



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Proces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliği

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Ethnic and Secterian Groups

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1. IRAQ

- **Sunni alliance: holding Iraqi elections as scheduled is “military coup”**

Holding Iraq’s parliament and local elections as scheduled will represent a “military coup, Iraq’s largest Sunni alliance said as the government pushes forward with the first election after the defeat of Islamic State militants. Raad al-Dahlaki, a senior member of the Alliance of Iraqi Forces, told Baghdad Today that “holding the elections under the current circumstances will represent a military coup against the political process by allowing the ascension of military commanders to assume the government’s political helm”.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/sunni-alliance-holding-iraqi-elections-scheduled-military-coup/>

- **EU Asks Third Party to Help Erbil-Baghdad Talks**

The EU Foreign Affairs Chief and the European Commission has devised a new strategy for Iraq in the post-Islamic State (IS) era, seeking a national reconciliation across the country as well as a peaceful solution to the political disputes between Erbil and Baghdad.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/405993>

- **Why is Iraq now stripping Palestinians of their rights?**

The Arabi21 news website revealed Dec. 20 that Iraqi President Fuad Masum had approved Law No. 76 of 2017, which stripped Palestinian refugees living in Iraq of their rights and classified them as foreigners. The law came into effect after being published in the Iraqi Gazette. The new law replaced Law No. 202 of 2001, issued by former President Saddam Hussein, forcing the Iraqi state to treat Palestinians as equals to Iraqis, with all privileges and citizenship rights, such as tax exemption, opportunities to work in government departments, and access to education and health care services.

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/7164c1b9-1b6b-474c-baa9-2345ffaa5a27

- **Abadi, int'l bodies investigate 125 corruption cases**

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi gave orders two years ago to investigate 125 cases of corruption in which Iraqi officials are accused of embezzlement in collaboration with international agencies, MP Jassim al-Bayati revealed Wednesday. In press statements, al-Bayati said in collaboration with

international agencies, the prime minister was conducting investigations into 125 bank accounts, belonging to Iraqi officials, who are thought to have siphoned off public funds abroad.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/22152/Abadi-int-l-bodies-investigate-125-corruption-cases>

- **US always after separatist policies in Iraq**

The Iranian Leader's Aide on International Affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati said that Iran and the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq have a long history of friendly relations. Iranian Leader's Aide on International Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati met with the Leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Humam Hamoudi where he said "we have always been willing to meet with our brothers from the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq and there is a long history of friendly relations and cooperation between Iran and the Council."

More Details:

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/131075/US-always-after-separatist-policies-in-Iraq>

- **Czech company to enlarge oil refinery in Iraq**

Czech company ZVU Strojírny Hradec Králové on Tuesday dispatched the first part of a device for an oil refinery in Basra, Iraq. The delivery is part of a three-billion-crown deal (around 135 million US dollars) signed by a consortium of Czech firms led by Technoexport for building two distillation units at refineries in Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/czech-company-to-enlarge-oil-refinery-in-iraq>

- **Iraq: Popular Mobilisation Forces are part of the security system**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi rejected the description of the Popular Mobilisation Forces as militias yesterday stating that they were an armed force that has become a part of the Iraqi security forces. He added that a law was passed in this regard. In a speech during his visit to the Najaf province yesterday, Al-Abadi condemned the presence of armed individuals outside the framework of the authority and state.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180109-iraq-popular-mobilisation-forces-are-part-of-the-security-system/>

- **Iraq parliament forms committee to investigate war crimes in Tuz Khurmatu**

The Iraqi parliament has voted to set up a committee to investigate possible war crimes in the multi-ethnic town of Tuz Khurmatu following its recapture by Iraqi forces from Kurdish Peshmerga fighters. Tuz Khumatu, located 90 kilometres south of the disputed oil-rich city of Kirkuk, has been at the forefront of deep sectarian tensions for the past few years. The multi-ethnic town is home to Turkmen, Arabs and Kurds and was among the contested areas recaptured by Iraqi troops and pro-government mainly Shiite militias in October last year in the wake of the Kurdish independence referendum.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/iraq-parliament-forms-committee-to-investigate-war-crimes-in-tuz-khurmatu-1.694129>

- **Iran, Iraq agreements to develop health, religious tourism**

Iran, Iraq tourism officials reached agreement on Tuesday concerning development of tourism sector between the two countries in the fields of health, religious and sight-seeing tourism. Deputy Head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization for tourism affairs Moheb Khodaei and Head of Tourism Department of Iraq Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Historical sites Hamoud Mohsen Hassan co-chaired the talks.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82790746>

- **ISIL Executes Own Members in Iraq over Refusing Bomb Attacks**

A high-ranking commander of the Iraqi pro-government Popular Mobilization Units, commonly known by the Arabic word Hashd al-Shaabi, announced that the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group has executed some of its members in Iraq's Northern Salahuddin province after they refused to carry out separate bomb attacks.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13961019001014>

- **Iraq's Dawa Party and Electioneering: Division and Survival**

Following the 2005 election of Iraq's National Assembly, the winning Shia Islamist coalition selected Ibrahim al-Jaafari, then a senior leader in the Dawa party, for the position of Prime Minister in the transitional government. Dawa is the oldest Shia Islamist party, but not the largest. Competing groups within the Shia alliance selected a member in the party for the position to sustain minimal

unity, which was threatened by the fierce competition between the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) and the Sadrist movement.

More Details:

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/iraq-s-dawa-party-and-electioneering-division-and-survival>

- **Russian oil major piles up investments in Iraq's Kurdistan amid crisis**

Russian state oil major Rosneft has agreed to invest \$400 million in five oil blocks in Iraqi Kurdistan, increasing Moscow's exposure to the semi-autonomous region despite a major spike in tensions with the central government in Baghdad. Rosneft has previously loaned Kurdistan \$1.2 billion guaranteed by oil sales and is seeking to help Arbil build two major oil and gas pipelines as part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's drive to regain influence in the Middle East.

More Details:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/russian-oil-major-piles-up-investments-in-iraqs-kurdistan-amid-crisis-121103>

- **Iraq cracks down on online gun sales**

Iraq is upping its efforts to restrict the public's access to weapons, which will be a daunting task given the prevalence of weapons on the market and their wide exchange on social media. When the country's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, demanded Dec. 15 that the government escalate operations to put all weapons under its control, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced a plan to do just that. At times in the past, sales were blatant and widespread; after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, weapons were sold on the streets in most Iraqi cities. That's no longer the case — but now dealers have the internet.

More Details:

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/01/face-book-weapons-market-iraq.html>

- **EU offers Iraq support towards more stable future**

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the European Commission proposed Monday a strategy for Iraq to address the many challenges the country faces following the territorial defeat of Da'esh. The proposal takes into account the priorities of the Iraqi government, and outlines both ongoing and longer term EU support to the country.

More Details:

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/iraq-support.08jq>

- **Pentagon identifies soldier in anti-ISIS coalition who died**

The Pentagon on Tuesday identified the soldier who died earlier this week while supporting the coalition fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Spc. Javion Shavonte Sullivan, 24, of Fort Mill, S.C., died on Jan. 8 in Al Anbar Province in Iraq from a "non-combat related incident," the Pentagon said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/368244-pentagon-identifies-soldier-in-anti-isis-coalition-who-died-in-iraq>

- **116 Villages in Iraq's Kirkuk Destroyed by ISIS in 3 Years: Governor**

The terror group destroyed the villages between 2014-2017, said Rakan Saed. Saed said thousands of villagers are still living in tents near the Kirkuk city center. He added that Kirkuk's south was the area that ISIS harmed the most in all of Iraq. Many villages do not have electricity, water, sewage systems and education and health services, Saed said.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/116-villages-iraqs-kirkuk-destroyed-isis-3-years-governor-1071744>

- **Calls for Iraq's Abadi to prosecute members of his security team**

An Iraqi human rights organisation yesterday called on Prime Minister, Haidar Al-Abadi, to prosecute a number of his bodyguards for assaulting journalists while on duty. This came during a press conference organised by members of the coalition of "Article 38 of the Iraqi Constitution" which includes 55 local organisations and cultural, arts, media and rights figures in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-calls-for-iraqs-abadi-to-prosecutes-members-of-his-security-team/>

2. SYRIA

- **Russia and Syria's latest plan to stomp out rebels is killing more civilians**

The Syrian military and its allies have lunged deep into the northwestern rebel-held province of Idlib, threatening to soon sever the final stronghold of Syria's opposition into two, even smaller pockets of territory.

More Details:

http://www.newsweek.com/russia-help-syria-split-last-rebels-half-assad-army-2018-retake-lost-776232?piano_t=1

- **UN Security Council to discuss humanitarian situation in Syria's Raqqa at Russia's request**

The United Nations Security Council will discuss the humanitarian situation in Syria's Raqqa after it was liberated from terrorists by armed groups backed by the US-led coalition, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya said on Tuesday, APA reports quoting TASS. "We want to discuss the humanitarian situation," he said ahead of the closed-door UN Security Council meeting.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/un-security-council-to-discuss-humanitarian-situation-in-syria-s-raqqa-at-russia-s-request.html>

- **Syria complains to UN about Israel**

Syria on Tuesday filed a complaint with the UN against Israel's "aggressive attitude", following an airstrike outside of Damascus for which Syria blamed Israel. In the letter, which was quoted by Yediot Aharonot, Syria warned that Israel's actions will lead to a regional "conflagration" and complicate matters in the Middle East.

More Details:

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/240476>

- **Children killed in Syria airstrikes during UN aid chief visit**

Ten children were among 24 people killed in airstrikes on a rebel enclave near the Syrian capital on Tuesday, a monitor said, as the UN's humanitarian chief paid his first visit to the country. Reports said the raids were conducted by either regime or Russian aircrafts, reports said, the most deadly of which killed 13 civilians including seven children in the Hammuriyeh district of Eastern Ghouta.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2018/1/10/syria-airstrikes-kill-children-as-un-aid-chief-visits>

- **US may have been involved in raids on Russia in Syria**

Russia says it detected an American spy aircraft circling in the skies between Russian bases in two Syrian cities during recent drone attacks on the facilities, implying that the United States may have been involved in the raids. In a statement released on Tuesday, the Russian Defense Ministry said 13 drones had targeted the Hmeimim airbase in Latakia Province and the naval facility in the port city of Tartus on Saturday.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2018/01/10/548418/Russia-Syria-Hmeimim-Tartus-spy-plane-strange-coincidence>

- **US Spy Plane Circled between Russian Airbase, Port Facility during Syria Drone Attack**

Moscow noted “strange coincidences” surrounding a terrorist attack on a Russian airbase and port facility in Syria, in which guided combat drones were deployed by militants, adding that a US spy plane was spotted in the area. The Russian Defense Ministry consciously didn’t point any fingers when talking about the January 6 attack on Russia’s airbase and port facility in Syria, the ministry's statement said, but added that technology used in the attack was telling, RT reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13961020000420>

- **Nebenzia: UN participation in Sochi Congress on Syria is in its interest**

Russia’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Vasily Nebenzia expressed hope that the UN will participate in the Syrian National Dialogue Congress to be held in the Russian city of Sochi on January 29-30. Russia Today quoted Nebenzia at the conclusion of a close-door meeting held by the UN Security Council on Tuesday on Syria as saying that Sochi Congress is not a single event, but an activity that would support the process led by the UN on Syria, therefore, the participation of the UN is in its interest.

More Details:

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=123872>

- **Washington would not recognize autonomous region in Syria**

The unilateral establishment of a self-ruled or semi-autonomous region in Syria would not be recognized by Washington, a U.S. State Department official told Daily Sabah. "Our position remains that we would not recognize any unilaterally declared self-rule or semi-autonomous zone and we have made that position known to all parties. As we have said, the future of Syria is to be decided by

Syrians, consistent with the political transition and election process enshrined in UNSCR [U.N. Security Council Resolution] 2254," the official said.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2018/01/10/washington-would-not-recognize-autonomous-region-in-syria>

- **UN humanitarian official Lowcock on 3-day Syria visit**

The head of the United Nations office for humanitarian affairs will visit Syria starting on Tuesday, partly to discuss how to improve access and delivery of aid to conflict-affected zones, the UN said on Monday. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock will be in the capital Damascus for most of his three-day mission and will also visit Homs, the UN said, in his first visit in this capacity.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/e308e01c-fc70-417f-bb83-1b8d7babe6b1.aspx>

3. IRAN

- **UK says Iran's domestic affairs 'none of our business'**

The United Kingdom's ambassador to Iran says the Islamic Republic's domestic affairs, including recent riots, are none of his country's business and that the UK will stay out of Iranian internal affairs. Ambassador Nicholas Hopton made the remarks in a gathering titled "Europe and the Geopolitical Affairs of West Asia," which was being hosted by Iranian think tank the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations on Tuesday evening.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2018/01/10/548420/Iran-UK-ambassador-Nicholas-Hopton-riots-none-of-our-business>

- **Bosnia Supports Iran's Progress, Stability**

Muslim member of Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidential Council Baqer Ezzat Begovich stressed the need for broadening of relations with Tehran, and said that his country will continue to back stability, peace and progress in Iran. "Tehran and Sarajevo have excellent relations," Begovich said in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Sarajevo Mahmoud Heidari while expressing the Bosnian government and people's gratitude for Iran's support.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13961020000878>

- **Italy and Iran to sign 5.0 billion euro investment agreement**

Italy and Iran will on Thursday sign a framework credit agreement worth 5.0 billion euros whereby Rome will help Italian companies invest in Iran, a Treasury source said on Wednesday, Reuters reports. The accord foresees the opening of lines of credit to two Iranian banks by Invitalia, an Italian state-owned holding, in order to finance investment projects by Italian companies, the source said.

More Details:

<https://en.trend.az/iran/business/2845856.html>

- **US House unanimously passes resolution to support Iran riots**

The US House of Representatives passed a resolution in support of those who turned peaceful protest against economic problems in Iran to violence and riots. On Tuesday, US House of Representatives passed Resolution 676 with 415 votes unanimously under the pretext of violation of Human Rights, deep corruption and destabilizing activities of Iran outside borders including its flagrant support for Lebanese Resistance Movement Hezbollah and Syria's Bashar al-Assad government.

More Details:

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/131103/US-House-unanimously-passes-resolution-to-support-Iran-riots>

- **Netanyahu claims Iran plans to send 100,000 Shia fighters to 'colonize' Syria**

Zionist regime Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ridiculously claimed on Tuesday, January 9 that Iran intended to send 100,000 Shia fighters to Syria! in an effort to "colonize" the country, Sputnik reports. "As part of Iran's plans of conquest and colonization of Syria, they want to bring in as many as 100,000 Shias, Shia fighters... not Iranians, under Iranian command," Netanyahu claimed during a lunch with NATO ambassadors in Al-Quds (Jerusalem).

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/netanyahu-claims-iran-plans-to-send-100000-shia-fighters-to-%E2%80%98colonize%E2%80%99-syria_876663.html

- **Iran rejects speculation on missing tanker crew**

Iran said on Wednesday it will not speculate on fate of the missing crew who are still not accounted for after an Iranian oil tanker collided with a cargo vessel near China shores Saturday night. 'Probably

the Iranian crew have been stationed in the bottom compartments of the ship which are cooler,' Hassan Qashqavi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for consular, parliamentary and expatriates affairs said.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82791505>

- **Iran can well speed up nuclear activities, including enrichment: Official**

An Iranian nuclear official says Iran is capable of increasing the pace of its nuclear activities — especially uranium enrichment — to several times that of the time when an international deal on the Iranian nuclear program had not yet been concluded, implying that that will happen if the United States violates the deal.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2018/01/10/548448/Iran-deal-nuclear-enrichment-Kamalvandi>

- **Iran's economy is perpetually on the brink**

How would the turmoil in Iran affect the economic and living aspects, reflected the extreme poverty suffered by a vast majority of its people despite having the natural and human resources to build an advanced economy and achieve high living standards? Why an upheaval happened earlier during the 40 years of mullah rule remains an important question. But what has happened is the other way round.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/business/analysis/iran-s-economy-is-perpetually-on-the-brink-1.2154692>

- **China May Have Just Brokered An Iran-Pakistan Accommodation**

In June 2017, nearly two dozen Chinese, protected by a Pakistani security detail conducted surveys and took soil samples in areas west of the Pakistani port of Gwadar near the Iranian border, suggesting the possibility of a major new construction project, according to on-the-ground sources. In late September 2017, a delegation of Chinese, Pakistanis and Iranians, including military and intelligence personnel, met in Iran near the border with Pakistan, again close to the port city of Gwadar. It was reported that the meeting dealt with security issues in the region, in particular, between the important Iranian port of Chabahar and Gwadar.

More Details:

<http://dailycaller.com/2018/01/10/china-may-have-just-brokered-an-iran-pakistan-accommodation/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Sweden says US cutting aid to Palestine threatens stability**

Sweden, a big donor country that has recognized Palestine as a state, warned Tuesday that any US decision to withdraw funds to the UN agency for Palestinians would be destabilising for the Middle East. Sweden's UN Ambassador Olof Skoog said he had raised his concerns with US Ambassador Nikki Haley following reports that the US administration had withheld \$125 million in funds due on January 1 for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinians.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=86707>

- **Israeli army raids villages after settler shot dead**

The Israeli army has carried out raids in Palestinian villages near Nablus in the occupied West Bank, following the death of an Israeli settler who was shot in the area. The shooting incident happened on Tuesday on the main road near the illegal Israeli settlement outpost of Havat Gilad, where the 35-year-old settler, a rabbi, resided.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/01/israeli-army-raids-villages-settler-shot-dead-180109200324016.html>

- **Senior Hamas figure shot in Gaza, in critical condition**

A senior Hamas figure was shot in the head in Gaza and hospitalized in critical condition on Tuesday, in what officials said was an accident. Hamas spokesman Fawzy Barhoum said Imad al-Alami, a former member of Hamas's highest political body, was shot while "inspecting his personal weapon in his home and is in critical condition".

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/01/09/Senior-Hamas-figure-shot-in-Gaza-in-critical-condition.html>

- **PA boycotts US vice president's visit**

Nabil Shaath, a senior aide of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, said that the Palestinian leadership "insists" on boycotting the visit of US Vice President Michel Pence to the region next week, Al-Resalah newspaper reported yesterday. In a press release, Shaath said: "Our

position was not changes and will not change as long as the current US Administration keeps its bias towards Israel.”

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-pa-boycotts-us-vice-presidents-visit/>

- **Israel to approve hundreds of new settler homes in West Bank**

Israel will approve construction of hundreds of new settlement homes in the occupied West Bank, Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Tuesday. Settlements are one of the most heated issues in efforts to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, frozen since 2014. Palestinians want the West Bank for a future state, along with East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Most countries consider as illegal the Israeli settlements built in the territory which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

More Details:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-settlements/israel-to-approve-hundreds-of-new-settler-homes-in-west-bank-idUSKBN1EY2AY>

- **Foreign Minister says Israeli settlement plans have a US green light**

Foreign Minister Riyad Malki said on Wednesday that Israeli announcement of plans to build 1285 new settlement units in the occupied West Bank was one outcome of US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, which gave Israel the green light to do whatever it wants with the Palestinian land. Malki told Voice of Palestine radio that the Israeli decision was also a result of the international community's failure to hold Israel accountable for its acts, particularly with regard to settlement construction.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=ocg1u4a95974772520aocg1u4>

- **Israeli forces detain 19 Palestinians, 14-year-old boy, during raids**

Israeli forces detained 19 Palestinians, including a 14-year-old boy, during pre dawn raids Tuesday across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS). PPS said in a statement that Israeli army forces detained Mohammad Samer Mansour, 14, from the central occupied West Bank district of Ramallah.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779734>

- **Beyond the Headlines podcast: Palestine activist groups respond to being banned from Israel**

This week, Israel banned 20 activist organisations over their support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement against Israel or BDS for short. The movement, whose co-founder we speak to in the show, is built upon three founding ideas: to put an end to Israeli occupation of all Arab lands and dismantling the wall as per international law, secondly, to recognise the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality, and finally, to respect and protect the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes as stipulated by the United Nations.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/beyond-the-headlines-podcast-palestine-activist-groups-respond-to-being-banned-from-israel-1.694177>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan, Egypt discuss regional developments**

Jordan's King Abdullah II and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi discussed the current regional developments, especially those related to the Palestinian issue and Jerusalem in a telephone conversation yesterday, the Royal Court said in a statement. According to the statement, King Abdullah stressed "the need to intensify efforts and coordinate Arab positions to protect the rights of Palestinians, Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem and to support Palestinian brothers in their efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital."

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-jordan-egypt-discuss-regional-developments/>

- **Jordanian intelligence stops terrorist plot targeting public security**

Jordan's intelligence service foiled, on Monday, a major terrorist and sabotage scheme with a premeditated effort planned by a terrorist cell supporting ISIS organization during the month of November 2017. According to the agency "Petra", elements of the cell has planned to carry out a number of terrorist operations, simultaneously with the aim of destabilizing the national security in Jordan.

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/01/09/Jordanian-intelligence-stops-terrorist-plot-targeting-public-security.html>

- **Poverty for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Could Push Children to Marry and Work**

Nearly seven years into Syria's civil war, Syrian refugees in neighboring Lebanon are becoming poorer, leaving children at risk of child labor and early marriage, aid organizations said on Tuesday. A recent survey by the United Nations children's agency UNICEF, U.N.'s World Food Program, and refugee agency, UNHCR showed that Syrian refugees in Lebanon are more vulnerable now than they have been since the beginning of the crisis.

More Details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/syrian-refugees-struggle-to-survive-in-lebanon/4201156.html>

- **UNRWA's mandate will end only when refugee plight solved — official**

Jordan rejects any suggestion to dismantle the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Yasin Abu Awwad, director general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, said on Tuesday. "UNRWA will continue its operations and providing services to the Palestinian refugees until the Palestinian issue is resolved in line with UN Resolution 194," Abu Awwad told The Jordan Times over the phone on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/unrwa%E2%80%99s-mandate-will-end-only-when-refugee-plight-solved-%E2%80%94-official>

- **Interior minister meets secretary general of Arab Interior Ministers Council**

Interior Minister Ghalib Al Zu'bi On Tuesday discussed with Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Mohammed bin Ali Koman Arab security cooperation and means to further boost it. During the meeting, the two sides also reviewed the agenda of the council's 35th session which will be held in Tunisia next March and covers topics including the fight against terrorism, drugs and other crimes.

More Details:

http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=36940#.WIX_LK5I_cs

- **Report: Berri Fears Amendments Might Foil Elections**

Speaker Nabih Berri expressed concerns that the purpose of proposing amendments to the new complex electoral law is to thwart the upcoming parliamentary elections, al-Joumhouria daily reported on Wednesday. Interior Minister Nouhad al-Mashnouq notified Berri that proposed amendments regarding the so-called polling megacenters and the creation of magnetic voting cards are difficult to achieve between present and the date of the elections on May 6, 2018, added the daily.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/240672-report-berri-fears-amendments-might-foil-elections>

- **Lower House passes amended arbitration law**

The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday endorsed the 2018 amended arbitration law during a session chaired by Speaker Atef Tarawneh and attended by Cabinet members. The bill would facilitate the process of resorting to arbitration as an alternative means to settle disputes, ease the pressure on the judiciary and shorten the procedures to settle disputes towards achieving justice "at the shortest possible time".

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=335410&CatID=13

- **Riachy at Hawat's dinner in honor of journalists: we put our hand in his and his likes for a brighter future**

Former mayor of Jbeil and candidate to the parliamentary elections for the Maronite seat in the Keserwan district and Jbeil, Ziad Hawat, hosted a dinner in honor of journalists in the presence of Information Minister, Melhem Riachy, Head of the press syndicate, Elias Aoun, Director of the National News Agency, Laure Sleiman Saab, and ranking dignitaries and media figures. In a word delivered on the occasion, Riachy said "Ziad Hawat belongs to a similar political school as that of the Lebanese Forces; the school of values, ethics and no-corruption."

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/87108/Riachy-at-Hawat-39-dinner-in-honor-of-journalists-We-put-our-hand-in-his-and-his-likes-for-brighter-future>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Houthi militias threaten international navigation in Red Sea**

In spite of the losses suffered by the Houthi militias on more than one front in Yemen, Houthi leader Saleh al-Samad, threatened, on Monday, to "cut international navigation route through the Red Sea" as a "strategic option" to consider if progress continues towards the west of Yemen, and if "a political solution reaches a dead end," as he put it. During his meeting with the Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Yemen Moin Shreim, he said that the ships will not be allowed to pass, referring to the intentions of the militia to strike international shipping in the Red Sea and Mandeb Strait.

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/01/09/Houthi-militias-threaten-international-shipping-in-spite-of-losses.html>

- **Saudi prince 'fired after audio tape contradicts state'**

A Saudi prince was removed from his post after he released an audio recording that contradicted the Saudi authorities' version of the arrest of 11 princes in Riyadh last week, reports said. Prince Abdullah bin Saud, who was appointed president of the Saudi Marine Sports Federation back in October, stressed that the recording, which was released on Monday, was his own personal initiative.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/01/saudi-prince-fired-audio-tape-contradicts-state-180110075659964.html>

- **Israel opposition group to grant Saudi Arabia role in Al-Aqsa Mosque**

Leader of Zionist Camp and head of Israeli opposition Isaac Herzog pledged to grant Saudi Arabia a leading role in running Al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem after a peace deal is reached with Palestinians, Felesteen reported yesterday. Reporting the Israel's Maariv, the Palestinian news site said that Herzog said that a "special" role in running the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem should be given to Saudi Arabia due to its position.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-israel-opposition-group-to-grant-saudi-arabia-role-in-al-aqsa-mosque/>

- **Saudi Arabia: Unemployment Highest in Medina, Baha and Jouf**

The third quarter of 2017 saw more than 745,000 unemployed Saudis, according to the General Authority for Statistics. The majority are youth and women with bachelor's degrees and higher. Around 70 percent of them are between the ages of 20 and 29. Decreasing the unemployment rate from 12.8 to 9 percent by 2020 requires filling over 471,000 jobs in the next couple of years, according to experts.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/saudi-arabia-unemployment-highest-in-medina-baha-and-jouf-1071516>

- **Security forces open fire on Yemen detainees, wounding 12**

Family members and a detainee say Yemeni security forces this week opened fire on detainees in the southern port city of Aden, wounding 12. According to the detainee and two family members visiting their jailed kin, the incident took place on Sunday in the Beir Ahmed 2 detention center. The facility is part of an anti-terror campaign led by the United Arab Emirates, which set up a network of secret prisons to hold hundreds of terror detainees.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/security-forces-open-fire-yemen-detainees-wounding-12-52254245>

- **Yemen's cultural capital Taiz now lies in ruins**

Until last year, fighting between Houthi rebels and pro-government forces wrecked the city. But with attacks now at a standstill, residents fear that Taiz won't be rebuilt anytime soon. Taiz was once Yemen's cultural capital, but like Syria's Aleppo and Iraq's Mosul, much of it now lies in ruins.

More Details:

<https://www.trtworld.com/mea/yemen-s-cultural-capital-taiz-now-lies-in-ruins-14076>

- **Bahrain King Stresses Depth of Ties with Saudi Arabia**

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain received in Manama Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz in the presence of Bahraini Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, reported the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). During the audience, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud conveyed greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, to the King of Bahrain.

More Details:

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1137246/bahrain-king-stresses-depth-ties-saudi-arabia>

- **Kuwait making one more optimistic push to resolve the GCC crisis**

Kuwait has recently sentenced writer Fouad al-Hashem to seven years in prison after he violated the Electronic Media Act, by posting on Twitter insults aimed the Emir of Qatar, his mother and father. Further proof that Kuwait is not a mere bystander of the ongoing row pitting Qatar against former Gulf allies, namely Saudi, UAE and Bahrain.

More Details:

<http://ameinfo.com/money/economy/kuwait-optimistic-push-resolve-gcc-crisis/>

- **Oman participates in international administrative conference in Cairo**

The sultanate represented by the Administrative Court participated in the first international conference in Cairo, Egypt. The conference was organised by the Arab Union for Administrative Judiciary. The sultanate was represented by a delegation led by Sheikh Majid bin Abdullah bin Mubarak al Alawi, head of the Administrative Court.

More Details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Oman-participates-in-International-Administrative-conference-in-Cairo-566s>

7. EGYPT

- **Eritrea, Egypt presidents meet amid Red Sea tensions**

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki has met with his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo as political tension in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea regions continues to escalate. The two leaders met on Tuesday to discuss "regional and international topics of mutual importance".

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/01/eritrea-egypt-presidents-meet-red-sea-tensions-180110071014313.html>

- **Egypt says its forces kill 8 suspected militants in Sinai**

Egypt says security forces have killed eight suspected militants in a shootout in the northern Sinai Peninsula. The Interior Ministry said Tuesday the gun battle broke out when the forces raided a suspected hideout in el-Arish city. It said the militants were planning attacks targeting security forces, and were in possession of explosives, rifles and ammunition.

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/01/09/Egypt-says-its-forces-kill-8-suspected-militants-in-Sinai.html>

- **Egypt's President Sisi wins huge parliamentary support for a 2nd term**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has won the backing of over three-quarters of parliamentarians for a second term as president, lawmakers said on Tuesday, a day after a timeline for the election

was announced. Sisi has yet to announce his candidacy for the ballot, scheduled for March 26-28. But he is widely expected to run and win the election.

More Details:

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/09/01/2018/Egypt%E2%80%99s-President-Sisi-wins-huge-parliamentary-support-for-a-2nd-term>

- **Essam Heggy's 'Presidential Team' boycotts Egypt's elections**

The Presidential Team initiative, led by Egyptian former NASA scientist and presidential science adviser, Essam Heggy, announced a boycott of the upcoming presidential elections, citing the governing authority's refusal to respond to public demands. In a statement, published on Facebook, Tuesday, the initiative said: "after looking at the list of elections which was announced yesterday, the impossible requirements included therein and the refusal of the responsible authorities to respond to repeated demands from peaceful civilian forces ... all the initiative's members decided to boycott the elections."

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-essam-heggys-presidential-team-boycotts-egypts-elections/>

- **Egypt Sees 55 Percent More Tourists in 2017, Despite Flight Ban**

Tourist arrivals increased 55 percent year-on-year in the first 11 months of 2017, the head of Egypt's Tourism Promotion Authority Hisham al-Demery, said. According to al-Demery, Arab tourists accounted for 30 percent of Egypt's tourist arrivals last year, up from 15 percent a year earlier, while Asian tourist arrivals doubled, reaching 10 percent.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/egypt-sees-55-percent-more-tourists-in-2017-despite-flight-ban--1072042>

- **Sisi reactivates 'Ask the President' initiative to communicate with citizens**

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi announced Wednesday the return of the "Ask the President" initiative, starting Wednesday January 10 until January 15, through the initiative's official website The "Ask the President" initiative was launched in April 2017 through the National Youth Conference held in Ismailia, to facilitate direct communication between Sisi and all segments of the Egyptian society. The initiative continued through all successive national conferences, becoming one of the most important channels of direct communication with the president, Sisi's official Facebook page said on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/sisi-reactivates-ask-the-president-initiative-to-communicate-with-citizens/>

- **Egypt's defence minister Sobhy discusses military cooperation with US Assistant Secretary of Defense Karem**

Egypt's defence minister Sedky Sobhy met on Tuesday in Cairo with the US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs Robert S. Karem as part of the meetings of the Egyptian-American military coordination committee, Egyptian army spokesman Tamer El-Refaie said in a statement. The meeting covered several issues of bilateral interest in light of the special military relations between the two countries in facing joint challenges and threats in the region, including the war on terrorism.

More Details:

<http://www.egyptdailynews.com/detail/egypts-defence-minister-sobhy-discusses-military-cooperation-with-us-assistant-secretary-of-defense-karem>

- **Egypt's President Sisi wins huge parliamentary support for a 2nd term**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has won the backing of over three-quarters of parliamentarians for a second term as president, lawmakers said on Tuesday, a day after a timeline for the election was announced. Sisi has yet to announce his candidacy for the ballot, scheduled for March 26-28. But he is widely expected to run and win the election.

More Details:

https://af.reuters.com/article/africaTech/idAFKBN1EZ0QT-OZATP?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&&rpc=401

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisian PM says difficult economic situation will improve in 2018**

Tunisia's economic is experiencing difficulties but 2018 will be the last year of hardship, Prime Minister Youssef Chahed said on Tuesday after a night of protests against austerity measures. "People have to understand that the situation is extraordinary and their country is have difficulties but we believe that 2018 will be the last difficult year for the Tunisians," he told reporters in comments broadcast on local radio.

More Details:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/01/09/Tunisian-PM-says-difficult-economic-situation-will-improve-in-2018.html>

- **Tunisian Jewish school attacked as anti-government protests rage elsewhere**

A Jewish school on a Tunisian island that is home to an ancient Jewish community was attacked late on Tuesday as violent anti-government protests raged elsewhere in the North African country, witnesses said. Petrol bombs thrown at the school on the tourist resort island of Djerba caused some damage but no injuries, the head of the local Jewish community, Perez Trabelsi, told Reuters.

More Details:

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/10/01/2018/Tunisian-Jewish-school-attacked-as-anti-government-protests-rage-elsewhere>

- **In Libya, political assassinations threaten forthcoming elections**

The recent assassination of Salah Al-Qatrani, a Libyan activist, marks the 201st political assassination in the country since 2017 and the first of 2018. Al-Qatrani, the director of the Educational Services Bureau of El Biar, was attacked by an armed group on 4 January 2018 and died in later in hospital.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-in-libya-political-assassinations-threaten-foorthcoming-elections/>

- **200 arrested, dozens hurt in fresh Tunisia unrest**

More than 200 people were arrested and dozens hurt during clashes in several parts of Tunisia, the interior ministry said on Wednesday, after a second night of unrest driven by anger over austerity measures. Ministry spokesperson Khalifa Chibani told local radio that 49 police officers were wounded during clashes across the country and that 206 “troublemakers” were arrested.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1605071/3-200-arrested-dozens-hurt-fresh-tunisia-unrest/>

- **Tunisia’s opposition urges more protests until government drops austerity measures**

Tunisia’s main opposition party on Tuesday called for protests to continue until the government scraps its “unjust” 2018 budget including price and tax hikes, as new demonstrations erupted a day after one demonstrator was killed in clashes. Protests erupted in more than 10 towns across Tunisia

on Monday against the price and tax increases imposed by the government to reduce its ballooning deficit and satisfy its international lenders.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180109-tunisia-opposition-urges-more-protests-until-government-drops-austerity-measures/>

- **Visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to Tunisia and Libya**

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, is traveling to Libya and Tunisia from 9 to 12 January 2018. The United Nations urges all Libyan actors to engage in earnest in an inclusive political process leading to credible and fair elections. During his visit, Mr. Feltman will discuss with Libyan leaders the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan for the country and ways by which the world organization can further strengthen its support to the Libyan people at this critical juncture.

More Details:

<https://www.africa-newsroom.com/press/visit-of-the-undersecretarygeneral-for-political-affairs-to-tunisia-and-libya?lang=en>

- **Moroccan Jewish Community Leaders Play Down Nationality Forfeiture Draft Bill**

Leaders of the Moroccan Jewish community downplayed the attempts at submitting a draft bill to the Parliament providing for the withdrawal of Moroccan nationality from Jews of Moroccan origin residing in Israeli Settlements. The draft law was suggested by opposition Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), whose head, Ilyas Omari, promised Hamas leader to forfeit Moroccan Jews in Israeli settlements of their Moroccan nationality in a show of solidarity with Palestinians.

More Details:

<http://northafricapost.com/21649-moroccan-jewish-community-leaders-play-nationality-forfeiture-draft-bill.html>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Thanks to China, US aid freeze has little impact on Pak**

Washington's freeze on billions in military assistance to Pakistan will have limited impact, thanks to its friendship with China and diminishing importance of aid to the economy, observers say -- but there could be trouble if the US calls in its debts. Exasperated by what it considers Islamabad's neglect in cracking down on militancy, Donald Trump's administration last week announced a suspension of the aid, which also goes towards Afghanistan coalition funding.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/266844-thanks-to-china-us-aid-freeze-has-little-impact-on-pak>

- **More than 1,370 Afghan civilians killed in 8 months**

As many as 1,372 civilians lost their lives and 2,360 others sustained wounds in violent incidents during the last eight months of 2017 in Afghanistan, the Civilian Protection Advocacy Group (CPAG) said on Wednesday. Announcing CPAG findings on civilian casualties, the group's deputy head, Abdul Rahim Khurram told reporters here that most of the casualties resulted from suicide bombings, airstrikes and ground operations and mostly in Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Ghor, Kunduz and Helmand provinces.

More Details:

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2018/01/10/more-1370-afghan-civilians-killed-8-months>

- **Ex-PM assails judiciary's 'vendetta' against him**

Continuing his attacks on the judiciary, ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif disclosed on Tuesday that he had written to former chief justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali to complain about the objectionable remarks passed against him by Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed during the hearing of a case regarding the promotion of a government officer in 2015.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1381895/ex-pm-assails-judiciarys-vendetta-against-him>

- **Balochistan political crisis: Search begins for new chief minister**

Following Sanaullah Zehri's resignation as the chief minister of Balochistan on Tuesday, the search has begun for his replacement as the political void intensifies in the province. Chances are that the next chief minister will also be from the ruling PML-N, with most likely candidates being Saleh Bhutani or Jan Muhammad Jamali.

More Details:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/176154-balochistan-political-crisis-search-begins-for-new-chief-minister>

- **15 ISIS and Taliban group members join peace in East of Afghanistan**

At least fifteen militants affiliated with the ISIS and Taliban groups joined peace process in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. According to the local government officials, at least two local leaders of the militants are also among those who reconciled with the government.

More Details:

<https://www.khaama.com/15-isis-and-taliban-group-members-join-peace-in-east-of-afghanistan-04238>

- **On The Occasion Of The Constitution Week // A Glance At Chronology of Constitution In Afghanistan**

The following elements are essential for every country,: people certain geography, history, national unity, government, legislature, law, judiciary, peace, security, stability, people believe and relations with government, protection of national values, people rights and respect to it, media, press, social justice, people expectation from rulers, politicians and security forces.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics.html>

- **President Ghani Emphasizes Need To Eradicate Polio**

President Ghani has directed the responsible administrations and departments to use all their facilities to effectively implement the polio eradication program. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday in meeting with Public Health Ministry officials called for the full elimination of polio across the country, a Presidential Palace statement said.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/president-ghani-emphasizes-need-eradicate-polio>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Iraq's Abadi hails expanding ties with Turkey**

Iraqi PM Haider Abadi said Tuesday his country would continue its cooperation in various areas with Turkey. Addressing reporters at a news conference in Baghdad, Abadi said, "We would like to continue our relations including border control, bilateral trade relations and oil shipments, especially from Mosul and Kirkuk."

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/22148/Iraq-s-Abadi-hails-expanding-ties-with-Turkey>

- **FM Çavuşoğlu urges Russia and Iran to fulfill responsibilities in Syria**

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu urged Iran and Russia to realize duties as guarantor states in Syria and stop Assad regime violations against the moderate opposition forces in Idlib. Speaking on Anadolu Agency's Editor's Desk, Çavuşoğlu said that Russia and Iran have no excuses for attacks by the regime, noting that violations cannot happen without the support of the two countries.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2018/01/10/fm-cavusoglu-urges-russia-and-iran-to-fulfill-responsibilities-in-syria>

- **Turkish parliamentary committee to visit Iran**

A delegation of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee will visit the Iranian capital Tehran, the committee head said on Jan. 9. Volkan Bozkır made the remarks before meeting Iran's ambassador to Ankara, Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard. No specific date for the visit was announced.

More Details:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-parliamentary-committee-to-visit-iran-125489>

- **Iran envoy told of Turkish 'discomfort' on Idlib raids**

Turkey on Wednesday conveyed its discomfort to Iran's ambassador to Ankara over Assad regime violations of Syrian de-escalation zones. Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard on Tuesday was summoned to express Turkey's "discomfort" over the Bashar al-Assad regime's attacks on the Syrian city of Idlib.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iran-envoy-told-of-turkish-discomfort-on-idlib-raids/1027104>

- **Qatar-Turkey trade ties reviewed January 10 2018 12:34 AM**

HE the Minister of Economy and Commerce Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohamed al-Thani met the Deputy Minister of Economy of Turkey, Fatih Metin, and the delegation accompanying him, in Doha yesterday. The meeting reviewed relations between Qatar and Turkey and discussed aspects of co-operation, particularly in the economic, commercial and investment fields, and means of developing them. Qatar and Turkey enjoy strong economic and trade ties. The volume of trade exchange stood nearly at QR2bn (\$547mn) in the first half of 2017.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/577619/Qatar-Turkey-trade-ties-reviewed>

- **Turkey will block PKK's Syrian terror corridor**

Turkey's president said on Tuesday that it was time to counter the PKK terrorists from forming a corridor in northern Syria, along Turkey's borders. Speaking to his party's lawmakers on Tuesday, Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke of a possible Turkish army operation into the Afrin district of Syria's Aleppo province.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/197682/turkish-forces-arrest-14-in-anti-narcotic-operations>

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

Bu bülten **ORSAM Ortadoğu Uzman Yardımcısı Firuze Yağmur Gökler tarafından hazırlanmaktadır. Bülten Ortadoğu ülkelerinin yerel haber kaynaklarından derlenmektedir. Belirtilen görüşler bölge ülkelerinin haber kaynaklarına ve ismi geçen yazarlara ait olup ORSAM'ın görüşünü yansıtmamaktadır.*