



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,

- **Kurdistan Govt. Discusses With the Governors Of Arbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk Financial Crisis**

The head of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani discussed with the governors of Arbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk current financial crisis in the region and the procedures of how to address it. A statement by the Kurdistan Regional Government said "the meeting, which was attended by Vice-Chairman of the provincial government, Qubad Talabani, discussed the financial crisis and its causes and consequences and their effects on the financial, economic and social situation of the Kurdistan region.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?pyB%252fBAk0c5sjKJsN7kpJkg%253d%253d

- **Sisi stresses Egypt's support to Iraqi army in fight against ISIS**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi stressed Egypt's full support to the efforts of the Iraqi army in the face of the ISIS organization, referring to his country's keenness to support Iraq to restore its sovereignty over all its territory and to overcome the current security threats. The Defense Ministry said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "This evening, Khaled al-Obeidi visited, after his arrival in Cairo, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, in the presence of his Egyptian Defense Minister Sedki Sobhi and Iraq's ambassador to Cairo, Alaa Youssef."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/sisi-stresses-egypts-support-iraqi-army-fight-isis/>

- **Rasool, British Ambassador Discuss the Political and Security Situation in Kurdistan and the War on Terror**

First Deputy Secretary General of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Kusrat Rasool Ali discussed in Sulaimaniyah with the British ambassador to Iraq, Frank Baker, political and security situation in the Kurdistan region and the war on terrorists. Rasool Ali, during the meeting, which was attended by Barham Salih, the second deputy secretary-general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, according to the website of the National Union of Kurdistan pointed "to the heroic role of the Peshmerga forces in fighting terrorists of Daash, and to thwart their terrorist actions and cleanse most of the Kurdish areas, calling on Britain to provide greater support for troops of Peshmerga and activate its efforts to address the problems between the province and the federal government.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?8AvD0vgcllY5NP7ei8QhmA%253d%253d

- **Unidentified gunmen kill civilian in central Tuz, Salahuddin**

A security source in Salahuddin said on Tuesday, that a civilian was killed in a militant attack in central Tuz east of the province. The source said in a statement received by IraqiNews.com, "This evening, unidentified militants driving a modern vehicle opened fire against a civilian in the neighborhood of al-Teen in central Tuz-Khormato (90 km east of Tikrit), resulting in his immediate death."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/unidentified-gunmen-kill-civilian-central-tuz-salahuddin/>

- **Coalition warplanes destruct Rafidain Bank and ISIS prison in Mosul**

A local source in Nineveh province said on Tuesday, that the international coalition destructed the main headquarters of Rafidain Bank and one of the most prominent prisons for the ISIS organization in the city of Mosul. The source said in a statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, "Today, warplanes of the international coalition conducted air strikes on the main headquarters of Rafidain Bank in central Mosul," noting that, "The aerial bombing resulted in the complete destruction of the bank."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/coalition-warplanes-destruct-rafidain-bank-isis-prison-mosul/>

- **About 3,500 slaves held by Islamic State in Iraq: U.N. report**

An estimated 3,500 people, mainly women and children, are being held as slaves in Iraq by Islamic State militants, the United Nations said on Tuesday. The Islamist group, which also controls large parts of Syria, is responsible for acts that may "amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and possibly genocide", particularly against minorities, a report said.

More Details:

<http://english.shafaaq.com/politics/17303-about-3,500-slaves-held-by-islamic-state-in-iraq-u-n-report.html>

- **UN reveals over 55000 Iraqis killed, wounded in less than 2 years**

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) revealed, that 55,047 thousand Iraqi civilians were either killed or wounded in less than two years, in addition to the displacement of about 3.2 million Iraqis during the same period, while accused the ISIS organization of practicing systematic and widespread violence against civilians, as well as abusing international human rights and humanitarian law.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/united-nations-records-killing-and-wounding-more-than-55000-iragis-less-than-2-years/>

- **9 ISIL militants killed in internal dispute**

Internal disputes between IS militants resulted in the death of 9 terrorists, a source reported on Tuesday, January 19. The incident took place west of Rumadi when Islamic State militants started a fight between themselves. Two of the casualties were IS military commanders.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=37536

- **Hundreds of families appeal to security forces to break ISIS siege east of Ramadi**

Head of Khalidiya Council in Anbar Province Ali Dawood called the security forces to break the siege imposed on hundreds of families taken by ISIS as human shields east of Ramadi. Dawood said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "Hundreds of families in Jubiya area east of Ramadi are appealing to the security forces to break the siege imposed on them by ISIS and transfer them to safer places."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/hundreds-of-families-appeal-to-security-forces-to-break-isis-siege-east-of-ramadi/>

- **3 explosions rock Baghdad, 22 casualties reported**

Three separate blasts were reported to rock Baghdad on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, resulting in a total of 22 casualties. A booby trap in Satih village, south of the capital Baghdad, killed two people and wounded 5 others, a source from Iraqi Ministry of Interior stated.

More Details:

http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=37535

- **UN report: Iraqi civilians dying at a 'staggering' rate**

Iraq witnessed a sharp increase in civilian deaths following the fall of large swaths of territory to the Islamic State group in the summer of 2014. Now despite a string of recent battlefield losses for IS, civilians in Iraq continue to die at a "staggering" rate, according to a new United Nations report. At least 18,802 civilians were killed and another 36,245 were wounded in Iraq between the start of 2014 and Oct. 31 of last year, according to the U.N. report released Tuesday. In just one six-month period between May and October last year, more than 10,000 civilians were killed.

More Details:

<http://news.yahoo.com/un-report-nearly-19-000-civilians-killed-under-102241509.html>

- **Amnesty Says Kurdish Forces Destroy Arab Homes In Iraq**

Kurdish forces have destroyed thousands of homes in villages and towns in northern Iraq in an apparent attempt to uproot Arab communities, Amnesty International says in a new report. "Peshmerga forces from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and Kurdish militias in northern Iraq have bulldozed, blown up, and burned down thousands of homes in...Arab communities in revenge for their perceived support for the so-called Islamic State (IS)", the rights group said on January 19.

More Details:

<http://www.rferl.org/content/iraq-kurdish-forces-destroy-arab-homes-report-amnesty/27498277.html?>

- **Pentagon chief: Number of U.S. troops deployed to Iraq likely to increase**

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said Tuesday that the number of U.S. troops deployed to Iraq will likely increase, citing the recent success in taking the city of Ramadi back from the Islamic State and a need to train more Iraqi military and police units as the campaign against the militants expands.

More Details:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2016/01/19/pentagon-chief-amount-of-u-s-troops-deployed-to-iraq-likely-to-increase/>

- **Islamic State Cuts Wages For Members in Iraq and Syria by Half**

According to the Guardian, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports that the Islamic State has announced its intention to reduce its members's wages by half. This economy! "Because of the exceptional circumstances that the Islamic State is passing through, a decision was taken to cut the salaries of the mujahedeen in half," ISIS said in what SOHR described as an official statement announcing the cuts.

More Details:

<http://gawker.com/islamic-state-cuts-wages-for-members-in-iraq-and-syria-1753949099?>

- **Coalition aviation conducts 24 airstrikes against ISIS in Syria and Iraq**

International coalition's Joint Task Force announced, that the United States and its allies carried out 24 air strikes on ISIS sites in Syria and Iraq. The Joint Task Force said in a statement followed by

IraqiNews.com, “Yesterday, 21 air strikes were carried out in Iraq and concentrated near the city of Ramadi, destructing different targets including an oil tank belonging to ISIS,” pointing out that, “Other air strikes were carried out in al-Hawija, Kisik, al-Mosul, al-Qayyara and Sinjar, destructing a tactical unit and combat sites.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/coalition-aviation-conducts-24-airstrikes-against-isis-in-syria-and-iraq/>

- **Iran-Backed Militias Kidnapped Three Americans in Baghdad**

Three U.S. citizens who disappeared last week in Baghdad were kidnapped and are being held by an Iranian-backed Shi'ite militia, two Iraqi intelligence and two U.S. government sources said on Tuesday. Unknown gunmen seized the three on Friday from a private residence in the southeastern Dora district of Baghdad, Iraqi officials say. They are the first Americans to be abducted in Iraq since the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 2011.

More Details:

<http://europe.newsweek.com/iran-iraq-missing-americans-kidnapped-baghdad-shiite-militias-417524?rm=eu>

- **Australia, NZ operate as one in Iraq**

Colonel Gavin Keating faced a curious quandary as he prepared to depart for Iraq - what about the rugby? As the impending commander of 300 Australians and 100 New Zealanders, he concluded the best outcome of the world cup match between Australia and New Zealand would be a draw.

More Details:

<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2016/01/20/13/50/australia-nz-operate-as-one-in-iraq?>

- **ISIS claims Iraqis among Paris attackers**

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group on Tuesday claimed that two of the extremists behind the Paris attacks on November 13 were Iraqi, according to the latest issue of its magazine Dabiq. The last page of the issue, which was distributed via online forums, is a photo montage headlined “Just Terror.”

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/01/20/ISIS-claims-Iraqis-among-Paris-attackers.html>

2. SYRIA

- **Officials deny Russian media's allegations that Turkish troops entered Syria**

Turkish security sources denied late Tuesday the allegations that Turkish troops had entered Syria near Jarablous. Soldiers crossed a rail line near the border to clear land mines but did not cross the frontier, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More Details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2016/01/20/officials-deny-russian-medias-allegations-that-turkish-troops-entered-syria?>

- **Israel Prefers IS Group to Iran and Ignores Syrian Suffering**

The Israeli Ministry of Defense said if they had to choose between Iran and the Islamic State group in Syria, he would pick the Islamic State group. In one of his most controversial remarks yet, the Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said Tuesday he would rather see Syria falling in the hands of the Islamic State group than Iran and its allies defeating the group, ignoring the plight of the Syrian people who live and suffer under the Islamic State group.

More Details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Israel-Prefers-IS-Group-to-Iran-and-Ignores-Syrian-Suffering-20160119-0039.html?>

- **Islamic State Cuts Wages for Members in Iraq and Syria by Half**

According to the Guardian, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports that the Islamic State has announced its intention to reduce its members's wages by half. This economy! "Because of the exceptional circumstances that the Islamic State is passing through, a decision was taken to cut the salaries of the mujahedeen in half," ISIS said in what SOHR described as an official statement announcing the cuts.

More Details:

<http://gawker.com/islamic-state-cuts-wages-for-members-in-iraq-and-syria-1753949099?>

- **Russian Strikes in Syria Hit Area of Suspected Massacre**

Russian airstrikes hit Islamic State militants Tuesday in the eastern Syrian province of Deir al-Zour, in the village where the extremist group had been accused of massacring as many as hundreds of people over the weekend, the Russian military said. The strikes, which Russia said had killed at least 60 militants, came as intense fighting continued for a fourth day around the provincial capital, and a

resident described seeing bodies of government soldiers who had been hanged, and truckloads of corpses.

More Details:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/20/world/middleeast/russian-strikes-in-syria-hit-area-of-suspected-massacres.html?&r=0>

- **IS frees over half of kidnapped Syrian civilians**

Islamic State has released 270 of an estimated 400 civilians, most of them women and children, kidnapped at the weekend in an attack on Syrian government-held areas. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also said, however, that the ultra-hardline group rounded up another 50 men on Tuesday during raids on houses in areas seized during four days of fighting in Deir al-Zor, the provincial capital.

More Details:

http://www.3news.co.nz/world/is-frees-over-half-of-kidnapped-syrian-civilians-2016012014?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+co%2FMvia+%283News+-+International+News%29#axzz3xljaq5yA

- **Cameron tells EU to relax Jordan trade restrictions to help refugees**

British Prime Minister David Cameron will call on EU leaders to relax trade rules with Jordan to help spur economic growth and help "hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees across the region to work". Before arriving at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Cameron said he would, together with Queen Rania of Jordan, discuss with business and political leaders on Friday (22 January) what steps could be taken to create economic opportunities in Jordan.

More Details:

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/trade-society/cameron-tells-eu-relax-jordan-trade-help-refugees-321140?>

- **ISIL confirms death of 'Jihadi John'**

The Islamic State militant group has confirmed that its member known as "Jihadi John" was killed in a drone strike in Syria last year. The masked militant appeared in videos that announced the executions of Japanese journalist Kenji Goto, US journalists and other Western hostages.

More Details:

http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/news/20160120_80.html?

- **US Senate to Vote on Syrian, Iraqi Refugees**

The U.S. Senate is expected to hold a test vote later Wednesday on whether to severely restrict America's acceptance of refugees from Syria and Iraq, because of continuing fears that the Islamic State group and other terrorist infiltrators could be among the millions who have fled horrific violence and brutality in their home countries.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/us-senate-to-vote-on-syrian-iraqi-refugees/3153980.html?>

- **Russia Shows Military Might in Syria Ahead of Peace Talks**

Russian warplanes were taking off Wednesday from their base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia, which was bustling with activity as Moscow pressed its air blitz days before scheduled peace talks. A pair of Su-25 jets flew past, returning from a mission shortly after sunrise, and air force crews readied combat jets for more missions. Two heavy transport planes were parked near the main terminal as soldiers toting assault rifles stood guard.

More Details:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SYRIA_RUSSIA_BASE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-01-20-02-14-05

3. IRAN

- **Plan to Sustain Gas Output from Joint Field with Turkmen**

Iran plans to maintain its daily gas output of 1 million cubic meters from the Gonbadli Gas Field along Iran's border with Turkmenistan, managing director of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company said. Referring to the fact that maintaining production levels of the country's oil and gas fields is subject to the rate of energy in their reservoirs, Salbali Karimi said by taking a wide range of measures, the company has managed to sustain the gas field's output.

More details:

<http://financialtribune.com/articles/energy/34586/plan-sustain-gas-output-joint-field-turkmen>

- **Iran seeks partners for fuel, energy management**

IFCO managing director has announced the launch of new oil talks with Japan, South Korea and some European countries on implementation of fuel and energy consumption management projects.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113721/iran-seeks-partners-for-fuel-energy-management>

- **Rouhani, Cameron highlight ‘more active bilateral ties’**

Iran’s Hassan Rouhani has told British Prime Minister David Cameron through a phone call JCPOA implementation should bring about improved economic ties. Cameron also predicted that a visa issuance section of British embassy in Tehran would start working soon and that he would hopefully meet President Rouhani.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113732/Rouhani-Cameron-highlight-more-active-bilateral-ties>

- **JCPOA model for solving complicated discords**

In a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here on Tuesday, Rouhani ponted to the existing close relations between the two states and nations, saying that Iran's nuclear deal with 5+1 has led to favorable conditions for all countries of the region and we can make the best use of the capacities and to foster ties and mutual relations to the benefit of both nations. Pointed to nuclear negotiations as a model for solving complicated issues of the region.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113740/JCPOA-model-for-solving-complicated-discords>

- **Iran-Pakistan military power deters foreign plots: Shamkhani**

The secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, says the military power of Iran and Pakistan has so far deterred many foreign plots and mischief. Shamkhani added that Iranian and Pakistani military might is aimed at safeguarding the interests of the Muslim world in favor of regional unity and stability.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/01/19/446488/Iran-Pakistan-Shamkhani-Rahil-Sharif/>

- **Salehi: Iran preparing to build two nuclear facilities with China**

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has said the Islamic Republic is preparing to sign an agreement with China to build two nuclear facilities in Iran.

More details:

http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=252327

- **EU foreign policy chief plans Iran visit in spring**

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini is planning to lead a delegation of officials from the European Commission to Tehran this spring in a bid to bolster ties with the Islamic Republic following the implementation of the nuclear agreement, she said.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/135318.html>

- **Israel war minister says Iran, not Daesh, is main enemy**

He said if had he to choose between Iran and Daesh, he would choose ISIS. Iran had greater capabilities than the Islamic State and remained the biggest threat for Israel.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81928284/>

- **IRGC: Iran will disrupts plans to dismember Syria, Iraq**

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said Iran will disrupt any plans by the US and the Zionist regime to dismember Iraq and Syria.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81928433/>

- **Steinmeier: Iran key to stability in Middle East**

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier emphasized the role of Iran in efforts to establish security in the Middle East, expressing hope for an end to Iran-Saudi tensions.

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/135315.html>

- **Leader: US remarks 'cause for suspicion'**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says recent remarks by US leaders after official implementation of a nuclear accord and lifting of sanctions on Iran are “totally a cause for suspicion.”

More details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/135273.html>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Israel to announce major land appropriation in Jordan Valley**

The Israeli government will announce the allocation of 370 acres of West Bank agricultural land near the Palestinian city of Jericho as state lands, the largest such land appropriation since August 2014. The area, part of which has been worked in recent years by Israeli farmers, is situated north of the West Bank settlement of Almog, in the Jordan Valley, according to an Army Radio report on Tuesday. Additional details about the move were to be published Wednesday morning.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-announce-major-land-seizure-in-jordan-valley/>

- **US backs European move to distinguish Israel from West Bank**

The US State Department came out Tuesday in support a European Union move to distinguish West Bank settlements from Israel proper, while stating that settlement product labeling is not tantamount to a boycott. “Our longstanding position on settlements is clear,” State Department spokesman John Kirby said at the department’s daily press briefing Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/us-backs-european-move-to-distinguish-israel-from-west-bank/>

- **Human Rights Watch Calls on Businesses to Withdraw From Israeli Settlements**

For almost half a century, Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories occupied during the Six Day War have grown, imposing a two-tiered system—one that not only discriminates against Palestinians but deprives them of basic rights and adversely impacts their society’s economic viability. Proponents of a two-state solution have watched with dismay as every new apartment and settlement erected in occupied territory created new stumbling blocks on the path to peace and ending the conflict. And yet Israel has faced few consequences. On Tuesday morning, however, New York-based Human Rights Watch released a report calling for an end to this impunity, at least where the international business community is concerned, the Nation reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941029001525>

- **Palestine leader: Armenians will always live in Jerusalem, Bethlehem**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas Monday, January 18 joined Christmas celebrations according to Armenian Calendar and said Christians of Palestine are “the salt of this land and will never leave,”

Massis Post reports citing WAFA. He said, during a reception ceremony held by the Armenian community on the occasion of Christmas in the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem, that individuals who call to get rid of Christians especially Armenians should “eat their hearts out because Armenians will always remain in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem.”

More Details:

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/204149/>?

- **Israel forcibly treated hunger-striking journalist**

After 56 days on hunger strike, Palestinian journalist Muhammad al-Qiq is now losing consciousness intermittently and constantly vomiting acid from his empty stomach. He cannot walk without assistance and his hearing and sight have weakened. Al-Qiq, a 33-year-old journalist, is undertaking a hunger strike to protest being held without charge or trial under an administrative detention order issued by an Israeli military court late last year. Administrative detention is a relic of the British Mandate used by Israel to indefinitely imprison Palestinians on the basis secret evidence.

More Details:

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/israel-forcibly-treated-hunger-striking-journalist?>

- **Palestinians lambast Airbnb’s West Bank settlement listings**

Like many vacation rental operators around the world, Moshe Gordon has listed his property on Airbnb, luring visitors with a stunning vista of desert landscape and boasting of proximity to both Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. What it doesn’t mention is that the “cozy fully furnished” apartment, with its cable TV, Internet and hiking trails, is in a West Bank settlement.

More Details:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jan/20/palestinians-lambast-airbnbs-west-bank-settlement-/?>

- **Tension Grows with EU, US over Settlements**

The European Union finalised its resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and Israeli settlements Monday, confirming that the EU considers Israel's borders to be on the 1967 Green Line, and that any agreement made between Israel and member countries would accordingly not apply to settlements. "The EU expresses its commitment to ensure that – in line with international law – all agreements between the State of Israel and the EU must unequivocally and explicitly indicate their inapplicability to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967," the resolution reads.

More Details:

<http://www.imemc.org/article/74648?>

- **Collapse of Peace Talks Spurs War of Words against Israeli Settlements**

The collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process a year ago has led to an accelerating war of words over Israeli settlements, with Israel accusing its growing chorus of foreign critics of prejudging the final terms of a peace deal at best – and anti-Semitism at worst. The battle heated up this week with the release of a report by Human Rights Watch arguing that doing business with West Bank settlements reinforces Israel’s presence there and contributes to human rights abuses.

More Details:

http://forward.com/news/breaking-news/330718/collapse-of-peace-talks-spurs-war-of-words-against-israeli-settlements/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Main

- **Father of alleged Otniel killer: ‘Why should I be punished for what he did?’**

The father of Morad Bader Abdullah Adais, the 15-year-old Palestinian accused of stabbing mother-of-six Dafna Meir to death in her West Bank home on Sunday, said that had he been aware of his son’s actions, it’s “very possible” he would have turned him in to the Israeli authorities. In an interview to Channel 2 television aired Tuesday, Abu Adham expressed concern about Israel’s plan to demolish his home in response to the deadly terror attack.

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/father-of-alleged-otniel-killer-why-should-i-be-punished-for-what-he-did/>

- **Palestinians banned from West Bank settlements after stabbings**

Israel decided on Tuesday (January 19) to temporarily ban Palestinian workers from Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, following two anti-Israeli stabbings there in two days. The Israeli military said the move would be reviewed on a daily basis and was necessary to maintain security.

More Details:

<http://www.euronews.com/2016/01/19/palestinians-banned-from-west-bank-settlements-after-stabbings/>

- **US 'concerned and perplexed' by Israel's West Bank policy**

US Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro said Monday the US was "concerned and perplexed" by Israeli policy in the occupied Palestinian territory in a nearly unprecedented condemnation of Israeli policy.

Speaking at the Institute for National Security Studies' annual conference in Tel Aviv, Shapiro warned that Israeli policies were undermining "the viability of a two-state solution."

More Details:

<http://www.maannnews.com/Content.aspx?ID=769881>

- **New Iranian-Backed Terror Group Makes Inroads in West Bank, Gaza**

A new Iranian-backed terror group is making inroads in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, where it operates underground with the potential capacity to deliver devastating attacks to Israel, according to regional experts who have been investigating the organization's rise. The group, which goes by the name Harakat al-Sabireen, was established around May 2014 but has begun in recent months to boost its public profile on social media and brag about its plots to wage jihad against Israel, according to information gathered by regional analysts and provided to the Washington Free Beacon.

More Details:

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/iranian-backed-terror-group-makes-inroads-west-bank-gaza/>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Cameron tells EU to relax Jordan trade restrictions to help refugees**

British Prime Minister David Cameron will call on EU leaders to relax trade rules with Jordan to help spur economic growth and help "hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees across the region to work".

More details:

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/trade-society/cameron-tells-eu-relax-jordan-trade-help-refugees-321140?>

- **In Jordan, UN refugee agency chief urges greater efforts to end Syria conflict**

The international community must make greater efforts to end the conflict in Syria or risk prolonging the world's biggest humanitarian crisis for many years to come, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said during a trip to the region.

More details:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53044#.Vp89gLaLRkg>

- **Jordan plans \$7bn water projects over 10 years**

Jordanian government is set to implement projects worth JD5.3 billion (\$7 billion) to secure additional water resources as part of its water management strategy for the next 10 years, said a report.

More details:

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_299044.html?

- **Israel to announce major land appropriation in Jordan Valley**

The Israeli government will announce the allocation of 370 acres of West Bank agricultural land near the Palestinian city of Jericho as state lands, the largest such land appropriation since August 2014.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-announce-major-land-seizure-in-jordan-valley/>

- **Syrian Prime Minister Holds Meeting with Delegation of Jordan**

Prime Minister of Syria, Wael Halaki, met today with a Jordanian delegation headed by President of the Union of Jurists of that country, Samih Khreis.

More details:

http://www.plenglish.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4529671&Itemid=1

- **Fakhoury concludes working visit to Paris**

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury concluded a working visit to Paris where he met with top officials over bilateral ties and issues of mutual concern.

More details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/fakhoury-concludes-working-visit-paris>

- **Salam in Brussels for EU Talks**

Prime Minister Tammam Salam traveled to Brussels on Wednesday to hold talks with European Union President Donald Tusk and other top EU officials.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/199841-salam-in-brussels-for-eu-talks>

- **Aoun Says Hizbullah Backs His Nomination: 'Declaration of Intent' to be Part of Inaugural Address**

Change and Reform bloc chief MP Michel Aoun said Tuesday that Hizbullah still backs his presidential bid, a day after Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea endorsed his nomination during a ceremony in Maarab.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/199829-aoun-says-hizbullah-backs-his-nomination-declaration-of-intent-to-be-part-of-inaugural-address?>

- **Lebanese Sunni cleric urges for confrontation with Zionist nukes**

Sheikh Hashem al Minkara, Head of Al Tawhid Islamic Movement, referred to Iran's nuclear activities and lifting of sanctions against the country slamming international bodies for neutral stance in regards to the nuclear facilities of the Zionist regime of Israel.

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/01/20/731258/story.html?>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Russia and Qatar Agree On Steps to Increase the Efficiency of Fight against Terrorism**

Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov announced that President Vladimir Putin and the Emir of Qatar Tamim Bin Hamad agreed on specific steps will increase the effectiveness of anti-terrorism operations. Lavrov added according to the Sputnik Russian agency: Putin and Emir of Qatar focused, during their discussion, on the international issues on the Syrian settlement, the two leaders also talked about the situation in Yemen, Libya and other countries in the Middle East.

More Details:

http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?yQX1cMPPap5dFSM36dsRrA%253d%253d

- **President Xi Jinping in Saudi Arabia to boost China profile**

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, the first stop on an unprecedented trip to raise the economic giant's profile in a troubled region. Xi, making his first presidential visit to the Middle East, will also travel to Egypt and Iran. The official Saudi Press Agency confirmed his arrival.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=74780>

- **Saudi foreign minister asks if Iran can change**

Iran continues to support violent extremist groups which have been responsible for the deaths of approximately 1,100 U.S. troops in Iraq since 2003, Saudi foreign minister, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, has said in an opinion piece published in the New York Times Tuesday. Jubeir wrote that world was watching Iran “for signs of change, hoping it will evolve from a rogue revolutionary state into a respectable member of the international community.”

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/01/20/Saudi-foreign-minister-asks-if-Iran-can-change.html>

- **Ethiopians, Somalis flooding into Yemen despite conflict: UN**

Nearly 100,000 Ethiopians and Somalis last year travelled by boat to Yemen despite the conflict raging there, the UN said Tuesday, warning about the dangers of the journey. "Clearly it's extremely dangerous, both for the journey and for what they meet inside Yemen," UN refugee agency spokesman Adrian Edwards told AFP. His warning came less than two weeks after 36 people drowned trying to reach Yemen on January 8.

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/middle-east/366928/ethiopians-somalis-flooding-into-yemen-despite-conflict-un>

- **Confronting militants in Yemen ‘inevitable’: Bahah**

Yemeni Prime Minister Khaled Bahah said on Tuesday that confronting militants in government-controlled regions of the war-torn country was inevitable in the future. Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (IS) group are both active in Yemen, but so far the Yemeni government and its allies have concentrated on battling Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels.

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/01/19/Yemen-PM-says-confronting-militants-inevitable-.html>

- **Nine Yemeni students, woman killed in Saudi airstrikes**

The Saudi military has conducted another combat sortie striking Yemen’s southwest, where at least 10 civilians were killed. Yemen’s al-Masira television channel reported that the Tuesday airstrike left

nine students and a women dead in an area in Ta'izz Province. Nearly ten others were also injured. Meanwhile, Yemen's official Saba Net news agency said more than a dozen civilians were killed and five others wounded in similar attacks on homes in the town of Haydan, the northwestern province of Sa'ada.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/nine-yemeni-students-woman-killed-saudi-airstrikes-795204>

- **US, UAE Officers Killed in Yemeni Missile Attack on Saudi Coalition**

The Yemeni army and popular forces' missile attack on a Saudi-led command center in Ma'rib killed over 120 mercenaries, including the Saudi, UAE and US officers. "The Yemeni army missile unit fired a Tochka missile at the operations room of the Saudi-led forces in Ma'rib (on Sunday) and killed over 120 mercenaries with different nationalities," Ali al-Houthi, an Ansarullah Movement Leader, told FNA on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1780920>

- **Mohammed receives Mexican president**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the visiting President of the United Mexican States, Enrique Pena Nieto, have held expanded discussions regarding a number of regional and international issues of joint interest. They also tackled ways to enhance cooperation for the benefit of supporting sustainable development in various countries as well as building communication bridges among peoples across the world to reach justice, stability and peace concepts.

More Details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/government/mohammed-receives-mexican-president-2016-01-19-1.617912>

- **Amir meets Yazidi IS survivor**

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives yesterday at Bayan Palace Nadia Murad, a Yazidi survivor from the so-called Islamic State.

More Details:

<http://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/amir-meets-yazidi-is-survivor/>

- **Sharif takes Saudi conditions for reconciliation to Tehran**

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army chief General Raheel Sharif arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to meet Iranian leadership, as part of efforts to defuse rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The two will meet Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and call on Iranian grand spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamenei, Dawn online reported.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/sharif-takes-saudi-conditions-for-reconciliation-to-tehran-1.1656486>

7. EGYPT

- **Iraqi and Egyptian defence ministers discuss military cooperation**

Iraq's Defence Minister Khalid al-Obeidi met with his Egyptian counterpart Sedki Sobhi in Cairo on Tuesday to discuss military issues and means to enhance coordination and cooperation between the two countries.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/23433-iraqi-and-egyptian-defence-ministers-discuss-military-cooperation?>

- **Egypt, Libya Agree On Supporting Efforts to Form National Accord Govt**

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry met on Monday 18/1/2016 his Libyan counterpart Mohamed al-Dairi, who is currently visiting Egypt, to consult with officials on the conditions in crisis-hit Libya along with efforts to form a national accord government, said Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid. The Egyptian and Libyan sides agreed on the need for supporting efforts aiming to form a national accord government and put Libya first above any and all considerations, added the spokesman.

More Details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201601191125.html>

- **Chinese President Xi Jinping's Egypt visit aims to strengthen strategic, economic ties**

The Chinese president will have a busy two days in Egypt Chinese President Xi Jinping will start his two-day visit to Egypt on Wednesday, discussing bilateral ties and regional matters with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi. His visit comes as part of a 10-day tour in the Middle East which includes stops in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

More Details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/181444/Egypt/Politics-/Chinese-President-Xi-Jinpings-Egypt-visit-aims-to-.aspx>

- **Saudi, Egypt tumble in early trade**

Jan 20 Stock markets in Saudi Arabia and Egypt tumbled in early trade on Wednesday as investors sold off aggressively across the board after renewed weakness in oil prices and global equity markets.

More Details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/189703/news/saudi-egypt-tumble-in-early-trade?>

- **Xi Jinping in the Middle East, treading new ground**

President Xi Jinping's trip to the three Middle Eastern countries - Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran - is the first in years for top Chinese leader personally getting involved in state diplomacy in this region. The trip is significant both for China and the regional countries in substantial terms in the areas of energy, security and economic matters.

More Details:

<http://english.cntv.cn/2016/01/20/ARTI47pylDkpsyx7kpEfgzlp160120.shtml?>

- **Egypt court upholds niqab ban for lecturers**

An Egyptian court has upheld a decision by Cairo University, Egypt's oldest institute of higher education, to bar lecturers from wearing the niqab (Islamic face-veil) in class, a judicial source said.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/world/egypt-court-upholds-niqab-ban-for-lecturers/507326?>

- **Press Release: British Minister Lord Ahmad visits Cairo**

British Minister Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon yesterday visited Cairo for talks with Egyptian government ministers to discuss progress on aviation security in Sharm el-Sheikh.

More Details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/189720/news/press-release-british-minister-lord-ahmad-visits-cairo?>

- **Egypt removes media gag order about 2012 election forgery**

The Administrative Court ordered Tuesday the annulment of a media gag previously imposed regarding the alleged forgery of the 2012 presidential elections, which featured former president Mohamed Morsi and his rival Ahmed Shafiq.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/egypt-removes-media-gag-order-about-2012-election-forgery-795564>

- **Key facts behind China's warming ties with Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt as Xi Jinping signs mega oil deals during his Middle East tour**

Oil giants Saudi Aramco and China's Sinopec sign a framework deal worth up to US\$1.5 billion during president's visit: trips to Egypt and Iran next on agenda as Xi Jinping's diplomacy push through the Middle East continues

More Details:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/1903393/key-facts-behind-chinas-warming-ties-saudi-arabia-iran>

- **Egyptian Foreign Minister on terrorism: 'We are victims here'**

"Our tourist industry has been sufficiently damaged. And the Egyptian people bear the brunt," Sameh Shoukry insists on DW's Conflict Zone. But is Cairo doing enough to protect Egypt and tourists from terrorism?

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/egyptian-foreign-minister-on-terrorism-we-are-victims-here/a-18974730?ü>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Libya: Factions Announce Unity Government**

A United Nations peace deal has resulted in a unity government for Libya, hoping to resolve years of bloodshed. Many members of both parliaments have expressed their doubts about the plan.

More Details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201601191214.html>

- **Sisi receives Egyptians after released from captivity in Libya**

Twenty Egyptians held captive by Libyan militia groups were released and received by Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi at the Cairo international airport, state-run Ahram online reported on Tuesday.

More Details:

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2016-01/20/content_37617532.htm?

- **Washington lauds GNA's formation**

The United States has commended the formation of the Government of National Accord as a significant step forward. State Department spokesman John Kirby said that Washington was "committed to providing the unified government full political backing and technical, economic, security, and counterterrorism assistance as requested". Kirby said that the US considered the agreement on the composition of the GNA "a significant step forward on the path towards Libya's peace and stability".

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/01/19/washington-lauds-gnas-formation/>

- **Kasserine violence escalates**

Clashes between unemployed graduates and the police have continued around the headquarters of Kasserine Governorate. Following the breakdown of a meeting between protestors and the region's governor, a number of unemployed graduates attempted suicide on the roof of the Governorate's headquarters. Two of them fell and have been taken to hospital.

More Details:

<http://www.tunisia-live.net/2016/01/19/kasserine-violence-escalates/#sthash.welobaRd.dpuf>

- **Counterterrorism requires "efficient" legal system**

Counterterrorism especially requires "an effective legal system within each nation," the Japanese ambassador to Algiers said Tuesday. The workshop, organized by the UN Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and funded by the Embassy of Japan, deals with themes related to international legal framework for the fight against terrorism.

More Details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10399-counterterrorism-requires-efficient-legal-system>

- **President speaks of finding new ways to expand Malta-Algeria trade opportunities**

As part of the programme of the current Presidential state visit, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca yesterday addressed the Maltese-Algerian Business Forum, attended by Maltese and Algerian businessmen, in the presence of Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-01-20/local-news/President-speaks-of-finding-new-ways-to-expand-Malta-Algeria-trade-opportunities-6736152018?>

- **Lamamra receives Secretary General of Coordination of Azawad Movements**

In a brief statement to the press at the end of the audience, Ag Acharif underlined that the consultative meeting of the monitoring committee of the agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali, held Monday in Algiers “allowed a very important assessment of the implementation of the agreement” adding that the participants were unanimous on the necessity to speed up the implementation of the agreement.”

More Details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10406-lamamra-receives-secretary-general-of-coordination-of-azawad-movements?>

- **Germany Threatens To Stop Aid to Morocco over Refused Refugees**

The German government has threatened to suspend development aid to Morocco if it does not take back its nationals whose refugee status was rejected. German Chancellor Angela Merkel is reconsidering her country’s foreign aid to those countries that do not cooperate in taking back their citizens who requested asylum in Germany and whose applications were denied.

More Details:

<http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2016/01/177721/germany-threatens-to-stop-aid-to-morocco-over-refused-refugees/>

- **Swedish King Hails Reforms Initiated in Morocco under Leadership of King Mohammed VI**

Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf hailed the process of reforms initiated in Morocco under the leadership of King Mohammed VI, Morocco’s speaker of the House of Representatives Rachid Talbi ElAlami said here on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2016/01/177735/swedish-king-hails-reforms-initiated-in-morocco-under-leadership-of-king-mohammed-vi/>

- **Tunisia commends formation of government of national accord in Libya**

Tunisia “commends” the formation of a government of national accord in Libya announced early in the day, said the Foreign Affairs Ministry in a statement released public on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/32685-tunisia-commends-formation-of-national-concord-government-in-libya>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Ghani Leaves Kabul for World Economic Forum**

President Ashraf Ghani has left Kabul for Switzerland where he will participate in the 46th World Economic Forum at Davos ski-resort from January 20 to 23.

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/23377-ghani-leaves-kabul-for-world-economic-forum>

- **Ghani congratulates Rouhani on sanctions lift**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani congratulated his Iranian counterpart President Hassan Rouhani on the lifting of international sanctions, his office said on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2016/01/19/ghani-congratulates-rouhani-sanctions-lift>

- **High ranking police officers sacked for failing to prevent attacks in Kabul**

Following investigation into two security incidents in Kabul city, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has sacked some high ranking police officers for negligence in their duties.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/chiefs-of-two-police-districts-sacked-following-attack-on-school-in-kabul-4499?>

- **Quadrilateral process keeps hopes alive for Afghan peace process**

Top Afghan, Chinese, Pakistani and U.S. officials, who will keep on their discussions to advance the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, have again pushed the Taliban to enter into early peace talks to resolve all differences politically.

More details:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/20/c_135027583.htm?

- **Taliban and police hunt for man who chopped off wife's nose**

A man in Afghanistan is being hunted by the Taliban and the police for chopping off his wife's nose. The victim, Reza Gul, 20, is said to be stable and will be flown to Turkey for reconstructive surgery.

More details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/afghanistan-taliban-police-hunt-man-who-chopped-off-wifes-nose-1538926?>

- **21 Killed, 50 Wounded In Pakistan University Attack**

At least 21 people have been killed and over 50 wounded after a number of gunmen stormed the Bacha Khan University in Charsadda town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan early Wednesday morning.

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/23376-21-killed-50-wounded-in-pakistan-university-attack?>

- **Taliban claim attack on university in NW Pakistan, 21 dead**

Pakistani police have told Agence France Presse that the operation against gunmen who attacked a university in the northwest of the country is over, and that 21 people have been killed.

More details:

<http://www.euronews.com/2016/01/20/pakistani-police-say-charsadda-university-attack-over-21-dead/>

- **India stands with Pakistan in this horrifying terrorist attack: Congress**

Condemning the horrifying attack on Bacha Khan University in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, Congress leader R.P.N. Singh on Wednesday said that in this hour of tragedy the Indian Government stands in solidarity with Pakistan.

More details:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail2/story248997/india-stands-with-pakistan-in-this-horrifying-terrorist-attack-congress.html?>

- **Terrorism common concern for Iran, Pakistan**

Ishaq Jahangiri received Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif arrived in Tehran Tuesday after a visit to Riyadh the day before. Iran's Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan welcomed Mr. Sharif and his delegation in airport in Tehran earlier Tuesday.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113731/Terrorism-common-concern-for-Iran-Pakistan?>

- **PM Sharif In Switzerland To Attend World Economic Forum**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Switzerland here on Tuesday to lead the Pakistani delegation at the 46th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting will be attended by over 40 heads of state and government and 2,500 leaders from business and society from 20 to 23 January in Davos, Switzerland.

More details:

<http://www.geo.tv/latest/100442-PM-Sharif-in-Switzerland-to-attend-World-Economic-Forum>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Obama calls Erdogan to condemn terror attacks**

United States President Barack Obama telephoned his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday to extend his condolences over recent terror attacks, Erdogan's office said. Obama condemned last week's suicide attack in Istanbul that killed ten German tourists, as well as a car-bombing in Diyarbakir, southeast Turkey that killed six, the president's office said.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/obama-calls-erdogan-to-condemn-terror-attacks-30944>

- **Security sources deny Turkish troops entered Syria**

Turkish security sources on Tuesday denied claims that Turkish troops had entered Syria near Jarabulus. Soldiers crossed a rail line near the border to clear land mines but did not cross the frontier, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/security-sources-deny-turkish-troops-entered-syria/507603>

- **ILO praises Turkey for issuing work permits to Syrians**

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Turkey has welcomed the Turkish government's decision to issue work permits for refugees, according to a statement released on its official website on Tuesday. On Jan. 15, the Turkish Government passed a law allowing many of the 2.5 million Syrian refugees, who have officially been registered under temporary protection in the country, to apply for work permits.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/ilo-praises-turkey-for-issuing-work-permits-to-syrians-30823>

- **Kuwait, Turkey sign deal for Syrian refugee aid**

Kuwaiti and Turkish officials Tuesday signed an aid deal to help Syrian refugees taking shelter in Turkey. Kuwait pledged to funnel \$20 million to Turkey to be spent in education and health services for nearly 2.5 million displaced Syrians living in the country. Murtaza Yetiş, chief adviser for Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, attended the signing ceremony of the aid protocol on behalf of the prime minister. He described it as an important agreement for Syrian refugees that would enable serious cooperation between the two countries on health and education for Syrians. "We believe this is the first stage of larger cooperation between countries aiding [refugees]. The crisis and the war in Syria is still ongoing, and we find it highly meaningful that Kuwait supports [displaced Syrians]," he said.

More Details:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2016/01/20/kuwait-turkey-sign-deal-for-syrian-refugee-aid?>

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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