



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

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Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

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Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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1. IRAQ

- **Iraqi Special Forces set free 380 civilians from IS in western Mosul district**

Iraqi Special Forces said Tuesday they had managed to evacuate 380 civilians from a neighborhood in western Mosul as operations against Islamic State militants approach their final stage.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-special-forces-set-free-380-civilians-western-mosul-district/>

- **PKK and Hashd Al-Shaabi Forces Meet on Iraq-Syria Border**

By liberating a number of areas in western Nineveh province on Iraq-Syria border, the Shi'ite paramilitary forces known as Hashd al-Shaabi, managed to reach the Syrian border where they joined Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) forces.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/354046>

- **ISIS Drone Bomber Kills Child, Wounds 3 in Salahaddin**

A working child was killed and three other people were wounded on Monday when an Islamic State-guided drone bombarded an area north of Salahuddin, a security source told Sputnik agency.

More Details

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40447

- **Aftermath of Karrada, al-Shuhada Bridge bombings**

A few hours after a booby-trapped car exploded Monday night in Karrada district, another car exploded Tuesday morning in front of public pension office near al-Shuhada (Martyrs') Bridge in central Baghdad. Eleven were killed and 47 others were injured in the first explosion in Karrada district in Baghdad, which targeted civilians near an ice cream store.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11323/Pictured-Aftermath-of-Karrada-al-Shuhada-Bridge-bombings>

- **Mosul Dam risks devastating failure as Iraq government keeps stalling**

Iraq's massive Mosul Dam risks devastating failure without additional urgent repairs as the government keeps stalling over how to proceed with the critical reconstruction after this year.

More Details

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/05/30/iraq-government-has-yet-decide-if-re>

- **Iraq Volunteer Forces Arrest ISIL Leader in Charge of Ezadi Woman Capture**

“During investigations with ISIL leader abu Shaimaa al-Batiouti, he confessed participation in several surgeries for the ISIL militants,” Ahmed Nasrullah, a senior PMF commander said, Iraqi News reported. “Batiouti is in charge of anaesthesia in ISIL hospitals including Ba'aj. He carried out several surgeries to the terrorists,” Nasrullah added.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960309000823>

- **Iraq will Hand over Wanted Bahrainis to Interpol**

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper that Bahraini embassy has requested the extradition of the wanted citizens, but the Iraqi government preferred to hand them over to the Interpol due to the sectarian sensitivity of the matter.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/iraq-will-hand-wanted-bahrainis-interpol>

- **Twin bombings in Baghdad, one claimed by IS, kill 24**

A car bombing killed at least nine people in the Iraqi capital on Tuesday morning, just hours after 15 died in a massive explosion outside a popular ice cream shop in central Baghdad that was claimed by the Islamic State group.

More Details

www.timesofisrael.com/twin-bombings-in-baghdad-one-claimed-by-is-kill-24/

- **More than 400 children in Sulaimani forced to beg, live on busy streets**

According to a new survey conducted by a Kurdish rights group around 424 children work as street beggars in Sulaimani, many of them forced by their parents to work as bread winners for their families. Kurdistan Child Protection Organisation says the majority of the children, age 15 or below, come from refugee families from Syria or other war zones in the region.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/30052017>

- **French Special Forces Attract Iraqi Servicemen to Kill Frenchmen Joining Daesh**

French special services have for months attracted Iraqi servicemen to track and kill Frenchmen, who have joined the Islamic State (Daesh) terrorist group, media reported Monday citing Iraqi officers and French officials.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705301054107963-france-iraq-kill-french-daesh/>

- **In the belly of the beast: On Mosul sidelines, Iran gains Nineveh foothold**

While Iraq's conventional military has been slowly clearing the Islamic State group from inside Mosul's complex urban terrain, Iraq's Iran-backed Shiite paramilitary forces have been working their way through less glamorous territory: vast deserts west and south of the city that run along and across Iraq's border with Syria.

More Details

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/in-the-belly-of-the-beast-on-mosul-sidelines-iran-gains-nineveh-foothold/>

- **Female Turkmen Politician Killed; 143 Killed in Iraq**

U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator Lise Grande believes that there are still about 200,000 civilians trapped in Islamic State territory in Mosul. Those who have escaped say food, water, and other necessities in short supply. The United Nations is continuing to set up shelters for the estimated 10,000 people who flee each day

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/05/29/female-turkmen-politician-killed-143-killed-in-iraq/>

- **Iraqi forces' crucial weapon in Mosul battle — bulldozers**

On the front lines, the jagged teeth of a young soldier's bulldozer mark the beginning of Iraq's territory and the end of the Islamic State's.

More Details

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/iraqi-forces-crucial-weapon-in-mosul-battle-bulldozers-1.471055#.WS1KC-uLSUK>

- **Iraqi militias close to establishing Iran-Syria corridor**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi visits Mosul on May 29, 2017, as government forces battle to drive ISIL from the west of the city and state-sanctioned militias attack the extremists near the border with Syria. Iraqi Prime Minister's Office via Reuters

More Details

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/iraqi-militias-close-to-establishing-iran-syria-corridor>

- **Iraq presses Mosul assault, UN warns of danger to civilians**

Iraqi forces pressed forward Monday with an offensive against jihadist-held areas of Mosul as the United Nations warned of grave danger to civilians in the final stages of the battle.

More Details

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/517c2474-9325-4373-93ff-d39868c40758

- **Iraqi military urges Mosul residents living in areas under Islamic State control to flee**

Iraqi officials coordinating the Mosul offensive against Islamic State extremists that began in October have reversed themselves after urging residents to shelter in place, and are telling them to flee.

More Details

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-iraq-mosul-20170529-story.html>

- **IS militants killed in airstrikes by Iraqi, coalition jets, west of Anbar**

Anbar (IraqiNews.com) The Iraqi fighter jets killed several Islamic State militants in an airstrike that targeted their havens in west of Anbar province. A statement by the War Media Cell said the fighter jets "launched several airstrikes that destroyed two headquarters of the militants, a rest house as well as the weapons inside them on Okashat road, west of Anbar."

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-militants-killed-airstrikes-iraqi-coalition-jets-west-anbar/>

- **KDP detains two PUK cadres in Amedi, Iraqi Kurdistan: official**

Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Asayish (security) detained two cadres of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Amedi, in the northeast of the Duhok Governorate in Iraqi Kurdistan.

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/kdp-detains-puk-kurdistan-2017-05-29>

2. SYRIA

- **Chemical weapons a red line in Syria, says Macron**

The use of chemical weapons in Syria is a red line for France and "would result in reprisals", President Emmanuel Macron said after meeting his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Monday. Meeting Putin for the first time, Macron told a news conference that France and Russia must cooperate to "eradicate terrorist groups" in Syria and did not directly criticise Moscow's role there.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/chemical-weapons-red-line-syria-macron-170529185853918.html>

- **At least 10 killed as militants shell Syria's Deir ez-Zor**

At least 10 people were killed and 18 injured when Islamic State militants shelled residential quarters of the eastern Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor, the state-run SANA news agency reported. The majority of the victims are women and children, the agency said. Lebanon's Al-Maydeen TV reported that more than 50 people were killed or injured during the shelling, that took place on Monday afternoon.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/world/948400>

- **Hundreds of bodies found in mass grave in northern Syria**

US-backed Kurdish fighters have found the grave containing the bodies of hundreds of people executed by Daesh members in northern Syria. The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) made the gruesome discovery near the town of Tabqa on Sunday, the Kurdish-language Forat news agency reported.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/29/523552/Mass-grave-uneearthed-Syria>

- **Syrian rebels leave besieged Damascus district after government deal**

Damascus governor Beshr Assaban said the last of the rebels, their families and other civilians left the besieged Barzeh district of Damascus on Monday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said the last buses began to leave Barzeh in the afternoon as part of a "reconciliation" agreement between the Syrian government and rebel groups.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/syrian-rebels-leave-besieged-damascus-district-after-government-deal/a-39037077>

- **US-led coalition calls on pro-Assad forces to leave Syrian-Iraqi border**

The US-led coalition fighting ISIS in Syria has called on forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad to move away from a crossing on the border with Iraq. Coalition aircraft dropped leaflets onto areas held by Syrian regime forces near the Zaza crossing, in the first incident of its kind.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/05/us-led-coalition-calls-on-pro-assad-forces-to-leave-syrian-iraqi-border/>

- **Syria's Arab tribes join forces to retake lands from PYD terrorists**

Arab tribe leaders from northern Syria, whose lands were invaded by the PKK's Syrian offshoot the Democratic Union Party (PYD), said that they will launch military resistance against the PYD to take back their occupied lands and to end oppression against the Arab population in northern Syria. The deputy head of the Syrian Tribes and Clans Supreme Council, Sheikh Rafi er-Raco Ukla, spoke yesterday to Anadolu Agency (AA) saying that the PKK and its extensions have been trying to destroy Arabic identity on Syrian soil. In March, 50 Arab tribe leaders coming from Syria's Raqqa and the al-Hasakah and Deir Ezzor regions gathered in Turkey's southeastern province of Şanlıurfa to discuss military and political cooperation between the tribes. After the meeting, the tribes agreed to form the "Army of Al-Jazeera and Euphrates Tribes" to put an end to the invasion of their lands by Daesh and the PYD. "We are representing all Arab tribes of the country [Syria]," said er-Raco, adding that an extensive congress that also includes Iraqi tribes is planned to be held in Ankara.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/05/30/syrias-arab-tribes-join-forces-to-retake-lands-from-pyd-terrorists-1496100521>

- **Syrian army restores control over villages in Aleppo countryside**

Units of Army and Armed Forces continued their military operations against ISIL terrorist organization and restored control over a number of villages in the eastern countryside of Aleppo. A military source told SANA that army units restored control over the villages of al-Salyhia, al-Batoshia, Jbab al-Masoudia, Khizraf, al-Faraia, Mostariha, al-Mazzah, al-Wasta, al-Sukaria Sharqia, Bandoka, al-Hamidia, Dour Ahmad Yasien, al-Qahira, al-Boman'a, Khan al-Sha'r, Khirbit al-Soda and al-Himrawi in the eastern countryside of Aleppo.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125649/Syrian-army-restores-control-over-villages-in-Aleppo-countryside>

- **US-backed rebels losing territory in east Syrian Desert to regime**

As US-backed rebels confront the Islamic State in Syria's strategic eastern desert, regime forces are capturing chunks of their rear positions farther west, with opposition sources telling Syria Direct that the American-led coalition is "not our partner" in the fight against President Bashar al-Assad. The Assad regime and its allies captured more than 100sq km from both Islamic State militants and rebel forces over the weekend in the Syrian Badia, a sparsely populated desert region spanning the country's southern border with Jordan and Iraq. For the first time since 2015, Assad took control over the country's largest phosphate mines as well as the primary highway linking Palmyra to Damascus. The turf battles come as both regime and rebel fighters race to carve out territory left behind by an Islamic State (IS) in retreat.

More Details:

<http://syriadirect.org/news/us-backs-off-battling-pro-assad-forces-in-east-syrian-desert/>

- **Syrian Property Damage Exceeds \$80 Billion USD**

Damascus, May 29 (Prensa Latina) Damage to public and private property in Syria has exceeded \$88 billion USD, according to Deputy Minister of Municipal Administrations Loay Kharitah. Of that figure, about \$73.7 billion are indirect destruction and there will be an emergency plan by the National Reconstruction Commission to rehabilitate the entire infrastructure.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=13476&SEO=syrian-property-damage-exceeds-80-billion-usd>

- **Syrian, Russian Jets Bomb ISIL Centers in Hama Badly to Pave Way for Imminent Ground Operation**

The sources said that after the creation of the de-escalation zones in different parts of Syria, including in Northern Hama, the army troops have focused on reinvigorating the pro-government front in the Eastern part of the province to take back ISIL-ruled lands. The sources further added that the Syrian and Russian jets pounded the strongholds of the ISIL group in Aqayrabat in Eastern Hama as the Syrian soldiers are preparing to start a special operation in the region to drive the ISIL out of Eastern Hama.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960308000835>

3. IRAN

- **Iran denies Trump's claims it sponsors terrorism**

Iran on Monday dismissed US President Donald Trump's allegations that it is a major sponsor of terrorism as "incorrect and irrelevant."

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-say-trumps-claims-it-sponsors-terrorism-are-irrelevant/>

- **Iranian, Azeri Presidents Want Joint Agreements Implemented**

Presidents of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan called for efforts to boost relations between the two neighbors in all fields, with both emphasizing the need for an immediate implementation of the agreements signed in the past.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/30/1423212/iranian-azeri-presidents-want-joint-agreements-implemented>

- **Experts assesses prospects of Iran-Pakistan pipeline**

Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project is unlikely to be realized in the near future, Behrooz Abdolvand, managing director of German Consulting company DESB GmbH focusing on Iranian energy market, expert on the Caspian region believes.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/other/commentary/2760351.html>

- **Iranian, Pakistanis Among Daesh Militants Arrested in Nangarhar**

11 Daesh militants including Pakistani and Iranian nationals have been arrested by Afghan security forces in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, police said on Monday.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/iranian-pakistanis-among-daesh-militants-arrested-in-nangarhar/>

- **Border politics**

Iran is claiming that 10 of its border guards were killed by long-range guns from across the border in Balochistan on April 26. The attacks, according to Iran, were perpetrated by Jaish al-Adl, an extremist

Iranian Sunni militant group active in the Iranian border province of Sistan-Baluchestan. Iran alleges that JA has bases in the border regions of Balochistan.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1336248/border-politics>

- **Iran: Internal Disputes Following New US Senate Sanctions**

Following the adoption of new sanctions in the US Senate against Iran, a new round of disputes have begun amongst Iran's factions.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-world/22901-iran-internal-disputes-following-new-us-senate-sanctions>

- **Baha'is ask govt to help free leaders jailed in Iran**

India's Baha'i community has petitioned the government to facilitate the immediate release of seven Baha'i leaders jailed by the government in Iran.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/bahais-ask-govt-to-help-free-leaders-jailed-in-iran/articleshow/58903338.cms>

- **New US policy reason for PJAK's renewed attacks against Iran**

An attack on Saturday targeting Iranian border guards carried out by the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), the PKK's Iranian offshoot, may be a repercussion of the U.S.'s new policy in the region designed to turn the Gulf countries against Iran, experts said.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/05/30/new-us-policy-reason-for-pjaks-renewed-attacks-against-iran>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **PA asks UN to act against Israeli 'Judaization'**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) on Monday urged the UN Security Council to take action to protect Jerusalem from Israeli attempts to "Judaize" the city, the Ma'an news agency reported.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230361>

- **Bolton: No Chance for Trump to Secure Peace Deal between Israel and Palestinians**

John Bolton, the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, told the Jerusalem Post on Monday that there was no chance for President Donald Trump to secure a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

More details:

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/john-bolton-no-chance-peace-israel/2017/05/29/id/792970/>

- **Netanyahu Says No 'Blank Check' from US, Tells Party Time for a Deal is now**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Monday that while the current US administration is friendly toward the Middle Eastern country, Jerusalem does not have a "blank check" from Washington to do as it pleases.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/politics/201705301054106849-netanyahu-no-us-blank-check/>

- **After the hunger strike**

After 40 days without food, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners have suspended their hunger strike in Israeli jails. The end of the strike came after 20 hours of intense negotiations between the strike's leaders, including imprisoned Fatah figure Marwan Barghouti, and the Israel Prison Service, according to a statement issued Saturday morning by the prisoners solidarity committee.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/207469-After-the-hunger-strike>

- **Netanyahu adds two ministers to the Security Cabinet**

The government's ministers approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request to add Energy and Water Resources Minister Yuval Steinitz and Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and Minister of Environmental Protection Ze'ev Elkin as new members in the Security Cabinet.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4969216,00.html>

- **The Government Is Cutting Tax Funds To Pa; Why Is The Knesset In The Dark?**

The government says it has been quietly docking tax funds to the Palestinian Authority by the amount it gives terrorists and their families, but the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee had no knowledge of it, the committee said on Monday.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/The-government-is-cutting-tax-funds-to-PA-why-is-the-Knesset-in-the-dark-494278>

- **Israeli man attempts to enter mosque in Al-Aqsa compound**

An Israeli man attempted on Monday to enter the al-Qibli mosque -- the main mosque where Muslim worshippers perform prayers -- located inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, but was prevented by a group of worshippers.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777389>

- **PA: No Agreement on Gaza Electricity Crisis**

Responding to reports by the Hamas-run energy authority in Gaza regarding an agreement reached between Gaza and Ramallah to solve Gaza's worsening electricity crisis, the Ramallah-based Energy and Natural Resources Authority denied Monday reaching any such agreement.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/pa-no-agreement-on-gaza-electricity-crisis/>

- **Has the Gulf forgotten Palestine?**

The discussion was heated as some Arab brothers, particularly Palestinians, were criticizing the current stand of the Gulf countries on the Palestinian cause, the Riyadh Declaration and the Saudi-US deals.

More details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/opinion/gulf-forgotten-palestine/>

- **Boosting ties with Moscow will come at a cost for Hamas**

A Hamas-Russia rapprochement has recently started to take shape despite the decline in Hamas' regional and international relations, especially after the outbreak of the Arab Spring revolutions in early 2011.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/hamas-russia-rapprochement-gaza-siege-israel.html>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Using Saudi Money, Jordan Renovates Water Pipes for Syrian Refugees in Mafraq**

Main and tertiary water pipes will be renovated in five towns in Mafraq governorate in Jordan, which has seen a 40 percent rise in demand for water since the start of the Syrian crisis in 2011, according to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Under the project, the ministry will replace deteriorated water networks in five towns to increase the efficiency of the water supply in light of the rising demand, Minister of Water and Irrigation Hazem Nasser said in a statement e-mailed to The Jordan Times.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/jordan-mafraq-zaatari-refugee-camp-water--980024>

- **King of Jordan, US House committee team discuss cooperation**

King Abdullah II of Jordan on Sunday welcomed a delegation of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and discussed further boosting the US-Jordanian partnership and cooperation ties as well as current region developments. According to the Petra News Agency, the discussion during the meeting dealt with challenges posed by regional crises to the Jordanian economy, particularly the Syrian refugee crisis. King Abdullah said he appreciated US economic aid, which enabled the Kingdom to face such burdens and carry out developmental programmes.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302616516>

- **Early indicators of economic reform progress**

Most recent data by the Ministry of Finance indicates that Jordan's gross domestic debt has risen during the first quarter of this year by JD76 million only. The government has withdrawn JD100.4 million from its deposits with banks, which raised net public debt to JD176.4 million. Data shows also that foreign debt rose during the first quarter of this year by the equivalent of JD282.9 million.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/business/29-May-17/early-indicators-of-economic-reform-progress>

- **Lebanon: Aoun-Berri Dispute Threatens Feeble Agreement over Electoral Law**

A new dispute between Lebanese President Michel Aoun and Speaker Nabih Berri is threatening a feeble agreement over a new electoral law based on the proportional system, which divides the country into 15 electoral constituencies. While the two officials have stressed that there was no rift between them, statements made by Berri during a rare news conference on Monday in Ain al-Tineh have highlighted a disagreement over constitutional matters.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/p-astatih/news-middle-east/lebanon-aoun-berri-dispute-threatens-feeble-agreement-electoral-law>

- **Lebanon's victory 'a bitter defeat on Zionist regime's record'**

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani felicitated his Lebanese counterpart Nabih Berri the anniversary of the country's liberation from Zionist regime's occupation. Larijani offered congratulations on 17th anniversary of Israeli regime's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, saying the victory has been realized in the shadow of unity and empathy of the nation and government, as well as the wisdom and perspicacity of discerning authorities, especially Nabih Berri and Secretary General Seyed Hassan Nasrallah to record a bitter defeat on the history of the Zionist regime's aggression.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125654/Lebanon-s-victory-a-bitter-defeat-on-Zionist-regime-s-record>

- **Hariri Warns against Return to 1960 Law or Extension, Says Berri Wants 'Modern Law'**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri warned Monday that a return to the 1960 electoral law or the extension of parliament's term would be “a defeat for us all,” noting that Speaker Nabih Berri wants a “modern” law. “Some are analyzing that we're calling for change in public while secretly seeking to return to the 1960 law or extension, but I tell you that I'm fully confident that a return to the 1960 law or extension would represent a defeat for us all in front of our popular bases,” Hariri said at the Grand Serail during an iftar banquet attended by Berri and a host of political, religious and social figures.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/230679-hariri-warns-against-return-to-1960-law-or-extension-says-berri-wants-modern-law>

- **Kanaan: Extraordinary session prerogative belongs to president**

Change and Reform Parliamentary bloc Secretary, MP Ibrahim Kanaan, said on Tuesday that a decision to opt for an extraordinary parliamentary session was a presidential prerogative, as per law item #31. "This is a prerogative that cannot be tampered with," the lawmaker told the Voice of Lebanon radio station, explaining that the president could use this prerogative in agreement with the Prime Minister. He also expressed full confidence in President Michel Aoun's decisions.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79783/Kanaan-Extraordinary-session-prerogative-belongs-to-president>

- **Khoury Meets with Pakradounian, Anjar Delegation**

Culture Minister, Dr Ghattas Khoury, on Monday met at his ministerial office with Tashnag Party Secretary General, MP Hagop Pakradounian, and a delegation of Anjar municipal council, who thanked him for his recent visit to Anjar and his inauguration of the mini palace inside the town's castle. The delegation thanked the Minister for his special attention to developmental matters, which contribute to the development of archaeological sites up and down the country.

More Details:

<http://en.addiyar.com/article/1379803-khoury-meets-with-pakradounian-anjar-delegation>

- **Consumers buy and waste 'more than usual' at Ramadan start**

There was a 500-tonne increase in the volume of waste collected from the capital and the central region on the first two days of Ramadan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Monday. Basem Tarawneh, deputy director for districts and environmental affairs at the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), said that the municipality's workers on Sunday moved 3,600 tonnes of waste, a significant increase from the daily average of 3,000 tonnes collected and transferred to the Al Ghabawi landfill.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/consumers-buy-and-waste-more-usual%E2%80%99-ramadan-start>

- **Royal Jordanian appoints new President, CEO**

The Royal Jordanian Airlines' (RJ) Board of Directors has appointed, Stefan Pichler, as President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company as of June 1, succeeding Captain Suleiman Obeidat. Pichler comes with a broad experience that extends for over thirty years in the aviation industry, as he had previously occupied the position of CEO of Air Berlin, the Chairman and Managing Director of Fiji

Airways, the Chief Executive Officer of Al Jazeera airlines, the Chief Commercial Officer and Deputy CEO of the Australian Virgin airlines and the Chief Executive Officer of Thomas Cook leisure group.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=35193#.WS0vxNSLTGg>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

• Yemen Cholera Death Toll Rises, Infection Drops

The number of people who have died in a cholera epidemic affecting Yemen has risen to at least 471, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures released on Monday. But the latest WHO bulletin covering the period from April 27, said that there was a “significant decrease” in the daily average number of cases recorded in the week up to May 27 compared to the previous seven-day period.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/3b98921a-8b32-4626-9da6-9f3405b628b2.aspx>

• Qatar Emir to Visit Kuwait Amid Regional Tensions

Qatar’s emir is to travel to Kuwait in a visit aimed at enhancing bilateral ties amid a rift emerging between Qatar on the one side and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on the other. The monarch, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, will enter Kuwait City on Wednesday, Qatar’s al-Sharq paper reported on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/30/523632/Qatar-Tamim-bin-Hamad-Al-Thani-visit-Kuwait-Saudi-Arabia-UAE>

• Two Saudi Policemen Hurt in Bombing in Restive Shia Town

Awamiya has been a focal point of protests by the Shia minority against what they say is discrimination by the Sunni-ruled kingdom. Two policemen were wounded when a bomb exploded in Awamiya in eastern Saudi Arabia, where many of the country’s Shia Muslim minority live, state news agency SPA reported on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/two-saudi-policemen-hurt-bombing-restive-shia-town-943063863>

- **Qatar Deports Activist to Saudi, Amnesty Condemns**

Amnesty International has condemned Qatar's deportation of Saudi human rights activist to Saudi Arabia. Qatar deported the activist who was on his way to Norway seeking international protection, a watchdog and Norwegian officials said. Qatari authorities confirmed the deportation of Mohammed Abdullah al-Otaibi, 49, but said it had taken place on Wednesday May 24.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1975648>

- **Non-oil Sector Boosts Bahrain Growth**

Bahrain's non-oil sector's growth of 3.7 per cent helped to fuel overall economic growth of the kingdom, which expanded by 3 per cent in 2016, according to new figures published in the Economic Development Board (EDB).

More Details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/BANK_325627.html

- **Yemen in Need of Immediate Action on Famine, Humanitarian Crisis**

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi urged international bodies to seek solution for sever famine and humanitarian crisis in Yemen. "Yemeni people are living in a very tough condition and lasting war and surrender has led to sever famine in the country," Ghasemi said noting the recent developments in the country and the intensified humanitarian crisis.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125653/Yemen-in-need-of-immediate-action-on-famine-humanitarian-crisis>

- **State Security Court Confirms Life Sentence for Man Convicted of Terrorist Acts**

The State Security Court of the UAE Federal Supreme Court rejected, during its session yesterday, the appeal by "A.M.J", a 30-year-old Emirati, and upheld the ruling by the Abu Dhabi Federal Appeal Court, to sentence him to life in prison while obliging him to cover all the costs of the case.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302616673>

- **UAE's Patience 'Has Its Limits', Minister Says**

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash has warned that patience and tolerance “has its limits” amid a serious diplomatic crisis in the GCC. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates signalled frustration at Qatar after its state media published purported remarks by Qatari Emir Shaikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani criticising Gulf rhetoric against Iran and suggesting tensions between the emir and US President Donald Trump.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/uaes-patience-has-its-limits-minister-says-979612>

- **9 Helicopters for Security, Safety of Pilgrims**

The General Command for Security Aviation has started carrying out its plan for the holy month of Ramadan. Nine helicopters provided with the latest technology and medical equipment are taking part in this year’s Ramadan security and safety mission, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Muhammad Bin Eid Al-Harbi, commander of Security Aviation.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/9-helicopters-security-safety-pilgrims/>

7. EGYPT

- **Haftar Attacks Qatar as Russia Supports Egypt**

Libya’s eastern military commander General Khalifa Haftar again accused on Monday Qatar of supporting terrorist groups in Libya, while Egyptian and Libyan warplanes continued attacking positions and arms caches in several Libyan cities controlled by those groups.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/khaled-mahmoud-and-sawsan-abu-hussein/news-middle-east/haftar-attacks-qatar-russia-supports-egypt>

- **Egypt Calls On Russia for Help Fighting Islamic Terrorists in Libya, Sinai**

Egypt called on Russia to help it fight Islamist militants that have staged a series of devastating attacks in the leading Arab country as top leaders of both countries met in Cairo on May 29.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/egypt-calls-russia-help-fighting-islamic-state-terrorists-libya-sinai-peninsula/28517771.html>

- **Currency depreciation in Nigeria, Egypt depresses Africa's insurance Premium**

According to the survey Nigeria and Egypt led the drag in the continent's performance in the insurance sector as both recorded steep depreciation in 2015 resulting in a total of USD6 billion decline in premium income to USD54 billion, down from USD70 billion in 2014.

More Details:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/05/currency-depreciation-nigeria-egypt-depresses-africas-insurance-premium/>

- **Sisi signs controversial NGO bill**

Egyptian President Abdel fattah al-Sisi has signed into law a contentious new bill to regulate non-governmental organizations, the AFP news agency reported on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230350>

- **Why is the West not supporting Egypt's fight against terrorism?**

It has been almost four years since the re-emergence of terrorism in Egypt, a period during which we have been applying a clear policy aimed at completely eradicating the problem. However, this policy has resulted in higher incidences of violence and terrorism, with no apparent indication that we are able to eliminate terrorism, or at least to reduce terrorist activity. Meanwhile, the Egyptian state completely refuses to consider or assess other policies for combating terrorism that could serve us better. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi wants the entire world to support the anti-terrorist policy adopted by Egypt although there is no proof of its success on the internal front.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1107141>

- **New Egyptian Derna airstrikes as Cairo warns of Libyan Islamist threat**

Egypt said it carried out fresh airstrikes on the Islamist stronghold of Derna this morning in conjunction with the Libyan National Army (LNA).

More Details

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/05/29/new-egyptian-derna-airstrikes-as-cairo-warns-of-libyan-islamist-threat/>

- **Egypt's President Enacts Law Placing Severe Restrictions on Aid Groups**

President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Monday enacted a law that imposes strict new regulations on aid groups, stoking fears that his government intends to accelerate its harsh crackdown on human rights activists before a presidential election scheduled for next year.

More Details:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/29/world/middleeast/egypt-sisi-ngo-crackdown-activists.html? r=0>

- **Egypt, Russia discuss fight against 'terror'**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi on Monday held talks in Cairo with Russia's foreign and defence ministers on ways to battle "terrorism," his office said.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/7c5cb935-45d0-4591-bfd6-a1b859ebb040.aspx>

- **Moscow keen to 'develop strategic relations with Egypt': Russian ministers to El-Sisi**

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoygu and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stressed their country's keenness to develop strategic relations with Egypt during a meeting with President Abdel-Fatah El-Sisi on Monday, a presidency statement read.

More Details;

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/269795/-.aspx>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Good health comes at a cost but can Tunisia afford it?**

Overcrowded hospitals, exhausted staff and disgruntled patients ... Tunisia's public health sector is struggling to heal its many maladies. Hours of waiting for treatment, angry patients and broken equipment have become chronic problems. "Our hospitals are ruins," Amel Belhaj said as she visited her bedridden father in a Tunis hospital ward with mould-tainted walls and rusty radiators."On top of our illnesses, we have to cope with the misery of these places, the dirt, the behaviour of the staff," she said.

More Detail:

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/editorials-columns/good-health-comes-at-a-cost-but-can-tunisia-afford-it>

- **Switzerland returns \$4million to Tunisia in stolen assets recovery process**

Switzerland has transferred approximately \$4million to Tunisia, in response to a request for mutual legal assistance. The final destination of these assets will depend on the proceedings currently under way in Tunisia. Acting on a request for mutual legal assistance from Tunisia, on 26 May 2017 the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland ordered the transfer of an additional amount of approximately \$4 million.

More Detail:

[http://africabusinesscommunities.com/news/switzerland-returns-\\$4million-to-tunisia-in-stolen-assets-recovery-process/](http://africabusinesscommunities.com/news/switzerland-returns-$4million-to-tunisia-in-stolen-assets-recovery-process/)

- **Algeria: Ensure Fair Trial for Minority Rights Activists Fekhar and Other Amazigh Rights Advocates Held since July 2015**

The Algerian authorities should drop all charges against a leading activist and his 40 co-defendants that are based on their peaceful activism for the rights of the Amazigh, or Berber, minority, Human Rights Watch, EuroMed Rights, Amnesty International, and Front Line Defenders said today. Kamaledine Fekhar and most of his co-accused have been detained since July 2015.

More Detail:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/05/algeria-ensure-fair-trial-for-minority-rights-activists-fekhar-and-other-amazigh-rights-advocates-held-since-july-2015/>

- **Algerian Minister Sacked Three Days after Appointment**

Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika sacked his tourism minister Sunday days after he was appointed to the post, the presidency said, with one television channel claiming he had a criminal record. A terse statement from the presidency, carried by the APS news agency, did not say why Bouteflika had fired Messaoud Benagoun, who became minister of tourism and crafts just three days earlier. Algerian media had criticised Benagoun's appointment, claiming that the 38-year-old had never had a job before joining the new government that was formed on Thursday.

More Detail:

<http://www.signalng.com/algerian-minister-sacked-three-days-appointment/>

- **One killed and four wounded in attack on south western border**

One man has been shot dead and four of his relatives injured near Ghat in the far south-west of the country on the border with Algeria. The dead man, named as Islam Yahya, and the other four were said to be farmers who were visiting their land in the border zone when they were attacked. Locals say they do not know if those responsible were members of the Algerian armed forces or Algerian

rebels who are known to be operating in the area. The latter are said to be supplied by people from Yahya's village of Fayot. The wounded were taken to hospital in Obari for treatment.

More Detail:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/05/29/one-killed-and-four-wounded-in-attack-on-south-western-border>

- **Libya: Tripoli prison holding Gaddafi's son retaken by GNA after rival faction attack**

Forces allied to the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) secured Hadba Prison in Tripoli on Sunday, after rival fighters launched an attack on the site where officials formerly working under Muammar Gaddafi, including his son Al-Saadi, were being held.

More Detail:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/libya-tripoli-prison-holding-gaddafis-son-retaken-gna-rival-faction-attack/>

- **Air strikes in Libya are in 'self-defence' - Egypt tells the UN**

Egypt's foreign ministry said in a statement handed to the U.N. Security Council on Saturday that its airstrikes targeting terrorist hideouts in Libya are in accordance with the law. "The airstrikes that targeted the locations of terrorist organisations in Derna, eastern Libya, are in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter on self-defence and with the Security Council's resolutions concerning terrorism," the statement cited by local media Ahram said.

More Detail:

<http://www.africanews.com/2017/05/29/air-strikes-in-libya-are-in-self-defence-egypt-tells-the-un/>

- **Egyptian army deployed on triangle border with Libya, Sudan**

The Egyptian military forces have been deployed on the borders with Libya and Sudan in Jabal Al-Awinat district in order to deter any terrorists' infiltration, according to London-based Al-Hayat Newspaper. The Egyptian army will be positioned there and will be on alert 24/7 for any terrorist threats coming from the Libyan borders, according to the newspaper. "Any attempts that will target the Egyptian national security coming from Libya or Sudan or any other place will be dealt with by force." An Egyptian official told the newspaper. Egyptian warplanes raided Friday Derna city on what it said locations for Derna Shura Council, and they are believed to have raided Hun town on Sunday as well.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/egyptian-army-deployed-on-triangle-border-with-libya-sudan/>

- **G7 urges 'inclusive political dialogue' in Libya**

Wrapping up their two-day summit in Taormina, Italy, leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) called for a comprehensive political dialogue and national reconciliation in Libya, without making any pledges of collective assistance. In their final communique, the G7 leaders said it is urgent to advance on the path of inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation in Libya. "We welcome the recent meetings between key Libyan players. All Libyans must engage with a spirit of compromise and desist from actions that would fuel further conflict," they said.

More Details:

<http://pakobserver.net/g7-urges-inclusive-political-dialogue-libya/>

- **Morocco protests: Activist Nasser Zefzafi arrested**

Nasser Zefzafi will be tried for "threatening national security", prosecutors say. Morocco has been gripped by protests since October, following the death of a fishmonger in the town of al-Hoceima. On Sunday, demonstrations were reported in the capital Rabat, as well as Nador, Tangier, Casablanca and Marrakesh. Demonstrators in al-Hoceima expressed support for Mr Zefzafi, who took to the streets to chant "the state is corrupt" and "we are all Zefzafi", AFP news agency reported.

More Details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40083535>

- **Morocco stocks lower at close of trade; Moroccan All Shares down 0.50%**

Morocco stocks were lower after the close on Monday, as losses in the Chemicals, Beverage and Construction & Building Materials sectors led shares lower. At the close in Casablanca, the Moroccan All Shares fell 0.50% to hit a new 1-month low. The best performers of the session on the Moroccan All Shares were Rebab Company (CS:REBA), which rose 5.96% or 7.45 points to trade at 132.45 at the close. Meanwhile, Stroc Industrie (CS:STR) added 5.14% or 2.29 points to end at 46.85 and Afriquia Gaz (CS:AGAZ1) was up 3.48% or 95 points to 2825 in late trade.

More Details:

<https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/morocco-stocks-lower-at-close-of-trade;-moroccan-all-shares-down-0.50-489525>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Afghan Forces Kill 44 Militants across Country in Past 24 Hours**

Afghanistan's security forces killed 44 militants in the country's various provinces in the past 24 hours, including local commanders of the Taliban radical movement and Daesh terrorist group, the Afghan Defense Ministry said on Monday.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705291054104581-afghan-forces-kill-militants/>

- **Foreign Support Of Terrorism Prolonging War: MoFA**

In reaction to reports about alleged support by the Qatari government to terrorist groups in the Middle East and Afghanistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Monday said that one of the key reasons for the ongoing conflict in the country was because insurgent groups were getting support from regional countries.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/foreign-support-terrorism-prolonging-war-mofa>

- **Pakistan Arrests Afghan Women Traveling on Fake Passports**

Immigration authorities in Pakistan have arrested three Afghan women before they boarded a flight to London using fake British passports. Officials told VOA two employees of the state-run Pakistan International Airline have also been arrested for assisting the Afghan nationals at the Islamabad airport to fraudulently undertake the journey. The men, they said, are suspected of having links to a “major human trafficking network.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-arrests-afghan-women-traveling-on-fake-passports/3875604.html>

- **Daesh Commander Killed In Nangarhar US Air Strikes**

A Daesh commander and three members of this insurgent group were killed during US air attacks in Nangarhar province last night. The Daesh fighters were targeted in Achen and Nazyan districts. More Details:

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/28733-daesh-commander-killed-in-nangarhar-us-air-strikes.html>

- **Turkey's Anatolia, BNA to cooperate each other**

Turkey's Anatolia Agency is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan Bakhtar News Agency in two fields. According to BNA, delegation of Turkey's Anatolia Agency, arrival to Kabul to meet private and government media officials, called on BNA chairman Khalil Menavi and promised that their organization was ready to provide professional trainings' opportunities to employees of BNA in Turkey and cooperate the agency in technical fields.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/14101-turkey%E2%80%99s-anatolia%2C-bna-to-cooperate-each-other.html>

- **Iran Fires Mortar Shell into Pakistan, Killing at Least One**

Shiite-majority Iran has once again fired a mortar shell into the restive Balochistan province of its predominantly Sunni neighbor Pakistan, this time killing at least one individual. On May 21, Iran fired at least five mortar shells into Sunni-majority Balochistan province, which makes up nearly 45 percent of Pakistan's territory. The Iranian attack did not result in any casualties.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/05/29/balochistan-iran-fires-mortar-shell-into-pakistan-killing-at-least-one/>

- **Another Massive Power Breakdown Hits Karachi**

A vast area of Karachi suffered major power outage during mid-night of Monday and Tuesday being another massive failure after Ramadan. A large swathe of Karachi fell into darkness after a high tension wire at the Bin Qasim power station encountered a technical fault resulting into tripping of more than 15 K-Electric grid stations.

More Details:

<http://www.brecorder.com/2017/05/30/351160/another-massive-power-breakdown-hits-karachi/>

- **Pakistan Claims Kulbushan Jadhav Providing 'Crucial Intelligence' on Terror Attacks**

Indian national Kulbushan Jadhav, who has been sentenced to death by a Pakistan military court, is providing "crucial intelligence" about recent terror attacks in the country, Pakistan government has claimed.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/pakistan-claims-kulbhushan-jadhav-providing-crucial-intelligence-terror-attacks-728619>

- **Ministries, Trade Agencies in Dire Need to Work Together**

Pakistan's federal government has ten core economic ministries, other than the Ministry of Finance. There are special agencies under some of these ministries while some such as the Board of Investment (BoI) reports directly to the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1421664/ministries-trade-agencies-dire-need-work-together/>

- **Kabul to Host International Conference on Peace**

Afghanistan will hold an international conference on peace, security and reconciliation on June 6, which will be attended by nearly 20 countries in the wake of the increased violence unleashed by the Taliban in its annual spring offensive.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE2OTgz/kabul-to-host-international-conference-on-peace.html>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey provides \$10 million to displaced Pakistanis**

Turkey will provide \$10 million for to help rehabilitate Pakistanis displaced by an ongoing military operation in the country's northwestern tribal region and flooding in 2014, the embassy in Islamabad said Tuesday. An agreement was signed between Ambassador Sadik Babur Girgin and Economic Affairs Secretary Tariq Mahmood in the capital, the embassy said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190216/turkey-provides-10-million-to-displaced-pakistanis>

- **Opposition MHP slams NATO for not opposing PYD/YPG participation in Raqqa offensive**

Opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli criticized NATO for ruling out Turkey's suggestion to avoid using the PKK terrorist organization's Syrian affiliates People's

Protection Units (YPG) and Democratic Union Party (PYD) in the operation to liberate Raqqa. Speaking at his party's parliamentary group meeting Tuesday, Bahçeli said although he welcomed NATO's participation in the anti-Daesh coalition, he expressed concern about the way it will take part.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2017/05/30/opposition-mhp-slams-nato-for-not-opposing-pydypg-participation-in-raqqa-offensive>

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

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