



# 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**

Ekonomi Haberleri

**Peace Process**

Barış Süreci

**Ethnic and Secterian Groups**

Etnik ve Mezhepsel Gruplar

**Non State Actors**

Devlet-dışı Aktörler

**Relations with the West**

Batı'yla İlişkiler

**MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN**

**18 JANUARY 2017**

**NO: 2301**

<b>1. IRAQ.....</b>	<b>4</b>
• Hakim Meets Iyad Allawi .....	4
• Iraqi general sees easier battles in western Mosul, American sees opposite .....	4
• Two People Killed as Fleeing IS-held Hawija .....	4
• Emergency Field Hospital only six miles away from Mosul.....	4
• Czech doctors save many soldiers within Mascal operation in Iraq .....	5
• Korea asks Iraq to better protect its firms, people .....	5
• Kirkuk Archbishop: Aid for Iraq Best Targeted at Home .....	5
• OPEC Commitments Push Iraq towards Oil Export Deal with Kurds.....	6
• Iraq's elite Counter Terrorism Service fight their way through the streets of ISIS' last Iraqi stronghold .....	6
• Iraq PM Abadi Says Iraqi Forces Have Begun 'Moving' in West Mosul.....	6
• ISIL Chief Trapped in Iraq's Mosul.....	6
• Iraq: U.S.-Allied Forces Push Deeper into Eastern Mosul .....	7
• Over 160,000 people displaced from Iraq's Mosul in three months: IOM .....	7
• Iraq: Gaps Widening Among ISIL Terrorists in Mosul.....	7
• Iraq Church Used As Shooting Range By ISIS Jihadis.....	7
• A new administration should move to cut losses in Iraq .....	8
<b>2. SYRIA.....</b>	<b>8</b>
• RAF expo simulates winter woes of refugees .....	8
• French Fighters Make Up Largest Group of Europeans in Daesh Ranks – Police.....	8
• UN to Attend Astana Meeting on Syria .....	9
• Russia accuses the US of using Daesh to try to overthrow Assad regime.....	9
• Syrian General, 8 Others Killed In a Tunnel Bomb outside Damascus .....	9
• Kurdish National Council to join Syria peace talks in Astana .....	9
• From the past pages of dawn: 1967: Fifty years ago: Syria accepts U Thant's plea .....	10
• A women's health center for Syrian refugees is helping Jordanian women, too.....	10
• Syrian minister: Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus to launch fiber optic .....	10
<b>3. IRAN.....</b>	<b>10</b>
• Iran Opposed to US Presence in Astana Talks on Syria: FM Zarif.....	10
• Iran nuclear deal 'on life support,' Priebus says .....	11
• Kerry advises Trump against scrapping Iran nuclear deal .....	11
• Tehran, Moscow mull over nuclear coop.....	11
• JCPOA, a confidence building measure: Pak analyst.....	11
• Iran's capital market behind tenders in privatization process .....	11
• Iran's Zarif in Switzerland for Davos Meeting .....	12
• Russian official hails Iran, Russia achievements in settling Syrian crisis .....	12
• Zarif: Tehran against US Participation in Astana Talks on Syria .....	12
<b>4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....</b>	<b>12</b>
• Dear Donald Trump: A letter from Palestine.....	12

• UN envoy warns any Israeli annexations risk peace prospects.....	13
• Autopsy Results Prove Jerusalem Terrorist was Killed by Soldiers' Bullets .....	13
• Palestinian detained at Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza Strip.....	13
• Israel detains 23 Palestinians during raids at homes .....	13
• PA official: Resolution 2334 was 'pro-peace' .....	14
• Palestine sets 2017 for end of Israeli colonialism .....	14
• Australia's stance on Israel-Palestine peace process 'extreme': Palestinian official .....	14
• Trump and Israel.....	14
• Protest after funeral in Bethlehem .....	15
<b>5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....</b>	<b>15</b>
• Cyprus-Jordan look to deepen higher education ties .....	15
• Jordan vows to continue its role in fighting terrorism .....	15
• Jordan reiterates support of Yemen stability.....	15
• Jordan Charges 2 senior ex-Officials in Social Media Protest.....	16
• Jordan: Army on 'full alert' for Daesh presence on borders .....	16
• UNIFIL under strategic review for better efficiency: UN .....	16
• Berri 'Distressed' over Electoral Law, Urges Cabinet to Meet its Vows .....	16
• Bassil: We reject parliament's term extension and adoption of 1960's law.....	17
• Aoun says Syrian refugee crisis obstacle in Lebanon's economic recovery .....	17
• STL President Thanks Aoun for Lebanon's 'Continuous Support' for Court.....	17
<b>6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....</b>	<b>17</b>
• Qatif terror suspect arrested.....	17
• Mohammad Bin Rashid receives presidents .....	18
• Saudi Arabia's energy minister upbeat despite US shale recovery .....	18
• El Salvador president backs al-Kuwari for Unesco post .....	18
• Female Yemeni fighters carry babies and machine guns at anti-Saudi rally .....	18
• Dubai grew 2.7% in 2016, 3.1% growth expected in 2017: Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum.....	19
• Davos 2017: Saudi foreign minister says US has 'most to lose' from JASTA.....	19
• Bahrain Commander acknowledges Pakistan cooperation to Royal Bahrain Naval Force .....	19
• Combatting extremism – the reformative paradigm of Saudi Arabia.....	19
<b>7. EGYPT.....</b>	<b>20</b>
• Egypt's Sisi says cabinet reshuffle 'very soon' .....	20
• Israel raises height of barrier on Egypt border.....	20
• Recent reform measures, declining growth in neighbouring markets support Egypt's economic growth: Elgohary .....	20
• Mohamed Aboutrika: Egypt adds ex-footballer to terror list .....	20
• In the battle over who gets to define Islam, why should the moderates remain silent? .....	21
• Egyptians blast 'traitor' Sisi as court blocks Red Sea islands deal .....	21
• US support helps restore ancient Egyptian artifacts.....	21
• Egyptian Law Makers Approve Amendment to Protest Law .....	21
• 10 killed as microbus overturns into canal in Egypt.....	22
<b>8. NORTH AFRICA.....</b>	<b>22</b>
• Algeria continues Libya peace efforts with visit of pro-LNA HoR group .....	22
• Messahel in Paris to partake in Algeria-France Strategic Dialogue on political, security issues22	

• IMF outlook update: Growth forecasts for Algeria in 2016, 2017 unchanged.....	22
• King Mohammed VI Appoints Warraq Inspector General for Royal Armed Forces.....	23
• Morocco to Hold International Insurance Conference .....	23
• Tunisia Project Movement to boycott meetings of parties supporting government (statement)23	
• Speedy implementation of Tunisia2020 recommendations under focus.....	23
• Questions loom over Tunis meeting of Libya Dialogue meeting as UK ambassador lobbies for HoR support for Libyan Political Agreement in Torbuk.....	24
• Al-Ghasri: War in southern Libya looming if political stalemate isn't resolved .....	24
<b>9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN .....</b>	<b>24</b>
• Audio-Visual Media Should Prevent Publishing, Screening Violence Victims' Faces, Mostafavi24	
• 8 key Taliban leaders among 37 killed in join operations: MoD .....	24
• Recent terrorist incident will not disturb relation between Afghanistan, UAE, minister .....	25
• Kabul Police Arrests 286 over Various Criminal Charges .....	25
• Watchdog Issues Its Annual Report on Parliament's Performance .....	25
• Mehbooba sees Kashmir as hub for Central Asia trade .....	25
• A kink in Pakistan Afghanistan relations .....	25
• SBP directed to repay \$500m loan to SAFE.....	26
• Senate panel to visit QAU to see action against encroachments .....	26
• MQM-Pakistan devises three-pronged strategy against 'anti-party actions' .....	26
<b>10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....</b>	<b>26</b>
• Pakistanis hail Turkish deputy minister's good deed .....	26
• 17 Daesh terrorists neutralized in north Syria .....	27

## 1. IRAQ,

- **Hakim Meets Iyad Allawi**

Chairman of the National Alliance, Ammar al-Hakim stressed the importance of invoking the national interest in all political tracks. A statement of the Supreme Council said, "in the framework of communication with Iraqi leaders to exchange views on the Iraqi reality and the challenges of the post-Daesh and value the victories achieved by the security forces, the National Alliance headed by Ammar al-Hakim met with the Iraqi List headed by Iyad Allawi, Vice President of the Republic.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?0JrNWCacCcukGABiITDP1A%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?0JrNWCacCcukGABiITDP1A%253d%253d)

- **Iraqi general sees easier battles in western Mosul, American sees opposite**

As Iraqi security forces come closer to recapturing the eastern section of Mosul from Islamic State militants, Iraqi and American military generals foresee differing degrees of difficulty of forthcoming battles in the west. Maj. Gen. Maan al-Saadi, commander of the second division of the army's elite Counter-Terrorism Forces, was quoted by All Iraq News website as saying that battles in the west would be easier because that region hosts "fewer residents".

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-general-sees-easier-battles-western-mosul-american-sees-opposite/>

- **Two People Killed as Fleeing IS-held Hawija**

An Islamic State (IS)-planted explosive device on Tuesday hit a family on their way escaping Hawija to Kirkuk, north of Iraq, killing and injuring nine people. According to Iraqi News, two people were killed and seven others injured by the explosive device which IS militants usually plant to prevent civilians from fleeing the areas under their control.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/325017>

- **Emergency Field Hospital only six miles away from Mosul**

Humanitarian aid organization Samaritan's Purse has recently opened a field hospital near the Iraqi city of Mosul to treat the soldiers and civilians who are injured in the battle against the Islamic State. The hospital, which is located just over six miles outside the city limits of Mosul, spans five acres and includes an emergency room, two operating rooms and over 50 beds, according to The Christian



Post. Franklin Graham, the head of Samaritan's Purse, officially dedicated the hospital on Jan. 12. Iraqi government officials and United Nations representatives were also present to witness the opening of the facility.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=39501](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=39501)

- **Czech doctors save many soldiers within Mascal operation in Iraq**

The Czech field surgical team has saved many soldiers within the Mascal (mass casualty) operation in Iraq, its representatives told CTK in a press release on Tuesday, but declined to give their names, citing security reasons. In a short time, the doctors had to provide care to five patients who were seriously injured in a suicide attack, the report said. The Czech health personnel left for Iraq in early December. They are to stay in the country for six months.

More Details:

<http://www.praguemonitor.com/2017/01/18/czech-doctors-save-many-soldiers-within-mascal-operation-iraq>

- **Korea asks Iraq to better protect its firms, people**

Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se asked Iraq to step up efforts to better protect South Korean companies and nationals residing in the Middle East country, his ministry said Wednesday. During a meeting with Iraq's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari held on Tuesday in Seoul, Yun also promised to keep providing humanitarian aid to Bagdad and seeking cooperation in such areas as education and health, the ministry said in a press release.

More Details:

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20170118000584>

- **Kirkuk Archbishop: Aid for Iraq Best Targeted at Home**

A high-profile Iraqi cleric says the best way to help his countrymen is at home, rather than pouring money into refugee programs overseas. Kirkuk's Archbishop Yousif Mirkis, who is visiting France, called Tuesday for an initiative for Iraq similar to the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II. He said the the effort and money Western countries spend in taking in refugees would be more wisely targeted in Iraq, channeled into private projects such as building hospitals.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/kirkuk-archbishop-aid-iraq-best-targeted-home/3680271.html>

- **OPEC Commitments Push Iraq towards Oil Export Deal with Kurds**

Amid the ongoing struggle over oil control between the Iraqi Kurds and the Iraqi central government in Baghdad, the Iraqi central authorities have halted exports of oil from Kirkuk via the state's marketing authority, SOMO—agreeing to let the oil all go to the Kurds. Crude exports had only been resumed in September after the two sides reached a revenue-sharing agreement to jointly export crude from the giant Kirkuk field, with the intention of splitting the oil between Baghdad and Erbil.

More Details:

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/OPEC-Commitments-Push-Iraq-Towards-Oil-Export-Deal-With-Kurds.html>

- **Iraq's elite Counter Terrorism Service fight their way through the streets of ISIS' last Iraqi stronghold**

The new year has seen Iraqi government forces make marked progress against ISIS in the terror group's last stronghold in the country, the northern city of Mosul. The Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service, the country's top-tier special-forces contingent, and members of federal police forces have retaken much of the eastern half of the city since the operation kicked off on October 17.

More Details:

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/video-iraqi-special-forces-fighting-isis-mosul-2017-1>

- **Iraq PM Abadi Says Iraqi Forces Have Begun 'Moving' in West Mosul**

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Tuesday that Iraqi forces had begun "moving" against Islamic State militants in western Mosul, an area the group still fully holds. He did not give details of exactly what actions Iraqi forces were undertaking on the western side of the city. Abadi was giving a statement to reporters broadcast live on state TV.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Iraq-PM-Abadi-says-Iraqi-forces-have-begun-moving-in-west-Mosul-478745>

- **ISIL Chief Trapped in Iraq's Mosul**

An Iraqi commander said the ringleader of the ISIL terror group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is believed to be trapped in the Northern Iraqi city of Mosul after his numerous attempts to escape the city, now-besieged by the Iraqi forces failed. A senior commander in Hashd al-Shaabi's Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq group, Jawad al-Tleibawai, said in a statement published by Bas News that initial information obtained by the group's intelligence bodies suggests that al-Baghdadi is in the province of Nineveh and more specifically inside the city of Mosul.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951028001542>

- **Iraq: U.S.-Allied Forces Push Deeper into Eastern Mosul**

In Iraq, U.S.-allied forces pushed deeper into Mosul over the weekend, seeking to recapture the city from ISIS. Iraq's army said it was poised to capture all ISIS-controlled territory east of the Tigris River. Residents of the city said the fighting had forced them to bury the dead at a neighborhood school rather than a proper cemetery.

More Details:

[https://www.democracynow.org/2017/1/17/headlines/iraq\\_us\\_allied\\_forces\\_push\\_deeper\\_into\\_ea\\_stern\\_mosul](https://www.democracynow.org/2017/1/17/headlines/iraq_us_allied_forces_push_deeper_into_ea_stern_mosul)

- **Over 160,000 people displaced from Iraq's Mosul in three months: IOM**

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported Tuesday that 160,836 people had been forced to flee Mosul and its adjacent districts since military operations to recapture the one of the Islamic State's (IS) last strongholds began on Oct. 17 last year. According to the latest IOM displacement figures, over 16,200 people have been displaced in the last four days alone.

MoreDetails:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/17/c\\_135991116.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/17/c_135991116.htm)

- **Iraq: Gaps Widening Among ISIL Terrorists in Mosul**

Vice-Chairman of Nineveh Province Council Nouraldeem Qablan disclosed on Tuesday that ISIL's commanders are seriously worried about the recent victories of the Iraqi forces in Mosul battlefields that have intensified disunity among the terrorists. Qablan said that recent victories of Iraqi forces against terrorists in Mosul have had negative impacts on ISIL terrorists' unity.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951028001421>

- **Iraq Church Used As Shooting Range By ISIS Jihadis**

As Iraqi Christians begin to return to their homes to asses the damage left in the wake of Islamic State, they have found churches desecrated, burned and grafittied. The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Qaraqosh, 20 miles from Mosul, is charred, the altar ruined and broken glass litters the floor. One local Christian, Manal Matti, told Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) of seeing mannequins strewn across the church grounds, riddled with bullets.



More Details:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/iraq.church.used.as.shooting.range.by.isis.jihadis/103941.htm>

- **A new administration should move to cut losses in Iraq**

One question that should be high on the foreign policy agenda of President-elect Donald Trump is whether America should continue the war in Iraq, which now risks having ensnared three U.S. presidents. The Iraq War has now cost the taxpayers \$2 trillion. Nearly 4,500 Americans have died, the conflict arguably spawned the Islamic State and some 5,000 American troops are still engaged there. Iraq's predominantly Shiite government, led by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, still has not gained the support or even the acquiescence of Iraq's mixed population. It was formerly constituted, under Saddam Hussein, of roughly 20 percent Sunni Arab Muslims, on top of the heap, 17 percent Kurds, also Sunnis, and 60 percent Shiites.

More Details:

<http://www.reporternews.com/story/opinion/editorials/2017/01/17/new-administration-should-move-cut-losses-iraq/96664314/>

## 2. SYRIA

- **RAF expo simulates winter woes of refugees**

Sheikh Thani bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF) yesterday opened a refugee simulation exhibition showcasing life of Syrian and Iraqi refugees and those displaced internally in shelters amid the biting cold.

More Details

<http://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/18/01/2017/RAF-expo-simulates-winter-woes-of-refugees>

- **French Fighters Make Up Largest Group of Europeans in Daesh Ranks – Police**

French police estimated 30,000 foreigners were fighting with Daesh in the Middle East in 2015. Their number has since dropped to 12,000 fighters, including 3,000 European citizens. Garnier said 232 French fighters had died, while 700 others were still in areas under Daesh control.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201701181049706469-daesh-french-europeans/>

- **UN to Attend Astana Meeting on Syria**

The United Nations will be represented on January 23 at the Astana peace talks between actors in the Syrian conflict, the organization confirmed today. According to statement to the press by Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, the Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura received an invitation to the forum promoted by Russia and Turkey in the Kazakh capital, which is part of the efforts aimed at bringing an end to a bloody crisis about to turn six years old.

More Details

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=8125&SEO=un-to-attend-astana-meeting-on-syria>

- **Russia accuses the US of using Daesh to try to overthrow Assad regime**

The United States and its allies hoped to take advantage of groups they themselves designated as terrorists - such as Daesh and al-Nusra Front - in their efforts to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Russia charged on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/russia-accuses-us-using-daesh-try-overthrow-assad-regime-926724>

- **Syrian General, 8 Others Killed In a Tunnel Bomb outside Damascus**

A Syrian general and eight other soldiers were killed in a tunnel bomb outside Damascus, a monitoring group said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said rebel fighters planted explosives on Tuesday in a tunnel in the town of Harasta, northeast .of Damascus.

More Details

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/syrian-general-8-others-killed-in-a-tunnel-bomb-outside-damascus/964716>

- **Kurdish National Council to join Syria peace talks in Astana**

The Kurdish National Council (KNC), which is part of the Syrian opposition's National Coalition (SNC), on Tuesday announced that they will participate in the peace talks in Astana scheduled for January 23. Fuad Aliko, a member of the Kurdish Unity Party (Yekiti) and a KNC official, said that Abdulhakim Bashar, KNC member and the vice-president of the Syrian National Coalition, and Ibrahim Biro, the head of the Kurdish National Council (KNC), are invited to the Astana peace talks.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/01/kurdish-national-council-join-syria-peace-talks-astana/>

- **From the past pages of dawn: 1967: Fifty years ago: Syria accepts U Thant's plea**

Syria accepted on Monday [Jan 16] Secretary-General U Thant's appeal for an emergency meeting of the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission to consider outbreak of violence on the border between the two countries.

More Details

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1309073/from-the-past-pages-of-dawn-1967-fifty-years-ago-syria-accepts-u-thants-plea>

- **A women's health center for Syrian refugees is helping Jordanian women, too**

Children chase each other through corridors as their mothers catch up on the latest news. Around them, nurses and counselors lead patients into beige-walled rooms adorned with posters about domestic abuse, breastfeeding and children's rights.

More Details

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-01-17/womens-health-center-syrian-refugees-helping-jordanian-women-too>

- **Syrian minister: Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus to launch fiber optic**

Syrian Communications Minister Ali al-Zafir said that launching optic fiber between Tehran, Baghdad and Damascus is something necessary which should be implemented after the defeat of terrorism in that country.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82391398/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Iran Opposed to US Presence in Astana Talks on Syria: FM Zarif**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif voiced the country's opposition to participation of Washington in the Syria peace talks planned to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, next week.

More Details

<http://ifpnews.com/news/politics/foreign-policies/2017/01/iran-opposed-to-us-presence-in-astana-talks-on-syria-fm-zarif/>

- **Iran nuclear deal ‘on life support,’ Priebus says**

The Iran nuclear deal is “on life support,” President-elect Donald Trump’s incoming chief of staff said. Reince Priebus told ABC News’ George Stephanopoulos on “This Week” Sunday that it is not clear how the Iran nuclear agreement will continue under Trump. “We all know that President-elect Trump doesn’t like the Iran deal, thinks it’s a terrible document, thinks it will create a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, which it already is beginning to do,” Priebus said.

More Details

[http://www.jewishjournal.com/nation/article/iran\\_nuclear\\_deal\\_on\\_life\\_support\\_priebus\\_says](http://www.jewishjournal.com/nation/article/iran_nuclear_deal_on_life_support_priebus_says)

- **Kerry advises Trump against scrapping Iran nuclear deal**

Departing US Secretary of State John Kerry says he believes the Iran nuclear agreement will survive and has warned President-elect Donald Trump that canceling the deal would harm the US in an irreparable way.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/01/18/506670/US-Iran-nuclear-deal-Kerry-Trump>

- **Tehran, Moscow mull over nuclear coop.**

AEOI spokesman Kamalvandi and Rosatom CEO Likhachev discussed venues for bilateral cooperation in nuclear fields, construction of new plants as well as the JCPOA.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/122808/Tehran-Moscow-mull-over-nuclear-coop>

- **JCPOA, a confidence building measure: Pak analyst**

A senior Pakistani analyst describes Iran nuclear deal with P5+1 (JCPOA) a confidence building measure which could bring countries together and it even can bridge the gap between Iran and the US.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82391542/>

- **Iran's capital market behind tenders in privatization process**

There are firm indications suggesting that Iranian capital market has made a minor contribution to the privatization process of the state-run enterprises over the past ten months.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2710460.html>

- **Iran's Zarif in Switzerland for Davos Meeting**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is on a visit to Switzerland to take part in the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum underway in Davos from Tuesday to Friday.

More Details

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/01/18/1300096/iran-s-zarif-in-switzerland-for-davos-meeting>

- **Russian official hails Iran, Russia achievements in settling Syrian crisis**

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and North Africa Mikhail Bogdanov hailed the achievements made by Iran and Russia in their anti-terrorism campaign in Syria.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82391700/>

- **Zarif: Tehran against US Participation in Astana Talks on Syria**

Tehran is against the US participation in the upcoming Astana talks on January 23, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday. Tehran is against the participation of the United States in the talks on the Syrian settlement, which will be held in Astana on January 23, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13951029000636>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Dear Donald Trump: A letter from Palestine**

'The US must start treating Palestinians as equals to Israelis.' My name is Issa Amro. I'm a 36-year-old Palestinian human rights defender from the city of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where I work with an organisation called Youth against Settlements.

More Details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/10/dear-donald-trump-letter-palestine-161026193100205.html>



- **UN envoy warns any Israeli annexations risk peace prospects**

A month after approving the resolution condemning Israeli settlements, the United Nations Security Council is again discussing security in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Any attempt by Israel to annex part or all of the West Bank risks destroying prospects for peace with the Palestinians, the UN envoy trying to promote Middle East peace warned Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4908843,00.html>

- **Autopsy Results Prove Jerusalem Terrorist was Killed by Soldiers' Bullets**

A completed forensic examination of the terrorist who carried out last week's deadly attack against soldiers in Jerusalem conclusively proved that cadets shot and killed the suspect, contradicting claims that they were reluctant to fire due to the controversial Azaria verdict.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Autopsy-results-prove-Jerusalem-terrorist-was-killed-by-soldiers-bullets-478719>

- **Palestinian detained at Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza Strip**

Israeli authorities detained a Palestinian merchant at the Erez crossing between the northern Gaza Strip and Israel on Tuesday evening. Sources at the Palestinian liaison said that Israeli intelligence stopped Omar Abu Asad, 25, who was with his ill mother on their way to the occupied West Bank for treatment.

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?id=774986>

- **Israel detains 23 Palestinians during raids at homes**

Israeli forces detained 23 Palestinians during overnight raids at their homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society said on Tuesday. It said police detained Nadia Abu Jamal, from Jabal al-Mukabber in East Jerusalem, whose husband was killed in an attack against Israelis in 2015.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=qpdz7ha52124656551aqpdz7h>

- **PA official: Resolution 2334 was 'pro-peace'**

PA envoy to the UN insists the resolution passed last month by the UN Security Council is both “pro-Palestinian” and “pro-Israel”. The Palestinian Authority (PA)’s envoy to the United Nations insisted on Tuesday that Resolution 2334 passed last month by the UN Security Council was “pro-peace”.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/223448>

- **Palestine sets 2017 for end of Israeli colonialism**

At a meeting with Indonesian ambassador to Jordan and Palestine Teguh Wardoyo at the Presidential Office in Ramallah on Sunday (Jan 15), Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Maliki said the Palestinian government has set 2017 for the end of Israeli occupation and colonialism over the country.

More Details:

<http://www.antaraneews.com/en/news/108993/palestine-sets-2017-for-end-of-israeli-colonialism>

- **Australia's stance on Israel-Palestine peace process 'extreme': Palestinian official**

The Turnbull Government's position on the Middle East peace process is labelled as "groundless" by a senior Palestinian official, after Australia criticised a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli West Bank settlements.

More Details:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2017-01-18/australias-stance-on-israel-palestine-peace-process-extreme-palestinian-official/1645200>

- **Trump and Israel**

There is much to learn about what Donald Trump’s foreign policy is going to look like, with one of the most anticipated issues being his approach to Israel. After eight years of the Obama administration, the relationship between the U.S. and its Middle East partner has frayed considerably over significant and seemingly insurmountable differences, those concerning the nuclear deal with Iran and the expanding settlements in the West Bank being the most consequential, if not existential.

More Details:

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/trump-and-israel/>

- **Protest after funeral in Bethlehem**

Palestinians carrying Fatah flags stage a protest after a funeral ceremony held for 17 year old Palestinian Kusay el-Amur, who was shot dead by the Israeli soldiers, in the Takku neighborhood of Bethlehem

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170118-protest-after-funeral-in-bethlehem/>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Cyprus-Jordan look to deepen higher education ties**

Education Minister Costas Kadis has introduced Higher Education in Cyprus to a seven-member delegation of the Ministry and Accreditation Commission of Higher Education of Jordan, which is currently paying a visit to Cyprus.

More Details:

<http://www.sigmalive.com/en/news/local/151815/cyprusjordan-look-to-deepen-higher-education-ties>

- **Jordan vows to continue its role in fighting terrorism**

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said on Tuesday that Jordan will continue to be at the forefront in fighting terrorism, the state-run Petra news agency reported

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c\\_135991182.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c_135991182.htm)

- **Jordan reiterates support of Yemen stability**

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi has reiterated his country's support of efforts to end the ongoing conflict in Yemen, official Media reported Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2587545&Language=en>

- **Jordan Charges 2 senior ex-Officials in Social Media Protest**

Jordan's state security court has charged a former member of parliament, a retired major general and six others with incitement after they joined social media protests against expected price increases.

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_JORDAN\\_PROTESTERS\\_CHARGED?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-01-17-11-38-37](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_JORDAN_PROTESTERS_CHARGED?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-01-17-11-38-37)

- **Jordan: Army on 'full alert' for Daesh presence on borders**

Jordan is closely monitoring the movements of terrorist groups on the northern and northeastern borders to deter any threat, with some 50 per cent of the armed forces deployed to these areas, according to Colonel Majdi Harasis of the Military Intelligence Directorate of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF).

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/jordan-army-%E2%80%98full-alert%E2%80%99-daesh-presence-borders-926660>

- **UNIFIL under strategic review for better efficiency: UN**

A United Nations delegation said on Tuesday that the strategic review of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is aimed at improving its efficiency. The delegation, currently visiting Lebanon to conduct the strategic review, mandated by the UN Security Council, said they aimed at coming up with "recommendations that would make it possible to increase the efficiency of UNIFIL."

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c\\_135991270.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c_135991270.htm)

- **Berri 'Distressed' over Electoral Law, Urges Cabinet to Meet its Vows**

In light of the debate over approving a new electoral law, Speaker Nabih Berri urged the cabinet to implement the pledges it made in its ministerial statement, and assured that the parliament will study and approve all 75 draft laws listed on its agenda. Berri renewed rejections on Wednesday for staging the upcoming parliamentary elections based on the current 1960 law or the extension of the parliament's term, saying: "No need to explain my stance again. I have reached the threshold of despair," he told Ad Diyar in an interview.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/223949-berri-distressed-over-electoral-law-urges-cabinet-to-meet-its-vows>

- **Bassil: We reject parliament's term extension and adoption of 1960's law**

Free Patriotic Movement chief Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil stressed their rejection to a third term extension for the parliament and to the adoption of the 1960s electoral law, adding that the FPM and the Lebanese Forces have agreed to stand together during the elections.

More Details:

<http://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/298899/bassil-we-reject-parliaments-term-extension-and-ad/en>

- **Aoun says Syrian refugee crisis obstacle in Lebanon's economic recovery**

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun said on Tuesday the international and regional crises, mainly the Syrian refugee crisis, have worsened Lebanon's economic recovery situation.

More Details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c\\_135991268.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c_135991268.htm)

- **STL President Thanks Aoun for Lebanon's 'Continuous Support' for Court**

The President and Vice President of the U.N.-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Judge Ivana Hrdličková and Judge Ralph Riachi, on Tuesday visited President Michel Aoun to congratulate him on his election as Lebanon's 13th president, an STL statement said.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/223931-stl-president-thanks-aoun-for-lebanon-s-continuous-support-for-court>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Qatif terror suspect arrested**

Saudi police have arrested terror suspect Hussein Mohamed Ali Faraj, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said. Faraj, a Saudi national, was wanted by security authorities for committing a number of terrorist acts in Qatif, including shooting at civilians and public facilities and helping suspected terrorists.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1040491/saudi-arabia>



- **Mohammad Bin Rashid receives presidents**

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, welcomed separately Horacio Cartes, President of Paraguay; Filip Vujanovic, President of Montenegro; and Luis Guillermo Solis, President of Costa Rica, at his palace in Zabeel on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/government/mohammad-bin-rashid-receives-presidents-1.1963505>

- **Saudi Arabia's energy minister upbeat despite US shale recovery**

A swift recovery for the US shale oil industry would not be a cause of concern for OPEC, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih claimed on Thursday, despite the producers attempting to shore up oil prices through global cuts.

More details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/1/18/saudi-arabias-energy-minister-upbeat-despite-us-shale-recovery>

- **El Salvador president backs al-Kuwari for Unesco post**

President of El Salvador Sanchez Ceren met HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, adviser at the Emiri Diwan and Qatar's candidate for the post of director general at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

More details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/528469/El-Salvador-president-backs-al-Kuwari-for-Unesco-p>

- **Female Yemeni fighters carry babies and machine guns at anti-Saudi rally**

Female fighters carrying babies, rocket launchers and machine guns took to the streets of the Yemeni capital of Sanaa to protest Saudi Arabia's involvement in its brutal conflict. Marching in support of the Houthi rebel movement, they shouted slogans against the multinational coalition forces led by oil rich Middle Eastern state, which support the government.

More details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/yemen-female-fighters-conflict-huthi-rebels-anti-saudi-coalition-rally-sanaa-a7532486.html>

- **Dubai grew 2.7% in 2016, 3.1% growth expected in 2017: Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum**

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation, Chief Executive of the Emirates Group and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee in Dubai, said the economy of Dubai grew by 2.7% in real terms in 2016, despite declining oil prices, sluggish growth in developed as well as many emerging economies, and a mere 1.7% growth in global trade, its lowest since 2008-2009.

More details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/dubai-grew-2-7-in-2016-3-1-growth-expected-in-2017-ahmed-bin-saeed-al-maktoum-2017-01-18-1.646619>

- **Davos 2017: Saudi foreign minister says US has ‘most to lose’ from JASTA**

The US has the most to lose from the controversial Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) bill, Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister has said.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1040286/saudi-arabia>

- **Bahrain Commander acknowledges Pakistan cooperation to Royal Bahrain Naval Force**

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zakaullah, currently on an official visit to Bahrain, met with military leadership of the host country besides Commander US Naval Central Command (NAVCET).

More details:

<http://pakobserver.net/bahrain-commander-acknowledges-pakistan-cooperation-to-royal-bahrain-naval-force/>

- **Combatting extremism – the reformative paradigm of Saudi Arabia**

The experience of Saudi Arabia shows that there is cause for cautious optimism, and the phenomenon of uncompromising and politically destabilising radical political Islam may be a subject that we can slowly but surely overcome in the next historical phase of the modern era.

More details:

<http://www.transconflict.com/2017/01/combating-extremism-the-reformative-paradigm-of-saudi-arabia-181/>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt's Sisi says cabinet reshuffle 'very soon'**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will reshuffle his cabinet soon, he told state newspapers in an interview published on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-government-reshuffle-idUSKBN1510PZ>

- **Israel raises height of barrier on Egypt border**

Israel said Tuesday it has finished raising the height of an electronic fence along part of its border with Egypt to shut down irregular migration routes.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/256290/Egypt/Politics-/Israel-raises-height-of-barrier-on-Egypt-border.aspx>

- **Recent reform measures, declining growth in neighbouring markets support Egypt's economic growth: Elgohary**

Ayman Elgohary, Cisco general manager for Egypt and Libya, said that the Egyptian economy looks promising in 2017, adding that structural reforms taken by the state and the government in the recent period will maximise the growth potential on the long-term.

More details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/01/18/recent-reform-measures-declining-growth-neighbouring-markets-support-egypts-economic-growth-elgohary/>

- **Mohamed Aboutrika: Egypt adds ex-footballer to terror list**

Egypt has added ex-football star Mohamed Aboutrika to a terror list for his alleged links with the banned Muslim Brotherhood, his lawyer says. Mr Aboutrika is accused of financially supporting the Brotherhood, which Egypt considers a terrorist organisation.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38659473>

- **In the battle over who gets to define Islam, why should the moderates remain silent?**

It should be noted that the Egyptian authorities have already banned the niqab in certain places. The bans on these various kinds of face coverings raise some important questions.

More details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1309070/show-your-faces>

- **Egyptians blast 'traitor' Sisi as court blocks Red Sea islands deal**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is facing faced calls to be prosecuted for treason following a court's ruling against his government over the proposed transfer of the Red Sea islands of Tiran and Sanafir to Saudi Arabia.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egyptians-call-sisi-be-tried-treason-following-red-sea-islands-verdict-287131449>

- **US support helps restore ancient Egyptian artifacts**

A wooden sarcophagus coffin dated 22nd to 25th dynasties is on display at Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt on January 17, 2017. United States Embassy in Cairo provide \$130,000 to help in research and assessment of the current condition, and conservation and presevation of the Museum's collection of 600 wooden coffins

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170118-us-support-helps-restore-ancient-egyptian-artifacts/>

- **Egyptian Law Makers Approve Amendment to Protest Law**

The Egyptian parliamentarian Commission of Legislative and Constitutional Affairs approve today an initiative to amend the controversial Protest Law in the country, following a verdict by the Higher Constitutional Court.

More details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=8109&SEO=egyptian-law-makers-approve-amendment-to-protest-law>

- **10 killed as microbus overturns into canal in Egypt**

At least 10 people were killed and two others wounded Wednesday when a microbus overturned into a canal in Egypt's Daqahliya province north of Cairo, reported the state-run Al-Ahram news website.

More details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c\\_135993845.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/18/c_135993845.htm)

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria continues Libya peace efforts with visit of pro-LNA HoR group**

A group of members of the House of Representatives who support the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) signed in Skhirat in December 2015 have been in Algiers for talks with senior officials there about ongoing crisis in Libya

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/01/17/algeria-continues-libya-peace-efforts-with-visit-of-pro-lna-hor-group/>

- **Messahel in Paris to partake in Algeria-France Strategic Dialogue on political, security issues**

Minister of Maghreb Affairs, African Union and Arab League Abdelkader Messahel will lead the Algerian delegation to the 2nd session of Algeria-France Strategic Dialogue on political and security issues, which will be held in Paris on Wednesday, said Tuesday the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement. During the session, the two sides "will exchange views on the experience of the two countries in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism," said the statement.

More Details:

<http://en.aps.dz/algeria/16214-messahel-in-paris-to-partake-in-algeria-france-strategic-dialogue-on-political,-security-issues>

- **IMF outlook update: Growth forecasts for Algeria in 2016, 2017 unchanged**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday kept its growth projection for Algeria in 2016 and 2017, while predicting, in its world economic outlook, an acceleration of the national economic growth in 2021.

More Details:



<http://en.aps.dz/economy/16209-imf-outlook-update-growth-forecasts-for-algeria-in-2016,-2017-unchanged>

- **King Mohammed VI Appoints Warraq Inspector General for Royal Armed Forces**

King Mohammed VI appointed General Abdel Fattah Warraq as Inspector General of the Royal Armed Forces, according to a royal statement released Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/01/206046/king-mohammed-vi-appoints-warraq-inspector-general-royal-armed-forces/>

- **Morocco to Hold International Insurance Conference**

Marrakech is set to host the 41st Conference and General Assembly of the Federation of Insurance Societies of African National Law (FANAF) this February.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/01/205985/morocco-hold-international-insurance-conference/>

- **Tunisia Project Movement to boycott meetings of parties supporting government (statement)**

“Machrou Tounes” (Tunisia Project) Movement Tuesday announced it will boycott “meetings of parties supporting the government”. Members of the party’s Executive Board deplored hate speech against the party due to its position regarding terrorism. A position shared by most of the Tunisians and contained in the Carthage Document, the party said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/8625321-tunisia-project>

- **Speedy implementation of Tunisia2020 recommendations under focus**

President of the Republic Béji Caïd Essebsi Tuesday met in Carthage with President of Ennahdha Rached Ghannouchi.

More Details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/8624380-speedy>

- **Questions loom over Tunis meeting of Libya Dialogue meeting as UK ambassador lobbies for HoR support for Libyan Political Agreement in Torbuk**

Plans to hold a fresh gathering tomorrow, Wednesday, in Tunis of the main Libya Dialogue team remained uncertain today with reports that members were still waiting hear whether the meeting would go ahead or not.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/01/17/questions-loom-over-tunis-meeting-of-libya-dialogue-meeting-as-uk-ambassador-lobbies-for-hor-support-for-libyan-political-agreement-in-torbuk/>

- **Al-Ghasri: War in southern Libya looming if political stalemate isn't resolved**

The spokesman of the UN-proposed government's Defense Ministry, Mohammed Al-Ghasri, said a war is possibly going to break out in the Libyan south and the begging of it will be known, while its end will be unpredictable.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/al-ghasri-war-southern-libya-looming-if-political-stalemate-isn%E2%80%99t-resolved>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Audio-Visual Media Should Prevent Publishing, Screening Violence Victims' Faces, Mostafavi**

Prof. Sayeda Mojgan Mostafavi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture on Publication Affairs asked media to act based on article 45 of mass media law and prevent publishing and screening violence victims' faces, Bakhtar News Agency (BNA) reported Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/culture/item/27117-audio-visual-media-should-prevent-publishing-screening-violence-victims%E2%80%99-faces-mostafavi.html>

- **8 key Taliban leaders among 37 killed in join operations: MoD**

At least 37 Taliban insurgents including 8 key leaders of the group were killed during the joint military operations in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/8-key-taliban-leaders-among-37-killed-in-join-operations-mod-02695>

- **Recent terrorist incident will not disturb relation between Afghanistan, UAE, minister**

Afghanistan's acting minister of foreign affairs, Salahuddin Rabbani who is visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for expressing sympathy discussed recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, where five of the friendly country's diplomats have been killed, his office said in a statement the other day.

More Details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/12884-recent-terrorist-incident-will-not-disturb-relation-between-afghanistan-uae-minister.html>

- **Kabul Police Arrests 286 over Various Criminal Charges**

At least 286 suspects have been detained during the past three weeks in different parts of Kabul city and other districts of Kabul province on various criminal charges, Kabul police chief Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi said.

More Details:

<http://ariananews.af/latest-news/kabul-police-arrests-286-over-various-criminal-charges/>

- **Watchdog Issues Its Annual Report on Parliament's Performance**

According to the report, lawmakers in parliament sometimes considered their ethnic background when dealing with impeachments and summoning sessions

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/watchdog-issues-its-annual-report-parliament%E2%80%99s-performance>

- **Mehbooba sees Kashmir as hub for Central Asia trade**

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has pitched for creating a trade corridor between South Asia and Central Asia involving both India-held Kashmir and Azad Kashmir as its "nucleus", reports said on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1309188/mehbooba-sees-kashmir-as-hub-for-central-asia-trade>

- **A kink in Pakistan Afghanistan relations**

In the backdrop of recent terrorist attacks in Kabul, Kandhar and Helmand which claimed nearly 60 lives including five UAE diplomats, the COAS according to a press release of the ISPR made a telephone call to the Afghan President.

More Details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/01/18/a-kink-in-pakistan-afghanistan-relations/>

- **SBP directed to repay \$500m loan to SAFE**

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to repay a loan of \$500 million to the Chinese State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) upon its maturity on January 23, 2017.

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/pakistani-americans-dismayed-over-politics-of-vengeance-at-national-expense/>

- **Senate panel to visit QAU to see action against encroachments**

On January 30, the Senate Standing Committee on Interior will undertake a full-day visit to the QAU to meet the administration, check the estate demarcation and progress on crackdown on encroachments and land grab. The committee recently ordered the CDA and ICT administration to remove all encroachments from the university's estate.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/180004-Senate-panel-to-visit-QAU-to-see-action-against-encroachments>

- **MQM-Pakistan devises three-pronged strategy against 'anti-party actions'**

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has formulated a three-pronged strategy to counter actions being taken against the party's workers and supporters, including "continuous arrests, raids and extrajudicial killings".

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/179898-MQM-Pakistan-devises-three-pronged-strategy-against-anti-party-actions>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Pakistanis hail Turkish deputy minister's good deed**

Turkey's Deputy Minister for EU Affairs Ali Sahin has been hailed as a hero by the people of Pakistan ever since he responded to the call of a grieving Pakistani woman who sought his help in tracing her

missing son. Pakistani migrant Salman Khan, who was just 23-years-old, died while en route to Bulgaria late December last year. Sahin had helped Khan's family locate and transfer his body back to Pakistan after receiving a desperate plea from the deceased's mother.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/183291/pakistanis-hail-turkish-deputy-ministers-good-deed>

- **17 Daesh terrorists neutralized in north Syria**

Seventeen Daesh terrorists were neutralized in northern Syria over the last 24 hours as a part of Operation Euphrates Shield, the Turkish military said early Wednesday. Turkish authorities use the word "neutralized" in their statements to imply the terrorists in question were either killed, captured or surrounded. The Turkish Armed Forces also hit 145 Daesh targets in Syria's Al-Bab region, said a Turkish General Staff statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/17-daesh-terrorists-neutralized-in-north-syria/729604>

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

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