



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

26 MAY 2017

NO: 2376

1. IRAQ.....	4
• Another prison for detaining Yazidis found in Qairawan, west of Mosul	4
• Barzani Meets with Bulgaria PM, Discusses Referendum	4
• Hashd al-Shaabi Liberates Nadia Murad’s Home Village	4
• Iraqi students revive Mosul Library after ISIS arson.....	4
• Iraqi forces liberate a handful of ISIS-held villages in push towards Deir Ezzor border region ...	5
• Thousands Kidnapped for Use as Human Shields; 83 Killed in Iraq	5
• Secret videos show elite anti-ISIS commandos 'that were once advised by US forces' torturing and executing suspected terrorists in Iraqi prisons	5
• US admits killing 100 civilians in Mosul strike	5
• Peace Brigades parades ‘Rapid Intervention Brigade’ in Samarra	6
• Planning for Iraq and Syria after ISIS Is Defeated.....	6
• NATO to Join Air War in Syria and Iraq.....	6
• Iraqi commander denies 'claims of abuse' in Mosul	6
• More Than 100 Civilians Killed In Mosul Bombing In March, U.S. Says	7
• New Fund Launched to Help Persecuted Christians Suffering Genocide in Iraq	7
• KDP: Kurdistan independence vote will be held despite party differences	7
• Iraqi artist depicts life under ISIL.....	7
• NATO to join anti-IS coalition but unlikely to engage in combat	7
2. SYRIA.....	8
• Shaaban stresses importance of setting up national work mechanism to rebuild the Syrian economy	8
• Syrian Army Makes New Progress in Homs Province.....	8
• ‘Sadness in the air’ across Syria as 7th wartime Ramadan approaches.....	8
• Syrian army liberates Homs areas from Daesh grip	9
• Syrian refugee swallowed entire life savings before travelling to Europe.....	9
• Syrian Army to liberate Deir-ez-Zor.....	9
• Air strike in east Syria kills 35	9
• Syrian jets are deploying back to the same airfield the US struck with Tomahawk missiles....	10
• Syria Sent \$ 90 Million in Aid to Palestinian Refugees	10
• Al-Masdar exclusive: Syrian Army, Russian Marines head to east Hama for upcoming offensive10	
3. IRAN.....	11
• Iran to keep up missile work with utmost strength: Qassemî	11
• UN envoy condemns attacks on medical workers, humanitarian convoys in conflicts	11
• Senate approves new sanctions on Iran.....	11
• Iran has built third underground ballistic missile factory: Fars.....	11
• Lawmakers warn: Iran wants military base in Syria near Israel	11
• More than ten foreign companies already applied for doing business in “Syunik” free economic zone	12
• Iraqi Kurdistan hopes to entice Iranian tourists with longer visas.....	12
• India may be replaced with Russia in Farzad-B gas field project, warns Iran	12

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	12
• Soldiers Abduct Two Palestinians in Ramallah and Jenin.....	12
• UN expresses alarm over treatment of Palestinian prisoners	13
• Israel could cut off Gaza's electricity.....	13
• Hamas puts to death three accused of killing member	13
• Cabinet to discuss \$50 million improvement plan for East Jerusalem.....	13
• Steinitz vs. Maj. Gen. Mordechai: 'I don't take orders from the Palestinian Authority'	13
• Quebec and Israel want to partner in developing artificial intelligence	14
• Russian-Israeli Coordination to 'Reduce Tension' South of Syria.....	14
• Dozens on hunger strike in Paris for Palestinian solidarity	14
• Israeli forces detain 8 Palestinians in West Bank raids	14
5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....	15
• President of Jordanian Senate praises depth of UAE-Jordanian relations.....	15
• Jordan: 'Settlers defile Al-Aqsa, Israel responsible'.....	15
• Hariri Inaugurates Tripoli Projects: Failure to Agree on Electoral Law is Shameful.....	15
• Bou Assi marking Azerbaijan National Day salutes friendship between both peoples.....	16
• King, Queen attend Independence Day national celebrations	16
• Jordan 'hits limit' hosting Syrian refugees.....	16
• King attends military drill	16
• Jordan Independence Day: 'We Are Turning Challenges into Opportunities'	17
• Lebanon President: Beirut Not Committed to Final Statement of Riyadh Summit	17
• King discusses ties with Western officials	17
6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	18
• US Senators Attempt to Block \$110bn Saudi Arms Sale	18
• Bahrainis Hold More Anti-Regime Rallies Nationwide.....	18
• Kuwait Favors OPEC Production Cut Extension For A Whole Year.....	18
• Saudi Arabia Launches \$8.2 Million Project to Combat Cholera in Yemen.....	19
• King Salman Regrets Nawaz, Others not Given Time to Speak.....	19
• Qatar will Address Media Campaign Targetting It: Foreign Minister.....	19
• Ministers Review Qatar-Somalia Ties.....	19
• Mumtalakat Bahrain's Sovereign Wealth Fund.....	20
7. EGYPT.....	20
• Chinese project to build new Egyptian capital revived	20
• IMF-backed Egypt sells \$3bn of bonds amid falling costs	20
• Four Egyptian security forces killed in Sinai attacks.....	20
• Egypt Bans 21 Websites for 'Supporting Terrorism and Publishing Lies'.....	21
• Nasr, Greek ambassador discuss increasing Greek investments to Egypt.....	21
• Saudi-Egypt power grid link to complete in Dec 2018: official	21
• Call for maintaining momentum in Belarus-Egypt economic cooperation	21
• Here's Why Egypt Has Just Banned 21 Websites	22
• 26 killed in attack on Christians in Egypt.....	22
• Egyptians brace for austere Ramazan after reforms.....	22
8. NORTH AFRICA.....	22



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

• Something is rotten in the state of Tunisia	22
• Sousse attack trial begins: Tunisia suffers amid tourist downturn	23
• Islamists on Islamism today: an interview with Habib Ellouze of Tunisia’s Ennahda Party	23
• Algerian natural gas flows to Italy dip on field maintenance, Europe offsets fall.....	23
• Algeria confirms PLZ45 acquisition.....	24
• Algeria Appoints New Prime Minister	24
• Algeria forms new cabinet, with energy, finance ministers replaced	24
• Libya Returns another 164 Nigerians	24
• Father of Manchester bomber has links to militant group in Libya	25
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	25
• The Afghan Security Problem	25
• Ban on Social Media against Spirit of Freedom of Speech: Rabbani.....	25
• NATO Chief Says No Decision Yet On Troop Levels For 2018.....	25
• Afghanistan gears up for Kabul peace initiative.....	26
• Fresh Taliban Attacks Kill 25 Members of Afghan Forces	26
• Pakistan’s US Problem: The First Betrayal.....	26
• “Well-behaved” Pakistanis Arrested in Bengaluru.....	26
• Pakistan Launches New Power Plant.....	27
• Army Chief’s Help Sought for Boy’s Recovery	27
• PM ‘Reinstates’ Dismissed SSP Nekokara.....	27
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....	28
• 18 PKK terrorists killed in northern Iraq, east Turkey	28
• Iran, Russia, Turkey can help peace, stability in region.....	28

1. IRAQ

- **Another prison for detaining Yazidis found in Qairawan, west of Mosul**

The paramilitary troops have seized another prison of Islamic State militants in Qairawan region, west of Mosul city. In statements on Thursday, the media service of al-Hashd al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Units) said “the 40th brigade seized another Islamic State prison inside a house in the liberated region of Qairawan... which was used to detain the abducted Yazidi women.”

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/another-prison-detaining-yazidis-found-qairawan-west-mosul/>

- **Barzani Meets with Bulgaria PM, Discusses Referendum**

Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani met with Boyko Borisov, the Prime Minister of Bulgaria to discuss bilateral ties and an imminent referendum on Kurdistan Region independence.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/353043>

- **Hashd al-Shaabi Liberates Nadia Murad’s Home Village**

People's mobilization forces freed on Thursday the village of Kocho in Sinjar district, nearly three years after ISIS seized control of it.

More Details

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40432

- **Iraqi students revive Mosul Library after ISIS arson**

Students of Mosul University have organized a cultural festival in front of the university's library that was torched by ISIS terrorists earlier in May, a video released by Nineveh Media Center showed Thursday.

More Details

www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11111/Video-Iraqi-students-revive-Mosul-Library-after-ISIS-arson

- **Iraqi forces liberate a handful of ISIS-held villages in push towards Deir Ezzor border region**

After the liberation of the key city of Al-Qayrawan, the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) have begun phase two of their large-scale offensive, ultimately looking secure the border and possibly push into Deir Ezzor, a move which the Syrian Government has welcomed.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-forces-liberate-handful-isis-held-villages-push-towards-deir-ezzor-border-region/>

- **Thousands Kidnapped for Use as Human Shields; 83 Killed in Iraq**

The United States government has admitted a March 17 airstrike killed at least 105 civilians and two militants in Mosul. Another 36 people remain unaccounted for and may have escaped. A Pentagon investigation, however, attempts to mitigate Coalition responsibility and instead lays blame on the Islamic State militants for the carnage. The findings suggest that explosives planted in one building were triggered by the airstrike, and it was those bombs that caused the majority of deaths. The number of civilian casualties in Coalition airstrikes is a continuing matter of controversy. Many analysts believe they are being undercounted by thousands of deaths.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/05/25/thousands-kidnapped-for-use-as-human-shields-83-killed-in-iraq/>

- **Secret videos show elite anti-ISIS commandos 'that were once advised by US forces' torturing and executing suspected terrorists in Iraqi prisons**

Members of an elite Iraqi unit that has been praised by the United States have been photographed torturing and executing suspected ISIS operatives in the northern city of Mosul.

More Details

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4543594/Elite-Iraqi-commandos-filmed-executing-innocent-people.html

- **US admits killing 100 civilians in Mosul strike**

A US military investigation yesterday acknowledged that more than 100 civilians were killed in a US air strike on a building in the Iraqi city of Mosul in March during operations against Isis militants

More Details

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/middle-east/us-admits-killing-100-civilians-in-mosul-strike-35757617.html>

- **Peace Brigades parades ‘Rapid Intervention Brigade’ in Samarra**

Saraya al Salam (Peace Brigades), an Iraqi Shia militia led by powerful cleric Muqtada al Sadr, recently paraded its forces near the city of Samarra in Iraq’s Salahadin province. The parade was meant to showcase the militia’s “Rapid Intervention Brigade” and its preparedness to be deployed in the region.

More Details

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/05/peace-brigades-parades-rapid-intervention-brigade-in-samarra.php>

- **Planning for Iraq and Syria after ISIS Is Defeated**

The Manchester terror attack by an alleged Islamic State "soldier" will accelerate the push by the U.S. and its allies to capture the terror group's strongholds in Mosul and Raqqa. But it should also focus some urgent discussions about a post-ISIS strategy for stabilizing Iraq and Syria.

More Details

<http://www.newsmax.com/DavidIgnatius/isis-manchester-trump-syria/2017/05/25/id/792449/>

- **NATO to Join Air War in Syria and Iraq**

NATO’s secretary-general confirmed yesterday that the Western military alliance would join the US-led bombing coalition in Syria and Iraq.

More Details

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-af35-Nato-to-join-air-war-in-Syria-and-Iraq#.WSfvzdSLSmU>

- **Iraqi commander denies 'claims of abuse' in Mosul**

An Iraqi commander says allegations that an elite interior ministry unit fighting the Islamic State (IS) group in Mosul abused civilian detainees are “incorrect.”

More Details

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/5/25/iraqi-commander-denies-claims-of-abuse-in-mosul>

- **More Than 100 Civilians Killed In Mosul Bombing In March, U.S. Says**

At least 105 Iraqi civilians were killed in a U.S. air strike in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul in March, a U.S. military investigation has concluded. The bomb dropped on March 17 targeted two IS snipers from the extremist group Islamic State (IS), the lead investigator, Air Force Brigadier General Matthew Isler, said on May 25.

More Details

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iraq-mosul-united-states-civilian-deaths/28509307.html>

- **New Fund Launched to Help Persecuted Christians Suffering Genocide in Iraq**

Christians faced persecution all over the world last year for living out their faith and continue to live under threat of genocide in the Middle East and North Africa.

More Details

<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2017/05/25/new-fund-launched-to-help-persecuted-christians-suffering-genocide-n2331730>

- **KDP: Kurdistan independence vote will be held despite party differences**

A senior leader of the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said they are determined to hold an independence referendum this year and there is no turning back. He said they are waiting for the political parties to send their representatives to a committee tasked with overseeing the process.

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/kdp-independence-despite-2017-05-26>

- **Iraqi artist depicts life under ISIL**

Mostafa Tai's paintings became a record of gruesome atrocities: beheadings, injured children and hangings.

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/05/iraqi-artist-depicts-life-isil-170502162738617.html>

- **NATO to join anti-IS coalition but unlikely to engage in combat**

NATO will offer extended support to the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State radicals (outlawed in Russia) in Iraq and Syria, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday. "We agreed that

NATO will become a full member of the Global Coalition, in which all 28 allies already take part," Stoltenberg said.

More Details

<http://tass.com/world/947728>

2. SYRIA

- **Shaaban stresses importance of setting up national work mechanism to rebuild the Syrian economy**

The 2nd day of “War on Syria, its repercussions and prospects” Conference discussed the future aspects to rebuild the Syrian economy and improve the living conditions of Syrian people. The discussions focused on the means of assessing the financial and monetary policies over the past few years and lifting the constraints imposed on the Syrian economy in order to upgrade the industrial sector and rehabilitate terror-affected factories.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=106962>

- **Syrian Army Makes New Progress in Homs Province**

Syrian army and allied militias have made further progress to the east of the province of Homs against members of the Islamic State (ISIS), military sources confirmed today. Reports indicate that after controlling the region of Bardeh, in the municipality of Qaryaten, they reached the town of Buserieh, where ISIS elements remain.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=13361&SEO=syrian-army-makes-new-progress-in-homs-province>

- **‘Sadness in the air’ across Syria as 7th wartime Ramadan approaches**

Muslims across Syria will begin the month-long Ramadan fast this weekend, the seventh since the start of the war. With Islam’s holiest month approaching, Syria Direct asked five residents about their preparations for and reflections on the start of Ramadan. Their stories traverse political, geographic and socioeconomic lines—from a government employee in Damascus, to a farmer in the capital’s besieged, rebel-held eastern suburbs, to a 22-year-old student in the northeast Kurdish heartland.

More Details:

<http://syriadirect.org/news/%E2%80%98sadness-in-the-air%E2%80%99-across-syria-as-7th-wartime-ramadan-approaches/>

- **Syrian army liberates Homs areas from Daesh grip**

The army declared the recapture of the districts to the south of the city of Palmyra and to the east of the town of Qaryatayn on Thursday.Syria's state TV also showed military vehicles, including tanks, driving through the liberated areas.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/25/523183/Syria-Homs-Daesh>

- **Syrian refugee swallowed entire life savings before travelling to Europe**

The man, 32, who has not been named, wrapped the 26 notes in rubber and ate them so they could not be stolen by anyone he met along the way. The notes came to \$1,807 – around £1,395. He reached the Netherlands but by the time he got there was in serious abdominal pain and was vomiting. Doctors had to operate to remove the notes, cutting a hole in his stomach to get out the notes which were still there.

More Details:

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/05/25/syrian-refugee-swallowed-entire-life-savings-before-travelling-to-europe-6662406/>

- **Syrian Army to liberate Deir-ez-Zor**

Syrian President Bashar Assad claimed that liberation of Deir-ez-Zor from ISIS terrorists was the main strategic aim for the Syrian Army.It should be mentioned that on May 24, the government Air Force struck several strikes on the ISIS column south of Deir-ez-Zor. It is known that air strikes led to the destruction of several armed pick-ups and the death of more than ten terrorists.

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/05/25/syrian-army-to-liberate-deir-ez-zor/>

- **Air strike in east Syria kills 35**

An air strike on Thursday evening killed at least 35 civilians, including family members of Islamic State fighters, in al-Mayadin, a town held by the jihadists near Deir al-Zor in Syria, a war monitor reported.Most air raids against Islamic State strongholds along the Euphrates basin in Syria have been conducted by a U.S.-led coalition and by Syrian and Russian jets. Iraqi warplanes have also carried out at least one air raid in east Syria.

More Details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-syria-air-raid-idINKBN18MOH7?rpc=401&>

- **Syrian jets are deploying back to the same airfield the US struck with Tomahawk missiles**

The Syrian military has reportedly started moving aircraft into the same airfield that the US attacked with 59 Tomahawk missiles in April. Syrian forces began redistributing Su-22 and MiG-23 jets into Shayrat airfield and other parts of the country within the past week, according to two US defense officials cited in a BuzzFeed News report. The attack was estimated to have destroyed around 20% of the Syrian military's operational aircraft.

More Details:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/syrian-jets-return-to-shayrat-airfield-chemical-attack-2017-5>

- **Syria Sent \$ 90 Million in Aid to Palestinian Refugees**

During the year 2016, Syria sent \$ 90 million in humanitarian aid and social support to Palestinian refugees, media reports said today in Damascus. The reports include the intervention of Ali Mustafa, director of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), and head of the Syrian delegation at the meeting on the subject held in Amman, Jordan.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=13340&SEO=syria-sent-90-million-in-aid-to-palestinian-refugees>

- **Al-Masdar exclusive: Syrian Army, Russian Marines head to east Hama for upcoming offensive**

An elite unit from the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) has made the arduous journey from Damascus to the eastern countryside of Hama, where they are preparing to launch a massive operation against the Islamic State (ISIL) terrorists in the area, a military source told Al-Masdar News on Thursday. According to the source, the Syrian Arab Army's elite 4th Mechanized Division, alongside the 5th Corps and Russian Marines, is preparing to start its military operation to liberate the eastern countryside of the Al-Salamiyah District, which has been under the Islamic State's control for more than two years.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/al-masdar-exclusive-syrian-army-russian-marines-head-east-hama-upcoming-offensive/>

3. IRAN

- **Iran to keep up missile work with utmost strength: Qassemi**

Iran says it will keep up its missile work with utmost determination, and does not pay heed to “empty” interventionist statements on the matter.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/26/523234/Iran-US-Saudi-Trump-Tillerson>

- **UN envoy condemns attacks on medical workers, humanitarian convoys in conflicts**

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo strongly criticized attacks on medical centers especially in Palestine, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Syria.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82544930/>

- **Senate approves new sanctions on Iran**

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday approved legislation that would see the United States impose new sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile development, arms transfers, support for Islamist groups and human rights violations, Reuters reported.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230212>

- **Iran has built third underground ballistic missile factory: Fars**

Iran has built a third underground ballistic missile production factory and will keep developing its missile program, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Thursday, in a development likely to fuel tension with Arab neighbors and Washington.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1104886/middle-east>

- **Lawmakers warn: Iran wants military base in Syria near Israel**

Iran is trying to gain a military base near the Israeli-Syrian border, a bipartisan pair of lawmakers warned the Trump administration.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/lawmakers-warn-iran-wants-military-base-in-syria-near-israel/article/2624196>

- **More than ten foreign companies already applied for doing business in “Syunik” free economic zone**

More than ten companies from Russia, Iran and Europe have already applied for doing business in “Syunik” free economic zone that is being built on the border between Armenia and Iran, Sarkis Aghabekyan, chairman of SYUNIK Free Economic Zone LLC, told a correspondent of Golos Armenia.

More Details:

http://arka.am/en/news/economy/more_than_ten_foreign_companies_already_applied_for_doing_business_in_syunik_free_economic_zone/

- **Iraqi Kurdistan hopes to entice Iranian tourists with longer visas**

In an effort to attract more tourists from Iran and its Kurdish region (Iranian Kurdistan, Rojhelat) and to help boost the local economy, Iraq’s Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is extending visa validity from 15 to 30 days.

More Details:

<http://ekurd.net/kurdistan-iranian-tourists-visas-2017-05-25>

- **India may be replaced with Russia in Farzad-B gas field project, warns Iran**

According to Iran’s petroleum minister Bijan Zanganeh, India has failed to make an appropriate offer to finalise development, financial and commercial terms for the gas field, reported indian Hindustan Times on May 25, 2017.

More Details;

<http://neftegaz.ru/en/news/view/161395-India-may-be-replaced-with-Russia-in-Farzad-B-gas-field-project-warns-Iran>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Soldiers Abduct Two Palestinians in Ramallah and Jenin**

Israeli soldiers invaded, on Friday at dawn, Silwad town, northeast of Ramallah in central West Bank, and Ya’bad town, southwest of the northern West Bank city of Jenin, and abducted a man and a teenage boy.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/soldiers-abduct-two-palestinians-in-ramallah-and-jenin/>

- **UN expresses alarm over treatment of Palestinian prisoners**

The United Nations human rights chief has expressed alarm over reports of “punitive measures by Israeli authorities” against hundreds of prisoners who are on hunger strike for nearly 40 days.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1335453/un-expresses-alarm-over-treatment-of-palestinian-prisoners>

- **Israel could cut off Gaza's electricity**

Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Major General Yoav Mordechai, on Thursday warned that Israel could cut off Gaza's electricity supply due to the longstanding feud between Gaza's Hamas rulers and the Ramallah-based Fatah.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230210>

- **Hamas puts to death three accused of killing member**

Hamas said Thursday it put to death three men it had accused of killing a senior member of the militant group that rules Gaza in March.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1104901/middle-east>

- **Cabinet to discuss \$50 million improvement plan for East Jerusalem**

The finance and Jerusalem affairs ministries are to present a joint plan to the cabinet Sunday to improve conditions for Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, Channel 10 News reported Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-to-discuss-50-million-improvement-plan-for-east-jerusalem/>

- **Steinitz vs. Maj. Gen. Mordechai: 'I don't take orders from the Palestinian Authority'**

Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Steinitz opposed the decision of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories to reduce electricity to Gaza in the face of a dispute between the PA and Hamas.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4967690,00.html>

- **Quebec and Israel want to partner in developing artificial intelligence**

Quebec and Israel want to join forces to develop the cutting edge of artificial intelligence technology. This could be a result of Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard's weeklong trip to Israel and the West Bank.

More details:

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/quebec-and-israel-want-to-unite-to-develop-artificial-intelligence>

- **Russian-Israeli Coordination to 'Reduce Tension' South of Syria**

Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu underlined the presence of constructive coordination with Israel to reduce tensions in south Syria, stressing that the priority was to draft a new Syrian constitution during the upcoming Astana meetings.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/taha-abed-alwahed/news-middle-east/russian-israeli-coordination-reduce-tension-south-syria>

- **Dozens on hunger strike in Paris for Palestinian solidarity**

The health condition of Palestinian hunger strikers has started to deteriorate, as they keep rejecting food on the 6th week of their protest action. Now, across the world, including in France, activists have also gone on a 1-day strike to express solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners and draw more attention to their plight.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/25/523221/Dozens-on-hunger-strike-in-Paris-for-Palestinian-solidarity>

- **Israeli forces detain 8 Palestinians in West Bank raids**

Israeli forces detained at least eight Palestinians during raids between Thursday evening and dawn on Friday, according to Palestinian security, Israeli army, and hebrew-language media sources.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777317>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **President of Jordanian Senate praises depth of UAE-Jordanian relations**

Faisal Al Fayez, President of the Jordanian Senate, has praised the depth of UAE-Jordanian relations, established by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the late King Hussein bin Talal, who had worked to consolidate exceptional relations between both countries. He added that the relations between the two countries have been growing steadily, citing the ongoing co-ordination and consultation between President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and King Abdullah II of Jordan, that contribute to strengthening the historical relations.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302616086>

- **Jordan: 'Settlers defile Al-Aqsa, Israel responsible'**

The Jordanian government yesterday (Wednesday) strongly condemned the presence of Jews in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and Jewish activities there. It referred to Jerusalem Day events, during which 15 Jews who had bowed in prayer down were detained, while others sang Hatikvah. According to the Jordanian government's announcement, this is a blatant Israeli attack by allowing extremists to "storm" the Al-Aqsa Mosque in what is termed "a desecration of the sanctity of the place and an insult to the feelings of Muslims all over the world, reported Ynet.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230166>

- **Hariri Inaugurates Tripoli Projects: Failure to Agree on Electoral Law is Shameful**

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri's visit to Tripoli on Thursday was significant seeing as it was the first of its kind to the northern city since his appointment to his position. It also marked the first time he headed to the city since his Mustaqbal Movement's defeat in last year's municipal elections to former Justice Minister Ashraf Rifi. Rifi's victory was seen as a political challenge to the premier and all the forces in the city. Hariri toured various projects in what was seen as a political message and his efforts to regain some of his popular support in the city that has long suffered from the state's neglect.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/youssef-diab/news-middle-east/hariri-inaugurates-tripoli-projects-failure-agree-electoral-law-shameful>

- **Bou Assi marking Azerbaijan National Day salutes friendship between both peoples**

Marking Azerbaijan National Day, Ambassador Shukurov Aghasalim, held an official reception at the Coral Beach Hotel, Beirut. Representing President of the Republic, Michel Aoun, Social Affairs Minister, Pierre Abou Assi, lauded the exiting friendship between the peoples of Lebanon and Azerbaijan. "The peoples of both countries share a lot in common, especially their keenness on openness, consensus, and integration of civilizations and cultures," Bou Assi said.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79666/Bou-Assi-marking-Azerbaijan-National-Day-salutes-friendship-between-both-peoples>

- **King, Queen attend Independence Day national celebrations**

Their Majesties King Abdullah and Queen Rania on Thursday attended the national celebrations held at Raghadan Palace on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Jordan's Independence Day, according to a Royal Court statement. Upon the King's arrival to the site, the artillery performed a 21-gun salute while the national anthem was played.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/king-queen-attend-independence-day-national-celebrations>

- **Jordan 'hits limit' hosting Syrian refugees**

Jordan has hit the limit of its ability to host Syrian refugees as Washington's United Nations envoy Nikki Haley visited on her first overseas trip."Jordan has reached the limit of its capacity to cope with the burden of hosting Syrian refugees," Planning Minister Imad al-Fakhoury said in a statement after meeting Haley.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/5/25/jordan-hits-limit-hosting-syrian-refugees>

- **King attends military drill**

His Majesty King Abdullah II, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army, Thursday, attended a military exercise implemented by King Hussein bin Ali Brigade, on the occasion

of the Kingdom's 71 Independence Day. The drill included field applications in fighting operations in urban zones using live ammunition with the support of the Royal Air Force jets.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=303736&CatID=13

- **Jordan Independence Day: 'We Are Turning Challenges into Opportunities'**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Wednesday said that independence is a continuous process of building and achieving, urging for instilling the spirit of initiative in the country's youth to continue the path towards the envisioned future. In a speech to the nation on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day, aired live on Jordan TV, His Majesty congratulated Jordanians on the occasion as "a testament to our freedom and unwavering determination. It is an occasion to proudly recall the great achievements of the first generation of builders and their great services to this most precious homeland. We are, with God's blessings, following in this path, turning challenges into opportunities to progress into the future with faith and determination".

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/jordan-independence-day-we-are-turning-challenges-opportunities-978546>

- **Lebanon President: Beirut Not Committed to Final Statement of Riyadh Summit**

Aoun pointed out at the beginning of the Lebanese government session held at the Baabda presidential Palace that his government is only committed to what is stated in the inaugural speech and the ministerial statement, Al Manar reported. Commenting on the summit in Riyadh and the circumstances that accompanied the issuance of the final statement after the departure of the Lebanese delegation, President Aoun said, "We, in Lebanon, are committed to what is stated in the inaugural speech and the ministerial statement."

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960304000623>

- **King discusses ties with Western officials**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Wednesday discussed strategic relations between Jordan and the US with Secretary of Defence James Mattis. The phone conversation focused on military issues, in addition to the latest developments in the Middle East, a Royal Court statement said. His Majesty also spoke with UK Prime Minister Theresa May, where he reiterated condemnation of Manchester's terror attack.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/king-discusses-ties-western-officials>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **US Senators Attempt to Block \$110bn Saudi Arms Sale**

US senators introduced legislation on Thursday to stop at least a portion of President Donald Trump's \$110bn sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia. Republican Rand Paul and Democrats Chris Murphy and Al Franken introduced a resolution of disapproval in the Senate to force a vote on whether to block part of the sale. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee received formal notice of the pending sale on 19 May.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-senators-attempt-block-110bn-saudi-arms-sale-2014055688>

- **Bahrainis Hold More Anti-Regime Rallies Nationwide**

People in Bahrain hold more rallies nationwide in protest at the Manama regime's recent bloodshed in the besieged village of Diraz, which is home to the spiritual leader of the country's Shia majority, Sheikh Isa Qassim. On Thursday evening, protesters took to the streets in several areas to condemn the Bahraini military's Tuesday raid on Diraz, which killed five supporters of Sheikh Qassim.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/26/523238/Bahrain-Protest-Diraz>

- **Kuwait Favors OPEC Production Cut Extension For A Whole Year**

Kuwait wants the OPEC deal extension to span a whole year, as opposed to six months or nine, according to comments by the nation's oil minister at the bloc's headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Either the extension lasts 12 months or the cuts deepen to 1.8 million barrels per day, minister Essam al-Marzouq added, just ahead of OPEC's official quarterly meeting on Friday.

More Details:

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Kuwait-Favors-OPEC-Production-Cut-Extension-For-A-Whole-Year.html>

- **Saudi Arabia Launches \$8.2 Million Project to Combat Cholera in Yemen**

The King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid and Relief (KSRELIEF), in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), announced the launching of a major project to combat and contain cholera in Yemen. Upon the directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, KSRELIEF launched the program with WHO, with the amount of \$8.2 million, in order to combat the cholera epidemic in all Yemeni governorates. The Advisor at the Royal Court and KSRELIEF General Supervisor Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Rabiah and head of the WHO Mission in Yemen Dr. Nivio Zagaria signed the program on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-launches-8-2-million-project-combat-cholera-yemen>

- **King Salman Regrets Nawaz, Others not Given Time to Speak**

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia has apologised to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as well as other leaders for not affording them an opportunity to address the recently held US-Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh. Salman made these remarks during the Summit, as Muslim leaders were expected to present their point of view on the fight against terrorism, especially Pakistan, where world capitals have acknowledged its role in this regard.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/206711-King-Salman-regrets-Nawaz-others-not-given-time-to-speak>

- **Qatar will Address Media Campaign Targeting It: Foreign Minister**

Qatar will address the media campaign targeting it, in the context of hacking of Qatar News Agency's (QNA) website and attributing false statements to Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said yesterday.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/26/05/2017/Qatar-will-address-media-campaign-targeting-it-Foreign-Minister>

- **Ministers Review Qatar-Somalia Ties**

He the Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani yesterday met Somalia's Foreign Minister Yussef Jarad Omar Ahmed. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, means of boosting them and enhancing prospects for co-operation, in addition to a number of issues of common concern.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/550135/Ministers-review-Qatar-Somalia-ties>

- **Mumtalakat Bahrain's Sovereign Wealth Fund**

Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) have usually been established from state surpluses, the proceeds of privatizations, receipts resulting from the exports of resources and the like. This excludes foreign currency reserve assets held by monetary authorities for balance of payments or monetary policy purposes, government employee pension funds or assets managed for individual benefit.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=33789&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=>

7. EGYPT

- **Chinese project to build new Egyptian capital revived**

A project by Chinese state companies to help build a new capital for Egypt is back on track after running aground earlier in a dispute over contract terms.

More Details:

<http://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Policy-Politics/Chinese-project-to-build-new-Egyptian-capital-revived>

- **IMF-backed Egypt sells \$3bn of bonds amid falling costs**

Egypt sold \$3bn on international bond markets on Wednesday, taking advantage of lower borrowing costs after its economic policies earned the International Monetary Fund's endorsement.

More Details;:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/550079/IMF-backed-Egypt-sells-3bn-of-bonds-amid-falling-c>

- **Four Egyptian security forces killed in Sinai attacks**

Security and medical sources said on Thursday that three soldiers had been killed in a bombing of an armored vehicle by militants in Sinai.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/25/523190/Egypt-Daesh-Sinai-Peninsula>

- **Egypt Bans 21 Websites for ‘Supporting Terrorism and Publishing Lies’**

The Egyptian government announced on Wednesday that it was blocking a list of 21 websites for “having content that supports terrorism and extremism as well publishing lies.”

More Detail:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/05/25/egypt-bans-websites-publishing-lies/>

- **Nasr, Greek ambassador discuss increasing Greek investments to Egypt**

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr met with Greek ambassador to Egypt Michael-Christos Diamessis at the headquarters of the ministry to discuss Greek investments in Egypt, according to a press statement on Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/25/nasr-greek-ambassador-discuss-increasing-greek-investments-egypt/>

- **Saudi-Egypt power grid link to complete in Dec 2018: official**

Egypt is expected to complete a project aimed at linking its power grids with Saudi Arabia at the end of December 2018, generating about 3,000 megawatts of power, an official in the Egyptian Electricity Ministry said Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/investment-news/industry-trade/57079-saudi-egypt-power-grid-link-to-complete-in-dec-2018-official.html>

- **Call for maintaining momentum in Belarus-Egypt economic cooperation**

Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei met with Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Tarek Qabil co-chairing the Belarusian-Egyptian trade commission on 25 May. The Egyptian official is currently in Minsk attending a meeting of the joint commission, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More Details:

<http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/call-for-maintaining-momentum-in-belarus-egypt-economic-cooperation-101675-2017/>

- **Here's Why Egypt Has Just Banned 21 Websites**

Egyptian authorities have blocked nearly two dozen news websites, targeting publications that have been critical of the government, a move local journalists say is aimed at controlling the coverage of the regime ahead of next year's presidential elections.

More Details:

https://www.buzzfeed.com/magedatef/egyptian-journalists-say-the-government-blocked-websites-to?utm_term=.mojX69xnk#.aubR1xOGJ

- **26 killed in attack on Christians in Egypt**

Masked gunmen have attacked a group of Coptic Christians in southern Egypt, killing 26 people and wounding 26 others as they were driving to a monastery, medical sources and witnesses say. The group was travelling on Friday in two buses and a small truck in Minya province, which is home to a large Christian minority, the sources said.

More Details:

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2017/05/26/20/02/gunmen-attack-christians-in-egypt#FIEhHfhqHABJU8p.99>

- **Egyptians brace for austere Ramazan after reforms**

Ramazan is a time for daytime fasting and lavish evening feasts, but Egyptians are scaling back preparations for the Muslim holy month this year after austerity measures fuelled decades-high inflation.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/business/26-May-17/egyptians-brace-for-austere-ramazan-after-reforms>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Something is rotten in the state of Tunisia**

An hour or so after arriving in the southern Tunisian coastal city of Gabes, my throat was overtaken by an unfamiliar agitation, causing me to assume that I had either suddenly acquired asthma or inadvertently swallowed a swarm of mosquitoes. I apologised to my companions for disrupting our stroll along the promenade with graceless coughing convulsions. Habib Ayeb - a Tunisian academic and documentary filmmaker based at the University of Paris VIII in France - quickly debunked my auto-diagnosis. "It's the pollution."

More Detail:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/something-rotten-state-tunisia-374334842>

- **Sousse attack trial begins: Tunisia suffers amid tourist downturn**

The trial of 33 people accused of complicity in Tunisia's worst ever domestic attack begins on Friday. 38 foreign nationals, 30 of them British, were killed when a lone gunman fired on tourists sunbathing in the coastal town of Sousse in June 2015. Of the 33 on trial, six include members of Tunisia's security forces, who are charged with "not assisting people in danger".

More Detail:

<http://www.foreignbrief.com/daily-news/sousse-attack-trial-begins-tunisia-suffers-amid-tourist-downturn>

- **Islamists on Islamism today: an interview with Habib Ellouze of Tunisia's Ennahda Party**

We continue here Brookings's interview series with Islamist leaders and activists, part of our Rethinking Political Islam initiative. We asked each participant to discuss the state of his or her movement and reflect on lessons learned from various crises, including the rise of ISIS and the 2013 military coup in Egypt. So far we've released interviews with a number of Islamists from across the Muslim world. The rest of our interviews and essays in the "Islamists on Islamism Today" series can found here.

More Detail:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/05/25/islamists-on-islamism-today-an-interview-with-habib-ellouze-of-tunisias-ennahda-party/>

- **Algerian natural gas flows to Italy dip on field maintenance, Europe offsets fall**

Algerian gas flows to Italy dropped by 11 million cu, or 25%, on Wednesday to 32 million cu m, according to data from Platts Analytics' Eclipse Energy, with the cause said to be maintenance at an unnamed Algerian gas field. Supplies from northwest Europe via the Passo Gries interconnection point rose by almost the same volume -- some 13 million cu m -- to offset the fall from Algeria, the data show.

More Detail:

<https://www.platts.com/latest-news/natural-gas/london/algerian-natural-gas-flows-to-italy-dip-on-field-26743834>

- **Algeria confirms PLZ45 acquisition**

The Algerian military confirmed on 22 May that it has taken delivery of Chinese-made 155 mm PLZ45 self-propelled howitzers when it released imagery showing them being used during an exercise. A photograph and video of six PLZ45s firing were released during a visit by chief-of staff Lieutenant General Ahmed Gaid Salah to the Fourth Military Region. The Ministry of National Defence (MDN) said that Lt Gen Salah oversaw a tactical exercise that included units from the 41st Armoured Brigade in the In Amenas area close to the Libyan border.

More Detail:

<http://www.janes.com/article/70806/algeria-confirms-plz45-acquisition>

- **Algeria Appoints New Prime Minister**

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on Wednesday appointed Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who was housing minister, the new prime minister, replacing Abdelmalek Sellal in the wake of parliamentary elections. The president's office, quoted by national news agency Algeria Press Service (APS), said the move to appoint a new premier came after Sellal submitted his government's resignation to Bouteflika following the sitting of a new national assembly on Tuesday.

More Detail:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/algeria-appoints-new-prime-minister>

- **Algeria forms new cabinet, with energy, finance ministers replaced**

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on Thursday has conducted a cabinet reshuffle, in a government led by newly appointed Prime Minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune, a statement of the President Office said. As many as 13 ministers have left their positions, ten others were maintained, while six new members have joined the cabinet.

More Detail:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/26/c_136315633.htm

- **Libya Returns another 164 Nigerians**

Libyan authorities on Wednesday night deported 164 Nigerians who allegedly entered the North African country through illegal means. The returnees were flown in a chartered plane from Libya which touched down at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos at 6:25 p.m.

More Detail:

<http://saharareporters.com/2017/05/25/libya-returns-another-164-nigerians>

- **Father of Manchester bomber has links to militant group in Libya**

Ramadan Abedi, who has been arrested in connection with his son's terror attack that killed 22 people, was a member of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG). In 2007, Al-Qaeda said the now-disbanded faction had joined its ranks, but this was denied by the LIFG, who said they had no ties with international organisations.

More Details:

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/05/25/father-of-manchester-bomber-has-links-to-militant-group-in-libya-6662316/>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **The Afghan Security Problem**

The Taliban is now stronger than at any point since the international mission to Afghanistan began 16 years ago. The US and NATO are considering sending more troops to stabilize the security situation. A quiet side street in Kabul is ringed with trees. The Afghan capital is teeming with heavily armed personnel of all kinds, from military to private security forces, but on this street nothing appears amiss. Three young girls in summery clothing play outside.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/the-afghan-security-problem/a-38984787>

- **Ban on Social Media against Spirit of Freedom of Speech: Rabbani**

Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani on Thursday said that the social media was facing prohibitions against the spirit of freedom of speech under the charge of insulting state institutions. He said this at a seminar organised at Iqra University titled "Contemporary Pakistan." "No one speaks when Parliament and judiciary are criticised on social media," he said.

More Details:

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/26-May-2017/ban-on-social-media-against-spirit-of-freedom-of-speech-rabbani>

- **NATO Chief Says No Decision Yet On Troop Levels For 2018**

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday night after the Heads of State meeting in Brussels that a decision on foreign troop levels for 2018 has not yet been made but that all alliance members were in support of the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. Stoltenberg said: "We reviewed our training mission in Afghanistan, and we agreed that we will continue to sustain our

mission. I welcome that several Allies came forward today with new troop contributions. And on the basis of our review, we will take further decisions in the coming weeks."

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/nato-chief-says-no-decision-yet-troop-levels-2018>

- **Afghanistan gears up for Kabul peace initiative**

The idea of the conference is to streamline scattered national, international efforts for peace talks with the Taliban. The Afghan government has a launched mobilization campaign to host world leaders for next month's Kabul Initiative conference aimed at streamlining efforts for peaceful resolution in the country.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/afghanistan-gears-up-for-kabul-peace-initiative/826261>

- **Fresh Taliban Attacks Kill 25 Members of Afghan Forces**

A suicide car bombing and clashes with Taliban insurgents across Afghanistan have killed at least 25 security personnel. The violence comes as the United Nations urges parties to the Afghan conflict to cease hostilities during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, beginning this week.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-attacks-kill-dozens-afghan-forces/3871316.html>

- **Pakistan's US Problem: The First Betrayal**

As per conventional wisdom about small states and their foreign policy formation, neo-realism or systemic and structural-level theories provide rich insight to predict small states' foreign policy priorities given their focus on the dynamics between 'power' and 'security'. According to the neo-realists, small states are driven to form alliances with big powers due to their external constraints, more specifically motivated by their 'security' concerns rather than by their domestic or internal compulsions.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1419333/pakistans-us-problem-first-betrayal/>

- **"Well-behaved" Pakistanis A rrested in Bengaluru**

The fact that two of the three arrested Pakistani nationals living in Bengaluru without valid documents were women, and that one of them is pregnant, did not give the police enough time to

quiz them. The police could not detain the women at night and had only a few hours in the morning before central agencies began questioning them. The cops, however, spoke to some of the neighbours.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/well-behaved-pakistanis-arrested-in-bengaluru/articleshow/58852044.cms>

- **Pakistan Launches New Power Plant**

Pakistan has launched the first 660-megawatt unit of Sahiwal Coal Power plant as the first energy project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). But country still needs at least more 5,000 MWs to cope with its severe energy shortage. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong launched the project located in Eastern Punjab Province, IRNA reported.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/193502.html>

- **Army Chief's Help Sought for Boy's Recovery**

A teacher in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) education department has appealed to the chief of the army staff to direct the intelligence agencies to help locate his teenage son who went missing about six weeks ago. Raja Naseer Khan, who serves in the Government High School for Boys in Kumi Kot, a suburban village of Muzaffarabad, said he had exhausted all means to get a clue to his 15-year-old son Hassan Naseer.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1335462/army-chiefs-help-sought-for-boys-recovery>

- **PM 'Reinstates' Dismissed SSP Nekokara**

The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accepted the appeal of former Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) operations Muhammad Ali Nekokara, has reinstated him and exonerated him from the major penalty of 'dismissal from service' which was imposed earlier. The Establishment Division on Thursday has issued a notification stated that the intervening period of Nekokara shall be treated as leave of the kind due, subjected to title.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/05/26/pm-reinstates-dismissed-ssp-nekokara/>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **18 PKK terrorists killed in northern Iraq, east Turkey**

At least 18 PKK terrorists were killed in several operations in northern Iraq and eastern Turkey on Thursday, according to the Turkish military. Turkish General Staff said in a statement that three PKK terrorists were killed in an air operation in northern Iraq's Metina area.

More Details

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/18-pkk-terrorists-killed-in-northern-iraq-east-turkey/826169>

- **Iran, Russia, Turkey can help peace, stability in region**

President Rouhani and his Turkish counterpart emphasized on improvement of bilateral ties to boost economic relations. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani who talked to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the phone on Wednesday evening appreciated his Turkish counterpart's congratulatory call and highlighted the last four years as time for expansion and deepening of relations and cooperation between Tehran and Ankara; "to reach a \$30 billion trade exchange between the two countries, a leap in relations is required," he stressed.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125578/Iran-Russia-Turkey-can-help-peace-stability-in-region>

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