



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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Peace Process

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Ethnic and Secterian Groups

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

Non State Actors

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Relations with the West

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1. IRAQ

- **More than 1200 IS militants killed in western Mosul since February**

More than 1200 Islamic State militants, including snipers and leaders, have been killed since launch of offensives in western Mosul, Federal Police declared.

More Details

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/1200-militants-killed-western-mosul-since-february/>

- **Hemin Hawrami: KDP Ready to Settle Parliament Rift for Success of Referendum**

Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) is ready to "make sacrifices" for the success of the imminent referendum in Kurdistan and to allow for Gorran (Change) Movement to hold the parliament speaker position once again, said a KDP leadership council member.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/357526>

- **Air force launches airstrikes on ISIS positions in Salahuddin's Mutaibajah**

Heavy shelling has targeted ISIS positions in Mutaibajah district, located on the borderline between Diyala and Salahuddin Governorates, a local official revealed on Tuesday. In a press statement, Odai al-Khadran, mayor of al-Khalis town, said that the Iraqi air force has targeted more than ten of ISIS positions,

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/12028/Air-force-launches-airstrikes-on-ISIS-positions-in-Salahuddin-s-Mutaibajah>

- **Mosul on the verge of liberation as Iraqi forces target last ISIL-held district**

The Islamic State (ISIL) is on the verge of being fully expelled from Mosul after more than three years of occupying this capital of the Nineveh Governorate. According to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, the Islamic State only holds the Old Mosul District inside the city after more than three months of nonstop military operations.

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/mosul-verge-liberation-iraqi-forces-target-last-isil-held-district/>

- **Coalition Gen. Admits to White Phosphorus Use in Mosul; 99 Killed in Iraq**

New Zealand Brig. Gen. Hugh McAslan has admitted that Coalition forces used white phosphorus in Mosul. Supposedly, its use was to assist civilians attempting to flee Islamic State militants and not as a weapon.

More Details

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/06/13/coalition-gen-admits-white-phosphorus-use-mosul-99-killed-iraq/>

- **Trump's silver lining in Iraq**

There will be winners, like the Kurds. There will be losers, like Iraq's Sunni minority. There will be gains for Iran, which backs the Shi'ite militias drafted to fight Sunni-dominated IS. And there may be a silver lining for the Trump administration – specifically in the form of Kurdish independence and permanent American bases in a Shi'ite-ruled Iraq. But any declaration of "victory" on the part of the United States depends on how the measure of those results is taken.

More Details

<http://opinion.bdnews24.com/2017/06/14/trumps-silver-lining-in-iraq/>

- **Syrian Kurds support independence of Iraqi Kurdistan**

Senior Syrian Kurdish officials on Wednesday said they support the independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan region, scheduled on 25 September this year.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/syrian-kurds-support-independence-of-iraqi-kurdistan/>

- **Iraq urges cooperation to halt financing terrorism**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday said Iraq rejects isolation of any state in the Gulf region, calling for cooperation to halt financing terrorism. "We have common interests with the neighboring countries and we want to put out the fire in the region," Abadi said at a press conference after his weekly cabinet meeting.

More Details

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-06/14/content_41021910.htm

- **Iraqi premier to discuss crisis with King Salman in Jeddah**

King Salman of Saudi Arabia and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi will meet on Wednesday in Jeddah, the London-based newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported, citing Saudi State Minister for Gulf Affairs Thamer Al-Sabhan.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1114691/middle-east>

- **Why Barzani insists on independence referendum**

On June 7, the representatives of the 15 Kurdish parties in Iraqi Kurdistan announced that their region will hold a non-binding independence referendum on Sept. 25, 2017. The referendum will also be held in disputed territories outside the area of the control of Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) such as Kirkuk.

More Details

<https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2017/06/14/why-barzani-insists-on-independence-referendum>

- **Iraqi Christians Arrested by ICE in Detroit Fight Being Deported**

Iraqi Christians with criminal records arrested by ICE in Detroit over the weekend face deportation, but attorneys and Chaldean community groups are working to prevent that from happening, arguing they would be targets for violence if returned to Iraq.

More Details

<http://www.newsmax.com/TheWire/iraqi-christians-arrested-detroit/2017/06/13/id/795722/>

- **Iraq Beats Saudis to Become Oil King in Fastest-Growing Market**

Iraq is gaining the edge over Saudi Arabia in the world's fastest-growing oil consumer amid an intensifying race among producers to retain their most-prized markets.

More Details

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-06-14/iraq-beats-saudis-to-become-oil-king-in-fastest-growing-market>

- **Iraq Does Not Intend to Interfere' in Qatar Diplomatic Row**

Iraq intends to stay neutral in the diplomatic rift around Qatar over its alleged support for terrorism, Habib Mouhammed Hadi Sader, Iraq's ambassador to Egypt and the head of Arab Department of Iraq's Foreign Ministry, told Sputnik Tuesday.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201706131054599763-iraq-qatar-diplomatic-scandal/>

- **Iraqi Forces Recapture 5 Villages West of Mosul from ISIL**

Iraqi government forces have managed to seize back five villages West of Mosul as they are battling ISIL terrorists in joint operations with allied fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units to push the Takfiri militants out of the country's second largest city.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960323000441>

- **Mass poisoning at Iraqi Refugee camp Puts focus on Region's Displaced**

The mass food poisoning is part of a larger problem throughout the Middle East and north Africa where there are millions of refugees and IDPs, many of them living in camps that are often underfunded and face an uncertain future.

More Details

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Mass-poisoning-at-Iraqi-refugee-camp-puts-focus-on-regions-displaced-496807>

- **Egypt's FM to discuss boosting cooperation with Iraq's vice president in Cairo on Wednesday**

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry will meet on Wednesday with Iraqi Vice President Ayad Allawi to discuss boosting cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

More Details

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/270887/-.aspx>

- **2 DynCorp workers accused of bilking State Department out of millions in Iraq**

Both cases involve the training of civilian police officers in Iraq. A 2010 report from the State Department special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction found that oversight of Dyncorp's police training contract was, and for years had been, weak

More Details

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/2-dyncorp-workers-accused-of-bilking-state-department-out-of-millions-in-iraq-1.473295#.WUDs8tSLSmU>

2. SYRIA

- **Syrian army advances west of Raqa**

The Syrian army has made a sudden advance against Daesh in the desert area west of Raqa, a military media unit run by its ally Hizbollah said on Tuesday. Syria's vast deserts have become the main theatre of war in recent weeks as rival forces race to capture ground from the extremist group, which is slowly retreating on several fronts.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/af52da7f-ff79-4516-abf5-1e45209c2858.aspx>

- **Syria: Army Starts New Operations to Secure Aleppo's Strategic Road**

The sources said that after regaining control over Eastern Aleppo, the army troops intend to link the entire areas on the coasts of the Euphrates road to Ithriya-Aleppo road which is the main passageway of Aleppo and the Northern parts of the country to block the terrorists' threat to the province. According to reports, the army has started the operation Westward after advancing in Eastern Aleppo and capturing the villages of al-Ramthan, al-Saliheh, Barqawi and Jarabat in the Southern parts of Lake Assad.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960323001512>

- **Napalm-Filled Barrel Bomb Used by Syrian Regime in Daraa**

Syrian regime aircraft dropped napalm on Daraa this week, with huge fires consuming large parts of the densely-packed southern city. Daraa city and the surrounding countryside have been subject to huge bombardment from regime rockets and barrel bombs over the past week as pro-Damascus militias launch an offensive to take the opposition-held area.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/napalm-filled-barrel-bomb-used-syrian-regime-daraa-985962>

- **Daunting aid challenges as civilians flee Syria's Raqa**

The battle to oust the Islamic State group from its stronghold of Raqa is creating daunting challenges for aid groups responding to the latest humanitarian crisis in the Syrian conflict. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled Raqa and its surroundings since the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) began its operation to capture the jihadist stronghold last year.

More Details:

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/daunting-aid-challenges-as-civilians-flee-syria-s-raqa/article/495044>

- **Syrian Kurds support independence of Iraqi Kurdistan**

Senior Syrian Kurdish officials on Wednesday said they support the independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan region, scheduled on 25 September this year. In an exclusive interview with ARA News, Saud Malla, the head of the KDP-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party of Syria (KDP-S), the leading party within the Kurdish National Council (KNC), said that holding a referendum on independence is a legitimate right of the Iraqi Kurds.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/06/syrian-kurds-support-independence-of-iraqi-kurdistan/>

- **US\$50 million to Support Health Services to Poor Jordanians and Syrian Refugees**

The World Bank Group has committed US\$50 million to support the Government of Jordan in maintaining the delivery of primary and secondary health services to poor uninsured Jordanians and Syrian refugees. The assistance approved today by the World Bank's Board of Directors is part of a larger US\$150 million project, which is being financed in parallel by the Islamic Development Bank. The World Bank and Islamic Development Bank support will help extend critical health services to 3.5 million beneficiaries. Both projects are being provided on concessional terms through support from the Global Concessional Financing Facility.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/06/13/us50-million-to-support-health-services-to-poor-jordanians-and-syrian-refugees>

- **Daesh chemical attacks down in Syria**

The Daesh terror group is launching fewer chemical weapons attacks in Syria as their Iraqi stronghold in Mosul, where the arms are made, comes under pressure, according to a report out on Tuesday. Daesh has allegedly used chemical weapons in one attack in Syria this year, on January 8 in Aleppo province, according to global market intelligence firm IHS Markit.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/daesh-chemical-attacks-down-syria-%E2%80%94-report>

- **Raqqa's post-ISIS stabilization is as important as the battle itself**

Even before the main battle to remove Islamic State (ISIS) from the Syrian city of Raqqa began, the United States made it clear that it is not going to contribute to post-ISIS humanitarian and stabilization efforts there. This may prove problematic as such efforts are essential to solidify the battlefield defeat of the militants. “In terms of administrative services [in Raqqa], teachers, hospitals, who pays those salaries, that is something where Syrians are going to have to work that out,” Brett McGurk, the US presidential envoy to the US-led coalition against ISIS, previously has said. “We are not in the business of, as I said, nation-building operations.”

More Details:

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/130620171>

- **U.S. Continues Supporting ISIS in Syria**

According to Daily Mail, Tehran has proof the U.S. directly supports ISIS and Washington is behind most of the terrorist acts in the world. This was announced by Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Mostafa Izadi. Besides, Izadi stressed that the U.S. used this support as an instrument of “proxy warfare in the region”. However, it should be mentioned that Mostafa Izadi hasn’t presented any documents that would prove his claims yet.

More Details:

<https://en.insidesyriamc.com/2017/06/13/u-s-continues-supporting-isis-in-syria/>

- **Putin warns Gulf crisis imperils Syria peace efforts**

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has warned in a phone conversation with the king of Saudi Arabia that the blockade against Qatar by its neighbours will make it harder to reach a peaceful end to the war in Syria. The comment came in a statement issued by the Kremlin after the call on Tuesday, more than a week after Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Qatar and closed their air, sea and land borders for the country, accusing it of supporting "extremists" and Iran, charges that Qatar calls "baseless".

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/putin-warns-gulf-crisis-imperils-syria-peace-efforts-170613132035266.html>

3. IRAN

- **Iran To Provide Qatar With Humanitarian Aid - FM**

Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a meeting with former United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan said that Iran will provide Qatar with humanitarian aid following the country's blockade by Saudi Arabia, Iran's Mehr News Agency (MNA) reported.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1364402>

- **Iranian official hails 'victory' on Iraq-Syria border**

Ali Akbar Velayati, head of strategy at Iran's Expediency Discernment Council, has described the reported concentration of Iranian troops on Syria's border with Iraq as a "strategic victory".

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iranian-official-hails-victory-on-iraq-syria-border/841025>

- **Tehran's land corridor through Syria, a reality**

Syria's vast Badia region is fast becoming a gravitational field for various players embroiled in the Syrian quagmire, with the Damascus regime funnelling its military effort in a bid to secure areas that have been abandoned by Daesh militants.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/osama-al-sharif/tehran%E2%80%99s-land-corridor-through-syria-reality>

- **Iran maneuvers to capitalize on Qatar crisis**

On June 5, Saudi Arabia along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt severed diplomatic and trade relations with Qatar, effectively imposing a siege on Doha. Besides the many discussions surrounding its causes, the apparently Saudi-led move against Qatar has sparked debate in Tehran on Iran's policy toward the rift — and the consequences it might bring about. Officially, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quick to respond, tweeting on June 5, "Neighbors are permanent; geography can't be changed. Coercion is never the solution.

More Details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/iran-stance-qatar-crisis-saudi-arabia-rivalry-assertion.html>

- **Raising Tensions, Iranians Again Link Saudis to Terror Attacks in Tehran**

Turning up the heat in an already tense standoff, several Iranian officials on Tuesday renewed accusations against Saudi Arabia, suggesting that the Persian Gulf kingdom was behind last week's twin terrorist attacks in Tehran.

More Details:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/13/world/middleeast/iran-saudi-arabia-terrorism.html?_r=0

- **Zarif: Iran ready for cooperation with Bosnia to establish peace**

Foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that it is important for Iran to see stability and unity in Bosnia.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82564363/>

- **Qatar's relationship with Iran and Muslim militancy decoded**

The political crisis engulfing Qatar stems from accusations by its Arab neighbors that it supports terrorism. Qatar denies the allegations, but its ties with Iran and embrace of various hardline Muslim groups have brought intense scrutiny, made it a regional outlier and created enough smoke to suggest a fire.

More Details:

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2017/06/14/2003672521>

- **Terrorist attacks in Iran, Saudi Arabia denounced**

Clerics on Tuesday said that leadership of Kuwait, Turkey and Pakistan will have to play a key role to resolve the Qatar-Arab rift.

More Details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/14-Jun-17/terrorist-attacks-in-iran-saudi-arabia-denounced>

- **Iranian official plots attack on U.S. aircraft carrier**

One Iranian official has outlined a strategy through which his nation, with access to the Persian Gulf, could pursue an attack on a U.S. aircraft carrier, a type of vessel that his nation does not possess, according to a report in Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin.

More Details:

<http://www.wnd.com/2017/06/iranian-official-plots-attack-on-u-s-aircraft-carrier/>

- **US Intends for IAEA to Have Funding for Iran Inspections**

Despite budget cuts the United States wants to make sure the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has the funding necessary to carry out its nuclear inspections in Iran, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201706141054607443-usa-iaea-iran-inspections-funding/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Gaza power crisis worsens with PA push to reduce electricity supply**

Wednesday marks the 10th anniversary of Hamas rule in the Gaza strip. The decade has been marked mainly by conflict with Israel and economic collapse under the strain of the Israeli blockade against the Palestinian territory. Divisions between Hamas and the Fatah-lead Palestinian Authority have worsened recently, with the PA sharply reducing its support for Gaza's electricity supply.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/06/gaza-power-crisis-worsens-pa-push-reduce-electricity-supply-170614044330953.html>

- **Four Wanted Terrorists Arrested In West Bank Overnight**

Four wanted terrorists were detained overnight on Tuesday in the West Bank in a joint operation carried out by IDF, Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) and police forces.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Four-wanted-terrorists-arrested-in-West-Bank-overnight-496798>

- **Pro-Qatar demonstration, Gaza**

People hold banners of Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and his father Former Emir of Qatar Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani during a demonstration in solidarity with some Qatari nongovernmental organizations, which are added to the terror list owing to allegedly linked terror by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170614-pro-qatar-demonstration-gaza/>

- **Jews in Kurdistan, Diaspora Issue Joint Statement Supporting Kurdish Independence**

On Sunday, Jews in the Kurdistan Region and the Diaspora, along with the State of Israel and the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Representative for the Jewish community Sherzad Omar Mamsani, issued a joint statement expressing support for the KRG's decision to hold a referendum vote on their independence on September 25, 2017.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/06/13/jews-kurdistan-diaspora-issue-joint-statement-support-kurdish-independence-referendum-vote/>

- **Israeli soldier dismissed for not stopping Palestinian teen who stabbed him**

An Israeli soldier from an elite unit was dismissed for not helping to stop the Palestinian teenager who stabbed him as he guarded the entrance to a West Bank settlement. The soldier was dismissed from his combat position in the Maglan unit for "not working to neutralize the terrorist as expected of him as a combat soldier in the Israel Defense Forces," the IDF said Tuesday in a statement.

More details:

<http://www.jta.org/2017/06/13/news-opinion/israel-middle-east/israeli-soldier-dismissed-for-not-stopping-palestinian-teen-who-stabbed-him>

- **Dr. Ashrawi conducts separate diplomatic meetings in Ramalla**

PLO Executive Committee Member Dr. Hanan Ashrawi met with the Russian Head of Mission to Palestine Dr. Aydar R. Aganin at the PLO Headquarters in Ramallah. Dr. Ashrawi affirmed the historic ties between Palestine and Russia, and she expressed her gratitude to Russia for its consistent support of Palestinian self-determination, freedom and human rights. In that context, both parties reviewed strengthening the foundations of joint cooperation between Palestine and Russia and the role of Russia in peacemaking.

More details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1706/S00038/dr-ashrawi-conducts-separate-diplomatic-meetings-in-ramalla.htm>

- **Palestinians to end pay for suicide bomber families**

The leadership of the Palestinian Authority has agreed to halt payments to the families of suicide bombers, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday.

More details:

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/international/palestinians-to-end-pay_101836?profile=1373

- **Israel said to be in talks with Egypt, EU in bid to head off Gaza electricity crisis**

Israel is reportedly in talks with Egypt and the European Union to head of an impending humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip amid an escalating crisis over electricity supply to the Hamas-run Palestinian enclave, according to a report on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-be-in-talks-with-egypt-eu-in-bid-to-head-off-gaza-electricity-crisis/>

- **Israel, Palestinians have failed to prosecute war crimes — UN**

Both Israel and the Palestinians have failed to bring perpetrators of alleged war crimes — including killings — to justice, the United Nations said in a report published on Monday.

More details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/israel-palestinians-have-failed-prosecute-war-crimes-%E2%80%94-un>

- **An unsettled Israeli-Palestinian relationship in ‘The Return’**

It took Mosaic Theater Company no time to forge a social justice identity beyond the Jewish lens of Theater J, where Mosaic Artistic Director Ari Roth had worked for nearly two decades until his firing at the end of 2014. But the Voices From a Changing Middle East Festival, begun in 2000 under Roth at Theater J, continues at the impressive young Mosaic as one of the most valuable streams in Washington theater.

More details:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/an-unsettled-israeli-palestinian-relationship-in-the-return/2017/06/13/f08c96ea-5036-11e7-91eb-9611861a988f_story.html?utm_term=.076195ab0ac1

- **Israel extends administrative detention of 3 prominent Palestinian activists**

In the past two months, three prominent Palestinian activists were ordered to additional periods of administrative detention, Israel’s policy of imprisonment without charge or trial, according to a Tuesday report from the International Middle East Media Center (IMEMC).

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777629>

- **Israel returns ambassador to New Zealand, ending diplomatic rift**

Israel said on Tuesday its ambassador to New Zealand will return to his post, ending a six-month rift in relations over a United Nations resolution against Israeli settlements on occupied territory which Palestinians seek for a state.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-new-zealand-idUSKBN19422G>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan plunges into economic crisis following Qatar blockade**

Jordan's economy has incurred losses worth \$2 million since a closure of the Saudi land borders last week against the Jordanian exports heading to Qatar as a result of the Gulf diplomatic rift. On 5 June, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and began an economic blockade against the Gulf state. Jordan later joined the move by announcing a reduction in diplomatic representation with Qatar.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170614-jordan-plunges-into-economic-crisis-following-qatar-blockade/>

- **Lebanese Parties Agree on Electoral Law, Foreign Minister Says**

Lebanon's rival parties reached agreement on Tuesday on an electoral law, Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil said, staving off a political crisis and paving the way for a parliamentary election. The agreement still needs the approval of the cabinet in a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, and will then be sent to parliament.

More Details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/lebanese-parties-agree-on-electoral-law-says-foreign-minister/3899205.html>

- **Hariri meets UAE, Egypt, Saudi envoys**

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al Hariri has received Hamad Saeed Al Shamsi, UAE Ambassador to Lebanon, Nazih Najari, Egyptian Ambassador to Lebanon, and Sultan Al Subaie, Charge d’Affaires of the Saudi Embassy in Lebanon. During the meeting, the officials discussed the situation in Lebanon and the Arab region in light of the current developments, especially GCC-Qatari relations.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/bc8ab78c-228b-47a2-a341-8489b2c48bb9.aspx>

- **Hariri Says New Electoral Law ‘an Achievement for Entire Country’**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri on Tuesday described the new electoral law that the political parties have agreed on as an “achievement for the entire country.” “This is not an achievement for a party or a sect, but rather for the entire country, and in my opinion it was the last controversial essential topic in the country,” Hariri said at an iftar banquet at the Grand Serail.

More Details:

<http://www.ezspk.co.uk/2017/06/13/hariri-says-new-electoral-law-an-achievement-for-entire-country/>

- **Army chief meets German military delegation**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. General Mahmoud Freihat on Monday met with a German military delegation headed by Colonel Frank Michael. Talks during the meeting, dealt with scopes of cooperation and coordination between the two countries' armed forces.

More Details:

http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=305685&CatID=13

- **Cyprus President met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon**

The President of the Republic, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, met today, in Beirut, with the Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon Mr Nabih Berri, in the framework of his official visit to Lebanon. The President, who was accompanied by the members of the Cypriot delegation, was officially received by Mr Berri while a military guard presented honours and the National Anthems of Cyprus and Lebanon were performed.

More Details:

<http://www.balkan.eu.com/cyprus-president-met-with-the-speaker-of-the-parliament-of-lebanon/>

- **Gulf crisis impact felt in Lebanon**

As efforts to defuse the diplomatic row between Qatar and other Gulf states ramp up, one Arab country is noticeably silent. Lebanese government leaders have not made any formal statement because they are closely linked to all of the nations involved in the dispute.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/06/gulf-crisis-impact-felt-lebanon-170613140504228.html>

- **Jordan, Kuwait set to boost cooperation**

During the discussions, held at the Dasman Palace in Kuwait City, the two leaders stressed the need to further enhance Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations in various fields and emphasised the importance of continuing coordination and consultation between the two countries on various regional issues, in order to serve joint interests and pan-Arab solidarity. They also addressed regional developments and ways to reach political solutions to ongoing crises in the Middle East, so as to restore security and stability, according to a Royal Court statement.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-kuwait-set-boost-cooperation>

- **Garbage dumped in sea off Lebanon sparks outrage**

A "mountain of garbage" dumped at sea off Beirut under a deal between the government and a company has sparked outrage in Lebanon, two years after mass protests over a waste crisis. For the past 10 days, civil society groups have shared images of trucks carrying rubbish and tipping it into the Mediterranean, a process that is ongoing.

More Details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170613-garbage-dumped-sea-off-lebanon-sparks-outrage>

- **Report: Kataeb Says New Vote Law 'Masked' Return to 1960**

The Kataeb party slammed Wednesday the newly approved proportional representation electoral law as a "political fraud" describing it as a "masked bid to return to the 1960" majoritarian law, al-Joumhouria daily reported. "What happened is a political fraud and a masked return to the 1960 law. The vote law was tailored to suit the interests of some people in power," a prominent Kataeb source told the daily in an interview.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/231385-report-kataeb-says-new-vote-law-masked-return-to-1960>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Oman, Iran Call for Expansion of Bilateral Ties**

Mohammad Reza Nouri Shahroudi made the remarks in his first meeting with Yahya bin Mahfoudh al Mantheri, chairman of Oman's State Council (parliament) on Tuesday. In the meeting, they discussed issues of mutual interest for the two Muslim countries. The long-standing, distinguished relations between Iran and Oman are an indication of wisdom and prudence of the two countries' leadership, they affirmed.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82564629/>

- **Yemeni children Infected by Cholera at Rate of One Every 35 Seconds**

The cholera outbreak in Yemen is escalating at an alarming rate, with experts warning that a child is now infected with the disease every 35 seconds, according to Save the Children. Grant Pritchard, the charity's director in Yemen, warned the country is on "the verge of total collapse" as a combination of near-famine conditions and crippled infrastructure fuel the spread of cholera.

More Details:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jun/14/in-yemen-a-child-is-now-infected-by-cholera-every-35-seconds>

- **UAE Envoy Calls on US to Move Air Base from Qatar amid Gulf Crisis**

The UAE ambassador to the US has called on the administration of US President Donald Trump to consider moving Washington's major airbase from Qatar amid the escalating Gulf crisis. Yousef al Otaiba said the relocation of the al-Udeid air base should be used as a political tool to put more pressure on Doha.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/uae-envoy-calls-us-move-air-base-qatar-amid-gulf-crisis-1626168>

- **US: Attempted Block of Part of Saudi Arms Sale Defeated**

A multi-billion dollar arms sale to Saudi Arabia moved closer to reality Tuesday after an attempt to kill part of the deal narrowly failed in the Senate. Following the 53-47 vote, Sen. Rand Paul, who was

part of a bipartisan group of senators who sought to derail part of the arms package, pledged the group would continue to work to defeat the sale he said is worth \$350 billion over a decade.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-attempted-block-of-part-of-saudi-arms-sale-defeated/841111>

- **Qatar Airways Chief Executive says Airspace Ban by UAE and Bahrain Illegal**

Bahrain and the UAE have illegally blocked the airspace, said Akbar Al Baker, Group Chief Executive, Qatar Airways. Talking to Al Jazeera, Al Baker said the airspace that they have blocked does not belong to them, it belongs to the international community. “Bahrain and the UAE have illegally blocked that airspace. The airspace that they have blocked does not belong to them, it belongs to the international community. It has been given to them, the flight information region which is called FIR, which is by International Civil Aviation Organisation,” said Al Baker.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/14/06/2017/Qatar-Airways-Chief-Executive-says-airspace-ban-by-UAE-and-Bahrain-illegal>

- **Saudi Plans New Arab Channel to End Qatar Monopoly**

Saudi Arabia is planning to establish a “a big Arab alliance” to put an end to the monopoly of Qatari-based BeIN sports, one of the arms of Al Jazeera news channel, said a report. The kingdom will question the monopoly over the whole Arab region by the Qatari-based banned BeIN sport, reported the Gulf News, citing a Saudi lawyer.

More Details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/MEDIA_326338.html

- **Iran to provide Qatar with needed humanitarian aid**

Iranian FM Zarif in a meeting with former UN chief Kofi Annan said Iran will provide Qatar with its required humanitarian aid following the country’s blockade by Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan Tuesday evening on the sidelines of the Oslo Forum in Norway. During the meeting, Zarif noted the Saudi pressure on Qatar and the severed diplomatic ties between the two countries, while Kofi Annan stressed that all regional countries would be the loser if tension continued to escalate in the Middle East.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125917/Iran-to-provide-Qatar-with-needed-humanitarian-aid>

- **Turkey: Isolation of Qatar is not Islamic**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has denounced the isolation of Qatar as "inhumane and against Islamic values", urging Saudi Arabia to take a leading role in resolving the ongoing crisis among Gulf Arab nations. "Qatar has showed the most decisive stance against terrorist organisation Daesh alongside Turkey. Victimising Qatar through smear campaigns serves no purpose," he said during a parliamentary address, using the Arabic abbreviation for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS), on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/turkey-qatar-isolation-islamic-values-170613131822995.html>

- **4000 Cows to be flown to Qatar to Ensure Fresh Milk Supply**

The rift between Qatar and its neighbours has prompted one Qatari businessman to fly 4,000 cows to the Gulf country in an act of resistance and opportunity to fill the void left by a collapse in the supply of fresh milk. It will take as many as 60 flights for Qatar Airways to deliver the 590kg beasts that Moutaz al-Khayyat, chairman of Power International Holding, bought in Australia and the US. "This is the time to work for Qatar," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/553094/4000-cows-to-be-flown-to-Qatar-to-ensure-fresh-mil>

7. EGYPT

- **Israel said to be in talks with Egypt, EU in bid to head off Gaza electricity crisis**

Israel is reportedly in talks with Egypt and the European Union to head of an impending humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip amid an escalating crisis over electricity supply to the Hamas-run Palestinian enclave, according to a report on Wednesday.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-be-in-talks-with-egypt-eu-in-bid-to-head-off-gaza-electricity-crisis/>

- **Egypt blocks host of websites: Cairo-based rights NGO**

The Egyptian authorities have recently blocked a number of websites, including some Turkish ones, according to a local rights NGO, APA reports quoting AA.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/africa-news/egypt-blocks-host-of-websites-cairo-based-rights-ngo.html>

- **Egypt needs a completely new curriculum**

Inaugurating new classrooms in the same old schools every now and then is not an indication that we are offering Egyptian students better quality education. The regular expansion of schools, an achievement in which the Egyptian government takes great pride, can also be perceived as the building of a mental barrier, since we continue to teach the same obsolete syllabus to our students. Increasing the number of poorly educated graduates, taught an outdated curriculum that is managed by an old-fashioned learning mechanism, is certainly incrementing our educational challenge.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1114676>

- **Egypt continue to censor websites and now targets VPN providers even as el-Sissi seeks investors**

Egyptian authorities are tightening internet censorship at home as President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi seeks investment abroad, in what could be an attempt to tamp down dissent over an agreement to transfer two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/13/06/2017/Egypt-continue-to-censor-websites-and-now-targets-VPN-providers-even-as-el-Sissi-seeks-investors>

- **Egypt's FM to discuss boosting cooperation with Iraq's vice president in Cairo on Wednesday**

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry will meet on Wednesday with Iraqi Vice President Ayad Allawi to discuss boosting cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/270887/-.aspx>

- **Hamas mulls new security measures for Gaza border after Egyptian ultimatum**

The Gaza Ministry of Interior and Internal Security recommended in a statement on Tuesday evening a series of new and additional procedures "to enhance the state of security at the southern borders with Egypt."

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?ID=777633>

- **Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank/Egypt cut to neutral at EFG Hermes**

Hermes analyst Elena Sanchez-Cabezudo has downgraded the recommendation on Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank/Egypt to neutral from buy, according to Bloomberg. Sanchez-Cabezudo raised the target price to EGP11.80 from EGP10, implying an 8.3% increase from the last close. The target is 5.1% below the consensus average of EGP12.44. Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank/Egypt had 3 buy recommendations and 3 holds before Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/553165/Abu-Dhabi-Islamic-Bank-Egypt-cut-to-neutral-at-EFG>

- **Report: Egypt offered Gaza electricity in exchange for security coordination**

Egypt has offered to provide the Gaza Strip with more electricity in return for cooperation in counter-terrorism measures Cairo is undertaking.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170613-report-egypt-offered-gaza-electricity-in-exchange-for-security-coordination/>

- **Controversial Islands Handover Deal Approved by Egyptian Parliament Panel**

The legislative and constitutional committee of the Egyptian parliament finally approved a controversial deal with Saudi Arabia on the control of two islands in the Red Sea.

More Details:

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/controversial-islands-handover-deal-approved-egyptian-parliament-panel-985936>

- **Saudi, UAE, Egypt, Bahrain Diplomats Meet with Tunisia's Foreign Minister**

Saudi ambassador Mohammed bin Mahmoud Al-Ali and ambassadors of each of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain in Tunisia met on Tuesday with Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui, said the Saudi Press agency (SPA).

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/asharq-al-awsat-english/news-middle-east/saudi-uae-egyptian-bahrain-diplomats-meet-tunisias-foreign-minister>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisia: Fifth man facing jail term for breaking fast during Ramadan**

The prosecution of five people for the charge of “public indecency” after smoking a cigarette or eating in public during the month of Ramadan is a clear violation of individual freedoms in Tunisia, said Amnesty International.

More Details:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/06/tunisia-fifth-man-facing-jail-term-for-breaking-fast-during-ramadan/>

- **World Bank Approves \$500 Million Loan for Tunisia**

The World Bank on Tuesday approved a \$500 million loan to support Tunisia's budget, a government official for the North African country said on Tuesday. The funding followed the release by the International Monetary Fund of a delayed \$320-million tranche of Tunisia's IMF loan, after the government agreed to speed up economic reforms.

More Details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/world-bank-loan-tunisia/3899595.html>

- **Tunisia orders NGOs to publish foreign funding**

Tunisia on Monday said non-government organisations must declare any funds they receive from abroad in line with a 2011 law on freedom of association, giving them a month to comply. Local and international NGOs "have a month starting from today" to declare the amount of foreign funding they receive in accordance with the law, a government statement said.

More Details:

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/tunisia-orders-ngos-to-publish-foreign-funding-20170613>

- **Algeria, France urge political solution in Libya to halt terrorism**

The foreign ministers of Algeria and France on Tuesday urged Libya's rival armed factions to seek a political solution in the North African country to help stem the spread of militant groups there and potential spillover across its borders. Algeria has joined with North African neighbor Tunisia to seek support for an inclusive dialogue in Libya, where competing governments and armed supporters have struggled for control since a 2011 civil war ousted veteran leader Muammar Gaddafi.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-algeria-france-idUSKBN1942T1>

- **Algeria: Catholic Church demolished to make way for new mosque**

Authorities in Algeria have demolished a Catholic church in Sidi Moussa, a town south of Algiers, and plan to build a mosque and Islamic school on the site. Government officials said that the church had become unsafe because of structural deterioration. The Algerian constitution guarantees freedom of worship, but also proclaims Islam as the state's official

More Details:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=31830>

- **Libyan oil firm aims to raise output to 1 million barrels a day next month, even as Qatar feud spills into Libya**

Libya's state oil company moved on Tuesday toward resolving a dispute that could help the country's crude output soar. But a regional crisis over Qatar has spilled over into Libya, putting at risk political reconciliation between the nation's rival factions and a tentative rebound in its oil production.

More Details:

<http://www.cnbc.com/2017/06/13/libyan-oil-firm-aims-for-big-output-jump-even-as-qatar-feud-spills-into-libya.html>

- **UAE violates Libya arms embargo, supplies Haftar's LNA**

The United Arab Emirates is playing a destabilising role in Libya, analysts say, days after the release of a UN report that accuses the Gulf nation of repeatedly violating an international arms embargo. The UN's Libya Sanctions Committee report, released on Friday, reveals the UAE has supplied attack helicopters and other military aircraft to the Libyan forces of renegade General Khalifa Haftar, in violation of UN-backed international sanctions regime.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/06/uae-violates-libya-arms-embargo-supplies-haftar-lna-170613132424261.html>

- **Libya's Illegal Migration: the Urgent Need for a New Strategy**

Over 50 migrants went missing at sea and 2,500 were rescued over the June 10 2017 weekend after leaving Libya. According to the UN refugee agency, the migrants – mainly from sub-Saharan Africa – were found on flimsy dinghies off the coast of Libya. And eight were found dead on inflatable boats. According to the International Organisation for Migration, arrivals of migrants crossing the

Mediterranean this year are on the rise. The number had already reached an estimated 60,521 by May 24 2017, with around 80 percent arriving in Italy. By the same date, 1,530 had died at sea.

More Details:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/libyas-illegal-migration-the-urgent-need-for-a-new-us_593ffa5de4b0b65670e56dff

- **Morocco writers voice solidarity with Al-Rif protesters**

The Moroccan Writers Union on Tuesday expressed solidarity with an ongoing wave of demonstrations in the northeastern Al-Rif region and called for the release of detained protest leaders. In a statement, the union urged the government to refrain from arresting protest leaders and to release all recently detained activists.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/morocco-writers-voice-solidarity-with-al-rif-protesters/841015>

- **A new world of Islamic banking unfolds in Morocco**

Last week we noted here that Morocco ranked last on the 48-nation Islamic Finance Country Index by London-based Islamic finance consultant firm Edbiz Consulting, even behind a number of Western, non-Muslim countries. This came as a surprise to many who are not familiar with Morocco's banking system.

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/553167/A-new-world-of-Islamic-banking-unfolds-in-Morocco>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Trump Gives Mattis Authority over Troop Levels in Afghanistan**

President Trump has given Defense Secretary Jim Mattis the authority to decide the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Mattis will now be "the decider" on the matter and an official announcement is expected on Wednesday, a senior Pentagon official told the Washington Examiner. There are currently about 8,400 troops in Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/trump-gives-mattis-authority-over-troop-levels-in-afghanistan-report/article/2625894>

- **China Moves to Resolve Pak-Afghan Row**

China has offered to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan and help organise a meeting so that the two countries can improve their relations, President Ashraf Ghani's office said in a statement on Tuesday. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi is scheduled to visit Kabul where he will meet Afghan officials and will work to discuss the possibility of organising a meeting between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the US and China, the statement said.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/3793c6c1-2a84-4afc-8e08-be8bf50caa1c.aspx>

- **UN Secretary General Arrives in Kabul on an Unannounced Visit**

The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres arrived in Kabul this morning on an unannounced visit. "Just landed in Kabul for talks with government and people. @UN stands with Afghanistan at a time of violence and suffering," Guterres said in short statement posted on his official Twitter account

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/un-secretary-general-arrives-in-kabul-on-an-unannounced-visit-02934>

- **Afghanistan: 5 Killed as Suicide Bomber Targets Breakaway Taliban Faction**

Five people were killed and four other wounded after a suicide car bomber targeted a group of fighters from the splinter Taliban group led by Mullah Abdul Rasoul in Gereshk district in Helmand, Afghanistan on Wednesday. "5 killed, 4 wounded in suicide bombing that targeted Taliban splinter-group in Gereshk District this morning," tweeted Tolo News.

More Details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzE5NjM1/afghanistan-5-killed-as-suicide-bomber-targets-breakaway-taliban-faction.html>

- **Suicide Bomber Targets Breakaway Taliban Fighters**

At least five Taliban fighters were killed in a suicide car bombing early Wednesday in Gereshk, in an attack that targeted a group of fighters from the splinter Taliban group led by Mullah Abdul Rasoul. In addition four others were reportedly wounded. A source from the breakaway group confirmed the incident but would not provide details.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/suicide-bomber-targets-breakaway-taliban-fighters>

- **Haqqani Network Commander Reportedly Killed By Drone Strike In Pakistan**

A suspected U.S. drone strike in northwestern Pakistan has killed a commander of the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network, local officials say. A security official said on June 13 that the commander, identified as Abubakar, died in an overnight strike in the Speen Tal area of the Hangu district. A resident of Dewal village, Behram Khan, said three more people were injured in the strike, including a boy.

More Details:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/pakistan-afghanistan-haqqani-network-commander-killed-drone/28545228.html>

- **Pakistan Shelves \$2b LNG Project**

As Saudi Arabia adopts an aggressive policy in the Middle East by cutting ties with Qatar, the PML-N-led government has shelved the \$2 billion Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline project, an alternative plan to implement Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project following US sanctions against Tehran, in a move that will likely intensify row between Islamabad and Tehran on the gas pipeline project.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1434909/pakistan-shelves-2b-lng-project-citing-high-costs/>

- **Shahbaz Sharif Summoned by JIT**

The joint investigation team (JIT) probing the offshore holdings of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his children has summoned his younger brother, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, to appear before it on June 17 (Saturday). Mr Shahbaz will appear before the six-member JIT, headed by Federal Investigation Agency's Additional Director Wajid Zia, two days after the prime minister's scheduled appearance.

More Details:

<http://paktribune.com/news/Shahbaz-Sharif-summoned-by-JIT-278926.html>

- **PM's Visit Yields no Breakthrough in Resolution of Saudi-Qatar Row**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's mediation visit to Saudi Arabia for finding a diplomatic solution to the Qatar crisis did not achieve any immediate breakthrough. Mr Sharif returned to Islamabad in the early hours of Tuesday after a day-long visit to Jeddah, where he met King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and urged an early resolution of "the impasse in Gulf ... in the best interest of Ummah".

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1339424/pms-visit-yields-no-breakthrough-in-resolution-of-saudi-qatar-row>

- **Pak-Afghan Meeting Discusses Issue of Border Villages**

Pakistan and Afghanistan military officials agreed to resolve the issue of border villages in a flag meeting held in the Afghan border town Vesh Mandi of Spin Buldak district. It was decided that negotiations will be held after Eidul Fitr. According to sources, both sides agreed to resolve the issue after the armed clashes at the Chaman border that took place after Afghanistan created a controversy about the two villages.

More Details:

<http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2017/pak-afghan-meeting-discusses-issue-of-border-villages>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish FM Çavuşoğlu to Visit Qatar Amid Regional Tension**

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu will visit Qatar on June 14 amid regional tensions between Gulf states, the ministry said in a statement. Çavuşoğlu will be received by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and discuss bilateral relations and recent regional developments in a bilateral meeting with his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani.

More Details:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=114301&NewsCatID=510>

- **21 PKK terrorists killed in anti-terror ops in Turkey, northern Iraq**

Total of 21 PKK terrorists were killed in an anti-terror operation carried out Monday and Tuesday in the rural areas of southeastern and eastern Turkey and northern Iraq, the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) said Tuesday in a written statement.

More Details

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/06/13/21-pkk-terrorists-killed-in-anti-terror-ops-in-turkey-northern-iraq>

- **Erdogan urges Saudi king to resolve crisis with Qatar**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged the king of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, to take a leading role in resolving the ongoing Gulf crisis with Qatar. Last week, five Arab countries -- Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Yemen -- cut off ties with Qatar, accusing Doha

of supporting terrorism. Qatar, for its part, has denied the accusations, calling the moves to diplomatically isolate it as “unjustified”.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190739/turkish-court-remands-34-feto-suspects-in-custody>

- **Turkish military team in Qatar for troop deployment**

A three-person military team has been sent to Qatar Monday to explore and coordinate the deployment of forces in the country, the Turkish military said on Tuesday. The domestic legal process regarding the deployment of Turkish troops in Qatar has been completed, the Turkish General Staff said in a statement. According to the statement, reciprocal military visits have been ongoing since October 2015.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-military-team-in-qatar-for-troop-deployment/840953>

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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