

Press Review Jordan

07 August to 13 August 2017

Foreign Affairs

- In a meeting with Iraqi officials, **Foreign Minister** Ayman Safadi has urged **Iraq** to increase efforts towards a **re-opening of the shared border** between Jordan and Iraq. While security concerns prevail at the moment, the Foreign Minister stressed that **economic cooperation** in the medium term, including a new **pipeline** to Jordan, has to be pursued nonetheless. (August 10th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)

Domestic Politics

- In an interview with Jordan Times, the Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs Musa Maaytah spoke about the **performance of political parties** in the upcoming **elections** which is likely to be “weak and **below expectations**”. The municipal and governorate elections will most likely only see a fraction of candidates from political parties. (August 13th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- Continuing with the upcoming elections, studies suggest that **turnout is likely to increase** to up to 46.5%, a considerable increase compared to last year’s parliamentary elections. Furthermore, a majority of citizens see a “**moderate to big impact**” of the new decentralisation efforts. (August 13th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- The **Tawjiji results**, the centralised general exam in Jordan, have seen a continuation of **female students** performing considerably better than male students. For the last years, this trend and the **gap between exam performances** could be observed and is likely to continue. (August 10th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)

Economy

- A study conducted by the Jordan Strategy Forum has examined **financial inclusion** in Jordan, referring to the percentage of the working age population with access to a bank account. With **24.6 percent for men and 15.5 for women**, Jordan ranks very low on this metric, especially when compared to other states in the region and abroad. (August 8th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- Jordan has issued the **first non-employer and non-specific work permits for Syrian refugees** since the Syrian crisis erupted. The temporary permits allow Syrians to work in the construction sector in addition to already opened specific sectors. (August 9th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)