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Qatar's Al Jazeera network says it combated cyberattack

Doha-based satellite channel says **peak of attacks came ahead of documentary** detailing indirect negotiations **between Israel and Hamas**, which included a voice recording purportedly of an Israeli held prisoner in Gaza
Reuters| Published: **06.10.21** , 10:05

Pan-Arab satellite network **Al Jazeera** said it was **subjected to continual hacking attempts over recent days** but the cyberattack on Qatar's flagship broadcaster had been **fended off**.

Al Jazeera's websites and platforms experienced "continued electronic attacks aimed at accessing, disrupting and controlling some of the news platforms" from last Saturday to Tuesday, the network said in a statement.

"Al **Jazeera's service provider was able to monitor and fend off all** the hacking attacks and prevent them from achieving their goal," it said in the late Wednesday statement. It said the **peak of the attacks came on Sunday** ahead of a documentary described on Al Jazeera's Arabic YouTube channel as detailing indirect negotiations between Israel and Palestinian terror group Hamas, which included a voice recording purportedly of an Israeli held prisoner in Gaza.

The **Qatar-funded** channel's **coverage of Middle East politics** is regarded as inflammatory by many in the region and was one of the factors that led four **Arab states** to **boycott** Qatar in 2017.

Ahead of the embargo, Al Jazeera combated a large-scale cyber attack after Qatar's state news agency QNA was hacked.

Saudi Arabia and its allies last January **announced the end of** the row in which the **boycotting states accused Qatar of supporting terrorism**, an accusation it denies.

06.10.21

MigVax oral vaccine, an Israeli design, begins first & second phase clinical trials

06.10.21

Israeli oral virus vaccine proven effective as booster in preclinical trial

New treatment proven to offer several significant **advantages over existing injected vaccines**, including **ease** of administration, **longer effectiveness** and **reducing** distribution and **storage costs** and logistics

TPS| Published: **06.10.21** , 18:46

MigVax Ltd., an Israeli startup company developing an **oral subunit vaccine** against coronavirus, **announced Thursday** that preclinical trials yielded **promising results** that demonstrated its **MigVax-101 subunit oral vaccine** was effective as a **booster for previously vaccinated persons**.

MigVax-101 is a novel oral subunit vaccine that **utilizes** a chimeric **protein to generate three** kinds of simultaneous **immunological responses**: mucosal, blood-based, and cell-

mediated immunity. This triple-armed approach provides comprehensive protection against infection by **activating all facets of the immune system**, allowing for the effective eradication of the invading virus.

Its **epitopes** were **designed** using **computational chemistry** of immunogenic epitopes in IBV, MERS, SARS-COV and SAS-COV-2, focusing on **neutralizing antibodies** and **promoting an immune response**.

In the trial, tests carried out on rats demonstrated that the MigVax-101 vaccine, when administered in a boost format following an injected S1 protein, elicited markedly higher neutralizing antibody titers than rats receiving an oral placebo booster. In addition, **similar to a third booster injection**, it elicited more effective neutralizing antibodies.

MigVax is seeking the **financing** necessary for it to launch the **first and second phases** of its clinical trials, which, if successful, would make the treatment **commercially available within 9-12 months** after trials begin.

As an oral vaccine, Mig-Vax-101 offers significant **potential advantages over** existing first-generation **injected vaccines**, including the ease of administration and being uniquely positioned to tackle new variants through quick adaptability

In addition, because the other components of the vaccine are **comprised of a protein that is not prone to changes**, the vaccine **may remain effective** for **longer periods before requiring a booster**.

Furthermore, MigVax-101 requires refrigeration, but **not “deep freeze” conditions**, as opposed to coronavirus vaccines using mRNA technology such as the Pfizer and Moderna shots. This significantly reduces distribution and storage costs and logistics.

“The results of this trial increase our confidence that our MigVax-101 subunit oral vaccine will make a positive contribution to a world coming to grips with the new post-pandemic reality,” said **Prof. Itamar Shalit**, MigVax’s Infectious Disease Expert.

“Oral boosters such as our MigVax-101 will be key enablers that will **help** health organizations the world over to **transition from ‘panic mode’ to routine**, due to their ability to reduce the cost and **expand the reach of ongoing vaccination programs**,” he said.

06.10.21

Bennett’s vow to serve Israel in the opposition, won't last to see Lapid as PM

06.10.21

Likud whip: new government won't last long enough for Lapid to become PM

Miki Zohar says **new coalition would be ‘paralyzed’** in its **decision-making** and sees **Bennett** as no more than a **lame-duck** prime minister in a government in which the **left** would always come on top on 'all fundamental and crucial' **issues**

Alexandra Lukash, Attila Somfalvi | Published: **06.10.21** , 17:44

Coalition head MK Miki Zohar said on Thursday he did not believe the emerging government would last long enough for Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid to succeed Yamina chief Naftali Bennett as prime minister.

In an interview with the Ynet studio, Zohar talked about the upcoming change of guard in Knesset and drew comparisons between the government-in-waiting, led by Bennett and Lapid, and the departing one, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz — both of are two-headed coalitions whose leaders were supposed to share the premiership for two years each as part of a rotation deal.

The current government collapsed after just one year in power — in a term that was marred with recurring disputes and disagreements — long before Gantz could take the position of prime minister as agreed upon between his Blue & White party and Netanyahu's Likud party.

"Whoever thought this unity government with Blue & White could have been sustained was wrong. It was a mistake joining it and we saw exactly how things were running on a day-to-day basis — how the government did not function and how its members were at each other's throats, so it did not survive," the Likud whip said.

"That is the reason Gantz did not get the rotation, because this couldn't have been a functioning government. And this incoming government won't function either, and that is why Lapid won't become prime minister."

Zohar went on to claim that the emerging rainbow coalition government, which is comprised of a loosely knit bind of parties from all over the political spectrum, would be "paralyzed" in its decision-making but that its left-wing flank would always come on top on "all fundamental and crucial" issues since the right-wing Bennett would not have any supporters left after joining Lapid to form a coalition — a highly controversial among right-wing voters.

"There is no public that backs and supports him, so if he does not agree with the positions of the left — he will eventually go back to his private life and will not be able to remain an elected public official anymore because no one would back him in another election campaign."

However, the coalition chairman has ruled out any last-ditch move that could turn the tables and impede the inauguration of the new government on Sunday, and vowed to continue serving the people of Israel from the opposition.

06.10.21

Egyptian engineers rebuild Gaza but Israel bans material aid to rebuild Hamas

06.10.21

Israel calls on Egypt to stop entry of construction materials to Gaza

Goods have reportedly been entering the Strip through Egypt's Rafah border crossing without any monitoring, with Israeli officials warning of so-called 'dual-use' of supplies for military purposes could aid Hamas to rebuild its capabilities
i24NEWS| Published: 06.10.21 , 15:32

Israel has reportedly asked Egypt to halt the entry of cement and other construction materials into the Gaza Strip over fears they could be used by Palestinian armed groups for military purposes.

Material began reentering the Hamas-controlled enclave following the 11-war between Israel and Palestinian terror groups, which ended with the help of an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire.

Israel is now seeking to ensure that so-called "dual-use" materials entering Palestinian territory are not used by terror groups to rearm.

However, goods have been flowing through the Salah-a-Din gate of the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt three days a week without any monitoring, the Kan public broadcaster reported Wednesday. Among the goods reportedly entering Gaza through the crossing were cement, building supplies and fuel.

Israeli officials are hoping to meet with their Egyptian counterparts to discuss the issue, having recognized that without monitoring, there is no way to block Hamas from rebuilding its military capabilities, the report said.

The report also said Israel had told Egypt that it has no opposition to Egyptian engineering teams entering Gaza helping to clear debris left by IDF airstrikes, but did not want them to repair the subterranean tunnels used by Hamas and other armed Palestinian factions.

06.10.21

7 Jews arrested over attack on worshipper near Herzliya mosque

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Police and Shin Bet say they arrested the suspects following the attack on May 12, a day after violent riots erupted across Israel between Arab and Jews; they pepper sprayed the Tayibe resident and stabbed him, causing him moderate wounds

Eli Senyor, Yoav Zitun| Published: 06.10.21 , 11:45

Seven Jewish Israelis were arrested a month ago over an attack on a worshipper near a mosque in the central city of Herzliya, security officials revealed Monday.

The incident apparently occurred in the wake of riots, which erupted in several locations across Israel when tensions between Arabs and Jews spiked following weeks of unrest in Jerusalem and heavy fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

The police and the Shin Bet arrested the suspects, all residents of Herzliya, some time after the attack, which appears to have been nationalistically motivated. According to the police, the suspects attacked a 60-year-old resident of the central Arab city of Tayibe near Sidna Ali Mosque, located in the northern part of Herzliya. The police said the suspects arrived in the area near the mosque during a riot in the city on May 12. They ambushed the victim and then attacked him by pepper spraying his face and stabbing him with a sharp object. He was moderately hurt and was evacuated to a hospital.

Among the suspects are those who **already have a criminal record**, the police said. Some of them admitted to the investigators the attack was nationalistically motivated and the police believe it was organized in advance. At the end of the investigation, the police transferred all its findings to the State Prosecutor's Office, which is expected to file indictments in the coming days, along with a **request** for the defendants to be **kept in custody until the end of the legal proceedings** against them.

06.10.21

2 Palestinian officers & a terrorist killed in West Bank clash with Israeli troops

06.10.21

2 Palestinian officers killed in W. Bank clash with Israeli troops

Members of the PA's Military Intelligence force - which conduct **coordination with Israel** - are **shot dead** in exchanges of fire with Israeli undercover forces, who arrived in Jenin to arrest Islamic Jihad member; **terror suspect was also killed**

Ynet ,News agencies| Published: **06.10.21** , 08:58

Israeli forces **raided a town in the West Bank** on Thursday, touching off exchanges of gunfire in which **two Palestinian security men and a third person were killed**, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

A poster circulated on local media identified the two dead as members of the Palestinian Authority's Military Intelligence force. The third victim, Jamil Al-Amouri, appears to be a wanted member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

According to Palestinian reports, the incident began when undercover forces from the Yamam Border Police counterterrorism unit arrived in Jenin to arrest two wanted terror suspects, one of which is said to have been affiliated with the Islamic Jihad.

The **two suspects** appeared to have **hid near a building** belonging to **Palestinian Military Intelligence**, which is part of the **PA's security** apparatus.

Since the **Israeli** forces were **undercover**, the **IDF and the Shin Bet did not coordinate** their **arrival with the PA's security** in advance. As a result, once the Yamam troops began

operating near the Military Intelligence building, the Palestinian forces stationed at the scene opened fire in their direction, leading to a heavy exchange.

Two Palestinian security officers were killed as a result. They were identified by the PA as Lieutenant Adham Aliwi, 23, and Captain Taysir Issa, 33.

"It appears that the **unit they fired on was undercover**," an Israeli security source said. "Our forces fired back, apparently thinking that the shooting from the Palestinian security men was **part of the clash with the wanted terrorists**."

Online video from the incident appears to show Palestinian officers taking cover behind a vehicle as gunshots are heard in the background. One shouts that they are exchanging fire with Israeli "undercover" forces.

Israel regularly conducts operations against Palestinian militants in the West Bank. But it **rarely clashes with Palestinian Authority security forces**, which conduct discreet **coordination with Israel** designed to maintain order in the territory despite long-stalled talks on Palestinian statehood.

06.09.21

US bent on lifting Iran sanctions as Saudi & UAE engage their fighters

06.09.21

Resigned to a nuclear deal revival, Saudi, UAE engage with foe Iran
Gulf States have stated repeatedly in the past that the **2015 accord** was inadequate as it **ignored Islamic Republic's missile exports and support for regional proxy fighters**
Reuters| Published: **06.09.21** , 22:30

Saudi Arabia and the **United Arab Emirates**, resigned to the **revival of a nuclear pact** with Iran **they always opposed**, are engaging with Tehran to contain tensions while lobbying for future talks to take their security concerns into account.

World powers have been negotiating in Vienna with Iran and the United States to revive the 2015 deal, under which **Tehran agreed to curbs** on its nuclear program **in return for the lifting of international sanctions**.

The new U.S. administration of President Joe **Biden wants to restore the deal**, which Washington abandoned under his predecessor, Donald Trump. But Washington's Gulf allies have always said the deal was inadequate because it ignored other issues, such as Iran's missile exports and support for regional proxy fighters.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made clear on Monday that Washington's priority was to get the deal "back in the box" and then use it as a platform to address other questions.

But with **Saudi Arabia** embroiled in a costly war in Yemen and facing **repeated missile and drone attacks** on its oil infrastructure which it **blames on Iran** and its allies, the Gulf States say the wider issues must not be set aside.

"The Gulf countries have said 'fine the U.S. can go back to (the nuclear deal), this is their decision we cannot change it, but...we need everybody to take into account regional security concerns'," Gulf Research Center's Abdulaziz Sager, who has been active in past unofficial Saudi-Iran dialogue, said this week.

Gulf officials worry that they lack the same clout with the Biden administration that they had under Trump. They lobbied to join the Vienna talks, but were rebuffed.

Rather than wait for the outcome in Vienna, Riyadh accepted Iraqi overtures in April to host talks between Saudi and Iranian officials, two sources familiar with the matter said. 'We need to live with them'

As the foes suss each other out, Riyadh has said it wants to see "verifiable deeds".

Iran holds a number of cards, not least its support for the Houthi movement in Yemen, which the Saudis have failed to defeat after six years of war that exhausted Washington's patience.

"Yemen is a cheap course for Iran and a very expensive one for Saudi Arabia. This gives Iran a strong bargaining position," Sager said.

The UAE, for its part, has already been in regular contact with Iran trying to de-escalate, notably since tankers were attacked off its coast in 2019, a third regional source said. The priority now for Gulf states is to focus on their economies following COVID-19. But security assurances are an important part of that recovery.

"A (nuclear) deal is better than no deal, but how can you convince the world -- and investors -- that this is a real deal that can stand the test of time?" the third source told Reuters.

Gulf states hope Washington maintains leverage over Tehran by keeping some sanctions, including those designed to punish foreign actors for supporting terrorism or weapons proliferation.

Blinken told a congressional committee hearing that a deal could be used "as a platform both to look at whether the agreement itself can be lengthened and if necessary strengthened and also to capture" regional concerns.

The Gulf States remain skeptical. UAE envoy to Washington Yousef Al Otaiba said in April he saw no evidence the nuclear deal would become "a tool where moderates are empowered" in Iran, which holds presidential elections this month dominated by hardliners.

"But we need to live with them in peace," Otaiba said. "We want non-interference, no missiles, no proxies."

06.09.21

New Hope MK sues Netanyahu's son for radio station interview statement

06.09.21

New Hope MK sues Netanyahu's son for libel

Former Likud lawmaker Yifat Shasha-Biton seeks NIS 500,000 in damages from Yair Netanyahu over interview in which he claimed 'people died because of her populist decisions' as head of Knesset's COVID committee
i24NEWS | Published: 06.09.21 , 19:59

New Hope MK Yifat Shasha-Biton filed a libel lawsuit Wednesday for NIS 500,000 against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's son, Yair, for comments he made about her in December.

Shasha-Biton, a former Likud lawmaker, was at the time chair of Knesset's coronavirus committee at the height of the pandemic, angering the premier and his allies by striking down several measures passed by the cabinet.

She criticized what she viewed at the time as unjustified measures that kept some public spaces, including gyms, closed while other parts of the economy were reopening after the first infection wave. She used her powers to overturn that decision and several others before Netanyahu defanged her committee and removed her authority to overturn cabinet resolutions, reported The Times of Israel.

Shasha-Biton left Likud in December 2020 to join the fledgling New Hope party of Netanyahu rival Gideon Saar. One of the party's election pledges - which it has upheld despite intense pressure from the country's political right-wing - was to not to join a Netanyahu-led government.

Shortly after she left Likud, Yair Netanyahu lambasted the lawmaker in an interview with right-wing radio station Galey Israel, saying she was responsible for many COVID-19 deaths.

"People died because of her populist decisions, there are people in their graves who died in the second wave [of infections]," Netanyahu said. "She caused the second wave to be more severe by ensuring that everything is opened. This is her only achievement in her entire public life."

He also claimed that Likud had handed Shasha-Biton the position of coronavirus committee chair as an "act of charity because they felt sorry for her and wanted her to feel good about herself."

She sent Yair Netanyahu a letter in April demanding that he retract his statements or face a lawsuit, which he subsequently ignored.

06.09.21

3 arrested Jaffa home fire; plan to burn Jewish homes but mistake hit Arab-home

06.09.21

3 arrested over Jaffa home firebombing that seriously hurt boy, 12

Security forces say suspects, who are residents of Ajami neighborhood of city, planned to attack Jewish-owned homes in area out of nationalist motive, fleeing the scene after realizing they misidentified the house inhabited by Arab family
Eli Senyor, Yoav Zitun | Published: 06.09.21 , 19:04

Three men were arrested Wednesday over the firebombing of an Arab-owned home in Jaffa last month that seriously injured a 12-year-old boy.

The suspects, who live near the family's house in the Ajami neighborhood of Jaffa, were apprehended in a joint operation by police and the Shin Bet domestic security service.

The attack - which took place amid a wave of violence in mixed cities across Israel in May - was captured on surveillance cameras, which showed two suspects throwing the incendiary device into the family's home and then bolting away.

According to the Shin Bet, the assailants were planning to firebomb Jewish-owned homes in the area in revenge for the clashes in Lod and on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, but due to a misidentification they threw a Molotov cocktail into the home of the Jantazi family.

"After the suspects realized they had made a mistake, they ran from the scene despite their plan to firebomb other Jewish-owned properties in the area," the domestic security agency said.

As part of the investigation, officials also uncovered several weapons hidden by the suspects and their associates.

The suspects were due to be indicted in the coming days.

Shortly after the attack, Mohammed Jantazi was taken to the hospital where he was treated with severe burns. His sister was also wounded in the incident.

The boy's father Sabri Jantazi said that a Molotov cocktail ignited a fire in the living room where he and his family were sitting.

"My children were right by the window. Suddenly, someone threw a Molotov cocktail through the window and burned our living room. My son was sustained severe burns to his face, while his sister was only lightly injured," said Jantazi.

06.09.21

70 teams & 10 planes fought arson fires in Jerusalem & West Bank Wednesday

06.09.21

Fires under control in Jerusalem area; police suspect arson

Residents of Abu Ghosh, Ma'ale Hahamisha briefly evacuated flames threatened their homes; dozens of fire crews, including from central Israel, dispatched to help firefighters already on ground, in air; Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway and train service closed for several hours

Gilad Cohen| Updated: 06.09.21 , 19:04

Authorities suspect that massive brushfires that started in the Jerusalem area and West Bank on Wednesday afternoon were caused by arson.

Residents of the communities in the hills surrounding the capital were evacuated from their homes for several hours Wednesday afternoon as firefighters struggled to contain the flames. The fires were later brought under control.

The Jerusalem District Fire Brigade said that fire first broke out on Mount Haruach, near the communities of Neve Ilan, Ma'ale Hahamisha and Abu Ghosh.

The fire soon after spread to nearby Mount Eitan and was nearing homes in Yad Hashmona and Abu Ghosh.

Roads in the area were closed to traffic as the fire spread. A section of the Route 1 highway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem was also closed and the train line between the two cities was suspended.

The roads and the train lines to Jerusalem were reopened after firefighters managed to gain control over the flames. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial in Jerusalem District Court was also briefly suspended.

Over 70 teams of firefighters were on the ground and 10 planes were in the air to battle the fires. Crews from the central region were also dispatched to the scene.

The head of the National Fire and Rescue Authority, Dedi Simchi, said: "We have taken control of the fire after great effort. We have managed to contain the fire in Ma'ale Hahamisha and stopped the danger to the other communities. We are currently engaged in fully extinguishing the fires."

A fire also broke out in the central West Bank near the settlements of Ariel and Shavei Shomron.

Teams of volunteer and reservist firefighters from the Samaria regional station rushed to the scene, where they battled a kilometer-long front with the fire spreading rapidly due to the wind.

Firefighters from the Palestinian Authority also joined the efforts to extinguish the fires.

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