



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Proces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

Energy Security

Enerji Güvenliği

Economy News

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Peace Process

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Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

Relations with the West

Batı'yla İlişkiler

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11 APRIL 2017

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1. IRAQ

- **Abadi Heads a Meeting of the Ministerial Council on National Security**

Prime Minister, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Haider al-Abadi chaired a meeting of the Ministerial Council for National Security. A statement issued by the media office of the Prime Minister said, the council discussed the course of the battle (We Are Coming Nineveh) to liberate the right side of Mosul and the victories achieved and its performance to achieve the final victory soon.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?jrKP7KWgImA4azORnMeV7Q%253d%253d

- **IS leaders flee Tal Afar toward al-Ba'aj, local leaders executed**

A police officer announced, on Monday, that elite leaders of the Islamic State group have fled Tal Afar District, while the group executed seven of its local leaders for fleeing battles, west of Mosul. Captain Jassim Mohamed said in a press statement that dozens of the Islamic State's leaders fled Tal Afar District toward al-Ba'aj District, west of Mosul.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/leaders-flee-tal-afar-toward-al-baaj-local-leaders-executed/>

- **IS Chemical Attack Kills Four Civilians in East Mosul**

At least four civilians were killed in eastern Mosul by a chlorine gas attack conducted by the Islamic State (IS) militants on Monday, according to an Iraqi security source. Police Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Abdul-Aziz al-Numani who spoke to Anadolu Agency on Monday, said that three rockets fell in eastern Mosul's al-Hadba district, killing four civilians and injuring at least six others, including women and children.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/342213>

- **Iraqis haunted by war overwhelm mental health facilities**

Six-year-old Mustafa suffers nightmares, cries at the sound of airplanes and occasionally wets himself, symptoms that worsened last year when an explosion in Mosul killed his cousin and wounded his father before his eyes. He was a young witness to more than two years of Islamic State rule and months of heavy fighting aimed at driving the extremists from Iraq's largest city. Like countless Iraqis, he shows symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, an epidemic borne

of years of war that is overwhelming the country's limited mental health services. "He wants me to always stay with him.

More Details:

http://www.shafaaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/eb3ab4c8-15fe-4c75-bb53-ba54982485a2/-Iraqis-haunted-by-war-overwhelm-mental-health-facilities-

- **WFP: More Than Half Of Iraq's Population At Risk Of Food Insecurity**

More than half of Iraqi families are at risk of food insecurity and can no longer absorb any further shocks such as conflict or increases in basic food prices, a joint WFP-Iraqi Government food security report said today. The report, one of the most robust technical food security studies ever conducted in Iraq, warns of unprecedented levels of vulnerability and provides key recommendations to avoid a hunger crisis in the country.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40181

- **Defense Minister discuss training Iraqi forces with Chinese Norinco**

The Iraqi Defense Minister Erfan al-Hiyali discussed with Chinese Norinco Corporation's CEO the means of cooperation in military training, technological and intelligence for the Defense Ministry's personnel. A statement by the Defense Ministry asserted that Norinco Corporation is a leading company in the field of manufacturing military equipment.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/9199/Defense-Minister-discuss-training-Iraqi-forces-with-Chinese-Norinco>

- **Divisions as Iraq looks to reshape Mosul**

The Iraqi city of Mosul is being reshaped after bitter negotiations between the Iraqi government and Kurds. Once the dust settles, question will arise as to who will control what. And where does the Kurdish territory end?

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/04/divisions-iraq-reshape-mosul-170411081809461.html>

- **Bombardment in Iraq's Mosul takes heavy toll on civilians**

Since she got struck by mortar shrapnel in Mosul just over a week ago, 10-year-old Nabaa has not been able to speak. A shard in her skull damaged part of her brain and doctors aren't sure if she'll ever be able to speak again.

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ_MOSUL_CIVILIAN_CASUALTIES?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-04-11-02-16-55

- **Scores of Yazidi mass graves found in Iraq's Sinjar**

Special teams have to date found a total of 31 mass graves of Yazidi people killed by Islamic State militants, the mayor of Sinjar told reporters. A total of 1,646 people have been uncovered and investigators expect to unearth another 20 mass graves at the minimum, said Mahma Xelil. The news came as another mass grave was discovered in the village of Hardan, near Sinjar.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/4/11/scores-of-yazidi-mass-graves-found-in-iraqs-sinjar>

- **Pro-government militiamen repel Islamic State attack in Iraq's Salah ad Din**

In al-Sinnia, Salah ad Din province, Kataib Jund al-Imam repelled an Islamic State attack and killed 14 militants and destroyed three suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIEDs) suffering two killed and four wounded in return.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/69457/pro-government-militiamen-repel-islamic-state-attack-in-iraq-s-salah-ad-din>

- **Iraq: UN agency ramps up emergency medical care to women and girls affected by conflict**

The United Nations population agency, with financial support from the European Union (EU), has increased its humanitarian response in Iraq to meet the urgent needs of women and girls as fighting peaks in the war-torn country. Thanks to an additional five million euros contribution by the European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is able to up-scale its urgent frontline assistance.

More Details:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56534#.WOyYCvnyjcs>

- **The United States Will Need a “Diplomatic Surge” in Iraq**

The United States has played a leading role in fighting the Islamic State, but now it must prepare for the fights that will take place at negotiating tables and reconciliation conferences. Iraqis recognize that the coming months will be difficult. In a recent visit to Iraq, our interlocutors from various political stripes emphasized the enormity of the challenges facing the country after the expected expulsion of the Islamic State from Mosul.

More Details:

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/united-states-will-need-diplomatic-surge-iraq>

- **Syria Eager to Strengthen Cooperation with Iraq in Countering Terror**

Damascus hopes to extend cooperation with Baghdad's military in the fight against the Islamic State (ISIL or Daesh, outlawed in Russia) terror group, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad told Sputnik Monday. "We need more and more coordination and cooperation [with Iraq]. The coordination is carried out in the open and closed regime with the Iraqi Army, and there is a center founded in Iraq for the military coordination, which plays its role in one way or another. We need more coordination," Mikdad said.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201704101052484470-syria-iraq-terrorism-cooperation/>

2. SYRIA

- **Syria and North Korea fight against 'wild ambitions' of big powers, Assad says**

Syria and North Korea jointly counteract the wild ambition of big powers that seek to master other countries, Syrian President Bashar Assad said in a congratulatory telegram sent to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on occasion of the 105th birthday of national founder Kim Il-sung.

More Details:

<http://tass.com/world/940581>

- **Syrian crisis likely to dominate G7 talks**

Syria is set to dominate Tuesday's meeting of G7 foreign ministers in Italy, with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson under the spotlight before he heads to Moscow, the key ally of President Bashar al-Assad.

More Details:

<http://news.iafrica.com/worldnews/1047779.html>

- **Turkey minister: Syrian government still has chemical weapons capacity**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday that Ankara's findings showed the Syrian government still possessed chemical weapons capacity and urged for measures to prevent its potential usage.

More Details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idINKBN17D000?rpc=401&>

- **Southern EU leaders defend US strike on Syria**

The leaders of southern EU nations said yesterday (10 April) that a US missile strike on a Syrian airbase in retaliation for a suspected chemical attack was “understandable,” as diplomatic tensions mount over the incident.

More Details:

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/southern-eu-leaders-defend-us-strike-on-syria/>

- **Saudi Cabinet slams chemical attack in Syria, expresses support for US military strike**

The Saudi Cabinet on Monday condemned the use of the chemical attack on Khan Sheikhun in Syria, which resulted in many deaths including children and women, committed by the Syrian regime and, expressing full support to the recent US military operation against selected targets in Syria was articulated.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1082576/saudi-arabia>

- **US, German, UK leaders discuss pressure on Russia to end Syria link**

US President Donald Trump and his German and British counterparts have agreed that Moscow must be urged to halt links with Syria. Both Berlin and London have stressed their support for holding Assad's regime to account.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/us-german-uk-leaders-discuss-pressure-on-russia-to-end-syria-links/a-38375945>

- **Iran's Rouhani Contacts Syrian Dictator, Backs Chemical Massacre**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani expressed his support over the phone for Syrian dictator Bashar Assad's killing of this country's people, claiming the Idlib chemical attack is "false and without evidence", outrageously accusing the opposition for the attack.

More Details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/ncri-statements/terrorism-fundamentalism/22510-iran-s-rouhani-contacts-syrian-dictator-backs-chemical-massacre>

- **Oil price rises to \$56 on Libya, Syria crises**

Oil rose toward \$56 a barrel yesterday, supported by another shutdown at Libya's largest oilfield over the weekend and geopolitical tensions following last week's United States (U.S.) missile strike on Syria.

More Details:

<http://thenationonlineng.net/oil-price-rises-56-libya-syria-crises/>

- **Game changes in Syria**

In the past few days, the U.S. approach to dealing with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has taken a turn. The Americans are now talking "regime change" and America's allies, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, will need to grapple with the potential implications of that.

More Details:

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2017/04/10/game-changes-in-syria>

- **Greek PM: Southern EU States Push for Single European Policy on Syria Settlement**

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said Monday that southern European states have great interest in a single European approach to the Syrian peace process, adding that the heads of seven EU states agreed on the introduction of diplomatic initiatives in this direction.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201704111052508620-southern-eu-states-syria/>

3. IRAN

- **Iran: Hundreds Rally in Protest against the Death Penalty**

On the morning of April 9, 2017, hundreds of families of prisoners on death row, especially women, rallied in front of parliament, demanding the abolition of the death penalty.

More details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/ncri-statements/human-rights/22516-iran-hundreds-rally-in-protest-against-the-death-penalty>

- **Registration of presidential hopefuls starts in Iran**

Volunteers from across Iran have started registering to contest the country's 12th presidential election.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/04/11/517575/Iran-presidential-election-registration-process-Rouhani-Raeesi>

- **Hard-line prosecutor emerges as main challenger to Iran's Rouhani**

Hard-line cleric Ebrahim Raisi, seen as pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani's main challenger in a May 19 election, is a close ally of Iran's supreme leader and despises the West.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1326212/hard-line-prosecutor-emerges-as-main-challenger-to-irans-rouhani>

- **US Lawmakers Urge Trump to Stop Boeing Sales to Iran**

US Congressman Peter Roskam of Illinois and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida wrote a letter to President Trump, urging him to stop sales of Boeing aircraft to the Iranian airlines which could be engaged in Tehran's "illicit activity."

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/us/201704101052505186-us-trump-boeing-iran/>

- **Iranian President Defends Peaceful Solution in Syria, Condemns Attack**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said today that a peaceful solution is the essential and final way to end the crisis in Syria, and condemned the U.S. attack, which he described as inconsistent with international law.

More details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=11527&SEO=iranian-president-defends-peaceful-solution-in-syria-condemns-attack>

- **Rouhani attaches importance to maritime transport**

President Hassan Rouhani said movements in the Caspian Sea and development of maritime transport held great significance to development of the country.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124717/Rouhani-attaches-importance-to-maritime-transport>

- **Iran named as Afghanistan's biggest trade partner**

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Spokesman said Iran has turned into the biggest trading partner of Afghanistan.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124708/Iran-named-as-Afghanistan-s-biggest-trade-partner>

- **Iran urges formation of fact-finding committee to probe Khan Sheikhoun attack**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif has called for establishment of an international fact-finding committee to investigate the Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82489367/>

- **Iran's Rouhani defends economic record as tensions mount with Jordan**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani defended his economic record amid criticism from hardline cleric and rival Ebrahim Raisi ahead of next month's election.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/irans-rouhani-defends-economic-records-tensions-mount-between-tehran-and-amman-1575607344>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Palestinian teen shot by Israeli troops dies of wounds**

17 -year-old was injured last month; army said he and four others were hurling Molotov cocktails at West Bank settlement

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-teen-shot-by-israeli-troops-dies-of-wounds/>

- **Israeli Defense Minister: Assassination of Top Hamas Militant Was an Inside Job**

The assassination of a top Hamas militant, Mazen Fuqaha, in March was an inside job within the movement, Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman told the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper. The interview was published on Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.782775>

- **Israel tells UN Gaza faces an ‘impending humanitarian crisis’**

A top commander in the Israeli army has written to the United Nations to warn that the Gaza Strip is on the brink of a water and electricity crisis.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israel-un-gaza-strip-humanitarian-crisis-palestinian-territory-west-bank-a7676306.html>

- **Israel closes Taba crossing, Islamic State fires rocket at settlement**

The Israeli government said it would close the Taba crossing linking the occupied territories to Egypt's Sinai until April 18, following explosions in two major churches in Egypt on Sunday that killed 45 people and injured over 100 others.

More Details:

<http://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/04/10/news/u/israel-closes-tab-a-crossing-islamic-state-fires-rocket-at-settlement/>

- **Israel expresses concern, blames Palestinian leadership for Gaza water crisis**

Israeli authorities -- which have maintained a crippling blockade on the Gaza Strip for nearly ten years -- have contacted international organizations to urge them to address the deteriorating water situation in the small Palestinian enclave, Israeli media reported on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776350>

- **Israel bars entry to the director of the Palestinian Federation of Chile**

On Monday Israel denied entry to BDS activist Anuar Majluf, the executive director of the Palestinian Federation of Chile.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Israel-bars-entry-to-the-director-of-the-Palestinian-Federation-of-Chile-486682>

- **Jailed ex-PM Olmert allowed home for Passover**

Some 256 prisoners were granted a temporary furlough to spend Passover with their families, among them former prime minister Ehud Olmert, Israel Radio reported ahead of the holiday.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/jailed-ex-pm-olmert-allowed-home-for-passover/>

- **Nigeria, Israel deliberate bilateral trade volume**

Nigeria and Israeli governments are proposing alternative means of raising bilateral trade volume which is currently low to boost relationship between the two countries.

More Details:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/04/nigeria-israel-deliberate-bilateral-trade-volume/>

- **Israeli Government Resorting to Extortion to Secure UN Votes**

Israel is blackmailing impoverished countries to obtain votes in its favour at the UN, the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity AMAN revealed on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://imemc.org/article/israeli-government-resorting-to-extortion-to-secure-un-votes/>

- **Israeli forces close off Hebron's old city, block entrance to Palestinian medical center**

Israeli forces stationed in old city of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank closed the entrance to the Palestinian Health Work Committees' emergency center on Monday, leaving patients and ambulances unable to reach the center.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776376>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **U.S. Values Its Partnership with Jordan**

During King Abdullah II's recent visit to the White House, President Donald Trump pledged to preserve and strengthen the relationship between the United States and Jordan.

More Details:

<http://editorials.voa.gov/a/us-values-its-partnership-with-jordan/3804602.html>

- **Jordan summons Iran envoy over comments on king**

Jordan has summoned Iran's ambassador to Amman after an Iranian official slammed comments by King Abdullah in a US newspaper as "silly and careless".

More Details:

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/jordan-summons-iran-envoy-over-comments-on-king>

- **Report sheds light on 'torture, excessive force' in detention**

A report on the conditions in temporary detention centres was released on Monday, outlining the recurrence of late-night security raids, and the "excessive" use of force during arrests.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/report-sheds-light-torture-excessive-force%E2%80%99-detention>

- **Evictions could force out 10,000 Syrian refugees from Lebanon's Bekaa valley - UN**

Lebanon's army has ordered evictions that could threaten the homes of 10,000 Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley, the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, said on Monday.

More Details:

<http://news.trust.org/item/20170410181153-u2kzu/>

- **Hariri Meets U.S. Congressman of Lebanese Origin Issa**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri held talks Monday at the Grand Serail with the U.S. congressman of Lebanese origin Darrell Issa, the PM's office said.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/228302-hariri-meets-u-s-congressman-of-lebanese-origin-issa>

- **UK, US Cooperation in support of Lebanese army**

Within the framework of the High Level Steering Committee, British Ambassador to Lebanon Hugo Shorter and US Ambassador to Lebanon Elizabeth Richard met with the Army Commander General Joseph Aoun for their first meeting on the Land Border Security Project.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/77900/UK-US-cooperation-in-support-of-Lebanese-army>

- **Hezbollah condemns Egypt church bombings**

Hezbollah condemned on Sunday the awful crimes committed by terrorist ISIS group which targeted churches in Egypt's Tanta and Alexandria, killing and injuring dozens of innocent civilians.

More Details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/middle-east/hezbollah-condemns-egypt-church-bombings_823037.html

- **Lebanese Minister Hails Qatar's Generous Contributions To Lebanon**

Lebanon's Minister of State for Refugee Affairs, Mouin Merhebi, highlighted Qatar's continuous support for Lebanon's stability and prosperity, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported, citing Qatar's Arrayah newspaper.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1346233>

- **Hariri receives Darrell ISSA**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri received at the Grand Serail on Monday the US congressman of Lebanese origin Darrell Issa (member of the House of Representatives and of the Foreign Affairs Committee), at the head of a delegation, in the presence of US Ambassador to Lebanon Elizabeth Richard and Hariri's advisor for economic affairs Mazen Hanna.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/77920/Hariri-receives-Darrell-Issa>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Mazad ties up with Arabian Auction**

Mazad and Arabian Auction have signed an agreement to manage the auctioning of Bahraini private vehicle number plates due to take place on Thursday.

More details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=32209&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=50>

- **Duterte tees off Gulf States visit**

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has begun his first visit to the Gulf States, where he will meet with the monarchs of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain this week.

More details:

<https://asiancorrespondent.com/2017/04/duterte-tees-off-gulf-states-visit/#UfYqQyELAFuijfhZ.99>

- **Oman, Jordan discuss means to boost bilateral cooperation in Amman**

Means of enhancing Oman-Jordan bilateral ties in diverse fields were discussed at a meeting on Monday.

More details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/106787/Oman/Government/Oman-Jordan-discuss-means-to-boost-bilateral-cooperation-in-Amman>

- **IMF hails Qatar's move to adjust to lower oil prices**

Qatar, which accounts for one-third of global liquefied natural gas trade, is well positioned to mitigate the macroeconomic challenges from sustained lower hydrocarbon prices, given its

substantial financial buffers, with real economic growth expected to be 3.4% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

More details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/543976/IMF-hails-Qatar-s-move-to-adjust-to-lower-oil-pric>

- **Emirates Auction launches in Bahrain**

Emirates Auction, a Middle East leader in organising and managing auctions and e-auctions, has announced the launch of its first subsidiary in Bahrain, under the name of "Arabian Auction."

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302607816>

- **Muhamad bin Salman and the challenge of reform**

In Saudi Arabia, the kingdom of conservatism, one man wants to change everything and move the country out of the oil economy, challenging the power of religious authority. His name is Muhammad bin Salman.

More details:

<http://globalriskinsights.com/2017/04/muhamad-bin-salman-challenge-reform/>

- **UAE focussed on being the best: Sheikh Mohammed**

The UAE government is focused on rapid and steady accomplishments to achieve the goal of making the country one of the best countries in the world by 2021 – the nation's 50th anniversary, said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

More details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/MISC_323258.html

- **Sheikh Mohamed offers condolences to Egyptian President**

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces made a telephone call this evening to President of Egypt Abdel Fatah El-Sisi to offer condolences for the victims of the terrorist attacks on Mar Gergis Church in Tanta City and Saint Mark Cathedral in Alexandria.

More details:

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/abu-dhabi/sheikh-mohamed-offers-condolences-to-egyptian-president>

- **PH envoy optimistic on Saudi king's clemency for 'death row' Pinoys**

Philippine Embassy officials expressed optimism on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Daud would grant clemency for some Filipinos on death row in Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/154674/ph-envoy-optimistic-saudi-kings-clemency-death-row-pinoys#ixzz4dvMHunXZ>

- **Over 40 killed amid clashes, airstrikes in southwest Yemen**

More than 40 Yemenis have been killed in Saudi airstrikes as well as clashes between fighters from the Houthi Ansarullah movement and militiamen loyal to resigned president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, military and medical officials say.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/04/10/517542/Yemen-Saudi-airstrikes-Hadi-Ansarullah-Hudaydah-Taizz>

7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's Emergency Law Explained**

The emergency measures grant broad powers to security forces as human rights situation continues to deteriorate.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/04/egypt-emergency-law-explained-170410093859268.html>

- **Cabinet condemns terror attacks in Egypt**

The Cabinet yesterday condemned, in the strongest terms, the terror attacks in Egypt that targeted the Mar Girgis Coptic Church in Tanta and Saint Mark's church in Alexandria.

More details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=32196&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=1>

- **Egyptian Christians Angry at Government for Failing to Protect Them from Terrorist Attacks**

Egyptian Christians are complaining about insufficient security after the horrific Palm Sunday bombing attacks, despite President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's promises to protect them.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/04/10/egyptian-christians-angry-at-government-for-failing-to-protect-them/>

- **Egypt police kill 7 suspected IS followers**

Egypt security forces have killed seven suspected Islamic State group sympathisers thought to be planning attacks against Coptic Christians, the interior ministry said Monday, a day after deadly twin church bombings.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/2017/04/11/342918/egypt-police-kill-7-suspected-is-followers/>

- **Sisi's Visit to Washington: Not Much Expected, Not Much Happened**

Amidst the anticipation of the first visit of an Egyptian president to Washington DC since 2009, there were a number of articles on Abdal Fattah El-Sisi's visit to the White House in the first week of April.

More details:

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/sisi-s-visit-to-washington-not-much-expected-not-much-happened>

- **Mohamed bin Zayed expresses condolences to Egyptian President**

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces made a telephone call this evening to President of Egypt Abdel Fatah El-Sisi to offer condolences for the victims of the terrorist attacks on Mar Gergis Church in Tanta City and Saint Mark Cathedral in Alexandria.

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302607957>

- **US Senator: Egypt Must Boost Protection for Minority Groups After Terror Attacks**

The Egyptian government must enhance its efforts to protect minority groups, including the Coptic Christians in the country, US Senator Ben Cardin said in a press release.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201704111052511173-egypt-protection-minorities/>

- **40% of Egypt's housing is informal: deputy housing minister**

Ahmed Darwish, the deputy housing minister for urban renewal and informal settlement, said that 40% of Egyptian buildings are unplanned and informal and that 1% of these informal areas are unsafe for residents.

More details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/04/10/621607/>

- **Rivlin to Sisi: Terror won't diminish Egypt's spirit**

President Rivlin sends condolences to Egyptian President following attacks on Coptic churches.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/228009>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **IOM Reveals Slave Markets Operate in Southwestern Libya**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported on Tuesday about the existence of slave markets in Northern Africa, in which hundreds of African migrants and refugees bound for Libya are being sold.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/africa/201704111052528567-iom-libya-slave-market/>

- **Haftar issues travel ban on six Muslim countries in eastern Libya**

The commander of the eastern forces of Operation Dignity under the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) Khalifa Haftar, issued on Monday a travel ban that disallows the nationals of six Muslim countries from entering the eastern districts and cities that his forces control in Libya. The travel ban was slammed on the nationals of Iran, Syria, Sudan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Yemen.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/haftar-issues-travel-ban-on-six-muslim-countries-in-eastern-libya/>

- **Libya: \$1.7bn shortfall in oil revenues for 2017**

Libya suffered a 30 per cent drop in oil revenues in the first quarter of 2017, Libya's Ministry of Finance revealed yesterday. According to official statistics, there was a 44 per cent drop in revenue with only \$2.2 billion raised out of an expected \$3.87 billion. The shortfall of \$1.7 billion has not yet been explained. The Central Bank of Libya reportedly gave the finance ministry a loan of \$3.4 billion to help with the gap, according to the government's figures.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170411-libya-1-7bn-shortfall-in-oil-revenues-for-2017/>

- **Algeria intensifies exploration to strengthen its position as "reliable" player on international market**

Algeria has intensified its exploration activities in order to meet energy needs of the domestic market and to "strengthen" its position as a "reliable" player on the international market, Minister of Energy Nouredine Boutarfa said Tuesday in Brussels. "We have intensified our exploration activities to increase our reserves not only to meet the growing needs of our domestic market but also to strengthen our position as an active and reliable player on the regional and international markets," said the minister at the opening of the 2nd session of Algeria-European Union High Level Political Dialogue on Energy.

More Details:

<http://en.aps.dz/economy/17721-algeria-intensifies-exploration-to-strengthen-its-position-as-reliable-player-on-international-market>

- **Algeria-EU talks on long-term gas deals**

Algeria's energy minister will seek more investment from European Union states and discuss the renewal of long-term gas supply contracts with EU members during talks this week in Brussels, the ministry and an Algerian source said yesterday. Most of Algeria's long-term gas accords with EU nations are due to end between 2018 and 2019, just as the North African oil and gas producer grapples with a slide in crude prices, which have tumbled from above \$100 a barrel in mid-2014 to \$55 now.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170411-algeria-eu-talks-on-long-term-gas-deals/>

- **Algeria, Qatar team up to launch massive steel complex**

Bellara steel complex, which is the second in Algeria after that of El Hadjar in Annaba (600-km east of Algiers), is the fruit of a partnership based on 49/51 rule with SIDER and the National Investment

Fund and Qatar Steel International. The steel complex will begin, in the few coming days, production tests with an annual capacity of 2 million tonnes of iron for building, before reaching 5 million tonnes.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/algeria-qatar-team-launch-massive-steel-complex-961540>

- **Ras Ajdair border between Libya and Tunisia is open, officials say denying rumors**

The Ras Ajdair border crossing between Libya and Tunisia is still open from both sides with normal travelling movement, according to officials working at the border from both countries. On Sunday rumors spread on social media saying that the Tunisian part of the border had been shut disallowing travelers from getting into Tunisia or departing it to Libya in protest of the strict measures taken by the Libyan gas and fuel commission against fuel smuggling from Libya to Tunisia.

More Details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/ras-ajdair-border-between-libya-and-tunisia-is-open-officials-say-denying-rumors/>

- **Why the new government in Morocco is doomed to failure**

In reaction to the unexpected 7 October elections shock, the deep state apparently has engaged fervently in reshaping its long term tactics to regain monopoly over relations with political actors. True, the pattern of launching constitution-based reforms and then halting nascent experiences a few years later is not new in the kingdom's modern history. However, the 2011-2016 developments have traits of their own, especially the growing popularity of some PJD-led parties that believe in democratisation without forsaking the country's stability or the regime's legitimacy.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170410-why-the-new-government-in-morocco-is-doomed-to-failure/>

- **Tunisia-USA joint military exercises scheduled for next period**

Joint military exercises are scheduled for the next period between Tunisian and American navy units. The training is due to last one month and is aimed at sharing expertise in matters of preparation and planning of operational and first-aid missions as well as combat methods.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/8910204-tunisia-usa-joint>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Two civilians injured in unprovoked firing by India along LoC**

An elderly man and a teenage girl sustained injuries in unprovoked cease fire violation by Indian forces along the Line of Control (LoC). According to Inter Services Public Relations on Sunday, Indian troops opened unprovoked firing in Chirikot sector, targeting the civil population of village Chaffar. As a result of firing a 60 years old man and a 15 years old girl sustained injured.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/191888-Two-civilians-injured-in-unprovoked-firing-by-India-along-LoC>

- **Govt rejects ICG report as far from reality**

The Afghan government on Tuesday rejected an International Crisis Group (ICG) report that warns the incumbent government's future "is shaky, hemmed in by internal disagreements and facing a revived insurgency." The report has asked President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah to work together for the stability of the national unity government, an influential global group says.

More Details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/04/11/govt-rejects-icg-report-far-reality>

- **Defence minister dismisses Indian accusations of 'premeditated murder' over Jadhav sentencing**

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday dismissed India's accusations that the sentencing of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav was a "premeditated murder". Hitting out at New Delhi during a Senate briefing, Asif said Pakistan had followed 'due legal process' in prosecuting Jadhav.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1326306/defence-minister-dismisses-indian-accusations-of-premeditated-murder-over-jadhav-sentencing>

- **PTI submits resolution in PA over disappearance of ex-army officer in Nepal**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Tuesday moved a resolution in the Punjab Assembly regarding mysterious disappearance of a retired Pakistan Army officer from Nepal last week. The resolution, submitted by PTI MPA Taimur Masood, stated that spy agencies of enemy states may have played a

role in Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Muhammad Habib Zahir's disappearance. It pointed out that the recruitment website was operating from India.

More Details:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/137667-PTI-submits-resolution-in-PA-over-missing-ex-army-officer-in-Nepal>

- **Senate mulls to summon security officials amid rising target killings in Kabul**

The lawmakers in the Upper House of the Parliament, Senate House, Meshrano Jirga, have started mulling regarding the impeachment of the security officials amid unprecedented rise in targets killings in the capital. The Upper House speaker Fazal Hadi Muslimyar told the general session of the Senate today that the target killings, kidnappings, and armed robberies are on the rise which have been unprecedented during the recent days.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/senate-mulls-to-summon-security-officials-amid-rising-target-killings-in-kabul-02547>

- **Russia Rejects Alleged Reports over Taliban Support**

Russian Embassy in Kabul on Monday spurned allegations that it is supporting the insurgent Tahrir-e-Taliban movement, calling the 'irresponsible statements' based on rumors and conjecture. Russia was neither financing nor supporting terrorism in Afghanistan, a statement from the embassy said, noting recent publications in newspapers and interviews of parliamentary leaders.

More Details:

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

- **Women's Rights Still Sadly Lacking In Afghanistan**

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Tuesday said that Afghan women are still grappling with major challenges including domestic violence, multiple forms of discrimination and mistreatment outside their homes. According to the AIHRC, women in some regions of the country are still denied their basic rights and are treated as commodities.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/women%E2%80%99s-rights-still-sadly-lacking-afghanistan>

- **India warns Pakistan against execution of 'Indian spy'**

India will do whatever it takes to save its Indian citizen Kulbhushan Jadhav, who has been sentenced to death for espionage and sabotage by a Pakistani court, Home Minister Rajnath Singh told the parliament Tuesday. “No matter what needs to be done, the Indian government will do it,” Singh told the Lok Sabha, which is the lower house of the Indian parliament.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/india-warns-pakistan-against-execution-of-indian-spy/794378>

- **Pakistan's sentence against Kulbhushan Jadhav: 10 developments**

India today warned Pakistan to consider the "consequences" on their ties if Kulbhushan Jadhav is hanged in the alleged espionage case and vowed to go "out of the way" to save him amid widespread outrage in the country. Pakistan meanwhile defended its decision and said that Jadhav has 60 days within which to appeal against his sentence.

More Details:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pakistans-sentence-against-kulbhushan-jadhav-10-developments/articleshow/58130776.cms>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Assad can no longer continue in Syria: Turkish FM**

Turkey's foreign minister on Tuesday said the Bashar al-Assad regime "can no longer continue in Syria". Mevlut Cavusoglu, speaking at a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Italy, also said Syria needed a transitional government as soon as possible. Cavusoglu said conflicting facts about Syria, the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons and the situation after the U.S. fired missiles at regime facilities were discussed.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/187746/istanbul-life-sentences-sought-for-30-feto-suspects>

- **Turkey completes over half of Syria border barrier**

Turkey's Defense Ministry on Tuesday said more than half of a security wall along the country's border with Syria had been finished. The ministry said 556 kilometers (345 miles) of the “physical security systems project” had been built.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-completes-over-half-of-syria-border-barrier/794296>

- **Sarin gas definitely used in Idlib attack, Turkey's health minister says**

Health Minister Recep Akdağ confirmed on Tuesday that sarin gas was definitely used in the attack carried out in Syria's Idlib province last week. "The use of sarin gas in Idlib, has become certain," Akdağ said, following testing on blood and urine samples of victims of the attack in Khan Sheikhoun.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/syrian-crisis/2017/04/11/sarin-gas-definitely-used-in-idlib-attack-turkeys-health-minister-says>

- **Six ISIL suspects detained in Turkey's Adana**

A total of six Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) suspects were detained by police in the southern province of Adana on April 11, Doğan News Agency has reported. Anti-terrorism police raided a number of addresses in the city center in the early hours of April 11, detaining six ISIL suspects.

More Details:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=111893&NewsCatID=341>

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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