



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliđi

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dış Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

22 FEBRUARY 2017

NO: 2323

1. IRAQ.....	4
• 17 PKK terrorists killed in anti-terror operations across Turkey, Iraq.....	4
• Canada to receive 1200 more Yazidi migrants.....	4
• 3 Generals Bound by Iraq Will Guide Trump on Security.....	4
• Islamic State execute two Iraqi army officers in new video.....	4
• What is behind surprise visit of US Defense Secretary to Iraq?.....	5
• Australian bombers and medics playing key role in the battle for Mosul.....	5
• Mission Unaccomplished, 15 Years Later.....	5
• At least 7 Killed in Baghdad car Bomb.....	5
• British IS 'suicide bomber' was detained at Guantanamo Bay.....	6
• PMUs launch new phase of offensives on western Mosul's Tal Afar.....	6
• The Vice Closes on Mosul: What Next?.....	6
• British Museum trains Iraqi archaeologists to rebuild post-Daesh.....	6
• 750,000 people trapped in Mosul are 'on brink of starvation' as Iraqi forces advance.....	7
• Iraqi Security Forces Move in to Liberate West Mosul, Official Says.....	7
• Battlefield Mosul.....	7
• Yezidi woman accused of supporting ISIS acquitted by Erbil court.....	7
• Troops advance on western Mosul as Mattis holds talks.....	8
• UN refugee agency focuses on aiding displaced as Iraqi offensive moves to west Mosul.....	8
• Peshmerga not involved in western Mosul battles: ministry.....	8
2. SYRIA.....	8
• Syrian Speaker: Terrorism another face of Zionism.....	8
• Russia Delivers Over 5 Tonnes of Humanitarian Aid to Syrians in 24 Hours.....	9
• US-backed alliance enters Deir al-Zor province.....	9
• Syrian jets bomb Idlib towns after rebels fire at Shiite villages as truce talks near.....	9
• Syrian rebels, families reach destination after evacuating Serghaya.....	9
• UN-backed Syria talks to focus on political solution.....	9
• CIA-backed aid for rebels frozen after attack.....	10
• Velayati reiterates Iran's support to Syria against terrorism.....	10
• Israeli jet strikes Syrian army in west Damascus.....	10
• Extensive Efforts to Solve 'Geneva 4' Knots.....	10
3. IRAN.....	11
• International conference on Palestine enters second day in Iranian capital.....	11
• Pakistan, Iran to join hands for trade, eradicating terrorism in the region.....	11
• Nuclear Deal Repudiation to Take Everything Back to Square One: Iranian Speaker.....	11
• Korean Air requests postponement of Iran flight deadline.....	11
• Final stage of 'Grand Prophet' military drill begins.....	12
• Unity between Shia, Sunni Muslims boosts Mideast security: Iran minister.....	12
• Iran supports creation of free trade zone with EAEU.....	12
• Iran delegation off to Saudi Arabia: Hajj official.....	12

• IRGC Ground Force Airborne Unit Takes Action in Drill	12
• Lieberman is wrong – main problem in Middle East is Israel not Iran	13
4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	13
• IAF strikes Syrian army outposts in Damascus suburbs	13
• Netanyahu Planning another Trip to Russia.....	13
• Israeli minister moves to revoke citizenship of Palestinian charged with murder	13
• Israeli bulldozers demolish Palestinian building in East Jerusalem.....	13
• Benjamin Netanyahu Gets a Warm Reception from Australia’s Leader	14
• Israeli PM says Palestinians should self-govern but without military power.....	14
• Two-state solution returns Palestinian territory: Ambassador.....	14
• Middle East peace depends on a Palestinian state	14
• Israeli soldier sentenced to 18 months for killing a wounded Palestinian in a case that roiled the nation	15
• Dublin Protesters Prevent Speech by Israeli Ambassador	15
5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....	15
• Sisi, Abdullah II: Two-State Solution a National Principle	15
• Jumblat Delegation Meets Arslan, Says 'No One Can Eliminate Anyone'	15
• Change and Reform Rejects 1960 Law Anew, Hints Aoun Won't Ink Polls Decree.....	16
• Lebanon: Meeting between Grand Mufti, Le Pen Cancelled as She Refused to Wear Headscarf16	
• Lebanese president eyes continued US military support.....	16
• Hezbollah warns ‘no red lines’ in next war with Israel.....	16
• Central bank raises main interest rates by 50 basis points	17
• Shorter announces £2.5m investment in Lebanon's Knowledge Economy: It is about returning Lebanon to being gateway to MENA region	17
• Jordanians 'at breaking point' over austerity measures	17
• Berri meets Rouhani, Larijani	17
6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	18
• With US support, Saudi Arabia ready to send special forces to Syria	18
• Saudi Arabia Kicks off First RFQ for Renewable Energy Program	18
• UN says seven million Yemenis on brink of starvation	18
• Saudi-Yemeni free-trade zone would benefit both countries, says business leader	18
• Qatar Islamic Bank gets nod to raise AT1 Capital Sukuk limit.....	19
• Saudi-UAE Coordination Council Retreat kicks off in Abu Dhabi	19
• Military courts to get more powers	19
• Bahrain's inflation rate falls sharply in January.....	19
• Emir of Kuwait Meets Sayyid Fahd	19
7. EGYPT.....	20
• Egypt’s Grand Mufti expected to publish document favoring women’s rights	20
• German parliamentary delegation meet with Egypt’s speaker of parliament.....	20
• Jordan’s King Abdullah II visits Egypt in one-day official visit	20
• UK plans to increase investment in Egypt: ambassador	21
• Egyptian MP Sadat denies accusations that he leaked draft law.....	21
• France-Egypt 2016 trade exchange hit €2 billion: minister.....	21
• Russia to deliver MiG-29 fighters to Egypt on schedule	21



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

• Egypt central bank, investors reach agreement to settle pre-float credit lines	21
• Brotherhood hails Turkish president's defence of group.....	22
• Vatican officials join Egyptian Muslim leaders in conference on combatting extremism	22
8. NORTH AFRICA.....	22
• UN: Gaddafi's son needs to be tried at ICC	22
• As Haftar Moves Closer To Russia, Will Libya Become The Next Syria?.....	22
• 'Don't tell a bear what to do': Russia brushes off UK warning not 'to stick paws in' Libya	23
• The next phase of climate action	23
• Algerian MP condemns Israeli terrorism.....	23
• Sellal receives German Parliamentary State Secretary at Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.....	24
• Privacy is Hard to Protect in Tunisia, Thanks to Politics.....	24
• Tunisia growth slows to 1 pct in 2016: official data	24
• Saudi Arabia to step up investment in Morocco	24
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	25
• Pakistan, Iran to join hands for trade, eradicating terrorism in the region	25
• Iranian FM Hold Talks with Pakistani Counterpart in Tehran	25
• For His Hafiz Saeed Comments, Pak Politicians Slam Defence Minister	25
• PM leaves for Turkey landmark visit today	25
• Lahore Knowledge Park: Shehbaz takes notice of 'illegal' recruitments	26
• Dostum reject siege of house by Afghan forces and differences with Ghani	26
• Afghanistan, Italy sign grant agreement worth €4,000,000.....	26
• 30 IS militants killed in eastern Afghanistan in 24 hours: government.....	26
• Afghanistan signs MoU to inaugurate engineering design of TAPI pipeline	27
• President Ghani Meets US Senate Delegation	27
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....	27
• Turkey kills '14 Daesh terrorists' in northern Syria	27
• 35 Daesh suspects detained in Istanbul raids	27

1. IRAQ

- **17 PKK terrorists killed in anti-terror operations across Turkey, Iraq**

A total of 17 PKK terrorists have been killed in anti-terror operations conducted on Tuesday across southeastern Turkey and northern Iraq, the Turkish military announced on Tuesday in a press release.

More details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/02/22/17-pkk-terrorists-killed-in-anti-terror-operations-across-turkey-iraq>

- **Canada to receive 1200 more Yazidi migrants**

Canada has said it was going to receive this year 1200 migrants from Iraq's Yazidi ethnic-religious minority which has sustained torture and massacres by Islamic State militants since 2014.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/features/canada-receive-1200-yazidi-migrants/>

- **3 Generals Bound by Iraq Will Guide Trump on Security**

At one point or another, they each strode the sands of Iraq, fighting on the unforgiving battlefield of America's costliest war since Vietnam. Now all three will sit around the table in the White House Situation Room, steering a new president through the treacherous crosscurrents of a stormy world.

More details:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/21/us/politics/h-r-mcmaster-national-security-adviser.html?_r=0

- **Islamic State execute two Iraqi army officers in new video**

Islamic State militants have released a new graphic video showing militants executing two Iraqi army officers, the first since Iraqi forces began a successful push Sunday to retake the group's last strongholds in Mosul. The two officers had disappeared from al-Nakhib area in Anbar province a month earlier, according to Russia Today.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-execute-two-iraqi-army-officers-new-video/>

- **What is behind surprise visit of US Defense Secretary to Iraq?**

The Marines retired general James Mattis, who was picked as Secretary of Defense in Trump's administration, in a surprise visit arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday February 21. This trip is the first official visit to Iraq of one of top officials of administration of the new US President Donald Trump.

More details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/comment/what-is-behind-surprise-visit-of-us-secretary-of-defense-to-iraq_813340.html

- **Australian bombers and medics playing key role in the battle for Mosul**

Australian forces are playing a key role in the escalating battle for the Iraqi city of Mosul, bombing 130 Islamic State targets and deploying Special Forces medics close to the frontline to treat wounded Iraqi soldiers.

More details:

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/australian-bombers-and-medics-playing-key-role-in-the-battle-for-mosul-20170222-guik7v.html>

- **Mission Unaccomplished, 15 Years Later**

In the new Trump era, neither major party seems capable of escaping a shared commitment to the legends rather than the facts of America's recent past in the Greater Middle East. Both sides remain eerily confident that the answers to contemporary foreign policy woes lie in a mythical version of that past, whether Trump's imaginary 1950s paradise or Clinton's fleeting mid-1990s "unipolar moment."

More details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/engelhardt/2017/02/21/mission-unaccomplished-15-years-later/>

- **At least 7 Killed in Baghdad car Bomb**

A car bomb exploded late Tuesday at a commercial street in the southwestern Baghdad neighborhood of Amiriya killing at least seven people and injuring 30 others, police said.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/At-least-7-killed-in-Baghdad-car-bomb-482265>

- **British IS 'suicide bomber' was detained at Guantanamo Bay**

A British Islamic State fighter who is believed to have carried out a suicide bombing in Iraq was a former Guantanamo Bay detainee, according to reports. The bomber, named by the group as Abu Zakariya al-Britani, is said to have detonated an explosives-filled vehicle in a village to the south of Mosul.

More details:

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/world/british-is-suicide-bomber-was-detained-at-guantanamo-bay-778286.html>

- **PMUs launch new phase of offensives on western Mosul's Tal Afar**

Al-Hashd al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Units) has announced a new phase of operations targeting the liberation of the Islamic State western Mosul stronghold of Tal Afar.

More details:

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/pmus-launch-new-phase-offensives-western-mosuls-tal-afar/>

- **The Vice Closes on Mosul: What Next?**

Last Sunday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al Abadi appeared on Iraqi television to announce “a new phase in the operation” to retake Mosul. “We are coming to Nineveh,” he said, “to liberate [the] western side of Mosul” from the grasp of ISIS. This is welcome news. The fight to liberate Mosul’s western half has been brutally difficult and long, far more so than predicted.

More details:

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/middle-east/vice-closes-mosul-what-next-1089>

- **British Museum trains Iraqi archaeologists to rebuild post-Daesh**

Standing in front of two ancient Assyrian statues, eight Iraqi archaeologists discuss not only the homes some have fled, but also how to avoid explosives when they finally go back to work. They’re in London as part of a British Museum scheme aimed at equipping Iraq with the digital and excavation skills necessary to salvage artifacts and rebuild ancient sites Daesh fighters have attempted to destroy.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170221-british-museum-trains-iraqi-archaeologists-to-rebuild-post-daesh/>

- **750,000 people trapped in Mosul are 'on brink of starvation' as Iraqi forces advance**

Many of the 750,000 civilians trapped inside Mosul are on “the brink of starvation” as Iraqi forces fight their way into the western half of the city, aid groups have warned.

More details:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/22/750000-people-trapped-mosul-brink-starvation-iraqi-forces-advance/>

- **Iraqi Security Forces Move in to Liberate West Mosul, Official Says**

Since operations began over the weekend to retake West Mosul from two years of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria control, Iraqi security forces have already retaken more than 125 square kilometers – more than 48 square miles – of ISIS-held territory near the city, Pentagon director of press operations Navy Capt. Jeff Davis told reporters today.

More details:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1089733/iraqi-security-forces-move-in-to-liberate-west-mosul-official-says>

- **Battlefield Mosul**

The ferment in Iraq, festering since the spring of 2003, has flared again with the Iraqi army’s offensive to recapture Mosul from the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, prompting the UN to advance a warning on Sunday that “many people are at extreme risk”, with fuel and food supplies dwindling and drinking water and electricity scarce.

More details:

<http://www.thestatesman.com/opinion/battlefield-mosul-1487715490.html>

- **Yezidi woman accused of supporting ISIS acquitted by Erbil court**

A woman abducted and raped by the Islamic State (ISIS), who was accused of supporting ISIS during an anti-Peshmerga operation, was acquitted by the Second Erbil Criminal Court in Iraqi Kurdistan. Bassema Darwish, a 34-year-old mother of three from the Babira village in the province of Nineveh, was accused of causing the death of three Peshmerga fighters by helping ISIS emirs.

More details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/02/yezidi-woman-accused-of-supporting-isis-acquitted-by-erbil-court/>

- **Troops advance on western Mosul as Mattis holds talks**

Iraqi forces advanced into the southern outskirts of Mosul on the second day of a push to drive ISIL from the city's western half, as the visiting US defence secretary met officials to discuss the fight against the armed group. With aerial support from the US-led coalition, Iraqi police and army troops launched the offensive on Sunday, part of a 100-day-old campaign that has already driven the fighters from the eastern half of the city.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/troops-advance-western-mosul-mattis-holds-talks-170221054020345.html>

- **UN refugee agency focuses on aiding displaced as Iraqi offensive moves to west Mosul**

The United Nations refugee agency is focusing efforts on camp construction in and around the Iraqi city of Mosul, where renewed fighting could displace up to 250,000 people, UN officials said here Tuesday. With the predicted exodus of up to a quarter of a million people, it will be impossible to accommodate such large numbers on existing land, the officials said, quoting information from the UN Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/22/c_136074836.htm

- **Peshmerga not involved in western Mosul battles: ministry**

Kurdistan's army forces (Peshmerga) are not partaking in the Iraqi forces' battle against Islamic State in western Mosul, its ministry has said.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/peshmerga-not-involved-western-mosul-battles-ministry/>

2. SYRIA

- **Syrian Speaker: Terrorism another face of Zionism**

Syrian Parliament Speaker Hadiya Abbas said on Tuesday that terrorism is another face of Zionism, noting that countries backing terrorism have rendered remarkable services to the Zionist regime.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82440070/>

- **Russia Delivers Over 5 Tonnes of Humanitarian Aid to Syrians in 24 Hours**

The Russian center for Syrian reconciliation has provided 5.6 tonnes of humanitarian aid to over 3,000 Syrian citizens in the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201702221050927229-russia-delivers-syria-humanitarian-aid/>

- **US-backed alliance enters Deir al-Zor province**

Eleven people killed and more than 35 wounded in air strikes in town in northern Deir al-Zor province, observatory says.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/backed-alliance-enters-syria-deir-al-zor-province-170222045418598.html>

- **Syrian jets bomb Idlib towns after rebels fire at Shiite villages as truce talks near**

Syrian government warplanes carried out several airstrikes against towns in mostly rebel-held Idlib on Tuesday after insurgents fired on two besieged Shiite villages in the province, a pro-Damascus media outlet and war monitors said.

More details:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/02/22/world/syrian-jets-bomb-idlib-towns-rebels-fire-shiite-villages-truce-talks-near/#.WK0zoW-LTIU>

- **Syrian rebels, families reach destination after evacuating Serghaya**

Around 250 rebels and their families reached the outskirts of Syria's northern city of Idlib on Tuesday, a day after evacuating the town of Serghaya near the capital Damascus, under a deal with the government, activists said.

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/22/c_136074604.htm

- **UN-backed Syria talks to focus on political solution**

UN-brokered Syria peace talks restart in Geneva on Thursday after a 10-month hiatus that will focus on finding a political solution to the six-year-long conflict that has cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

More details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/02/22/un-backed-syria-talks-to-focus-on-political-solution>

- **CIA-backed aid for rebels frozen after attack**

CIA-coordinated military aid for rebels in northwest Syria has been frozen since they came under major hardliner attack last month, rebel sources said, raising doubts about foreign support key to their war against President Bashar Al Assad.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/c2cfa7a5-c896-4a9f-9152-92ad7acdc2b1.aspx>

- **Velayati reiterates Iran's support to Syria against terrorism**

Speaker of the People's Assembly Hadiyeh Abbas affirmed that Syria's participation in the activities of the 6th International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Intifada (uprising) which kicked off in Tehran coincides with important field and political achievements gained by Syria, Iran, Russia and the resistance.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=100682>

- **Israeli jet strikes Syrian army in west Damascus**

An Israeli regime military plane carried out an airstrike on the Syrian government forces stationed in the western countryside of Damascus near the Lebanese border.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/123759/Israeli-jet-strikes-Syrian-army-in-west-Damascus>

- **Extensive Efforts to Solve 'Geneva 4' Knots**

Diplomatic sources in Geneva told Asharq Al-Awsat on Tuesday that representatives from the so-called Syria Support Group would first hold an intra-meeting before sitting with U.N. special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura in an effort to solve the knots blocking the upcoming negotiations.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2017/02/article55367905/extensive-efforts-solve-geneva-4-knots>

3. IRAN

- **International conference on Palestine enters second day in Iranian capital**

The Iranian capital, Tehran, is hosting the second day of an international forum in support of the Palestinian cause, with hundreds of foreign guests, including senior Palestinian leaders and officials of Muslim nations, in attendance.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/02/22/511587/Iran-Tehran-Palestine>

- **Pakistan, Iran to join hands for trade, eradicating terrorism in the region**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Pakistani PM's Adviser Sartaj Aziz discussed issues of mutual interest and implementation of bilateral trade projects signed between the two countries.

More details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/02/22/pakistan-iran-to-join-hands-for-trade-eradicating-terrorism-in-the-region/>

- **Nuclear Deal Repudiation to Take Everything Back to Square One: Iranian Speaker**

Speaker of Iran's Parliament says in case the West rescinds the nuclear deal signed by Iran and world powers, everything will go back to the beginning point.

More details:

<http://ifpnews.com/news/politics/foreign-policies/2017/02/nuclear-deal-repudiation-to-take-everything-back-to-square-one-iranian-speaker/>

- **Korean Air requests postponement of Iran flight deadline**

Korea's largest air carrier sent a request to the Transport Ministry on Tuesday to postpone the start of its Iran flights.

More details:

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20170222000651>

- **Final stage of ‘Grand Prophet’ military drill begins**

The last stage of ‘Grand Prophet’ military drill kicked off in northeast of Iran with special units of IRGC ground forces in action.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/188155.html>

- **Unity between Shia, Sunni Muslims boosts Mideast security: Iran minister**

Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi says unity and cordial relations between Shia and Sunni Muslims play a key role in reinforcing security in the Middle East.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/188139.html>

- **Iran supports creation of free trade zone with EAEU**

During a meeting on Tuesday with visiting Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Ivanovich Shuvalov, Jahangiri said Iran is willing to develop economic cooperation with the EAEU members.

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/411340/Iran-supports-creation-of-free-trade-zone-with-EAEU>

- **Iran delegation off to Saudi Arabia: Hajj official**

Caretaker of Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Hamid Mohammadi announced that an Iranian delegation left here for Riyadh late on Tuesday to hold talks with the Saudi officials on the Hajj issues.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82440290/>

- **IRGC Ground Force Airborne Unit Takes Action in Drill**

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force deployed its airborne troops to Iran’s eastern regions on Wednesday as part of a military drill that is in progress for the third day.

More details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/02/22/1335818/irgc-ground-force-airborne-unit-takes-action-in-drill>

- **Lieberman is wrong – main problem in Middle East is Israel not Iran**

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman has claimed that the main threat in the Middle East is Iran, which he believes tramples upon the entire region with its nuclear ambitions.

More details:

<http://realiran.org/lieberman-is-wrong-main-problem-in-middle-east-is-israel-not-iran/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **IAF strikes Syrian army outposts in Damascus suburbs**

Israel allegedly attacked outposts of the Syrian army's 3rd Division in al-Katif, with Lebanese press quoting officials estimating the target was Hezbollah military buses.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4925977,00.html>

- **Netanyahu Planning another Trip to Russia**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to fly to Russia for one day in the coming weeks to once again discuss the evolving situation in Syria with Russian President Vladimir Putin, senior diplomatic officials said Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/PM-planning-another-trip-to-Russia-482248>

- **Israeli minister moves to revoke citizenship of Palestinian charged with murder**

Israel's Interior Minister and founder of the ultra-orthodox Shas party, Aryeh Deri, has officially begun the process of attempting to revoke the citizenship of a Palestinian citizen of Israel who has been accused of carrying out a "nationalistically-motivated" shooting in January, despite the fact that the trial and sentencing over the case has yet to begin.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=775581>

- **Israeli bulldozers demolish Palestinian building in East Jerusalem**

Bulldozers of the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem Wednesday demolished a Palestinian-owned building in Beit Hanina, an Arab neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem, local sources said.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=SkUcbFa53238207561aSkUcbF>

- **Benjamin Netanyahu Gets a Warm Reception from Australia's Leader**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel was warmly welcomed here Wednesday by his Australian counterpart, Malcolm Turnbull, with the Israeli leader promoting the two countries' growing ties as Israel faces rising international criticism over its settlement policy in the West Bank.

More Details:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/22/world/australia/israel-benjamin-netanyahu-visit-turnbull.html?_r=0

- **Israeli PM says Palestinians should self-govern but without military power**

Speaking at a news conference in Sydney with the Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, Benjamin Netanyahu says while he supported self-government for Palestinians, any solution must not be a threat to the state of Israel. 'Let them govern themselves but let them not have the military and the physical power to threaten Israel,' Netanyahu tells reporters

More Details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2017/feb/22/israeli-pm-says-palestinians-should-self-govern-but-without-military-power-video>

- **Two-state solution returns Palestinian territory: Ambassador**

Indonesian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Octavino Alimudin stated that the two-state solution will facilitate the process of resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and restore the occupied territories by the Israeli occupation to the Palestinian people.

More Details:

<http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/109584/two-state-solution-returns-palestinian-territory-ambassador>

- **Middle East peace depends on a Palestinian state**

US President Donald Trump has muddied the waters by saying a one-state solution would be fine by him, but that ignores realities on the ground

More Details:

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2072847/middle-east-peace-depends-palestinian-state>

- **Israeli soldier sentenced to 18 months for killing a wounded Palestinian in a case that roiled the nation**

Elor Azaria cracked a smile and his family broke out in song Tuesday moments after a military tribunal sentenced the Israeli soldier to 18 months in jail for killing a wounded Palestinian knife assailant last March in a case that has gripped national attention for nearly a year.

More Details:

<http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-israeli-soldier-sentencing-20170221-story.html>

- **Dublin Protesters Prevent Speech by Israeli Ambassador**

A student society at Trinity College Dublin has canceled a speech by Israel's ambassador to Ireland after a group of students chanting pro-Palestinian slogans rallied outside the event.

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_IRELAND_ISRAEL_PROTEST?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-02-21-09-56-30

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Sisi, Abdullah II: Two-State Solution a National Principle**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi discussed on Tuesday with Jordan's King Abdullah II the need to kick start serious and effective peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis based on the two-state solution, Egypt's presidential office said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2017/02/article55367903/sisi-abdullah-ii-two-state-solution-national-principle>

- **Jumblat Delegation Meets Arslan, Says 'No One Can Eliminate Anyone'**

A joint delegation from the Progressive Socialist Party and the Democratic Gathering parliamentary bloc held talks Tuesday in Khalde with Lebanese Democratic Party leader MP Talal Arslan.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/225827-jumblat-delegation-meets-arслан-says-no-one-can-eliminate-anyone>

- **Change and Reform Rejects 1960 Law Anew, Hints Aoun Won't Ink Polls Decree**

The Change and Reform parliamentary bloc on Tuesday reiterated its rejection of the controversial 1960 electoral law, noting that it violates the 1989 Taef Accord, while hinting that President Michel Aoun will not sign a decree calling for parliamentary elections in May 2017.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/225813-change-and-reform-rejects-1960-law-anew-hints-aoun-won-t-ink-polls-decree>

- **Lebanon: Meeting between Grand Mufti, Le Pen Cancelled as She Refused to Wear Headscarf**

French far-right National Front presidential candidate Marine Le Pen refused to wear a headscarf for a scheduled appointment with Lebanon's Grand Mufti on Tuesday and walked away following a short discussion with the Mufti's aides.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2017/02/article55367921/meeting-grand-mufti-le-pen-cancelled-refused-wear-headscarf>

- **Lebanese president eyes continued US military support**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun expressed hope Tuesday that U.S. support for the Lebanese army would continue "to allow Lebanon to defend itself".

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/lebanese-president-eyes-continued-us-military-support/755428>

- **Hezbollah warns 'no red lines' in next war with Israel**

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on Monday doubled down on his recent saber-rattling against Israel and warned that his terror group would not hold back from attacking sensitive Israeli targets if the Jewish state goes to war with Lebanon.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-warns-no-red-lines-in-next-war-with-israel/>

- **Central bank raises main interest rates by 50 basis points**

The Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) open market operations committee on Tuesday decided to increase the main interest rate of the bank and the interest on finance policy tools by 50 basis points as of Tuesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

More details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/central-bank-raises-main-interest-rates-50-basis-points>

- **Shorter announces £2.5m investment in Lebanon's Knowledge Economy: It is about returning Lebanon to being gateway to MENA region**

British Ambassador to Lebanon, Hugo Shorter, announced today £2.5 million (\$3.2 million) towards a new International Research Centre (IRC) in Lebanon.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/75613/Shorter-announces-5m-investment-in-Lebanon-39-Knowledge-Economy-It-is-about-returning-Lebanon-to-being-gateway-to-MENA-region>

- **Jordanians 'at breaking point' over austerity measures**

Protests are erupting across Jordan in response to rising prices and the government's decision to raise taxes on food items and services that was enacted last week.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/02/jordan-worsening-economy-sparks-wave-protest-170221055031620.html>

- **Berri meets Rouhani, Larijani**

Speaker of the House, Nabih Berri, met on Wednesday on the sideline of the conference aimed at supporting the Palestinian people in Iran with the Iranian President Sheikh Hassan Rouhani who praised Iranian-Lebanese ties, describing them as "brotherhood and friendship ties."

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/75633/Berri-meets-Rouhani-Larijani>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **With US support, Saudi Arabia ready to send special forces to Syria**

In cooperation with the United States, Saudi Arabia is “ready to send ground troops” to Syria to fight against Daesh, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir announced on Tuesday. In an exclusive interview with Sueddeutsche Zeitung German newspaper on Tuesday, Al-Jubeir said: “The Kingdom and other Gulf countries said it was ready to allocate forces to fight on the US side.”

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170221-with-us-support-saudi-arabia-ready-to-send-special-forces-to-syria/>

- **Saudi Arabia Kicks off First RFQ for Renewable Energy Program**

The Renewable Energy Project Development Office, a newly created body of the kingdom’s energy ministry, has launched its first Request for Proposal (RFQ) for companies interested in bidding for 700 megawatts of solar and wind energy projects.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2017/02/article55367900/saudi-arabia-kicks-off-first-rfq-renewable-energy-program>

- **UN says seven million Yemenis on brink of starvation**

Seven million Yemenis are closer than ever to starvation, the UN humanitarian coordinator in the country warned Tuesday, almost two years since a conflict escalated between the government and rebels.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=81607>

- **Saudi-Yemeni free-trade zone would benefit both countries, says business leader**

Studies indicate that the establishment of a free-trade zone between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, a project that has been put on a hold due to political unrest in Yemen, would help boost economies of the two countries, according to the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1057961/business-economy>

- **Qatar Islamic Bank gets nod to raise AT1 Capital Sukuk limit**

Qatar Islamic Bank's (QIB) ordinary general assembly has given approval to increase the limit of the perpetual Sukuk (Additional Tier1 or AT1 Capital Sukuk) from QR5bn to QR7.5bn, subject to Qatar Central Bank (QCB) decision.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/21/02/2017/Qatar-Islamic-Bank-gets-nod-to-raise-AT1-Capital-Sukuk-limit>

- **Saudi-UAE Coordination Council Retreat kicks off in Abu Dhabi**

A joint retreat between the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia is set to kick off in Abu Dhabi where over 150 government officials and a number of experts in the public and private sectors are also participating.

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2017/02/21/Saudi-UAE-Coordination-Council-Retreat-kicks-off-in-Abu-Dhabi.html>

- **Military courts to get more powers**

Bahrain parliamentarians yesterday approved an urgent proposal to amend the constitution, allowing military courts to prosecute civilians involved in certain cases. 31 legislators out of the 36 attending the session voted for the amendment, which was initially referred to the Cabinet by a Royal Decree (7/2017) and then to the council.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=30646&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=2>

- **Bahrain's inflation rate falls sharply in January**

Bahrain's inflation rate fell sharply in January as food prices dropped, according to latest data released by the country's statistics office.

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/bahrain-s-inflation-rate-falls-sharply-in-january-664276.html>

- **Emir of Kuwait Meets Sayyid Fahd**

Muscat - Sheikh Sabah al Ahmad al Jabir al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait received Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers at the Al Alam Palace on Tuesday. At the

meeting, Sayyid Fahd spoke about the deep-rooted relations binding Oman and Kuwait and the mutual esteem and amicability between the leaderships in both countries.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Emir-of-Kuwait-meets-Sayyid-Fahd-4yej>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's Grand Mufti expected to publish document favoring women's rights**

As Egyptian president Abdel-Fattah Al-sisi announced that 2017 is the "women's year", al-Azhar will issue a document detailing women's rights that were granted by the Holy Quran and the prophet's teaching to show the people the real, valid Sharia law and refute incorrect Fatwas that have become entrenched in the Egyptian community.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/editorchoice/egypt%E2%80%99s-grand-mufti-expected-publish-document-favoring-women%E2%80%99s-rights-940914>

- **German parliamentary delegation meet with Egypt's speaker of parliament**

In preparation for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's much-anticipated visit to Egypt on 2 March, a number of high-profile German MPs arrived in Cairo this week.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/258631/Egypt/Politics-/German-parliamentary-delegation-meet-with-Egypt-s.aspx>

- **Jordan's King Abdullah II visits Egypt in one-day official visit**

King Abdullah II of Jordan arrived on Tuesday afternoon in Cairo in an official one-day visit, aiming to discuss several regional issues and cooperation with Egypt. Abdullah was received by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi at Cairo International, state-run newspaper Al-Ahram reported.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/02/21/jordans-king-abdullah-ii-visits-egypt-one-day-official-visit/>

- **UK plans to increase investment in Egypt: ambassador**

The UK is keen to increase its investment in Egypt in the coming period, British ambassador to Cairo John Casson said on Tuesday in a meeting with Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr at the ministry headquarters.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/uk-plans-increase-investment-egypt-ambassador>

- **Egyptian MP Sadat denies accusations that he leaked draft law**

Well-known liberal MP Anwar El-Sadat has denied accusations from other parliamentarians that he was involved in collecting and forwarding classified information to foreign institutions.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/258625/Egypt/Politics-/Egyptian-MP-Sadat-denies-accusations-that-he-leake.aspx>

- **France-Egypt 2016 trade exchange hit €2 billion: minister**

The volume of trade exchange between Egypt and France rose to €2 billion (\$2.1 billion) during 2016 amidst plans to witnessing more in the future, Egyptian Minister of Industry Tarek Qabil said Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/banks/55134-alexbank-launches-business-passport-product-to-empower-egypt-smes.html>

- **Russia to deliver MiG-29 fighters to Egypt on schedule**

Russia will deliver MiG-29 fighter aircrafts to Egypt on schedule, Moscow's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) Deputy Director Alexei Frolkin said yesterday.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170221-russia-to-deliver-mig-29-fighters-to-egypt-on-schedule/>

- **Egypt central bank, investors reach agreement to settle pre-float credit lines**

Egypt's central bank has agreed with Egyptian investors to settle credit lines opened before it floated the pound in November, alleviating debts that threatened the closure of some firms, bankers said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/details/18492>

- **Brotherhood hails Turkish president's defence of group**

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood group has praised Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his refusal to blacklist the movement as a "terrorist" organisation. In an interview last week with the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television channel during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Erdogan said he did not consider the Brotherhood a terrorist group.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170221-brotherhood-hails-turkish-presidents-defence-of-group/>

- **Vatican officials join Egyptian Muslim leaders in conference on combatting extremism**

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, travels to Egypt this week to join in a conference at the Al Azhar University on combatting religious extremism.

More Details:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=30818>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **UN: Gaddafi's son needs to be tried at ICC**

The trial of the son of ousted Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi did not meet international standards and he should be brought in front of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the United Nations said today. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, sentenced to death in absentia, is being held in the Libyan city of Zintan by one of the factions fighting for power since Gaddafi was killed in 2011.

More Details

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170221-un-gaddafis-son-needs-to-be-tried-at-icc/>

- **As Haftar Moves Closer To Russia, Will Libya Become The Next Syria?**

Libya's returning oil wealth could bring back cheap fuel, food and foreign goods in a subsidy-based system in the most optimistic scenario. But as oil prices and production rise, the future of new

political developments hangs in the balance in a growing power struggle between Russia and the United Nations.

More Details

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/As-Haftar-Moves-Closer-To-Russia-Will-Libya-Become-The-Next-Syria.html>

- **‘Don’t tell a bear what to do’: Russia brushes off UK warning not ‘to stick paws in’ Libya**

The Russian defense minister has warned against telling “a bear what to do,” as he was commenting on his British counterpart, describing Russia as “a bear” and saying the West does not need it “sticking its paws in” Libya.

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/news/378184-russia-uk-shoigu-fallon/>

- **The next phase of climate action**

Last November, while much of the world was trying to unpack Donald Trump’s election as US president, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 22) was held in Marrakesh, Morocco. Participants from all over the world, including 38 heads of state and government, came together to create a plan for implementing the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which aims to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It was an important step forward, but the issue remains far more complex — and politically charged — than most would care to admit.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1057761>

- **Algerian MP condemns Israeli terrorism**

He made the remarks in the sixth International Conference in Support of Palestinian Intifada here on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82439784/>

- **Sellal receives German Parliamentary State Secretary at Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy**

Premier Abdelmalek Sellal received Tuesday the German Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Uwe Karl Beckmeyer, who is on a visit to Algeria part of the 6th Algerian-German joint committee, the Premier's office announced in a communiqué. The meeting, which was attended by Energy and Mines Minister Abdessalem Bouchouareb, "allowed both parties broach bilateral relations, particularly economic and energy cooperation," said the source.

More Details

<http://en.aps.dz/algeria/16868-sellal-receives-german-parliamentary-state-secretary-at-federal-ministry-for-economic-affairs-and-energy>

- **Privacy is Hard to Protect in Tunisia, Thanks to Politics**

The regime of Zine el Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia was infamous for mass surveillance practices. Yet almost six years after the regime's ousting, and despite the 2014 adoption of a constitution that grants all citizens the right to privacy, Tunisia's data protection law and its application, still do not meet international standards.

More Details

<https://globalvoices.org/2017/02/21/privacy-is-hard-to-protect-in-tunisia-thanks-to-politics/>

- **Tunisia growth slows to 1 pct in 2016: official data**

Tunisia's economic growth slowed to 1 percent in 2016 compared with 1.1 percent in the previous year, official figures showed on Tuesday.

More Details

http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKBN1610LS?feedType=RSS&feedName=investingNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICAbusinessNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Business+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Saudi Arabia to step up investment in Morocco**

Saudi Arabia, under its Vision 2030, plans to increase the volume of its investment in Morocco, said a top official. Mohamed Fahd Al Ahmadim, head of Moroccan-Saudi Council of Business, was speaking at a preparatory meeting of the council in Casablanca, reported Morocco World News.

More Details

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/BANK_321063.html

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistan, Iran to join hands for trade, eradicating terrorism in the region**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Pakistani PM's Adviser Sartaj Aziz discussed issues of mutual interest and implementation of bilateral trade projects signed between the two countries.

More Details

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/02/22/pakistan-iran-to-join-hands-for-trade-eradicating-terrorism-in-the-region/>

- **Iranian FM Hold Talks with Pakistani Counterpart in Tehran**

At the meeting, the Iranian minister said Tehran and Islamabad enjoy “good political relations,” adding that the two neighbors are set to implement projects in different economic sectors, including power transmission, energy, banking, customs and cross-border exchanges.

More Details

<http://ifpnews.com/news/politics/foreign-policies/2017/02/iranian-fm-hold-talks-with-pakistani-counterpart-in-tehran/>

- **For His Hafiz Saeed Comments, Pak Politicians Slam Defence Minister**

Pakistani Politicians and religious leaders have slammed defence minister Khawaja Asif as a “mouthpiece of India” after he said that Jamaat ud Dawaa chief Hafiz Saeed was a threat to Pakistani society.

More Details

<http://www.news18.com/news/world/for-his-hafiz-saeed-comments-pakistan-politicians-slam-defence-minister-1352036.html>

- **PM leaves for Turkey landmark visit today**

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif would depart for a three day visit to Turkey on Wednesday to attend the Session of the Pakistan-Turkey High Level Strategic Cooperation Council.

More Details

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/22-Feb-17/pm-leaves-for-turkey-landmark-visit-today>

- **Lahore Knowledge Park: Shehbaz takes notice of 'illegal' recruitments**

Various matters of the Lahore Knowledge Park Company (KPC) were reviewed during a meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif.

More Details

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1334904/lahore-knowledge-park-shehbaz-takes-notice-illegal-recruitments/>

- **Dostum reject siege of house by Afghan forces and differences with Ghani**

The First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum has rejected his house is under siege by the Afghan security forces, calling the reports as propaganda by the enemies to spark tensions among the government leaders.

More Details

<http://www.khaama.com/dostum-reject-siege-of-house-by-afghan-forces-and-differences-with-ghani-02947>

- **Afghanistan, Italy sign grant agreement worth €4,000,000**

Eklil Hakimi, Minister of Finance and Roberto Canton, Ambassador of Italy signed a grant agreement of euro €4,000,000 to reduce maternal and child mortality in the presence of Ferozuddin Feroz, Minister of Public Health here yesterday, a statement from Ministry of Finance said.

More Details

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/13125-afghanistan-italy-sign-grant-agreement-worth-e4-000-000.html>

- **30 IS militants killed in eastern Afghanistan in 24 hours: government**

At least 30 militants of Islamic State (IS) group were killed during fresh clashes and airstrikes in restive eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, local authorities said on Wednesday. "Over the past 24 hours, 30 Daesh (Arabic acronym for IS) militants were killed as a result of airstrikes and clashes with security forces during an ongoing offensive in Heska Mina and Achin districts," the provincial government said in a statement.

More Details

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-02/22/c_136076700.htm

- **Afghanistan signs MoU to inaugurate engineering design of TAPI pipeline**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani for the inauguration of the engineering design of TAPI gas pipeline project.

More Details

<http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-signs-mou-to-inaugurate-engineering-design-of-tapi-pipeline-02950>

- **President Ghani Meets US Senate Delegation**

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met a number of US senators at the presidential palace on Tuesday, his office said in a statement. According to the statement, in the meeting, both sides exchanged views on different issues, particularly security, economy, investment and education sectors.

More Details

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/27613-president-ghani-meets-us-senate-delegation.html>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey kills '14 Daesh terrorists' in northern Syria**

Turkish forces killed at least 14 Daesh terrorists in northern Syria in the last 24 hours, according to the Turkish military Wednesday. In a statement, the Turkish General Staff said Turkey's land and air forces hit 110 Daesh targets as part of the ongoing Operation Euphrates Shield. A total of 89 Daesh targets, including shelters, command control facilities, weapons and vehicles had been hit, the statement said.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-kills-14-daesh-terrorists-in-northern-syria/755637>

- **35 Daesh suspects detained in Istanbul raids**

Teams from the anti-terror branch of the Istanbul Police Department have detained 35 Daesh suspects during operations in Istanbul's Sultanbeyli and Pendik districts. The police carried out simultaneous raids in 41 different locations as part of an ongoing operation by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/02/22/35-daesh-suspects-detained-in-istanbul-raids>

This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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