



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

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Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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02 MAY 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **352 Civilians Killed In the Strikes of the Int'l Coalition on Daesh's Sites in Iraq and Syria**

352 civilians have been killed in US-led air strikes against the terrorist organization (Daesh) in Iraq and Syria since the coalition's operations began in 2014. "It continues to evaluate 42 reports of civilian deaths," the Joint Task Force said in its monthly assessment of civilian deaths of the US-led coalition operations against Daesh.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?WLeDgaub07M0PN6bJ7ek3rcGCZcas%252bWn0Qr%252ffSbrkLw%253d

- **PMUs evacuate 3,500 families from western Hatra regions**

Pro-Iraqi government troops of al-Hashd al-Shaabi have evacuated more than 3,500 civilians on Thursday from west of Hatra regions, south of Mosul city. "The forces evacuated more than 3,500 persons along with 550 vehicles and more than 20,000 head of cattle from regions in the west of Hatra," the media service of the Public Mobilization Units said.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/pmus-evacuate-3500-families-western-hatra-regions/>

- **Mosul quietly fills with Iran-backed Shiite militias using battle for revenge on Sunnis**

The road to Mosul is littered with the detritus from almost three years of war: burned M1117 armored vehicles, sandbagged berms and trenches from defensive positions once manned against Islamic State fighters, houses pancaked by airstrikes.

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/13bcc56-f43b-42ba-b8a2-ba729ddbf50e/Mosul-quietly-fills-with-Iran-backed-Shiite-militias-using-battle-for-revenge-on-Sunnis

- **April UN Casualties Figures for Iraq**

A total of 317 Iraqi civilians were killed and another 403 injured in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in Iraq in April 2017*, according to casualty figures recorded by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The number of civilians killed in April (not including police) was 309, while the number of injured (not including police) was 387.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40314

- **US Coalition admits killing at least 352 civilians in Syria, Iraq this month**

At least 352 civilians were killed in airstrikes delivered by the US-led coalition in Syria and Iraq, the coalition said in its monthly civilian casualties report released on Sunday. "To date, based on information available, CJTF-OIR assesses that, it is more likely than not, at least 352 civilians have been unintentionally killed by Coalition strikes since the start of Operation Inherent Resolve," Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve said in the report.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/us-coalition-admits-killing-least-352-civilians-syria-iraq-month/>

- **Mobile clinics deliver precious medical care in Mosul**

Men, women and children stand in separate lines in the scorching sun baking west Mosul's Baghdad Square for a turn in one of the two white mobile clinics. For these Iraqis, displaced by fierce fighting as government forces close in on the Old City where Islamic State group jihadists are still entrenched, free medical care is a godsend.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=82875>

- **-Major attack likely to regain control over old Mosul**

Iraqi forces resumed battle on Monday to try to regain control over parts of Mosul amid expectations that the battle to reclaim the city's old area would be completed soon, sources on the ground have said. According to Major Ziad al-Zubaidi, the Iraqi army is targeting areas with heavy artillery close to Mosul while the coalition's air force continued its air raids targeting ISIS locations. A source added that armed men have detonated four car bombs in the past 24 hours. Federal police also announced the killing of dozens of ISIS members in the last few hours as a result of intensive air strikes.

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/05/01/Expectations-of-a-major-attack-in-Iraq-to-restore-the-old-Mosul-.html>

- **Iraqi Kurdistan: Playing the independence game**

At the end of March, Iraqi Kurdistan President Masoud Barzani met new UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and once again drew attention to a forthcoming referendum called to allow the region the right of "self-determination".

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/04/iraqi-kurdistan-playing-independence-game-170424081305405.html>

- **Iraqi state gas firm official shot dead in Kirkuk city - police**

Gunmen shot dead a senior official of Iraq's state-run North Gas Company (NGC) on Tuesday as he was heading to his office in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police and company sources said. Deputy NGC manager Mohammed Younis, an Iraqi Kurd, and his driver were killed instantly when assailants in a speeding car fired on their vehicle, police sources said.

More Details:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-iraq-energy-kirkuk-gas-idUKKBN17Y0KC?rpc=401&>

- **The 82nd Airborne division officer, 25, who was killed by an IED while fighting ISIS in Mosul**

The American soldier who was killed when he stepped on an IED while fighting ISIS in Iraq has been identified Weston C. Lee, the 1st lieutenant with the 82nd Airborne Division, died while out on patrol near Mosul on Saturday. Lee, 25, was conducting security as part of advise-and-assist support to partnered forces in the ongoing battle with the jihadists.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4461278/US-soldier-killed-Iraq-patrol-outside-Mosul.html#ixzz4fuSRBGuR>

- **Iraqi camps struggle to aid Mosul's displaced**

Aid agencies say they do not have resources to care for people escaping fighting in the Iraqi city of Mosul. Camps for the displaced no longer have enough space to accommodate new arrivals.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/05/iraqi-camps-struggle-aid-mosuls-displaced-170502083552432.html>

- **Australian military to release regular bombing reports from Iraq and Syria**

The Australian military will begin releasing fortnightly reports on its bombing missions in Iraq and Syria as well as claims of civilian casualties. The Australian Defence Force will begin sending out fortnightly reports of its air strikes and possible civilian casualties in its fight against the self-proclaimed Islamic State.

More Details:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/05/02/australian-military-release-regular-bombing-reports-iraq-and-syria>

- **Islamic State attack leaves 10 soldiers dead west of Anbar**

Ten Iraqi army soldiers were killed and six were wounded Tuesday when Islamic State militants attacked an army command facility in western Anbar, according to news reports. Sky News Arabia said the attack on al-Sakkar region in al-Rutba left four soldiers killed and five others wounded in an initial toll.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-attack-leaves-10-soldiers-dead-west-anbar/>

- **Yazidis get approval to set up first political party**

Baghdad (IraqiNews.com) Iraq's Yazidi religious minority has won government approval to create their first political party, with the nascent entity getting the chance to run the upcoming elections slated for early 2018. "Thanks to efforts exerted over a whole year, the Yazidi sect obtained an official permission to partake in the upcoming elections," the party's founder, Yedav Qahtan, said in statements quoted by Kurdish media. He said the party's objective will be to "defend Yazidi rights within independent political frameworks and without affiliation with other parties".

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/yazidis-get-approval-set-first-political-party/>

- **'Baghdaddy': New York turns Iraq war into musical**

The Iraq war may not sound like musical comedy, but an Off-Broadway revival is spinning intelligence failures and tragedy into a farce that offers potent messages for Donald Trump's America. "Baghdaddy" officially opens on Monday, telling the true story of an Iraqi defector, code named Curveball, whose claims about weapons of mass destruction became justification for the US-led invasion in 2003.

More Details:

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/culture/01052017>

2. SYRIA

- **Syria, Iran to enhance military cooperation**

Chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces, Gen. Ali Abdullah Ayoub discussed on Monday with the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Bagheri means of enhancing military cooperation between Iran and Syria against Takfiri terrorism. During a meeting held in Tehran, the two sides stressed their keenness to strengthen relations between the Syrian and Iranian armies, condemning the US and Zionist attacks on Syria.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=105311>

- **Trump official: Syria bombing was ‘after-dinner entertainment’ at Mar-a-Lago**

New details have emerged about President Donald Trump’s actions following his authorization of the first intentional U.S. military strike on Syrian government targets.

More Details:

https://article.wn.com/view/2017/05/02/trump_official_syria_bombing_was_8216afterdinner_entertainme/

- **Moscow Beats Washington by Suggesting Zones of Tensions’ Reduction in Syria**

Russia surprised the Syrian opposition and their allies on Monday by suggesting four “zones of reduction of tensions” in the country, and the creation of a joint working group to prepare for a battle to remove ISIS and al-Nusra from those Syrian areas with the help of the opposition, read a paper presented by Moscow to opposition forces, including Ahrar al-Sham, during a preparatory meeting for the Astana summit held in Ankara.

More Details;

<http://english.aawsat.com/abbasp/news-middle-east/moscow-beats-washington-suggesting-zones-tensions-reduction-syria>

- **Infighting in Syria's Ghouta leaves nearly 100 dead**

At least 95 Syrian opposition fighters and civilians have been killed during infighting in a rebel-held district in the suburbs of Damascus, according to a monitor.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/infighting-syria-ghouta-leaves-100-killed-170501065905888.html>

- **Syrian Democratic Forces liberate Tabqa from ISIS**

A spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces Brigadier General Talal Sallou confirmed the control of the entire city of Tabqa from the grip of ISIS.

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/05/01/The-Syrian-Democratic-Forces-liberate-Tabqa-from-ISIS.html>

- **UN to launch new Syria war crime panel**

A new U.N. body tasked with identifying individuals guilty of atrocities in Syria should start work shortly, a key step towards holding war crimes suspects to account, the U.N. rights chief said Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/un-launch-new-syria-war-crime-panel-969396>

- **Syrian forces used nerve gas in four recent attacks: HRW**

Syrian government forces used deadly nerve gas in Khan Sheikhun and in three other recent attacks, Human Rights Watch said Monday, describing a "clear pattern" of chemical weapons use that could amount to crimes against humanity.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syrian-forces-used-nerve-gas-four-recent-attacks-hrw-930760660>

- **Iran to Keep up Military Support for Syria Regime, a Commander Says**

Iran will maintain its support for the Syrian government despite the deaths of hundreds of its advisers and volunteers in the six-year civil war, a commander said in comments published Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229356-iran-to-keep-up-military-support-for-syria-regime-a-commander-says>

- **Syria blames Israel for Damascus strike**

The government of Syria has blamed Israel for an explosion near Damascus International Airport early on 27 April. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) cited a military source as saying Israel fired several missiles from occupied territory, a reference to the Golan Heights, which hit a military position southwest of the airport, causing explosions and "material losses" at dawn.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/69950/syria-blames-israel-for-damascus-strike>

- **Trump to speak to Putin by phone today to discuss Syria crisis**

Donald Trump will speak by telephone with Vladimir Putin today to discuss the ongoing crisis in Syria. The US president, who has been accused of collusion with Russia, has said relationships between the two countries "may be at an all-time low" over Russia's support for Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad. "We're not getting along with Russia at all," Trump said after Russia vetoed a US-backed resolution on Syria at the UN Security Council.

More Details:

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/trump-speak-putin-phone-today-discuss-syria-crisis-075837094.html>

- **Syria, Ukraine to be discussed in Merkel-Putin meeting**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will on Tuesday meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in her first visit to Russia since 2015, signalling renewed dialogue between Berlin and Moscow. The meeting comes at a low point in bilateral relations over the war in Syria and Russia's annexation of Crimea, as Moscow's ties with the EU have plunged to a post-Cold War low.

More Details:

http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/world/76771/syria_ukraine_to_be_discussed_in_merkelputin_meeting#.WQhK_xPyjcs

3. IRAN

- **Iranian FM Urges Collective Efforts by Persian Gulf States to Protect Region**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif underlined the necessity for all the Persian Gulf littoral states to cooperate in protecting the region's security and environment.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960211000334>

- **Iran: No talks with US outside nuclear accord**

Iran says there is no negotiation between Tehran and Washington outside the nuclear issue, but US officials have requested talks over the case of one or two prisoners in the Islamic Republic.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/05/01/520146/Iran-US-Trump>

- **Bavaria, Iran trade volume increased by 33%**

Secretary General of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Mines & Industries said the trade volume between Bavaria of Germany and Iran has increased by 33 percent during post-sanctions era.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125133/Bavaria-Iran-trade-volume-increased-by-33>

- **Iran's crude steel export up 27% yr/yr**

Iran exported 5.5 million tons of crude steel in the past Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20), with 27% increase from the figure of its preceding year, Iranian Steel Manufacturers Association's Secretary Rasoul Khalifeh-Soltan told ISNA.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/413067/Iran-s-crude-steel-export-up-27-yr-yr>

- **Presidential candidate praises Iran diplomacy of power**

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, one of the six candidates for the Iranian presidential elections hailed on Monday Iran's power of diplomacy in a Television talk show.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82513216/>

- **Rhouhani vows to preserve N-deal in 2nd Term**

President Rouhani vowed to preserve the Iran's nuclear deal during his second term, adding his administration will still have a counterplan ready if the other side violates the agreement.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/191932.html>

- **Iran preparing to host 22nd Oil Show**

Iran is preparing to hold a crucial annual oil exhibition in which it says some 1,500 foreign companies from 37 countries would showcase their latest technical achievements, PressTV reported.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2748916.html>

- **Tehran, Baghdad to Sign Twinning Agreement: Iraqi official**

An Iraqi official declared the Iranian and Iraqi capitals, Tehran and Baghdad, will soon sign a twinning agreement and become sister cities.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/05/tehran-baghdad-sign-twinning-agreement-iraqi-official/>

- **Iran Regrets Deaths of German Tourists in Crash**

Iran's Foreign Ministry said it deeply regretted the deaths of two German tourists in a minibus crash in the country's southern province of Fars, expressing condolences to the families of the victims.

More Details;

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/02/1395274/iran-regrets-deaths-of-german-tourists-in-crash>

- **Iranian, Syrian armed forces vow to boost cooperation**

The military top brass of Iran and Syria have denounced the attacks by the Israeli regime and US against the Arab country and vowed to boost their cooperation.

More Details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i51754-iranian-syrian-armed-forces-vow-to-boost-cooperation>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **New Hamas charter acknowledges 1967 borders ahead of Abbas US visit**

Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist group that has authority over the population of the Gaza Strip, released a new manifesto on Monday moderating its position toward Israel - if only slightly - and distancing itself from rival Islamist groups in the Middle East.

More Details:

<http://www.theage.com.au/world/new-hamas-charter-acknowledges-1967-borders-ahead-of-abbas-us-visit-20170502-gvx0gg.html>

- **Israel to Admit Hamas' Transformation in Case of Cessation of Aggressive Actions**

The office of the Israeli government said that Israel will admit the transformation of the Hamas only when the organization stops its aggressive actions and directs its resources for creation of the civil infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705021053181891-israel-can-admit-hamas/>

- **UK to recognize Palestinian statehood?**

House of Lords report says Trump unfit to lead world, calls for UK to recognize of Palestinian statehood, push for reconciliation with Iran.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/228950>

- **Former Palestinian prisoner dies as a result of 'medical negligence' in Israeli custody**

A former Palestinian prisoner died on Tuesday morning from medical complications he sustained during his time in Israeli custody, Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs head Issa Qaraqe told Ma'an.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=776800>

- **Can Trump Make Mideast Peace without Gaza?**

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas will visit the White House this week for the first time in three years. By all accounts, his host is eager to resume Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. "I'm working very hard," President Donald Trump told reporters earlier this month, in the hopes of "finally finding peace between the Palestinian people and Israel." The president's rhetoric on the peace process does not appear empty: He has consistently expressed his desire to make "the deal that can't be made" in the region.

More Details:

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/05/01/donald-trump-mideast-peace-gaza-215089>

- **Support for two-state solution slipping - among Arabs?**

Just half of Israeli Arabs say they back establishment of Palestinian state - and just 4% say they'd ever want to live in such a state. According to new polling data collected by the Israel Democracy Institute's Guttman Center and Tel Aviv University, just half of Israeli Arabs – not including those living under the Palestinian Authority – favor the establishment of a Palestinian state.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170501-blinded-by-the-siege-on-gaza/>

- **Israeli forces fire tear gas at hunger strike supporters in Nablus area, setting tent on fire**

Israeli forces raided the village of Sabastiya in the northern occupied West Bank on Sunday night, firing tear gas at Palestinians holding a sit-in in solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners, causing the sit-in tent to catch fire

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?id=776786>

- **UN says there is 'urgent need' to address crisis in Gaza in latest report**

In a report issued ahead of a United Nations meeting to discuss the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) released a report on Monday warning of the “urgent need” to address the worsening situation in the besieged Gaza Strip, as well as the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776787>

- **Iran: PA conducting a 'war' against Gaza**

Senior Iranian official attacks PA for its punitive measures against Gaza and its Hamas rulers. Hussein Sheikh Al-Islam, an Iranian parliamentary adviser on International Affairs, on Sunday attacked the Palestinian Authority's (PA) policy toward Gaza, calling it a "crime" which the PA is carrying out with the encouragement of the United States and Israel.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/228867>

- **15 days on, Palestinian hunger-striking prisoners remain united behind Barghouthi**

As some 1,600 Palestinian prisoners entered their 15th day on hunger strike on Monday, Israeli authorities and the prisoners remained at an impasse over negotiations, as the hunger strikers have insisted that senior Fatah leader Marwan Barghouthi represent them and their demands.

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?id=776795>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Berri Urges Hariri to 'Assume Responsibility' ahead of Cabinet Meeting**

Speaker Nabih Berri assured that several meetings between various political parties will be held ahead of a cabinet meeting on Thursday to agree on a new electoral law, as he urged Prime Minister Saad Hariri to assume responsibility, the pan-Arab al-Hayat daily reported on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229351-berri-urges-hariri-to-assume-responsibility-ahead-of-cabinet-meeting>

- **Army Tightens Security Measures in Aarsal**

The Lebanese army tightened security measures on Tuesday in the northeastern border town of Aarsal, media reports said. The troops closed the road at an Intelligence checkpoint in Ain al-Shaab neighborhood in Aarsal, they added. Tight security measures were taken. No further details were reported.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229355-army-tightens-security-measures-in-aarsal>

- **Ambassador to Lebanon presents Credentials**

The accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Lebanese Republic, Mr Ch.Bayarmunkh presented the letter of credence to the President of Lebanon, General Michel Aoun on April 28.

More Details:

<http://montsame.mn/en/s/ambassador-to-lebanon-presents-credentials-98381>

- **Man Critically Hurt in Hermel Shooting, 4 Injured in Akkar Clash**

The young man M.N. was critically wounded on Monday in the eastern town of Hermel after he received two gunshots to the chest during a dispute in the town's market, the National News Agency said.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229343-man-critically-hurt-in-hermel-shooting-4-injured-in-akkar-clash>

- **Army: Enemy gunboat violates territorial waters six times off Ras Alnaqoura**

An Israeli enemy gunboat violated the territorial waters, off Ras al-Naqoura, for six times between 5:11 a.m. and 8:17 a.m. on Monday, to a distance of approximately 463 meters, an Army Command communiqué indicated.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/78795/Army-Enemy-gunboat-violates-territorial-waters-six-times-off-Ras-alNaqoura>

- **Jordanian official: US can move embassy to west Jerusalem**

Former Jordanian minister claims there is no need for Arabs to oppose the US moving its embassy to west Jerusalem. A former Jordanian Minister of Culture wrote in a controversial op-ed article for a leading Amman newspaper that there is no need for Arabs to oppose the potential move of the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to west Jerusalem, according to a report by Algemeiner.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/228953>

- **UN, US and Jordan to take part in Astana talks as observers**

Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the Syrian armed opposition will take part in the international meeting on Syria this time the United Nations, the United States and Jordan have confirmed that their representatives will participate in the Astana international meeting on Syria as observers, Kazakhstan's First Deputy Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/world/944123>

- **Jordanian-Palestinian Summit Calls for Serious, Effective Peace Negotiations**

Jordan King Abdullah II met on Sunday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas within the framework of cooperation on efforts aimed at restoring the momentum to the Palestinian cause, according to a statement by the Royal Hashemite Court.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/mohamed-al-daameh/news-middle-east/jordanian-palestinian-summit-calls-serious-effective-peace-negotiations>

- **Trickledown effect of equal gender participation in Jordan**

A study by the UNDP shows that women participation in the workforce in Jordan is 23 per cent. Women in Jordan constituted 48.79 per cent of Jordan's population in 2015, according to the World Bank, which is almost half of the population.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/lynn-malkawi/trickledown-effect-equal-gender-participation-jordan>

- **ADFD-funded building of Yarmouk University's Faculty of Law opened**

Adel Tweisi, Jordanian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, attended the opening of the new building for the Faculty of Law, Yarmouk University in Jordan, which was funded by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, ADFD, as part of the GCC grant to Jordan, at JD2.25 million (AED11.66 million).

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302611573>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Free internet for 1.5 million expatriate labourers in Qatar**

Qatar plans to provide expatriate labourers with free internet in their labour camps by late 2018. The Ministry of Transportation unveiled the free-internet package during the 4th edition of the annual Labour Welfare Conference which is held to mark International Workers' Day.

More Details:

<http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/202830/Free-internet-for-15-million-expatriate-labourers-in-Qatar>

- **Kuwaiti businessman killed in Istanbul laid to rest**

A Kuwaiti businessman who was murdered in Istanbul, Turkey, was laid to rest in Sulabkhat cemetery. Senior officials, MPs, leading personalities and citizens took part in the funeral of Mohammed Meta'ab Al-Shelahi.

More Details:

<http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/202819/Kuwaiti-businessman-killed-in-Istanbul-laid-to-rest>

- **Saudi, Qatari leaders review bilateral relations**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received at Al-Salam Palace here today Qatari Amir, HH Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The two leaders reviewed relations between their countries.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/783720>

- **Saudi Cabinet allocates \$100m for relief projects in Yemen**

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers of interior, defense and foreign affairs recently held their 18th joint consultative meeting and expressed their desire to extend bridges of cooperation with regional countries to consolidate security and peace, and to expand economic cooperation.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1093376/saudi-arabia>

- **HH the Emir Meets Custodian of the Holy Mosques**

HH the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Al-Salam Royal Palace in Jeddah on Monday. During the meeting, they reviewed the strong fraternal relations and means of developing and strengthening them for the interest of both countries and brotherly peoples. The official delegation accompanying HH the Emir attended the meeting.

More Details:

<http://www.qna.org.qa/en-us/News/17050116440050/HH-the-Emir-Meets-Custodian-of-the-Two-Holy-Mosques>

- **Merkel in Jeddah ahead of UAE visit**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Saudi King Salman on Sunday, state media said, as she began a visit focused on bilateral relations and preparations for the next G20 meeting. King Salman received Merkel in his palace in the western city of Jeddah, SPA state news agency said, adding that the two presided over a signing ceremony for six cooperation agreements: three government-to-government and the others involving the private sector.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/merkel-in-jeddah-ahead-of-uae-visit-1.2019891>

- **Dubai Courts ensures workers' right as part of economic growth**

The UAE has developed well-integrated, resilient legislation that ensures workers' rights as a strategy for economic growth, including fair and expeditious settlement of labour cases and disputes, Chief Justice Jamal Al Jabri, Head of the Labour Court at Dubai Courts, DC, has said. Workers in the UAE enjoy optimum life amenities, including appropriate accommodations, transportation and other basic services in implementation of the directives of the wise leadership of the country, he added following a meeting with the Institutional Development and Innovation Unit at DC.

More Details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/dubai-courts-ensures-workers-right-as-part-of-economic-growth-2017-05-02-1.652240>

- **Labour Law rules "soon": Manpower Minister**

Talks over whether to amend Oman's labour laws are now "complete" and the findings will be unveiled "as soon as procedures are completed", according to the Minister of Manpower. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Bakri, the Minister of Manpower, said discussions were now at an end and findings would be presented "soon".

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/108111/Oman/Government/Labour-Law-rules--quot;soon-quot;-Oman-Manpower-Minister>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's FM Shoukry heads to Uganda with message from Sisi on water-security.**

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry is heading to Uganda on Monday for a visit aimed at boosting cooperation with Nile Basin countries, according to a ministry statement. Shoukry will

deliver a letter from President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi to his counterpart Yoweri Museveni dealing with water-security issues and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/266936/Egypt/Politics-/Egypts-FM-Shoukry-heads-to-Uganda-with-message-fro.aspx>

- **Two men killed in house collapse as they dig illegally for Egyptian artefacts.**

Two men were killed on Sunday when their house collapsed while they were illegally digging for ancient artefacts, Egypt's state-run news agency MENA reported. The two men were digging beneath their home in the southern city of Assiut when the house above them weakened and caved in, according to initial investigations.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/266921/Egypt/Politics-/Two-men-killed-in-house-collapse-as-they-dig-illegally.aspx>

- **On first anniversary of Press Syndicate storming, freedoms remain endangered.**

May marks international Labour Day, as well as the first anniversary of the security forces' storming of the Egyptian Press Syndicate to arrest journalists Amr Badr and Mahmoud Al-Saqa on accusations of posting "false information" on Facebook about the case widely known as the "Red Sea Islands" case. Former Press Syndicate head Yehia Qallash recalled the timeline of the day. "It was my first day off in an entire year, so I was not in the syndicate and I was doing some medical tests. I learned from a colleague of what happened at around 8pm, I went to the syndicate at 11, and the syndicate's council had an urgent meeting," he told Daily News Egypt.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/01/first-anniversary-press-syndicate-storming-freedoms-remain-endangered/>

- **Al-Sisi allocates EGP 100m to Labour Emergency Fund**

President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi announced Sunday that the government will allocate EGP 100m from the Tahya Misr Fund to the Labour Emergency Fund to support factories, projects, and workers, on the occasion of Labour Day. During his speech in celebration of Labour Day, Al-Sisi expressed his trust in Egyptian workers and their role in achieving development in Egypt. On the same occasion last year, Al-Sisi had also supported the emergency fund with EGP 100m.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/01/al-sisi-allocates-egp-100m-labour-emergency-fund/>

- **Two militants killed in military raid in Sinai**

Two militants were killed in a military raid in North Sinai on Sunday, according to a statement by Egypt's military spokesperson. The statement said that the forces found 2 guns, 10 gun chambers, ammunition, 2 bombs, a wireless device, and an explosives belt in possession of the two militants.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/01/two-militants-killed-military-raid-sinai/>

- **Judges Club considers introducing different Judicial Authority bill**

The advisory board of the Judges Club held a meeting Monday to discuss the repercussions of the new Judicial Authority law which was approved by the House of Representatives and ratified by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi last week, against the wishes of the State Council and Judges Club. Judicial sources told al-Masy al-Youm that the meeting will discuss the possibility of devising a new bill and ways to appeal against the new law which came into effect on Friday.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/judges-club-considers-introducing-different-judicial-authority-bill>

- **Foreign Ministry responds to ElBaradei complaint, says passport on way to Vienna**

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ahmed abu Zeid has replied to a complaint from former vice president Mohamed ElBaradei over the delay in issuing his new passport. "The passport was issued a few days ago and is on its way to the Egyptian embassy in Vienna in a diplomatic pouch for the handover," abu Zeid said.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/foreign-ministry-responds-elbaradei-complaint-says-passport-way-vienna>

- **U.N. rights boss says Egypt crackdown 'facilitates radicalisation'**

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said on Monday that heavy-handed security measures by Egypt were fostering the very radicalisation it was looking to curb. Egypt last month was shaken by one of the bloodiest attacks in years when Islamic State suicide bombers targeted two Christian churches, killing 45 people. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared a three-month state of emergency hours later.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-rights-un-idUSKBN17X1MI>

- **Trump: It took '10 minutes' with Egyptian president to secure prisoner's release.**

President Trump brags in a new interview that he secured the release of Egyptian-American aid worker Aya Hijazi from captivity after “10 minutes” with Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. "As you know, President Obama tried to have Aya released for three and a half years," Trump told the Washington Examiner.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptdailynews.com/egypt%20daily%20news%20egyptdailynews%201%20May%20It%20took.htm>

- **Labour Day 2017: Workers in Egypt still call for their Rights**

In conjunction with Labour Day celebrations in Egypt, workers’ strikes continued in the country against unfair payment and unorganised work regulations, in which the current period witnessed protests by workers of Telecom Egypt and Tourah Portland Cement. Their protest is part of a series of strikes seen by Egypt’s workers to call for their rights.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/01/labour-day-2017-workers-egypt-still-call-rights/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **An unstable Libya will not stop migrants says Austrian foreign minister**

Libya can only tackle illegal migration to Europe effectively once it has political and economic stability, Austria’s foreign minister Sebastian Kurz has warned.

More details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/05/01/an-unstable-libya-wont-stop-migrants-says-austrian-foreign-minister/>

- **Marzouki elected President of Tounes Al-Irada Party**

Moncef Marzouki has been elected President of the Tounes Al-Irada Party at the closing works of the party’s electoral congress, Spokesperson for the congress Lamia Khemiri announced Monday.

More details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/8975632-marzouki-elected>

- **Libya seizes oil tankers after shootout at sea**

Ukrainian and Congolese-flagged vessels caught loading Libyan oil detained after a fierce, hours-long gun battle.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/04/libya-seizes-oil-tankers-shootout-sea-170430090531974.html>

- **Tunisian premier replaces Finance Minister Lamia Zribi**

Tunisia's Prime Minister Youssef Chahed on Sunday replaced his finance minister after she had faced criticism from political opponents over the sharp fall in the dinar currency and slow progress in economic reforms.

More details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/business/banking-and-finance/2017/05/01/Tunisian-premier-replaces-Finance-Minister-Lamia-Zribi.html>

- **The main forces competing in Algeria's election**

A two-party alliance led by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's National Liberation Front dominates Algeria's parliament. In Thursday's legislative poll the alliance will face an Islamist opposition organised in two main coalitions in a bid to regain ground five years since the worst electoral defeat in their history.

More details:

<http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/05/2017/The-main-forces-competing-in-Algeria-s-election>

- **150 journalists banned from Algeria**

Algeria is preparing a list of some 150 Arab and foreign journalists which it is planning to ban from entry into the country due to their “unethical” coverage of the country’s affairs, Al-Resalah news site reported.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170502-150-journalists-banned-from-algeria/>

- **Polisario Says Ready for Western Sahara Talks with Rabat**

The Algiers-backed Polisario Front independence movement said Monday it was prepared to embark on negotiations with Morocco on the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229330-polisario-says-ready-for-western-sahara-talks-with-rabat>

- **Echoes of Colonial Conflict in Algeria Reverberate in French Politics**

When asked about this year's presidential election, French historians often draw a comparison that could initially seem outlandish.

More details:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/01/world/europe/echoes-of-colonial-conflict-in-algeria-reverberate-in-french-politics.html? r=0>

- **Libyan-sponsored terrorism: IRA victims 'let down' by UK governments**

Victims of Libyan-sponsored terrorism have been let down by successive UK governments in their campaign for compensation, a report has found.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-39770066>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistan, China close to adopting long-term plan for CPEC**

Pakistan and China are close to adopting the 'long-term plan' for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which would set the future direction for the multi-billion dollar project, a senior Chinese diplomat and a Pakistani official said at a seminar.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/201952-Pakistan-China-close-to-adopting-long-term-plan-for-CPEC>

- **Graft hampers Afghanistan's development: EU**

The European Union (EU) on Tuesday said the Afghan government, taking major steps in the fight against corruption, needs to do more to curb the menace.

More details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/05/02/graft-hampers-afghanistan%E2%80%99s-development-eu>

- **Pakistani army: militant attack from Afghanistan repelled**

Pakistan's army says it has repelled an attack by militants from across the border in Afghanistan that targeted two of its checkpoints, killing three of the attackers.

More details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_PAKISTAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-02-04-09-59

- **Pakistan, India make hotline contact after soldiers killed across border**

Local commanders of the Pakistan and Indian armies made hotline contact on Monday night in the Rawalakot-Poonch sector along the Line of Control (LoC) in the wake of Indian allegations that Pakistani troops had killed and mutilated the bodies of two Indian soldiers.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1330575/pakistan-india-make-hotline-contact-after-soldiers-killed-across-border>

- **US aims to eliminate Daesh from Afghanistan this year**

After dropping a monster bomb on its fighters, then targeting its leader, the US military is looking to destroy Daesh's Afghan branch before battle-hardened reinforcements arrive from Syria and Iraq.

More details:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/140202-US-aims-to-eliminate-Daesh-from-Afghanistan-this-year>

- **US to grant 2,500 more visas for Afghans under \$1 trillion deal**

The United States government will grant 2,500 more visas for the Afghan nationals have worked with the US military in Afghanistan, it has been reported.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/us-to-grant-2500-more-visas-for-afghans-under-1-trillion-deal-02697>

- **VP Danesh meets HIA Leader, Invites him to Kabul**

Heading a high-level government delegation, Second Vice President Mohammad, Sarwar Danesh visited eastern Nangarhar province to attend a gathering held to welcome the leader of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan (HIA Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Second VP office said in a statement.

More details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/28416-vp-danesh-meets-hia-leader-invites-him-to-kabul.html>

- **Dozens Killed In Daesh and Taliban Clash in Nangarhar**

Local officials claim Daesh launched an attack on the Taliban at about 1am on Sunday leaving a total of at least 28 dead and nine wounded

More details:

<http://www.toloneews.com/afghanistan/dozens-killed-%C2%A0daesh-and-taliban-clash-nangarhar>

- **Afghanistan hopes Pakistani parliamentarians' visit improve bilateral ties**

Led by Ayaz Sadiq, the Pakistani parliamentary delegation met the other day with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani after meeting with chairmen of both chambers of parliament of Afghanistan.

More details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/opinions/politics/13833-afghanistan-hopes-pakistani-parliamentarians%E2%80%99-visit-improve-bilateral-ties.html>

- **US airman, F-16 jets leave Italy for Afghanistan – NATO Mission**

The NATO-led Resolute Support mission announced on Monday that F-16 fighter jets along with US airmen have departed their base in Italy for Afghanistan.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705011053169149-afghanistan-nato-resolute-support/>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Far from home, children build Syria of their dreams**

Miniature playgrounds, apartment complexes, sports fields and parks dot a small patch of land surrounded by trees. For a bunch of Syrian children gathered in a small room at a community center in the southern city of Gaziantep, this is the Syria they dream of. Traumatized by the ongoing conflict, they fled with their families, but now the children cling to the hope of returning home one day. Trying to forget the nationwide destruction in their homeland, the kids, with papers and clay, built a future Syria with no traces of war.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2017/05/02/far-from-home-children-build-syria-of-their-dreams>

- **Putin, Erdogan to Discuss Syria Truce at May 3 Meeting in Sochi**

Russian President Vladimir Putin will discuss consolidating the ceasefire in Syria with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at their meeting in Sochi on Wednesday, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said. "The presidents will discuss, among other issues, the strengthening of the ceasefire regime, the situation with prisoners and issues of mine clearance," Mustafa Yurdakul, the ministry's deputy director for Syria policy, told reporters Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201705021053187553-russia-turkey-presidents-syria/>

- **Erdogan to send Trump stern message on Syrian Kurds**

By launching air strikes against Syrian Kurdish fighters and threatening more action, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is seeking to send a tough message to Donald Trump in the hope of bringing about a major U-turn in US Syria policy. Turkey last week bombed targets of the Kurdish Peoples' Protection Units (YPG) in Syria, earning the wrath of its NATO ally Washington and on Sunday Erdogan warned more action could be imminent.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/188800/erdogan-to-send-trump-stern-message-on-syrian-kurds>

- **Peshmerga leader says Turkish airstrikes hurt PKK**

Turkish airstrikes on PKK targets have forced the group to close some camps and seek cover, a Peshmerga commander in Iraq has told Anadolu Agency. Kasim Seso, a senior Peshmerga figure in Mosul's Sinjar district, said on Monday the PKK had suffered "big losses and financial damage" in the aftermath of the bombardments.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/peshmerga-leader-says-turkish-airstrikes-hurt-pkk/808940>

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

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