



# 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

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**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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**31 MAY 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Suicide bombing hits central Heet, in Anbar**

A security source in Anbar Province informed that a suicide bombing hit the center of the city of Heet, leaving a number of casualties, Alsumaria News reported on Tuesday. The source pointed out that a suicide bomber, wearing an explosive belt, blew up himself near al-Shaimaa School, in central Heet, west of Ramadi, leaving several casualties.

More Detrails

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/suicide-bombing-hits-central-heet-anbar/>

- **Masrour Barzani Calls on EU Humanitarian Aid for More Assistance to Kurdistan**

Chancellor of Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC), Masrour Barzani, received on Tuesday a high-level delegation from the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations to discuss a range of issues including the humanitarian situation in the areas ravaged by war.

More Details

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/354214>

- **State of Law MP calls for letting IMIS responsible for Baghdad Security**

Member of Parliament Kazim al-Sayadi called on Tuesday for letting the Iranian Militias in Iraq and Syria (IMIS) assume the security of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. Member of State of Law Coalition, led by former prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, said in a press statement that day after day the government proves its incompetency in the security file which results in the death of scores of civilians every day.

More Details

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/11348/State-of-Law-MP-calls-for-letting-IMIS-responsible-for-Baghdad-security>

- **Breaking: Another explosion rocks Iraqi capital**

Minutes ago, a loud explosion was reported from the Iraqi capital, following another car bombing in the central part of Baghdad. Preliminary reports indicate that the explosion took place at the Al-Shahada' Bridge; however, no further details have been released by the government

More Details

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/breaking-another-explosion-rocks-iraqi-capital/>

- **Pira: There is a Good Chance of Reaching Internal Agreement**

Saadi Ahmed Pira, member of political bureau of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan(PUK), met today with George Boston, Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), and his accompanying delegation in PUK politburo headquarter in Erbil city.

More Details

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40451](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40451)

- **Turnbull scathing of fatal Baghdad blast**

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has condemned a terrorist bombing in Baghdad which killed 17 people including a Melbourne schoolgirl. Zynab Al-Harbiya, 12, was in the Iraqi capital with family visiting her sick grandfather and died on Tuesday in an IS blast that tore through an ice cream parlour.

More Details

<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2017/05/31/16/14/turnbull-scathing-of-fatal-baghdad-blast>

- **KDP plans to reactivate Kurdistan Region parliament without Speaker**

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region – Efforts to resolve the Kurdistan Region’s political crisis and reactivate parliament in advance of an anticipated referendum on independence are stagnated. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) is hopeful that parliament can sit in June in the absence of the parliament speaker, but most other parties are not on board with the KDP’s plan.

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/300520177>

- **Australian girl on vacation killed in Baghdad car bomb blast**

The death of an Australian girl in a Baghdad bombing underscored why Australia was fighting Islamic State militants in the Middle East, the Australian foreign minister said Wednesday.

More Details

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS\\_AUSTRALIA\\_Iraq\\_CAR\\_BOMB?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-31-01-15-53](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_AUSTRALIA_Iraq_CAR_BOMB?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-31-01-15-53)

- **Mosul residents mark Ramadan as life is returning to normal**

It is the early days of the holy month of Ramadan. Everybody seeks for pleasure of Ramadan's traditional games, buying new clothes and different kinds of food for Iftar (break the daylight fasting).

More Details

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-05/31/content\\_29557291.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-05/31/content_29557291.htm)

- **Iraq's former PM calls for use of force against Kurds to prevent declaration of Kurdish state**

The former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has suggested 'if necessary' force must be used to prevent the Kurdish president Masoud Barzani from declaring a Kurdish state.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/05/iraqs-former-pm-calls-use-force-kurds-prevent-declaration-kurdish-state/>

- **As fighting rages in Mosul's Old City, American doctors help the wounded**

A bulldozed mound of dirt and a short stretch of no man's land is all that separates Iraqi forces from Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants.

More Details

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/as-fighting-rages-in-mosuls-old-city-american-doctors-volunteer-to-aid-the-wounded/>

- **Humanitarian Crisis in Mosul Sinks to UN's 'Worst-Case Scenario**

Mosul humanitarian conditions have reached the worst-case scenario originally developed by UN planners, UN Coordinator for Iraq Lise Grande said.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705311054141022-mosul-humanitarian-worst-case-scenario/>

- **Maliki vs. Barzani: Ex-Iraqi PM, Kurdish presidency in volatile exchange**

The Kurdistan presidency and former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki engaged in a volatile exchange of words, each accusing the other of violating the Iraqi constitution

More Details

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/300520178>

- **UN: '180,000 civilians still in' Daesh-held Mosul areas**

Nearly 800,000 civilians have fled northern Iraq's Mosul city since the start of the military operation in February while an estimated 180,000 others remain in Daesh-controlled areas, according to UN figures on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/un-180-000-civilians-still-in-daesh-held-mosul-areas/830341>

- **Iraqi army aims for full control of Mosul by 10th June**

Iraq's army continued its renewed offensive against ISIS targets to the west of the Tigris river, but a spokesperson for the military said progress has been slow. "The fighting is extremely intense...the presence of civilians means we have to be very cautious," he said.

More Details

<https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/world/iraqi-army-aims-full-control-mosul-10th-june/>

- **200 Iraqi Civilians Killed as Airstrikes Rain Down on Mosul**

Dozens of houses in the Az Zanjili district were reportedly completely flattened by the air raids – which lasted several hours, an army officer said, adding that it is estimated at least 200 people were killed in the attack.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/200-iraqi-civilians-killed-airstrikes-rain-down-mosul-980684>

- **Kurdish forces repel ISIS attack near Kirkuk, casualties reported**

Iraqi Kurdistan's security forces of the Asayish on Tuesday repelled an offensive by Islamic State's (ISIS) jihadists in Kirkuk province, officials reported.

More Details

<http://aranews.net/2017/05/kurdish-forces-repel-isis-attack-near-kirkuk-casualties-reported/>



- **Iraqi Kurds to ask Russia to invest in Kurdistan oil, gas sector: adviser**

Iraqi Kurdistan will ask Russia on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) to invest in its oil and gas facilities, as well as to deepen the bilateral economic ties, Diyar Amin, a political adviser of the Iraqi Kurdistan Vice President Office, said.

More Details

<http://ekurd.net/kurdistan-russia-invest-oil-2017-05-31>

- **UAE's Dana Gas, partners seek \$26.5bn damages from Iraqi Kurds**

Dana Gas and its partners are seeking damages of at least \$26.5 billion from Iraq's self-governing Kurdish region for delays in oil and natural gas projects, a US court filing shows.

More Details

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/uae-s-dana-gas-partners-seek-26-5bn-damages-from-iraqi-kurds-676223.html>

- **Iraq Approves \$5B Oil Refinery Project In Kurdistan's Kirkuk**

Iraq's oil ministry has authorized the construction of a refinery in Kirkuk in the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan that would cost US\$5 billion, Kurdish media network Rudaw reported on Monday, citing an Iraqi lawmaker from Kirkuk.

More Details

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Iraq-Approves-5B-Oil-Refinery-Project-In-Kurdistan-Kirkuk.html>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Syria's economy is on its knees**

With oil production at its lowest in years, a total halt in phosphate exports and power generation sharply reduced, Syria's economy is on its knees, government ministers have said. The ministers were speaking at a conference hosted by the British Syrian Society in Damascus this week titled "The War in Syria: Challenges and Opportunities."

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/business/syrias-economy-knees/>

- **After Putin talks, Macron meets Syria opposition**

French President Emmanuel Macron affirmed his support for Syria's opposition on Tuesday in a meeting with its chief co-ordinator, a day after hosting Russian President Vladimir Putin, a key backer of Syrian leader Bashar Al Assad. The unannounced meeting with Riad Hijab and a broader delegation from the Riyadh-based High Negotiations Committee (HNC), which includes political and armed groups, came as Macron seeks to review French policy on the six-year civil war.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/46822337-88b8-44dc-97be-1df57a270fe3.aspx>

- **US-backed Syrian fighters reach Raqqa gates**

US-backed fighters on Tuesday reached the northern entrance of the Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of Daesh, amid intense clashes and airstrikes on Raqqa's northern and eastern edges, opposition activists said. The latest push by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) brings them to about 3 km from the city where a long and deadly battle is expected in the coming weeks, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1107561/middle-east>

- **Putin: No evidence on Syrian government's use of chemical weapons**

Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed "There is no evidence the Syrian government has used chemical weapons," adding that all claims in this regard are a provocation. President Putin told Le Figaro newspaper on Tuesday that there is no evidence the Syrian government has used chemical weapons, saying "certainly, that was just a provocation because Syria didn't use that weapon."

More Details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=107261>

- **Syrian army units destroy ISIL positions, weapons in Deir Ezzor**

Syrian army units killed 11 terrorists in an intensive strike on a terrorist group's movement axes while attacking military posts in the vicinity of the gas plant west of the regiment 137 at the southern axis of Deir Ezzor, According to SANA reporter. The reporter pointed out that the army units, backed by air force, engaged last night in fierce clashes with terrorist groups of the Takfiri organization in the cemetery area, the surrounding of panorama and the regiment 137, the clashes followed by artillery fire at the terrorists' supply routes and their centers in al-Reshidiya, al-Hamidiya and Sheikh Yassin.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125664/Syrian-army-units-destroy-ISIL-positions-weapons-in-Deir-Ezzor>

- **Syrian Army Liberates 5,000 Square Kilometers of Territory**

The offensive also allowed the military to secure key elevated positions allowing it to restore traffic along the Damascus-Palmyra route. A Syrian army officer told Sputnik Arabic that government troops successfully completed a military operation in the vicinity of the phosphate deposits near Khneifis, and liberated the villages of Al Barda, Al Basiri and al Ulyaniya.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705301054136215-syrian-army-desert-offensive/>

- **Russian warships fire cruise missiles targeting Isis in Syria**

The Russian military says its warships in the Mediterranean Sea have fired four cruise missiles at Isis positions in Syria. The Russian Defence Ministry says in a statement that the Admiral Essen frigate and the Krasnodar submarine launched the missiles at Isis targets in the area of the ancient city of Palmyra.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syria-latest-russian-warships-fire-cruise-missiles-targeting-isis-palmyra-mediterranean-admiral-a7764376.html>

- **Pentagon: U.S. officially supplies weapons for Syrian Kurds**

U.S. Army began to supply weapons for the Kurdish militia whose fighters oppose ISIS in Syria. U.S. Army Major Adrian Rankin-Galloway said that as quoted by BBC. 'The provisions include AK-47s and small-caliber machine guns,' the British outlet wrote, adding that 'weapons aim to help them drive IS from its Syrian stronghold, Raqqa'.

More Details:

<http://112.international/politics/pentagon-us-officially-supplies-weapons-for-syrian-kurds-17394.html>

- **New video proves vast participation of Russian Forces in Syria**

The Russia TV network, Channel 1, released a video showing that the Russian forces have military presence in different regions in Syria, participating in anti-terrorism operations in addition to their role in training and advising the Syrian soldiers and assisting them to restore security to the liberated

regions. The Russian forces have recently been deployed near Syria's border with Iraq due to the US-led coalition's attack on Syrian forces.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1976092>

- **Another 25,000 IDPs arrive to SDF-held Tabqa fleeing ISIS and Syrian government**

Around 25,000 IDPs arrived to the SDF-held Tabqa district in Syria's northeastern Raqqqa province, after fleeing areas held by Islamic State's (ISIS) militants and the Assad regime. Local sources confirmed that the newly displaced families came to Tabqa after escaping ISIS-held Raqqqa city and the town of Maskana—seized by the Syrian government 20 days ago.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/05/another-25000-idps-arrive-to-sdf-held-tabqa-fleeing-isis-and-syrian-government/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Pak politician urges Muslim rulers to play active role in reducing Iran-Saudi tensions**

Leader of a Pakistani political party representing students has written a letter to all Muslim rulers urging them to play their role in reducing tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82550569/>

- **Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline has huge potential, expert says**

Pakistan can gain much from Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, but actually did nothing to utilize such a huge project which has a great potential, Malik Ayub Sumbal, Pakistani political analyst and international relations expert, believes.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/other/commentary/2760890.html>

- **Iran Says Ready for High-Level Meeting with Algeria**

Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri voiced the country's readiness to hold a fresh round of high-level talks with Algeria within the framework of a joint commission.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/31/1424289/iran-says-ready-for-high-level-meeting-with-algeria>

- **Iran threatens to let Russian cos develop Farzad B gas field after India plans to cut oil purchase**

After India said it planned to order less Iranian crude oil, Iran has threatened to let Russian companies enter the race for developing the Farzad B gas field.

More Details:

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/iran-threatens-to-let-russian-cos-develop-farzad-b-gas-field-after-india-plans-to-cut-oil-purchase-3500683.html>

- **UN Chief Warns China, Russia and Iran ‘Will Fill Void’ If U.S. Quits Paris Deal**

If the United States withdraws from the Paris Agreement, rivals such as China, Russia and Iran will fill the void left in the clean energy economy and climate action, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned on Tuesday.

More Details:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/un-paris-agreement\\_us\\_592ddb6ae4b055a197cdea89?ncid=inbInkushpimg00000009&section=us\\_theworldpost](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/un-paris-agreement_us_592ddb6ae4b055a197cdea89?ncid=inbInkushpimg00000009&section=us_theworldpost)

- **Rouhani faces pressure to improve Human Rights in Iran**

In the week before the May 19 presidential election in Iran, the eventual victor, Hassan Rouhani, criticised the judiciary and the powerful Revolutionary Guards with rhetoric rarely heard in public in the Islamic republic.

More Details:

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/rouhani-faces-pressure-improve-human-rights-iran>

- **Syrian rebels: US sends more arms against Iran threat**

Syrian rebels say the United States and its allies are sending them more arms to try to fend off a new push into the southeast by Iran-backed militias aiming to open an overland supply route between Iraq and Syria.

More Details:



<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/syrian-rebels-sends-arms-iran-threat-170531014459877.html>

- **New struggle for influence over PKK terrorists emerges between US, Iran**

After the PKK's Iranian offshoot, the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), renewed its armed campaign against Iran over the weekend (which was interpreted as a U.S.-backed move), the Iranian Quds Force Commander Major Gen. Qasem Soleimani's presence in PKK-held Sinjar together with the extremist Shiite militia Hashd al-Shaabi led to speculation about a new struggle for influence in the region between Washington and Tehran.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/05/31/new-struggle-for-influence-over-pkk-terrorists-emerges-between-us-iran>

- **The Trump Effect on EU-Iran Relations**

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament has called today to uphold the nuclear agreement between Iran and the UN Security Council members plus Germany as “an important success of international and notably EU diplomacy.” It also called on the EU to “continue applying pressure on the US to fully deliver on the practical implementation” of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

More Details:

<http://lobelog.com/the-trump-effect-on-eu-iran-relations/>

- **Rouhani needs dialogue, both domestically and abroad**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is considered a moderate, yet conservative clerics have warned against implementing his campaign promises. At the same time, Rouhani will have to cope with new leadership in the US. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is considered a moderate, yet conservative clerics have warned against implementing his campaign promises. At the same time, Rouhani will have to cope with new leadership in the US.

More Details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/rouhani-needs-dialogue-both-domestically-and-abroad/a-39053981>

#### 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Silwan; Israeli Soldiers Abduct Three Palestinians, Colonist Settlers Attack Homes And Cars**

Dozens of fanatic Israeli colonists marched, on Wednesday at dawn, in Wadi Hilweh neighborhood in Silwan town, near the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in occupied East Jerusalem, and caused damage to Palestinian homes and cars, while Israeli soldiers abducted three Palestinians.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/silwan-israeli-soldiers-abduct-three-palestinians-colonist-settlers-attack-homes-and-cars/>

- **Palestinian Power Struggle Threatens Further Gaza Power Cuts**

When Gaza's 2 million residents break their dawn-to-dusk fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, much of the territory is engulfed by darkness and homes have to rely on generators or batteries for the post-sundown family meals.

More details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_GAZA\\_POWER\\_STRUGGLE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-31-02-06-30](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_GAZA_POWER_STRUGGLE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-31-02-06-30)

- **UN: Decrease in number of Palestinians killed in incidents**

A report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Palestinian Territories states that in 2016 there was a 37% decrease in the number of Palestinians killed in incidents with the security forces.

More details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4969546,00.html>

- **The Russian-Israeli Billionaires Embroiled in Israel's Latest Corruption Investigation**

Worth some \$3 billion, ex-con, ex-pediatrician Michael Mirilashvili and his son Yitzhak are two of 14 suspects detained for questioning in the probe of Minister Arye Dery

More details:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.792710>

- **Is Hamas for Peace? Israel Doesn't Think So**

"The Deplorable State of Palestine," by Diana Buttu (Op-Ed, May 27), is based on the premise that Israel "doesn't believe Palestinians should have full rights." We disagree.

More details:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/30/opinion/is-hamas-for-peace-israel-doesnt-think-so.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/30/opinion/is-hamas-for-peace-israel-doesnt-think-so.html?_r=0)

- **Why does PayPal discriminate against Palestinians?**

Dalia Shurrab, a content writer and translator based in Gaza, receives payment for her work through online money transfer platforms, like many freelancers around the world. But she can't use PayPal. Despite serving nearly 200 million users in 203 countries, PayPal denies its service to Palestinians – though not Israeli settlers – in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

More details:

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/why-does-paypal-discriminate-against-palestinians/20611>

- **We Won't Go: Netanyahu Says West Bank Must Remain Occupied Under Any Peace Deal**

In the event that Israel and Palestine are able to reach a peace accord, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will keep military personnel in all areas of the West Bank.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705311054143571-netanyahu-west-bank-occupied-peace/>

- **Nikki Haley to Visit Israel after Showdown with Anti-Israel U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva**

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley announced Tuesday that she will travel to Israel after first addressing the notoriously anti-Israel Human Rights Council in Geneva – a body which the U.S. boycotted in March.

More details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/05/30/nikki-haley-visit-israel-showdown-anti-israel-un-human-rights-council/>

- **One killed, another injured in suspected gangland shooting in Tel Aviv**

One person was killed and another was critically injured in what police believe was a criminally motivated shooting just south of Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/one-killed-another-injured-in-suspected-gangland-shooting-in-tel-aviv/>

- **Israeli documents from days after war have familiar ring 50 years on**

Within days of capturing East Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war, Israel was examining options about their future ranging from Jewish settlement-building to the creation of a Palestinian state.

More details:

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-archives-idUSKBN18R0KG?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-archives-idUSKBN18R0KG?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401)

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Jordanian Border Guards Shoot Dead Two 'Infiltrators' From Syria**

Jordanian border guards shot dead two people trying to infiltrate into the kingdom from neighboring Syria, according to the Jordanian military on Tuesday. An army statement, citing a military source, said border guards had foiled an attempt to smuggle an amount of drugs on Monday by two people trying to cross border from Syria into Jordan.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/jordanian-border-guards-shoot-dead-two-%E2%80%99infiltrators%E2%80%99-syria-980496>

- **Lebanese army takes over Hizbullah positions on Syria border**

The LAF's 4th Land Border Regiment, one of four such units trained and equipped by the United States and United Kingdom, is plugging the 67 km gap from Masnaa on the Beirut-Damascus highway to the town of Aarsal in northeast Lebanon, where there is a sizeable presence of Sunni extremists from the Islamic State and Tahrir al-Sham groups.

More Details:

<http://www.janes.com/article/70899/lebanese-army-takes-over-hizbullah-positions-on-syria-border>

- **Lebanon seeks to ban movie over lead Israeli actress**

Lebanon's ministry of economy is seeking to ban the 2017 Wonder Woman movie because its lead actress — Gal Gadot — is an Israeli, though a formal request for a ban has not yet been received, a Lebanese security official said on Tuesday. A ban would require a recommendation from a six-ministry-member committee, a process that also has not yet began, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to reporters.

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/4a6b2399-5a16-49bb-9d9b-72ad8b95bb6e.aspx>

- **Change and Reform Rejects 'Encroachment on President Powers', Urges Abolition of 20 Parliamentary Seats**

The Change and Reform parliamentary bloc announced Tuesday that it is against “any encroachment on the president's powers,” amid a row between President Michel Aoun and Speaker Nabih Berri over who between them has the jurisdiction to open an extraordinary legislative session. “We reject any encroachment on the president's powers,” Free Patriotic Movement chief Jebran Bassil said after the bloc's weekly meeting, adding that “the Constitution's articles are clear in this regard.”

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/230725-change-and-reform-rejects-encroachment-on-president-powers-urges-abolition-of-20-parliamentary-seats>

- **Hariri, Chinese Ambassador discuss bilateral relations**

The President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri received on Tuesday at the Grand Serail the Chinese ambassador to Lebanon, Wang Kejian, in the presence of the minister of Culture Ghattas Khoury. After the meeting, the Chinese ambassador said: "We discussed the bilateral relations and the participation of Minister Khoury and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction Nabil el-Jisr in the "One Belt, One Road" initiative summit that was held in China. I assured Prime Minister Hariri that we will work with the Lebanese side to implement the projects of mutual benefit that we agreed upon in the summit, and develop trade, economic and cultural relations between the two countries."

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/79810/Hariri-Chinese-Ambassador-discuss-bilateral-relations>



- **Lebanon: Aoun-Berri Dispute Threatens Feeble Agreement over Electoral Law**

A new dispute between Lebanese President Michel Aoun and Speaker Nabih Berri is threatening a feeble agreement over a new electoral law based on the proportional system, which divides the country into 15 electoral constituencies. While the two officials have stressed that there was no rift between them, statements made by Berri during a rare news conference on Monday in Ain al-Tineh have highlighted a disagreement over constitutional matters.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/p-astatih/news-middle-east/lebanon-aoun-berri-dispute-threatens-feeble-agreement-electoral-law>

- **Lebanese PM felicitates Rouhani on reelection**

Saad Hariri issued the message on Tuesday, felicitating Iran's Rouhani for the victory in the presidential elections. Earlier, Lebanese President Michel Aoun, also extended his congratulations to his Iranian counterpart, expressing hope for expansion of ties in Rouhani's second term in office.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125673/Lebanese-PM-felicitates-Rouhani-on-reelection>

- **Lebanese army commander: 'Israel unlikely to open war against us'**

The Lebanese army commander, Joseph Aoun, said that "an Israeli war against Lebanon will not take place and is highly unlikely, unless there is some error in calculations." This was reported in Asharq Al-awsat, according to sources close to Aoun. According to the report, he added that the information coming from outside on the issue is very reassuring and stresses that "Lebanon is immune to an internal security shock and protected from any external war that Israel may launch against it."

More Details:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4969551,00.html>

- **King performs umra, meets Saudi monarch**

His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday performed umra (minor pilgrimage) in Mecca and met with Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz over bilateral ties and regional issues, according to a Royal Court statement. His Majesty performed Maghreb (sunset), Isha (evening) and Tarawih (special Ramadan prayers) prayers at the Grand Mosque in Mecca before meeting later in the evening with the Saudi monarch.

More Details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/king-performs-umra-meets-saudi-monarch>

- **PM receives chairman, rapporteur of Senate panel**

Prime Minister Hani Mulqi on Tuesday discussed with head of the Senate's Labour and Development Committee, Hala Bseiso, and rapporteur Sameer Morad ways to forge closer cooperation and coordination between the government and the Senate. During the meeting, attended by Senate President Faisal al-Fayez, Mulki said the government would welcome the panel's proposals to address domestic woes, top of which are poverty and unemployment.

More Details:

<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=35207#.WS5lo9SLTGg>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Dubai Police Invents Drone to Defuse Bombs**

Dubai Police has designed and produced a drone to defuse bombs – thought to be the first of its kind, it told media in a statement. The Department of Explosive Security at the General Directorate for Security of Entities, Establishments and Emergency has tested the device, which is intended to be used to detonate timed bombs that require rapid intervention, according to Dubai Police commander-in-chief Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri.

More Details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/dubai-police-invents-drone-defuse-bombs-676160.html>

- **Kingdom Voices Support for Bahrain's Security, Stability**

The Cabinet on Monday reaffirmed Saudi support for measures taken by Bahrain to maintain its security and stability, and the safety of its citizens and residents. Chaired by King Salman at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, the Cabinet said the security and stability of Bahrain is integral to the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1107741/saudi-arabia>

- **UN: Yemen Faces a Triple Threat**

The United Nations has warned that Yemen was heading towards “total collapse”, stressing that the Yemeni people were facing a triple threat, represented by war, famine and the cholera outbreak.

More Details:

<https://english.aawsat.com/jordan-dakamseh/news-middle-east/un-yemen-faces-triple-threat>

- **Gulf Spat Escalates as Saudi Arabia, U.A.E. Media Attack Qatar**

Tensions in the Gulf were laid open for a sixth day, with the media in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates accusing Qatar of supporting extremism and undermining regional unity. Below is a selection from newspapers and websites highlighting the deterioration in ties just a week after Gulf leaders met in Riyadh to greet U.S. President Donald Trump.

More Details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-30/gulf-spat-escalates-as-saudi-arabia-u-a-e-media-attack-qatar>

- **Cholera Death Toll Rises to 471 in Yemen**

The World Health Organization (WHO) said the death toll of a cholera epidemic in Yemen has passed 470, as the impoverished Arab country continues to be targeted by military aggression launched by its Northern neighbor, Saudi Arabia. At least 471 people have lost their lives after contracting the acute intestinal infection, according to the latest figures released by the United Nations health agency.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960309000790>

- **Role of Security Forces in Fighting Terror Lauded**

Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdulla bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri has paid tribute to the security forces for their efforts to extend security and stability throughout the Kingdom of Bahrain. He also praised them for their responsibility in preserving citizens' lives, securing their properties and effectively countering terrorism.

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=33954&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=2>

- **ITA Focused on Building Resilient Cyber Security in Oman**

Cyber security is on top of the 'to do' list for the Information Technology Authority (ITA), a top official at ITA said, responding to findings of EY's 19th Global Information Security Survey. The survey found that 82 per cent of 36 respondents from Oman agreed to not having the right cyber security function

to protect themselves from cyber attacks. According to the report, 85 per cent of organisations in Oman do not have a Security Operations Centre (SOC).

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/110197/Oman/Science-/Information-Technology-Authority-focused-on-building-resilient-cyber-security-in-Oman>

- **King Prays for Forgiveness, Reward for Muslims**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman prayed to Allah to help all Muslims complete fasting and worshipping during the holy month of Ramadan. Chairing the Council of Ministers' session at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah late Monday evening, the King also prayed to Allah to help worshipers at the Two Holy Mosques complete their rituals in ease and comfort, accept their worship and forgive them.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/king-prays-forgiveness-reward-muslims/>

- **Rights Group Denounces Qatar for Deporting Saudi Activist**

Qatar deported Saudi human rights activist Mohammad al-Otaibi to his homeland when he tried to fly with his wife to Norway where he had been granted political asylum, the rights group Amnesty International said on Tuesday. The rights group condemned Qatar, calling Otaibi's deportation "shameful and inhuman"

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/rights-group-denounces-qatar-deporting-saudi-activist-1812089336>

- **Russia Sees Oil and Gas Cooperation Potential with Saudi Arabia**

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak hosted his Saudi counterpart, Khalid al-Falih, in Moscow just weeks after both sides tabled a proposal that led to the formal acceptance of an agreement to extend a multilateral agreement to curb crude oil production for 9 months. During the meeting in Moscow, Novak said Russian companies tied to exploration and production were keen on establishing a footprint in the Saudi market.

More Details:

<http://neftgaz.ru/en/news/view/161522-Russia-sees-oil-and-gas-cooperation-potential-with-Saudi-Arabia>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Egypt to Continue Bombing ‘Anyone Sponsoring’ Terror in Libya after Attack on Christians**

Egypt is expected to move ahead with more airstrikes against jihadists in neighboring Libya in response to the most recent attack against the Christian minority in the North African country that killed at least 29 people and injured about 24 others.

More Details:

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/05/30/egypt-to-continue-bombing-anyone-sponsoring-terror-in-libya-after-attack-on-christians/>

- **Trump told Sissi he wouldn’t ‘lecture’ him. So Sissi cracked down on civil society.**

In the Middle East, meanwhile, the practical effects of Mr. Trump’s unqualified support for Sunni Arab dictatorships continue to play out. Having been assured by the president at a Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, summit that he would receive no “lecture” from Washington for his domestic repression, Egyptian strongman Abdel Fatah al-Sissi returned to Cairo last week and immediately doubled down. More than 20 news sites were shut and dozens of secular liberal political activists arrested, including Khaled Ali, a human rights lawyer who had said he might run against Mr. Sissi in the 2018 presidential election.

More Details:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/trump-told-sissi-he-wouldnt-lecture-him-so-sissi-cracked-down-on-civil-society/2017/05/30/24d44140-4552-11e7-98cd-af64b4fe2dfc\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.8285195b8529](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/trump-told-sissi-he-wouldnt-lecture-him-so-sissi-cracked-down-on-civil-society/2017/05/30/24d44140-4552-11e7-98cd-af64b4fe2dfc_story.html?utm_term=.8285195b8529)

- **Sudan extends ban on imports of Egyptian agricultural products**

Sudan’s Prime Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh Tuesday issued a decision to continue the ban on Egyptian farming products and to stop the importation of any seeds or seedlings from the neighbouring country.

More Details:

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article62592>

- **Security chief of Egypt’s Minya province sacked**

Egypt has fired the security chief of a province south of Cairo where Daesh militants last week killed 29 Christians travelling to a remote desert monastery.



More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/922206fa-f4da-4dd2-acfc-091f7e676b48.aspx>

- **Sahar Nasr chosen as first woman to join UN Social Impact Fund's Consultative Committee**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has decided to choose the Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, Sahar Nasr, to be a member of the high-level Consultative Committee of the United Nations' Social Impact Fund, according to Randa Aboul-Hosn, the country director of the UNDP in Egypt. Nasr is the first woman, Egyptian, and African to join the committee for her work in development over the past period.

More Details:

<http://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/30/sahar-nasr-chosen-first-woman-join-un-social-impact-funds-consultative-committee/>

- **Al-Sisi calls for intensifying efforts**

Egyptian President Abdul-Fattah Al-Sisi on Tuesday stressed the importance of enhancing integrational efforts against terrorism

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2614453&Language=en>

- **Egyptian groups support leftist presidential candidate**

Several Egyptian opposition figures and groups have voiced their support for Khaled Ali, a lawyer and former leftist presidential candidate, in presidential polls slated for next year.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/egyptian-groups-support-leftist-presidential-candidate/830148>

- **Egypt allocates \$2.5 billion to contain self-inflicted currency crisis**

Cairo announced a major 2.49 billion US dollar package of tax cuts, cash subsidies and increased pension payments targeted at improving living conditions for the country's poor during a period of extreme inflation triggered by its floatation of the national currency.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/5/30/egypt-allocates-2-5-billion-to-contain-self-inflicted-currency-crisis>

- **Banking system received \$1 bln in 2 days, after Egypt's CBE raised interest rates**

Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt Tarek Amer said Monday that the banking system received around \$1 billion since Thursday's (CBE) decision to raise its key interest rates by 200 basis points.

More Details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/banks/57153-banking-system-received-1-bln-in-2-days-after-egypts-cbe-raised-interest-rates.html>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Tunisia: current account deficit heads for absolute record**

The latest report by the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) shows a slight rise in tourism revenues, at the end of April 2017, in contrast to the sharp increase in non-resident inflows, up 46.4%. Tourism revenues posted a meager 491 million dinars (MD), very far from the total sum reached in 2015, i.e. some 783 MD. Labor income also changed little, up 4.3% (1.155 billion dinars against 1.107 billion in 2016). As a result, the current account deficit widened to -4,011 MTD (or -4.1% of GDP), against -3,037 MTD at the end of April 2016 (-3.4% of GDP).

More Detail:

[http://africanmanager.com/site\\_eng/tunisia-current-account-deficit-heads-for-absolute-record/?v=947d7d61cd9a](http://africanmanager.com/site_eng/tunisia-current-account-deficit-heads-for-absolute-record/?v=947d7d61cd9a)

- **Tunisia detains six IS suspects**

Tunisia has detained six people in the central region of Kasserine suspected of belonging to a group linked to the Islamic State group, authorities said Tuesday. The announcement comes after a jihadist leader was killed in a National Guard operation on Sunday night in Kasserine's Mount Salloum area near the border with Algeria. Judiciary spokesman Sofiene Sliti said the six suspects were detained on Monday as the same security operation continued.

More Detail:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20170530-tunisia-detains-six-suspects>

- **UNHCR statement on Syrians stranded between Algeria & Morocco**

UNHCR is appealing for urgent safe passage and admission for a group of Syrian refugees stranded in dire circumstances on the Algerian-Moroccan border. Deeply concerned about rapidly deteriorating conditions for this group of vulnerable Syrian refugees, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, called today

on the two countries to urgently address humanitarian needs, facilitate access to these refugees and allow them admission to safety and/or reunification with their families.

More Detail:

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/5/592d51e94/unhcr-statement-syrians-stranded-algeria-morocco.html>

- **Minister admits UK 'could have done more' to prevent chaos in Libya**

The UK “could have done more” to stop the chaos and bloodshed in Libya that followed Western intervention, a Foreign Office minister has admitted. Tobias Ellwood defended RAF air strikes against dictator Muammar Gaddafi, ordered by David Cameron, saying there was a “duty to protect” civilians during the North African country’s 2011 revolution. The UK’s role in Libya – where Manchester bomber Salman Abedi had strong links – has come under renewed scrutiny since the attack, which killed 22 people.

More Detail:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/libya-manchester-attack-abedi-civil-war-british-uk-intervention-david-cameron-gaddafi-nato-ellwood-a7764211.html>

- **As Many as 30 Migrants From Libya Feared Dead as Mediterranean Toll Tops 1,700: U.N.**

Migrants rescued from a rubber boat that left Libya last week said as many as 30 people were trampled or drowned during their voyage as this year's Mediterranean death toll climbed to more than 1,700, the U.N. said on Tuesday. They arrived in Pozzallo, Italy, on Monday and said their boat lost its motor and took on water hours after leaving Libya. Some fell in the sea and drowned and others were trampled during the panic, including a small child, leaving between 20 and 30 dead. Two bodies were recovered.

More Detail:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2017-05-30/as-many-as-30-migrants-from-libya-feared-dead-as-mediterranean-toll-tops-1-700-un>

- **UN launches \$75 million appeal for Libya**

The United Nations on Tuesday launched a \$75.5-million (67.5-million-euro) appeal to tackle a swelling humanitarian and migration crisis in Libya. The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the funds would go toward providing essential services for displaced people, refugees and asylum-seekers. The appeal is in partnership with the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM).

More Detail:

<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/un-launches-75-million-appeal-libya-202000871.html>

- **IOM assists 4,030 stranded migrants in Libya**

So far in 2017, IOM Libya has assisted 4,030 stranded migrants to return home from Libya through its voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme. The latest return was last Thursday (25 May), when IOM helped 165 stranded migrants – 145 men and 20 women – return home to Nigeria. Among the passengers were three unaccompanied children and two female medical cases. Also on 25 May, two stranded Ethiopian migrants were also able to return home on commercial flights.

More Detail:

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/iom-assists-4030-stranded-migrants-in-libya/>

- **IFC Helps Improve Access to Finance for Small Businesses in Tunisia**

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is helping the Centre Financier des Entrepreneurs Tunisie (CFE Tunisie), a microfinance institution, improve access to finance for very small enterprises (VSEs), part of an effort to boost economic growth and job creation in Tunisia.

More Detail:

<http://www.finchannel.com/business/65224-ifc-helps-improve-access-to-finance-for-small-businesses-in-tunisia>

- **‘Libya becoming completely failed state’ – former US Ambassador**

Nothing has changed the dire situation in Libya since the fall of the Gaddafi regime, said John Graham, former US Ambassador to Libya. A couple of weeks ago there were three separate governments, now we may have a fourth, he added. On Monday, Egypt has launched another bombing raid against militant positions in Libya. Egyptian warplanes hit the city of Derna, close to the border with Egypt, said Libyan military commanders, Egypt started its campaign against militants after the killing of Coptic Christians in Egypt last week. On Friday gunmen, disguised as soldiers, opened fire on worshippers traveling to a monastery south of Cairo, killing 29.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/390183-gaddafi-libya-egypt-attack/>

- **Morocco protests: Thousands demand release of Nasser Zefzafi**

Reports say riot police were involved in a tense stand-off with protesters, but later retreated. Protesters rallied after Nasser Zefzafi was arrested on Monday charged with threatening national

security. Mr Zefzafi has organised months of protests against unemployment and corruption. Morocco has been gripped by demonstration since the death of a fishmonger in Al-Hoceima in October.

More Details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40102725>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Fifty Killed and 150 Wounded in Huge Car Bomb Blast Near Embassies in Kabul**

Fifty people have been killed and 150 injured in a powerful car bomb explosion in the Afghan capital of Kabul. Police said the blast, which was believed to have been triggered by a suicide bomber, was in an area close to the German embassy. The explosion also shattered windows and blew doors off their hinges in houses hundreds of metres away.

More Details:

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/least-50-people-killed-injured-10532401>

- **Two Taliban Centers Smashed, 10 Militants Killed In Urozgan**

Two Taliban centers had been demolished and 10 rebels were killed following U.S drone attack in Urozgan. Dost Nayab spokesman of Urozgan governor said BNA correspondent, armed oppositions were involved in a series of terrorist and destructive activities, which targeted by drone raid in their hideouts.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/28750-two-taliban-centers-smashed-10-militants-killed-in-urozgan.html>

- **US Failed to Keep its Promises in Afghanistan: Karzai**

Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday said that the U.S. had reneged on its promise of protecting the country from external threats and developing its economy. “The U.S. demanded a permanent military base from us and promised us two things in return,” Karzai said, speaking exclusively to Anadolu Agency.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/us-failed-to-keep-its-promises-in-afghanistan-karzai/830264>



- **Taliban Targeting Islamic Scholars in Afghanistan in Bid to Silence Dissent**

A lone grave, its dirt mound shaded under the drooping branches of a mulberry tree and kept adorned with flowers, has become a daily stop for seminary students and staff members near Togh-Bairdi, in northern Afghanistan.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/taliban-afghanistan-target-islamic-scholars-target-silence-dissent-rule-quran-mawlawi-shah-agha-a7762556.html>

- **2 Policemen among 7 Killed in Faryab**

A violent clash between police forces and the Taliban militants in Sherin Tagab district of northwestern Faryab province have resulted into killing of two policemen and five insurgents, officials said on Tuesday. Police Spokesperson, Abdul Karim Yourish, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the police personnel were targeted in an offensive of Taliban, when they were on their way to duty.

More Details:

<http://afghanistantimes.af/2-policemen-among-7-killed-in-faryab/>

- **Pakistan Sends Aid as Lankan Flood Toll Rises**

Pakistan's Naval Ship Zulfiqar arrived here on Tuesday with dry rations, medicines, de-flooding pumps and other emergency relief items as the death toll from Sri Lanka's flash floods and landslides increased to 193, with 94 people missing and 142,811 families affected, according to the Disaster Management Centre.

More Details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1336456/pakistan-sends-aid-as-lankan-flood-toll-rises>

- **Taliban Militant Says He was Receiving Money and Weapons from Pakistan**

A Taliban insurgent who has surrendered to the security forces and joined peace process says he was receiving money and weapons from Pakistan. The provincial government in a statement said the Taliban militant identified as Noor-ul-Haq renounced violence and surrendered to the government due to the efforts of the National Directorate of Security.

More Details:

<http://www.khaama.com/taliban-militant-says-he-was-receiving-money-and-weapons-from-pakistan-02832>

- **Normalcy Restored in Kashmir**

Normalcy returned in Kashmir valley today after three days of restrictions and strike in the aftermath of the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Sabzar Bhat in an encounter with security forces. There were no restrictions anywhere in Kashmir, officials said, adding life was going on normally across the valley.

More Details:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/614605/normalcy-restored-kashmir.html>

- **Self-Proclaimed Peacemongers Push India, Pakistan to Talk**

More than 900 people, most of them from India and Pakistan, have signed a resolution calling on the two governments to decrease hostilities and resolve their differences through dialogue. Drafted by Boston-based Pakistani journalist Beena Sarwar and Indian academic Anish Mishra, who is based in Singapore, the resolution aims to reduce the increased tensions between the two South Asian nuclear-armed rivals that have already fought five wars since their independence from the British in 1947.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/self-proclaimed-peacemongers-india-pakistan-dialogue/3877965.html>

- **Nine Indian Troops Injured In Mortar Firing Near Pakistani Border**

Nine troops of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) were injured, including two who were critical, on Tuesday morning at a firing range located near the Indo-Pakistani border in Rajasthan. The incident occurred when a mortar accidentally exploded during a training exercise.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201705301054118938-indian-troops-injured/>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish ship rescues 466 migrants from boat about to sink off Libya coast**

A Turkish container ship has rescued a total of 466 migrants from an old boat which was about to sink off the Libyan coast, Doğan News Agency reported on May 30. The Roseline A spotted migrants jam-packed on a boat off the Libyan coast while it was heading toward Tunisia. The Turkish crew immediately embarked 466 migrants, including women and children, on the ship. The migrants were hosted by the crew for a day and also provided food by Turkish cooks at the ship. They were later handed to the Italian Coast guard team.

More Detail:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=113709&NewsCatID=341>

- **Turkey arrests suspected senior ISIL leader**

Istanbul police's anti-terror branch Tuesday arrested a suspected senior ISIL leader Halis Bayancuk on Tuesday, according to a security source. Bayancuk was arrested as part of the investigation against the militant group carried out by Sakarya Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, the source, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to media, told Anadolu Agency.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/190237/russia-lifts-certain-economic-restrictions-on-turkey>

- **Turkish Red Crescent helped 4.5M Syrians: Aid group head**

The Turkish Red Crescent Society, locally known as Kızılay, has sent aid to 4.5 million people hit by war in Syria, its head said on Tuesday. Speaking to Anadolu Agency in the southern Mersin province, Kerem Kinik said that in recent years humanity has been suffering the biggest crisis since World War II, with conflicts in around 40 regions of the world.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-red-crescent-helped-45m-syriansaid-group-head/830261>

*\*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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