



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

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Peace Process

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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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1. IRAQ

- **Acting governor of Sulaimani resigns over power dispute**

The acting governor of Sulaimani resigned on Tuesday due to political issues and disputes in the governorate. Sardar Qadir, the acting Sulaimani governor in a statement announced that he has decided to quit his position and has sent his resignation letter to the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Ministry of Interior

More details:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/8c1f0054-dc61-4c72-ab86-ae7733bf6979/Acting-governor-of-Sulaimani-resigns-over-power-dispute>

- **Abadi says Islamic State Cnnot hold new territories for “a few minutes”**

The current image Islamic State militants are trying to give of themselves is “overblown”, and the group is currently unable to hold territory even for a few minutes, said Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/abadi-says-islamic-state-unable-hold-iraqi-territories-minutes/>

- **KRG on Iran's Opposition to Referendum: It's Internal Issue**

Kurdistan Region's Department of Foreign Relations (DFR) on Tuesday expressed concern over Iran's position on an imminent independence referendum in the Kurdistan Region, saying secession is an internal issue which does not need foreign interferences.

More details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/347429>

- **Islamic State kills 7 Iraqi soldiers in attacks near Syrian border**

Islamic State stepped up attacks on Iraqi army positions near the border with Syria, killing seven soldiers and wounding 12 in two attacks staged on Sunday and Tuesday, military sources said. Islamic State has been fighting since October a U.S.-backed offensive in Mosul, the largest city that fell under its control in both Syria and Iraq.

More details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/7652d989-c07b-4b37-9752-f6e0a65a8924/Islamic-State-kills-7-Iraqi-soldiers-in-attacks-near-Syrian-border

- **Kurdish fighters 'negotiating with IS' to withdraw from Tabqa**

Kurdish fighters are negotiating with Islamic State [IS] militants to withdraw from the Syrian town of Tabqa, local sources cited on Tuesday. The negotiations are being conducted through intermediaries and dignitaries, in order for IS to retreat from the first, second and third neighbourhoods of Tabqa, along with retreating from the dam area.

More details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40325

- **Abadi: Baghdad urged 3 countries to send economic advisors to Iraq**

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Tuesday that Baghdad had urged Germany, France and Italy to send economic advisors to Iraq. In his weekly press conference, Abadi said that this comes within the Iraqi government keenness to enhance the Iraqi economy in the upcoming period.

More details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10071/Abadi-Baghdad-urged-3-countries-to-send-economic-advisors-to-Iraq>

- **ISIL attack kills 10 Iraqi soldiers in Anbar**

Fighters from ISIL have killed at least 10 Iraqi soldiers in the country's western province of Anbar, according to officials. No claim of responsibility for the killing has been made.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/isil-attack-kills-10-iraqi-soldiers-anbar-170502083558026.html>

- **Some 900 Jordanians Fight in Syria, Iraq; Recruitment Slumps: Senior Official**

Around 900 Jordanians are fighting for Islamic State and al-Qaeda-inspired groups in Syria and Iraq but recruitment numbers have fallen sharply to their lowest ever levels, a senior Jordanian official told Reuters on Tuesday.

More details:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2017-05-02/900-jordanian-militants-fighting-in-syria-and-iraq-senior-official>

- **Iraq's fuel oil exports soar despite OPEC supply cut**

Iraqi fuel oil exports have soared since January despite a reduction in the country's crude production in line with OPEC supply cuts, industry sources said, in what could be a way to boost output of refined products and maintain oil revenues.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/iraq-opec-fueloil-idUSL3N1H04B3>

- **US Firm in Iraq ignores smuggling, security risk for F-16s**

An American company that was paid nearly \$700 million to secure an Iraqi base for F-16 fighter jets turned a blind eye to alcohol smuggling, theft, security violations, and allegations of sex trafficking - then terminated investigators who uncovered wrongdoing, an Associated Press investigation has found.

More details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_TROUBLED_CONTRACTOR?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-03-03-55-32

- **Iraqi survivors reject US military claims over strike that killed 100s**

After an American airstrike killed more than 100 Iraqi civilians in a house in the western part of Mosul in March, U.S. officials suggested the Islamic State group was to blame for the horrific toll, saying militants may have crammed the building with people, booby-trapped it with explosives, then lured in an airstrike by firing from the roof.

More details:

<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news.php?id=88538>

- **Nine Islamic State members killed by suicide bomber in western Mosul**

Nine Islamic State militants were killed Tuesday when a suicide bomber attacked a gathering of group fighters in western Mosul, a security source was quoted saying.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/nine-islamic-state-members-killed-suicide-bomber-western-mosul/>

- **Meet the men who fought ISIS from inside Mosul**

When Islamic State militants swept across northern Iraq in 2014, some civilians welcomed them, some fled and others resigned themselves to living under their rule. But a few rose up to fight.

More details:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/05/02/islamic-state-isis-militants-iraq-civilians-resistance/101131176/>

- **House packed with families becomes death trap in Iraq's Mosul**

After an American air strike killed more than 100 Iraqi civilians in a house in the western part of Mosul in March, US officials suggested Daesh was to blame for the horrific toll, saying militants may have crammed the building with people, booby-trapped it with explosives, then lured in an air strike by firing from the roof.

More details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/house-packed-with-families-becomes-death-trap-in-iraqs-mosul-347714>

- **French president should support Kurdish state: Barzani**

In an interview with prominent French daily Le Figaro, Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) President Masoud Barzani called on France's next president to recognize an independent Kurdish state.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/french-president-should-support-kurdish-state-barzani/809783>

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

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:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/05/02/Iraqi-state-gas-firm-official-shot-dead-in-Kirkuk-city-police.html>

2. SYRIA

- **Syria, Iran discuss joint efforts for combating terrorism and prospects of cooperation for facing challenges**

Chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Ali Abdullah Ayyub on Tuesday held a session of talks with Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hussein Dehqan. Talks centered on assessing the joint efforts for combating Takfiri terrorism and the necessary steps for facing the rapid developments and the challenges facing Syria and the region, and the prospects of cooperation for overcoming them.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=105354>

- **ISIS attack on refugee camp kills 32 in Syria**

As many as 32 persons were killed and several others injured in a suicide attack by Islamic State of Iraq and the Syria (ISIS) militants on a refugee camp in Syria's Hasakeh province, local media reports said.

More Details:

https://article.wn.com/view/2017/05/03/ISIS_attack_on_refugee_camp_kills_32_in_Syria/

- **Moscow's Zones in Syria Predominate 'Astana'**

The Russian proposal to establish four zones of "reduction of tensions" is expected to predominate the UN-sponsored "Astana 4" intra-Syrian talks between opposition forces and regime officials that are planned to kick off in the Kazakh capital on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/caroline-akoum-paula-astih-and-tah-abd-alwahed/news-middle-east/moscows-zones-syria-predominate-astana>

- **Rebel delegation arrives in Astana for Syria talks**

Syrian rebel delegation arrives in Kazakh capital for talks with Assad regime representatives sponsored by Russia, Iran, and Turkey.

More Detail:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=82890>

- **Syrian Civil War Map**

After years of civil war, Syria is now a country that lies in ruins. Thousands of people have died, millions have fled. With no end of the war in sight, groups continue to battle for control over large parts of the country. The Syrian government, ISIL, Kurdish factions, and several other rebel groups are still fighting for some of the most important parts of the country.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2015/05/syria-country-divided-150529144229467.html>

- **Aid convoy enters Syrian town of Douma, first time since October**

An aid convoy of food and medical supplies has reached the besieged Syrian town of Douma for the first time since October, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/05/03/Aid-convoy-enters-Syrian-town-of-Douma-first-time-since-October.html>

- **Rogue FBI employee married ISIS terrorist she investigated**

An FBI translator with a top-secret security clearance traveled to Syria in 2014 and married a key ISIS operative she had been assigned to investigate.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1962163>

- **Putin calls for boosting Syria truce ahead of Astana talks**

President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called for shoring up Syria's frail truce as Russian-led peace talks involving Syrian rebels and regime officials are set to begin Wednesday in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. "We consider that this situation -- the ceasefire -- needs to be strengthened, and this is precisely what our representatives will work on tomorrow and the day after in Astana together with the sides in the Syrian conflict," Putin said at a news conference in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/02/05/2017/Putin-calls-for-boosting-Syria-truce-ahead-of-Astana-talks>

- **Five killed in car bomb blast near Syria-Turkey border**

At least five people were killed when a large explosion shook a rebel-held Syrian town along the border with Turkey on Wednesday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a car bomb went off in the town of Azaz close to the offices of the Syrian interim government, which represents the opposition in rebel-held areas. The Observatory and the activist-run Azaz Media Centre confirmed the death toll, which was expected to rise.

More Details:

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/world/five-killed-in-car-bomb-blast-near-syria-turkey-border-788086.html>

- **Guarantor States of Syria Peace Talks May Sign '4 Security Zones' Document: Source**

The intra-Syrian negotiations that started in the Kazakh capital city of Astana on Wednesday may result in adopting a document on creating four security zones in the Arab country, a source said. "We expect a breakthrough. So far, this idea [of creating four zones of de-escalation of tensions] is accepted by everyone. We hope this document will be signed," the source in one of the delegations told Sputnik on Wednesday.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/03/1396641/guarantor-states-of-syria-peace-talks-may-sign-4-security-zones-document-source>

- **Putin says U.S. needed on Syria; he, Trump talk**

Saying that lasting peace in Syria is impossible without the participation of the United States, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed hope Tuesday -- ahead of a telephone conversation with President Donald Trump -- that Moscow and Washington could agree on how to end the 6-year-old civil war. "I hope that we will achieve understanding on joint measures in this very important and very delicate area of international politics," Putin said at a nationally broadcast news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who met with the Russian leader Tuesday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

More Details:

<http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2017/may/03/putin-says-u-s-needed-on-syria-he-trump/?news-national>

3. IRAN

- **Iran Marks National Teachers' Day**

Iranian students pay homage to their teachers on the National Teachers' Day. The event is observed across the country, especially at schools and educational institutions where students plan special ceremonies.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1962210>

- **30th Tehran International Book Fair kicks off**

The 30th edition of Tehran International Book Fair has officially kicked off in a ceremony in the south of the Iranian capital.

More Details;

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/05/02/520311/Iran-Ali-Larijani-Reza-Salehi-Amiri-Tehran-International-Book-Fair>

- **Iran optimistic about running elections in Canada**

Bahram Ghasemi said Iran is hopeful of balloting Iranians residing in Canada for presidential elections although Tehran and Ottawa lack diplomatic relations.

More Details;

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125167/Iran-optimistic-about-running-elections-in-Canada>

- **From local to global: The way social networks change our lifestyle**

All kinds of applications and social networks including Facebook, Telegram and Instagram change our lives in a way that we must pass from a local point of view to a global one, said Nasser Fakouhi, professor of anthropology at the University of Tehran, in an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/413085/From-local-to-global-The-way-social-networks-change-our-lifestyle>

- **Rouhani, Jahangiri talk about plans to address terrorism, tourism**

Incumbent President Hassan Rouhani and his deputy Es'haq Jahangiri, both presidential candidates, explain their future plans to deal with such issues as terrorism, tourism and economy as they defend their past performance in office.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/192018.html>

- **Amano: Iran deal “a significant gain” for nuclear verification**

The secretary general of international atomic watchdog says Iran’s nuclear deal represents “a significant gain” for nuclear verification.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2749341.html>

- **Iran’s FM in Pakistan to Pursue Deadly Attack on Border Guards**

The Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that the country’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will pay a visit to Pakistan, heading a group of high-ranking political, military, law enforcement and security officials.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/wired/05/irans-fm-pakistan-pursue-deadly-attack-border-guards/>

- **Iran Unveils Minefield Simulator**

Iran’s defense minister on Tuesday unveiled a homegrown system that simulates conditions in a minefield, used for training demining teams.

More Details;

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/02/1395929/iran-unveils-minefield-simulator>

- **Iran says will send more military advisors to Syria: IRGC commander**

A senior commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the Islamic Republic will dispatch more military advisors to Syria to support the Syrian government and nation in their battle against terrorist groups.

More Details:

<http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i51834->

[iran says will send more military advisors to syria irgc commander](#)

- **Iran, Japan Discusse to Cooperate on Particle Pollution Forcast**

Following a memorandum of understanding inked between Iran and Japan environment departments, a joint specialized delegation of the two countries discussed particle pollution forecasting in a meeting held in this southwestern provincial capital city on Monday.

More Details:

<http://irannewsdaily.com/iran-japan-discusse-cooperate-particle-pollution-forcast/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Abbas: we will accept nothing but an independent state with Jerusalem as capital**

Mahmoud Abbas said last night that “without a state on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital, we will not accept any solution.”

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=uicNVea81226408032auicNVe>

- **2 Israelis Who Entered Gaza Held Incommunicado**

Two Israeli men with serious mental health conditions who crossed separately from Israel into the Gaza Strip in 2014 and 2015 have apparently been held by the Hamas military wing, Human Rights Watch said today. Avera Mangistu and Hisham al-Sayed, who both have histories of wandering far on foot, including across borders without authorization, have not been heard from since they entered Gaza.

More Details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/03/2-israelis-who-entered-gaza-held-incommunicado>

- **Human rights watch slams Hamas holding of 2 Israelis in Gaza**

Human Rights Watch is calling Hamas' detention of two Israeli citizens with a history of mental illness "cruel and indefensible."

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_PALESTINIANS_HAMAS_RIGHTS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-03-01-56-11

- **Hamas Leader Plays Final Hand: Trying to Lift Group's Pariah Status**

In the violent flux of the Middle East, Khaled Meshalis one of the great survivors. Down the years other senior figures in Hamas, the Islamist militant group that resists Israel, have died in hotel rooms at the hands of Israeli assassins or been crushed by laser-guided missiles during the wars in Gaza.

More Details:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/world/middleeast/hamas-khaled-meshal-gaza.html?_r=0

- **Military panel hears appeal of Hebron shooter verdict**

The IDF Appeals Court on Wednesday started to hear the appeals of the Hebron shooter verdict, one filed by Elor Azaria and one filed by the IDF prosecution.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/IDF-Appeals-Court-hears-appeal-of-Hebron-shooter-verdict-489598>

- **Why Palestinian-American activist Linda Sarsour is controversial**

Some Jews on the left emphasize her progressive bona fides, but for Jews on the right, her anti-Zionism is a red line

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/why-palestinian-american-activist-linda-sarsour-is-controversial/>

- **UNESCO Passes Resolution Critical of Israeli Conduct in Jerusalem and Gaza**

More member-states oppose softer motion than in similar votes in the past after Israeli and American pressure dismantle deal between EU nations and Arab states

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.786832>

- **Italy first EU country to publicly reject UNESCO'S anti-Israel resolution**

Late this afternoon, while Israelis celebrate Independence Day, UNESCO's 58-member Executive Board is set to approve the text.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Italy-first-EU-to-publicly-reject-UNESCOs-anti-Israel-resolution-489528>

- **Israeli minister calls to shut UNESCO's Jerusalem office after contentious vote**

Miri Regev to demand UN compound in Armon Hanatziv neighborhood be reclaimed for state use following resolution denying Israeli claims to its capital

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-minister-calls-to-shut-unescos-jerusalem-office-after-contentious-vote/>

- **Al-Qassam Brigades: Israel has 24 hours to respond to demands of hunger strikers**

The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Hamas movement, announced on Tuesday that Israeli authorities had 24 hours to respond to the demands of the some 1,600 Palestinian prisoners currently on hunger strike in Israeli custody, or else Israel would “pay for each day they ignore the prisoners’ demands.”

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?id=776820>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Army implements raiding operations in Hermel, apprehends wanted individuals**

The Lebanese Army Intelligence implemented raid operations in Hermel region on Wednesday and apprehended a number of wanted individuals, who were duly transferred to the locality's police station for further investigations, NNA field reporter said.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/78834/Army-implements-raiding-operations-in-Hermel-apprehends-wanted-individuals>

- **Oana executive council meeting kicks off in Beirut**

The Executive Council of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) commenced its meeting sessions in Beirut at 9:00 am on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/78832/OANA-Executive-Council-meeting-kicks-off-in-Beirut>

- **Berri: Legislative Session Won't Convene Unless Accord is Reached on Electoral Law**

Speaker Nabih Berri voiced a warning statement that the anticipated May 15 parliament session will not convene shall consensus between political parties fail on a new electoral law, al-Joumhouria daily reported on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229416-berri-legislative-session-won-t-convene-unless-accord-is-reached-on-electoral-law>

- **Hezbollah Leader Blasts Arab Silence on Palestinian Prisoners' Historic Hunger Strike**

The leader of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah blasted the silence of Arab and Muslim leaders over the ongoing persecution of Palestinian political prisoners who are currently on a hunger strike against brutal conditions in Israeli jails.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Hezbollah-Leader-Blasts-Arab-Silence-on-Palestinian-Prisoners-Historic-Hunger-Strike-20170502-0040.html>

- **Hizbullah Movement Leader Warns Lebanon Reaching Abyss Edge**

Secretary-General of the Hizbullah Shiite movement (Party of God), Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has today warned that Lebanon was "reaching the edge of the abyss" and urged all political forces to take on their full responsibility.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=12413&SEO=hizbullah-movement-leader-warns-lebanon-reaching-abyss-edge>

- **Jordan and Egypt key to Abbas' Washington visit**

In what seems to be a rite of passage, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visited Cairo April 29 and Amman April 30 before heading to Washington for his important visit to the White House May 3.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/palestine-president-abbas-us-visit-jordan-egypt.html>

- **Jordanians take to social media to voice support for Palestinian hunger strikers**

Jordanians have taken to social media to show their solidarity with Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli jails, in what they call “The Salted Water Challenge”.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/jordanians-take-social-media-voice-support-palestinian-hunger-strikers>

- **King renews commitment to protecting Jerusalem holy sites**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday met with the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby to discuss Jordan's endeavours to protect the Muslim and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/king-renews-commitment-protecting-jerusalem-holy-sites>

- **PM, European official discuss ties, Mideast**

Prime Minister Hani Mulki Tuesday welcomed Rapporteur for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Josette Durrieux, and stressed Jordan's strong, historic relations with the European Union and the need to further cement cooperation.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=300247&CatID=13

- **King chairs meeting to boost Amman business environment**

His Majesty King Abdullah II on Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss improving the business environment in Amman, and stressed the need to ease procedures for both citizens and investors and remove existing hurdles to achieve that goal.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=300217&CatID=13

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Powerful Saudi prince sees no chance for dialogue with Iran**

Saudi Arabia's powerful deputy crown prince ruled out on Tuesday any dialogue with arch rival Iran and pledged to protect his conservative kingdom from what he called Tehran's efforts to dominate the Muslim world. In unusually blunt remarks, Prince Mohammed bin Salman said any struggle for influence between the Sunni Muslim kingdom and the revolutionary Shi'ite theocracy ought to take place "inside Iran, not in Saudi Arabia". He did not elaborate.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/267010/World/Region/Powerful-Saudi-prince-sees-no-chance-for-dialogue-.aspx>

- **Qatari leader to visit Poland on Thursday**

The Amir of Qatar Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani will head to Warsaw on Thursday on an official visit during which he will hold talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Beata Szydło and other senior officials. Qatar News Agency (QNA) said that the two leaders will attend the signing of a number of joint agreements and memoranda of understanding in different fields.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/783910>

- **How Shaikh Mohammad helped save lives in 1977**

Rare footage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister and Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, working to save the lives of hijacked plane passengers has been shared on social media. The archive footage focuses on the Lufthansa Flight 181 incident, which saw the hijacking of a Boeing 737 by four members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1977.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/government/watch-how-shaikh-mohammad-helped-save-lives-in-1977-1.2021158>

- **Abdullah bin Zayed meets Chinese Foreign Minister - Final add**

Addressing the meeting, the Foreign Minister of China said, "Just now, Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah and I co-chaired the first meeting of the committee on cooperation between the government of China and the government of the United Arab Emirates. The inception of this

committee was agreed upon by President Xi Jinping and the UAE leadership as an important step to build the China-UAE Strategic Partnership and further increase mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. I am very happy today to launch this committee as we have now taken an important step to follow on the leaders agreements and our first meeting was very successful."

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302611829>

- **Forget New York, Dubai more affordable city**

Dubai's prime luxury residential market, a much sought-after destination for the world's super rich, is seven times more affordable than the most expensive real estate in the world, according to the latest data released on Tuesday. Dubai remains an attractive destination for property investment and ranks in the 10th position, far behind Monaco - now the most expensive city for real estate in the world - says Savills in a report.

More Details:

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/economy/forget-new-york-dubai-more-affordable>

- **Saudi-Qatari council eager to preserve the stability of Arab, Muslim countries**

During the fifth meeting of the Saudi-Qatari Coordination Council on Tuesday council members said they will use discretion in dealing with the various developments in Arab and Muslim countries to ensure the preservation of the safety and stability of these countries, and the prosperity of their peoples.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1093736/saudi-arabia>

- **Court to decide 'fate' of National Assembly**

The Constitutional Court whose rulings are final and cannot be challenged is scheduled to issue verdicts today that will decide whether the National Assembly will continue or not. The court, presided by the head of the higher judicial council Yousef Al-Matawa, is scheduled to issue rulings on a total of 52 petitions all dealing with the results of the November 26 parliamentary elections.

More Details:

<http://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/court-decide-fate-national-assembly/>

- **Sultan Qaboos University celebrates 17th anniversary of Royal visit of His Majesty**

Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Royal visit of His Majesty Sultan.Qaboos bin Said during a ceremony under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Hinai, State Advisor.

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/108208/Oman/Education/Sultan-Qaboos-University-celebrates-17th-anniversary-of-Royal-visit-of-His-Majesty>

- **H E Gen Nuamani meets Chief of General Staff of British Army**

H E Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Nuamani, Minister of Royal Office received in his office on Tuesday Gen Sir Nicholas Patrick Carter, Chief of General Staff of the British Army.H E Gen Nuamani welcomed the guest who expressed his delight on the visit. The two sides exchanged cordial conversations. They also reviewed the relations binding the two countries.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/H-E-Gen-Nuamani-meets-Chief-of-General-Staff-of-British-Army-50g0>

- **Qatar ministries busy cracking down on violators**

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MEC) conducted a surprise inspection campaign on street vendors and issued 16 different violations, local daily Gulf Times reported.The inspections were carried out near Doha Corniche, Al Wakrah and Al Daayan areas to ensure that vendors were complying with the stipulations of Law No 5 of 2015 regarding commercial and industrial stores and street vendors and the ministerial decision No 243 for 2016 regarding the regulations of activities of street vendors and peddlers.

More Details:

<http://www.qatarliving.com/forum/news/posts/qatar-ministries-busy-cracking-down-violators>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt Defence Minister heads to Ivory Coast for Community of Sahel-Saharan States meeting.**

Egypt's Defence Minister Sedki Sobhi headed with an official delegation to Ivory Coast on Tuesday to participate in the sixth meeting of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, which is taking place from

1 to 5 May.Sobhi is set to hold meetings with a range of counterparts from the community's member-states on the sidelines of the gathering, which will focus on military cooperation.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/267007/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-Defence-Minister-heads-to-Ivory-Coast-for-Co.aspx>

- **Baptism rift hits Francis-Tawadros II declaration**

The declaration signed by Pope Francis and Coptic Pope Tawadros II, that Catholics and Copts for the first time will recognize each other's sacrament of baptism stirred wide controversy among Coptic Christians in Egypt.The websites affiliated to the Catholic Church reported that the common declaration states that there is no need for a second baptism for Christians who convert from one Church to another.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/baptism-rift-hits-francis-tawadros-ii-declaration>

- **Is Hamas separating itself from the Brotherhood?**

The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) released its new political declaration on Monday, announcing cutting any administrative or organisational relationship with the Egypt-based and now-banned Muslim Brotherhood group.After nearly two years of working on its draft, the leader of Hamas in exile, Khaled Meshaal, released the new declaration of Hamas in a press conference in the Qatari capital, Doha.

More Details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/02/hamas-separating-brotherhood/>

- **Is Egypt using passports to punish its opponents?**

Mohamed ElBaradei, Egypt's former vice president, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former head of the UN's Atomic Energy Agency, has said there should be "no confusion between citizenship rights and state policies".He is accusing the government of delaying issuing his passport for political reasons - and it is not just him.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2017/05/egypt-passports-punish-opponents-170502195256826.html>

- **Egyptian non-oil business activity shrinks for 19th month in April**

Egyptian private-sector activity shrank at the slowest pace in nine months in April as output and new orders continued to decline, a survey showed on Wednesday. The Emirates NBD Egypt Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the non-oil private sector stood at 47.4 points, up from 45.9 in March but remaining below the 50 point mark separating growth from contraction for the 19th month in a row.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/egyptian-non-oil-business-activity-shrinks-for-19th-month-in-april-pmi/articleshow/58489505.cms>

- **The most pressing issues**

Alaa Thabet, a member of NPO's board and editor-in-chief of Al-Ahram Al-Masaa, told reporters that a long anticipated shake-up is expected to involve 62 press figures. "Eight board chairmen will be selected and up to 54 editors-in-chief could be named," said Thabet. Thabet said NPO board members were likely to prioritise the selection of new chairmen and the naming of editors-in-chief could be postponed until a new general press and media law is issued.

More Details:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/20319.aspx>

- **Egypt parliament agrees in principle the new investment law**

Egyptian parliament has on Tuesday agreed in principle by majority the country's long-awaited new investment law that aimed to remove red tape. Egypt is trying to recover economically after a popular uprising in 2011 drove away tourists and foreign investors, key sources of hard currency.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/investment-news/industry-trade/56579-egypt-parliament-agrees-in-principle-the-new-investment-law.html>

- **Egypt violence: Three police killed in Cairo attack**

The assailants, riding in two vehicles, opened fire on a security convoy on the main ring road in the Nasr City area. No group has yet said it was behind the attack, which occurred on Monday night.

More Details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39778169>

- **Egypt denies plans to build military base in Eritrea**

An Egyptian military source has denied reports about planning to establish a military base in Eritrea. A Sudanese newspaper earlier claimed that Eritrea has accepted an Egyptian request to build a military base on its territory.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/05/2017/Egypt-denies-plans-to-build-military-base-in-Eritrea>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Details emerge of reported Serraj-Haftar agreement**

Although there has been no official statement so far on today's talks in Abu Dhabi between Presidency Council head Fayez Serraj and Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, unconfirmed reports say that a number of points were agreed.

More details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/05/02/details-emerge-of-reported-serraj-haftar-agreement/>

- **Ennaceur in Brussels: Tunisia and Europe have no choice but to unify their vision to meet common challenges**

Tunisia and Europe have no choice but to unify their vision and put in place mechanisms and means needed to meet the challenges of terrorism, immigration, organised crime and the economic and social crisis in the region, Speaker of the House of People's Representatives Mohamed Ennaceur, said Tuesday in Brussels.

More details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Top-Slide-EN/8979844-ennaceur-in>

- **Algeria voter apathy mars parliamentary election**

Algerians go to the polls on Thursday to elect a new parliament amid concerns that a low turnout will mar a vote which officials say is necessary to maintain stability.

More details:

<http://middle-east-online.com/english/?id=82880>

- **OPEC oil output falls for fourth straight month**

Opec oil output fell for a fourth straight month in April, a Reuters survey found yesterday, as top exporter Saudi Arabia kept production below its target while maintenance and unrest cut production in exempt nations Nigeria and Libya.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/05/2017/Opec-oil-output-falls-for-fourth-straight-month>

- **Leave Saharawi now – Nam, Zim tell Morocco**

Zimbabwe and Namibia on Wednesday said they will not tire in their quest to see Morocco, which was recently re-admitted into the African Union (AU), give up its continued occupation of the Western Sahara.

More details:

<https://southernafrican.news/2017/05/02/leave-saharawi-now-nam-zim-tell-morocco/>

- **Alarm over worsening press freedom in Tunisia**

Tunisian and international non-governmental organisations warned on Tuesday of deteriorating freedom of the press in a country considered to be a rare success story of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/alarm-over-worsening-press-freedom-tunisia-1901732165>

- **Libya Takes French Multinational to Court amidst Secrecy and Confusion**

Libya's Investment Authority will file a US\$1.5 billion lawsuit against French multinational bank, Societe Generale. The case is due to begin on Wednesday, May 3, and follows on the heels of a previously failed lawsuit against US banking giant Goldman Sachs.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705021053203089-libya-societe-generale-lawsuit/>

- **Staying United: How Civil Protests in Tunisia Can Induce Terrorism**

The Tunisian city of Tataouine is facing civil protests that have been raging for three weeks now. Civilians are demanding the government keeps its promises and allocates more oil revenues to the local budget. However, such an action could jeopardize the country's security.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/africa/201705021053213290-tunisia-civil-protests-terrorism-threat/>

- **AfTIAS program focuses on boosting Djibouti, Algeria economies**

The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and the International Trade Center (ITC) signed an agreement to develop two new projects in Djibouti and Algeria under the Aid for Trade Initiative for the Arab States (AfTIAS) program.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1093661/business-economy>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Pakistan ramps up coal power with Chinese-backed plants**

With much of the world pouring investments into renewable and clean energy, Pakistan is drawing criticism for welcoming Chinese investment in coal-fired power plants as part of a plan to boost urgently needed generating capacity.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/202229-Pakistan-ramps-up-coal-power-with-Chinese-backed-plants>

- **8 dead, 25 injured in Kabul suicide bombing**

A suicide bomber blew himself up near the US embassy in the in Kabul on Wednesday, killing at least eight people and wounding 25 others, officials said.

More details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/05/03/8-dead-25-injured-kabul-suicide-bombing>

- **Pakistan eyeing collaborating with Delhi, Kabul over water management**

At a time when tensions between India and Pakistan are at an all time high, Islamabad is planning to hold joint mechanism with India and Afghanistan for joint watershed management and trans-boundary aquifer sharing, to minimize the negative impact of development projects.

More details:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-pakistan-eyeing-collaborating-with-delhi-kabul-over-water-management-2425944>

- **Pakistan, Iran will have to work together to solve issues facing Muslim world: Iranian FM**

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan met Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Wednesday in Islamabad for bilateral discussion after a terrorist attack near the Pak-Iran border in which at least 10 Iranian border guards were killed.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1330803/pakistan-iran-will-have-to-work-together-to-solve-issues-facing-muslim-world-iranian-fm>

- **Pakistan among most dangerous countries for journalists: report**

Pakistan is among the most dangerous countries in the world for journalism, France-based watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) revealed in its latest annual press freedom report.

More details:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/140337-Pakistan-among-most-dangerous-countries-for-journalists-report>

- **Journalists bravely face Taliban, other terrorist networks threats: Llorens**

A top US diplomat in Afghanistan has said the journalists in Afghanistan bravely face threats posed by the Taliban and other terrorist networks to do their jobs.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/journalists-bravely-face-taliban-other-terrorist-networks-threats-llorens-02705>

- **FM Rabbani Meets Germany Special Representative For Afghanistan, Pakistan**

Foreign Minister, Salahuddin Rabbani met with Germany Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Sabine Sparwasser at his office on Tuesday, Bakhtar News Agency (BNA) reported.

More details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/28449-fm-rabbani-meets-germany-special-representative-for-afghanistan-pakistan.html>

- **27 Insurgents Killed in Helmand Operation**

At least 27 insurgents were killed in a police operation in Helmand on Tuesday, just days after hundreds of U.S Marines returned to the province.

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/27%C2%A0-insurgents-killed-helmand-operation>

- **Will Respond To Pakistan at Time and Place of Our Choosing: Army Vice Chief**

Pakistan will have to face the consequences of mutilating bodies of two Indian soldiers and the army will respond to the dastardly act at a time and place of its choosing, Vice Chief of Army Staff Sarath Chand said.

More details:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/will-respond-to-pakistan-at-time-and-place-of-our-choosing-army-vice-chief-1688907>

- **Russia, Pakistan, Iran 'malign actors' in Afghanistan, says US report**

Russia, Pakistan and Iran are malign actors in Afghanistan because they 'enable' the insurgents fighting the Kabul government, says a report by an official US watchdog, quoting senior US military officials who raised this issue in recent congressional hearings.

More details:

<http://www.kashmirmonitor.in/Details/122999/russia-pakistan-iran-%E2%80%98malign-actors-in-afghanistan-says-us-report>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey captures PKK-linked TAK's leader in northern Iraq's Irbil**

The so-called leader of terrorist group PKK's suicide team, known as the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK) was reportedly captured in a joint operation conducted by the National Security Organization (MİT) and a team from the Special Operations Command in Iraq's Irbil city.

More details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/05/03/turkey-captures-pkk-linked-taks-leader-in-northern-iraqs-irbil>

- **Erdogan: Russia and Turkey can influence situation in Middle East**

Joint steps of Russia and Turkey can influence the situation in the Middle East, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. According to him, this meeting is a very good opportunity to discuss the relations in a bilateral format, as well as regional issues, RIA Novosti reported.

More Detials:

<https://news.am/eng/news/387904.html>

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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