



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procees of Iraq

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1. IRAQ

- **HRW: Iraqi mobilization forces detained, tortured men in Mosul**

Pro-Iraqi government paramilitary troops fighting the Islamic State briefly detained and tortured Iraqi men in western Mosul over possible links with the extremist group, Human Rights Watch said in a latest report reviving accusations of human abuses against the Shia-led forces

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/hrw-iraqi-mobilization-forces-detained-tortured-men-mosul-school/>

- **At Least 17 Iraqi Soldiers Killed in IS Suicide Attacks**

At least 17 Iraqi soldiers were killed in suicide attacks carried out by the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the northern city of Mosul on Sunday, a local security official said. Six Iraqi soldiers were killed in a suicide car explosion in northwestern Mosul. Another four soldiers were wounded in the explosion, a military official told Anadolu Agency on condition of anonymity

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/352057>

- **UN-Habitat, JAAI and JICA Host a Seminar on Role of Urban Planning in Mosul Post-Conflict Reconstruction**

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), JICA Alumni Association-Iraq (JAAI), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hosted a joint seminar to discuss the role of urban planning in the post-conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and development of Mosul.

More Details

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40414

- **Iraq's special forces shrink ISIS stronghold in western Mosul**

Iraq's Special Forces declared their aspect of the mission to reclaim Mosul completed on Saturday. However heavy fighting still looms between other Iraqi forces and ISIS terrorist group as it clings to a dwindling portion of Iraq's second largest city, Associated Press reported on Sunday.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10880/Iraq-s-special-forces-shrink-ISIS-stronghold-in-western-Mosul>

- **Iraqi Army captures over a dozen ISIS car bombs in west Mosul**

ISIS appears to be running low on volunteer suicide bombers in Mosul after the Iraqi Federal Police captured a large car bomb factory in the newly liberated '17th Tammuz' district of northwestern Mosul.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/pictures-iraqi-army-captures-dozen-isis-car-bombs-west-mosul/>

- **Final stages of Mosul battle will be 'extremely violent,' U.S. commander says**

The last handful of neighborhoods held by the Islamic State in Mosul will likely be the most difficult to retake despite nearly eight months of street-by-street fighting, the U.S. officer in charge of advising Iraqi forces in the area predicted.

More Details

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2017/05/22/final-stages-of-mosul-battle-will-be-extremely-violent-u-s-commander-says/?utm_term=.0b124620ece0

- **Boundary between Iraq, Kurdish territory divides communities**

As Omar Rashad's combine clutters down the barley field in northern Iraq, the farmer shields his eyes from the scorching sun and points at the tall berm at the end of his land, just past a cluster of agricultural buildings.

More Details

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ_DIVIDED_LAND?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-22-02-34-55

- **Ukraine supplied 88 APCs to Iraq, but only 34 could actually move – inquiry**

Only 34 out of 88 armored vehicles supplied by Ukraine to Iraq as part of a 2009 deal were able to move, leaked results of the inspection revealed. The botched contract is still being probed in Kiev, but now it wants to find a Russian role there.

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/news/389153-ukraine-botched-apc-deal-iraq/>

- **Iraq needs urgent investment in education**

The future of Iraq, its economic security and prosperity depends on increasing investment in education today, a UNICEF report said.

More Details

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/REAL_325280.html

- **Saudi oil minister due in Iraq for OPEC talks**

Saudi oil minister Khalid al-Falih will visit Iraq today to discuss the extension of an OPEC-led oil output cut. The minister is set for talks with his counterpart, Iraq oil ministry spokesman Asim Jihad said. Jihad added the two ministers would discuss how to boost prices and reduce a glut in the global oil market.

More Details

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/140011/saudi-oil-minister-due-iraq-opec-talks/>

- **Scots oil worker in Iraq tells of suicide bomb hell after bloody Isis attack**

A Scot has described the horrific aftermath of an Isis suicide bombing in Iraq which killed eight people. The oil worker, who can't be named for security reasons, described the scenes of terror as a group of fanatics attacked a checkpoint in the south of the country.

More Details

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-oil-worker-iraq-tells-10471843>

- **Iraqi Kurdistan News in brief**

Erbil: Iraqi Kurdistan Region's Independent Commission for Human Rights said the region's district of Zakho has become a gateway between Iran, Turkey and Syria for drug trafficking. Head of the commission, Zya Pitros, told reporters on Sunday that Zakho has become a bridge for transferring drugs from Iran to Turkey and Syria.

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/iraqi-kurdistan-news-in-brief-may-22-2017-2017-05-22>

- **Iraq: Scores of Men Imprisoned in Schoolhouse**

Iraqi government-allied troops arbitrarily detained at least 100 men in late April 2017, in some cases torturing them during interrogations, Human Rights Watch said today.

More Details

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/22/iraq-scores-men-imprisoned-schoolhouse>

- **As Iraqi forces get set to reclaim Mosul, kin of missing Indians wait for answers**

As Iraqi forces look fully set to recapture Mosul from the IS militants, the family members of 39 Indian men abducted from Mosul want to know what the Ministry of External Affairs is doing to ascertain their whereabouts.

More Details

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/as-iraqi-forces-get-set-to-reclaim-mosul-kin-of-missing-indians-wait-for-answers-4667451/>

- **Iraqi president congratulates Rouhani on re-election**

Iraqi President Fuad Masum, in a message on Saturday, congratulated Hassan Rouhani on his re-election as the president of Iran.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82539252/>

- **Fourteen army personnel killed, injured in attack against Diyala military base**

Fourteen army personnel were killed and injured in a suicide attack inside the biggest military base, east of Baquba, a security source from Diyala said. "Two personnel were killed, while twelve others were wounded as four attackers wearing suicide belts attempted infiltration into Qaraqosh base [45 KM east of Baquba]," the source told Alghad Press on Monday.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/fourteen-army-personnel-killed-attack-against-military-base-east-baquba/>

- **Iraq is key to future of OPEC cut agreement: RBC Capital Markets**

Helima Croft, chief commodities strategist at RBC Capital Markets, speaks about the importance of Iraq in the global oil market.

More Details

<http://video.cnbc.com/gallery/?video=3000620550>

- **Iraqi lawmakers condemn sentence against Bahraini cleric**

Iraqi lawmakers have condemned a Bahraini court's ruling on Sheikh Isa Qassim. They described the jail sentence as politicized and in violation of human rights.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/21/522747/Bahrain-Sheikh-Isa-Qassim-sentence-Iraqi-lawmakers>

2. SYRIA

- **Syrian army eliminates ISIL terrorists in Deir Ezzor, Hama**

Syrian Army units destroyed gatherings and fortifications of ISIL terrorists in Deir Ezzor city and the surrounding area.

More detail:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125504/Syrian-army-eliminates-ISIL-terrorists-in-Deir-Ezzor-Hama>

- **Iranian Militias Move Further into Syria's Desert, Russian Base in Suwayda**

Iranian militias affiliated with the Syrian regime continued their desert push towards the border area of Jordan, Syria and Iraq, to get closer from the US-linked al-Tanf military camp, while a Russian flag was seen flying in the area of Suwayda amid reports about the establishment of a military base near the Jordanian border.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/iranian-militias-move-syrias-desert-russian-base-suwayda>

- **Syria conflict: Government regains full control of Homs**

The Syrian government says its forces have regained total control of the central city of Homs after rebels left the last district under their control.

More details:

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39995689?intlink_from_url=&link_location=live-reporting-story

- **Coalition jets destroy IS convoy coming from Syria to Iraq, kill dozens**

Fighter jets from the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State have killed dozens of the group's members and destroyed their combat vehicles in a raid in western Anbar, a military source was quoted saying.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/coalition-jets-destroy-convoy-coming-syria-iraq-kill-dozens/>

- **Another Syrian Kurdish politician arrested by Rojava Asayish forces**

The Rojava Asayish on Saturday arrested another member of the Kurdish National Council in Syria, Bashar al-Amin, in his house at 11.30.

More details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/05/another-syrian-kurdish-politician-arrested-rojava-asayish-forces/>

- **US Raids against Army Meant to Buttress Daesh-Linked Militants: Syrian Commander**

A Syrian military commander said the recent US airstrikes against the Arab country's army were launched in line with supporting and reinforcing Daesh-linked militants operating near border areas.

More details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/22/1416368/us-raids-against-army-meant-to-buttress-daesh-linked-militants-syrian-commander>

- **Iran's ambassador confers with Syrian petroleum minister**

Iran's Ambassador to Syria Javad Torkabadi discussed mutual cooperation in the oil and gas sectors with the Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Ghanem on Sunday.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82540166/>

- **Trump & 55 Muslim-majority states sign pact pledging 34,000 troops to fight ISIS in Iraq & Syria**

The US and Middle Eastern countries have backed a new pact that promises to provide extra troops for defeating Islamic State, singles out Iran for destabilizing the region, and says that Riyadh is to become the heart of the region's counter-terrorism operations.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/389152-trump-muslim-leaders-terrorism/>

- **US Strike on Convoy in Syria Denounced**

Tehran has censured an airstrike by US military aircraft on a convoy of Syrian government forces, saying the move was carried out with the goal of changing the existing balance in the battlefield.

More details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/64937/us-strike-on-convoy-in-syria-denounced>

3. IRAN

- **Iran Reformists Take Power across Major Cities**

Iran's coalition of reformists and moderates has swept to power in major cities across the country, results showed Monday, redrawing the political map and amplifying the resounding re-election of President Hassan Rouhani. The coalition now has control of the six largest Iranian cities, including Tehran, the holy city of Mashhad and tourist hotspot Isfahan -- and could capture more when final results are announced.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170522-iran-reformists-take-power-across-major-cities>

- **Pakistan Media Hail Rouhani's Victory**

Leading Pakistani newspapers in their editorial comments have hailed re-election of Hassan Rouhani, adding that Iranian people have endorsed Rouhani's policies by re-electing him the president for the second time.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82540866/>

- **Iranian FM Spokesman Slams Trump's Speech in Saudi Arabia**

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi criticized US President Donald Trump for his remarks in Saudi Arabia. APA's Tehran bureau reports that Ghasemi called Trump's remarks on Iran groundless.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/iranian-fm-spokesman-slams-trump-s-speech-in-saudi-arabia.html>

- **130,000 Afghan Refugees Deported From Iran So Far This Year**

Almost 130,000 undocumented Afghan refugees have been forced to return home so far this year by the Iranian government. Voice Of America (VOA) reported that hundreds are being sent home every day in line with Iran's target to send back 600,000 Afghans by the end of the year. "Last week, 7,695 Afghan refugees returned from Iran, 60-65 percent of whom were deported involuntarily," said Hafiz Ahmad Miakhel, spokesman for the Afghanistan Ministry of Refugees and Returnees was quoted as saying by VOA.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/130000-afghan-refugees-deported-iran-so-far-year>

- **Putin Congratulates Rouhani on Re-election As Iranian President**

Russian President Vladimir Putin on has sent a congratulatory message to Hassan Rouhani on his re-election as Iranian president, China's Xinhua news agency reported. According to the Kremlin, Putin confirmed his readiness in the message to continue to further develop Russian-Iranian partner cooperation in bilateral and international affairs.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/130000-afghan-refugees-deported-iran-so-far-year>

- **Iran Says Persian Gulf States Interested in Buying Gas**

Persian Gulf states have implicitly expressed their interest in buying natural gas from Iran, according to Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Hamidreza Araqi. Araqi hoped that the post-election time in Iran will provide a suitable opportunity for the country to meet the neighbors' interests.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2757471.html>

- **EU Vows Continued Nuclear Deal Support Following Rouhani Reelection**

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini has congratulated Iranian President Hassan Rouhani for securing reelection on Friday (19 May), assuring him that the EU will continue to work towards full implementation of the landmark nuclear deal.

More Details:

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/eu-vows-continued-nuclear-deal-support-following-rouhani-reelection/>

- **Air Pollution in Tehran Prompts a Woman to Question Her Illusory Freedom**

What most of us know about society in Tehran and Iran in general is what we have seen in the films of Iranian filmmakers such as Jafar Panahi, Asghar Farhadi, Mohsen Makhmalbaf and his daughter, Samira. We instinctively thank our lucky stars that we live in London and not Tehran. But London and Tehran have something in common that affects everyone and is unrelated to nuclear weapons or religious ideology. Both cities are plagued by fatally high levels of air pollution.

More Details:

<http://www.maturetimes.co.uk/joyce-glasser-reviews-inversion-varoonegi/>

- **Spain Calls for Broadening of Relations with Iran**

"Madrid and Tehran have good relations which can undoubtedly be further expanded in the future to help uphold success and welfare of the two countries citizens," Rajoy said in his congratulatory message to Hassan Rouhani on his re-election as Iran's president.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960301000718>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Netanyahu: Jerusalem will always be Israel's capital**

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu stressed on Sunday that Jerusalem will always be the capital of the Jewish state.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/229962>

- **Trump's Israel Visit: 5 Key Issues**

President Donald Trump's two-day visit to Israel, which begins Monday morning, should have been the easiest stop in his first overseas trip.

More details:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/trump-s-first-foreign-trip/trump-s-israel-visit-5-key-issues-n762531>

- **Israel: 'Special Procedures' for Palestinians during Ramadan**

Israel has announced "special procedures" for the entry of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and besieged Gaza Strip into Israel and occupied East Jerusalem during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/israel-special-procedures-palestinians-during-ramadan-976868>

- **'Israel's Population To Reach 20 Million By 2065'**

The nation's population is expected to reach some 20 million by the end of 2065, with haredim comprising nearly a third of the population, according to a report the Central Bureau of Statistics released on Sunday.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Report-Israels-population-to-reach-20-million-by-2065-492429>

- **Israeli Army and Navy Attack Farmers and Fishermen in Gaza**

Israeli soldiers opened fire, earlier Monday, at Palestinian farmers, working on their lands, and several fishing boats, in different part of the besieged Gaza Strip,

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-army-and-navy-attack-farmers-and-fishermen-in-gaza/>

- **Hamas sentences 3 Israeli agents to death over Gaza assassination**

Gaza's ruling Hamas movement delivered death sentences on Sunday to three Palestinians it ruled had taken part in what it said was an Israeli-directed assassination of one of the group's senior commanders.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170521-hamas-sentences-three-palestinians-to-death-over-commanders-assassination/>

- **Israel's New Economic Measures for Palestinians Not Harming Israeli Interests**

The economic measures to support Palestinians approved by the Israeli government ahead of visit of US President Donald Trump do not harm Israel's interests, The Times of Israel news outlet reported citing a diplomatic source.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705221053842845-israel-palestine-measures-no-harm/>

- **Hamas fires back at Trump's 'terrorism' allegation**

The statement describing Hamas as a terror group is rejected and is a distortion of our image and shows a complete bias to the Zionist occupation," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in a statement on Sunday.

More details:

<http://www.rawstory.com/2017/05/hamas-fires-back-at-trumps-terrorism-allegation/>

- **What chance does Donald Trump have of making the Middle East's 'ultimate deal'?**

Peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis has eluded every single American president, but the United States' unconventional new leader presents both an opportunity and a threat in the long-running conflict, writes Middle East correspondent Sophie McNeill.

More details:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2017-05-22/what-chance-does-donald-trump-have-of-making-the-middle-east-s-ultimate-deal/1673298>

- **Palestinian Negotiator Warns Trump: Moving Embassy Will End Peace Process**

Moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would end the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat warned on Saturday.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/05/21/palestinian-negotiator-erekat-warns-trump-moving-embassy-will-end-peace-process/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Youth, Unemployment Top Discussions at World Economic Forum in Jordan**

The challenges of Arab youth and unemployment were identified as the two key issues facing business leaders and policymakers at the opening of the World Economic Forum (WEF) regional meeting at the Dead Sea resort in Jordan.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/unemployment-youth-top-discussions-world-economic-forum-jordan-976640>

- **Jordan ready to accept Germany military planes from Turkey**

King Abdullah of Jordan has offered assistance to Germany in relocating the German aircrafts that are stationed at NATO's Incirlik airbase in Turkey. German Minister of Defense Ursula von der Leyen informed about the aforesaid, reported the German Deutsche Welle (DW) TV and radio company of the country.

More Details:

<https://news.am/eng/news/391224.html>

- **What's behind Damascus' claim of 'invasion from Jordan'?**

In recent months, the area of the so-called Syrian-Jordanian-Iraqi triangle has seen fighting, negotiations, armistice, the breakup of old coalitions and the propping up of new ones. Over the past few weeks, the Russian media have given this area much attention, mainly due to repeated statements by Syrian authorities that an invasion of the southern regions of Syria in Daraa province is being prepared from Jordanian territory as part of a US-devised plan and that Damascus will regard this as an act of aggression.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/syria-damascus-claim-invasion-jordan-russia-iraq-opposition.html>

- **Jordan and Slovakia review bilateral relations**

Ayman Safadi, Jordanian Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, has met with his Slovak counterpart, Miroslav Lajcak, at the Jordan venue of the World Economic Forum which opened earlier today.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302614947>

- **Trump Likens Hizbullah to IS, Qaida, Lauds Lebanon and Lebanese Army**

U.S. President Donald Trump compared Hizbullah in a landmark speech on Sunday to extremist organizations such as Islamic State and al-Qaida, as he lauded the Lebanese army for fighting IS and Lebanon for hosting a huge number of Syrian refugees. "We now face a humanitarian and security disaster in this region that is spreading across the planet. It is a tragedy of epic proportions. No

description of the suffering and depravity can begin to capture its full measure,” said Trump in a speech focused on terrorism during the Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/230329-trump-likens-hizbullah-to-is-qaida-lauds-lebanon-and-lebanese-army>

- **Lebanon detains Iraqi man suspected of spying for Israel**

Lebanon's state-run news agency is reporting that security forces have detained an Iraqi citizen who was allegedly spying for Israel. The National News Agency said in the Saturday report that the Iraqi citizen confessed that he was recruited by an arm of the Israeli Defense Ministry to gather information about the Lebanese army and certain personalities in Lebanon.

More Details:

http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=42543

- **Elite Hezbollah unit operating in southern Lebanon**

Lebanon's Al-Mustaqbal daily reported that in the past few weeks, Hezbollah has redistributed its forces in Syria and Lebanon, placing elite forces previously stationed in Syria into southern Lebanon.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/229917>

- **Hariri: today's environment is better for investment, Lebanon will be a center of technology**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri deemed, on Saturday, that the environment today is better for investments, considering that we need to build more confidence in order to attract investors to Lebanon, while anticipating that it would be a center of technology in the future. In an open dialogue at the Grand Serail with a group of young entrepreneurs and innovators, in the presence of Culture Minister Ghattas Khoury and a number of advisors, Hariri stressed on the government's interest in encouraging and assisting young innovators in the development of their technology projects and start-up companies, which cater to various areas of citizens' daily life.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79459/Hariri-Today-39-environment-is-better-for-investment-Lebanon-will-be-center-of-technology>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Kuwaiti-Iranian Friendship Group Congratulates Rouhani**

Chairman of the Kuwaiti-Iranian Friendship Association congratulated Hassan Rouhani's win in the recent presidential election, stressing on the importance of mutual ties expansion between the two countries. President Rouhani was elected for his second term of office with 57 percent of votes in Iran's 12th presidential election on May 19.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82540436/>

- **Burj Khalifa, Burj Al Arab among World's Most Instagrammed Tourist Attractions**

Dubai landmarks the Burj Khalifa and the Burj Al Arab are among the top 20 most photographed buildings on Instagram, according to a new study. Sony Mobile and OnePoll revealed the findings as part of a study of the top 30 most photographed locations in the world conducted earlier this month.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/burj-khalifa-burj-al-arab-among-world%E2%80%99s-most-instagrammed-tourist-attractions-976882>

- **President Ilham Aliyev Meets Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi**

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev met with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces on May 21.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-politics/foreign-news/azerbaijan-s-president-meets-crown-prince-of-abu-dhabi.html>

- **Ramadan School Timings Announced in UAE**

The UAE Ministry of Education has announced that students will attend up to five hours of classes during Ramadan. According to a statement issued to local Arabic media, the ministry said that the new Ramadan school timings will commence on Sunday, May 28, 2017.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/education/ramadan-school-timings-announced-in-uae-1.2030784>

- **Saudis, UAE pledge \$100 million to Ivanka Trump-proposed fund**

Just two days into President Donald Trump debut foreign trip, a member of his inner-circle has already reaped benefits to the tune of \$100 million. In a sunlit ballroom Sunday morning at the Tuwaiq Palace in Saudi Arabia, Ivanka Trump's proposed Women Entrepreneurs Fund -- a concept she first shared during her own inaugural international trip as first daughter last month to Berlin, Germany -- was promised a combined \$100 million by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates specifically to help women in the Middle East.

More Details:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/05/21/politics/saudi-pledge-trump-women/>

- **Yemen Protesters Call for Southern Secession**

Thousands of Yemenis, who support the secession of the country's south from the north, have been rallying in Aden. Yemen's internationally recognised government rejects calls for an independent south, saying it is a threat to the country's future.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/05/yemen-protesters-call-southern-secession-170522055826307.html>

- **Saudi fighter jet downed by Yemeni Army in Najran**

The Yemeni army, in an attack in retaliation for the continued acts of aggression against the country by the Saudi regime, managed to shoot down a Saudi fighter jet in the kingdom's southwestern province of Najran. The Yemeni army's air defense unit stationed in the northwestern province of Sa'ada announced that it shot down the Saudi fighter jet in Najran, the Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/saudi-fighter-jet-downed-by-yemeni-army-in-najran_831061.html

- **Qatar Strategic Partner in War on Terror: Trump**

Riyadh: US President Donald Trump said yesterday that Qatar is a strategic partner in the war on terrorism. In his address to the Arab-American Islamic Summit held in Riyadh, the US President stressed the importance of Qatar's role in enhancing security in the region and the world, praising the role played by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the fight against terrorism.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/22/05/2017/Qatar-strategic-partner-in-war-on-terror-Trump>

- **30 Workers in Kuwait Wait to Reach Home**

More than 30 workers from Telangana and AP have been allegedly deprived of food, basic necessities, and salaries by a company they have been working for in Kuwait. Without pay for several months, the workers decided to quit their jobs but the company has been refusing to settle their dues. Driven to despair, the workers have appealed to NRI affairs minister K T Rama Rao to help them return home.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/30-workers-in-kuwait-wait-to-reach-home/articleshow/58759179.cms>

- **Saudi Energy Minister Due in Iraq to Discuss Extension to Oil Output Cuts**

Saudi energy minister Khalid al-Falih will meet with his Iraqi counterpart in Baghdad on Monday as the top oil producer seeks to convince others to extend output cuts for a further nine months ahead of an OPEC meeting on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/saudi-energy-minister-due-in-iraq-to-discuss-extension-to-oil-output-cuts-20170522-00112>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt Refers 48 to Military Court Over Church Bombings**

Egypt has referred 48 people to the country's military judiciary for suspected involvement in three deadly church bombings and accused them of joining the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) group. Of the 48 suspects, 31 are in custody and 17 still at large, the public prosecutor's office said in a statement on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/egypt-refers-48-military-court-church-bombings-170521174543156.html>

- **Sisi Underlines Facing Terrorist Groups without Prejudice, Settling Palestinian Cause**

Riyadh- Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi told the Arab-Islamic-US summit in Riyadh on Sunday that there are four elements to deal with terrorism – facing terrorist groups without prejudice,

confronting all dimensions of the terrorism phenomenon, eradicating terrorist groups' ability to recruit new fighters and settling the Palestinian cause based on a fair, final and comprehensive solution.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/sisi-underlines-facing-terrorist-groups-without-prejudice-settling-palestinian-cause>

- **The Big 5 Construct Egypt to Debut in Cairo in 2018**

The Big 5 Construct Egypt will take place at the New Cairo Exhibition Centre - on 15-17 September 2018 and will showcase the innovative products, technologies and services of hundreds of exhibitors, more than 70 percent of whom are expected to be international.

More Details:

<https://www.incentivetravel.co.uk/news/agency-news/39590-the-big-5-construct-egypt-to-debut-in-cairo-in-2018>

- **Egyptian Communications Minister Confirms 4G Frequencies are Now Ready for Use**

Egyptian communications minister Yasser al-Kadi has confirmed that the LTE-suitable spectrum which has been allocated to four companies is now ready for use, according to Reuters. The minister was cited as saying: "We are now ready to hand over 4G mobile frequencies to any company that is ready ... We are waiting for companies to finish preparations to receive the frequencies."

More Details:

https://www.telegeography.com/products/commsupdate/articles/2017/05/22/egyptian-communications-minister-confirms-4g-frequencies-are-now-ready-for-use/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%253A+telegeography%252Fcommsupdate+%2528TeleGeography+CommsUpdate%2529

- **Trump, Sissi said to agree on peace summit "very soon"**

US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi agreed on Sunday during their meeting in Riyadh to hold a peace summit "very soon," in order to forge a road map for negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, Arab media reported.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-sissi-said-to-agree-on-peace-summit-very-soon/>

- **This New App Helps Egyptian Women Cook Their Way to Financial Freedom**

“Every company in the private sector has a social responsibility,” says Waleed Abd El Rahman, CEO of a new food delivery business with a difference. Based in Cairo, his company, Mumm, provides a platform for local women and refugees to sell home-cooked meals to customers.

More Details:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/05/egyptian-women-homecooking-mumm>

- **Behind the Curtains of the Foreign Ministry: Security Apparatuses Play for Control**

Five Egyptian diplomats were informed by the Foreign Ministry in early May of a presidential decree to transfer them to agriculture and development government entities outside the ministry.

More Details:

<http://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/05/22/feature/politics/backstage-at-the-foreign-ministry-security-apparatuses-play-for-control/>

- **Electricity Ministry to Contract with Siemens Wind Farms to Lower KW Tariff**

The Ministry of Electricity promised to complete the contract with Siemens for the construction of wind farms with a capacity of 2,000 MW if the company agrees to cut the tariff for buying output power. The wind farm was one of the projects presented during the economic summit in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2015.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/21/electricity-ministry-contract-siemens-wind-farms-lower-kw-tariff/>

- **Tatweer Misr celebrates UN’s MSMEs Day**

Ahmed Shalaby, Egyptian property developer Tatweer Misr’s Managing Director and ICSB Board Member, spoke at the United Nations earlier on May 11 at the International Council on Small Business High Level Knowledge Summit.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/real-estate/56988-tatweer-misr-celebrates-uns-msmes-day.html>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisia protesters close second oil pump station**

Tunisian protesters demanding jobs and a share in energy wealth have closed down another oil pumping station in defiance of government efforts to protect oil and gasfields with troops and negotiate an end to unrest. Protesters peacefully shut a pumping station at Faouar in southern Kebili province, where French oil company Perenco operates, according to TAP state news agency and Mosaique FM and Shems FM radio stations.

More Detail:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/fd6e6b67-9536-4f40-a4be-fc42c4f550f8.aspx>

- **Tunisia to Invest \$160 Million in Renewable Energies**

The Tunisian Department of Energy issued this month a tender for projects that aim at providing 210 MW of renewable energy with a cost of TND400 million (USD160 million). Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies Héla Cheikhrouhou said during an international conference on renewable energy in Tunisia that projects with a capacity of 1 MW, projects with a capacity of 30 MW and micro-projects that don't exceed 5MW of wind energy are subject to authorizations and not conditions to grant more chances to the Tunisian promoters.

More Detail:

<http://english.aawsat.com/almunji-alsaidani/business/tunisia-invest-160-million-renewable-energies>

- **Scholarships Prepare New Leaders in Tunisia**

The success of Tunisia's new constitutional democracy depends on the involvement of young people. In 2016, 38 percent of the Tunisian population was under the age of 25. But young people have not yet begun to take an active part in their country's development in this new era. How can we encourage them to do so?

More Detail:

<http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2017/05/scholarships-prepare-new-leaders-tunisia/>

- **Algeria to Form New Cabinet Soon After Installation of New Parliament**

Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal said that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika will form a new cabinet soon after the installation of the new parliament. "The formation of the cabinet falls under the authority of President of the Republic Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and it is to be announced after the

installation of the new National People's Council (lower house of parliament) following elections of May 4," Sellal told reporters at a ceremony in the capital Algiers.

More Detail:

<http://www.malaysiandigest.com/world/676468-algeria-to-form-new-cabinet-soon-after-installation-of-new-parliament.html>

- **UN-Sahara: Algerian official attacks physically a Moroccan diplomat**

The Sahara issue continues to poison relations between Algeria and Morocco, to the extent that an Algerian official has physically assaulted a Moroccan diplomat during a meeting of a UN body held Thursday (May 18) in St. Lucia. Soufiane Mimouni, Director General of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assaulted the Deputy Chief of Morocco's Mission in Saint Lucia who was hospitalized for medical treatment. The incident dismayed the members of the UN Special Committee of 24 that was convening in this Caribbean island.

More Detail:

<http://sahara-news.org/1576-un-sahara-algerian-official-attacks-physically-a-moroccan-diplomat.html>

- **Morocco Calls Assault on Moroccan Diplomat 'Unacceptable', Demands Apologies from Algeria**

Morocco has demanded an apology from Algeria over the physical assault on a Moroccan diplomat by an Algerian official during a United Nations meeting in the Caribbean. Medical and police reports have confirmed the occurrence of the incident. "What happened is unacceptable," the Moroccan Minister of Affairs, Nasser Bourita, told Agence France-Presse (AFP). "We demand an apology from Algeria."

More Detail:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/05/217124/nasser-bourita-assault-moroccan-diplomat-unacceptable-apologies-algeria/>

- **Morocco cracks down on fighters returning from IS**

For the last two years, Moroccan authorities have been cracking down on Islamic State (IS) fighters' returning from the battlefields in Syria and Iraq. While they have been accused of turning a blind eye to the departure of hundreds of volunteers to jihad in the early days of the conflict in 2012, authorities are now arresting returnees, fearing they would get involved in terrorist activities at home.

More Detail:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/morocco-crackdown-islamic-state-return-jihadists.html>

- **Istiqlal and USFP: Morocco's Former Major Parties on a Hot Tin Roof**

For the last couple of months, internal division within The Istiqlal Party (PI) and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), have been intensifying. Leaders of both parties, Hamid Chabat and Driss Lachgar, are facing increasing opposition. Chabat is losing his grip on both the party and the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM), Istiqlal's affiliated labor union.

More Detail:

<https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2017/05/217178/istiqlal-usfp-moroccos-former-major-parties-hot-tin-roof/>

- **Haftar forces bombard rivals after Libya airbase attack**

Forces loyal to Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar have bombed rival forces in retaliation for a deadly attack on an airbase in the south of the country, media reported Sunday. "Warplanes launched air strikes overnight Saturday as part of the Martyrs of Brak Al Shati operation," the LANA news agency said in reference to the airbase where at least 141 people, mostly forces loyal to Haftar, were killed on Thursday. LANA, which is loyal to authorities based in eastern Libya, said MIG-23 jets carried out seven air strikes, targeting "terrorists in Hun and Jufra", two areas in southern Libya.

More Detail:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/haftar-forces-bombard-rivals-after-libya-airbase-attack>

- **UN urges Libya to release all refugees, asylum seekers**

The head of the UN refugee agency has urged Libyan authorities to free all asylum seekers and refugees from its detention centers. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, visited one of the detention centers in the Libyan capital of Tripoli on Sunday.

More Detail:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/urges-libya-release-refugees-asylum-seekers-170521203216971.html>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Trump Calls Afghan Soldiers Courageous for Their Sacrifices in Fight against Terror**

The US President Donald Trump has called the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) courageous as he hailed their sacrifices in the fight against the terrorism. In his speech to the Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh, Trump said many are already making significant contributions to regional security, mentioning Jordanian, Saudi Arabia, Lebanese army, American soldiers, and Qatar for their contribution to eliminate the menace of terror.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/trump-calls-afghan-soldiers-courageous-for-their-sacrifices-in-fight-against-terror-02800>

- **Taliban attacks kill at least 25 Afghan Police**

The Taliban initiated the attacks as part of a spring offensive that has inflicted heavy losses on government security forces.

More Details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/05/21/taliban-attacks-kill-at-least-25-afghan-police.html>

- **71 Militants Killed In Afghan Forces Fresh Operations**

Up to 71 armed militants have been killed during series of operations across the conflict-hit Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, said a statement of Interior Ministry released here on Monday, China's Xinhua news agency reported.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1358119>

- **3.5 Million Afghan Children Out of School**

The Ministry of Education on Sunday said nearly 3.5 million children have been deprived of education due to insecurity across the country. The ministry asked the government to an education program in cooperation with international partners about enrolling children who lacked access to school.

More Details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/05/21/35-million-afghan-children-out-school>

- **German Woman, Security Guard Killed by Gunmen in Kabul**

A German woman and a security guard were killed after unknown gunmen attacked a guesthouse in Kabul. The incident took place on Saturday night in Ayoub Khan Mena area in PD7 when armed attackers stormed the house, reports the Tolo News.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE1NTE2/german-woman-security-guard-killed-by-gunmen-in-kabul.html>

- **Six Pakistani Police Killed In Attacks Claimed By Extremist Groups**

Six Pakistani police officers were killed by gunmen in two separate attacks, police officials said on May 21. Police official Arif Khan said gunmen shot and killed four officers, including the area police chief, who were returning from a patrol about 90 kilometers south of Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/pakistan-6-police-killed-extremist-attacks/28501562.html>

- **No New Taxes This Year: Shehbaz**

New taxes will not be imposed in the up-coming budget, said Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He was presiding over a 2017-18 budget review meeting on Sunday. The chief minister said new schemes were being introduced for the welfare of people.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1415712/no-new-taxes-year-shehbaz/>

- **Pakistan Had a Deep Commitment to the Unity of the Muslim World: Nawaz Sharif**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Sunday said that Pakistan had a deep commitment to the unity of the Muslim world, and to the promotion of interfaith harmony and dialogue. During his interaction with Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, US President Donald J. Trump and other leaders from the Arab and Islamic countries who gathered here for the first Arab-Islamic-American Summit, the prime minister said that being the frontline state, Pakistan had rendered remarkable sacrifices in the global fight against terrorism, said a Foreign Office statement.

More Details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/Pakistan-had-a-deep-commitment-to-the-unity-of-the-Muslim-world-Nawaz-Sharif-278812.html>

- **Indian Spy to Be Executed: Siraj**

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Ameer Senator Sirajul Haq has said that Indian spy Kulbhushan is destined to be executed whether the government likes it or not. Talking to the media at the JI Youth election camp at Mohlanwal on Sunday, he said that Kulbhushan was a terrorist and had been deputed for sabotage, and hundreds of innocent people had been killed in the terrorist activities carried out by him.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/205797-Indian-spy-to-be-executed-Siraj>

- **Pakistani Official Hails Arab-American Islamic Summit**

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman has commended the Arab-American Islamic Summit, which was held in Riyadh yesterday, and added that it will be a milestone in presenting a true image of Islam.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302615147>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish FM arrives in Saudi for US-Islamic summit**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu arrived in Saudi capital Riyadh on Sunday to attend a planned U.S.-Islamic summit. Cavusoglu will represent Turkey in the summit, which will also be attended by U.S. President Donald Trump and leaders of 55 Islamic countries.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/189823/turkish-fm-arrives-in-saudi-for-us-islamic-summit>

- **2 suspected Daesh terrorists killed in Ankara raid**

Two suspected members of Daesh terror group were killed in a police raid early Sunday in the Turkish capital Ankara, the governor told reporters. The two males -- aged between 25 and 30 -- were driven to the city from Istanbul in a private vehicle by a third individual, who confessed to plans for a terrorist attack after being arrested in an Istanbul police operation, Governor Ercan Topaca said.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/2-suspected-daesh-terrorists-killed-in-ankara-raid/822592>

- **Erdoğan will meet with Trump once again at NATO summit, to discuss anti-Daesh efforts**

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's official visits continue with plans to attend the NATO summit next week in Brussels, where he will meet with his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump for the second time in nine days to discuss anti-Daesh efforts. Presidents Erdoğan and Trump held their first face-to-face meeting last Tuesday in Washington, a visit Erdoğan had described as a "milestone" between the two countries. As strong NATO allies and strategic partners, the two leaders are to address the alliance's fate during the summit on May 25 in Brussels. The U.S. side has requested that one-on-one meetings between Trump and other leaders be limited to four minutes.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/05/20/erdogan-will-meet-with-trump-once-again-at-nato-summit-to-discuss-anti-daesh-efforts>

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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