



# 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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**29 FEBRUARY 2016**

**NO: 2111**

<b>1. IRAQ.....</b>	<b>4</b>
• Masroor Barzani Meets EU's Ambassador .....	4
• Bomb blast wounds 5 persons west of Baghdad .....	4
• Obama confirms that the war on / Daash / will not stop until defeating it.....	4
• ISIS executes 35 of its elements west of Nineveh .....	4
• The European Union Ambassador declares from Kirkuk his support for Iraq in its war against Daash.....	5
• Dohuk decides to lessen rents and fuel prices .....	5
• Shuwairda and UAE Ambassador discuss bilateral relations and international and local developments.....	5
• Maysan Police: Iraqi police forces arrest 15 wanted individuals in Maysan.....	6
• 'It was such pain, such humiliation': 18-year-old describes her life as an ISIS sex slave .....	6
• Anti-Terrorism forces fully control Silo Khan Dari, evacuate besieged families .....	6
• Iraqi security forces repel ISIS attack west of Ramadi, kill 9 suicide bombers.....	6
• PM Blair kept top military staff in the dark about Iraq, explosive book claims .....	7
• Iraq Death Toll From IS Bombing of Baghdad Market Now at 73 .....	7
• US Warning of 'Catastrophic Failure' of Iraq's Mosul Dam .....	7
• Iraq: ISIS militants executes 35 of its elements on charges of treason in west of Nineveh.....	8
<b>2. SYRIA.....</b>	<b>8</b>
• Syria and UNICEF discuss activating joint work in child care .....	8
• Thousands may have died in Syria sieges, UN human rights chief says.....	8
• Hezbollah Recovers Body of Senior Commander Killed in Syria .....	9
• NATO chief says concerned about Russian military build-up in Syria .....	9
• Syria government troops retake strategic road from IS fighters .....	9
• The Sound of Silence: Life Returns to Normal in Syria as Ceasefire Holds.....	9
• Baghdadi appoints ISIS female fighter to Syria battalion .....	10
• US and Russia continue Syria ceasefire talks as Assad closes in on Aleppo.....	10
• Syria: Gov't Forces Preparing for Large-Scale Anti-Terrorism Operation in Idlib.....	10
• Netanyahu: Any Syria resolution must be in line with Israel's interests.....	11
<b>3. IRAN .....</b>	<b>11</b>
• Hassan Rouhani and allies win most Tehran seats in Assembly of Experts elections .....	11
• Reformists ahead in elections to Iran's Assembly of Experts.....	11
• Top Iran conservatives lose seats on key supervisory body.....	11
• Elections turnout raised Iran on international scene .....	12
• First Iran container ship to dock at European ports.....	12
• Economy remains top focus for Iran's Rouhani, emboldened by polls.....	12
• Iran preparing to launch satellite into orbit, US experts say.....	12
• Swiss president calls his talks with Iranian officials 'constructive' .....	13
• Iran election could see country come in from the cold .....	13
• Iran top leader Khamenei praises high turnout in elections: media .....	13
<b>4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE.....</b>	<b>13</b>

• Anger in Germany over Netanyahu's 'distortion' .....	13
• Two Palestinians shot, critically injured by Israeli forces near Bethlehem .....	14
• Japan donates \$220,000 for Gaza water, health projects.....	14
• Netanyahu welcomes Syria cease-fire but says Peace Deal must address Israeli interests .....	14
• Settlers Resume Provocative Visits to Jerusalem's al-Aqsa .....	14
• Shoe Thrown at Egyptian Lawmaker for Having Dinner with Israeli Ambassador .....	15
• Israeli Police Officer Wounded in Hit-and-run in Nazareth.....	15
• Israeli Arab Teacher Fired for Screening Oscar-nominated Film That Offends Local Islamists. ....	15
• Israeli Forces Detain Palestinian Suspect in settlement Mall Attack .....	15
• Assad Regime Using Israeli Drones against Syrian Rebels.....	15
<b>5. JORDAN and LEBANON.....</b>	<b>16</b>
• Jordan Seeks Easy Loans from World Bank as Rules Changed .....	16
• Lower House to discuss US-Jordan treaty on Tuesday.....	16
• PM receives World Bank delegation .....	16
• UJ students organise '27th protest' against tuition hike .....	17
• Fiscal outcome depends on politics .....	17
• Berri holds onto Hizbullah-Mustaqbal Dialogue despite tension .....	17
• Israel accuses Lebanon of making more than 2,000 violations of Resolution 1701 in 2015 ....	17
• Salam decides to repair locally the relations with the Arabian Gulf countries .....	18
• Hezbollah supporters blocked roads across Lebanon to protest a satirical.....	18
<b>6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA.....</b>	<b>18</b>
• Executive-legislature relation based on strategic partnership.....	18
• Policeman killed in Kuwait is Saudi national .....	18
• Bahraini delegation off to reinforce Bahraini-Turkish business ties .....	19
• UAE- Hungarian Joint Economic Committee to begin meetings on Tuesday.....	19
• Kuwaitis condemn MP's verbal attack on Saudi Arabia .....	19
• Arab League urges nuclear-free Middle East .....	19
• Mohammed bin Rashid offers condolences to family of Emirati serviceman Mohammed Rashid Al Dhanhani.....	20
• Cabinet creates councils for Youth, Scientists, Education and Health in UAE .....	20
• Saudi King meets Danish Crown Prince .....	20
• Yemeni forces' victory bring promise of relief to Jawf residents.....	20
<b>7. EGYPT.....</b>	<b>21</b>
• Egypt jails Coptic Christians for insulting Islam .....	21
• Qaeda leader's brother released pending probes in Egypt.....	21
• Egypt Says 'Personal Reasons' Behind Murder of Italian Student .....	21
• Egypt's President Says Criticism Threatens the State .....	21
• Sisi says October 31 Russian plane crash caused by militant forces .....	22
• Egypt buys four wheat cargoes in sign of thaw with traders .....	22
• Egyptian-Arab military exercises commence in Saudi Arabia .....	22
• Africa: Egypt Business Forum Promotes Key African Ties .....	22
• Egypt centre for torture victims challenges order to close .....	22
• Egypt could send troops to Gulf if asked.....	23
<b>8. NORTH AFRICA.....</b>	<b>23</b>

• Algerian-Chinese relations development: President Bouteflika's contribution hailed by Chinese counterpart.....	23
• President Bouteflika receives Portugal's FM.....	23
• Europeans must be inspired by Algerian experience in de-radicalisation .....	23
• Mystery of air attack on IS convoy near Bani Walid.....	24
• Washington is considering the restoration of the monarchy in Libya .....	24
• Tunisia working with Libya on Sabratha IS identification, steps up security following US raid	24
• France's 'secret war' against the IS group in Libya .....	24
• Alain Juppé pays posthumous tribute to victims of Bardo attack.....	25
• Germany Understands Morocco's Position on European Court's Ruling: German Official .....	25
• MEP: I understand Morocco's Decision to Suspend Ties with EU.....	25
<b>9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN .....</b>	<b>25</b>
• Salman Taseer's killer Mumtaz Qadri sent to gallows .....	25
• Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's documentary wins Oscar .....	26
• No place for honour killing in Islam: PM .....	26
• Women's bill in line with the Quaid's vision: CM.....	26
• Pakistan Army 'determined To Finish All Terrorists', Says COAS .....	26
• MoD: 57 militants killed in latest counter-terrorism operations .....	26
• Senior ISIS commanders among 7 killed in Nangarhar drone strike .....	27
• 1 killed, 10 wounded as rocket hits residential house in Kunar.....	27
• 600 Afghan Citizens Rounded-up in Nowshera Crackdown.....	27
• NDS rescues 3 hostages in Logar, 4 still in kidnappers' custody .....	27
<b>10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.....</b>	<b>28</b>
• Turkey says it will not allow PYD corridor in north Syria.....	28
• Turkey condemns Baghdad terror attacks .....	28



## 1. IRAQ,

- **Masroor Barzani Meets EU's Ambassador**

The adviser of the Kurdistan Region Security Council, Masroor Barzani discussed with the European Union's ambassador to Iraq, Patrick Simonetta situation in the region and the war on Daash. A statement by the Kurdistan Democratic Party said, "the two sides discussed, during the meeting, also ways to address the existing problems between the provincial government and the federal government and the causes of the financial crisis to the Kurdistan region, and the requirements of the Peshmerga forces and the needs of displaced people and refugees in the region.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?jINDc8T6PAEsHtAFb8GvGg%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?jINDc8T6PAEsHtAFb8GvGg%253d%253d)

- **Bomb blast wounds 5 persons west of Baghdad**

A source in the Iraqi police in Baghdad province said on Sunday, that five people have been wounded in a bomb blast west of Baghdad. The source said in a statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, "An explosive device emplaced inside a house in the area of al-Zaidan in the district of Abu Gharib (west of Baghdad) has went off, resulting in the injury of five people, including two children and one woman," adding that, "A security force transferred the injured to a hospital for treatment."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/bomb-blast-wounds-5-persons-west-baghdad/>

- **Obama confirms that the war on / Daash / will not stop until defeating it**

The US President Barack Obama confirmed that the war against terrorism will not stop and that the "global campaign" will eventually succeed in defeating / Daash / terrorist organization. Obama predicted in his weekly speech today "to destroy / Daash / by the international coalition headed by the United States and includes / 66 / member states including Arab partners."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?8LgpOho4iz6ARq4lrP2n1Q%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?8LgpOho4iz6ARq4lrP2n1Q%253d%253d)

- **ISIS executes 35 of its elements west of Nineveh**

A local source in Nineveh said on Sunday, that the so-called ISIS executed 35 of its elements on charges of treason by firing squad west of Nineveh. The source reported for IraqiNews.com, "Today, ISIS executed 35 of its elements by firing squad at Gazlani Camp west of Nineveh," noting that, "The execution was carried out after the sentencing of the so-called legitimate judge in Nineveh Court,"

adding that, "ISIS handed over the dead bodies to the forensic medicine department in Nineveh hospital."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/source-isis-executes-35-elements-west-nineveh/>

- **The European Union Ambassador declares from Kirkuk his support for Iraq in its war against Daash**

The EU Ambassador in Iraq, Patrick Simonetta announced his support for the nomination of one of the victims of Daash to win the Nobel Peace Prize. This came, during a visit he made to Kirkuk accompanying by a delegation and meeting with Governor Nejim al-Din Karim, where they discussed the political, economic and security situation in the country and Kirkuk in particular, and the relationship between the federal government and the Kurdistan region and the war on Daash terrorist gangs and the displaced crisis.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?nIAvtW1z122RIYIt48mUCA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?nIAvtW1z122RIYIt48mUCA%253d%253d)

- **Dohuk decides to lessen rents and fuel prices**

Dohuk Province announced, that it decided to lessen the rents, doctors' fees, medicines and fuel prices in order to relieve the citizens' burden during the current financial crisis witnessed in Kurdistan region. The Province revealed in a statement received by IraqiNews.com, "Dohuk Province decided to decrease the rents of residential properties by 25%, as well as shops and commercial outlets by 30%," adding that, "The province decided to lessen the prices of gasoline to be 600 dinars per one liter of improved gasoline and 500 dinars per one liter of ordinary gasoline."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/business-iraqi-dinar/dohuk-decides-to-lessen-properties-rents-and-fuel-prices/>

- **Shuwairda and UAE Ambassador discuss bilateral relations and international and local developments**

Head of the parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee Hassan Shuwairda and UAE Ambassador in Baghdad Hassan Ahmed Al-Shehhi, the latest developments on the local and regional arenas. He stressed in a statement "the importance of coordinating efforts between the two countries and strengthen cooperation frameworks to confront all the challenges facing Iraq," stressing at the same time the need to work to stand against the terrorist organization Daash.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?tc0%252fEdhGzuct7HUHD88o0w%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?tc0%252fEdhGzuct7HUHD88o0w%253d%253d)

- **Maysan Police: Iraqi police forces arrest 15 wanted individuals in Maysan**

Maysan Police Directorate announced on Sunday the arrest of 15 wanted individuals on a variety of criminal offenses in the province. Maysan police chief, Hussein al-Lami, said in a statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, "The police forces arrested 15 wanted individuals on various criminal offenses ranging from terrorism, premeditated murder and fraud crimes," adding that, "This came through the police's pursuit of law enforcement and implementation of the arrest warrants," pointing out that, "The accused persons were referred to the concerned authorities."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/maysan-police-iraqi-police-forces-arrest-15-wanted-individuals-maysan/>

- **'It was such pain, such humiliation': 18-year-old describes her life as an ISIS sex slave**

A Yazidi teenager who spent months in ISIS captivity has written a book describing her captivity and her time as a sex slave for the terrorist group. Shirin, a pseudonym, was 17 years old when ISIS (also known as the Islamic State, ISIL, or Daesh) took over her village in northern Iraq.

More Details:

<http://english.shafaag.com/politics/17453-it-was-such-pain,-such-humiliation-18-year-old-describes-her-life-as-an-isis-sex-slave.html>

- **Anti-Terrorism forces fully control Silo Khan Dari, evacuate besieged families**

The Anti-Terrorism Bureau announced on Sunday its full control on Silo Khan Dari in western Baghdad, while pointed out to the evacuation of all the besieged families in the complex. The Bureau spokesman Sabah al-Noman said in a press statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "The Anti-Terrorism Bureau fully controlled Silo Khan Dari, after killing the terrorists and evacuating all the families who were besieged in the complex."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/anti-terrorism-forces-fully-control-silo-khan-dari-evacuate-besieged-families/>

- **Iraqi security forces repel ISIS attack west of Ramadi, kill 9 suicide bombers**

The commander of Anbar tribal fighters announced on Saturday, that the security forces were able to repel ISIS attack using six booby-trapped cars on the security headquarters west of Ramadi (110 km

west of Baghdad), while indicated to the death of nine members belonging to ISIS. Falah Qaraghuli said in a press statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "The security forces were able to foil ISIS attack on the security headquarters in the areas of Kilo 18 and Hamdaniya west of Ramadi, using six booby-trapped cars," pointing out that, "The security forces managed to detonate the car bombs, killing the suicide bombers on the spot."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-security-forces-rebel-isis-attack-west-of-ramadi-kill-9-suicide-bombers/>

- **PM Blair kept top military staff in the dark about Iraq, explosive book claims**

An explosive new book claims to tell the truth about how Tony Blair's policy over Iraq cost British troops their lives. The book – based on interviews with military chiefs, civil servants and Cabinet ministers – reveals the PM decided early in 2002 on the need to tackle Saddam Hussein. But he allegedly kept the Chief of Defence Staff, Cabinet Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and most of the Cabinet in the dark about his plans.

More Details:

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/6964092/Tony-Blair-kept-top-military-staff-in-the-dark-about-Iraq.html>

- **Iraq Death Toll From IS Bombing of Baghdad Market Now at 73**

In Iraq, the death toll from devastating back-to-back market bombings carried out by the Islamic State group the previous day in eastern Baghdad climbed to 73 on Monday, officials said. Several of the critically wounded died overnight while 112 people remain in hospital, two police officials said. Also, at least five people were still missing after the blast that ripped through the crowded Mredi market in the Shiite district of Sadr City, followed by a suicide bombing amid the crowd that had quickly gathered at the site to help the victims.

More Details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-death-toll-bombing-baghdad-market-now-73-37274720>

- **US Warning of 'Catastrophic Failure' of Iraq's Mosul Dam**

Iraq's Mosul Dam risks "catastrophic failure" and a massive wall of water that would sweep downstream anything in its path, including bodies, buildings, cars, unexploded ordinances and hazardous chemicals, the U.S. is warning. The dam, located on the Tigris River just north of Mosul, is



the largest in the country. Built in 1984, the dam is structurally flawed and has required constant maintenance and shoring up with cement grout.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/us-warning-of-catastrophic-failure-of-iraq-mosul-dam/3212415.html>

- **Iraq: ISIS militants executes 35 of its elements on charges of treason in west of Nineveh**

A local source in Nineveh said on Sunday, that the so-called ISIS executed 35 of its elements on charges of treason by firing squad west of Nineveh. The source reported that, "Today, ISIS executed 35 of its elements by firing squad at Gazlani Camp west of Nineveh," noting that, "The execution was carried out after the sentencing of the so-called legitimate judge in Nineveh Court," adding that, "ISIS handed over the dead bodies to the forensic medicine department in Nineveh hospital."

More Details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2016/02/29/737915/story.html?>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Syria and UNICEF discuss activating joint work in child care**

Prime Minister Wael al-Halaqi discussed on Sunday with Anthony Lake the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) the mechanisms to activate joint work between the Syria and UNICEF in providing vaccines and supplies for children in the areas controlled by terrorist organizations and in the makeshift centers. Both sides also discussed the execution of drinking water wells and financing of development projects.

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=70823>

- **Thousands may have died in Syria sieges, UN human rights chief says**

Thousands of people in besieged areas of Syria might already have died of starvation, the UN's human rights chief has warned, as the UN planned to start delivering food, medicine and other supplies to more than 150,000 people under siege and a fragile truce entered its third day. "The deliberate starvation of people is unequivocally forbidden as a weapon of warfare. By extension, so are sieges, which deprive civilians of essential goods such as food," Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in address to the UN Human Rights Council's main annual session.

More Details:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/29/thousands-may-have-died-in-syria-sieges-un-human-rights-chief-says?>

- **Hezbollah Recovers Body of Senior Commander Killed in Syria**

Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says it has recovered the body of a senior commander who was killed during fighting in Syria's northern province of Aleppo. Hezbollah said Monday the body of Ali Fayyad, known locally as Haj Alaa, was recovered Sunday night in an operation in which Syrian army and Hezbollah special forces took part.

More Details:

<http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SYRIA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTI=ME=2016-02-29-05-29-32>

- **NATO chief says concerned about Russian military build-up in Syria**

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Monday the alliance was concerned by a Russian military build-up in Syria. "We are concerned about the significant Russian military build up we have seen in Syria with the ground troops, with the naval forces in eastern Mediterranean and with air forces conducting air strikes," he told a press conference in the Gulf Arab country of Kuwait.

More Details:

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/2016/02/29/NATO-chief-says-concerned-about-Russian-military-build-up-in-Syria?>

- **Syria government troops retake strategic road from IS fighters**

Syrian government forces regained control of a road used by the army to access Aleppo, after making advances against Islamic State fighters, a monitoring group and state television reported, according to Reuters. Battles continued between government forces and the jihadist group in the area in the southeast of Aleppo province, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

More Details:

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/207090/?>

- **The Sound of Silence: Life Returns to Normal in Syria as Ceasefire Holds**

Correspondents representing news agencies from around the globe have reported a lively atmosphere on the streets of the capital Damascus and other major Syrian cities just days after a ceasefire took effect in the country, according to the German magazine Der Spiegel. It seems that life has started to return to normal in the Syrian capital Damascus and other major cities across Syria,

where the ceasefire entered force a couple of days ago, the German magazine Der Spiegel reported, referring to correspondents from a wide array of international news agencies.

More Details:

<http://sputniknews.com/middleeast/20160229/1035518635/syria-ceasefire-citizens.html?>

- **Baghdadi appoints ISIS female fighter to Syria battalion**

ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdad has reportedly appointed a female Saudi fighter to head up a new battalion in northeastern Syria, according to an activist. Nada al-Qahtani, who joined the group in 2013, used to lead the Khansa battalion in the militants' de facto capital of Raqqa, located in Syria. She will now lead a new branch of the all-female fighting unit in Hasakeh, the activist told the Arabic website of Al Arabiya News Channel.

More Details:

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=44605>

- **US and Russia continue Syria ceasefire talks as Assad closes in on Aleppo**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry have spoken on the phone about closer co-operation between their countries' militaries on the Syria ceasefire plan, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Monday. The conversation was held at the initiative of the Russian side, the ministry said.

More Details:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/02/29/us-and-russia-continue-syria-ceasefire-talks-assad-closes-aleppo?>

- **Syria: Gov't Forces Preparing for Large-Scale Anti-Terrorism Operation in Idlib**

Military sources in the Northwestern battlefield of the country underlined the Syrian Army and its allies' full preparedness and their plan for carrying out a large-scale operation in the Southern part of Idlib province in near future. The Syrian army and their allies, who imposed full control over the village of Ein al-Beidha at the border of Lattakia province and Idlib, have deployed their forces only 15 km from the strategic city of Jisr al-Shughour's southwestern side.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941210000678>

- **Netanyahu: Any Syria resolution must be in line with Israel's interests**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the ceasefire agreement in Syria on Sunday, but stressed that any resolution to the civil war must address Israel's interests and red lines. "We welcome the efforts to reach a long-term, stable and substantive cease-fire in Syria," Netanyahu said at the beginning of a cabinet meeting. "Anything that would put an end to the terrible slaughter there is important first and foremost from the human standpoint. But it's important to make clear that any resolution in Syria must include a halt to the Iranian aggression against Israel from Syrian territory. "

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/24210-netanyahu-any-syria-resolution-must-be-in-line-with-israels-interests?>

### 3. IRAN

- **Hassan Rouhani and allies win most Tehran seats in Assembly of Experts elections**

President Hassan Rouhani and his allies won 15 out of the 16 Tehran seats in the Assembly of Experts, final election results published on Monday showed, ousting two prominent hardliners including the speaker of the powerful clerical body.

More details:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/nHY9B1d7qP6KKnNp7sxWTM/Hassan-Rouhani-and-allies-win-most-Tehran-seats-in-Assembly.html?>

- **Reformists ahead in elections to Iran's Assembly of Experts**

Reformers were in the lead in elections to Iran's Assembly of Experts, a theological and political body whose responsibilities including appointing the country's Supreme Leader.

More details:

[http://www.dpa-international.com/news/top\\_stories/reformists-ahead-in-elections-to-irans-assembly-of-experts-a-48427132.html?](http://www.dpa-international.com/news/top_stories/reformists-ahead-in-elections-to-irans-assembly-of-experts-a-48427132.html?)

- **Top Iran conservatives lose seats on key supervisory body**

Two leading conservative clerics, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi and Ayatollah Mohammad Taghi Mesbah-Yazdi, have lost their seats on Iran's top supervisory body, results from last week's election confirmed on Monday.

More details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/middle-east/372381/top-iran-conservatives-lose-seats-on-key-supervisory-body?>

- **Elections turnout raised Iran on international scene**

Iran's Parl. Speaker Ali Larijani said Mon. nation's unified participation in elections raised Iran's status on the international scene and defined a new position for the country.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/114857/Elections-turnout-raised-Iran-on-international-scene?>

- **First Iran container ship to dock at European ports**

The first Iranian container cargo ship is on its way to Europe, following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and removal of the sanctions, says the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL).

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81982912/?>

- **Economy remains top focus for Iran's Rouhani, emboldened by polls**

President Hassan Rouhani and his allies in Iran's new parliament will set their sights on rebuilding the economy rather than risking the ire of hard-liners by advancing more liberal political and social change.

More details:

<http://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/economy-remains-top-focus-for-irans-rouhani-emboldened-by-polls?>

- **Iran preparing to launch satellite into orbit, US experts say**

Iran is set to launch a satellite into orbit in the coming days, raising concerns about Tehran's potential development of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), US intelligence officials said.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-preparing-to-launch-satellite-into-orbit-us-experts-say/?>



- **Swiss president calls his talks with Iranian officials 'constructive'**

President Johann Schneider-Ammann in a speech at Tehran University on Sunday called his talks with Iranian officials 'constructive'.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81983271/?>

- **Iran election could see country come in from the cold**

Iran's shift toward friendlier relations with the west appears to have received public backing in landmark elections, with early results suggesting overwhelming support for president Hassan Rouhani and his reformist partners in the country.

More details:

<http://www.itv.com/news/2016-02-28/iran-election-could-see-country-come-in-from-the-cold/?>

- **Iran top leader Khamenei praises high turnout in elections: media**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised the high turnout in elections for parliament and the Assembly of Experts, in his first comment since Friday's twin contests, Iranian media reported on Sunday.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/iran-election-khamenei-idUSKCN0W10UI?rpc=401>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Anger in Germany over Netanyahu's 'distortion'**

Following prime minister's statement that German Chancellor Angela Merkel 'reformed' her positions on Palestinian issue, Merkel's party responds that 'the only solution to the conflict is the two-state solution'. Senior German officials have accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of distorting German Chancellor Angela Merkel's positions on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, newspaper Die Welt reported on Sunday. The report emphasized that German officials "were surprised by what he said."

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4772087,00.html>

- **Two Palestinians shot, critically injured by Israeli forces near Bethlehem**

Two Palestinians were critically injured in clashes with the Israeli army south of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, medical sources said. Palestinian Red Crescent spokeswoman Errab Foqoha told Ma'an that two Palestinians were shot in the chest during clashes in the village of al-Khader, and that they were injured "critically."

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770480>

- **Japan donates \$220,000 for Gaza water, health projects**

Japan signed two grants on Sunday to fund projects in the Gaza Strip worth almost \$220,000 combined, the Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority said in a statement. One of the grants signed by Takeshi Okubo, the Japanese representative to the PA, allocates \$128,426 to the Palestinian Environmental Friends (PEF) association to improve water quality in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770478>

- **Netanyahu welcomes Syria cease-fire but says Peace Deal must address Israeli interests**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says that while cessation of hostilities is important from human standpoint, peace agreement must include halt to 'Iranian aggression against Israel from Syrian territory.' PM said Sunday that Israel welcomes the cease-fire in Syria but stressed that any resolution to the civil war must address Israel's interests and red lines.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.705895>

- **Settlers Resume Provocative Visits to Jerusalem's al-Aqsa**

Israeli settlers Sunday resumed their provocative visits to al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, provoking tension with worshipers, according to local sources.

More Details:

<http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=qRx8ura31243195731aqRx8ur>

- **Shoe Thrown at Egyptian Lawmaker for Having Dinner with Israeli Ambassador**

Egyptian lawmaker Tawfik Okasha was attacked in parliament on Sunday, with one colleague hurling a shoe at him and others demanding he be suspended after he invited the Israeli ambassador for dinner.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.705936>

- **Israeli Police Officer Wounded in Hit-and-run in Nazareth**

An Israel Police officer was wounded in a hit-and-run in Nazareth, northern Israel on Sunday evening. The officer, who sustained moderate to serious injuries, was rushed to receive medical treatment.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.705997>

- **Israeli Arab Teacher Fired for Screening Oscar-nominated Film That Offends Local Islamists**

'We can't turn everyone who doesn't share the other person's opinions into an infidel or a traitor,' says Israeli Arab leader in defense of teacher.

More Details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.705824>

- **Israeli Forces Detain Palestinian Suspect in settlement Mall Attack**

Israeli forces detained on Sunday a Palestinian suspected of having attacked a security guard in the illegal settlement of Maale Adumim three days prior. Israeli police spokeswoman Luba al-Samri said a 21-year-old Palestinian from the village of al-Eizariya in the Jerusalem district, identified as Saadi Ali Abu Hamid, was detained "after a joint campaign of Israeli police, general intelligence and army."

More Details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770474>

- **Assad Regime Using Israeli Drones against Syrian Rebels**

Activists living in the coastal province of Latakia who oppose the Assad regime allege that Israeli made drones have been scouring the skies throughout Syria collecting information on rebel positions.

More Details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Report-Assad-regime-using-Israeli-drones-against-Syrian-rebels-446415>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordan Seeks Easy Loans from World Bank as Rules Changed**

Jordan is currently negotiating with the World Bank over a \$500 million loan for the year 2016 under new and easier terms Jordan has not been entitled to due to its ranking as an upper-middle-income country.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-seeks-easy-loans-world-bank-rules-changed#sthash.aslXPtIG.dpuf>

- **Lower House to discuss US-Jordan treaty on Tuesday**

Following a week off, the Lower House is scheduled to resume meetings on Tuesday to discuss a US-Jordan draft treaty that was put on hold until the full text was received by lawmakers.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/lower-house-discuss-us-jordan-treaty-tuesday#sthash.R1BCZSA2.dpuf>

- **PM receives World Bank delegation**

Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour on Sunday met with a delegation of members from the World Bank's board of executive directors, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The delegation is visiting Jordan to view the repercussions of the Syrian crisis. The premier voiced hope that the visit will result in enhancing Jordan's relations with the bank.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/pm-receives-world-bank-delegation#sthash.vV2sWzsa.dpuf>

- **UJ students organise '27th protest' against tuition hike**

Almost three years after the University of Jordan's (UJ) decision to raise tuition fees for its parallel and postgraduate programmes, students on Sunday gathered to protest the cost of postgraduate education.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/uj-students-organise-27th-protest%E2%80%99-against-tuition-hike#sthash.IVEo7eWg.dpuf>

- **Fiscal outcome depends on politics**

Lebanon's government needs to implement fiscal reforms in order to curb its debt, said the Institute of International Finance, an association of banks, according to Lebanon This Week, the economic publication of Byblos Bank Group.

More Details:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Business/Local/2016/Feb-29/339687-fiscal-outcome-depends-on-politics.ashx>

- **Berri holds onto Hizbullah-Mustaqbal Dialogue despite tension**

Speaker Nabih Berri held onto the dialogue between Hizbullah and al-Mustaqbal officials despite the rising tension between them as a result of a Saudi aid cut. Berri told his visitors on Sunday that the talks have no other alternative.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/203360-berri-holds-onto-hizbullah-mustaqbal-dialogue-despite-tension>

- **Israel accuses Lebanon of making more than 2,000 violations of Resolution 1701 in 2015**

Israel's mission to the United Nations has claimed that Lebanon violated Security Council Resolution 1701 around 2,374 times last year, the Jerusalem Post reported on Monday. The mission also said in a report it issued on Sunday that there were 589 violations involving the U.N.-drawn Blue Line border between Israel and Lebanon, and 653 Hizbullah patrols along the border fence.

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/203377-israel-accuses-lebanon-of-making-more-than-2-000-violations-of-resolution-1701-in-2015>



- **Salam decides to repair locally the relations with the Arabian Gulf countries**

Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam decided to try and repair the relations with the Arabian Gulf countries locally through their envoys and therefore opted for the time being to drop a plan to tour the Gulf , al-Joumhouria daily reported Friday.

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2016/02/26/salam-decides-to-repair-locally-the-relations-with-the-arabian-gulf-countries/>

- **Hezbollah supporters blocked roads across Lebanon to protest a satirical**

Hezbollah supporters took to the streets of southern Beirut suburbs late Saturday to protest a satirical sendup of their leader which aired on a Saudi-owned satellite television station.

More Details:

<http://yalibnan.com/2016/02/28/hezbollah-supporters-blocked-roads-across-lebanon-to-protest-a-satirical/>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Executive-legislature relation based on strategic partnership**

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has asserted that Bahrain has achieved a lot thanks to its parliamentary experience, noting that MPs' dedication in the service of the nation deserves appreciation.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/713613>

- **Policeman killed in Kuwait is Saudi national**

The policeman who was run over last week in Kuwait by a supporter of Taliban is a Saudi national, his father said. Turki Mohammad Al Enezi was killed as he was patrolling an area in front of the Dasman Palace in the capital Kuwait City as the country was celebrating the independence and liberation days. Several other policemen were injured in the attack on the security point.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/kuwait/policeman-killed-in-kuwait-is-saudi-national-1.1681256>

- **Bahraini delegation off to reinforce Bahraini-Turkish business ties**

A Bahraini business delegation comprising of the Bahraini side of the Bahraini-Turkish Joint Business Council headed by Mr. Khalid Al Moayed Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives from Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) is visiting Turkey in a business mission that aims to step up business activities between both friendly countries and boost the trade volume which amounted to over 26 million U.S dollars up to December 2015 according to the Central Informatics Organization of Bahrain (CIO).

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/713601>

- **UAE- Hungarian Joint Economic Committee to begin meetings on Tuesday**

The first meeting of the UAE-Hungarian Joint Economic Committee will commence at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Dubai on Tuesday under the chair of Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, and Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, with the participation of a number of senior officials from the government and private sectors of the two countries.

More Details:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/economics/1395292207338.html>

- **Kuwaitis condemn MP's verbal attack on Saudi Arabia**

The Saudi embassy in Kuwait has reported local MP Abdul Hameed Dashti to the foreign ministry over verbal abuses. Ambassador Abdul Aziz Al Fayez presented the memorandum to the ministry after the lawmaker appearing on a pro-Syrian regime television channel reportedly said that Saudi Arabia was sponsoring terrorism and should be bombed.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/kuwait/kuwaitis-condemn-mp-s-verbal-attack-on-saudi-arabia-1.1680843>

- **Arab League urges nuclear-free Middle East**

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Al-Araby on Sunday underlined the need for clear Arab vision for the efforts required to create a nuclear-free Middle East. The international community's bias and double standards in dealing with nuclear non-proliferation have helped Israel to keep its nuclear arsenal away from spotlight or international inspection, Al-Araby said in his inaugural speech of the second joint conference of the Arab League-Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/713509>

- **Mohammed bin Rashid offers condolences to family of Emirati serviceman Mohammed Rashid Al Dhanhani**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, has offered his condolences on the death of Emirati serviceman Mohammed Rashid Al Dhanhani, who died while carrying out his national duty alongside the UAE Armed Forces defending the legitimacy of the brotherly nation of Yemen.

More Details:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/emirates/1395292203389.html>

- **Cabinet creates councils for Youth, Scientists, Education and Health in UAE**

The UAE's newly-reshuffled Cabinet, presided over by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, met today for the first time and discussed government-related issues.

More Details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/government/cabinet-creates-councils-for-youth-scientists-education-and-health-in-uae-2016-02-28-1.622566>

- **Saudi King meets Danish Crown Prince**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received at his palace in Riyadh Danish Heir Apparent Prince Frederik André Henrik. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said that the meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways of developing joint cooperation.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/713495>

- **Yemeni forces' victory bring promise of relief to Jawf residents**

Yemeni resistance fighters loyal to the government seized control of a mountain range in the northern province of Jawf, following fierce clashes with Iran-backed Al Houthis, army commanders told Gulf News on Monday. The liberation of Al Safina Mountain is the latest in a string of territorial gains by government forces in the large northern province.

More Details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/yemeni-forces-victory-bring-promise-of-relief-to-jawf-residents-1.1681623>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt jails Coptic Christians for insulting Islam**

An Egyptian court has sentenced three Coptic Christian teenagers to five years in prison for insulting Islam after they appeared in a video apparently mocking Muslim prayers.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35661870>

- **Qaeda leader's brother released pending probes in Egypt**

Mohamed Rabie al-Zawahriri, the brother of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahriri, has been released by an Egyptian court pending investigations over charges of "forming a terrorist cell," Youm7 reported Tuesday.

More details:

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/195667/news/qaeda-leaders-brother-released-pending-probes-in-egypt>

- **Egypt Says 'Personal Reasons' Behind Murder of Italian Student**

Egypt's interior ministry said investigators believe that "personal reasons" were behind the torture and murder of the Italian student Giulio Regeni, whose body was found in Cairo earlier this month.

More details:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/egypt-says-personal-reasons-behind-murder-of-italian-student-1456323240>

- **Egypt's President Says Criticism Threatens the State**

Egypt's president said Wednesday that excessive criticism of the government is contributing to attempts to bring down the state, telling Egyptians not to listen to anyone but him.

More details:

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/02/24/world/middleeast/ap-m1-egypt.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/02/24/world/middleeast/ap-m1-egypt.html?_r=1)

- **Sisi says October 31 Russian plane crash caused by militant forces**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi announced on Wednesday that the Russian plane crash in Sinai of October 31, 2015 was brought down by extremists in an attempt to harm Egypt's tourism industry and the country's relations with Russia.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/egypt-sisi-says-october-31-russian-plane-crash-caused-militant-forces-809656>

- **Egypt buys four wheat cargoes in sign of thaw with traders**

London: Egypt, the world's biggest wheat importer, bought four grain cargoes in a tender on Friday, a sign that business is going back to normal after a weeks-long standoff with traders over quality rules.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/mena/egypt/egypt-buys-four-wheat-cargoes-in-sign-of-thaw-with-traders-1.1676295>

- **Egyptian-Arab military exercises commence in Saudi Arabia**

Military units from over 20 Arab and Islamic countries are participating in the exercises with the aim of increasing cooperation between members of the Arab Coalition

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/188135/Egypt/Politics-/EgyptianArab-military-exercises-commence-in-Saudi-.aspx>

- **Africa: Egypt Business Forum Promotes Key African Ties**

Sharm el-Sheikh — Egyptian President Abdel Fatah el Sisi is calling on African leaders to invest in education so that the continent's peoples can acquire the skills to contribute to the region's economic growth.

More details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201602210003.html>

- **Egypt centre for torture victims challenges order to close**

An Egyptian centre that helps alleged torture victims and documents their cases has vowed to continue to work despite an order for it to shut down.



More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35628469>

- **Egypt could send troops to Gulf if asked**

Egypt will not hesitate to send military forces to Gulf countries to offer protection if asked by the leaders of those countries, President Abdul Fattah Al Sissi said on Wednesday.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/egypt-could-send-troops-to-gulf-if-asked-1.1675108>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algerian-Chinese relations development: President Bouteflika's contribution hailed by Chinese counterpart**

President of the Republic Abdelaziz Bouteflika received a message from his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, who hailed "his historical contribution" in the development of bilateral relations.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/11123-algerian-chinese-relations-development-president-bouteflika-s-contribution-hailed-by-chinese-counterpart?>

- **President Bouteflika receives Portugal's FM**

President of the Republic Abdelaziz Bouteflika received Sunday in Algiers Portugal's Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva, who is on a working visit to Algeria.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/11115-president-bouteflika-receives-portugal-s-fm?>

- **Europeans must be inspired by Algerian experience in de-radicalisation**

The Algerian experience in de-radicalisation is a "source of lessons" and all the Europeans must take this into account, said Sunday in Algiers Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Augusto Santos Silva.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/11110-europeans-must-be-inspired-by-algerian-experience-in-de-radicalisation?>

- **Mystery of air attack on IS convoy near Bani Walid**

Unidentified warplanes are reported to have attacked an IS convoy today near Bani Walid. A member of the town council told Reuters that three huge explosions had been heard early this morning and that 15 vehicles flying black flags had been seen to the south-east of the town over the last two days.

More details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/02/28/mystery-of-air-attack-on-supposed-is-convoy-near-bani-walid/>

- **Washington is considering the restoration of the monarchy in Libya**

The New York Times has evoked the possibility of restoration of the monarchy in Libya to bring the country out of the current chaos.

More details:

<http://www.voltairenet.org/article190497.html>

- **Tunisia working with Libya on Sabratha IS identification, steps up security following US raid**

The Tunisian authorities say they are coordinating investigations with their Libyan counterparts into the Tunisians killed in last week's US air raid on facilities in Sabratha used by the so-called Islamic State (IS). Up to as many as 60 IS members, most of them believed to be Tunisians, were killed in the raids. The bodies of several have been returned to Tunisia and DNA tests are to be carried out in an attempt to identify them.

More details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/02/27/tunisia-working-with-libya-on-sabratha-is-identification-steps-up-security-following-us-raid/>

- **France's 'secret war' against the IS group in Libya**

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has launched an "investigation" to identify the source behind a newspaper article that alleged French forces are engaged in a secret war combating the Islamic State group in Libya.

More details:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20160225-france-secret-war-libya-islamic-state-group>

- **Alain Juppé pays posthumous tribute to victims of Bardo attack**

Former French Prime Minister, Mayor of Bordeaux, candidate for the 2017 presidential election, Alain Juppé visited, on Sunday afternoon the Bardo Museum, to pay posthumous tribute to the victims of the terrorist attack of March 18, 2015.

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/33821-alain-juppe-pays-posthumous-tribute-to-victims-of-bardo-attack>

- **Germany Understands Morocco's Position on European Court's Ruling: German Official**

Germany understands Morocco's position on the European Court's ruling related to the Morocco-EU agriculture agreement, said here on Friday German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Gerd Muller.

More details:

<http://www.morocoworldnews.com/2016/02/180717/germany-understands-moroccos-position-on-european-courts-ruling-german-official/>

- **MEP: I understand Morocco's Decision to Suspend Ties with EU**

"I understand the decision of the Moroccan government to suspend its relations with the EU, as December's ruling of the EU court seems incomprehensible, unjust, if not provocative," MEP Rachida Dati said.

More details:

<http://www.morocoworldnews.com/2016/02/180795/mep-i-understand-moroccos-decision-to-suspend-ties-with-eu/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Salman Taseer's killer Mumtaz Qadri sent to gallows**

Mumtaz Qadri, convicted for killing Punjab Governor Salman Taseer was executed in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail early on Monday, jail and Punjab police have confirmed.

More Details:

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/101776-Salman-Taseers-killer-Mumtaz-Qadri-sent-to-gallows>

- **Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's documentary wins Oscar**

Internationally known filmmaker from Pakistan, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's documentary 'A Girl In The River: The Price of Forgiveness' has won the Oscar at the 88th Academy Award Ceremony.

More Details:

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/101777-Sharmeen-Obaid-Chinoys-documentary-wins-Oscar>

- **No place for honour killing in Islam: PM**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday congratulated Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy on winning the Oscar's Award for the second time for her documentary "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness". In a statement here, PM lauded the efforts of Sharmeen, and said that there was no place for killing in the name of honour in Islam.

More Details:

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/101787-No-place-for-honour-killing-in-Islam-PM>

- **Women's bill in line with the Quaid's vision: CM**

In the face of harsh criticism by religious forces, including the one sitting as the PML-N ally in National Assembly the JUI-Fazl, on the anti-domestic violence law, Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif has defended the legislation saying it is in line with the vision of the father of the nation.

More details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1242602/womens-bill-in-line-with-the-quaid-vision-cm>

- **Pakistan Army 'determined To Finish All Terrorists', Says COAS**

The Pakistan Army is "determined to finish all terrorists from their pockets in every nook and corner in the country", Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.geo.tv/latest/101561-Pakistan-Army-determined-to-finish-all-terrorists-says-COAS#sthash.uNWpgbf7.dpuf>

- **MoD: 57 militants killed in latest counter-terrorism operations**

At least 57 anti-government armed militants were killed during counter-terrorism operations led by Afghan National Army (ANA) forces in the latest crackdown on militant groups, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/mod-57-taliban-militants-killed-in-faryab-and-baghlam-operations-0208>

- **Senior ISIS commanders among 7 killed in Nangarhar drone strike**

At least seven militants affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in an airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/senior-isis-commanders-among-7-killed-in-nangarhar-drone-strike-0207>

- **1 killed, 10 wounded as rocket hits residential house in Kunar**

A child was killed after a rocket hit a residential house in the restive Kunar province in eastern Afghanistan, local officials said Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/1-killed-10-wounded-as-rocket-hits-residential-house-in-kunar-0206>

- **600 Afghan Citizens Rounded-up in Nowshera Crackdown**

Hundreds of Afghan citizens have been rounded up in Pakistaninfo-icon's northwestern garrison town of Nowshera, a senior police officer said. Six hundred Afghans were detained for illegally staying in the town during a two-day search operation, the district police officer said on Sunday.

More Details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2016/02/29/600-afghan-citizens-rounded-nowshera-crackdown>

- **NDS rescues 3 hostages in Logar, 4 still in kidnappers' custody**

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) – Afghanistan's intelligence has released three hostages in central Logar province while four others are still in the custody of the kidnappers.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/nds-rescues-3-hostages-in-logar-4-still-in-taliban-custody-4606>



## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkey says it will not allow PYD corridor in north Syria**

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday that Turkey will not allow the formation of a corridor to be used by the PYD and YPG terrorist groups in northern Syria, mainly along the Turkish border. "The formation of a corridor used by terrorist groups along our border is a danger to us. We have told our allies, especially the coalition forces," Erdogan said in a press conference before departing to Ivory Coast from Istanbul's Atatürk airport.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkey-says-it-will-not-allow-pyd-corridor-in-north-syria-57293>

- **Turkey condemns Baghdad terror attacks**

Turkey has condemned Sunday's terror attacks in Baghdad that left at least 65 people dead. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement published Monday: "Turkey, which rejects terror no matter the reason and source are, and which has lost many citizens in various organizations' terror attacks, shares Iraqi people's pain".

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/169960/turkey-condemns-baghdad-terror-attacks>

*\*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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