



# 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**

**MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN**

**24 FEBRUARY 2016**

**NO: 2108**

<b>1. IRAQ,</b>	<b>4</b>
• ISIS withdraws its fighters from left coast in Mosul.....	4
• Kurdish force frees Swedish girl from ISIS near Mosul, says Kurdistan Security Council.....	4
• Kurdish Political Parties Concerned over PKK's Policy Towards KRG .....	4
• Oil Producers Should Rebalance Crude Markets, Says Iraq's Governor to OPEC .....	4
• UK Ready to Help KRG to Defuse Financial Crisis .....	5
• Abadi Attempting to Split Up Kurds: KRG Representative to UK .....	5
• Iraqi Army Preparing to Liberate Key Areas from ISIS in Anbar .....	5
• ISIS Terrorists Plant Explosives in Copies of Holy Qur'an .....	6
• ISIS executes 12 people in central Fallujah .....	6
• US Anti-terror Iraq Campaign: From Propaganda to Battlefield .....	6
• Iraqi militia group gets a Washington lobbyist.....	6
• Iraq federal police forces destroy dangerous tunnels for ISIS in Ramadi .....	7
• Kurdish Yazidi MP Wins International Women's Rights Award 2016 .....	7
• Iraqi PM 'Abadi' meets Al Sadr in Kadhimiya .....	7
<b>2. SYRIA</b>	<b>7</b>
• 12 Killed, 19 Injured in Terrorists Rocket Attacks across Syria.....	7
• ISIS tightens grip on Syrian govt road to Aleppo .....	8
• Syria government conditionally agrees to ceasefire .....	8
• Turkey casts doubt on chances of ceasefire in Syria .....	8
• U.N. Aid Convoys Head to Two Syrian Besieged Towns.....	9
• France urges Syria ceasefire be promptly respected .....	9
• U.S. Warns Will not Wait Long to See if Syria Truce Sticks .....	9
• Will Syrian Opposition Be Provided with Surface-to-Air Missiles? .....	9
• Pentagon, CIA Chiefs Claim Russia Will Breach Syria Ceasefire Agreement .....	10
<b>3. IRAN</b>	<b>10</b>
• Saudi Wahhabis puts 32 Shia Muslims on trial .....	10
• US ready to build petchem plants in Iran.....	10
• Oil price slips as Iran calls production freeze "ridiculous" .....	10
• UK resumes visa service in Iran .....	11
• Iran-Finland talks to help with resolution of intl. issues .....	11
• Iran Orders 50 Brazilian Planes In Lease-Purchase Deal .....	11
• Iran, Azerbaijan Republic sign 11 MoUs.....	11
• Iran's \$8 billion shopping spree in the weapons market .....	11
• Mexican Businessmen to Visit Iran.....	12
• Singapore Delegation Due on Friday.....	12
<b>4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE</b>	<b>12</b>
• New university degree program for jailed terrorists.....	12
• Israeli navy shoots Palestinian fishing boats in Gaza .....	12
• Israeli municipalities dispute over relocating ammonia tank .....	13

• Gaza dairies struggle to continue production .....	13
• Cyber security co ReSec Technologies raises \$5m .....	13
• Parliament votes to reject Israel boycott campaign .....	13
• Routine abuse of Palestinian detainees' .....	14
• PA confirms economic talks with Israel.....	14
• Israel to Demolish Homes of Killed Teens in Blockaded Qabatiya .....	14
• Gazan economic crisis could lead to new security deterioration, MI chief warns.....	14
<b>5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....</b>	<b>15</b>
• Jordan's aviation sector key to strong economic growth: IATA .....	15
• Syria on the Agenda as Jordan's King Visits White House.....	15
• Kuwait presents Jordan donations worth USD 807,000.....	15
• Jordanian Govt Keen On Learning Tithe Management From Malaysia .....	15
• Abou Zaki: Saudi Measures Impinge on Lebanon's Economy .....	16
• Leave or avoid travelling Lebanon; Saudi, UAE & Bahrain ask their citizens .....	16
• Lebanese banks removed from financial watchdog list .....	16
• Fatfat: Problem lies in Hezbollah's control over State decisions .....	16
• Salam Meets Asiri as he Gears up for Gulf Tour.....	17
<b>6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....</b>	<b>17</b>
• Saudi and UAE ban citizens from travelling to Lebanon .....	17
• Bahrain Sunni opposition leader gets one-year jail term.....	17
• Iran spies in Saudi Arabia include professor, student .....	17
• Yemen forum focuses on relief priorities and challenges .....	18
• Iran-Oman \$60bn gas pipeline study on track .....	18
• Saudi Wahhabis puts 32 Shia Muslims on trial .....	18
• Death, starvation haunt southern Yemen .....	18
• Saudi consul visits Erbil.....	19
• Saudi police kill Bahraini suspect in executed cleric's hometown .....	19
• Govt wants to raise petrol prices by up to 83 percent – Cabinet, Assembly inch closer on subsidy cuts .....	19
<b>7. EGYPT.....</b>	<b>20</b>
• British Ambassador-UK won't leave Egypt stand to alone in defeating terrorism .....	20
• After toddler gets a life sentence, Egypt's government says 'oops' .....	20
• Egypt Tourism Minister Says Assure Air Traffic with Russia to Resume Soon .....	20
• The world should support Egypt in security and economy, says British ambassador .....	20
• Egypt, Greece Sign MOU On Tourism Coop. ....	21
• Minister says Netanyahu stole credit for Sinai border fence.....	21
• Egypt cuts economic growth forecast, ups deficit target.....	21
• Egypt welcomes US-Russia cessation of hostilities in Syria.....	21
• Seven Takeaways from the President's Visit to Egypt, By Garba Shehu .....	21
• Egypt's parliament lifts immunity from MP El-Hariri for trial .....	22
<b>8. NORTH AFRICA.....</b>	<b>22</b>
• When Algeria's sleeping president attempts to awaken .....	22
• Foreign military operation in Libya would set region on fire: Algerian analysts.....	22
• Iraqi FM on official visit to Algeria Wednesday, Thursday .....	22



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

• Hariri receives French, Chinese and Algerian ambassadors.....	23
• Libya delays confidence vote over lack of quorum.....	23
• Libya military makes further gains in Benghazi.....	23
• Libya's new unity government faces the mother of all rebuilding jobs.....	23
• Libya could soon run out of life-saving medicines - U.N. ....	23
• Morocco's economic model for the Arab world .....	24
• Portuguese FM to start, February 24, two-day visit to Tunisia.....	24
• Tunisian army kills suspected extremist.....	24
<b>9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN .....</b>	<b>24</b>
• Pakistani Prime Minister welcomes Afghan peace talks' decision.....	24
• UN accuses US, Afghan troops of 'summary execution' in hospital raid .....	25
• Greece buses migrants away from border as FYROM refuses entry to Afghans .....	25
• Afghanistan gets final vote results of presidential elections after a year and half.....	25
• 125 Afghan citizens arrive to Afghanistan from Germany .....	25
• Pakistan-Iran ties 'inevitable necessity' for regional peace .....	26
• Kerry seeks 742 million dollars in aid to Pakistan .....	26
• Pakistan makes arrests in Pathankot attack case.....	26
• No high school for girls in entire Alai tehsil.....	26
• Pakistani security forces arrest killer of Shiite Muslims 'Asif Chotu'.....	27
<b>10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....</b>	<b>27</b>
• Turkish PM says YPG taking orders from PKK .....	27
• Turkey to not allow terror zone near Syria border .....	27

## 1. IRAQ,

- **ISIS withdraws its fighters from left coast in Mosul**

A local source in Nineveh Province revealed on Tuesday, that ISIS withdrew the majority of its fighters from the left coast in Mosul, while pointed out that more than 400 ISIS members fled to unknown destinations. The source said in a press statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, “This evening, ISIS withdrew the majority of its members from the left coast in Mosul,” pointing out that, “ISIS used to deploy its fighters in the majority of axes, but these troops disappeared before sunset.”

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/isis-withdraws-its-fighters-from-left-coast-in-mosul/>

- **Kurdish force frees Swedish girl from ISIS near Mosul, says Kurdistan Security Council**

The Security Council of Kurdistan Region announced on Tuesday, that a special Kurdish force had managed to free a Swedish girl from ISIS, while pointed out that the operation was carried out at the request of the Swedish government. The council said in a statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, “A special anti-terrorism force in Kurdistan carried out, in February 17, an operation in an area controlled by ISIS near Mosul,” noting that, “The operation resulted in freeing a Swedish girl from ISIS.”

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/kurdish-force-frees-swedish-girl-isis-near-mosul-says-kurdistan-security-council/>

- **Kurdish Political Parties Concerned over PKK’s Policy Towards KRG**

Kurdish political parties in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been deeply concerned over the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) threat over Kurdistan Region’s oil and gas exports. PKK has recently declared that they will not allow the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to start exporting natural gas to Turkey and international markets, arguing that the deal can improve Turkish economy even further.

More details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/260616>

- **Oil Producers Should Rebalance Crude Markets, Says Iraq’s Governor to OPEC**

Iraq still plans to increase its production to 6 million barrels per day by 2020 but will do so steadily. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and producers outside the group

should act promptly to rebalance crude oil markets or the damage could be deeper and take time to be fixed, Iraq's governor to OPEC said Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/oil-producers-should-rebalance-crude-markets-says-iraqs-governor-to-opec-1456300093?>

- **UK Ready to Help KRG to Defuse Financial Crisis**

The British envoy in Iraq has reiterated that his country is ready to send British experts to help the Kurdistan Region overcome the current crises. Kurdistan Region President Massoud Barzani received the British Ambassador to Iraq, Frank Baker, on Tuesday in Erbil to review the latest Munich Security Conference 2016, where Barzani met with several world leaders.

More details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/260698>

- **Abadi Attempting to Split Up Kurds: KRG Representative to UK**

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) representative to the UK has strongly criticised the Iraqi PM, Haidar al-Abadi, and described his proposal for paying KRG civil servants' salaries as an attempt to split up the Kurds in Iraq. Karwan Jamal Tahir, the KRG representative to UK, said in a press conference in London, that the Iraqi PM is trying to delude Kurdistan Region to stop the crude oil export independently.

More details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/260592>

- **Iraqi Army Preparing to Liberate Key Areas from ISIS in Anbar**

The Iraqi army has sent troops to a military base in the western province of Anbar in preparation for an operation aimed at retaking a key city from Daesh (ISIS/ISIL) Takfiri terrorists. "Major military reinforcements... arrived today to the Ain al-Asad base," located in the Hit district of Anbar Province, Iraqi Major General Ali Ibrahim Daboun said Monday.

More details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1792269>

- **ISIS Terrorists Plant Explosives in Copies of Holy Qur'an**

As the Daesh (ISIS / ISIL) Takfiri terrorist group is losing ground both in Syria and Iraq, it is now resorting to more desperate means of carrying out terror attacks: planting bombs in the copies of the Holy Qur'an. According to Colonel Steve Warren, a spokesman for the so-called US-led coalition against purported Daesh positions in Syria and Iraq, the militant group, which is "beginning to crack", has booby-trapped areas it has lost.

More details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1792605?>

- **ISIS executes 12 people in central Fallujah**

A source in Anbar police announced on Tuesday, that the so-called ISIS executed 12 people by firing squad in central Fallujah (62 km west of Baghdad), while pointed out that the victims were trying to escape from the city. The source said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "ISIS executed 12 people near the Department of Agriculture in al-Gomhoreya neighborhood in central Fallujah," noting that, "The executed people were trying to escape from the city of Fallujah with their families."

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/isis-executes-12-people-in-the-center-of-fallujah/>

- **US Anti-terror Iraq Campaign: From Propaganda to Battlefield**

"America does not help solve the world's problems, but it must hold the strings of these problems to run towards the national interests." By these words the godfather of the US foreign policy Henry A. Kissinger has described the reality of the way Washington deals with the global crises.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/cultural/archive/2016/02/24/736801/story.html?>

- **Iraqi militia group gets a Washington lobbyist**

An out-of-work Iraqi politician who leads a 4,000-man private militia is deepening his ties to Washington in an attempt to remake the Obama administration's foreign policy toward Iraq. Atheel al-Nujaifi, who was booted out of office as governor of Iraq's northern Nineveh province last year, in February signed a six-month, \$90,000 contract with a lobbyist to represent the Sunni militia that he controls.

More details:

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/business-a-lobbying/270358-iraqi-militia-group-gets-a-washington-lobbyist?>

- **Iraq federal police forces destroy dangerous tunnels for ISIS in Ramadi**

The Federal Police Command announced on Tuesday the destruction of a network of tunnels in Husaibah al-Sharkiya area in the city of Ramadi, while pointed out that these tunnels are the most dangerous. The Federal Police Chief Raed Shakir Jawdat said in a statement “The 3rd automated brigade of the Federal Police discovered the most dangerous network of tunnels in Husaibah and managed to destroy it, while seized a number of weapons and a variety of munitions.”

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/24/736812/story.html?>

- **Kurdish Yazidi MP Wins International Women’s Rights Award 2016**

A Kurdish Yazidi Member of the Iraqi Parliament has won the International Women’s Rights Award 2016 for her outstanding efforts to protect women’s rights. According to a statement released by MP Vian Dakhil’s office, she has received the prestigious international award for her extraordinary and inspiring work to rescue Yazidi and other women enslaved, assaulted, and sexually abused by ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

More details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/260621>

- **Iraqi PM 'Abadi' meets Al Sadr in Kadhimiya**

On Tuesday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi met the Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Attaba Kadhimiya north of the capital Baghdad. A source said “This afternoon the Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi met the leader of the Sadrist Movement Moqtada al-Sadr in Attaba Kadhimiya in Kadhimiya north of Baghdad.”

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/24/736814/story.html?>

## 2. SYRIA

- **12 Killed, 19 Injured in Terrorists Rocket Attacks across Syria**

At least a dozen people have been killed and 19 others injured in separate rocket attacks by foreign-sponsored Takfiri militants against residential areas across Syria. A security source, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said five children lost their lives and as many others were injured when several rockets fired by Takfiri terrorists struck the al-Zahra neighborhood of Aleppo, situated some 355 kilometers (220 miles) north of the capital, Damascus, on Tuesday, Syria's official news agency, SANA, reported.

More details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1792613?>

- **ISIS tightens grip on Syrian govt road to Aleppo**

ISIS fighters were reported to have tightened their grip on a Syrian government supply route to Aleppo on Tuesday as the army battled to retake the road as part of its campaign to seize the city. As Damascus accepted a U.S.-Russian plan for a "cessation of hostilities" between the government and rebels due to take effect on Saturday, heavy Russian air strikes were also said to be targeting one of the last roads into opposition-held parts of Aleppo.

More details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/02/24/ISIS-tightens-grip-on-Syrian-government-road-to-Aleppo.html>

- **Syria government conditionally agrees to ceasefire**

Syria's government agreed on Tuesday to a ceasefire deal announced by the United States and Russia after the opposition conditionally accepted, but doubts persisted it could take effect by the weekend. The truce agreement, announced on Monday, does not apply to hardline religious groups like the Islamic State (IS) and al-Nusra Front, putting up major hurdles to how it can be implemented on Syria's complex battlefield.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-government-conditionally-agrees-ceasefire-1231902057>

- **Turkey casts doubt on chances of ceasefire in Syria**

Turkey has said it is not optimistic about the implementation of a Syria ceasefire announced by the United States and Russia, and has threatened to continue with artillery strikes against Syrian Kurdish fighters. "I welcome this truce, but I am not very optimistic that it will be respected by all the parties," Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus told reporters in Ankara on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/turkey-optimistic-syria-ceasefire-160223135727271.html>

- **U.N. Aid Convoys Head to Two Syrian Besieged Towns**

U.N. aid convoys headed to two Syrian towns besieged by government forces on Tuesday to deliver life-saving food and medicine to some 30,000 people, a U.N. spokesman said. The deliveries to the towns of Moadamiyeh and Kafr Batna, near Damascus, came after aid reached five besieged towns last week, part of a major push to reach civilians facing starvation.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/202934-u-n-aid-convoys-head-to-two-syrian-besieged-towns>

- **France urges Syria ceasefire be promptly respected**

French President Francois Hollande said Tuesday the Syrian ceasefire must be fully and promptly implemented, after discussing it with the leaders of Britain, Germany and the United States. "A ceasefire has been announced. It must be fully respected and the sooner, the better," Hollande told reporters during a visit to Peru.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/contents/afp/2016/02/syria-conflict-france.html>

- **U.S. Warns Will not Wait Long to See if Syria Truce Sticks**

Syria's warring parties agreed to a ceasefire deal on Tuesday, but the U.S. warned it would not wait long to see if the truce sticks while some rebels on the ground rejected it as a "waste of time". The U.S. and Russia-brokered deal calls for a "cessation of hostilities" between forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad and opposition groups, and is due to take effect at midnight on Friday Damascus time.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/202943-u-s-warns-will-not-wait-long-to-see-if-syria-truce-sticks>

- **Will Syrian Opposition Be Provided with Surface-to-Air Missiles?**

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir's statements on supporting Syrian rebels by supplying them with surface-to-air missiles have raised hopes for rebalancing the power, which was lately put in the hands of the Syrian regime and Iranian and Russian forces. The hopes are in ending the ban on the Free Army, considered a moderate opposition, in order to protect its areas and combat murdering and displacing a large number of civilians within a clear scheme that aims at modifying the demographic map of Syria.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2016/02/article55347847/will-syrian-rebels-be-provided-with-surface-to-air-missiles>

- **Pentagon, CIA Chiefs Claim Russia Will Breach Syria Ceasefire Agreement**

US President Barack Obama's top military and intelligence advisers have expressed doubt on Russia's willingness to abide by the recently-announced ceasefire in Syria, saying they want Moscow to feel "real pain," according to a US government official.

More details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1792459>

### 3. IRAN

- **Saudi Wahhabis puts 32 Shia Muslims on trial**

Saudi Arabia has put 32 Shiite people on trial, including 30 members of its own Shia Muslim minority, in charges of spying for Iran, several local newspapers and television reported on Monday.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/24/736772/story.html?>

- **US ready to build petchem plants in Iran**

Deputy oil minister has announced readiness of US credible firms to participate in implementation of Iran's new petrochemical industry development projects.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/114715/US-ready-to-build-petchem-plants-in-Iran?>

- **Oil price slips as Iran calls production freeze "ridiculous"**

Oil extended declines after Iran said a proposal by Saudi Arabia and Russia for producers to freeze output was "ridiculous" as the Persian Gulf nation seeks to boost exports after years of sanctions.

More details:

<https://www.energyvoice.com/marketinfo/102460/oil-price-slips-as-iran-calls-production-freeze-ridiculous/?>

- **UK resumes visa service in Iran**

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond in a tweet on Tue. announced the resumption of issuing visas for Iranian nationals at its embassy in Tehran.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/114713/UK-resumes-visa-service-in-Iran?>

- **Iran-Finland talks to help with resolution of intl. issues**

Head of Strategic Research Center of Expediency Council said Tue. Iran-Finland ties are expanding and their consultations could play a positive role in resolving international issues.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/114711/Iran-Finland-talks-to-help-with-resolution-of-intl-issues?>

- **Iran Orders 50 Brazilian Planes In Lease-Purchase Deal**

Iran has ordered 50 planes from Brazil's Embraer, the world's third biggest commercial aircraft manufacturer, to modernize its aging aircraft fleet, a government spokesman said on February 23.

More details:

<http://www.rferl.org/content/iran-orders-50-brazilian-embraer-planes-lease-purchase-deal/27570542.html?>

- **Iran, Azerbaijan Republic sign 11 MoUs**

Iranian and Azerbaijani officials signed 11 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on the sidelines of a meeting between Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani in Tehran on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81975880/?>

- **Iran's \$8 billion shopping spree in the weapons market**

Implementing President Obama's nuclear weapons deal with Iran has provided about \$150 billion for the ayatollahs' coffers since international sanctions were lifted. By January, even Secretary of State John Kerry had to concede that some of the money would be used to sponsor terrorists.

More details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/feb/23/jed-babbin-irans-8-billion-shopping-spree-in-the-w/>

- **Mexican Businessmen to Visit Iran**

Three Mexican trade missions are expected to visit Iran in the upcoming Iranian New Year (to start March 20, 2016), announced Mexican ambassador in Tehran, Ulises Canchola Gutierrez. The visits are aimed at exploring mutual grounds for economic cooperation between the two countries, Mehr News Agency quoted the envoy as saying. Back in June last year, Gutierrez took a tour of Gilan and Mazandaran provinces to scope out trade opportunities.

More details:

<http://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-domestic-economy/37007/mexican-businessmen-visit/>

- **Singapore Delegation Due on Friday**

A Singaporean business delegation led by the country's Minister for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran is scheduled to visit Iran on Friday to hold talks with Iranian officials regarding expansion of trade ties, Iran's Ambassador to Singapore Javad Ansari announced.

More details:

<http://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-domestic-economy/37011/singapore-delegation-due-friday/>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **New university degree program for jailed terrorists**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) ministry for prisoners affairs signed an agreement Monday with Al-Umma Open University, launching a new jointly run study program for Arab terrorists jailed in Israel.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/208474?#.Vs1jjRHtmko>

- **Israeli navy shoots Palestinian fishing boats in Gaza**

Israeli warships on Wednesday fired at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Gaza Strip and damaged one of the boats. According to Palestinian security forces, Israeli navy forces fired at the fishermen's boats sailing at a distance of 4 nautical miles off the Gaza shore. No injuries were reported, but the fishermen were forced to return to the beach.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/middle-east/371793/israeli-navy-shoots-palestinian-fishing-boats-in-gaza?>

- **Israeli municipalities dispute over relocating ammonia tank**

Since Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah threatened on February 16 the Zionist entity of striking the Ammonia tank in Haifa, the Israeli municipalities commenced disputing over relocating "Hezbollah nuclear bomb."

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/24/736750/story.html?>

- **Gaza dairies struggle to continue production**

Mamoun Dalloul is busy rebuilding his dairy factory, which was destroyed for the third time in 2014 during Israel's latest major offensive against the Gaza Strip. "We face numerous difficulties due to Israeli wars and instability in Gaza," Dalloul, 39, told Anadolu Agency. "However, we are trying to survive and maintain our source of livelihood."

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/gaza-dairies-struggle-continue-production-809076>

- **Cyber security co ReSec Technologies raises \$5m**

The Israeli startup's products prevent malware and malicious files from reaching users and the enterprise network. Israeli cyber security startup ReSet Technologies has raised \$5 million in a Series A financing round led by PICO Venture Partners and Founders Group.

More details:

<http://www.globes.co.il/en/article-israeli-cyber-security-co-resec-technologies-raises-5m-1001105904>

- **Parliament votes to reject Israel boycott campaign**

Parliament has voted by a wide margin to condemn the growing international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign being waged against Israel for what is alleged to be the Jewish state's failure to accord equal rights to Arabs in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

More details:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/parliament-votes-to-reject-campaign-to-boycott-israel/article28863810/>

- **Routine abuse of Palestinian detainees'**

Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency abuses Palestinians under interrogation in a manner so systematic it points to official endorsement, two Israeli NGOs said in a report published on Wednesday. The 70-page joint study by rights groups B'Tselem and Hamoked is based on accounts by 116 suspects interrogated at Shikma prison in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon between August 2013 and March 2014.

More details:

<http://news.iafrica.com/worldnews/1021477.html?>

- **PA confirms economic talks with Israel**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) Minister of Finance Shukri Bishara has confirmed that he has met with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Kahlon in Jerusalem in recent weeks to discuss an economic agreement to boost the Palestinian economy, the Ma'an news agency reported Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/208465?#.Vs1uYxHtmko>

- **Israel to Demolish Homes of Killed Teens in Blockaded Qabatiya**

Israeli forces Wednesday handed the families of three Palestinian teenagers, who were recently shot dead by Israeli troops, about their intent to demolish their homes, located in Qabatiya town, south of Jenin, according to security sources.

More details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=nhSFg9a30257179623anhSFg9>

- **Gazan economic crisis could lead to new security deterioration, MI chief warns**

The ongoing economic crisis in Gaza could lead to a renewed security escalation in the south, Military Intelligence Chief Maj.-Gen. Herzl Halevi told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday. Gaza's unemployment rate stands at more than 40 percent, and there are no economic growth engines to speak of in the Hamas-ruled Strip.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Gazan-economic-crisis-could-lead-to-new-security-deterioration-MI-chief-warns-445898?>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan's aviation sector key to strong economic growth: Iata**

Jordan can fully realise its economic growth potential - expected to be amongst the strongest in the region - over the next five years if all aviation stakeholders in the country closely collaborate, The International Air Transport Association (Iata) said.

More details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN\\_301556.html?](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/TTN_301556.html?)

- **Syria on the Agenda as Jordan's King Visits White House**

President Barack Obama is hosting Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Wednesday for talks focused on the battle against Islamic State and the humanitarian fallout from the war in Syria.

More details:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/syria-on-agenda-as-jordan-king-visits-white-house/3204493.html?>

- **Kuwait presents Jordan donations worth USD 807,000**

Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr.Hamad Al-Duaij on Tuesday, presented the country with Kuwaiti donations worth USD 807,000, to prop up development projects in the country. The Kuwaiti Islamic Heritage Revival Society contributed a share of USD 574,000 to finance Islamic projects in the country, while the Kuwait Charity of the Islamic Society for Social Reform contributed a share of USD 233,000.

More details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2489254&Language=en>

- **Jordanian Govt Keen On Learning Tithe Management From Malaysia**

The Jordanian government is keen to learn from Malaysia's tithe management, as it has been described by the country's Minister of Endowments, Dr Haeil Abdul Hafeez Daoud, as a perfect role model for Islamic countries in the world. According to him he had heard many good things about Malaysia, and hoped to learn from Malaysia's experience in managing tithe funds for the benefit of Muslims.

More details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=1218686>

- **Abou Zaki: Saudi Measures Impinge on Lebanon's Economy**

CEO of Al Iktisaad Wal Aamal Group Raouf Abou Zaki stated on Wednesday that the latest Saudi measures against Lebanon have a direct effect on the financial and economic situation but assured that no measures have been taken against Lebanese expats so far.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/202958-abou-zaki-saudi-measures-impinge-on-lebanon-s-economy?>

- **Leave or avoid travelling Lebanon; Saudi, UAE & Bahrain ask their citizens**

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have urged their citizens to leave Lebanon or avoid travelling there. The move on Tuesday came after Riyadh halted \$4bn in aid to Lebanese security forces.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/24/736747/story.html?>

- **Lebanese banks removed from financial watchdog list**

International correspondent banks and depositors will be the first to rejoice following an announcement by a financial watchdog that Lebanon is no longer under the surveillance, bankers said Monday. "Of course this is very good news for Lebanon and the banking sector. Our banks have shown commitment in complying with all international rules and requirements to combat money laundering and terrorism funding," Markam Sader, the secretary general of the Association of Banks in Lebanon, told The Daily Star.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/lebanese-banks-removed-financial-watchdog-list-809280>

- **Fatfat: Problem lies in Hezbollah's control over State decisions**

MP Ahmed Fatfat warned in an interview with the Voice of Lebanon 93.3 radio against 'internal degradation' in light of what is happening, calling for "awareness and wisdom in political positions uttered by the parties that brought us here, namely Hezbollah and the Free Patriotic Movement."

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/57363/Fatfat-Problem-lies-in-Hezbollah-39-control-over-State-decisions?>

- **Salam Meets Asiri as he Gears up for Gulf Tour**

Prime Minister Tammam Salam met with Saudi Ambassador Ali Awadh Asiri on Wednesday to express Beirut's willingness to stay in contact with the Saudi leadership. Salam intends to send a message to Riyadh on Lebanon's desire to keep the ties with the Saudi leadership ahead of a planned visit to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/202945-salam-meets-asiri-as-he-gears-up-for-gulf-tour?>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi and UAE ban citizens from travelling to Lebanon**

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have urged their citizens to leave Lebanon or avoid travelling there. The move on Tuesday came after Riyadh halted \$4bn in aid to Lebanese security forces in response to "hostile" positions linked to Lebanese Shia group Hezbollah.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/saudi-uae-ban-citizens-travelling-lebanon-160223154000581.html>

- **Bahrain Sunni opposition leader gets one-year jail term**

A Bahrain court jailed a Sunni opposition leader for one year for incitement against the regime on Wednesday but dropped a more serious charge of promoting political change by force, a judicial official said. Ibrahim Sharif, whose secular Waed movement took part in 2011 protests alongside parties representing the Gulf state's Shiite majority, had strongly denied the latter charge.

More details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=75420>

- **Iran spies in Saudi Arabia include professor, student**

A cell of 32 people in Saudi Arabia accused of spying for Iran includes a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh and a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, court sources have said. They did not disclose the names but said the suspects also included an academician who held the job of "development researcher" at the Ministry of Education for more than 25 years.

More details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/02/24/Iran-spy-cell-in-Saudi-Arabia-includes-professor-student.html>

- **Yemen forum focuses on relief priorities and challenges**

The international humanitarian conference on Yemen concludes today with announcements about a series of initiatives and partnerships to support urgent relief work in the conflict-torn country. The three-day conference yesterday discussed priorities and challenges of relief work related to water, sanitation, livelihood, economic empowerment, shelter, security and joint coordination.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/qatar/371758/yemen-forum-focuses-on-relief-priorities-and-challenges?>

- **Iran-Oman \$60bn gas pipeline study on track**

Studies on an undersea pipeline to transfer 20 million cu m per day of Iranian gas to Oman for a period of 25 years will be completed in six months, a report said. An Iranian delegation will visit Oman soon to discuss the gas price and other issues related to the \$60-billion project, reported Muscat Daily, citing media reports.

More details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS\\_301555.html?](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_301555.html?)

- **Saudi Wahhabis puts 32 Shia Muslims on trial**

Saudi Arabia has put 32 Shiite people on trial, including 30 members of its own Shia Muslim minority, in charges of spying for Iran, several local newspapers and television reported on Monday. The 32, including an Iranian and an Afghan, were detained in 2013 sparking expressions of concern among Saudi Shias who said that several were well known figures in their community and not involved in politics.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/24/736772/story.html?>

- **Death, starvation haunt southern Yemen**

The stories and scenes of civilian deaths and starvation in the Yemeni city of Taiz are nightmarish, coming on the heels of the siege imposed since April 2015 by Houthi rebels and forces loyal to

deposed President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Anywhere one looks, only pain, sorrow and sadness stare back, in a scene reminiscent of the catastrophic situation that prevailed in Syria's Madaya.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/02/yemen-taiz-siege-famine-war-houthis-saudi-emirates.html?>

- **Saudi consul visits Erbil**

Saudi Arabia joined the host of other nations who have consulates in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region's capital Erbil. The Saudi Consul is discussing in Erbil the relations between Saudi Arabia and the Kurdistan region. Consul Abdul Munem al-Mahmoud is expected to inaugurate the Saudi consulate building in Erbil. Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani made an official state visit to Saudi Arabia last December where they discussed how to enhance bilateral ties.

More details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/webtv/reports/2016/02/23/Saudi-consul-visits-Erbil.html>

- **Saudi police kill Bahraini suspect in executed cleric's hometown**

Black smoke from tires burnt in protest hung over the eastern Saudi hometown of a prominent executed Shia cleric on Tuesday night after security forces shot and killed a wanted Bahraini "terrorist" who fired at them, according to the interior ministry. The interior ministry identified the dead suspect as Ali Mahmoud Ali Abdullah and said an operation to arrest him took place in Awamiya town at 4:00pm (1300 GMT).

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-police-shoot-dead-bahraini-suspect-restive-town-601478728>

- **Govt wants to raise petrol prices by up to 83 percent – Cabinet, Assembly inch closer on subsidy cuts**

The National Assembly and the government yesterday held another round of discussions over plans to cut subsidies on electricity and fuel as part of an economic reform package, and a minister said the two bodies have moved closer on the issue. Head of the financial and economic affairs committee MP Faisal Al-Shaye said the government proposed to raise the prices of petrol by between 42 percent to 83 percent.

More details:

<http://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/govt-wants-to-raise-petrol-prices-by-up-to-83-percent/>

## 7. EGYPT

- **British Ambassador-UK won't leave Egypt stand to alone in defeating terrorism**

British Ambassador John Casson today attended "Planning for Growth: Egypt's Tourism in 2016", a conference organised by the Ministry of Tourism aimed at promoting the Egyptian tourist sector.

More details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/195776/uncategorized/press-release-british-ambassador-uk-wont-leave-egypt-stand-to-alone-in-defeating-terrorism?>

- **After toddler gets a life sentence, Egypt's government says 'oops'**

As alibis go, this one would seem to be airtight: Your honor, my client was only a year old at the time of the crime.

More details:

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2016/02/23/after-toddler-gets-life-sentence-egypt-government-says-oops/9925PKc5L4nHoqPVmaWMDO/story.html?>

- **Egypt Tourism Minister Says Assure Air Traffic with Russia to Resume Soon**

"There are reassuring reports. No exact date for the resumption of flights was mentioned, but I am certain that they [Russian charter flights] will be back before long," Zazou told journalists at the Egyptian Tourism Ministry's conference in Cairo.

More details:

<http://sputniknews.com/middleeast/20160223/1035234634/egypt-tourist-russia-traffic.html#ixzz414uTuZMR>

- **The world should support Egypt in security and economy, says British ambassador**

During a one-day conference organised by the Egyptian tourism ministry, British ambassador John Casson said UK will not leave Egypt to stand alone in fighting terrorism and strengthening tourism

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/188369/-.aspx?>

- **Egypt, Greece Sign MOU On Tourism Coop.**

Minister of Tourism Hisham Zaazou and his Greek counterpart Elena Kountoura signed on Monday 22/2/2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on tourism cooperation between the two countries.

More details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201602231470.html>

- **Minister says Netanyahu stole credit for Sinai border fence**

Housing Minister Yoav Galant claimed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took credit for his idea in 2010 to overhaul the border fence along Israel's border with Egypt, according to a recording published Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/minister-says-netanyahu-stole-credit-for-sinai-border-fence/>

- **Egypt cuts economic growth forecast, ups deficit target**

Egypt has largely depended on Gulf States to help limit its ballooning budget deficit after providing the country with billions of dollars since 2013

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/188326/-.aspx?>

- **Egypt welcomes US-Russia cessation of hostilities in Syria**

Egypt's foreign ministry said Tuesday that the "cessation of hostilities" agreed upon by the United States and Russia is an important step to facilitate delivery of UN humanitarian aid to the Syrian people and is necessary to reach a political settlement.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/188314/-.aspx?>

- **Seven Takeaways from the President's Visit to Egypt, By Garba Shehu**

In the difficult moments of our history, looking precisely at the period of Nigeria's war of unity 1966-1971, Egypt proved to be a strategic partner, from helping to train our military to supporting with equipment and aircraft maintenance.

More details:

<http://www.punchng.com/seven-takeaways-from-president-buharis-visit-to-egypt/>

- **Egypt's parliament lifts immunity from MP El-Hariri for trial**

With a majority vote, Egypt's House of Representatives agreed to lift the immunity of independent Alexandrian MP Haitham El-Hariri so he could be tried on criminal charges, MENA reported.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/188364/-.aspx?>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **When Algeria's sleeping president attempts to awaken**

Amid the overall apathy that has characterised Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's controversial fourth term in office came a decision to breathe new life into a clearly moribund administration.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/when-algerias-sleeping-president-attempts-awake-756911847?#sthash.BK7TozKy.dpuf>

- **Foreign military operation in Libya would set region on fire: Algerian analysts**

As Foreign military operation in troubled Libya to chase out IS affiliated groups is imminent, the neighboring countries, including Algeria, are worried that the military intervention would spread chaos to the entire region, Algeria's security and political analysts said.

More details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/24/c\\_135124467.htm?](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/24/c_135124467.htm?)

- **Iraqi FM on official visit to Algeria Wednesday, Thursday**

Iraq's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim al-Ashaiqer al-Jaafari will pay an official visit to Algeria on 24 and 25 February, at the invitation of Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10977-iraqi-fm-on-official-visit-to-algeria-wednesday,-thursday?>

- **Hariri receives French, Chinese and Algerian ambassadors**

Former Prime Minister Saad Hariri received today at the "Center House", in the presence of his chief of staff Nader Hariri, the French ambassador to Lebanon Emmanuel Bonne. The discussion tackled the bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/57310/Hariri-receives-French-Chinese-and-Algerian-ambassadors?>

- **Libya delays confidence vote over lack of quorum**

The internationally recognized parliament of Libya has failed to hold a vote of confidence in the UN-backed unity government over a lack of quorum.

More details:

<http://english.trib.ir/news/world/africa/item/223113-?>

- **Libya military makes further gains in Benghazi**

Military forces loyal to Libya's eastern government said on Tuesday they had taken control of two key neighbourhoods in Benghazi, building on gains made against Islamist fighters over the previous three days.

More details:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-libya-security-benghazi-idUKKCNOVW2N1?rpc=401>

- **Libya's new unity government faces the mother of all rebuilding jobs**

Five years after the collapse of Libya, a new UN-backed national unity government has finally been unveiled. It seeks to bring together the existing rival governments in the east and west of Libya, mainly to collaborate in the fight against groups affiliated to the Islamic State.

More details:

<http://theconversation.com/libyas-new-unity-government-faces-the-mother-of-all-rebuilding-jobs-55175?>

- **Libya could soon run out of life-saving medicines - U.N.**

Libya faces severe shortages of life-saving medicine and about one million people will soon be in dire need of help, a U.N. humanitarian official warned, as warring factions hamper efforts to end chaos and form a unity government.

More details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/libya-security-medicines-idINKCN0VWOS2?rpc=401>

- **Morocco's economic model for the Arab world**

The global oil-price bust has devastated economies across the Middle East and North Africa. Having seen severe price declines in the past, many leaders in the region may be tempted to wait for prices to rise again. But this collapse is different, and governments need new energy and development strategies.

More details:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2016/02/24/commentary/world-commentary/morocco-economic-model-arab-world/?#.Vs18Gn2LRkh>

- **Portuguese FM to start, February 24, two-day visit to Tunisia**

Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva will start, Wednesday, a two-day working visit to Tunisia.

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/33667-portuguese-fm-to-start-february-24-two-day-visit-to-tunisia?>

- **Tunisian army kills suspected extremist**

A suspected extremist was killed on Monday in an exchange of fire with security forces in a mountainous area of central Tunisia, a defence ministry spokesman said.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/346f0b1c-6d41-4a5f-aae0-acdfa5a9ad3e.aspx?>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistani Prime Minister welcomes Afghan peace talks' decision**

Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, on Wednesday welcomed the decision of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban and renewed his country's support to the reconciliation process. Sharif's remarks came a day after senior Afghan, Chinese, U.S. and Pakistani diplomats agreed to facilitate the Taliban-Kabul talks by the first week of March.

More details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/24/c\\_135127285.htm?](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/24/c_135127285.htm?)

- **UN accuses US, Afghan troops of 'summary execution' in hospital raid**

The United Nations on Wednesday accused US-led foreign and Afghan troops of carrying out a “summary execution” in a recent raid on an international-funded medical facility in central Afghanistan. The accusation comes days after the UN expressed alarm at the highest civilian casualties in 2015.

More details:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1053254/un-accuses-us-afghan-troops-of-summary-execution-in-hospital-raid/>

- **Greece buses migrants away from border as FYROM refuses entry to Afghans**

Some 3,000 refugees and migrants were waiting at Greece’s border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) on Wednesday as the flow of people across the frontier remained slow.

More details:

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/206290/article/ekathimerini/news/greece-buses-migrants-away-from-border-as-fyrom-refuses-entry-to-afghans?>

- **Afghanistan gets final vote results of presidential elections after a year and half**

In an unexpected move, the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan announced the final vote results of the 2014 presidential elections. The controversial presidential election in 2014, organized in two rounds, led to the formation of the government of national unity

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-gets-final-vote-results-of-presidential-elections-after-a-year-and-half-0159?>

- **125 Afghan citizens arrive to Afghanistan from Germany**

A group of 125 Afghan citizens arrived to Afghanistan this morning from Germany with the support of the Afghan and German governments. “Today, 125 Afghan citizens return to Afghanistan: After a difficult way to Germany in the hands of people smugglers they realized that their future is in Afghanistan and that they are needed in their home country,” according to an official statement.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/125-afghan-citizens-arrive-to-afghanistan-from-germany-0158?>

- **Pakistan-Iran ties 'inevitable necessity' for regional peace**

Stronger Pakistan-Iran relations are inevitable for regional peace, security and prosperity, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Tue. in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Honardoost. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Mehdi Honardoost in Islamabad on Tuesday, deemed Iran's geo-political position significant, saying the Islamic Republic's role was central to unifying the Muslim world.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/114716/Pakistan-Iran-ties-inevitable-necessity-for-regional-peace?>

- **Kerry seeks 742 million dollars in aid to Pakistan**

In a bid to aid Pakistan with 742 million dollars, United States Secretary of State John Kerry has told US lawmakers that the Obama administration was helping Afghanistan and Pakistan fight terrorism. Kerry said that he is helping Afghanistan and Pakistan to counter violent extremism, deepening strategic dialogue with India, supporting democratic gains in Sri Lanka and Burma and encouraging the peaceful resolution of competing maritime claims in the South China Sea.

More details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail4/story253898/kerry-seeks-742-million-dollars-in-aid-to-pakistan.html?>

- **Pakistan makes arrests in Pathankot attack case**

Pakistani law-enforcement agencies have conducted raids in various cities of the country's Punjab province and arrested a number of suspects in connection with Pathankot airbase attack in India, media reported on Tuesday. According to a media report, Pakistan has started investigations about the telephone numbers provided by India and allegedly used in planning the attacks on the Pathankot airbase, reports Geo TV.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/pakistanafghanistan/371789/pakistan-makes-arrests-in-pathankot-attack-case?>

- **No high school for girls in entire Alai tehsil**

Even in this modern era of science and technology, the girls of tehsil Alai have been deprived of higher education as there is no state-run girls' high school for over 300,000 population of the area.

The only high school for girls that was built by a non-governmental organisation in 2015 is yet to be made functional.

More details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1241539/no-high-school-for-girls-in-entire-alai-tehsi?>

- **Pakistani security forces arrest killer of Shiite Muslims 'Asif Chotu'**

The intelligence agencies arrested activist of banned outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) – Asif Chotu – during an operation in Dera Ghazi Khan on Monday. According to a private TV channel, Asif Chotu – who carried a head money of Rs 10 million – was on the most wanted terrorist list of the law enforcement agencies. He was shifted to some undisclosed location after the arrest.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/central-asia-subcontinent/archive/2016/02/24/736751/story.html?>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish PM says YPG taking orders from PKK**

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Tuesday that the Syrian YPG group was taking orders from terrorist organisation PKK, as the investigations over the recent Ankara bomb attack clearly revealed their connection. Speaking at an AK Party group meeting in parliament, Davutoglu said blaming the PKK for the attack which killed 29 people last week in the capital Ankara was an attempt to exonerate the YPG as the groups worked together in carrying out the bombing.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkish-pm-says-ypg-taking-orders-from-pkk-53668>

- **Turkey to not allow terror zone near Syria border**

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said Russia, Syria's Bashar al-Assad regime, ISIL and the YPG group want to create a terror zone near Turkey's border. Addressing his Justice and Development (AK) Party's weekly group meeting in Ankara Tuesday, Davutoglu said the Turkish government remained wide awake to its duties and responsibilities.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/169762/turkish-development-min-meets-un-development-chief>

*\*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.*