



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Proces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliği

Economy News

Ekonomi Haberleri

Peace Process

Barış Süreci

Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

01 MARCH 2017

NO: 2328

1. IRAQ.....	4
• Trump to Remove Iraq from Travel Ban List in New Executive Order, Officials Say	4
• Iraq plans Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration	4
• New Version of US Entry Ban Order May Exclude Iraq from List of Targeted States.....	4
• Islamic State supreme leader's speech admits defeat in Mosul: source	4
• Abadi: Terrorists outside Iraq within 'Our Reach'	5
• ABu Bakr Al-Baghdadi announces defeat in Mosul: Iraqi media.....	5
• Meeting the Australians behind the fight against ISIS in Iraq	5
• ISIS terrorists try to blend with civilians fleeing humanitarian disaster in besieged Mosul	5
• Pentagon Spokesman Discusses ISIS Preliminary Plan, Budget Amendment	5
• Mosul civilians flee fighting, privation.....	6
• Islamic State Dug Tunnels in Undiscovered 2600-Year-Old Palace in Mosul.....	6
• Over 16,000 Iraqi Displaced People for Western Mosul Combats.....	6
• Iraqi officer: troops repel attack by disguised IS militants in western Mosul	6
• Sunni force gets ready for long-delayed Hawija operation.....	7
• Syrian Kurds Receive Weapons, Vehicles from US Via Iraq to Fight Daesh	7
• Isil fighters' drone tactics likened to Mad Max by Australia's defence chief	7
• Forces push into western part of ISIL-held Mosul.....	7
• Iraq's Ministry of Health to Provide jobs to Kurdish Medical Graduates.....	8
2. SYRIA.....	8
• Russia, China veto UNSC western draft resolution on imposing sanctions on Syria.....	8
• Syria: Army Starts Build-Up to Launch Final Phase of Palmyra Operation.....	8
• Syrian opposition slams regime's unity govt proposals	8
• Syrian Soldiers Capture More Lands, Lay Siege on ISIL in Two Regions East of Aleppo.....	9
• Syrian army kills al-Nusra terrorists in Hama, Idlib	9
• Turkish-Kurdish tension brews in northern Syria after IS defeat	9
• Turkey wants to be part of Raqqa operation	9
• Syrian opposition's Cairo group to meet with Russian diplomats on March 1	9
3. IRAN	10
• President: 21st century era of rising Asia.....	10
• Iranian Version of S-300 Air Defense Shield under Continued Operational Tests	10
• Iranian Envoy, Ukrainian Education Minister Discuss Academic Ties	10
• Takfirism, xenophobia present enormous challenge to world: Iran official	10
• Iran Blasts West's Politicization of Human rights Issues	11
• Rouhani, Erdogan to discuss Syria crisis.....	11
• Iran, EU hold seminar to enhance nuclear cooperation	11
• President: JCPOA creates new opportunities for global, regional cooperation.....	11
• Divisions in Tehran over Rapprochement with Gulf States.....	11
4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	12
• Watchdog faults Israeli forces for being caught off-guard by Hamas tunnel threat in 2014 war12	

• Keith Ellison's Rise to Second-in-Command at DNC Worries Some Jewish Democrats	12
• Israel's High Court to Knesset: Explain Why Tax on Owners of 3 Homes Shouldn't Be Canceled	12
• Israel: PM Netanyahu Criticised by State Comptroller over ineffective measures in 2014 Gaza War	13
• Narendra Modi's Israel visit likely in June to mark 25 years of diplomatic ties	13
• Cautious Calm in Ain el-Hilweh, Sidon on Strike Denouncing Fights	13
• Israel Hands Out Two Grossly Unequal Forms of Justice for Jewish and Palestinian Victims...	13
• High Court to prosecute officer for allegedly urinating on prisoner	13
• Palestinian prisoners urged to boycott Israeli courts.....	14
• Hezbollah Threatens Israel With Sign on Lebanese Border	14
5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....	14
• King urges police to enforce law fairly, observe human rights	14
• Man killed in clashes at Lebanon's largest Palestinian camp.....	14
• European Union highlevel officials attend LebanonEU counter terrorism dialogue in Beirut..	15
• Lebanon minister meets global banks ahead of planned debt sale.....	15
• The Lebanese Have Shown a Humanity the West Could Learn From	15
• Lebanon's electoral carve-up: Hariri and allies are blocking reform.....	15
• Hezbollah Puts Sign On Israel Border Emblazoned 'Account Not Settled' With Image Of Assassinated Terror Leader	16
• Clashes Resume in Ain Al-Hilweh as Ceasefire Collapses	16
6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	16
• Saudi Emergency forces commander inspects tactical training exercise.....	16
• Saudi Arabia takes aim at budget deficit with fuel price hike, fiscal reform.....	16
• Yemen president in Riyadh for talks on reconstruction, military effort	17
• Intel nominee questions Guantanamo releases: 'Are they running Starbucks in Yemen?'	17
• Bahraini King receives call from US Secretary of State	17
• Bahrain, Qatar to bolster ties	17
• Medserv unit wins major Oman contract	18
• For luxury property, Dubai best choice in region.....	18
7. EGYPT.....	18
• Egypt arrests 9 Muslim Brotherhood leaders accused of plotting to overthrow government.	18
• Egypt plans to abstain from voting on UN Security Council resolution to introduce new Syria sanctions.....	18
• Partnership allows parties to impose internal taxes without distinction between country of origin: Bayoumi	19
• The economics behind Egypt's political unrest	19
• Copts' outflow from Al-Arish is a "terrorist attack:" German ambassador	19
• Egypt parliament to sue high-profile journalist Ibrahim Eissa	19
• Sadat's nephew expelled from Egyptian parliament.....	20
• Italy gives partial pardon to former US spy Sabrina de Sousa, making jail unlikely.....	20
• Russian Industry Ministry Delegation to Visit Cairo to Discuss Industrial Zone.....	20
8. NORTH AFRICA.....	20
• Algerian Speaker commends close relations with Qatar	20
• Libya praises Algeria's efforts to boost trust among Libyans.....	21

• Preparations for Omani Products Expo in Algeria reviewed	21
• Malaysians May Not Need Visa To Morocco - Ambassador	21
• Morocco became a top export market for Russian wheat.....	21
• Tunisia beach attack: Our country is safe, says ambassador to UK	22
• Tunisia lures more Chinese tourists after visa exemption	22
• Qatari Foreign Minister meets Libyan delegation.....	22
• Kremlin's game: What Moscow is looking to achieve in Libya.....	22
• UK judge says Tunisia police 'shambolic' during beach attack	22
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	23
• US plan against IS includes Pak-Afghan region	23
• Afghan military summoned Pakistani ambassador over artillery shelling	23
• With Discovering 26 Rounds of Mines, Several Explosions Prevented In Helmand	23
• Taliban key commander detained, 3 killed in N. Afghan province.....	23
• An economic slap in the face of Pakistan.....	24
• Three new immigration offices to be set up at Pakistan-Iran border	24
• Pakistan invites UAE investors to invest in CPEC projects	24
• Pakistani PM calls for regional connectivity at ECO summit.....	24
• Pakistan to repay \$6.5b debt over next 15 months	24
• Three FC men, civilian injured in Quetta IED blast.....	25
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....	25
• Erdogan says Syria opposition forces will go to Manbij	25
• Turkey, Israel must encourage bilateral trade: Official.....	25

1. IRAQ

- **Trump to Remove Iraq from Travel Ban List in New Executive Order, Officials Say**

President Donald Trump's new immigration order will remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, U.S. officials said Tuesday, citing the latest draft in circulation. Trump is expected to sign the executive order in the coming days. Four officials told The Associated Press that the decision followed pressure from the Pentagon and State Department, which had urged the White House to reconsider Iraq's inclusion given its key role in fighting the Islamic State group.

More details:

http://time.com/4686818/trump-iraq-travel-ban-list-immigration/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+timeblogs%2Fswampland+%28TIME%3A+Politics%29

- **Iraq plans Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration**

Iraqi oil minister Jabar Ali al-Luaibi [Allibi] has directed the Iraqi Oil Exploration Company (OEC) to start exploring Iraq's coastal waters for new oil and gas reserves.

More details:

<http://www.iraq-businessnews.com/2017/02/28/iraq-plans-offshore-oil-and-gas-exploration/>

- **New Version of US Entry Ban Order May Exclude Iraq from List of Targeted States**

Iraq may be knocked off the list of countries whose nationals are temporarily banned from entering the United States in the new version of the executive order on immigration, US media reported.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201703011051141182-us-iraq-ban/>

- **Islamic State supreme leader's speech admits defeat in Mosul: source**

The Islamic State's supreme leader has delivered a speech ordering his fighters to flee urban areas in Mosul, a presumable acknowledgement of defeat to U.S.-backed Iraqi forces and militias fighting to retake the city.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-supreme-leader-admits-defeat-mosul-speech-source/>

- **Abadi: Terrorists outside Iraq within 'Our Reach'**

Iraq Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi stressed that the Iraqi forces can strike the terrorists outside the country's border, saying that a mortal blow will be dealt to the terrorist group of ISIL.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951211000383>

- **ABu Bakr Al-Baghdadi announces defeat in Mosul: Iraqi media**

Daesh (ISIS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has asked the members and supporters of his organization to escape and hide in the mountains, Iraqi al-Sumaria news reported on Tuesday.

More details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/abu-bakr-al-baghdadi-announces-defeat-in-mosul-iraqi-media_814877.html

- **Meeting the Australians behind the fight against ISIS in Iraq**

From Darwin to Iraq, a firsthand experience with the Australian soldiers committing to helping in the battle against ISIS.

More details:

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2017/03/01/10/48/elizabeth-creasy-opinion-piece-taskgroup-taji-training-in-iraq>

- **ISIS terrorists try to blend with civilians fleeing humanitarian disaster in besieged Mosul**

The US-backed operation to liberate western Mosul from ISIS terrorists has caused a surge in civilian deaths and displacement, according to the UN, while Iraqi security forces tighten refugee screening process' to prevent jihadists from escaping.

More details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/379002-mosul-refugees-isis-iraq/>

- **Pentagon Spokesman Discusses ISIS Preliminary Plan, Budget Amendment**

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will present a preliminary version of the Pentagon's new plan to rapidly defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria during a meeting of the White House Principals Committee today, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said here this morning.

More details:

<http://www.defencetalk.com/pentagon-spokesman-discusses-isis-preliminary-plan-budget-amendment-69328/>

- **Mosul civilians flee fighting, privation**

Hundreds of civilians fled through the desert Tuesday to escape fighting and privation in Mosul, joining thousands of others who left their homes as conditions worsen in the city's west. Iraqi forces launched a major push on Feb. 19 to recapture the west of the city from Daesh, retaking the airport and then advancing north.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1061396/middle-east#>

- **Islamic State Dug Tunnels in Undiscovered 2600-Year-Old Palace in Mosul**

Archaeologists have reportedly found the ruins of a palace dating back to 600 BC deep under the ruins of the tomb of the Prophet Jonah in northern Iraq. The Islamic State had destroyed the tomb and dug tunnels underneath, revealing the as-yet-undiscovered ruins.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/02/28/report-islamic-state-dug-newly-discovered-1600-year-old-tomb-mosul/>

- **Over 16,000 Iraqi Displaced People for Western Mosul Combats.**

United Nations, Feb 288 (Prensa Latina) More than 16,000 Iraqi nationals left their homes to get away from combats in Mosul, where the Iraqi army and its allies are trying to drive the Islamic state (EI) out, according to the UN. As reported by the UN, the more the security forces approach the heavily populated areas the more Iraqi displaced people increase, with nearly 13,000 human beings during the last two days.

More details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=9907&SEO=over-16000-iraqi-displaced-people-for-western-mosul-combats>.

- **Iraqi officer: troops repel attack by disguised IS militants in western Mosul**

Iraqi government forces repelled on Wednesday an attack by Islamic State militants on a district in western Mosul that was retaken from the extremist group a few days ago.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-officer-says-force-repel-attack-disguised-militants-western-mosul/>

- **Sunni force gets ready for long-delayed Hawija operation**

Some 1,200 Sunni tribal fighters have been trained by the Iraqi government to take part in the long-anticipated offensive to recapture the ISIS stronghold of Hawija, about 55 km south of Kirkuk.

More details:

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/280220171>

- **Syrian Kurds Receive Weapons, Vehicles from US Via Iraq to Fight Daesh**

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters in northern Syria received a batch of weapons and military vehicles from the United States, media reported Tuesday, citing Kurdish sources.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201703011051136671-syrian-kurds-daesh-weapons/>

- **Isil fighters' drone tactics likened to Mad Max by Australia's defence chief**

Islamic State fighters were increasingly using Mad Max-style suicide vehicles and commercial drones armed with grenades in their defence of the Iraqi town of Mosul, Australia's defence chief said on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/01/isil-fighters-drone-tactics-likened-mad-max-australias-defence/>

- **Forces push into western part of ISIL-held Mosul**

Troops take Gawsaq and reach strategic Fourth Bridge as ISIL fights back with anti-tank missiles and suicide car bombs.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/forces-push-western-part-isil-held-mosul-170227135345180.html>

- **Iraq's Ministry of Health to Provide jobs to Kurdish Medical Graduates**

Iraq's Ministry of Health has requested on Monday that recent medical graduates in the Kurdistan Region fill in a ministry application form if they want to find employment. Graduates from year 2015-2016 who received a bachelors in Medical Science and graduates of nursing, dental, and pharmacy faculties currently suffer high unemployment rates in the Kurdistan Region.

More details:

<http://www.iraqdailyjournal.com/story-z14870240>

2. SYRIA

- **Russia, China veto UNSC western draft resolution on imposing sanctions on Syria**

Russia and China vetoed a western draft resolution at UN Security Council that imposes sanctions on Syria. The draft resolution was proposed by UK, France and the US. Nine countries voted in favor of the draft resolution. Russia, China and Bolivia opposed it while Egypt, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan abstained.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=101098>

- **Syria: Army Starts Build-Up to Launch Final Phase of Palmyra Operation**

The Syrian army is waiting for the arrival of hundreds more of fresh troops to kick off the final phase of the operation to capture the ancient city of Palmyra (Tadmur), well-placed military sources said Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951211000470>

- **Syrian opposition slams regime's unity govt proposals**

The head of the opposition delegation at Syria peace talks in Geneva, Nasr al-Hariri, said that regime proposals for establishing a national unity government during a sought-for transition period did not have any international reference.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/01/03/2017/Syrian-opposition-slams-regime%E2%80%99s-unity-govt-proposals>

- **Syrian Soldiers Capture More Lands, Lay Siege on ISIL in Two Regions East of Aleppo**

The Syrian Army troops resumed battle with ISIL in Eastern Aleppo and managed to take back another key town, laying siege on the terrorists in two other towns.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951211000366>

- **Syrian army kills al-Nusra terrorists in Hama, Idlib**

A Syrian army unit carried out military operation on one of Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists' positions in the village of Deir Sharqi , about 45 km south of Idlib city, killing 10 terrorists and destroying two of their heavy vehicles.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/123921/Syrian-army-kills-al-Nusra-terrorists-in-Hama-Idlib>

- **Turkish-Kurdish tension brews in northern Syria after IS defeat**

As the Islamic State (IS) group is falling apart in the countryside of Syria's Aleppo province, tension started brewing between Kurdish-led rebels on one side, and Turkish forces and allied Syrian militants on the other side.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/01/c_136092276.htm

- **Turkey wants to be part of Raqqa operation**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday Ankara wanted to work with its allies to capture Daesh bastion of Raqqa in Syria, but without the involvement of Syrian Kurdish militia.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/303ae56b-4824-421e-95c5-751c7c4adb0b.aspx>

- **Syrian opposition's Cairo group to meet with Russian diplomats on March 1**

The Cairo platform of the Syrian opposition plans to meet with two Russian senior foreign ministry officials on March 1, Jihad Makdissi, a Cairo platform leader, told TASS on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/world/933328>

3. IRAN

- **President: 21st century era of rising Asia**

President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that The emerging Asian economies would change the direction of the world's economy from the West to the East; and this would turn the twenty first century to the era of rising Asia.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82448724/>

- **Iranian Version of S-300 Air Defense Shield under Continued Operational Tests**

"Steady work efforts are being made on Bavar 373 missile system and a number of tests have been carried out on this system, and these tests will continue until the date of delivery," General Hatami said. Asked if the Iranian air defense shield has been tested against incoming ballistic missiles, the deputy minister said all defensive projects, including development of this missile system are moving ahead in accordance to their approved plans.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951211000527>

- **Iranian Envoy, Ukrainian Education Minister Discuss Academic Ties**

Iranian Ambassador to Kiev Mohammad Beheshti Monfared, in a meeting with Ukrainian Minister of Education and Science Liliya Hrynevych, exchanged views about a range of issues, including ways to boost academic relations between the two countries.

More Details

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/03/01/1342876/iranian-envoy-ukrainian-education-minister-discuss-academic-ties>

- **Takfirism, xenophobia present enormous challenge to world: Iran official**

A senior Iranian official has warned against the emergence of radical and xenophobic groups across the globe, warning that they pose a significant challenge to the realization of human rights. Deputy Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi made the comments in an address to the high-level panel of the UN Human Rights Council in the Swiss city of Geneva on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/188576.html>

- **Iran Blasts West's Politicization of Human rights Issues**

"There is a need for interaction and dialogue to prevent the role played by the politics in the issues related to human rights," Araqchi said on Tuesday, addressing a high-level segment of Human Rights Council held in Geneva, Switzerland.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951211000486>

- **Rouhani, Erdogan to discuss Syria crisis**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will discuss Syrian crisis with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of 13th ECO summit in Islamabad on March 1, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2727003.html>

- **Iran, EU hold seminar to enhance nuclear cooperation**

More than a year into the implementation of a landmark deal on the Iranian nuclear program, Tehran and the European Union are holding a high-level seminar with the aim of promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of atomic energy.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/03/01/512535/Iran-EU-JCPOA-Salehi-Kamalvandi>

- **President: JCPOA creates new opportunities for global, regional cooperation**

President Rouhani made the remarks in his address to the 13th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit opened in Pakistan capital Islamabad on March 1. He underlined that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has paved the way for expansion of more economic cooperation in the region and facilitated the relations of Iran and the world.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82448561/>

- **Divisions in Tehran over Rapprochement with Gulf States**

Leaked information uncovered a dispute between members of the Iranian regime on issues related to reviving diplomatic ties with Gulf States and the position from Syria. According to the leaks, there is also a controversy on letters exchanged between Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif

and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, in which the Iranian minister suggested holding a secret meeting in Istanbul and opening direct channels between the administrations of both countries.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/2017/03/article55368390/divisions-tehran-rapprochement-gulf-states>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Watchdog faults Israeli forces for being caught off-guard by Hamas tunnel threat in 2014 war**

Israel's official government watchdog issued a long-awaited report Tuesday in which it found the military was ill-prepared to counter the threat of underground tunnels used by Hamas militants from Gaza during the 2014 war, and that the Cabinet was not provided enough information to make proper decisions about it.

More details:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/03/01/world/watchdog-faults-israeli-forces-caught-off-guard-hamas-tunnel-threat-2014-war/#.WLZofm-LTIU>

- **Keith Ellison's Rise to Second-in-Command at DNC Worries Some Jewish Democrats**

The appointment of U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) as deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) has left some Jewish Democrats worried about their party's future positions on Israel.

More details:

<http://nation.foxnews.com/2017/02/28/keith-ellisons-rise-second-command-dnc-worries-some-jewish-democrats?section=10368>

- **Israel's High Court to Knesset: Explain Why Tax on Owners of 3 Homes Shouldn't Be Canceled**

The justices addressed the fact that the Knesset admitted that the legislative process had been faulty but had requested that the law not be canceled.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/business/1.774567>

- **Israel: PM Netanyahu Criticised by State Comptroller over ineffective measures in 2014 Gaza War**

A report by the comptroller said important information was kept hidden from many senior cabinet members.

More details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/israel-pm-netanyahu-criticised-by-state-comptroller-over-ineffective-measures-2014-gaza-war-1609126>

- **Narendra Modi's Israel visit likely in June to mark 25 years of diplomatic ties**

Narendra Modi's likely Israel visit, the first ever by an Indian prime minister to that country, will be part of year-long celebrations to mark 25 years of bilateral ties.

More details:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/FWQU0V1IRV6HyX240tKk7H/Narendra-Modis-Israel-visit-likely-in-June-to-mark-25-years.html>

- **Cautious Calm in Ain el-Hilweh, Sidon on Strike Denouncing Fights**

Cautious calm prevailed Wednesday night in the densely-packed Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Hilweh, after one week of deadly clashes between the Fatah Movement and Islamist groups that left one civilian dead and six others injured.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/226232-cautious-calm-in-ain-el-hilweh-sidon-on-strike-denouncing-fights>

- **Israel Hands Out Two Grossly Unequal Forms of Justice for Jewish and Palestinian Victims**

An Israeli extremist faces 11 years in prison for stabbing a Jew, while attacks on Arabs go virtually unpunished.

More details:

<http://www.alternet.org/grayzone-project/israeli-stabbed-jew-anti-arab-violence>

- **High Court to prosecute officer for allegedly urinating on prisoner**

The High Court demands that the Israel Police's Internal Affairs division prosecute the unnamed officer for allegedly urinating on a Palestinian prisoner in 2007.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4928795,00.html>

- **Palestinian prisoners urged to boycott Israeli courts**

A collective boycott of Israeli military court system is welcomed by prisoner rights groups.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/02/palestinian-prisoners-urged-boycott-israeli-courts-170228052245774.html>

- **Hezbollah Threatens Israel With Sign on Lebanese Border**

A large sign was recently placed on the Israel-Lebanon border that threatened retaliation against Israel for killing Hezbollah terrorists, the Israeli news website NRG reported Monday.

More details:

<http://www.thetower.org/4650-hezbollah-threatens-israel-with-sign-on-lebanese-border/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **King urges police to enforce law fairly, observe human rights**

His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army, on Tuesday visited the Public Security Department (PSD), according to a Royal Court statement.

More details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/king-urges-police-enforce-law-fairly-observe-human-rights>

- **Man killed in clashes at Lebanon's largest Palestinian camp**

Fierce clashes have continued in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp for the sixth day with one person killed in the latest violence, according to AFP.

More details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/2/28/man-killed-in-clashes-at-lebanons-largest-palestinian-camp>

- **European Union highlevel officials attend LebanonEU counter terrorism dialogue in Beirut**

In a press release by the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, it said: "The EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Gilles de Kerchove, will visit Lebanon on 1 and 2 March to attend a high level meeting on the National Counter Terrorism Strategy, which is jointly organised by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union."

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/75935/European-Union-highlevel-officials-attend-LebanonEU-counter-terrorism-dialogue-in-Beirut>

- **Lebanon minister meets global banks ahead of planned debt sale**

Lebanon's Finance Minister Ali Hasan Khalil met with international and local bankers as the most indebted Arab country prepares to tap the bond market in March.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/business/sectors/markets/lebanon-minister-meets-global-banks-ahead-of-planned-debt-sale-1.1985796>

- **The Lebanese Have Shown a Humanity the West Could Learn From**

The country has absorbed at least 1.5 million Syrian refugees, about 30% of the estimated total and equal to one-third of its own population. During 2016, there were more Syrian babies born in Lebanon than Lebanese ones, stresses Gareth Smyth.

More details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=81750>

- **Lebanon's electoral carve-up: Hariri and allies are blocking reform**

With Lebanese elections set to take place in May, the customary tug-of-war has started over exactly how those elections are to take place. Democracy in Lebanon is all about foreplay.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/lebanese-elections-are-circus-hezbollah-hardly-only-clown-918722170>

- **Hezbollah Puts Sign On Israel Border Emblazoned ‘Account Not Settled’ With Image Of Assassinated Terror Leader**

Turning to psychological warfare, Hezbollah recently erected a giant sign on the Israel-Lebanon border with images of “Hezbollah heroes” alongside the threatening inscription: “This account is not settled.”

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/02/28/hezbollah-puts-sign-on-border-emblazoned-account-not-settled-with-image-of-assassinated-terror-leader/>,

- **Clashes Resume in Ain Al-Hilweh as Ceasefire Collapses**

Gunfight resumed in the south Lebanon Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh Tuesday after the already fragile ceasefire collapsed.

More details:

<http://english.almanar.com.lb/202101>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Saudi Emergency forces commander inspects tactical training exercise**

Lt. Gen. Khaled bin Qarar Al-Harbi, commander of the Special Emergency Forces, inspected the Mohammed bin Naif Center for Special Operations and Developed Applications. The center is hosting the second tactical joint exercise “Homeland 87,” with the participation of various security sectors of the Interior Ministry. Al-Harbi was briefed on the progress of the training operations and virtual exercises.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1061436/saudi-arabia>

- **Saudi Arabia takes aim at budget deficit with fuel price hike, fiscal reform**

Saudi Arabia’s fiscal reforms are looking more realistic and within the reach of the broad targets and schedule set by the government, thanks to recent recovery in oil prices and gradual reforms gaining traction, according to economists.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/saudi-arabia-takes-aim-budget-deficit-fuel-price-hike-fiscal-reform-944028>

- **Yemen president in Riyadh for talks on reconstruction, military effort**

Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi arrived in Riyadh Monday evening to enhance coordination of efforts to defeat Yemeni rebels and carry out reconstruction in liberated areas. Yemeni Tourism Minister Mohamed A. Qubaty told Arab News on Tuesday that the visit concerns “coordination of our efforts to defeat the rebels completely.”

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1061441/saudi-arabia>

- **Intel nominee questions Guantanamo releases: ‘Are they running Starbucks in Yemen?’**

President Donald Trump’s nominee to serve as the director of national intelligence on Tuesday criticized the release of war on terror prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay detention center and suggested that lawmakers might want to modify a blanket ban on the torture of prisoners.

More Details

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/intel-nominee-questions-guantanamo-releases-are-they-running-starbucks-in-yemen-1.456456#.WLZ1Ffnyhac>

- **Bahraini King receives call from US Secretary of State**

H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain has received a telephone call from Rex W. Tillerson, US Secretary of State. According to the Bahrain News Agency, BNA, the Bahraini King underscored the depth of the close historical ties between Bahrain and the US and his keenness on developing them in all fields in the interest of the two countries and to achieve security and stability in the region.

More Details

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302600317>

- **Bahrain, Qatar to bolster ties**

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa held a meeting with the Qatari Emir, Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at the Emiri Diwan yesterday.

More Details

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=30866&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=1>

- **Medserv unit wins major Oman contract**

Malta-based Medserv's Middle East subsidiary, METS, has been awarded a new long-term contract by Japanese Sumitomo Corporation, for the supply chain management of Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) to Petroleum Development Oman (PDO).

More Details

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_321366.html

- **For luxury property, Dubai best choice in region**

Dubai is the sole Middle East city to make it to the most-coveted list of destinations for luxury property investors in the latest rankings from Knight Frank. Clearly, the market corrections the local property market has experienced since mid-2014 has not led the wealthy to seek options elsewhere.

More Details

<http://gulfnews.com/business/property/for-luxury-property-dubai-best-choice-in-region-1.1986219>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt arrests 9 Muslim Brotherhood leaders accused of plotting to overthrow government**

Egyptian authorities arrested nine leaders of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group on charges that they belong to a terrorist organization and were plotting to overthrow the government, authorities said Tuesday. The detained include Abdel-Rahman el-Morsi, a Brotherhood leader and member of the group's Guidance Office, the Supreme State Security Prosecution said in a statement, adding that the men were now under investigation.

More Details

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2017/02/28/egypt-arrests-9-muslim-brotherhood-leaders-accused-of-plotting-to-overthrow-government.html>

- **Egypt plans to abstain from voting on UN Security Council resolution to introduce new Syria sanctions**

Egypt intends to abstain from voting on a Security Council draft resolution that would ban the supply of helicopters to the Syrian government and impose sanctions on Syrian military and security officials and entities within President Bashar al-Assad's government over accusations that they were involved in the use of chemical weapons on civilians, according to multiple sources in Cairo familiar with the issue.

More Details

<http://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/02/28/feature/politics/egypt-plans-to-abstain-from-voting-on-un-security-council-resolution-to-introduce-new-syria-sanctions/>

- **Partnership allows parties to impose internal taxes without distinction between country of origin: Bayoumi**

Secretary General of the Egyptian European Association at the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation Gamal Bayoumi said that the European side did not express any official objections on the government intending to pass the automotive development law, commonly known as the Automotive Development Strategy Directives, until now.

More Details

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/02/28/partnership-allows-parties-impose-internal-taxes-without-distinction-country-origin-bayoumi/>

- **The economics behind Egypt's political unrest**

Since coming to power through a military coup in July 2013, the ruling regime in Egypt has used an iron fist to rule the country and has maintained its grip on power by killing hundreds of activists, jailing tens of thousands, and curtailing freedoms.

More Details

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2017/2/28/the-economics-behind-egypts-political-unrest>

- **Copts' outflow from Al-Arish is a "terrorist attack:" German ambassador**

German ambassador to Egypt Julius Georg Luy held a press conference in the German embassy in Cairo to talk about the main topics German chancellor Angela Merkel will discuss with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in her scheduled visit to Egypt. The ambassador stated that the Merkel and Al-Sisi will tackle economic, political, and security topics.

More Details

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/02/28/copts-outflow-al-arish-terrorist-attack-german-ambassador/>

- **Egypt parliament to sue high-profile journalist Ibrahim Eissa**

Egypt MPs approved on Tuesday that parliament lodge a complaint against the high-profile journalist Ibrahim Eissa with the country's prosecutor-general. The unprecedented move came after MP and

journalist Mostafa Bakri accused Eissa of directing insults to parliament. "Eissa wrote an article which aimed to tarnish the image of parliament, MPs, and speaker Ali Abdel-Aal himself," said Bakri.

More Details

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/259069/-.aspx>

- **Sadat's nephew expelled from Egyptian parliament**

The nephew of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has been expelled from the Egyptian parliament. Mohamed Anwar Sadat, a nephew of the president who was assassinated after signing the treaty with former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, was expelled in a vote on Monday for allegedly leaking the draft of a controversial NGO law to foreign embassies, reported AFP.

More Details

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/225881>

- **Italy gives partial pardon to former US spy Sabrina de Sousa, making jail unlikely**

Italian President Sergio Mattarella issued a partial pardon to former CIA officer Sabrina de Sousa, who was convicted in absentia in Italy for involvement in the kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric there.

More Details

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/italy-gives-partial-pardon-to-former-us-spy-sabrina-de-sousa-making-jail-unlikely-20170301-guntz5.html>

- **Russian Industry Ministry Delegation to Visit Cairo to Discuss Industrial Zone**

According to the ministry, a delegation of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade is set to arrive in Cairo with a two-day visit on Wednesday to discuss creation of a Russian industrial zone in Egypt.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/business/201703011051141413-russia-egypt-industrial-zone/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algerian Speaker commends close relations with Qatar**

Doha: Speaker of the People's National Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Dr Mohammed Al Arabi Ould Khalifa has praised close ties between his country and Qatar as fraternal and deep-rooted in all areas of interest to the two countries and their brotherly peoples, pointing out

that constant communication between the leaderships of both countries is what made the Algerian-Qatari relations distinguished and it will continue at a greater pace.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/28/02/2017/Algerian-Speaker-commends-close-relations-with-Qatar>

- **Libya praises Algeria's efforts to boost trust among Libyans**

The first vice president of the Presidential Council of Libya's Government of National Accord, Ahmed Omar Maitiq, welcomed Tuesday Algeria's efforts aimed at to "strengthening mutual trust among all Libyan parties."

More Details:

<http://en.aps.dz/algeria/17052-libye-praises-algeria-s-efforts-to-boost-trust-among-libyans>

- **Preparations for Omani Products Expo in Algeria reviewed**

Omani Products Exhibition (OPEX) Organising Committee of Ithraa on Tuesday discussed details related to the upcoming edition of OPEX, due to be hosted by Algeria during October 9 to 13, 2017.

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/103930/Oman/Tourism/Preparations-for-Omani-Products-Expo-in-Algeria-reviewed>

- **Malaysians May Not Need Visa To Morocco - Ambassador**

In future, Malaysians may no longer need a visa to visit Morocco, said its ambassador to Malaysia, Mohammed Reda Benkhaldoun.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=1333632>

- **Morocco became a top export market for Russian wheat**

Russia exported 1931.5 KMT of wheat in January 2017, up 47% from January 2016 (1314 KMT), reports UkrAgroConsult.

More Details:

<http://www.blackseagrains.net/novosti/morocco-became-a-top-export-market-for-russian-wheat>

- **Tunisia beach attack: Our country is safe, says ambassador to UK**

The Tunisian ambassador to the UK, Nabil Ammar, tells the BBC that his country is safe after a terror attack in 2015 that left 38 dead, including 30 Britons.

More Details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39117747>

- **Tunisia lures more Chinese tourists after visa exemption**

Tunisia, a North African country rich in tourism resources, has become an attractive destination after it decided to exempt entry visas for Chinese citizens since mid-February.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/01/c_136092499.htm

- **Qatari Foreign Minister meets Libyan delegation**

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Qatari Foreign Minister, met with a delegation of western region officers and dignitaries on Tuesday from the Libyan city of Misrata, led by Brigadier Salim Juha.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302600319>

- **Kremlin's game: What Moscow is looking to achieve in Libya**

On Feb. 20 Russian state company Rosneft signed an agreement on cooperation with Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC). This happened only a few days after Britain's Secretary of State for Defense Michael Fallon warned Russia against interference in the affairs of Libya. The oil deal in the context of the events of the past year may mean a gradual increase of Russian involvement in Libya.

More Details:

<http://rbth.com/international/2017/02/28/kremlins-game-what-moscow-libya-710741>

- **UK judge says Tunisia police 'shambolic' during beach attack**

A British coroner says the Tunisian police response to a deadly gun attack on the beach resort of Sousse was "at best shambolic, at worst cowardly."

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1061086/world>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **US plan against IS includes Pak-Afghan region**

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary James Mattis has delivered to the White House a new plan for combating the militant Islamic State group (IS), which calls for using both military and non-military means for defeating the extremist organisation.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1317730/us-plan-against-is-includes-pak-afghan-region>

- **Afghan military summoned Pakistani ambassador over artillery shelling**

The Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan was summoned in the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan over persistent artillery shelling in eastern provinces of the country.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/afghan-military-summoned-pakistani-ambassador-over-artillery-shelling-02301>

- **With Discovering 26 Rounds of Mines, Several Explosions Prevented In Helmand**

The Helmand police forces during the last two days discovered and defused 26 mines from crowded roads of Lashkargah and districts of Helmand provinces.

More Details:

<http://bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/27724-with-discovering-26-rounds-of-mines-several-explosions-prevented-in-helmand.html>

- **Taliban key commander detained, 3 killed in N. Afghan province**

A Taliban key commander Qari Bahaudin for the northern Baghlan province of Afghanistan has been arrested and three of his men were killed in Tala-o-Barfak district, police spokesman for the northern region, Mahfozullah Akbari said Wednesday.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/01/c_136093962.htm

- **An economic slap in the face of Pakistan**

The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), on Tuesday came hard over closure of Torkham and Spinboldak crossing points by the Pakistani government, calling on World Trade Organization (WTO) to address the issue as it is against WTO agreement. Pakistan is one of the members of WTO, and violated the agreement words through banning crossings.

More Details:

<http://afghanistantimes.af/an-economic-slap-in-the-face-of-pakistan/>

- **Three new immigration offices to be set up at Pakistan-Iran border**

The Pakistan and Iran joint border commission has decided to set up three more immigration offices at the border between the two countries.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1317740/three-new-immigration-offices-to-be-set-up-at-pakistan-iran-border>

- **Pakistan invites UAE investors to invest in CPEC projects**

Pakistan has invited UAE investors and companies to make use of investment opportunities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the country

More Details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/03/01/pakistan-invites-uae-investors-to-invest-in-cpec-projects/>

- **Pakistani PM calls for regional connectivity at ECO summit**

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday opened a key regional conference that will focus on intra-region connectivity in energy, infrastructure, transport and trade sectors.

More Details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/01/c_136094010.htm

- **Pakistan to repay \$6.5b debt over next 15 months**

Pakistan will return \$6.5 billion external public debt in the next 15 months alone. This repayment will take the total official debt repayments during the five-year tenure of the PML-N government to a whopping \$21 billion

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1342072/pakistan-repay-6-5b-debt-next-15-months/>

- **Three FC men, civilian injured in Quetta IED blast**

At least three Frontier Corps (FC) personnel and one civilian were injured in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast on Quetta's Sariab Road on Wednesday morning, police sources said.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1317745/3-fc-men-civilian-injured-in-quetta-ied-blast>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Erdogan says Syria opposition forces will go to Manbij**

Following the successful operation against the ISIL terror group in Al-Bab, the next target for the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) will be the northern Syrian city of Manbij, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday. “Manbij is not a place for the PYD or YPG ... it belongs to Arabs,” Erdogan told reporters at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul before departing for an economic summit in Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/185557/turkeys-culture-minister-highlights-food-tourism>

- **Turkey, Israel must encourage bilateral trade: Official**

Turkey and Israel must work to facilitate trade between the two countries, Cenap Asci, undersecretary of Turkey's Ministry of Customs and Trade, said Tuesday. Asci said he had recently met with Israeli officials to promote Turkish investment in Israel.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkey-israel-must-encourage-bilateral-trade-official/761223>

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.*