



# 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

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**10 APRIL 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Hakim Meets Egyptian Ambassador To Baghdad**

Head of the National Alliance Ammar al-Hakim confirmed the openness of Iraq to all countries of the Arab world and the region. Al-Hakim met Egyptian Ambassador, Alaa Moussa and discussed with him the victories of the Iraqi forces against the terrorist gangs in Mosul and the importance of cooperation between the two countries to confront terrorism that threatens the security of all.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?v2prwrladjD1yw9bKQ8%252bmA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?v2prwrladjD1yw9bKQ8%252bmA%253d%253d)

- **Mosul Governor survives assassination attempt**

A group of gunmen on Sunday opened fire at the convoy of Mosul Governor Nofal Hammadi al-Sultan in eastern Mosul, but the official survived the assassination attempt. Iraqi Army Colonel Ahmad al-Jubouri told Anadolu Agency that the attack was foiled after his bodyguards engaged the assailants.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/mosul-governor-survives-assassination-attempt/>

- **IS Executes 12 Prisoners near Hawija: KRSC**

Islamic State (IS) militants on Sunday executed 12 prisoners near Hawija, north of Iraq, accusing them of cooperation with the Iraqi government, said Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC). "According to our Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), today ISIS killed 12 prisoners in Tal Al-Baeer area on the Riyaz-Hawija Road," the KRSC said on its official twitter account, using a different acronym for IS.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/341950>

- **Iraqis celebrate Palm Sunday near Mosul for the first time in three years**

Hundreds of Christians flocked to the Iraqi town of Qaraqosh on Sunday to celebrate Palm Sunday for the first time in three years, packing into a church torched by Islamic State to take communion at its ruined altar. In October, Iraqi forces expelled the Sunni Muslim militants from Qaraqosh as part of a campaign to retake nearby Mosul, the country's second-largest city seized by the group in June 2014.

More Details:



[http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En\\_NewsReader/ec426b32-2b3a-4aba-b81b-c5bd2fbb37af/-Iraqis-celebrate-Palm-Sunday-near-Mosul-for-the-first-time-in-three-years-](http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/ec426b32-2b3a-4aba-b81b-c5bd2fbb37af/-Iraqis-celebrate-Palm-Sunday-near-Mosul-for-the-first-time-in-three-years-)

- **Iraqi Special Forces Liberate Matahin District of Mosul**

Special anti-terror forces of Iraq liberated the Matahin district in the western part of Mosul from the Daesh terrorists, according to Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Yarallah, the chief of the Iraqi Joint Operations Command. Special anti-terror forces of Iraq have completely liberated the Matahin district in the western part of Mosul from Islamic State Daesh militants, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Yarallah, the chief of the Iraqi Joint Operations Command, said on Sunday.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40167](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40167)

- **Internal disputes in ISIS over nominating Mousali to succeed Baghdadi**

Severe disputes and differences between ISIS elements have erupted over nominating ISIS' Nineveh deputy Abu Hafsah al-Mousali to succeed the group's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, intelligence sources said on Sunday. The sources asserted in press statements that the disputes have reached even low ranking terrorists in the group.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/9154/Internal-disputes-in-ISIS-over-nominating-Mousali-to-succeed-Baghdadi>

- **ISIS kills civilians attempting to flee Mosul, hangs bodies on electricity poles**

Dozens of civilian caught attempting to flee the ISIS-held city of Mosul in northern Iraq were killed by the terror group before their bodies were hanged on the city's electricity poles in a clear message to warn others. Eyewitnesses reported that some of the mutilated bodies remained there for days before given a proper burial.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-kills-civilians-attempting-flee-mosul-hangs-bodies-electricity-poles/>

- **Iraq's Shiite cleric Al Sadr calls on Assad to step down**

Influential Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr on Saturday called on Syrian President Bashar Al Assad to step down, also calling on Washington and Moscow to stop intervening in the conflict. The young Najaf-

based Shiite cleric condemned the killing of 87 people, including 31 children, in a suspected chemical attack last week in a rebel-held Syrian town that has been widely blamed on Damascus.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/13950399-d21c-4002-a3d8-e7026135430f.aspx>

- **Mass Yazidi Grave Found; 289 Killed in Iraq**

Minister Wa'il Abdul Latif predicted that Basra province will declare its autonomy once the Islamic State militants are defeated. Politicians have been discussing the possibility for years but never getting very far with planning. At least 289 were killed and two were wounded: A mass grave containing about 200 Yazidis believed killed in 2014 was discovered in Hardan.

More Details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/04/08/mass-yazidi-grave-found-289-killed-in-iraq/>

- **Iraq: Differences Intensifying amongst ISIL Terrorists over Appointment of Successor to Baghdadi**

Intelligence sources reported that disunity and differences have intensified among ISIL commanders over the appointment of a successor to the terrorist group's Chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The sources reported that rifts have widened among senior commanders of ISIL after the terrorist group's Consultative Assembly introduced Abu Hafsa al-Mouseli, the deputy governor of Nineveh province, as the successor to Baghdadi.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960120001062>

- **'Daesh Used Oil Tanks to Make Suicide Cars': A Journey into Iraq's Liberated Energy Complex**

On a calm day in early spring, a member of the Iraqi voluntary forces, known as the Popular Mobilization Units or Hashid al-Shaabi, guided a Tasnim reporter through an oil and gas complex in northern Iraq that has been recently retaken from the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group. Once a major center for reserving oil and gas, a devastated complex near Ain al-Baidha village in al-Shirqat district is the only thing that has remained after Daesh (ISIL) militants fled the area in northern Iraq.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/04/09/1374850/daesh-used-oil-tanks-to-make-suicide-cars-a-journey-into-iraq-s-liberated-energy-complex>

- **There Are No Signs That Iraq Can Be Bombed Into Stability**

More than 200 men, women and children were killed in a US airstrike in the city of Mosul in northern Iraq last month. As bodies were pulled from the rubble, the Los Angeles Times offered counsel to US readers. "The death toll is a tragedy," wrote the paper's Doyle McManus.

More Details:

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/40153-there-are-no-signs-that-iraq-can-be-bombed-into-stability>

- **12 killed as Islamic State wages two suicide attacks on U.S.-backed Syrian rebels on Iraq border**

Islamic State militants launched two suicide attacks on U.S.-backed Syrian rebels near the border with Iraq, leaving at least 12 dead in the fighting and many wounded, rebel sources said on Sunday. They said eight Islamic State fighters and four of their own men died. An attack at midnight on a heavily defended base near the al Tanf border crossing involved at least one explosive-laden vehicle that rammed an entrance to the base. At least two U.S.-backed rebels were killed and scores wounded, a rebel source said.

More Details:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/04/10/world/12-killed-islamic-state-wages-two-suicide-attacks-u-s-backed-syrian-rebels-iraq-border/#.WOuQ0Pnyjcs>

- **US assures Iraq of anti-Daesh support**

US Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday assured Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi of continued US support to defeat Daesh, the Iraqi government said in a statement. The two discussed the situation in Syria and the war on Daesh in a phone call from Pence following Friday's US strikes on a Syrian airbase to punish a chemical attack that killed scores of civilians this week in an area held by the opposition to Syrian President Bashar Al Assad.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/17cf097e-1dd3-4e3b-833b-c3d8728da65e.aspx>

- **UNFPA and European Union provide emergency medical care to Women and Girls affected by the conflict in Iraq**

As fighting in Iraq reaches its peak, urgent humanitarian needs of women and girls impacted by the conflict continue to escalate. At this critical juncture, thanks to the €5 Million additional contribution of the European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) up-scales its frontline humanitarian response. This includes the



provision of lifesaving reproductive health services, in recently re-taken areas of East and West Mosul, and the delivery of first assistance kits to displaced women and girls, from Mosul and other active conflict areas in Iraq. “Through this EU partnership, UNFPA will provide much needed Reproductive Health services to more than 700,000 conflict affected women and girls in Iraq.

More Details:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/unfpa-and-european-union-provide-emergency-medical-care-women-and-girls-affected>

- **US pledges continued support for Iraq’s war against Daesh**

US Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday assured Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi of continued US support to defeat Islamic State, the Iraqi government said in a statement. The two discussed the situation in Syria and the war on Daesh in a phone call from Pence following Friday’s US strikes on a Syrian airbase to punish a chemical attack that killed scores of civilians this week in an area held by the opposition to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1081231/middle-east>

- **Iraq calls for end to further escalation in Syria, ‘urgent’ international probe**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, in a telephone call with US Vice President Mike Pence, highlighted the need to end the escalation of the Syrian conflict and conduct an urgent investigation into the suspected chemical weapons attack. Abadi “stressed the need to develop a comprehensive plan to stop the escalation in Syria and unite efforts to eliminate Daesh [Arabic acronym for IS] and other terrorist organizations,” the Iraqi government said in a statement.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/384054-escalation-syria-strike-conflict/>

- **Iraq forces retake three more villages in western Mosul**

Iraqi forces have retaken three more villages in western Mosul from the Islamic State terrorist group, Iraqi security sources said Friday. “The army’s 9th Armored Division recaptured the village of Ghazilwa after storming it Friday morning,” Iraqi army officer Jabbar Hassan told Anadolu Agency. “After fierce fighting, our forces managed to inflict heavy losses on the militants,” he added.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/08/04/2017/Iraq-forces-retake-three-more-villages-in-western-Mosul>

- **Iraq and Syria are not humanitarian operations. They are business locations**

The U.S. bombing innocent civilians in Iraq by the 100s; Israel blocking human rights workers in Gaza; EU says "no more refugees...We're at the limit." Just 20 years ago if you were to hear such headlines, you would be dumbfounded into a state of shock.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2017/04/08/iraq-and-syria-are-not-humanitarian-operations-they-are-business-locations>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Russia and Iran warn will take military action against US if it crosses 'red line' again**

Russia and Iran have renewed their support for the Syrian government, saying the US missile strike violated Syrian sovereignty but failed to boost the morale of 'terror groups' in the war-torn country.

More Details

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/04/10/russia-and-iran-warn-will-take-military-action-against-us-if-it-crosses-red-line-again-6564444/#ixzz4dpHmBRNo>

- **Group of 7 foreign ministers seek U.S. clarity over Syria**

Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven major industrialized nations meet on Monday for an annual gathering, with Europe and Japan seeking clarity from the United States on an array of issues, especially Syria.

More Details

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201704100014.html>

- **Strong demand keeps oil prices firm amid political uncertainty in Syria**

Owing to the strong demand for oil alongwith the brooding political uncertainty in Syria, the oil prices remained firm on April 10, 2017, however, drilling activities in the US kept the cap on profits intact.

More Details

[http://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/oil-prices-firm-strong-demand-keeps-oil-prices-firm-amid-political-uncertainty-in-syria-117041000063\\_1.html](http://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/oil-prices-firm-strong-demand-keeps-oil-prices-firm-amid-political-uncertainty-in-syria-117041000063_1.html)

- **ISIS Anticipates Southern Syria's Battle by Attacking Al-Tanf**

ISIS anticipated the southern battle in Syria by initiating an attack on Sunday using an explosive-laden vehicle at the entrance of the heavily defended base near al-Tanf border crossing with Jordan. But, sources said opposition fighters repelled the attack, which coincided with reports about activating the southern front and expanding al-Tanf Garrison on the Syrian-Jordanian border to become a base for operations launched against the terrorist group.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/caroline-akoum-and-asharq-alawsat/news-middle-east/isis-anticipates-southern-syrias-battle-attacking-al-tanf>

- **Tillerson's Moscow visit to test waters after US Syria strike**

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's visit to Moscow this week will be an early test of whether the Trump administration can use any momentum generated by striking a Syrian air base to craft and execute a strategy to end the Syrian war.

More Details

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/tillersons-moscow-visit-to-test-waters-after-us-syria-strike/>

- **Trump thanks US Navy for Syria attack**

US President Donald Trump has called US Navy commanders to thank them for carrying out a missile attack against a Syrian airbase last week. The US Navy's USS Porter and USS Ross guided-missile destroyers fired 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles from the Mediterranean Sea at Syria's al-Shayrat airfield early on Friday, in retaliation for a suspected chemical attack on April 6 that Washington insists was carried out by Syrian fighter jets operating from the base.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/04/10/517445/US-Navy-Trump-USS-Porter-Ross-Shayrat>

- **Tillerson: Defeating Daesh more important than stabilizing Syria**

Defeating Daesh "the Islamic State group" remains the top priority for the United States in Syria, even before stabilising the country, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson suggested. Victory over the militant group would eliminate not only a threat to the US but to "the whole stability in the region," Tillerson told CBS television's 'Face the Nation' program in an excerpt released on Saturday.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/tillerson-defeating-daesh-more-important-stabilizing-syria-960746>

- **Preparation of Astana talks on Syrian crisis continues**

The preparation of the talks on the Syrian crisis settlement in Astana, set to take place in May, is continuing, all political parties, which are interested in the reconciliation process, should support talks on Syria in both Astana and Geneva, Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov said Monday.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124696/Preparation-of-Astana-talks-on-Syrian-crisis-continues>

- **Assad's Chemical Strike Exposes the Foolishness of Obama's Iran Deal**

Last week's horrific attack in Syria disproved the Obama administration's boast of stripping Bashar al-Assad of "100 percent" of his chemical weapons. And that has big implications for the nuclear deal with Iran.

More Details

<http://nation.foxnews.com/2017/04/10/nikki-haley-assad-us-believes-regime-change-going-happen?section=10368>

- **Trump officials tell Russia to drop its support for Syria's Assad**

Officials in the Trump administration on Sunday demanded that Russia stop supporting the Syrian government or face a further deterioration in its relations with the United States. Signaling the focus of talks that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is set to have in Moscow this week, officials said that Russia, in propping up Syrian President Bashar Assad, bears at least partial responsibility for Wednesday's chemical attack on villagers in Idlib province.

More Details:

[http://pilotonline.com/news/government/nation/trump-officials-tell-russia-to-drop-its-support-for-syria/article\\_510b2ef4-8c82-565f-9532-5d64781c96de.html](http://pilotonline.com/news/government/nation/trump-officials-tell-russia-to-drop-its-support-for-syria/article_510b2ef4-8c82-565f-9532-5d64781c96de.html)

### 3. IRAN

- **New oil contract models will boost FDI: Iran**

The Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) model would bring more foreign investment; Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh was quoted as saying in a media report.

More Details

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN\\_323169.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_323169.html)

- **Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei calls US missile strike on Syria a 'strategic mistake'**

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei has called the US missile strike on a Syrian airbase a "strategic mistake" on the part of the Trump administration. He said Tehran will not be "intimidated" by US actions in the Middle East. Iran, the Shia powerhouse of the Middle East, has been a staunch backer of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria since the beginning of the uprising-turned-civil war. Following the US' pounding of Syrian regime positions with 59 cruise missiles, Iran had rallied behind Russia to condemn Washington.

More Details

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/irans-ayatollah-khamenei-calls-us-air-strike-syria-strategic-mistake-1616232>

- **IranAir may receive first Boeing jet sooner than planned**

IranAir may get its first new Boeing (BA.N) jetliner a year earlier than expected under a deal to replace cash-strapped Turkish Airlines, Iranian media and industry sources said. Iran had been expected to receive the first of 80 aircraft ordered from the U.S. planemaker in April 2018, but at least one brand-new aircraft is reported to be sitting unused because it is no longer needed by the Turkish carrier.

More Details

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-iran-aircraft-idUKKBN17C0IB>

- **Liquidity in Iran hits \$373.5B, a 24.1% rise**

Liquidity in Iran hit \$373.5 billion at the end of the 11th months of last fiscal year (February 19), according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2740368.html>

- **Iran's Zarif Calls for 'Impartial' Probe into Chemical Attack in Syria**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif stressed the need to launch an "impartial inquiry" into a recent suspected chemical attack in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province, which led to a unilateral move by the US to attack the Arab country.



More Details

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/04/10/1375291/iran-s-zarif-calls-for-impartial-probe-into-chemical-attack-in-syria>

- **India's Iran Oil imports reaches record high**

India's Oil imports from Iran reached a record high to about half a million barrel per day in 2016/17. A growth of about 115 percent was seen in this fiscal year to March, with the refineries imported Iranian Oil of about 0.541 million barrels per day.

More Details

<http://www.commodityonline.com/commodity-news/indias-iran-oil-imports-reaches-record-high/news-now/14295>

- **Iran slams terrorist attacks on Egyptian churches**

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi condemned terrorist bombings in Egyptian churches killing and injuring dozens of worshipers. Ghasemi said the attacks on religious sites and assassination of innocent people is literally a barbaric act which is seriously condemned.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124690/Iran-slams-terrorist-attacks-on-Egyptian-churches>

- **A slim chance for a GCC-Iran strategic dialogue**

Strategic dialogue between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Iran was not among the most publicized items on the agenda for the bloc's Ministerial Council in Riyadh last week. Yet it seems the idea of the dialogue was revisited by GCC foreign ministers, as hinted, for example, by Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1081906>

- **Senior Official Warns of US Plot to Disable Iran's Power Grid**

Head of Iran's Civil Defense Organization Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali warned of the US plots to launch cyberattacks against the country to disable its power grid. "The US has developed a plan named Nitro Zeus with Iran's power infrastructures as a target for cyberattack," Jalali said, addressing a meeting of Khuzestan province's Civil Defense Council in Ahvaz on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960121000444>

#### 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel and Obama's political war**

Eli Lake from Bloomberg set off a firestorm in the US this week with his revelation on Monday that in the last six months of the Obama administration, Susan Rice, former president Barack Obama's national security adviser, requested that the US intelligence community enable her to use foreign intelligence collection as a means of gathering information about Donald Trump's advisers.

More Details:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/266367/israel-and-obamas-political-war-caroline-glick>

- **Palestinian-Israeli lawmaker gets jail for smuggling phones to inmates**

An Israeli court on Sunday sentenced a Palestinian-Israeli former MP to two years in jail after he pleaded guilty to smuggling mobile phones to Palestinian prisoners, a court transcript showed.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/4/10/palestinian-israeli-lawmaker-gets-jail-for-smuggling-phones-to-inmates>

- **Interior minister calls to establish Ministry of Palestinian Affairs**

After Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acted on his new policy of restrained settlement construction, Internal Affairs Minister goes one step further and calls on the PM to appoint a new minister to handle Palestinian affairs.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4947410,00.html>

- **Israel Bans Dozens of Palestinians from Al-Aqsa Mosque**

Local activists say that Jewish holiday season is often synonymous with escalated repression of Palestinians living in Jerusalem.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Israel-Bans-Dozens-of-Palestinians-from-Al-Aqsa-Mosque-20170409-0013.html>

- **Israel Warns UN of Imminent Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza Strip**

Israel warned the United Nations of an impending humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip because of severe infrastructure problems there. The Palestinian Authority is responsible for the situation that has developed in Gaza and no real efforts are being made to solve the problems, said Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai, the Israel Defense Forces' coordinator of government activities in the territories, in a letter he sent last week on the matter to the UN special envoy for the Middle East peace process, Nikolay Mladenov.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.782415>

- **Israel updates Sinai travel warning**

Israel updated its warning against travel to the Sinai Peninsula on Sunday, calling on Israelis already visiting to leave immediately. The warning came after two church bombings, one in the city of Tanta and the other in Alexandria, killed at least 43 people, with the Islamic State (ISIS) group claiming responsibility.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/227985>

- **Israel will continue to treat injured Syria militants: Netanyahu**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the Tel Aviv regime will continue to provide medical treatment to Takfiri militants fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/04/09/517369/Israel-Prime-Minister-Netanyahu-treatment-Syria-militants-US-missile-attack-Shayrat-airfield-Homs>

- **Israel Detains 509 Palestinians in March**

A joint report by several rights groups said that Israeli forces has arrested 509 Palestinians, including 75 minors, 13 females, five journalists and one Palestinian Legislative Council member, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in March 2017.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960120000946>

- **Israeli Soldiers Abduct A Child Near Bethlehem**

Several Israeli military jeeps invaded, on Sunday at dawn, Doha town, west of Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank, and abducted a Palestinian child, the Bethlehem office of the Palestinian Prisoners Society (PPS) said.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-soldiers-abduct-a-child-near-bethlehem/>

- **Israel removes Palestinian monument to terrorist in Hebron**

Also removing seven illegal lathes and arresting three suspected of terrorist activities, Israeli security forces take down the memorial to a 16-year-old girl who tried to stab a Border Police officer.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4947661,00.html>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan summons Iranian Ambassador in Amman**

The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs on Sunday summoned the Iranian ambassador to Jordan and strongly protested remarks made by an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman against Jordan and its leadership.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302607769>

- **Tunisian President receives Jordanian Interior Minister**

Tunisian President, Beji Caid Essebsi, received on Friday the Jordanian Minister of Interior, Ghalib Al Zoubi, who is in Tunisia to take part in meetings of Arab Interior Ministers.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302607590>

- **Fluidity around the poverty line**

The World Bank claimed in a recent report that one third of the Jordanian population may fall below the poverty line within a year. This unpleasant statement caused worry, even though there is nothing new about it.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/business/10-Apr-17/fluidity-around-the-poverty-line>

- **Report: Hizbullah Adheres to Proportionality during Meeting with Aoun**

On the eve of a cabinet meeting devoted to discuss Lebanon's problematic voting system, a Hizbullah delegation held talks on Sunday with President Michel Aoun at the Presidential Palace in the presence of Foreign Minister and Free Patriotic Movement leader Jebran Bassil, al-Joumhouria daily reported on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/228250-report-hizbullah-adheres-to-proportionality-during-meeting-with-aoun>

- **Hezbollah Says to Stand by Egypt against Terrorism**

Lebanon's Hezbollah Resistance Movement condemned the bomb explosions at Coptic churches in various cities in northern Egypt, stressing that the resistance movement will stand by the North African country against terrorism.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/04/10/1375344/hezbollah-says-to-stand-by-egypt-against-terrorism>

- **Five killed, 30 injured in clashes at Lebanon's Palestinian camp**

The toll in two days of clashes in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon rose to five on Sunday, medics said, as local factions worked to implement a security plan.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1326003/five-killed-30-injured-in-clashes-at-lebanons-palestinian-camp>

- **Lebanon: Financial inflows to jump 20 percent amid better economic conditions**

Financial inflows to Lebanon in 2017 could jump by 20 percent thanks to the positive political and economic conditions, Bank Audi said Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/lebanon-financial-inflows-jump-20-percent-amid-better-economic-conditions-960670>



- **Hezbollah: fight against terrorism in Syria to go on**

A senior member of Lebanon Hezbollah insisted that US recent attack on Syria would not influence the group's positions and its fight against terrorists.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82488215/>

- **British FM praises Lebanon for being a 'moral example' to the world for its refugee policy**

To date Lebanon has taken in 1.5 million Syrian refugees over the course of the country's six-year civil war, with displaced Syrians now making up a quarter of the country's population. The UK, in contrast, has taken in just 6,000 refugees – including, shamefully, just 340 out of the 3,000 unaccompanied minors we vowed to take in under the aborted Dubs Amendment. If taking in millions makes you a moral example to the international community, what does taking in a few thousand do? Perhaps Johnson should consider that before opening his mouth and blowing out more hot air.

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2017/04/10/british-fm-praises-lebanon-for-being-a-moral-example-to-the-world-for-its-refugee-policy/>

- **Lebanon's army tells 10,000 Syrian refugees to leave their homes**

Up to 10,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon have been served eviction notices by the Lebanese army, ordering them to leave their informal settlements near an air force base in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon's The Daily Star reported on Saturday.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/lebanon%E2%80%99s-army-tells-10000-syrian-refugees-leave-their-homes-960568>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **King Hamad praises expatriates' role in Bahrain**

King Hamad Bin Eisa Al Khalifa has praised the role and efforts of expatriates in Bahrain, saying that they are loved and appreciated for their effective role in the building and progress of the kingdom. Expatriates make up an important part of the Bahraini society and have contributed alongside Bahraini citizens to the evolution and progress of Bahrain in all areas, the King said late on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/bahrain/king-hamad-praises-expatriates-role-in-bahrain-1.2008849>

- **Bahraini, Palestinian foreign ministers meet**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, Riyad Al Malki, in preparation for the visit of the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, to the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as the conference of the ambassadors of the State of Palestine to Arab and Muslim countries to be hosted by Bahrain.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/779955>

- **OIC rejects Israeli Knesset's law legalising settlement outposts**

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, OIC, has rejected the Israeli Knesset's law legalising settlement outposts. The Islamic bloc in a statement said that the law represents a serious affront to the international community's will and a blatant breach of international legitimacy resolutions, especially UN Security Council Resolution No. 2334, which condemns unlawful Israeli policies, and called for their immediate cessation.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302596183>

- **Millions of children in Yemen vaccinated against polio through UN-backed campaign**

Despite daunting challenges, United Nations agencies and partners in war-torn Yemen have completed a major nationwide polio inoculation campaign, vaccinating nearly five million children under the age of five against the paralyzing disease. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)-UN World Health Organization (WHO)-World Bank supported campaign was launched in February and saw thousands of health workers, health educators, religious leaders and local council officials mobilize their communities to maximize the campaign's reach, including in high-risk groups, such as internally displaced persons and refugees.

More Details:

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56531#.WOuZE\\_nyics](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56531#.WOuZE_nyics)

- **Commander: Yemen to Turn into Big Missile Power in 10 Years**

A senior commander of Yemen's army underlined that his country will be among the region's most powerful states in manufacturing advanced missiles. "Enjoying a wise leader and relying on its young people's scientific power, Yemen will turn into one of the superior missile powers in the region in 10 years," Abdolmalek Issa told FNA on Monday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960121001344>

- **Wins for Yemen govt. as port reclaimed, Parliament set to move to Aden**

Yemen's legitimate government, in a move to accelerate its restoration of state institutions, will transfer its Parliament to the interim capital of Aden, as well as start reconstruction projects and operations at Al-Mokha Port. Mohammed Al-Shaddadi, deputy speaker of the Yemeni Parliament, said in statements to Asharq Al-Awsat, that the Yemeni Parliament will soon begin to work from the interim capital of Aden.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1082051/saudi-arabia>

- **Rouhani urges Saudi Arabia to stop interfering in Yemen and Syria**

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has took Saudi Arabia responsible for darkened relations between the two countries, saying that the root cause of Riyadh's inappropriate behavior should be found in its failures in Syria and Yemen. "Saudi Arabia should stop interfering in Yemen and Syria," Rouhani told a press conference in Tehran April 10, an APA correspondent reported from the event.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/rouhani-urges-saudi-arabia-to-stop-interfering-in-yemen-and-syria.html>

- **Sudan and Saudi Arabia boost ties with joint air force drill**

President Omar al-Bashir said a joint Saudi-Sudanese air force drill that ended Sunday had boosted relations between the countries, two years after Khartoum broke ties with Iran. For years, Khartoum's Islamist regime maintained close relations with Riyadh's arch-rivals in Tehran. But as sectarian divisions in the region escalated with the conflict in Syria, Khartoum allied with Riyadh.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170409-sudan-saudi-arabia-boost-ties-with-joint-air-force-drill>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Islamic State claims responsibility for firing missile into Israel from Sinai**

The Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility for firing a grad missile from Sinai into southern Israel on Monday in a statement on its news agency AMAQ. An Israeli army statement said earlier in the day that the projectile landed in the Eshkol regional council. "No injuries have been reported," the statement added.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/262686/Egypt/Politics-/Islamic-State-claims-responsibility-for-firing-mis.aspx>

- **Egypt suicide bombers slaughter 44 Coptic Christians**

Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 44 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage at the government that led the president to call for a three-month state of emergency. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the violence, adding to fears that extremists are shifting their focus to civilians, especially Egypt's Christian minority.

More Details:

<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news.php?id=87422>

- **Egypt's Sisi to declare state of emergency**

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi said he will impose a state of emergency countrywide for three months, following attacks on churches in Tanta and Alexandria on Sunday. In a televised address, he said that the state of emergency will come into effect "once legal and constitutional measures are completed."

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/262625/Egypt/Politics-/BREAKING-Egypt-Sisi-to-declare-state-of-emergency.aspx>

- **Prosecution orders DNA tests for identifying victims of Alexandria church blast**

Preliminary investigations conducted by prosecution on the bombing of St Marck church in Alexandria, which occurred on Sunday, showed that the suicide bomber attempted to access the church from a side-gate in order to cause huge losses. However, security personnel denied him access and guided him to the gate allocated for entrance. The surveillance cameras showed that the

electronic gate made an alarm as the suicide bomber attempted to access. It was clear that the suspect was hesitant to go on fearing arrest, which made him blow himself up.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/prosecution-orders-dna-tests-identifying-victims-alexandria-church-blast>

- **Pope still plans Egypt visit despite bombings**

Pope Francis will visit Egypt as planned this month despite the weekend bombings of two Coptic Christian churches that killed 44 people, a Vatican official said. "There is no doubt the Holy Father will maintain his offer to go to Egypt" on April 28 and 29, Monsignor Angelo Becciu, the Holy See's number three, said in an interview published in the Italian daily Corriere della Sera on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170410-pope-still-plans-egypt-visit-despite-bombings>

- **Kazakhstani people in Egypt are recommended not to leave resort zones**

The committee of tourism recommends Kazakhstani tourists not to leave the resort zones in Egypt. "The committee of tourism of the Ministry of Culture and Sports recommends Kazakhstani tourists having rest or planning visiting the country not to leave the resort zones," said Marat Igali, director of tourism industry department of MID.

More Details:

<http://www.kaztag.kz/en/news/detail.php?ID=533639>

- **Saudi leadership condemns 'sinful terror acts' in Egypt**

Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman has sent a cable of condolence to Egypt's President Abdulfattah Al-Sisi, following two terrorist bombings in the two Egyptian cities of Tanta and Alexandria. The Monarch said he has received the news of bombings with profound pain. He expressed in the strongest words his denunciation and condemnation of the two sinful criminal terrorist acts, confirming to the President the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the Arab Republic of Egypt and its sisterly people against whoever attempts to tamper with its security and stability.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/saudi-leadership-condemns-sinful-terror-acts-egypt/>



- **UN Security Council condemns church bombings in Egypt**

The UN Security Council on Sunday condemned "in the strongest terms" two church bombings in Egypt that killed at least 43 people and injured scores. The "heinous and cowardly terrorist attacks" took place as worshipers were marking Palm Sunday -- one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar -- in two Orthodox churches in Tanta and Alexandria, the Council said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/americas/un-security-council-condemns-church-bombings-in-egypt/792995>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Trump aide drew plan on napkin to partition Libya into three**

A senior White House foreign policy official has pushed a plan to partition Libya, and once drew a picture of how the country could be divided into three areas on a napkin in a meeting with a senior European diplomat, the Guardian has learned.

More detail:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/10/libya-partition-trump-administration-sebastian-gorka>

- **Egyptian terror attack could be repeated in Libya if LNA not armed: HoR**

The House of Representatives (HoR) has again called on the UN to lift its arms embargo on Libya so that the Libyan National Army can prevent terrorist attacks being carried out in the country similar to those in Egypt today. The international community was failing Libya by continuing its arms prohibition the HoR insisted.

More detail:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/04/09/egyptian-terror-attack-could-be-repeated-in-libya-if-lna-not-armed-hor/>

- **Almost 230 refugees rescued off Libya's coast**

A Spanish aid agency rescued almost 230 refugees from the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya. The refugees, now being processed in Italy's Sicily, were trying to make the dangerous crossing from Africa into Europe.

More detail:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/04/230-refugees-rescued-libyas-coast-170409045820263.html>

- **Algeria, major business opportunity for British**

Algeria represents "a major business opportunity" for the British, Lord Mayor of the City of London Andrew Parmley told APS. He added that his visit to Algeria, from 8 to 10 April, aims at diversifying trade and investment relations between the two countries, and working more closely with a view to exploring all business opportunities in Algeria, which is an attractive market, he said.

More detail:

[http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://en.aps.dz/economy/17681-algeria,-major-business-opportunity-for-british&gws\\_rd=cr&ei=3j\\_rWK\\_kOqWb6ATN3ZGoBA](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://en.aps.dz/economy/17681-algeria,-major-business-opportunity-for-british&gws_rd=cr&ei=3j_rWK_kOqWb6ATN3ZGoBA)

- **First day of election campaign: Political parties outline their programmes**

Several political parties running in the legislative elections of 4 May have begun on Sunday, the first day of the election campaign, to present the broad lines of their programmes, calling for massive participation in the forthcoming elections in order to consolidate peace and stability in the country.

More detail:

[http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://en.aps.dz/algeria/17685-first-day-of-election-campaign-political-parties-outline-their-programmes&gws\\_rd=cr&ei=9EDrWPTkG6HU6ATD4LmwCg](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://en.aps.dz/algeria/17685-first-day-of-election-campaign-political-parties-outline-their-programmes&gws_rd=cr&ei=9EDrWPTkG6HU6ATD4LmwCg)

- **Siala rejects reports Tunisia asked for end of Operation Mediterranean Storm**

The Presidency Council's (PC) foreign minister has denied rumours alleging he asked for an end to 'Operation Mediterranean Storm,' which seeks to counter the smuggling of Libya's subsidised fuel by sea.

More detail:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/04/09/siala-rejects-reports-tunisia-asked-for-end-of-operation-mediterranean-storm/>

- **Tunisian President receives Jordanian Interior Minister**

Tunisian President, Beji Caid Essebsi, received on Friday the Jordanian Minister of Interior, Ghalib Al Zoubi, who is in Tunisia to take part in meetings of Arab Interior Ministers.

More detail:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302607590>

- **AQIM battalion targets Tunisian soldiers near Algeria**

The Uqba bin Nafi Battalion, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb's (AQIM) branch in Tunisia, has claimed an attack today on Tunisian soldiers in the Mount Ouargha region of Kef Governorate.

More detail:

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/04/aqim-battalion-targets-tunisian-soldiers-near-algeria.php>

- **Libya Dinar hits eight to dollar on black market**

The Libyan dinar continued its plunge on the black market today, hitting the LD 8 mark by the time dealing stopped at the end of the afternoon. In the late afternoon, it dropped to LD 7.90 to the dollar but hit LD 8.00 as it closed. However, dealers say that there has been little public buying in recent days and that dollar sales have been mostly down to commercial deals.

More detail:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/04/09/libya-dinar-hits-eight-to-dollar-on-black-market/>

- **NHRC participates in UNESCO workshop held in Tunis**

Qatar's National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) took part in a workshop held in Tunis, under the title "Facing social transformations - inclusive and sustainable cities".

More detail:

<http://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/09/04/2017/NHRC-participates-in-Unesco-workshop-held-in-Tunis>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Roadside bomb kills nine cops in northern Afghanistan**

A roadside bomb killed nine policemen and wounded four others outside their checkpoint in northern Afghanistan, officials said, in the latest casualties ahead of the spring fighting season.

More detail:

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2017/04/10/roadside-bomb-kills-nine-cops-in-northern-afghanistan/#HpMVq57hkjhR3PuD.99>

- **Leading Entrepreneurs for Afghanistan Development**

A group of active women entrepreneurs came together with a unique voice and a common aim to advocate for the economic stability of women and ensure that women entrepreneurs and women who are economically active are valued and recognized.

More detail:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/opinions/economic/13607-leading-entrepreneurs-for-afghanistan-development.html>

- **Afghanistan rejects Pak claim of India's destructive role**

The Afghan defense officials reacted to allegations of a Pakistani official regarding the alleged destructive role of India, calling it baseless.

More detail:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/197576-Afghanistan-rejects-Pak-claim-of-Indias-destructive-role>

- **US soldier killed in anti-IS action in Afghanistan**

An American Special Forces soldier has been killed while conducting operations against the Islamic State group in Afghanistan, the US military said.

More detail:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/197568-US-soldier-killed-in-anti-IS-action-in-Afghanistan>

- **Iran Named Afghanistan's Largest Trade Partner in 2016: ACCI**

Statistics by the ACCI shows that Iran's trade value with Afghanistan for 2016 was \$1.8 billion USD and that trade volumes between Afghanistan and Pakistan dropped

More detail:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/iran-named-afghanistan%E2%80%99s-largest-trade-partner-2016-acc>

- **New OIC secretary-general arrives in Pakistan**

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary- General Yousef Ahmad Al-Othaimeen has arrived in Pakistan on a three-day official visit.

More detail:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82488238/>

- **Chinese firm to set up \$2b refinery in Sindh**

Pakistan is expected to slash its spending on import of petroleum products as a Chinese company has shown keen interest in setting up a huge oil refinery with an investment of \$2 billion in Sindh province.

More detail:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/ac0071d4-4621-45fa-9cd7-715c9db5734d.aspx>

- **PIL seeking to declare Indus Waters Treaty between India, Pakistan illegal dismissed by Supreme Court**

The Indus Waters Treaty facilitates both India and Pakistan to share water of Indus and its tributaries from the past 56 years.

More detail:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indus-waters-treaty-india-and-pakistan-illegal-supreme-court/1/924981.html>

- **Hard Brexit to Have Significant Implications for Pakistan's exports**

The British prime minister invoked Article 50 on March 29, 2017 and formally started a two-year Brexit process.

More detail:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1379366/hard-brexit-significant-implications-pakistans-exports/>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish FM to attend Syria meeting in Italy**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will attend Tuesday a meeting in Italy to discuss the situation in Syria, the ministry said on Monday. According to the statement, the meeting will be held on April 11 on the sidelines of G-7 Foreign Ministers gathering in which latest developments in "Syria dispute" will be discussed.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/187705/turkish-fm-to-attend-syria-meeting-in-italy>



- **Afghan official slams Western 'smears' of Erdogan**

A “smear campaign” by European countries is targeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan because of the growing strength of Turkey and of Islam, according to a Afghan leader. Sayed Anwar Sadat, the governor of northern Afghanistan's Faryab province, told Anadolu Agency said such a campaign would not affect Turkey.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/afghan-official-slams-western-smears-of-erdogan/793514>

*\*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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