



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

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1. IRAQ

- **ISIS uses mustard gas to attack U.S. troops in Iraq**

ISIS militants reportedly used mustard gas against the contingent of U.S. and Australian army instructors in Iraq. According to CBS News, the attack took place on April 16. 25 locals, six of them Iraqi army servicemen, sought medical help; the soldiers had trouble breathing, a U.S. army official said. He added that gas masks and other means of chemical protection are now spread among the troops – to prevent possible consequences of next attacks.

More details:

<http://112.international/politics/isis-uses-mustard-gas-to-attack-us-troops-in-iraq-16092.html>

- **Temporary Bridge Opens in Mosul; 108 Killed in Iraq**

Security forces opened a new pontoon bridge in Mosul. The city's bridges had been destroyed in the fighting, but two pontoon bridges were built once forces recaptured enough territory. Unfortunately, recent rains and flooding made those two temporary bridges unusable. The new bridge should assist the displaced in fleeing Islamic State territory.

More details:

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/04/18/temporary-bridge-opens-in-mosul-108-killed-in-iraq/>

- **Terror Alliance? ISIS and Al Qaeda May Join Forces, Iraq's VP Says**

Iraq's vice president said rival terror groups ISIS and Al Qaeda are exchanging ideas on ways to join forces. Vice President Ayad Allawi told Reuters he got the information from contacts in Iraq and the region. He did not reveal more specific details about the source of his information.

More details:

<http://nation.foxnews.com/2017/04/18/terror-alliance-isis-and-al-qaeda-may-join-forces-iraqs-vp-says?section=10367>

- **Iran calls for 'strong' 'integrated' Iraq: Envoy**

In his first statements as the ambassador, Masjedi said in Baghdad on Tuesday that considering this policy, Iran will stand by Iraq in any condition. Saying the two countries are friends and brothers, he added, "We should do our best to improve ties between the two countries."

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82498327/>

- **Egypt inks first oil deal with Iraq**

Egypt has agreed to import one million barrels of Iraqi oil a month, Minister of Petroleum Tareq el-Molla announced. The contract for the deal will be signed within days, he added in a press conference on Tuesday at the Cabinet headquarters.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/egypt-inks-first-oil-deal-iraq-964610>

- **Canada deploys CH-146 helicopters to Iraq**

Canada's air force on Monday deployed four CH-146 Griffon helicopters to support coalition efforts against militants in northern Iraq. According to a statement released by the country's defense ministry, the deployment aims to support the U.S.-led coalition fight against the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, ISIL and Daesh.

More details:

http://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2017/04/18/Canada-deploys-CH-146-helicopters-to-Iraq/1161492524888/?utm_source=sec&utm_campaign=sl&utm_medium=1

- **Trapped Mosul civilians could face worst catastrophe of Iraq conflict, U.N. warns**

The battle to dislodge Islamic State from the Old City of Mosul, where hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians are trapped, could turn into the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the war against the militants, the United Nations warned on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/trapped-mosul-civilians-could-face-worst-catastrophe-of-iraq-conflict-un-warns-20170418-00786#ixzz4eg1d0snt>

- **UK Attorney General Attempts to Block Tony Blair Trial Over Iraq War**

The former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair is in the spotlight once again - this time it comes in the form of UK Attorney General, who has stated in a report that he will try and stop the former PM from facing prosecution over his role in the Iraq war. A report, proposed by Jeremy Wright QC states that Blair should have immunity over his role in the Iraq war.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201704181052738638-tony-blair-iraq-trial/>

- **Iraq CTS Chief: Only Six Districts Still Held by ISIL in Western Mosul**

Only six districts in Western Mosul are still held by ISIL as Iraqi troops liberated most of the districts, according to a senior military official. “The military troops keep going steadily to liberate the remaining small area of western Mosul in order to declare the city as fully-liberated one. 32 out of a total of 38 districts were purged, in addition to the strategic airport of Mosul and Ghozlani military camp,” Lieutenant-General Talib Shaghati, head of the Counter Terrorism Services (CTS), said, Al Sabah reported.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960129001526>

- **Egypt's Sisi meets leader of Iraq's Shiite National Alliance Hakim Al-Ammar**

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi met with Ammar Al-Hakim, the leader of Iraq’s Shia National Alliance bloc in the Iraqi parliament, in Cairo on Tuesday for talks about Iraq and other issues. According to a statement issued by the Egyptian presidency on Tuesday afternoon, the Egyptian president and the Shia cleric discussed the latest developments in Iraq, especially the latest victories of the Iraqi army, against the IS militant group as well Egyptian-Iraqi bilateral relations.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/265192/-.aspx>

- **Iraq oil minister reveals plans for three new gas plants**

Iraq’s oil minister has said the country will construct three new processing plants to enable it to store more gas and reduce flaring, according to a new report. Iraq, Opec’s second largest crude producer, has to flare off some of the gas it produces due to a shortfall in facilities which can capture and turn it into fuel for commercial use.

More details:

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/middle-east/136710/iraq-oil-minister-reveals-plans-three-new-gas-plants/>

- **US approves \$1bn Iraq pilot training deal**

The US State Department has approved a possible foreign military sale worth \$1.06 billion to Iraq for pilot and maintenance training, contractor logistical support (CLS) for trainer aircraft, and base support, said a report.

More details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND_323620.html

- **Case of Qataris Kidnapped in Iraq Close to Conclusion**

Qatari nationals who were kidnapped in Iraq in 2015 may be released soon, a negotiator close to the file said. He added that a Qatari delegation was currently in Baghdad to discuss the issue. The negotiator, who wished to remain anonymous, told Asharq Al-Awsat on Monday that the two Syrian and Iraqi paths represent a single file, confirming earlier reports about a swap deal of Iranian and Lebanese "Hezbollah" fighters in Syria held by armed groups, in exchange for the release of the abducted Qatari nationals.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/case-qataris-kidnapped-iraq-close-conclusion>

- **More camps needed for those fleeing Daesh in Mosul: Iraqi official**

An Iraqi official says that more camps are required to accommodate the flow of people fleeing Daesh in west Mosul. "Food is available and medical services are being offered by the organizations, but what we really need is more camps. We call for a quick opening of the new camps currently under construction in Salamiya, Bartella and other areas to accommodate more people," said Iraqi Army Brigadier General Jabbar Hassona on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/04/19/518587/iraq-mosul-camps-daesh>

- **Iraq to import electricity from Kurdistan Region**

Iraq Ministry of Electricity is planning to import power for Mosul and surrounding areas from the Kurdistan Region. In a visit to Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region, the Iraqi Minister of Electricity Qasim al-Fahdawi met with a private company in the Region to find a mechanism to supply electricity to the liberated areas in Mosul and Nineveh Plain.

More details:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/economy/7a035100-bd0e-45e8-a1c2-471f9ff419d5/Iraq-to-import-electricity-from-Kurdistan-Region->

- **Iran intervenes to prevent fighting between Kurdish and Shia militias in Iraq**

The commanding officer of Al-Quds Force in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps has visited Kirkuk and met with a number of politicians in order to prevent fighting between the Kurdish

Peshmerga militia, which effectively rules the Iraqi city, and the Shia militias beyond the city boundaries, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported on Monday.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170418-iran-intervenes-to-prevent-fighting-between-kurdish-and-shia-militias-in-iraq/>

- **IS attack kills 16 civilians in western Mosul**

6 civilians were killed on Tuesday in an attack launched by Islamic State on the boundaries of al-Thawra district, in west of Mosul, a military source said. "An IS suicide bomber, driving a booby-trapped vehicle, attacked the military units of Counter-Terrorism Service in al-Thawra district," Captain Khedr al-Assadi, of the CTS, told Anadolu Agency.

More details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/features/attack-kills-16-civilians-western-mosul/>

- **IS Leader Baghdadi Arrested: Report**

The leader of the Islamic State (IS) Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been arrested by the Russian and Syrian joint forces, according to a report by Russia Today (RT). RT cited a press release by the European Department for Security and Information (DESI), saying that the leaked intelligence information indicated that Baghdadi was apprehended in northern Syria in early April, 2017. IS leader was arrested after he was forced to leave Mosul as a result of the Iraqi forces' advances to retake the city from the Islamic militants. The news has not been confirmed or rejected by the Syrian and Russian authorities.

More details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/middle-east/343980>

- **Kurdistan's ongoing efforts to attain independence 'legitimate right': Abadi**

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Wednesday stated that the ambitions of the Kurds to establish their own independent state is a legitimate right'. But, at the same time, he asserted that holding the independence referendum at this delicate juncture does not serve the region's interests.

More details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/9543/Kurdistan-s-ongoing-efforts-to-attain-independence-legitimate-right-Abadi>

- **ISIS launches 2nd chemical attack in Mosul in 2 days, injures 6 Iraqi soldiers**

The chemical attack on Sunday occurred in a recently-liberated area of Mosul, where the Federal Police and Rapid Response forces are advancing towards the old city which is still roaming with Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) jihadists. The spokesman for the Joint Operation Command in Iraq, Brigadier General Yahya Rasool, told the Associated Press that six soldiers suffered “breathing problems” from the attack.

More details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-launches-2nd-chemical-attack-mosul-2-days-injures-6-iraqi-soldiers/>

2. SYRIA

- **President al-Assad receives congratulatory cable from President Putin on occasion of Syria’s National Day**

President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday received a cable of congratulation from Russian President Vladimir Putin on occasion of Syria’s Independence Day. In his cable, President Putin stressed the continued stance of his country in support of the peaceful settlement to the crisis in Syria through the comprehensive national dialogue which aims at stopping the bloodshed and uniting all the Syrians in combating the international forces of terrorism and extremism.

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=104566>

- **HRW: US failed to protect civilians in Syria mosque**

The US military failed to take “necessary precautions” to prevent civilians deaths in a strike on a Syrian mosque last month that killed dozens of people, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday. The March 16 strike in the village of opposition-held Al-Jineh in northern Aleppo province killed 49 people, mostly civilians, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1086751/middle-east>

- **Dozens killed in separate air raids across Syria**

Rescue workers and monitor blame Russian, US-led coalition and Syrian jets for the death of many children and women. Dozens of civilians have been killed in separate air raids across Syria over the

past 24 hours, blamed by rescue workers and a monitor on Russian, US-led coalition and Syrian government fighter jets.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/04/dozens-killed-separate-air-raids-syria-170418165334240.html>

- **Donald Trump: From Syria to Korea**

North Korea's Foreign Minister yearns for the former US President Barack Obama. He said in his latest statement that through his tweets and statements, President Donald Trump seems evil. Iran's Supreme Leader shares the same feeling and believes Trump's presidency is a bad turn of events. When the US President warned Iran against "playing with fire", Ayatollah Khamenei challenged Trump saying his statements didn't scare him. This was before the Tomahawk missile strike on Shayrat airport in Syria.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/abdul-rahman-al-rashed/world-news/donald-trump-syria-korea>

- **Bus Bombing Marks End to Tragic Evacuation Deal in Syria**

Beirut – For two Syrian mothers on opposite sides of a two-year siege, their evacuation from the blockade was supposed to end their suffering, but that was not the case in wake of a bombing outside the city of Aleppo. Noha, a Shi'ite, and Samira, a Sunni, were besieged for nearly two years on each side of Syria's civil war. At the weekend they finally escaped the suffocating blockades under an evacuation agreement – but their ordeal was not over.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/bus-bombing-marks-end-tragic-evacuation-deal-syria>

- **Syrian Democratic Forces set up 'civilian council' for IS-held Raqa**

The US-backed Kurdish-Arab force leading the fight for the Islamic State group's Syrian bastion Raqa announced Tuesday the creation of a "civilian council" to administer the city after its capture. "The civilian council of Raqa will be charged with administering Raqa and the surrounding province after liberation," the Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement.

More details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=82654>

- **Algerians declare 'not in my name' as Bouteflika congratulates Assad**

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has sent a congratulatory message to his Syrian counterpart, Bashar Al-Assad, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Syria's independence. In an address Bouteflika told Al-Assad: On the occasion of the celebration of the 71st anniversary of its independence, I am pleased to address to you, on behalf of the Algerian people and government and on my own behalf, my warmest congratulations and best wishes, praying Almighty God grant you health and happiness.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170418-algerians-declare-not-in-my-name-as-bouteflika-congratulates-assad/>

- **Does Assad Have a Place in Trump's 'Syria Plan'?**

Can threatening war crimes charges persuade Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to leave power? What about guaranteeing his safety in exile? These long-shot proposals are at the center of the Trump administration's new effort to resolve Syria's six-year civil war. Though still evolving, President Donald Trump's plans for Syria have come into clearer view since he ordered cruise missiles fired on a Syrian air base to punish Assad for a chemical weapons attack. The strategy breaks down into three basic phases: defeating the Islamic State group, restoring stability in Syria region-by-region and securing a political transition in which Assad ultimately steps down.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/228679-does-assad-have-a-place-in-trump-s-syria-plan>

- **Over 2,100 people leave Syria's Al-Waer for Jarabulus**

A fifth group of opposition fighters and civilians have left the Al-Waer district of Syria's western Homs province amid repeated cease-fire violations. Some 2,124 people in buses left the district for the Zogora refugee camp in Aleppo's town of Jarabulus, which was captured from the IS terrorist group last summer during the Turkey-led Operation Euphrates Shield, according to Anadolu Agency reporters in the area.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/19/04/2017/Over-2,100-people-leave-Syria-s-Al-Waer-for-Jarabulus>

- **Syria evacuations resume, bringing town under state control**

The last rebels in the town of Zabadani near Damascus have either departed for insurgent-held regions or accepted government rule, pro-government media reported on Wednesday, part of a

reciprocal evacuation deal for besieged areas. Thousands of people also left the rebel-besieged Shi'ite villages of al-Foua and Kefraya near Idlib under the deal, which resumed days after a suicide bombing killed dozens in a convoy that was part of the same evacuation, the media said.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-evacuation-idUSKBN17L0LM>

3. IRAN

- **Army Day Parades Start in Iran**

Various units of the Islamic Republic Army are participating in the nationwide parades. In Tehran, the ceremony took place at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Islamic Republic, the Late Imam Khomeini, South of the capital. Different units of Iran's Army forces marched in uniform before top commanders in a show of military might and defensive power.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960129000537>

- **Russia's S-300 Missile System Deliveries to Iran A Sign of Mutual Trust**

The deliveries of Russia's S-300 missile systems to Iran reflect the trust level in the two countries' bilateral defense cooperation, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei said Tuesday, Sputnik reported. Sanaei said at a reception marking Iran's national Army Day that the 2015 signing of a military cooperation agreement "determined the scope of this cooperation."

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960129001554>

- **Iran complying with commitments under nuclear deal: Tillerson**

The Donald Trump administration has notified Congress that Iran has been compliant with its commitments under the 2015 nuclear agreement, and that the administration is reviewing whether a continued suspension of the sanctions serves the national interests of the United States.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/04/19/518600/Iran-complying-with-nuclear-deal-Tillerson>

- **Tehran sees no limits to expansion of ties with Bishkek**

Iranian foreign minister, while addressing Iran-Kyrgyzstan Joint Economic Forum, voiced readiness of Tehran to bolster ties with the Central Asian state in all sectors. Mohammad Javad Zarif, who arrived in the Kyrgyz capital on Tuesday evening following two days of negotiations with Turkmen and Georgian officials, said “Iran and Kyrgyzstan share cultural, religious and geographical commonalities and enjoy age-old relations.”

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124883/Tehran-sees-no-limits-to-expansion-of-ties-with-Bishkek>

- **Iran, Russia ink MOU on fishery co-op**

The MOU was signed in Tehran by Hassan Salehi, the head of Iran’s Fisheries Organization, and Vasily Sokolov, the deputy head of Russia’s Federal Agency for Fishery. Addressing the signing ceremony, Salehi said Iran and Russia are to cooperate with each other for trade and research in the fishery sector and given the large market of Russia, the ground will be prepared for boosting fish export to the neighboring country.

More Details:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/412719/Iran-Russia-ink-MOU-on-fishery-co-op>

- **Iran calls for 'strong' 'integrated' Iraq: Envoy**

The new Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Iraj Masjedi tsaid Iran wants an advanced, powerful, secure and integrated Iraq.In his first statements as the ambassador, Masjedi said in Baghdad on Tuesday that considering this policy, Iran will stand by Iraq in any condition. Saying the two countries are friends and brothers, he added, “We should do our best to improve ties between the two countries.”

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82498327/>

- **Iran FM urges Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridor launch**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has stressed the importance of launching a new transport corridor connecting the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea, saying it would strengthen relations among regional countries. “If implemented, the corridor connecting the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea is an opportunity which will bring regional countries closer to each other and decrease transportation costs of commodities,” Zarif said at a meeting on Iran-Georgia economy in Tbilisi on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/191119.html?catid=3&title=Iran-FM-urges-Persian-Gulf-Black-Sea-corridor-launch>

- **Leader receives Army commanders, staff**

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei received the Army commanders and staff on Wednesday morning. The meeting was held on the occasion of National Army Day. Ayatollah Khamenei said in the meeting that boost of economy is the country's top priority. Every year Iran commemorates the National Army Day on April 18 or 17, throughout the country with the presence of military and civil high-rank officials.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82498390/>

- **Iran's petrochemical industry reviving**

Iranian petrochemical plants produced 50.61 million metric tons (mn mt) of petrochemical products during last fiscal year that ended March 20. According to an official document prepared by the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) and seen by Trend Apr. 18, Iran's actual petrochemical production level was 82 percent of the total nominal capacity. In other words, the country's plants worked at 82 percent capacity during last fiscal year. Statistics in the document indicate that 96 percent of the planned production was realized.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2744085.html>

- **Iran to Finalize Contract with China on Arak Reactor Renovation**

Iran is going to sign the final version of a contract with China for modernization of a heavy water reactor that Tehran has undertaken to redesign under a lasting nuclear deal with world powers, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said. In an interview with ICANA on Tuesday, Salehi said the contract with China to modernize the Arak reactor is going to be finalized in Vienna within the next week.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/04/19/1383587/iran-to-finalize-contract-with-china-on-arak-reactor-renovation>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel rejects negotiations with jailed Palestinian hunger strikers**

Israel has said it will not negotiate with hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who began a hunger strike to improve conditions. The Public Security Minister announced that field hospitals would be set up to treat those requiring medical aid during the strike, including force-feedings, saying that he would not negotiate with what he called 'brutal murderers', while Foreign Minister Emmauel Nahshon took a softer line.

More details:

http://www.euronews.com/2017/04/18/israel-rejects-negotiations-with-jailed-palestinian-hunger-strikers?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2Fnews+%28euronews+-+news+-+en%29

- **UN 'closely monitoring' terrorist hunger strike**

The United Nations on Tuesday said it was following closely the hunger strike by more than 1,000 terrorists in Israeli prisons. We are obviously aware of the situation and following the developments closely," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric, according to AFP.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/228262>

- **UN to recruit Israeli doctors for peacekeeping missions**

In an effort to recruit field doctors to join its peacekeeping forces and missions around the world, the United Nations is taking a closer look at Israel. Next month, a group of UN officials, led by UN Medical Director Jillann Farmer, will be visiting Israel to meet potential candidates for the positions.

More detail:

<http://www.ipost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/UN-to-recruit-Israeli-doctors-for-peacekeeping-missions-488293>

- **Abbas ready for visit to Washington**

Palestinian officials are working hard to prepare for the first meeting in the White House between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the new US president, Donald Trump. After an initial phone call and a high-profile Feb. 15 meeting between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinians were worried that the Trump administration was planning to bypass the legitimate Palestinian leadership.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/04/abbas-washington-visit-netanyahu-trump-peace.html>

- **U.S. Defense Chief to Visit Israel, Regional Allies in Bid to Fight Islamic Extremism**

Seeking new tactics to better tackle Islamic extremism, United States Defense Secretary James Mattis began traveling across the Middle East and North Africa on Tuesday. His journey includes stops with close allies Israel and Saudi Arabia, and new partners like Djibouti.

More details:

<http://www.thetower.org/4871-u-s-defense-chief-to-visit-israel-regional-allies-in-bid-to-fight-islamic-extremism/>

- **Israel to Keep Sinai Border with Egypt Shuttered**

Israel will keep the border with Egypt closed for the time being, according to a statement released Tuesday by the counterterrorism unit in Israel's National Security Council.

More details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.784126>

- **Palestinian activists in London demand an end to Security Coordination**

On April 17th, the day that is annually marked as Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Palestinian communities in the diaspora staged a coordinated series of protests in several cities around the world. While reiterating the demands for inalienable Palestinian rights, including the release of all Palestinian political prisoners, central to the collective actions was the demand that the Palestinian Authority immediately end its security coordination with Israel.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170418-palestinian-activists-in-london-demand-an-end-to-security-coordination/>

- **Netanyahu Slams NYT for Presenting Arch-Terrorist Marwan Barghout as 'Parliamentarian'**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday slammed The New York Times for publishing an opinion piece written by jailed Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti without noting he is serving multiple life terms for the murder of Israelis.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2017/04/18/netanyahu-slams-nyt-presenting-arch-terrorist-marwan-barghouti-parliamentarian/>

- **Palestine's Hamas sets conditions for talks with Fatah**

Hamas on Tuesday set three conditions for sitting down with a delegation from rival Palestinian movement Fatah, which is expected to visit the Hamas-run Gaza Strip within days.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/palestine-s-hamas-sets-conditions-for-talks-with-fatah/799636>

- **Dozens of Palestinians injured during clashes in Abu Dis, al-Eizariya**

Israeli troops shot and injured more than 11 Palestinians with rubber-coated steel bullets while 23 others suffered from severe tear gas inhalation during clashes Monday night in the towns of Abu Dis and al-Eizariya in the Jerusalem district of the occupied West Bank.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776482>

- **Top Hamas leader says group not seeking war with Israel**

A senior Hamas official said Thursday that the Gaza-based terror group is not looking to start another round of conflict with Israel. "We are not seeking a war and are committed to the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire as long as Israel is," said Khalil al-Hayya, who was elected the deputy leader of the group's executive committee in Gaza in February.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/top-hamas-leader-says-group-not-seeking-war-with-israel/>

- **Hamas rejects threats by Palestinian leader**

A senior Hamas official says threats by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cannot force the militant group to cede control in the Gaza Strip. Khalil al-Hayya told reporters on Tuesday that Abbas' threat to take "unprecedented steps" to restore political unity to the Palestinian territory will not succeed.

More details:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/feeds/canadian-press/world/hamas-rejects-threats-by-palestinian-leader/article34732359/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **House lawmakers urge Trump to approve Jordan, UAE drone sales**

A bipartisan group of 22 House lawmakers is pushing President Trump to approve sales of armed drones to Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, saying that the sales would help in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

More details:

<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/329296-house-lawmakers-urge-trump-to-approve-jordan-uae-drone-sales>

- **Report: International Community Says Lebanon Must Stage Timely Elections**

The international community has notified the Lebanese government of the necessity to agree on a new law for the upcoming parliamentary polls in order for the country to be able to restore its “democratic rhythm,” al-Joumhouria daily reported on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/228697-report-international-community-says-lebanon-must-stage-timely-elections>

- **Hajj Hassan partakes in Foreign Affairs Committee's meeting in Russia, pledges support against terrorism**

An official Lebanese economic delegation headed by Minister of Industry, Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, took part in the Russian Foreign Affairs sub-committee's meeting at one of the Russian Duma's meeting halls. The meeting witnessed the presence of a number of Russian MPs representing more than one political party.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/78266/Hajj-Hassan-partakes-in-Foreign-Affairs-Committee-39-meeting-in-Russia-pledges-support-against-terrorism>

- **Jordan to host 2018 Arab financial institutions' annual meeting**

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury headed the Jordanian delegation to the 46th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) in Rabat, Morocco, which comes as part of the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arab Financial Institutions, a Planning Ministry statement said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-host-2018-arab-financial-institutions-annual-meeting>

- **MPs refer to prosecution suspected graft cases involving former ministers**

A sweeping House majority on Tuesday voted to refer three cases of suspected corruption involving three former ministers of agriculture to the attorney general.

More details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=34849#.WPcTitSLSmU>

- **Safadi, jaafari reiterate 'strong' Amman-Baghdad ties**

Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Sunday discussed with his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Al Jaafari an incident in which some Jordanians allegedly committed "individual acts" deemed offensive to Iraqi political figures, according to a statement from the Iraqi foreign ministry.

More details:

<http://jordanembassyus.org/news/safadi-jaafari-reiterate-strong-amman-baghdad-ties>

- **Lebanese Army Clamps Down on 'Largest Arms Dealer'**

The Lebanese army arrested the 'largest arms dealer' in Lebanon in the border town of Britel in the Bekaa region, LBCI reported on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://www.ezspk.co.uk/2017/04/19/lebanese-army-clamps-down-on-largest-arms-dealer/>

- **Lebanon: Electoral Law Crisis Intensifies**

Lebanon's electoral law crisis intensifies as various proposals submitted by Lebanese politicians have failed to please the different factions and groups. In light of the current deadlock, the country has two difficult options. The first is to extend the parliament's term during a session scheduled on May 15, and the second is parliamentary vacuum, which threatens the work of the country's constitutional institutions.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/youssef-diab/news-middle-east/lebanon-electoral-law-crisis-intensifies>

- **Future Movement slams sectarian incitement urging Electoral Law that boosts Unity**

Future parliamentary bloc on Tuesday called for an electoral law that “strengthens national unity” and “respects Islamic-Christian coexistence.” “The bloc reiterates its rejection of anything that might plunge Lebanon into a state of institutional vacuum,” it said in a statement issued after its weekly meeting.

More details:

<http://en.addiyar.com/article/1349705-future-movement-slams-sectarian-incitement-urging-electoral-law-that-boosts>

- **U.S. appropriations committee head leads congressional delegation in visit to Lebanon**

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, led a Congressional delegation visit to Lebanon on April 13-15, the U.S. Embassy said. Frelinghuysen was joined by fellow Committee member, Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD).

More details:

<http://nooz.com/u-s-appropriations-committee-head-leads-congressional-delegation-in-visit-to-lebanon/>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **US Insists on Ending ‘Houthi-Iranian Missiles’ in Yemen**

US Secretary of Defense James Mattis affirmed Tuesday “the need to bring to an end Iranian-supplied missiles being fired by the Houthis into Saudi Arabia.” Mattis told reporters on his plane while en route to Saudi Arabia that the US goal is for a UN team to try to resolve the conflict in Yemen “politically, as soon as possible.”

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/heba-abdul-hadi/news-middle-east/us-insists-ending-houthi-iranian-missiles-yemen>

- **Minister of Energy confirms UAE’s full commitment to oil production cuts**

Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy, said the UAE sees a healthy level of demand for crude oil in the future from emerging economies in Africa and Asia, and that the UAE would remain commercially-minded in its strategic oil investments.

More details:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/04/minister-of-energy-confirms-uaes-full-commitment-to-oil-production-cuts/>

- **Kuwait interrogates Daesh suspect deported from Manila**

Kuwait is questioning a suspected Daesh terrorist deported from the Philippines as it remanded four relatives in custody, the emirate's media reported. Hussein Al-Dhafiri was arrested in an upscale district of Manila late last month along with his Syrian wife Rahaf Zina on suspicion of being members of Daesh and of planning attacks in both countries.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1086741/middle-east>

- **Germany Sells Arms to UAE despite Yemen Conflict**

Germany has approved more major weapons deals with the UAE, including deliveries of high-caliber ammunition. The UAE is involved in a conflict in Yemen that has caused famine and humanitarian disaster.

More details:

<http://www.defencetalk.com/germany-sells-arms-to-uae-despite-yemen-conflict-69763/>

- **Helicopter crash kills 12 Saudi officers in Yemen**

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen said one of its helicopters crashed in eastern Yemen on Tuesday, killing 12 Saudi officers in one of the deadliest incidents for the kingdom's troops since the war began more than two years ago.

More details:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/helicopter-crash-kills-saudi-officers-in-yemen/>

- **There are 2 choke points that threaten oil trade between the Persian Gulf and East Asia**

The flow of international trade has always been subject to geopolitical risk and conflicts. At all stages of the supply chain, trade inherently faces challenges posed by the geopolitical realities along a given route.

More details:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/maps-oil-trade-choke-points-person-gulf-and-east-asia-2017-4>

- **Exiled cleric points to Iran's widening influence in Bahrain**

At a wake in Iran's holy city of Qom in February, a small group of Bahraini emigres and clerics mourned a young militant killed in a gun battle with Bahrain's security forces. The eulogy was delivered by an exiled Bahraini cleric who has called for the island's Shi'ite Muslim majority to uproot the Sunni Al Khalifa monarchy in a holy war.

More details:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-bahrain-iran-insight-idINKBN17K0VW>

- **Australia: Suspend Military Sales to Saudi Arabia**

The Australian government should immediately halt military sales to Saudi Arabia following numerous unlawful Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in Yemen, Human Rights Watch said today in a letter to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Australia should also release details about military weapons and material it has sold to other members of the Saudi-led coalition carrying out the Yemen campaign and whether any Australian-made arms have been used in unlawful coalition attacks.

More details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/04/18/australia-suspend-military-sales-saudi-arabia>

- **Yemen, World's Largest Humanitarian Crisis**

With 18.8 million people –nearly 7 in 10 inhabitants– in need of humanitarian aid, including 10.3 million requiring immediate assistance, Yemen is now the largest single-nation humanitarian crisis in the world, the United Nations informs while warning that the two-year war is rapidly pushing the country towards “social, economic and institutional collapse.”

More details:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/04/yemen-worlds-largest-humanitarian-crisis/>

- **Houthi, Saleh militias violate sanctity of 750 mosques in Yemen**

Houthi and ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh's militias have so far destroyed over 750 mosques in Yemen. Damage include total destruction, heavy bomb-shelling theft of furniture and belongings, use of mosques for qat chewing sessions or as military barracks by these militias.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1086791/saudi-arabia>

- **Two US drone strikes kill 7 al-Qaeda suspects in Yemen**

Two US drone airstrikes have killed at least seven suspected al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen's northeastern province of Marib, a security official said Wednesday.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124878/Two-US-drone-strikes-kill-7-al-Qaeda-suspects-in-Yemen>

7. EGYPT

- **One killed in Daesh attack near St. Catherine's Monastery in Egypt**

A policeman was killed and four others injured Tuesday when gunmen attacked security forces near St. Catherine's Monastery in Egypt, the Health Ministry said. The Islamic State [Daesh] claimed responsibility for the attack and bombings at two Coptic Christian churches on Palm Sunday that killed 45 people.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/one-killed-daesh-attack-near-st-catherine%E2%80%99s-monastery-egypt-964716>

- **Egypt's Sisi meets leader of Iraq's Shiite National Alliance Hakim Al-Ammar**

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi met with Ammar Al-Hakim, the leader of Iraq's Shia National Alliance bloc in the Iraqi parliament, in Cairo on Tuesday for talks about Iraq and other issues.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/265192/Egypt/Politics-/Egypts-Sisi-meets-leader-of-Iraqs-Shiite-National-.aspx>

- **Egypt ready for more Moroccan investments: Sahar Nasr**

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr has met with a group of Moroccan investors to discuss an increase in Moroccan investments in Egypt over the upcoming period, especially in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone). The visit came on the sidelines of the annual Arab financial institutions meeting in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, for which she led an Egyptian delegation.

More details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/04/18/egypt-ready-moroccan-investments-sahar-nasr/>

- **Saudi General backs off statement on Egyptian offer to send 40,000 conscripts in Yemen war**

Major General Ahmad Asiri, the spokesperson of the Saudi-led military coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen, withdrew on Monday a statement he made recently that stipulated Egypt offered to participate in Yemen war with nearly 40,000 conscripts.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/saudi-general-backs-statement-egyptian-offer-send-40000-conscripts-yemen-war>

- **Ali Abdel-Aal to meet with US President Donald Trump Adviser**

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ali Abdel Aal, will meet on Wednesday with the Advisor of the US President Donald Trump, Nick Ayers, in the presence of parliamentary figures and some of the committees' chairmen in the Parliament.

More details:

<http://www.egypttoday.com/Article/2/4061/Ali-Abdel-Aal-to-meet-with-US-President-Donald-Trump>

- **Egypt's Al-Azhar rejects 'defamatory' accusations that it fosters extremism**

Al-Azhar's Council of Senior Scholars defended its teachings on Tuesday amid rising criticism in Egypt that its curriculums foster extremism and sectarianism.

More details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/news/egypt-news/56347-egypts-al-azhar-rejects-defamatory-accusations-that-it-fosters-extremism.html>

- **Egypt's FM Shoukry to meet his Ethiopian counterpart in Cairo Wednesday**

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry will meet his Ethiopian counterpart Workneh Gebeyehu in Cairo on Wednesday, MENA state agency has reported.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/265199/Egypt/Politics-/Egypts-FM-Shoukry-to-meet-his-Ethiopian-counterpar.aspx>

- **Obama, Trump, and Abiding Authoritarianism Egypt**

On 3 April, US President Donald Trump hosted the first ever visit of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to the White House. Many observers have characterised Trump's praise of el-Sisi's authoritarian governance as engendering a significant policy shift from the more liberal administration of former US President Barack Obama. Yet, others have anticipated a mere extension of Washington's longstanding pursuit of its perceived interests through supporting repressive regimes in Egypt.

More details:

<http://www.ipcs.org/article/iran/obama-trump-and-abiding-authoritarianism-egypt-5271.html>

- **Have Egypt's Salafists had a change of heart on female leaders?**

The Salafi Call has been known to modify and review several fatwas in the past, in light of prevailing political circumstances. Between 2011 and 2014, the movement had issued a fatwa prohibiting Coptic candidates from running in the parliamentary elections, but then in 2015 it changed its mind to include a number of Copts on its electoral lists, as per the election law at the time.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/04/egypt-salafist-call-women-governor-fatwa-splits-moderation.html>

- **Egypt inks first oil deal with Iraq**

Egypt has agreed to import one million barrels of Iraqi oil a month, Minister of Petroleum Tareq el-Molla announced. The contract for the deal will be signed within days, he added in a press conference on Tuesday at the Cabinet headquarters.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/egypt-inks-first-oil-deal-iraq-964610>

- **Egyptian parliamentarian rebukes Saudi defence official**

An Egyptian parliamentarian has rebuked a Saudi defence ministry official for claiming that President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi had offered to send up to 40,000 ground troops to Yemen to join the Saudi coalition.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170418-egyptian-parliamentarian-rebukes-saudi-defence-official/>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria parties ordered to show female faces on posters**

Algerian political parties have agreed to show female candidates' faces after some posters displayed blank avatars instead, the state news agency says.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39636548>

- **Algerians declare 'not in my name' as Bouteflika congratulates Assad**

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has sent a congratulatory message to his Syrian counterpart, Bashar Al-Assad, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Syria's independence.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170418-algerians-declare-not-in-my-name-as-bouteflika-congratulates-assad/>

- **Libya fishermen find 28 dead migrants in boat offshore**

Libyan fishermen found the bodies of 28 migrants who appeared to have died of thirst and hunger after their boat broke down off the coast of Sabratha city, a ministry of interior official said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-europe-migrants-europe-idUKKBN17K1XM?rpc=401&>

- **Deterioration in the security situation in the southern part of the country**

France condemns the escalating violence in southern Libya, especially around Sabha. The perpetrators, who are jeopardizing the political process and national reconciliation, must be held accountable. Armed inter-Libyan clashes only benefit the terrorists.

More details:

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/libya/events/2017/article/libya-deterioration-in-the-security-situation-in-the-southern-part-of-the?xtor=RSS-4>

- **Oman, Morocco sign agreement on judicial cooperation**

Oman and Morocco on Tuesday signed an agreement on judicial cooperation in Rabat. The agreement has articles to regulate judicial cooperation by sharing information through visits and seminars.

More details:

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Oman-Morocco-sign-agreement-on-judicial-cooperation-5031>

- **Morocco Has Special Status to Address Europe's Many Challenges: European Deputy**

Europe must understand that Morocco has a special status to address some of Europe's challenges including immigration, the fight against nationalist sentiment and terrorism in Europe, as well as economic growth, said Gilles Pargneaux, chairman of the Morocco-EU Friendship Group at the European Parliament, Monday in Rabat.

More details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/04/214355/morocco-has-special-status-to-address-europes-many-challenges-european-deputy/>

- **IMF Tunisia loan payment deal allows access to another \$1.15 bln - finance minister**

An IMF agreement to pay a delayed \$320 million tranche of Tunisia's loan will allow the country access to \$1.15 billion in additional international loans, TAP state news agency said quoting the finance minister.

More details:

http://af.reuters.com/article/algeriaNews/idAFL8N1HQ3EW?feedType=RSS&feedName=algeriaNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaAlgeriaNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Algeria+News%29&&rpc=401

- **The authorities in Tunisia must act to protect civil society space**

Transparency International, the global anti-corruption movement, condemns the threats made against its partner in Tunisia and calls on the authorities investigate the smear campaign against IWatch Tunisia.

More details:

http://www.transparency.org/news/pressrelease/transparency_international_condemns_threats_of_violence_and_intimidation_ag

- **Tunisian president meets prime minister to discuss social, economic situation**

Tunisia's President, Beji Caid Essebsi, received Monday at the Carthage Palace, prime minister-designate Youssef Chahed to review the government's performance and assess the growing unrest in the country.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170418-tunisian-president-meets-prime-minister-to-discuss-social-economic-situation/>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Security Forces Kill Taliban Shadow Governor of Northern Afghan Baghlan Province**

Afghan troops, with support of US aircraft, have killed the Taliban's (a terrorist group outlawed in Russia) shadow governor of the northern province of Baghlan, local media reported Wednesday.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201704191052764671-taliban-afghanistan-governor/>

- **13 key ISIS leaders killed in MOAB bombing in East of Afghanistan**

At least thirteen key leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group offshoot loyalists were killed in the US airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, involving the GBU-43 bomb.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/13-key-isis-leaders-killed-in-moab-bombing-in-east-of-afghanistan-02600>

- **Trump Administration Calls on Russia, Pakistan Not to Back Afghan Taliban**

U.S. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster urged Russia, Pakistan, and other countries in the region over the weekend not to lend support to the Afghan Taliban in their efforts to "perpetuate" the war in Afghanistan.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/04/18/trump-administration-calls-on-russia-pakistan-not-to-back-afghan-taliban/>

- **U.S. Urges Pakistan Not To Use Terror Groups As 'Proxies' In Afghanistan**

The U.S. national security adviser during his first visit to Pakistan urged Islamabad to fight all terrorist groups equally and stop using some of them as proxies in Afghanistan.

More details:

<http://www.rferl.org/a/us-urges-pakistan-not-use-terror-groups-proxies-afghanistan-mcmaster-security-adviser/28438192.html>

- **FM Rabbani, Finland ambassador discuss IDPs, returnees' situation**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani met the ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Kabul, Anne Meskanen in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here the other day, the Ministry said in a statement.

More details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/13710-fm-rabbani%2C-finland-ambassador-discuss-idps%2C-returnees'-situation.html>

- **Taliban's shadow governor among 16 killed in Kunduz**

At least sixteen Taliban insurgents including the shadow governor of the group for Northeastern Takhar province were killed in an operation in Kunduz province. The Kunduz police commandment in a statement said the attack was carried out in the vicinity of Dasht-e-Archi district.

More details:

<http://thekabultimes.gov.af/index.php/newsnational/13707-taliban's-shadow-governor-among-16-killed-in-kunduz.html>

- **NA, Senate bodies discuss boosting of Pak, EU ties**

A rare joint meeting of the Senate and National Assembly Standing Committees was held with the European Parliament Mission of the committee on Foreign Affairs at the Parliament House on Tuesday in which a detailed discussion took place on further boosting of bilateral relations between Pakistan and European countries.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/199503-NA-Senate-bodies-discuss-boosting-of-Pak-EU-ties>

- **Sindh may use Rangers issue as bargaining chip with Centre**

With special policing powers awarded to Pakistan Rangers Sindh ended on April 15, the PPP government seemed to use the issue as a bargaining chip to strike a deal with the powers that be in securing release of missing aides of former president Asif Ali Zardari.

More details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1387692/sindh-may-use-rangers-issue-bargaining-chip-centre/>

- **Parents want daughter to be rescued from Pakistan**

Relations between India and Pakistan have hit a rough patch after Indian former naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav was sentenced to death on April 10 by a Pakistan military court. Now, Indian government has been exploring means to save Kulbhushan Jadhav.

More details:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2017/apr/19/parents-want-daughter-to-be-rescued-from-pakistan-1595233.html>

- **PPP to launch countrywide protest against energy crisis**

PPP Punjab's central president Qamar Zaman Kaira announced on Tuesday that the party has decided to launch a countrywide protest campaign over the energy crisis.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1327850/ppp-to-launch-countrywide-protest-against-energy-crisis>

- **Has Karachi operation stopped?**

Over 72 hours have passed and the Sindh government has not yet decided to extend the powers of Rangers under Anti-Terrorism Act, of arrest and investigation. It is unlikely to extend these powers, due to some unresolved issues between Sindh and Centre, raising question whether Karachi operation has been stopped or confined to police only.

More details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/199495-Has-Karachi-operation-stopped>

10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish Red Crescent to build disaster, humanitarian aid logistics center in Gaza**

Turkish Red Crescent has revealed it will build a disaster and humanitarian aid logistics center in Gaza, Palestine. "It will be the biggest disaster and humanitarian aid logistics center in Gaza. The center will be handed over to Palestinian Red Crescent," President of Turkish Red Crescent Kerem Kinik told Anadolu Agency in an exclusive interview.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2017/04/19/turkish-red-crescent-to-build-disaster-humanitarian-aid-logistics-center-in-gaza>

- **Iraqi parliament hails Yes win in Turkey referendum**

Iraq's parliament Monday welcomed a win by the Yes vote in Sunday's historic referendum on Turkey's transition to a presidential system. "We hope the referendum result will contribute to stabilizing and strengthening [Turkey's] relations with neighboring countries," MP Abbas al-Bayati said at a press conference.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraqi-parliament-hails-yes-win-in-turkey-referendum/799072>

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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