



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

02 JUNE 2017

NO: 2381

1. IRAQ.....	4
• Coalition: Islamic State controlling less than 10 sq kilometers in Mosul	4
• SDF Foil IS Attack, Kill 19 Jihadists	4
• Displaced Iraqis enjoy Ramadan despite hardships	4
• ISIS in big trouble as Iraqi troops liberate more sites on the border with Syria	4
• Iraq's PMF Tests Coalition, Putin Fears Division.....	4
• Typhoon and Tornado jets destroy Islamic State held buildings	5
• Trapped ISIS Militants Target Mosul's Displaced	5
• Post-ISIS 'Iraqi instability' predicted in Pentagon request for \$1.8bn to arm & train fighters	5
• 3,050 Killed in Iraq during May	5
• The Hardest Fight Comes After Mosul Falls	6
• Ex-captive of ISIL sheds tears on return to Iraq	6
• Airstrike destroys IS oil warehouse and 12 tanks in Hawija.....	6
• Senior Quds Force Officer Killed in Mosul Emphasizes IRGC Blacklisting	6
• PM Barzani meets Russia energy minister, Gazprom officials	7
• Turkmen facing violations in Iraq's Kirkuk: Spokesman	7
• NATO Senior Civilian takes up office in Iraq.....	7
• Less Than 1000 Daesh Fighters Remain in Mosul – Coalition	7
• Iraqi oil minister appoints new deputy for upstream operations.....	8
• Mosul Dam risks devastating failure as Iraq government keeps stalling	8
2. SYRIA.....	8
• Haley: SyrianRefugeesWantto Return Home, Not tothe U.S	8
• 200,000 flee Raqa ahead of assault by Syrian forces	8
• As US forces advance on Islamic State capital in Syria, civilians brace for a siege.....	9
• Syrians leave for home for Muslim holy month	9
• Syrian Democratic Forces besiege ISIS-held Baath Dam	9
• Russia targeting Daesh leaving Syria's Raqa.....	9
• Putin hopes de-escalation zones would be step towards political dialogue in Syria.....	10
• Syria's Democratic Coalition: We Won't Allow Iranian-Backed Militias to Enter Syria.....	10
• Bomb, shelling kill 19 in southern Syria: Observatory.....	10
3. IRAN.....	11
• Iran's economy requires reforms as inflation nears double digits.....	11
• Iran beside Afghanistan in fighting terrorism: Larijani.....	11
• Iran Accelerating Efforts to Capture Iraqi-Syrian Border from IS, Says Arab Intel Source	11
• Trial Starts in U.S. Case over Iran Regime Linked New York Office Tower	11
• Russia signs contract with Iran to receive 100,000 barrels of oil per day.....	11
• U.S. hikes 'combat power' in Syria, with eye on Iran-backed militia	12
• Wall on Iraqi, Iranian Border to Be Built After Completion of Wall on Syrian Border	12
• Iran shows willing	12
• Iran, Turkmenistan underline boost of bilateral ties.....	12

• Iran's startups promise paradise for the country's unemployed youth	13
4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....	13
• Jerusalem, so close, still out of reach for many Palestinians	13
• Eight Suspects Arrested, Weapons Seized In Overnight West Bank Raids.....	13
• Hamas: Israel recruiting agents on social media	13
• Settler Hit and Run in Haifa, Outraged Palestinians Shut Down Street	13
• So how did tiny Israel beat much bigger Arab foes in matter of days?	14
• Palestinians Praise Trump's Delay of Embassy Relocation to Jerusalem	14
• Israeli finance minister meets with Palestinian PM in West Bank	14
• Israelis join Palestinians in peaceful Hebron protest	14
• Hamas MPs to donate salaries to cancer, kidney patients	15
• Trump team looks to Obama-era West Bank security plan – report	15
5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....	15
• Jordan protests Israeli extremists' storming of Al Aqsa Mosque	15
• New crisis between Lebanon and GCC.....	15
• Hariri, Jumblat Confirm 'Agreement Reached' on Electoral Law as Berri Says 'All Things Positive'	16
• Hariri arrives at Baabda palace, tripartite meeting underway.....	16
• White smoke after Baabda Palace iftar	16
• RJ kicks off its Ramadan campaign from the Eastern Desert in Jordan	16
• Jordan, atomic agency ink partnership deal	17
• Report: Nasrallah Receives Bassil for Voting System Talks	17
6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....	17
• Mohamed bin Zayed reiterates UAE's firm stand in support of Afghanistan	17
• UAE Leads Battle with Cholera in Yemen.....	18
• Oil Tanker Comes Under Rocket Attack in Bab al-Mandeb.....	18
• UAE, Saudi Campaign to End Qatar's Independence	18
• Russian Investors Could Take Part in Saudi Aramco IPO: RIA Cites Novak	18
• Car Bomb Hits Shia City of Qatif in Saudi Arabia	19
• Israel Silent on Massive US-Saudi Arms Deal	19
• UAE condemns Saudi Blast.....	19
• UAE-Backed Troops Seize Aden Airport from Saudi-Backed Militants: Report	19
7. EGYPT.....	20
• Syrian women in Egypt work to build strength out of hardship	20
• US senators flay Egypt's NGO law as crackdown on rights	20
• Egypt extends Mahmoud Hussein's arrest for seventh time	20
• SBWC, Egypt trade ministry boost collaboration	20
• Abu Shagour: Egypt declared war on Libyan people to support Haftar.....	21
• Egypt ratifies long-awaited law aimed at luring investment.....	21
• Al-Sisi stresses keenness on promoting pluralism	21
• Belarus ready to help Sudan, Egypt extract gold, other mineral resources.....	21
• Libyans launches campaign to stop Egyptian "invasion"	21
• UN human rights chief urges repeal of repressive NGO law in Egypt.....	22
8. NORTH AFRICA.....	22

• Algeria to Take in Syrian Refugees Stranded at Morocco Border	22
• Four wounded in attack on Algerian patrol claimed by Daesh	22
• Protests and general strike grip Morocco's North	22
• “Hell” for Refugees and Migrants in Libya	23
• PC decides to divide the country into seven military zones.....	23
• Libya's U.N.-backed government moves to secure Tripoli's main airport	23
• ‘War against corruption’ in Tunisia	23
• Tunisia’s declaration for direct access to the African Court is an important step for dual African Union and Arab League nations.....	23
• Libyan oil may crush Russian ruble again.....	24
• Moroccan King To Attend ECOWAS Summit In Monrovia	24
9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN	24
• ISIS Suicide Attacks Plan Foiled in Jalalabad city of Afghanistan.....	24
• UK to Send More Troops to Afghanistan.....	25
• Afghanistan Health Sector Shows Strong Progress: World Bank Reports.....	25
• Afghan Taliban Parades Forces after Capturing District in Ghazni.....	25
• Pakistan Rejects Afghanistan's Allegations About Kabul Attack	25
• Iran’s President Expresses Solidarity with Afghanistan over Kabul Bombing	26
• UN Concerned Over Escalating India-Pakistan Tensions.....	26
• India Should not Be Afraid of CPEC	26
• Russia's Ties with India will not Be Diluted, no ‘Tight’ Military Relations with Pak: Putin.....	26
• India Should Summon Pak's Envoy: Defence Expert.....	27
10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....	27
• Putin: Russia, Turkey agree on 'key' issues in Syria.....	27
• Pakistan condoles over Turkish helicopter crash	27

1. IRAQ

- **Coalition: Islamic State controlling less than 10 sq kilometers in Mosul**

Islamic State militants are controlling less than ten square kilometers of land in western Mosul, a spokesperson of the U.S.-led coalition backing the campaign against the group said Thursday.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/coalition-islamic-state-controlling-less-10-sq-kilometers-mosul/>

- **SDF Foil IS Attack, Kill 19 Jihadists**

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Thursday defeated an attack by the Islamic State (IS) militants against al-Hurriyah Dam, west of Raqqa, Kurdistan 24 news channel reported on Friday.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/middle-east/354747>

- **Displaced Iraqis enjoy Ramadan despite hardships**

Hundreds of Thousands of Iraqi civilians have been forced to flee homes amid ongoing battles between the Iraqi army and ISIS terror group. But MPs and human rights activists have repeatedly complained of poor supplies and services provided for them.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11452/Video-Displaced-Iraqis-enjoy-Ramadan-despite-hardships>

- **ISIS in big trouble as Iraqi troops liberate more sites on the border with Syria**

The Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) are taking a heavy toll on the Islamic State after bringing their desert warfare expertise, commanded by Haider Al-Ameri, to deadly effect in western Nineveh.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-big-trouble-iraqi-troops-liberate-sites-border-syria/>

- **Iraq's PMF Tests Coalition, Putin Fears Division**

Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMF) known as al-Hashed al-Shaabi, infiltrated for hours on Thursday night in regions east Syria, a move considered as testing the International Coalition, which provides a cover for Arab and Kurdish fighters in the area.

More Details

<https://english.aawsat.com/paula-michel-jordan/news-middle-east/iraqs-pmf-tests-coalition-putin-fears-division>

- **Typhoon and Tornado jets destroy Islamic State held buildings**

Royal Air Force aircraft have continued to provide close air support to the Syrian Democratic Forces, and to Iraqi troops fighting to liberate the remaining areas of west Mosul held by Islamic State.

More Details

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/typhoon-tornado-jets-destroy-islamic-state-held-buildings/>

- **Trapped ISIS Militants Target Mosul's Displaced**

While Iraqi forces advanced on Thursday on the Grand al-Nuri Mosque in central Mosul where ISIS militants are fortified in one third of the western city's remaining pockets, the terrorist organization shelled mortars at hundreds of displaced people escaping the Zanjili district, killing seven civilians and injuring at least 23 others

More Details

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/trapped-isis-militants-target-mosuls-displaced>

- **Post-ISIS 'Iraqi instability' predicted in Pentagon request for \$1.8bn to arm & train fighters**

The Pentagon foresees a role for itself in Iraq and possibly eastern Syria post-Islamic State, telling Congress that stability will require arming and training fighters to the tune of \$1.8 billion over three years, at least.

More Details

<https://www.rt.com/usa/390545-pentagon-budget-post-isis-iraqi-training/>

- **3,050 Killed in Iraq during May**

At least 3,050 people were killed in violent acts during May. Another 922 were wounded. The number of fatalities dropped by almost a thousand since last month, but the number of wounded in reports increased. In April, 4,033 were killed, and 629 were wounded.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/01/3050-killed-in-iraq-during-may/>

- **The Hardest Fight Comes After Mosul Falls**

After eight months of grinding conflict, Iraqi commanders are now confident that the battle to retake Mosul from ISIS is in its final phase. Pushing across the Tigris River, Iraqi Security Forces have liberated nearly all of western Mosul and, although defeating ISIS' last stand in the densely packed urban environment of the Old City will be difficult, Iraq's generals predict victory as early as June 10. As Lieutenant General Qasim Nazzal told Iraqi state television on Sunday that ISIS "is drawing its last dying breath."

More Details

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/middle-east/hardest-fight-comes-after-mosul-falls-1089>

- **Ex-captive of ISIL sheds tears on return to Iraq**

An emotional homecoming for Nadia Murad, a Yazidi survivor captured by ISIL and sold as a slave in northern Iraq.

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/captive-isil-sheds-tears-return-iraq-170602013818265.html>

- **Airstrike destroys IS oil warehouse and 12 tanks in Hawija**

A security source in Kirkuk Province revealed, on Thursday, that coalition air strike destroyed an oil warehouse and 12 tanks belonging to the Islamic State group in Hawija Province, west of the province, Alsumaria News reported.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/airstrike-destroys-oil-warehouse-12-tanks-hawija/>

- **Senior Quds Force Officer Killed in Mosul Emphasizes IRGC Blacklisting**

The death of Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) Brigadier General Shaban Nasiri, advisor to IRGC Quds Force commander Qassem Suleimani in Mosul, once again highlights the Iranian regime's destructive role and warmongering in Iraq.

More Details

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/ncr-statements/terrorism-fundamentalism/22924-senior-quds-force-officer-killed-in-mosul-emphasizes-irgc-blacklisting>

- **PM Barzani meets Russia energy minister, Gazprom officials**

The Kurdish delegation visiting Russia met with Russia's energy minister and officials of the oil and gas company Gazprom. Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani, Oil and Natural Resources Minister Ashti Hawrami, and Safeen Dizayee, spokesperson of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), met with Alexander Novak, Russia's energy minister, on Thursday.

More Details

www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/010620175

- **Turkmen facing violations in Iraq's Kirkuk: Spokesman**

The rights of Kirkuk's Turkmen residents are being violated by the governing Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party, according to Ali Mehdi, a spokesman for the Iraqi Turkmen Front.

More Details

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkmen-facing-violations-in-iraq-s-kirkuk-spokesman/832785>

- **NATO Senior Civilian takes up office in Iraq**

NATO marked an important step in its deepening relations with Baghdad on Thursday (1 June 2017), as Mr. Paul Smith of the United Kingdom assumed office as NATO Senior Civilian in Iraq. Mr. Smith will represent the NATO Secretary General and the Alliance at large, as NATO continues to help strengthen the Iraqi security institutions in their fight against terrorism. Mr. Smith succeeds Mr. Richard Froh of Canada, who served in the same capacity over the past months.

More Details

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_144643.htm?selectedLocale=en

- **Less Than 1000 Daesh Fighters Remain in Mosul – Coalition**

The number of fighters belonging to Daesh (banned in Russia) that are present in the Iraqi city of Mosul has decreased to less than a thousand, Operation Inherent Resolve spokesperson Col. Ryan Dillon said in a briefing on Thursday.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706011054214402-us-coalition-mosul-iraq/>

- **Iraqi oil minister appoints new deputy for upstream operations**

Iraq's Oil Minister Jabar Ali al-Luaibi appointed a new deputy for upstream operations on Thursday as part of an overhaul meant to bolster the OPEC member's ability to boost crude output capacity, a ministry spokesman said.

More Details

<http://www.reuters.com/article/iraq-oil-idUSL8N1IY2VK?rpc=401&>

- **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

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/1bffb13b-5c56-4a82-bda5-4b1b8258c254

2. SYRIA

- **Haley: SyrianRefugeesWantto Return Home, Not tothe U.S**

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said in a newly aired interview that none of the Syrian refugees she visited in Jordan and Turkey want to move to the United States. Haley recently returned from a trip to Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey and discussed her experience with Fox News host Eric Shawn.

MoreDetails:

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/haley-syrian-refugees-want-return-home-not-u-s/>

- **200,000 flee Raqa ahead of assault by Syrian forces**

Around 200,000 people have fled the Islamic State stronghold of Raqa, a US military official said, as US-backed Syrian forces prepare for an assault on the city. US Colonel Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the coalition, said the refugees were moving into camps and built-up settlements nearby.

MoreDetails:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170601-200000-flee-raqa-ahead-assault-syrian-forces>

- **As US forces advance on Islamic State capital in Syria, civilians brace for a siege**

American-backed Syrian forces advanced from the southwest of Raqqa city this week in an effort to fully encircle the capital of the Islamic State caliphate in Syria, while civilians inside brace themselves for a siege and take cover from coalition airstrikes. Raqqa city is currently encircled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to the west, north and east. To the south, across the Euphrates River, lies IS territory—a swathe of desert peppered with small villages and towns.

More Details:

<http://ar.syriadirect.org/news/as-us-forces-advance-on-is-capital-in-syria-civilians-brace-for-a-siege/>

- **Syrians leave for home for Muslim holy month**

After sheltering in Turkey from the ongoing war, some Syrian refugees are willing to go back despite the security risks to observe the holy month of Ramadan with the loved ones they left behind. The Cilvegözü border crossing in Turkey's Hatay province, a main crossing into Syria, which shares a lengthy border with Turkey, opened to crossings into the war-torn country yesterday. About 1,000 people returned to the country to spend a month and to observe Ramazan Bayramı, also known as Eid al-Fitr, the festival at the end of the sacred month. The local governorate has allowed crossings for Syrians until June 23, and returnees will be allowed back in starting July 3.

MoreDetails:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2017/06/02/syrians-leave-for-home-for-muslim-holy-month>

- **Syrian Democratic Forces besiege ISIS-held Baath Dam**

The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have completely besieged the Baath Dam in Raqqa province, which constitutes one of the key strongholds for Islamic State's (ISIS) militants, officials said on Thursday. The operation was launched to strengthen the defensive lines of Tabqa city, which was recently liberated by the Kurdish-led SDF troops.

MoreDetails:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/syrian-democratic-forces-besiege-isis-held-baath-dam/>

- **Russia targeting Daesh leaving Syria's Raqa**

Russian warplanes have launched a series of strikes against Daesh group fleeing their Syrian stronghold Raqa, Moscow said on Thursday, as US-backed forces edge closer to the city. The defence ministry in Moscow said Russian aviation bombed Daesh convoys leaving their de-facto capital to the south in the direction of the ancient city of Palmyra on May 25 and overnight from May 29 to May 30.

MoreDetails:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/1f11a9be-34b9-4be7-8096-37754074c1f9.aspx>

- **Putin hopes de-escalation zones would be step towards political dialogue in Syria**

Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed that the de-escalation zones in Syria should be a step towards a future political dialogue to preserve Syria's territorial integrity. Putin's remarks came during a meeting with heads of international news agencies on the sidelines of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

MoreDetails:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=107370>

- **Syria's Democratic Coalition: We Won't Allow Iranian-Backed Militias to Enter Syria**

He stressed that, The Iranian presence is not acceptable for these forces under any circumstances. They won't allow a bridge between Iraqi militia affiliated with Iran and the Syrian regime. There have been recent reports, that tensions between Syrian democratic coalition forces and Iraq's Shiite militias affiliated with Iran is escalating. Reports also indicated that the transmission and entering of Iraqi militants to Syria had started and as a result on May 18, American aircraft bombed a military convoy flying Syrian flags.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/terrorism-fundamentalism/22925-syria-s-democratic-coalition-we-won-t-allow-iranian-backed-militias-to-enter-syria>

- **Bomb, shelling kill 19 in southern Syria: Observatory**

A roadside bomb and government shelling killed at least 19 people, most of them rebel fighters, in southern Syria's Deraa province Thursday, an activist group said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said an explosive device placed on a road by government forces detonated as a convoy of rebel fighters passed by.

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2017/Jun-02/408100-bomb-shelling-kill-19-in-southern-syria-observatory.ashx>

3. IRAN

- **Iran's economy requires reforms as inflation nears double digits**

Although Iran's raging inflation rate followed a steady decline over the past year, some officials and economic experts suggest that the figure is very likely to hit double digits in the coming months.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2761931.html>

- **Iran beside Afghanistan in fighting terrorism: Larijani**

The Speaker of Iran's Parliament Ali Larijani issued two letters to the Afghan counterparts denouncing the Wednesday terrorist attack in Kabul.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125701/Iran-beside-Afghanistan-in-fighting-terrorism-Larijani>

- **Iran Accelerating Efforts to Capture Iraqi-Syrian Border from IS, Says Arab Intel Source**

The Syrian army is accelerating its efforts to regain control of the border area between Syria and Iraq with the help of Iranian forces and elite Hezbollah units, an Arab intelligence source has told Breitbart Jerusalem.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/06/01/exclusive-iran-accelerating-efforts-capture-iraqi-syrian-border-says-arab-intel-source/>

- **Trial Starts in U.S. Case over Iran Regime Linked New York Office Tower**

Two federal courts at New York and Washington are investigating about complaints by victims of terrorism and US administration against the Iranian regime.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/terrorism-fundamentalism/22926-trial-starts-in-u-s-case-over-iran-regime-linked-new-york-office-tower>

- **Russia signs contract with Iran to receive 100,000 barrels of oil per day**

Russia has made a contract with Iran to receive 100,000 barrels of oil per day, Energy Minister Alexander Novak told reporters.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/economy/949234>

- **U.S. hikes 'combat power' in Syria, with eye on Iran-backed militia**

The U.S. military said on Thursday it had bolstered its "combat power" in southern Syria, warning that it viewed Iran-backed fighters in the area as a threat to nearby coalition troops fighting Islamic State.

More Details:

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-usa-syria-idUSKBN18S6A9?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&rpc=401

- **Wall on Iraqi, Iranian Border to Be Built After Completion of Wall on Syrian Border**

President Erdoğan speaking at the 38th Village Head's Meeting said that after the wall on the Syrian border was completed, "We will do the same on the Iraqi border and we will carry this out also on proper spots of the Iranian border" and added "They will not be able to enter".

More Details:

<http://bianet.org/english/politics/187054-wall-on-iraqi-iranian-border-to-be-built-after-completion-of-wall-on-syrian-border>

- **Iran shows willing**

Talking and working with Americans is no longer taboo in Iran, as Iranians set out on a path to improve their economy, understanding that in order to do so they must not mess up on the Iran nuclear deal with the West.

More Details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/20623.aspx>

- **Iran, Turkmenistan underline boost of bilateral ties**

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour and Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov stressed improvement of all out ties between Tehran and Ashgabat.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/193943.html>

- **Iran's startups promise paradise for the country's unemployed youth**

Iran's self-proclaimed Silicon Valley stands on the road to mount Damavand, the tallest mountain in the country. Set up in 2005, its name is ambitious: Pardis, a "paradise" for technology.

More Details:

<https://scroll.in/article/839182/irans-startups-promise-paradise-for-the-countrys-unemployed-youth>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Jerusalem, so close, still out of reach for many Palestinians**

He lives only a 20-minute drive from Jerusalem but for Palestinian Abu Bashir the city and its sacred sites might as well be a world away.

More details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170602-jerusalem-so-close-still-out-reach-many-palestinians>

- **Eight Suspects Arrested, Weapons Seized In Overnight West Bank Raids**

Eight suspects were arrested in the West Bank overnight on Thursday in a joint operation carried out by IDF, Border Police and Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) forces.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Eight-suspects-arrested-weapons-seized-in-overnight-West-Bank-raids-494604>

- **Hamas: Israel recruiting agents on social media**

Iyad al-Bazam, a spokesman for the interior ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, claimed on Thursday that Israeli "agents" had recently turned themselves into security officials who had handled the matter secretly.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230454>

- **Settler Hit and Run in Haifa, Outraged Palestinians Shut Down Street**

Dozens of Palestinians protested last night, on Ibn Jibriol street in the Wadi Saleeb area of Haifa, Israel (pre-1948 territories), following the death of a young Palestinian girl identified as Nada Ibadh, aged 16, after an Israeli settler ran her over with his car.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/settler-hit-and-run-in-haifa-outraged-palestinians-shut-down-street/>

- **So how did tiny Israel beat much bigger Arab foes in matter of days?**

The Israelis spied on Arabs, and the Arabs spied on Arabs. That “asymmetry of knowledge,” says historian Guy Laron, was a big reason tiny Israel defeated Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq so quickly and dramatically in the 1967 Six-Day War, which happened 50 years ago this week and left behind a region on war alert ever since.

More details:

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2017/06/01/how-did-tiny-israel-beat-much-bigger-arab-foes-matter-days/AL12Pi1yr2EBgw6G1zFUAO/story.html>

- **Palestinians Praise Trump’s Delay of Embassy Relocation to Jerusalem**

Officials in the office of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas expressed satisfaction with U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to postpone moving the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

More details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/1.793268>

- **Israeli finance minister meets with Palestinian PM in West Bank**

Israel’s finance minister has met the Palestinian prime minister, Israeli officials said on Thursday, in a rare visit by an Israeli Cabinet member to the occupied West Bank as part of a US peace push.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1108546/middle-east>

- **Israelis join Palestinians in peaceful Hebron protest**

Long before the 1987 Palestinian intifada, the Arabic term "sumud," meaning steadfastness, best reflected the form of resistance undertaken by Palestinians in the occupied territories. The act of sumud was neither violent nor militant. It reflected the hugely important act of staying put on one's land and refusing to budge no matter what.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/palestine-sumud-camp-israel-violations.html#ixzz4ipDarCES>

- **Hamas MPs to donate salaries to cancer, kidney patients**

Hamas-affiliated MPs in the Palestinian Legislative Council will donate their May salaries to help fellow Palestinians suffering from cancer and kidney disease.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/hamas-mps-to-donate-salaries-to-cancer-kidney-patients/832831>

- **Trump team looks to Obama-era West Bank security plan – report**

Greenblatt said to have met with architects of 2014 Allen Plan, opposed by Netanyahu and Ya'alon, which was to address Israeli defense concerns over a Palestinian state

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-team-looks-to-obama-era-west-bank-security-plan-report/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan protests Israeli extremists' storming of Al Aqsa Mosque**

The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs has handed the Israeli Embassy in Amman a memo to protest allowing Jewish extremists into the Al Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al Sharif under the protection of the Israeli police. According to the Petra News Agency, the Jordanian government asked the Israeli government in the memo to immediately put an end to such acts of aggression and provocation and respect the Jordanian role in caring for Islamic Holy sites in Jerusalem Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel recognises Jordan's role as custodian of Muslim and Christian shrines in the city, which was occupied by Israel during the 1967 war.

MoreDetails:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302617062>

- **New crisis between Lebanon and GCC**

Nothing seems to make us optimistic in Lebanon; we climb out of a hole only to stumble into another. There are signs of a new diplomatic crisis looming on the horizon. After the return of the Lebanese delegation from the recent Riyadh Summit, Lebanese President Michel Aoun, through his Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, tried to renounce the Riyadh Declaration, which set the highest ceiling of confrontation with Iran and termed Hezbollah a terror group.

MoreDetails:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1108686>

- **Hariri, Jumblat Confirm 'Agreement Reached' on Electoral Law as Berri Says 'All Things Positive'**

The political parties have agreed on an electoral law based on full proportional representation and 15 electoral districts and the details “will be finalized before the expiry of parliament's term,” Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced Thursday after a meeting with President Michel Aoun and Speaker Nabih Berri in Baabda. “We have agreed on the framework of the electoral law and a committee will address the details and the final touches,” Hariri added after the talks, which were held on the sidelines of the annual Ramadan iftar banquet at the Baabda Palace.

MoreDetails:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/230820-hariri-jumblat-confirm-agreement-reached-on-electoral-law-as-berri-says-all-things-positive>

- **Hariri arrives at Baabda palace, tripartite meeting underway**

Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, arrived a while ago at the Baabda palace, where he joined in a closed door meeting with President Michel Aoun and Speaker Berri at the President's office, NNA reporter said.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79892/Hariri-arrives-at-Baabda-palace-tripartite-meeting-underway>

- **White smoke after Baabda Palace iftar**

Leaders agreed Thursday on the essential elements of a new electoral law, including the adoption of a proportional voting system, prompting President Michel Aoun to sign a decree allowing Parliament to convene for an extraordinary session to vote on the law later this month.

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Jun-02/408099-white-smoke-after-baabda-palace-iftar.ashx>

- **RJ kicks off its Ramadan campaign from the Eastern Desert in Jordan**

Royal Jordanian started its annual Ramadan campaign by delivering food parcels to a large number of less privileged citizens in the eastern desert, inMafrq governorate.The Ramadan campaign, conducted yearly by Royal Jordanian in cooperation with social development directorates, isa manifestation of the airline’s corporate social responsibility and its interaction with the local community.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=35226#.WTEFzdSLTGg>

- **Jordan, atomic agency ink partnership deal**

Jordan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday signed a partnership deal for 2018-2022, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The document was signed by Jordan Atomic Energy (JAE) Commission Chairman Khaled Toukan and IAEA's Deputy Director General Dazhu Yang on the sidelines of the International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond – Contributing to Development, which was held in Vienna with the participation of 1200 specialists. The partnership deal represents the framework of a national programme prepared in coordination with all concerned institutions.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-atomic-agency-ink-partnership-deal>

- **Report: Nasrallah Receives Bassil for Voting System Talks**

Hizbullah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah received Foreign Minister and Free Patriotic Movement chief Jebran Bassil, where talks focused on the parliamentary electoral law, al-Akhbar daily reported on Friday. The meeting took place a “few days ago” and it looked into “an integrated proposal as for a voting system format that was submitted by Bassil with a post-election roadmap,” said the daily.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/230833-report-nasrallah-receives-bassil-for-voting-system-talks>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Mohamed bin Zayed reiterates UAE's firm stand in support of Afghanistan**

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces made a telephone call this evening to President Mohammed Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302617207>

- **UAE Leads Battle with Cholera in Yemen**

Emirates Red Crescent has joined the battle against the deadly cholera outbreak sweeping Yemen. The charity, in coordination with the World Health Organisation, has provided Dh33 million to vaccinate as many patients as possible, with 2,000 new cases reported each day. "We need to organise the cholera vaccination campaign to limit the spread," said Dr Malik Rahman of the WHO.

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/uae/health/uae-leads-battle-with-cholera-in-yemen>

- **Oil Tanker Comes Under Rocket Attack in Bab al-Mandeb**

An oil tanker came under rocket attack while passing through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait off the coast of Yemen, a Saudi-led military coalition announced Thursday. On Wednesday, the tanker -- sailing under the flag of the Marshall Islands -- was targeted by rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) fired from an unidentified vessel, according to a coalition statement published by the official Saudi Press Agency.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/oil-tanker-comes-under-rocket-attack-in-bab-al-mandeb/832616>

- **UAE, Saudi Campaign to End Qatar's Independence**

As soon as the Arab show of unity with US President Donald Trump in Saudi Arabia had ended, a row broke out between US oil-producing allies that Trump had met and praised during his visit to the kingdom.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170601-uae-saudi-campaign-to-end-qatars-independence/>

- **Russian Investors Could Take Part in Saudi Aramco IPO: RIA Cites Novak**

Russian investors could look into the possibility of taking part in the privatization of Saudi Arabia's oil giant Saudi Aramco, once conditions for the sale are announced, RIA news agency quoted Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak as saying on Friday. The Saudi government plans to list up to 5 percent of Aramco on the Saudi stock exchange in Riyadh, the Tadawul, and on one or more international markets in the second quarter of 2018.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-saudi-aramco-privatisation-idUSKBN18T0IU?rpc=401&>

- **Car Bomb Hits Shia City of Qatif in Saudi Arabia**

A car bomb has exploded in the predominantly Shia city of Qatif in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, with initial reports of casualties. The blast took place on Thursday, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television reported, without giving any details on casualties.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/car-bomb-hits-shia-city-of-qatif-in-saudi-arabia_833603.html

- **Israel Silent on Massive US-Saudi Arms Deal**

On May 20, US President Donald Trump signed a deal unprecedented in scope to sell Saudi Arabia \$110 billion worth of arms and military equipment and an additional \$350 billion over the coming decade. The mammoth agreement, inked by Trump with the Saudis, did not cast a pall over the royal reception accorded to the presidential family in Israel.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/israel-us-saudi-arabia-south-sudan-burma-arms-deal-trump.html>

- **UAE condemns Saudi Blast**

The UAE has condemned a terrorist bombing that occurred in Qatif City on Thursday targetting the security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation denounced the bombing as a terrorist and criminal act that sought to undermine the safety of Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/6c390ecd-fba2-41f7-9ef3-930174e3ae6c.aspx>

- **UAE-Backed Troops Seize Aden Airport from Saudi-Backed Militants: Report**

Militants backed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), two allies engaged in a deadly war on Yemen, have engaged in infighting in the port city of Aden, with Abu Dhabi-backed militia seizing an airport there.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/06/02/523941/UAE-Yemen-Saudi-Arabia-Aden>

7. EGYPT

- **Syrian women in Egypt work to build strength out of hardship**

Armed confrontations in Syria, now entering their sixth year, have surely shaped the personality of the Syrian people. The war has taken its toll on all Syrians, especially on women, and this may be seen clearly by taking a closer look at the lives of some Syrian women who sought refuge in Egypt.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/egypt-syrian-women-association-getting-stronger-struggle-war.html>

- **US senators flay Egypt's NGO law as crackdown on rights**

Three US Republican senators on Wednesday criticized a law enacted by Egypt to regulate the work of non-governmental organizations as a sign of a "draconian" crackdown on human rights.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1108601/world>

- **Egypt extends Mahmoud Hussein's arrest for seventh time**

Egypt has extended the detention of Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein for a seventh time, pending further investigation.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/egypt-extends-mahmoud-hussein-arrest-seventh-time-170601203044617.html>

- **SBWC, Egypt trade ministry boost collaboration**

Sharjah: Sharjah Business Women Council (SBWC), an affiliate of NAMA Women Advancement Establishment, has received graduates from 'Ana Raeda,' an initiative by Egypt's Ministry of Trade and Industry's SMEs Development Section. The meeting aligned with SBWC's commitment to break down barriers and open up communication with entities relevant to empowering women professionally and economically.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/4b19bebc-202a-4e29-9772-8f29e03700ff.aspx>

- **Abu Shagour: Egypt declared war on Libyan people to support Haftar**

The member of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) and the former Deputy Prime Minister, Mustafa Abu Shagour, said Egyptian airstrikes on Libya are a violation of sovereignty, adding that it is a crime against civilians.

More Details

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/abu-shagour-egypt-declared-war-libyan-people-support-haftar>

- **Egypt ratifies long-awaited law aimed at luring investment**

Egypt issued on Thursday a long-delayed investment law aimed at easing doing business and creating incentives to lure back investors after years of turmoil.

More Details:

http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFL8N1IY5N1?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Al-Sisi stresses keenness on promoting pluralism**

Egypt's President AbdelFatah Al-Sisi has affirmed eagerness to promote pluralism and the concept of citizenship as well as accept others' views.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2614734&Language=en>

- **Belarus ready to help Sudan, Egypt extract gold, other mineral resources**

Belarus is ready to help Sudan and Egypt with extracting gold and other mineral resources, BelTA learned from Belarusian Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Minister Andrei Kovkhuto.

More Details:

<http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-ready-to-help-sudan-egypt-extract-gold-other-mineral-resources-101938-2017/>

- **Libyans launches campaign to stop Egyptian “invasion”**

Libyan officials and activists from the House of Representatives, the High Council of State, former ministers, party leaders, professionals, journalists and representatives of civil society have issued a statement condemning in the strongest possible terms the blatant Egyptian intervention and barbaric attacks on Libyan territory.

More Details

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/libyans-launches-campaign-to-stop-egyptian-invasion/>

- **UN human rights chief urges repeal of repressive NGO law in Egypt**

The United Nations human rights chief today urged Egyptian officials to repeal a new law on non-governmental organizations, saying that it “further tightens the noose” around NGOs trying to hold the Government to account for human rights obligations.

More Details

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56878#.WTEQFPDyjiU>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria to Take in Syrian Refugees Stranded at Morocco Border**

Algeria has agreed to take in the Syrian refugees trapped since mid-April in a desert area that borders neighboring Morocco, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

More details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/algeria-take-syrian-refugees-stranded-morocco-border>

- **Four wounded in attack on Algerian patrol claimed by Daesh**

Gunmen attacked an Algerian military patrol in an area south of the capital, slightly wounding four gendarmes, the Ministry of Defense said, in an attack later claimed by Daesh.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1108436/middle-east>

- **Protests and general strike grip Morocco's North**

A general strike Thursday gripped the northern Morocco city of Al-Hoceima, rocked by a week of nightly protests demanding the release of the leader of a popular movement.

More details:

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/protests-and-general-strike-grip-morocco-s-north/article/494087#ixzz4ipGIQPG4>

- **“Hell” for Refugees and Migrants in Libya**

Refugees International (RI) released a new report today detailing the abuses faced by refugees and migrants in Libya, as they flee violence, persecution, or lack of opportunity in their home countries and seek a better and more secure life in Europe.

More details:

<http://www.asiantribune.com/node/90524>

- **PC decides to divide the country into seven military zones**

The Presidency Council (PC) has announced the formation of seven military zones across Libya, dividing them up into Tripoli, Benghazi, Tobruk, Sebha, Kufra and the Central and Western regions.

More details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/06/01/pc-decides-to-divide-the-country-into-seven-military-zones/>

- **Libya's U.N.-backed government moves to secure Tripoli's main airport**

A force operating under Libya's U.N.-brokered government said on Thursday it was securing Tripoli's main airport, which has been closed since it was badly damaged in fighting in 2014 and which was controlled by a rival faction until last week.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-tripoli-security-airport-idUSKBN18S6B1?rpc=401&>

- **‘War against corruption’ in Tunisia**

Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed has declared a full-scale “war against corruption,” which had become widespread under the regime of ousted former president Zein Al-Abedine Ben Ali. Tunisia “has no choice. It’s either corruption or the state. Either corruption or Tunisia,” Chahed said in a speech last week.

More details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/20620.aspx>

- **Tunisia’s declaration for direct access to the African Court is an important step for dual African Union and Arab League nations**

In April this year, Tunisia signed a declaration to the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights which granted individuals and non-governmental organisations the right to access the Court directly

with human rights complaints. The move came after a delegation from the African Court travelled to both Tunisia and Egypt in order to promote broader support for its work by allowing direct access. Days later, Tunisia's Minister for Foreign Affairs signed the declaration on behalf of the Tunisian Government, and President Beji Caïd Essebsi praised the work of the African Court and encouraged participation by Tunisia's neighbouring African states.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170601-tunisia-declaration-for-direct-access-to-the-african-court-is-an-important-step-for-dual-african-union-and-arab-league-nations/>

- **Libyan oil may crush Russian ruble again**

According to analyst of eToro investor social network in Russia and the CIS, Mikhail Mashchenko, if today's report on crude oil reserves in the US turns out to be significantly worse than expected, Russia may see a decline in the rate of the national currency. In addition, US shale oil companies continue setting new production records and installing new rigs. The general picture on the world commodity market raises doubts about OPEC and Russia's plans to reduce raw materials reserves to an average level in five years.

More details:

http://www.pravdareport.com/business/companies/01-06-2017/137888-libya_oil_russia-0/

- **Moroccan King To Attend ECOWAS Summit In Monrovia**

King Mohammed VI of Morocco will attend the 51st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to be held in Monrovia, Liberia on Saturday and Sunday when Morocco's request to join the sub-regional grouping as a full member will be considered.

More details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1361319>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **ISIS Suicide Attacks Plan Foiled in Jalalabad city of Afghanistan**

The Afghan security forces have foiled a plan by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group to carry out a series of suicide attacks in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province. Provincial governor's spokesman Ataullah Khogyani said the group had plans to carry out suicide attacks on key governmental, security, and political establishments in this province.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/isis-suicide-attacks-plan-foiled-in-jalalabad-city-of-afghanistan-02846>

- **UK to Send More Troops to Afghanistan**

The UK will send be sending additional of troops to Afghanistan to help fight the Taliban, the Defence secretary has said. During a visit to Plymouth, Sir Michael Fallon said details of a "small uplift" in numbers are currently being finalised.

More Details:

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/uk-to-send-more-troops-to-afghanistan/story-30366787-detail/story.html>

- **Afghanistan Health Sector Shows Strong Progress: World Bank Reports**

The World Bank today announced the results of a review of progress achieved in the health sector in Afghanistan from 2002-2017. Conducted by World Bank experts and an independent group from the University of Toronto, the review found that many key health indicators had improved more rapidly in Afghanistan than in most other countries that had started at a similar level of development.

More Details:

<http://wadsam.com/afghan-business-news/afghanistan-health-sector-shows-strong-progress-world-bank-reports-232/>

- **Afghan Taliban Parades Forces after Capturing District in Ghazni**

The Afghan Taliban paraded its forces in broad daylight without fear of retribution after overrunning the district center of Waghaz in the southeastern Afghanistan province of Ghazni last month. The Taliban detailed its exploits in Ghazni in a video, entitled "Conquest of Waghaz," that was released today on its official propaganda website, Voice of Jihad.

More Details:

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/06/afghan-taliban-parades-forces-after-capturing-district-in-ghazni.php>

- **Pakistan Rejects Afghanistan's Allegations About Kabul Attack**

Pakistan on Thursday rejected allegations that Pakistani security agency was involved in the recent deadliest attack in Kabul that killed nearly 80 people and injured 350 others. The Afghan intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security(NDS), in a statement alleged that the blast was carried out by the Haqqani Network with the "direct help of the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI."

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706021054225590-pakistan-rejects-afghanistan-kabul-attack/>

- **Iran's President Expresses Solidarity with Afghanistan over Kabul Bombing**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has expressed Iran's solidarity with Afghanistan in the ongoing campaign against terrorism and extremism following a recent deadly attack in Kabul. "In this great tragedy, the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand beside the brotherly Afghan government and nation and keep up... its decisive battle to completely eradicate terror and extremism," Rouhani wrote in a Thursday message to his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/193979.html?catid=3&title=Iran-s-president-expresses-solidarity-with-Afghanistan-over-Kabul-bombing>

- **UN Concerned Over Escalating India-Pakistan Tensions**

The United Nations has expressed concern over escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following unprovoked Indian firing across the Line of Control which claimed at least two civilians on Thursday.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1425383/un-concerned-escalating-india-pakistan-tensions/>

- **India Should not Be Afraid of CPEC**

Indian industrialists should not be afraid of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and if they want to be a part of it they may formally send a request to our government, Regional Chairman of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Standing Committee Ahmad Jawad said on Thursday.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1336772/india-should-not-be-afraid-of-cpec>

- **Russia's Ties with India will not Be Diluted, no 'Tight' Military Relations with Pak: Putin**

President Vladimir Putin asserted that Russia's "trust-based" relations with India -- which he described as one of its "closest friends" -- will not be diluted by Moscow's growing ties with Pakistan and other countries.

More Details:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-russia-s-ties-with-india-will-not-be-diluted-no-tight-military-relations-with-pak-putin-2459072>

- **India Should Summon Pak's Envoy: Defence Expert**

Defence expert on Friday poked fun at Pakistan summoning Indian Deputy High commissioner and said that it is Islamabad which resorts to unprovoked ceasefire violation and that New Delhi should summon the Asian neighbor's envoy. Defence expert P.K.Sehgal said, "We should have summoned the Pakistan high commissioner, because Pakistan resorts to unprovoked firing. We only retaliate."

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-Mg/MzE3NTY5/india-should-summon-pak-039-s-envoy-defence-expert.html>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Putin: Russia, Turkey agree on 'key' issues in Syria**

Moscow and Ankara agree on many key issues regarding Syria, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday. "As far as Syria is concerned, there are many issues on which we agree with Turkey," Putin told the executives of the world's leading news agencies at a meeting at the Constantine Palace on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/europe/putin-russia-turkey-agree-on-key-issues-in-syria/832584>

- **Pakistan condoles over Turkish helicopter crash**

Pakistan has extended condolence over martyrdom of Turkish military personnel in Wednesday's helicopter crash. "The tragic news of the military helicopter crash in Sirnak Province of Turkey resulting in the martyrdom of 13 military personnel onboard, has been received with deep sense of sorrow and grief in Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesman Nafeez Zakaria said in a statement Thursday.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190306/pakistan-condoles-over-turkish-helicopter-crash>

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.*