



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Procees of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

**Energy Security**

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

<b>1. IRAQ</b> .....	<b>4</b>
• Hakim Warns From the Repercussions Of The Security Situation After The End Of Daesh.....	4
• Barzani says to declare Kurdistan’s independence if Maliki returns as Iraq PM.....	4
• Iraqi Troops Seek US Assistance to Clean Up IS Weapons Lab in Mosul.....	4
• Iraqi forces eye tougher fight in Mosul’s west.....	4
• Mosul Op: 6,500 Iraq soldiers killed in 3 months.....	5
• Anbar: 55 ISIS casualties in Iraqi airstrike.....	5
• Trump tells CIA employees he may invade Iraq to take their oil.....	5
• Iraq thanks Lebanon for its support, calling for unity.....	6
• As Liberals Mourn Obama, US-Led Strikes Kill 450 in Iraq, Syria.....	6
• In Mosul battle, Iraq forces face fewer IS-planted bombs.....	6
• Iran-Iraq gas pipeline set to begin operation.....	7
• Iraq Announces Sale of \$1 Billion in Bonds Guaranteed by US.....	7
• Iraq Responds to Saudi Arabia’s Allegations against Iran Ambassador.....	7
• Nearly 90 bodies exhumed at Daesh massacre site: Iraq.....	7
• IS blows up Mosul hotel as Iraq prepares to attack western bank of Tigris.....	8
• Mosul Op: Iraq troops execute 3 Sunni teens in sectarian violence.....	8
• Will Egypt join Iraq in the 'Axis of Resistance'?.....	8
• Yezidi NGO resumes activities in northern Iraq after talks with Kurdish officials.....	9
• Iraq forces take two more areas in east Mosul.....	9
<b>2. SYRIA</b> .....	<b>9</b>
• 65 Daesh terrorists killed, 194 targets hit by Turkey in n. Syria.....	9
• Astana to Host Intra-Syrian Talks Brokered by Russia, Iran, Turkey on Monday.....	9
• .Why Syria could be Trump's biggest problem.....	10
• Syrian army drives Islamic State from villages near Aleppo.....	10
• US Ambassador, 15 Syrian Opposition Groups to Take Part in Astana Talks.....	10
• Opposition: We want bloodshed in Syria to end.....	10
• Syrian President Bashar al-Assad reportedly suffering under 'psychological pressure'.....	11
• SDF forces expel ISIS from strategic town near Raqqa, advance towards Tabqa Dam.....	11
• The Damascus Suburb That Could Be the Next Key Front in Syria’s War.....	11
• Al-Jaafari: Astana meeting aims at fixing cessation of hostilities all over country except for areas where ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra are active.....	11
<b>3. IRAN</b> .....	<b>12</b>
• Tragedy Tainted with Politics in Iran.....	12
• Astana talks on Syria not to replace ISSG.....	12
• ‘We are ready’ for any eventuality, Salehi asserts.....	12
• Iran welcomes peaceful transition of power in Gambia.....	12
• Will Netanyahu can persuade Trump to undo Iran deal?.....	13
• Tehran makes new gas proposal to Moscow.....	13
• Iran Ready to Respond If Trump Nixes Nuclear Deal.....	13

• '241 Iranian entities still under sanctions' .....	13
• Dos and Don'ts of Iranian Parties after Ayatollah Rafsanjani's Death .....	14
• Jaber Ansari Calls for Immediate Action on Syrian Crisis .....	14
<b>4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....</b>	<b>14</b>
• In call with Netanyahu, Trump vows to 'closely consult' on tackling Iran threat, help Israel make peace .....	14
• Confidants of billionaire suspected of illicit gifts to PM: embarrassing to see slander campaign.....	14
• Prime Minister, don't annex Ma'ale Adumim .....	15
• Liberman: 'No chance' of bilateral agreement with PA .....	15
• Israel Cut Public Debt to Record Low 62.1% of GDP in 2016, Marking Seventh Annual Drop..	15
• Palestinians in Israel protest against house demolitions and police violence .....	15
• Palestinian teen dies in Gaza after Israel denies him access to hospital .....	16
• Abbas meets with King Abdullah II to discuss potential response to US embassy move .....	16
• Netanyahu backtracks on support of settlement regularization bill.....	16
• Trump's first order of business: Denying Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.....	16
<b>5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....</b>	<b>17</b>
• Army Arrests Suspect in Wadi Khaled, Seizes Arms, Ammunition .....	17
• Chamoun: State is able to ensure security whenever political conditions are available .....	17
• Hariri Inspects Costa Cafe as Aoun, Mashnouq Laud Army, ISF for Foiling Attack .....	17
• Hasbani: It is possible to find quick solutions to some of the country's crises .....	17
• 4 Arrested at Sidon Building of Costa Cafe Would-Be Bomber .....	18
• Majlis speaker advisor arrives in Beirut .....	18
• Government reshuffles 'must be based on national interests and a strategic vision' .....	18
• Jordanian King and Palestinian President discuss latest developments in the region.....	18
• New chief Islamic justice, mufti appointed .....	19
• Stakeholders urge gov't intervention in Zarqa eviction case .....	19
<b>6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....</b>	<b>19</b>
• 69 Pakistanis arrested in Saudi for terrorism .....	19
• King Salman holds talks with Tajik Parliament speaker .....	19
• Yemen army closes in on key port town .....	19
• 75 people killed in renewed fighting and drone strikes in Yemen .....	20
• Qatar's non-oil investments gather pace .....	20
• UAE leaders congratulate Trump on his inauguration as President of US.....	20
• UAE asserts commitment to counter threats of extremism, foreign terrorists violence.....	21
• Bahrain's aspiration to achieve regional peace highlighted .....	21
• Bahrain, US sign accord to implement Fatca.....	21
• Omanoil and Al Raffd Fund extend Tasweik campaign entry deadline to February 17 .....	21
<b>7. EGYPT.....</b>	<b>22</b>
• Egypt renews troop mission in Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait.....	22
• Press Syndicate's Freedom Committee condemns referral of 2 journalists to criminal court .	22
• Report filed to prosecutor demanding further investigations into al-Karm attack .....	22
• Egypt plans to boost natural gas output .....	22
• Egypt prolongs participation in Yemen conflict .....	23
• Terrorists attack in Egypt Results in Death of 5 Police Workers- Reports .....	23



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

• Egypt inflation seen slowdown in April – planning minister .....	23
• Egypt’s military to enter pharmaceutical industry.....	23
• Egypt since its revolution six years ago .....	24
• Egypt keen to change the discourse on religion: Sisi to Canadian delegation.....	24
<b>8. NORTH AFRICA.....</b>	<b>24</b>
• Libya Political Dialogue meets in Tunisia without eastern members .....	24
• National Commission for Human Rights warns of humanitarian calamity in Libya .....	25
• Tunisia asks for EU help to combat terrorism after Sousse massacre .....	25
• Tunisia’s powerful union meets to choose new chief.....	25
• Nidaa Tounes denies coalition with other parties in Tunisia’s municipal elections .....	25
• Mohammed bin Zayed joins elite list of India’s Republic Day invitees .....	25
• Algeria to partake in Barcelona in UfM Regional Forum.....	26
• Algeria GDP growth slows in Q3 despite spike in energy.....	26
• Gdim Izik Trial Showcases Morocco’s Commitment to Universal Human Rights .....	26
<b>9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN .....</b>	<b>26</b>
• NDS: Three Taliban Terrorist Group Detained .....	26
• Operation will continue till elimination of terrorism: CM.....	27
• Situationer: The language dilemma .....	27
• Afghan Official Reports Iranian, Pakistani Aid to Taliban In Helmand .....	27
• 6 people killed as house rooftop collapses in E. Afghanistan .....	27
• Canada concerned about embezzlement in aid project to Afghanistan .....	28
• Afghan High Peace Council chief dead at 84.....	28
• Taliban Warns Trump to Reverse US Policy On Afghanistan Or Face 'Shameful Defeat' .....	28
• NPC approves 5 projects, rejects two others .....	28
<b>10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....</b>	<b>29</b>
• Indonesia probes 17 nationals deported from Turkey over linkage of IS .....	29
• Unreasonable to expect rapid solution to Syria conflict, Deputy PM says .....	29
• Turkey condemns new Israeli settlements in E. Jerusalem.....	29

## 1. IRAQ,

- **Hakim Warns From the Repercussions Of The Security Situation After The End Of Daesh**

Chairman of the National Alliance, Ammar al-Hakim warned of the repercussions of the security situation in all governorates of Iraq after the end of the Daesh. Hakim said at a news conference attended by the National Iraqi News Agency / NINA /: "The alliance puts the plans, since now for the post-Daesh, and the process and transforming the alliance into constructive political institution."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?sv3RgyyK%252fGAAGHja1JFJDw%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?sv3RgyyK%252fGAAGHja1JFJDw%253d%253d)

- **Barzani says to declare Kurdistan's independence if Maliki returns as Iraq PM**

Kurdistan Region's President Masud Barzani threatened on Monday to declare the independence of the autonomous region from Iraq if Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki returns to the leadership of the government. "The moment Maliki assumes cabinet chairmanship, I will declare the independence of Kurdistan without consulting anybody. No matter what happens. I am not staying in an Iraq ruled by al-Maliki," he was quoted as telling Asharq al-Awsat newspaper on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/barzani-says-declare-kurdistans-independence-maliki-returns-iraq-pm/>

- **Iraqi Troops Seek US Assistance to Clean Up IS Weapons Lab in Mosul**

Following the liberation of the Mosul University from Islamic State (IS) militants, Iraqi troops have asked the United States to assist in discarding the chemicals from the university's lab that the IS militants had used to manufacture weapons. The laboratory at the Mosul University has been heavily damaged due to the battle between IS militants and the Iraqi forces. The Iraqi forces proved victorious and recaptured Mosul University last week.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/326066>

- **Iraqi forces eye tougher fight in Mosul's west**

A crowd of Iraqi officers looked out at the Tigris River Friday from a balcony of Mosul's Nineveh International hotel. Just over three months ago, the men were some 45 kilometers (28 miles) away in a cluster of desert villages on the edge of Nineveh plain. "Our message to the rest of Mosul's

residents is that victory is near,” said Lt. Gen. Abdul-Ghani al-Asadi, on a celebratory tour after the city’s east was declared largely liberated on Wednesday. The progress of Iraqi forces, halting at first, sped up this month as they closed in on the river that roughly divides Mosul into eastern and western halves.

More Details:

[http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En\\_NewsReader/88da3f54-21da-456d-a389-4b4ecd892bf4/-Iraqi-forces-eye-tougher-fight-in-Mosul%E2%80%99s-west-](http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/88da3f54-21da-456d-a389-4b4ecd892bf4/-Iraqi-forces-eye-tougher-fight-in-Mosul%E2%80%99s-west-)

- **Mosul Op: 6,500 Iraq soldiers killed in 3 months**

Recently released figures paint a grisly picture of the butcher’s bill paid by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), allied Kurdish Peshmerga and Iran-backed Shia jihadists as the third month of fighting for Iraq’s northern city of Mosul continues. According to figures released by Amaq news agency, closely linked to the Daesh extremist group, the militants have managed to exact a devastating death toll on US and Iran-backed forces, totalling to 1,520 men lost in the third month of combat alone.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170121-mosul-op-6500-iraq-soldiers-killed-in-3-months/>

- **Anbar: 55 ISIS casualties in Iraqi airstrike**

At least 30 terrorists of the Islamic State had been killed and 25 others were injured as the Iraqi air force had bombarded an ISIS camp in the district of al-Qaim west of Anbar province. The Military Media Cell announced in a statement that according to the Federal Intelligence and investigation agency, Iraqi air force had executed an airstrike in al-Qaim district which resulted in destroying the ISIS training camp as well for their weapons and equipments.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=39526](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=39526)

- **Trump tells CIA employees he may invade Iraq to take their oil**

Donald Trump told employees at the CIA today, in a public speech, that he may invade Iraq again in order to take their oil. Trump went to the CIA to ostensibly smooth things over after he recently compared the CIA to Nazi Germany, twice. In his speech today, where he brought up the debunked conspiracy theory about Churchill’s bust, Trump went off about how upset he was that the US didn’t take Iraq’s oil fields when we last invaded.

More Details:

[http://americablog.com/2017/01/trump-tells-cia-employees-may-invade-iraq-take-oil.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Americablog+%28AMERICAblog+News+%29](http://americablog.com/2017/01/trump-tells-cia-employees-may-invade-iraq-take-oil.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Americablog+%28AMERICAblog+News+%29)

- **Iraq thanks Lebanon for its support, calling for unity**

Visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari thanked Saturday Lebanon's support for Iraq in regional and international arenas, pointing that his country "has no desire to interfere in the local affairs of any Arab country." "We reached an understanding on the need to maintain the Arab League as a form of unity between Arabs. We don't dismiss the existence of division, as there are various regimes and backgrounds, but what unites us is more than what divides us," Jaafari told reporters at the Baabda Palace following meeting with President Michel Aoun.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/22/c\\_136002743.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/22/c_136002743.htm)

- **As Liberals Mourn Obama, US-Led Strikes Kill 450 in Iraq, Syria**

As liberals mourn the end of the Barack Obama administration, a monitoring group reported that the U.S.-led coalition killed 450 or more civilians in Syria and Iraq since October. "With reported fatalities from coalition strikes at record levels we would have expected significant media engagement," said Chris Woods, director of Airwars, a London-based monitoring group that has been tallying the death toll of coalition strikes by compiling official and local reports.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/As-Liberals-Mourn-Obama-US-Led-Strikes-Kill-450-in-Iraq-Syria-20170121-0019.html>

- **In Mosul battle, Iraq forces face fewer IS-planted bombs**

Iraqi forces used to facing deserted, explosives-rigged streets and booby-trapped buildings have not encountered as many bombs planted by jihadists in Mosul as they did in earlier battles against them. The Islamic State group has no qualms about killing civilians, but the presence of a large number of residents in Iraq's second city discouraged the jihadists from extensively sowing it with explosives, officers say.

More Details:

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/in-mosul-battle-iraq-forces-face-fewer-is-planted-bombs/article/484173>

- **Iran-Iraq gas pipeline set to begin operation**

Iran will kick off the operation of a pipeline supplying natural gas to Iraq on Tuesday (January 24), said a senior Iranian official. The operation will begin as per the memo signed by both the countries in 2009, Iran's oil minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, was quoted as saying in an Iran Daily News report, citing Tasnim News Agency.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND\\_319549.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND_319549.html)

- **Iraq Announces Sale of \$1 Billion in Bonds Guaranteed by US**

Iraq announced the sale of \$1 billion in bonds guaranteed by the United States, paying an interest of 2.1 percent, far below the price the country is paying for its non-guaranteed debt. The US-guaranteed five-year bonds were issued on Wednesday, the finance ministry said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Iraq-announces-sale-of-1-billion-in-bonds-guaranteed-by-US-479237>

- **Iraq Responds to Saudi Arabia's Allegations against Iran Ambassador**

In an exclusive interview with Al-Alam News Network Iraq's National security advisor has responded to Saudi Arabia's Allegations about Iran's ambassador to Iraq. In an exclusive interview with Al-Alalm News Network on Sunday "Faleh Al-Fayyaz" Iraq's National Security Advisor talked about Saudi Arabia's position about "Iraj Masjedi," Iran's ambassador to Iraq.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1914764>

- **Nearly 90 bodies exhumed at Daesh massacre site: Iraq**

Iraqi forensic specialists and international activists have found a mass grave containing the remains of more than seven dozen victims of a June 2014 massacre by Daesh Takfiri terrorists at an air force camp in the country's north-central province of Salahuddin. A provincial police source, requesting not to be identified, said experts from the Iraqi Health Ministry and Human Rights Watch activists had recently found 89 bodies inside former Dictator Saddam Hussein's palace compound in Tikrit, located 140 kilometers northwest of the capital Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/01/22/507282/Iraq-forensic-experts-mass-grave-Camp-Speicher-Daesh-massacre-Tikrit>

- **IS blows up Mosul hotel as Iraq prepares to attack western bank of Tigris**

The Islamic State (IS) group blew up a landmark hotel in western Mosul on Friday in an apparent attempt to prevent advancing Iraqi forces from using it as a base in their offensive to capture the city, witnesses said on Sunday. The Mosul Hotel, shaped as a stepped pyramid, appeared to be leaning to one side after the explosions, two witnesses said by phone. They requested anonymity, saying the militants killed those they caught communicating with the outside world.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/blows-mosul-hotel-iraq-prepares-attack-western-bank-tigris-404246489>

- **Mosul Op: Iraq troops execute 3 Sunni teens in sectarian violence**

More footage of Iraqi soldiers committing war crimes by killing unarmed teenagers in Mosul has emerged on social media, as the fourth month in the battle to recapture Iraq's second largest city from Daesh extremists begins in bloody fashion. MEMO has seen graphic footage that shows armed Iraqi men who are part of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) executing three teenage boys after subjecting them to brutal violence. According to Al Jazeera, the men are said to be from the Iraqi Federal Police Force, who are fighting side-by-side with other ISF units and Shia militias in the fight to force Daesh out of Mosul.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170121-mosul-op-iraq-troops-execute-3-sunni-teens-in-sectarian-violence/>

- **Will Egypt join Iraq in the 'Axis of Resistance'?**

As Egypt and Saudi Arabia remain at odds, Iraq and Iran are making their moves to befriend the Land of the Nile and perhaps shepherd Egypt into the Axis of Resistance. Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim al-Jaafari said recently that "Egypt is the Arabs' greatest," referring to the country's people, history and culture.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/01/iraq-egypt-iran-saudi-axis-resistance-basra-oil.html>

- **Yezidi NGO resumes activities in northern Iraq after talks with Kurdish officials**

The Yezidi NGO 'Yazda' has announced that it will reopen and resume its activities. In early January, the humanitarian NGO was shuttered by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) for engaging in political agitation. "Following a series of meetings with concerned parties within the Kurdistan Regional Government, a positive result was reached with regards to reopening Yazda facilities and projects," the organization said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/01/yezidi-ngo-resumes-activities-in-northern-iraq-after-talks-with-kurdish-officials/>

- **Iraq forces take two more areas in east Mosul**

Iraqi forces on Sunday retook two areas from the Daesh terror group in Mosul, sealing their control of the east bank three months into an offensive to reclaim the city. They recaptured "Al Milayeen neighbourhood and Al Binaa Al Jahiz area and raised the Iraqi flag over the buildings", the military said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/iraq-forces-take-two-more-areas-east-mosul>

## 2. SYRIA

- **65 Daesh terrorists killed, 194 targets hit by Turkey in n. Syria**

65 Daesh terrorists have been killed as part of Turkey's Operation Euphrates Shield in northern Syria, the military said on Monday. According to a statement by the military, a total of 194 positions belonging to the terrorists have been shelled, destroying hideouts, defense positions, command centers, weapons and vehicles.

More details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/01/23/65-daesh-terrorists-killed-194-targets-hit-by-turkey-in-n-syria>

- **Astana to Host Intra-Syrian Talks Brokered by Russia, Iran, Turkey on Monday**

The Syrian government's and opposition factions' representatives are expected to meet in Astana on Monday for talks brokered by Moscow, Ankara and Tehran, following a ceasefire in the crisis-torn country endorsed by the UN Security Council on December 31, 2016.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201701231049895120-astana-hosts-intra-syrian-talks/>

- **.Why Syria could be Trump's biggest problem**

President Donald Trump has dodged his first big foreign policy challenge. The announcement by acting State Department spokesman Mark Toner that the US ambassador to Kazakhstan will attend Russian initiated Syria peace talks in Astana, beginning Monday, takes pressure off the Trump administration.

More details:

<http://us.cnn.com/2017/01/23/middleeast/syria-astana-talks/index.html>

- **Syrian army drives Islamic State from villages near Aleppo**

The Syrian army and its allies on Sunday drove Islamic State (IS) group militants from several villages east of Aleppo, a military media unit run by Hezbollah and a war monitor reported, bringing them closer to territory held by Turkey-backed rebels. Several overlapping conflicts are being fought in Syria, dragging in regional and global powers as well as the government and local groups, complicating the battlefield in the north of the country and raising the risk of an escalation in the war.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syrian-army-drives-islamic-state-villages-near-aleppo-2085191882>

- **US Ambassador, 15 Syrian Opposition Groups to Take Part in Astana Talks**

The US will be represented on the ambassador level at the Astana talks on Syria, 15 Syrian opposition groups will also take part, Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Vassilenko said Monday.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201701231049898206-astana-syria-talks-politics/>

- **Opposition: We want bloodshed in Syria to end**

The Syrian opposition spokesman said the delegation was heading to the Astana talks, aimed at putting an end to the six-year conflict in Syria, for the bloodshed and brutality to cease. In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency, Yahya al-Aridi addressed the preparations for Monday's talks in the Kazakh capital.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/opposition-we-want-bloodshed-in-syria-to-end/732705>

- **Syrian President Bashar al-Assad reportedly suffering under 'psychological pressure'**

The pressures of leading a country engulfed in a complex and chaotic civil war may be taking its toll on the health of Syria's embattled leader. Amir Taheri, a columnist with the Saudi-owned London based newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat, claimed in a piece published in Saturday's edition that Bashar al-Assad's mental health is suffering after almost six years of conflict.

More details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syrian-president-bashar-al-assad-reportedly-suffering-psychological-pressure-nervous-tick-left-eye-a7540711.html>

- **SDF forces expel ISIS from strategic town near Raqqa, advance towards Tabqa Dam**

Supported by the US-led coalition's air cover, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) expelled Islamic State's (ISIS) militants from the strategic town of Suwaydiya in western Raqqa, as part of the Euphrates Wrath Operation, officials confirmed on Sunday.

More details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/01/sdf-forces-expel-isis-from-strategic-town-near-raqqa-advance-towards-tabqa-dam/>

- **The Damascus Suburb That Could Be the Next Key Front in Syria's War**

In the winter and spring of 2014, forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad imposed what became a total siege on rebel-held towns on the outskirts of Damascus. Parents substituted plastic bags for diapers. The hospitals ran short of essential medicines. Fuel to run the generators ran short, leaving people without electricity for all but a few hours a day. "Simply, it's living in the Middle Ages. No electricity," says Dr. Mohamad Katoub, a physician from the town of Douma in the area known as Eastern Ghouta, recalling the height of the siege.

More details:

<http://time.com/4640640/eastern-ghouta-syria-damascus-assad-peace-talks/>

- **Al-Jaafari: Astana meeting aims at fixing cessation of hostilities all over country except for areas where ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra are active**

Head of the Syrian Arab Republic delegation to Astana meeting, Bashar al-Jaafari said Monday in the Kazakh Capital that the Astana meeting on Syria aims at fixing the cessation of hostilities except for

the areas where terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra and others, which rejected to join the agreement, are active.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=98843>

### 3. IRAN

- **Tragedy Tainted with Politics in Iran**

In a recent article, Asr-e Iran news website has criticized the way tragic incidents in Iran are being used as a means of achieving one's political goals.

More details:

<http://ifpnews.com/views/2017/01/tragedy-tainted-with-politics-in-iran/>

- **Astana talks on Syria not to replace ISSG**

Iran's deputy FM Hossein Jaber Ansari and UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura held a bilateral meeting Sun. night ahead of the Astana talks. Staffan de Mistura held talks late Sunday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari who also headed the Iranian delegation to the Astana talks.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/176257.html>

- **'We are ready' for any eventuality, Salehi asserts**

Ali Akbar Salehi, the director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, has said that Iran will "act appropriately" if U.S. President Donald Trump "tear up" the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the official name for the nuclear deal.,

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/410328/We-are-ready-for-any-eventuality-Salehi-asserts>

- **Iran welcomes peaceful transition of power in Gambia**

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi welcomed peaceful transition of power in the Gambia Republic. He referred to Gambia Republic as an important Muslim country in West Africa and said, 'Iran has always paid attention to developments in Gambia

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82398045/>

- **Will Netanyahu can persuade Trump to undo Iran deal?**

Israel prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has began his serious efforts to persuade US president Donald Trump to undo Iran nuclear deal, but it is not clear whether these efforts will bear fruit, according to analysts.

More details:

<http://realiran.org/will-netanyahu-can-persuade-trump-to-undo-iran-deal/>

- **Tehran makes new gas proposal to Moscow**

Deputy oil minister said Iran welcomes Russia's partnership in construction of the 9th cross-country gas pipeline with 2.5 billion dollars of investment.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/122943/Tehran-makes-new-gas-proposal-to-Moscow>

- **Iran Ready to Respond If Trump Nixes Nuclear Deal**

Iran is reserving judgment on new US President Donald Trump, but if he does, as he has vowed, "tear up" the international deal Tehran reached on curbing its nuclear program, it could quickly ramp that program back up, said the country's atomic energy chief.

More details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/57980/iran-ready-to-respond-if-trump-nixes-nuclear-deal>

- **'241 Iranian entities still under sanctions'**

The secretary general of the Islamic Coalition Party on Sunday said 241 Iranian people and organizations are still under sanctions.

More details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/410322/241-iranian-entities-still-under-sanctions>

- **Dos and Don'ts of Iranian Parties after Ayatollah Rafsanjani's Death**

Former Iranian president Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had such a prominent role in Iran's politics that his demise will have consequences for both reformists and conservatives in future.

More details:

<http://ifpnews.com/news/politics/local/2017/01/dos-and-donts-of-iranian-parties-after-ayatollah-rafsanjani-death/>

- **Jaberi Ansari Calls for Immediate Action on Syrian Crisis**

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari underlined the necessity for immediate action on the crisis in Syria. Addressing the Astana round of talks on Syria in Rixos Hotel in Kazakhstan, Jaberi Ansari presented an image of the ongoing crisis in Syria and urged immediate action on bringing stability to the hard-hit country.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951104001046>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **In call with Netanyahu, Trump vows to 'closely consult' on tackling Iran threat, help Israel make peace**

In his first phone conversation with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday evening, new US President Donald Trump pledged close consultation in "addressing the threats posed by Iran," unprecedented support for Israel's security, and a determination to help Israel achieve peace with the Palestinians.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/in-call-with-netanyahu-trump-vows-to-closely-consult-on-iran-says-us-will-help-israel-make-peace/>

- **Confidants of billionaire suspected of illicit gifts to PM: embarrassing to see slander campaign**

After MK David Amsalem (Likud) attacks Arnon Milchan, the billionaire suspected of providing Prime Minister Netanyahu with illicit favors, sources close to Milchan vow he 'will act in any way necessary to defend his name'; Israel Police Commissioner Roni Alsheikh states that 'In our current system, we should definitely fight corruption and investigate sitting public officials.'

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4911286,00.html>

- **Prime Minister, don't annex Ma'ale Adumim**

As you prepare to discuss the proposed law on the annexation of Ma'ale Adumim, we, members of Commanders for Israel's Security, wish to alert you to the risks to Israel's security posed by the intended reckless abuse of the broad national consensus around Ma'ale Adumim.

More Details:

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/prime-minister-dont-annex-maale-adumim/>

- **Liberman: 'No chance' of bilateral agreement with PA**

Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said on Sunday that there is no chance of reaching a bilateral agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA).

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/223683>

- **Israel Cut Public Debt to Record Low 62.1% of GDP in 2016, Marking Seventh Annual Drop**

Israel reduced the ratio of its public debt to gross domestic product – a key barometer of a country's financial strength – to its lowest ever, capping seven straight years of declines, Finance Minister Moshe Kahon said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/business/1.766876>

- **Palestinians in Israel protest against house demolitions and police violence**

On Saturday, more than 5,000 people converged in Ar'ara, a Palestinian Arab town inside Israeli borders, to protest a recent spate of house demolitions and police violence against Palestinian citizens of Israel. A number of Jewish Israelis also attended the initially peaceful gathering, which started near the Ar'ara municipality and marched through a neighborhood where several homes are considered at risk.

More Details:

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=4xnd6ka14840yd6i1zxuer>

- **Palestinian teen dies in Gaza after Israel denies him access to hospital**

A 17-year-old Palestinian died last week after Israeli authorities refused to allow him to leave the besieged Gaza Strip to undergo treatment for a congenital heart defect, the Gaza-based al-Mezan Center for Human Rights said in a report on Sunday.

More Details:

<https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=775049>

- **Abbas meets with King Abdullah II to discuss potential response to US embassy move**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met with Jordanian King Abdullah II on Sunday to discuss potential steps to be taken should newly instated US President Donald Trump carry out his plan to move the American embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=775054>

- **Netanyahu backtracks on support of settlement regularization bill**

In an about face from his past support of a controversial bill which would see dozens of illegal Israeli outposts in the occupied West Bank retroactively legalized, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the so-called "Formalization bill" on Sunday as an "irresponsible move."

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=775046>

- **Trump's first order of business: Denying Palestinian claim to Jerusalem**

Anonymous sources within the Trump administration in the US allegedly told Israeli News Channel 2 Friday that the new US President, Donald Trump, would on Monday make his first order of business the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, effectively denying the Palestinian claim to the city.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/trumps-first-order-of-business-denying-palestinian-claim-to-jerusalem/>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Army Arrests Suspect in Wadi Khaled, Seizes Arms, Ammunition**

A suspect was arrested Sunday in the Akkar border region of Wadi Khaled, hours after security forces arrested a would-be suicide bomber at the Costa cafe in Beirut's Hamra district.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/224165-army-arrests-suspect-in-wadi-khaled-seizes-arms-ammunition>

- **Chamoun: State is able to ensure security whenever political conditions are available**

"National Liberal Party" Head, MP Dory Chamoun, congratulated, in an issued statement on Sunday, the security forces for thwarting the suicide attack in Hamra yesterday evening and arresting the terrorist, adding that "this reveals the State's ability to ensure security whenever the suitable political conditions are available."

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/74260/Chamoun-State-is-able-to-ensure-security-whenever-political-conditions-are-available>

- **Hariri Inspects Costa Cafe as Aoun, Mashnouq Laud Army, ISF for Foiling Attack**

President Michel Aoun on Sunday congratulated the military Intelligence Directorate and the Intelligence Branch of the Internal Security Forces for foiling a suicide attack at Costa cafe in Beirut's Hamra district, as Prime Minister Saad Hariri visited the scene of the incident.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/224153-hariri-inspects-costa-cafe-as-aoun-mashnouq-laud-army-isf-for-foiling-attack>

- **Hasbani: It is possible to find quick solutions to some of the country's crises**

Deputy Prime Minister, Public Health Minister, Ghassan Hasbani, considered on Sunday that "it is possible to find quick solutions to some of the crises and problems in Lebanon and put things on the right track," noting that many dossiers that were accumulated due to the previous vacuum and paralysis in institutions are currently being addressed.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/74265/Hasbani-It-is-possible-to-find-quick-solutions-to-some-of-the-country-39-crises>

- **4 Arrested at Sidon Building of Costa Cafe Would-Be Bomber**

Four people have been arrested at the Sidon building where the Costa would-be suicide bomber, Omar al-Assi, used to live, the army said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/224170-4-arrested-at-sidon-building-of-costa-cafe-would-be-bomber>

- **Majlis speaker advisor arrives in Beirut**

Hossein Amirabdollahian, Majlis (parliament) speaker advisor for international affairs arrived in Lebanon capital, Beirut on Monday morning.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82397985/>

- **Government reshuffles 'must be based on national interests and a strategic vision'**

Jordan is well known for government changes and reshuffles. During the Cabinet of previous Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, which held office for more than three years, over 70 ministers were on his team during that time.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/amer-al-sabaileh/government-reshuffles-must-be-based-national-interests-and-strategic-vision>

- **Jordanian King and Palestinian President discuss latest developments in the region**

Jordanian King Abdullah II held talks on Sunday with Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, on efforts to stimulate the Middle East peace process, and developments in the region.

More Details:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/arab/1395306294697.html>

- **New chief Islamic justice, mufti appointed**

A Royal Decree was issued on Sunday, endorsing a Cabinet decision appointing Sheikh Abdul Karim Khasawneh as the chief Islamic justice.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/new-chief-islamic-justice-mufti-appointed>

- **Stakeholders urge gov't intervention in Zarqa eviction case**

The “complexity” of the land dispute case in Zarqa’s Jannaa neighbourhood necessitates the intervention of the government, stakeholders said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/stakeholders-urge-gov%E2%80%99t-intervention-zarqa- eviction-case>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **69 Pakistanis arrested in Saudi for terrorism**

The security authorities arrested 49 Pakistani residents and put them under interrogation since July. The total number of Pakistanis arrested for involvement in terror activities in Saudi Arabia has gone up to 69, reports Saudi Gazette.

More Details:

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/region/saudi-arabia/69-pakistanis-arrested-in-saudi-for-terrorism>

- **King Salman holds talks with Tajik Parliament speaker**

King Salman and Shukurjon Zuhurov, speaker of the House of Representatives of Tajikistan’s Supreme Assembly, held talks here Sunday focusing on cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of parliamentary affairs.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1043101/saudi-arabia>

- **Yemen army closes in on key port town**

Yemen government forces and allied resistance fighters on Sunday retook control of most areas on the outskirts of Mocha, a key Red Sea port town that is under Al Houthi militant control. The Iran-

backed rebels have received weapons shipments from Iran through this port and liberating it will deliver a major blow to the militants.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/yemen-army-closes-in-on-key-port-town-1.1965959>

- **75 people killed in renewed fighting and drone strikes in Yemen**

The attacks included the first suspected US drone strikes under the Trump administration, according to Yemeni officials. At least 75 people were killed over the weekend after the Saudi-led coalition and rebel Houthi forces renewed their fighting in Yemen. Some of the deaths were also due to the first suspected US drone strikes under the Trump administration, local news reports said.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/75-people-killed-renewed-fighting-drone-strikes-yemen-1602484>

- **Qatar's non-oil investments gather pace**

Qatar's efforts to broaden the economic base away from a reliance on hydrocarbons are gaining pace, as indicated by the country's non-oil growth figures, said a new report by the global publishing firm Oxford Business Group (OBG). The country's plans to implement major legislative and regulatory reforms as part of its bid to diversify the economy and counter the impact of low oil global prices will be analysed in the report on Qatar.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/qatars-non-oil-investments-gather-pace-928022>

- **UAE leaders congratulate Trump on his inauguration as President of US**

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Friday congratulated Donald Trump on his inauguration as the 45th President of the United States of America (USA). In his cable, President Khalifa wished Trump success and hoped the UAE-US ties would see further growth and evolution in various fields for the best interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

More Details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/government/uae-leaders-congratulate-trump-on-his-inauguration-as-president-of-us-2017-01-21-1.646787>

- **UAE asserts commitment to counter threats of extremism, foreign terrorists violence**

The United Arab Emirates has asserted its commitment to countering the threat of extremism and foreign terrorists violence and finding solutions for it.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/Mjk2NTQw/uae-asserts-commitment-to-counter-threats-of-extremism-foreign-terrorist-violence.html>

- **Bahrain's aspiration to achieve regional peace highlighted**

Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa expressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's hope for the cooperation of world powers to achieve peace and security in the region, and to contribute to settling crises and overcoming the challenges facing the region.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/766893>

- **Bahrain, US sign accord to implement Fatca**

The governments of Bahrain and the US have signed an agreement to improve international tax compliance and implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (Fatca). The agreement was signed by Bahrain's Finance Minister Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, and US Ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck, said a Bahrain News Agency report.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/BANK\\_319603.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/BANK_319603.html)

- **Omanoil and Al Raffd Fund extend Tasweik campaign entry deadline to February 17**

Muscat - Due to popular demand, Oman Oil Marketing Company (Omanoil) and Al Raffd Fund have extended the deadline to participate in Tasweik. Applicants can now submit their entries till February 17.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Omanoil-and-Al-Raffd-Fund-extend-Tasweik-campaign-entry-deadline-to-February-17-4xdx>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt renews troop mission in Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait**

Egypt's National Defence Council agreed in a Sunday meeting to extend the deployment of Egyptian Armed Forces units in the Red Sea and the Bab Al-Mandab strait, MENA reported. A statement by the Egyptian presidency said that the meeting approved extending the mission of the Egyptian Armed Force units on a foreign assignment to defend the country's national security in the Red Sea and the Bab Al-Mandab strait.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/256664/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-renews-troop-mission-in-Red-Sea-and-Bab-ALMa.aspx>

- **Press Syndicate's Freedom Committee condemns referral of 2 journalists to criminal court**

The Freedoms Committee of the Press Syndicate issued a statement on Saturday, in which it condemned the referral of editor-in-chief and deputy of privately-owned Al-Watan newspaper Mahmoud Mosallam and Ahmed Al-Khateeb to the criminal court on charges of insulting Al-Azhar.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/01/22/press-syndicates-freedom-committee-condemns-referral-2-journalists-criminal-court/>

- **Report filed to prosecutor demanding further investigations into al-Karm attack**

A report was filed to the public prosecutor on Sunday by 50 public and political figures demanding that investigations be reopened into al-Karm attack. This incident dates back to July when an elderly Coptic woman was stripped naked in the village of al-Karm in Minya province.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/report-filed-prosecutor-demanding-further-investigations-al-karm-attack>

- **Egypt plans to boost natural gas output**

The Ministry of Petroleum of Egypt said there are plans for digging 26 wells at a total cost of \$9.9 billion within the framework of five projects meant to increase the natural gas output in 2017-18. Natural gas production is expected to reach 5.85 billion cubic feet per day by the end of the coming fiscal, the ministry said.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/9e3db7db-b4c3-4930-a233-fe2e403ad58b.aspx>

- **Egypt prolongs participation in Yemen conflict**

Egypt's National Defence Council agreed to extend its military's participation in the Saudi-led Arab coalition in Yemen, the presidency said in a statement on Sunday. Egypt is part of the Saudi-led coalition that began in March 2015 against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who have seized large parts of Yemen.

More Details:

<http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/details/18358>

- **Terrorists attack in Egypt Results in Death of 5 Police Workers- Reports**

According to Masrawy news outlet, the law enforcement workers were attacked on Sunday evening when they were about to leave for a vacation. The law enforcement reportedly believes that the attackers were linked to Ansar Bait al-Maqdis terrorist group, which in 2014 pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, an extremist group outlawed in Russia and many other countries.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201701231049894420-terrorist-attack-egypt-dive-dead/>

- **Egypt inflation seen slowdown in April – planning minister**

Egypt's inflation rate is expected to start slowdown in the fourth quarter of the current financial year, Minister of Planning Ashraf El-Araby said Sunday. This fall will be as a result of the recent economic reforms the Egyptian government has adopted, including the liberalisation of the Egyptian pound, the minister told reporters in a meeting in Cairo.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/banks/54430-egypt-inflation-seen-slowdown-in-april--planning-minister.html>

- **Egypt's military to enter pharmaceutical industry**

Egypt's military has received the licence required to form a pharmaceutical company, a decree by Prime Minister Sherif Ismail published on Sunday showed. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has often called in the military to assist in major infrastructure projects and with distribution of subsidised commodities to keep a lid on rising prices amid an acute shortage of dollars.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/22/01/2017/Egypt%E2%80%99s-military-to-enter-pharmaceutical-industry>

- **Egypt since its revolution six years ago**

Key developments in Egypt since its January 2011 uprising that brought down president Hosni Mubarak who ruled for three decades: On January 25, 2011, massive anti-Mubarak protests erupt after a revolt topples Tunisia's ruler in what becomes known as the Arab Spring. On February 1, more than one million demonstrators take to the streets of Egypt, with a great flood of people congregating in Cairo's Tahrir Square. On February 11, Mubarak resigns and hands power to the army, which suspends the constitution and dissolves parliament.

More Details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/01/23/egypt-since-its-revolution-six-years-ago/>

- **Egypt keen to change the discourse on religion: Sisi to Canadian delegation**

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi told a visiting Canadian parliamentary delegation on Saturday that his country is eager to change the popular discourse on religion, moving away from extremist interpretations and the prejudice these provoke against religion, state news agency MENA reported.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/256599/-.aspx>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Libya Political Dialogue meets in Tunisia without eastern members**

The UN-brokered Libya Dialogue met in the town of Mammamet in Tunisia to assess the progress of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord (GNA) and discuss changing parts of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA).

More Details

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/op-ed-libya-political-dialogue-meets-in-tunisia-without-eastern-members/article/484220>

- **National Commission for Human Rights warns of humanitarian calamity in Libya**

The Libyan National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) has emphasized that the degree of misery and tragic humanitarian situation in Libya on both living and health levels has been increased due to the division and political conflicts.

More Details

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/national-commission-human-rights-warns-humanitarian-calamity-libya>

- **Tunisia asks for EU help to combat terrorism after Sousse massacre**

Foreign minister says country has learned lessons from 2015 attack but faces huge challenge in facing up to terrorist threat

More Details

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/23/tunisia-asks-for-eu-help-combat-terrorism-sousse-massacre>

- **Tunisia's powerful union meets to choose new chief**

Tunisia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning UGTT labor union opened a key annual congress on Sunday to debate strategy and elect a new leader. The powerful Tunisian General Labour Union played a key role in the 2011 revolution that toppled longtime dictator Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1043011/middle-east>

- **Nidaa Tounes denies coalition with other parties in Tunisia's municipal elections**

The Tunisian political party "Nidaa Tounes" ("Call of Tunisia") will not seek coalition with any party in the forthcoming municipal elections, the party's Executive Director Hafedh Caid Essebsi said on Sunday.

More Details

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170123-nidaa-tounes-denies-coalition-with-other-parties-in-tunisias-municipal-elections/>

- **Mohammed bin Zayed joins elite list of India's Republic Day invitees**

With his upcoming visit to India, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, will become only the third

Arab leader to have attended India's Republic Day celebrations as Chief Guest. The other two Arab leaders are Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in 2001 and the late King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia in 2006.

More Details

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae-india-ties/cp-joins-elite-list-of-r-day-invitees>

- **Algeria to partake in Barcelona in UfM Regional Forum**

Algeria will partake in the 2nd edition of the Regional Forum for the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in Barcelona on 23 and 24 January, the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced Sunday in a communiqué.

More Details

<http://en.aps.dz/algeria/16305-algeria-to-partake-in-barcelona-in-ufm-regional-forum>

- **Algeria GDP growth slows in Q3 despite spike in energy**

Jan 22 Algeria recorded slower third-quarter growth last year despite a significantly better performance from the energy sector, as non-hydrocarbon growth slackened, the government said on Sunday.

More Details

<http://www.reuters.com/article/algeria-economy-idUSL5N1FC0LU?rpc=401&>

- **Gdim Izik Trial Showcases Morocco's Commitment to Universal Human Rights**

Morocco's handling of the re-trial of individuals accused of the killings in the Gdim Izik camp has drawn international attention to Morocco's international commitment to the respect for human rights.

More Details

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/01/206307/gdim-izik-trial-showcases-moroccos-commitment-universal-human-rights/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **NDS: Three Taliban Terrorist Group Detained**

National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel detained three Taliban's network insurgent group which were 16 people from relevant areas of Kandahar province.

More Details

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/27179-nds-three-taliban-terrorist-group-detained.html>

- **Operation will continue till elimination of terrorism: CM**

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said the provincial government is creating awareness in the province with regard to the upcoming population census in the country.

More Details

<http://nation.com.pk/karachi/23-Jan-2017/operation-will-continue-till-elimination-of-terrorism-cm>

- **Situationer: The language dilemma**

In March 2014, a parliamentary committee held an extensive session in Islamabad to determine why some regional and small languages in the country were facing decline and what measures could be adopted to protect and preserve them.

More Details

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1310210/situationer-the-language-dilemma>

- **Afghan Official Reports Iranian, Pakistani Aid to Taliban In Helmand**

The governor of Afghanistan's volatile Helmand Province said Iranian and Pakistanis have recently met with Taliban insurgents involved in fighting Afghan forces.

More Details

<http://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-iran-pakistan-taliban-meeting/28250806.html>

- **6 people killed as house rooftop collapses in E. Afghanistan**

Six members of a family in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan with Jalalabad as its capital, 120 km east of Kabul lost their lives as rooftop of their house caved in on Monday, spokesman for provincial government Attaullah Khogiani said.

More Details

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/23/c\\_136006473.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/23/c_136006473.htm)

- **Canada concerned about embezzlement in aid project to Afghanistan**

The Canadian government is investigating an aid project which helps Afghan children to return to school after the results of a report pointed to alleged corruption within the Afghan Ministry of Education.

More Details

<http://wadsam.com/afghan-business-news/canada-concerned-embezzlement-aid-project-afghanistan-232/>

- **Afghan High Peace Council chief dead at 84**

The head of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, tasked with negotiating an end to the country's protracted conflict, has died at the age of 84, Radio Free Afghanistan reported on Sunday.

More Details

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1303995/afghan-high-peace-council-chief-dead-84/>

- **Taliban Warns Trump to Reverse US Policy On Afghanistan Or Face 'Shameful Defeat'**

The Taliban has warned President Donald Trump to reverse US policy on Afghanistan or face a "historically shameful defeat", a US-based monitoring group reported today.

More Details

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/taliban-warns-trump-to-reverse-us-policy-on-afghanistan-or-face-shameful-defeat/965093>

- **NPC approves 5 projects, rejects two others**

Presided over by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the National Procurements Commission (NPC) held meeting, the President Press Office said in a statement the other day.

More Details

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/12924-npc-approves-5-projects-rejects-two-others.html>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Indonesia probes 17 nationals deported from Turkey over linkage of IS**

Indonesian police have been investigating the linkage of 17 Indonesian nationals, who were deported from Turkey for planning to go to Syria to join the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group, police disclosed here on Monday. The 17 persons were deported to Indonesia by Turkish authorities after they were caught trying to enter Syria through that country's border with Turkey, said Inspector General Boy Rafly Amar, national police spokesman.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/23/c\\_136006993.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/23/c_136006993.htm)

- **Unreasonable to expect rapid solution to Syria conflict, Deputy PM says**

It is unreasonable to expect an immediate solution to the Syrian conflict, as the parties at Astana peace talks have been fighting for six years, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmuş said on Monday. Speaking after a cabinet meeting at the Prime Ministry Office in Ankara, Kurtulmuş said that Turkey anticipates that the Astana peace talks will provide the necessary groundwork for a fair and permanent solution and peace in Syria.

More Details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/01/23/unreasonable-to-expect-rapid-solution-to-syria-conflict-deputy-pm-says>

- **Turkey condemns new Israeli settlements in E. Jerusalem**

Turkey condemned Monday Israel's approval of 560 settlement homes in occupied East Jerusalem. "We condemn Israel's approval of the construction of 560 additional units at the illegal settlements on the Palestinian territories that it keeps under occupation," Turkish foreign ministry said.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-condemns-new-israeli-settlements-in-e-jerusalem/732896>

*\*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 Yađmur 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.*