/un_experts_say_10_million_in_gaddafi_cash_in_malta_went_missing#.WUtvdSdSIU)

- **Kobler says Tawerghans' return home is essential**

The outgoing UNSMIL chief Martin Kobler has urged swift action on the deal to allow Tawerghans to return to their hometown. Misrata this week agreed that the citizens of Tawergha could go back to

their ravaged town. However, Kobler cautioned today that this repatriation should be managed transparently and in full accord with human rights standards. Misratan forces drove Tawerghans out of their town in 2011 accusing them of supporting Qaddafi's drive to crush the Revolution in Misrata itself. Since then thousands of Tawerghans have been living in camps, mainly in Tripoli and Benghazi.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/06/21/kobler-says-tawerghans-return-home-is-essential/>

- **State Department Issues New Travel Warning For Algeria**

The United States Department of State has renewed its caution to prospective travelers heading to Algeria. The government's website explains that Wednesday's warning replaces that originally posted on December 13, 2016 (h/t Breaking911.com). The travel warning states at the top: "The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens against travel to remote areas of Algeria due to the threat of terrorist attacks and kidnapping."

More Details:

<http://www.travelpulse.com/news/impacting-travel/state-department-issues-new-travel-warning-for-algeria.html>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Indian forces kill three unarmed Kashmiri citizens in IoK**

Indian forces killed three unarmed civilians in Pulwama during a fierce overnight gunfight in India-held Kashmir on Thursday, the Kashmir Media Service reported.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/22-Jun-17/indian-forces-kill-three-unarmed-kashmiri-citizens-in-iok>

- **Pentagon Wastes \$30 Million on Wrong Afghan Military Uniforms**

Huge cash — US\$30 million to be exact — was shelled out from Pentagon coffers for Afghan Army uniforms. But U.S. officials would soon learn that the uniform order was the wrong color for actual combat because it was based on a military officials' personal inclination, according to Sputnik.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Pentagon-Wastes-30-Million-on-Wrong-Afghan-Military-Uniforms-20170621-0039.html>

- **UN Envoy: Surge in Afghanistan Attacks Signals Fragile Period Ahead of Election**

UN Special Representative Tadamichi Yamamoto told the Security Council on Wednesday that enhanced efforts by the Afghan national unity government needed to boost security in the country ahead of elections.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201706221054864694-afghanistan-attacks-fragile-period-fragile-period/>

- **'Pakistan dealing with Indian, Afghan antagonism'**

Pakistan's concerns over border management in the backdrop of Afghanistan's non acceptance of the Durand Line are and will remain real, says Associated Press (AP)'s Senior Correspondent in Pakistan and Afghanistan Kathy Gannon.

More Details:

<http://nation.com.pk/lahore/22-Jun-2017/pakistan-dealing-with-indian-afghan-antagonism>

- **Pakistan to fence whole border with Afghanistan**

The military said on Tuesday that the phased fencing of the border had commenced in high infiltration prone border areas in Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber tribal agencies, Xinhua news agency reported.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/554173/Pakistan-to-fence-whole-border-with-Afghanistan>

- **India and Afghanistan Open Air Freight Corridor to Bypass Pakistan**

Although Afghan businesses have long wanted to exploit the potential of India's huge market, trade between the two countries has been hampered due to their tense relations with Pakistan.

More Details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/india-afghanistan-air-freight-corridor-opens/3909537.html>

- **20 Daesh Insurgents Killed In Jawzjan Clash**

At least 20 Daesh insurgents were killed by security forces in the past two days in Darzab district of northern Jawzjan province, local officials said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/20-daesh-insurgents-killed-jawzjan-clash>

- **Pakistan's Foreign Ministry confirms downing of Iran drone**

Pakistan's foreign ministry has confirmed the country's air force shot down an unmanned Iranian drone in southwestern Baluchistan province.

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS\\_PAKISTAN\\_IRAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-12-08-10](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_PAKISTAN_IRAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-06-21-12-08-10)

- **Pakistan Calls for Dialogue with India, but Sees no Close Agreement**

Pakistan's High Commissioner in India (ambassador) Abdul Basit today defended the dialogue between the two countries to end their differences, but he considered it to be a remote possibility at present.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=14517&SEO=pakistan-calls-for-dialogue-with-india-but-sees-no-close-agreement>

- **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>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey sees less beneficial ally in independent Kurdistan**

It was May 2015 when a Turkish journalist asked President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan about Iraqi Kurdistan possibly deciding to declare independence. Erdoğan said, "This is something that should be treated as Iraq's domestic affair. If Iraq, internally, decides to partition a state, this is an internal issue for them."

More Details

<https://www.dailysabah.com/columns/ragip-soylu/2017/06/22/turkey-sees-less-beneficial-ally-in-independent-kurdistan>

- **Erdogan congratulates new Saudi crown prince**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulated new Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman early Thursday, as the two men expressed a desire for stronger ties between their nations, presidential sources said. Erdogan and the crown prince also agreed "to increase the efforts to end the tension in the axis of Qatar," during a telephone call, according to sources.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/191065/turkish-consumer-confidence-index-slips-in-june>

- **In Doha, Qatari, Turkish businessmen discuss trade ties**

A delegation of Turkish businessmen met with their Qatari counterparts in Doha on Wednesday to discuss bilateral trade and economic relations amid Qatar's ongoing diplomatic crisis. A delegation from Turkey's Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) met with two prominent Qatari businessmen -- Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Thani and Sheikh Suhaim Bin Khaled bin Hamad al-Thani -- in the presence of Turkish Ambassador to Qatar Fikret Ozer.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/in-doha-qatari-turkish-businessmen-discuss-trade-ties/846590>

*\*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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