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03.30.22

Bennett to Israel: Time to carry a weapon; 12 Police battalions in WB & 2 in Gaza

03.30.22

Bennett to Israelis: This is the time to carry a weapon

Prime minister orders grinding scrutiny into suspects with ties to Islamic State, announces establishment of new Border Police brigade to help tackle the emerging terror threat

Itamar Eichner | Published: 03.30.22, 22:28

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Wednesday evening told Israelis who have a license for a firearm, "this is the time to carry a weapon," as the country faces its worst spate of terrorist attacks in years.

The premier issued the call in a video statement from his home in Ra'anana where he is quarantined due to coronavirus infection.

At the opening of a meeting of the high-level State Security Cabinet, Bennett announced the establishment of a new Border Police brigade to help tackle the emerging terror threat. He then said he had ordered the defense forces to "look into anyone who ever had anything to do with the Islamic State."

Two of the three most recent attacks were carried out by Arab Israeli citizens who were previously convicted and served prison sentences for their connections to the vicious Islamist group.

"Citizens of Israel, these days we are experiencing a murderous wave of terror, and as with all previous waves — we will overcome, together," said Bennett. "Over the past 24 hours, defense forces have been working at full throttle to restore security to the cities of Israel and a sense of security for the citizens."

According to Bennett, the IDF, the Israel Police, and the Shin Bet security agency were all put on high alert, and have significantly increased intelligence-gathering efforts in a bid to foil impending attacks.

Israel has increased its security presence in Israeli cities and in the West Bank. Bennett added that "as far as I'm concerned, there's no resource limit."

All in all, an extra 12 battalions will be deployed to run routine security operations around the West Bank and two others around the Gaza Strip in a bid to nip at the bud any terrorist activity brewing under the surface.

"So far, Israel's defense forces have carried out more than 200 arrests or interrogations. And the house of the Bnei Brak terrorist in Ya'bad [in the northern West Bank] has been set up for demolition, and we are working to raze it as quickly as possible to create deterrence," Bennett said.

"And what do we expect from the citizens of Israel? Vigilance and responsibility, and keep your eyes peeled," Bennett said.

03.29.22

West Bank adds four battalions as terror rose to highest threat amid Ramadan attacks

03.29.22

Israel terror threat level raised to highest amid spree of attacks

Bennett orders bolstering IDF troop deployment along West Bank by four additional battalions; security cabinet to convene on Wednesday to mull additional steps to increase security after 5 people killed in Bnei Brak terror attack, third in a week

Ynet| Published: 03.29.22, 23:30

Israel on Tuesday has raised its level of threat from terrorism to highest possible after yet another deadly terror attack took place earlier, the third within a week.

Five people were killed when 26-year old Diaa Hamarsheh, resident of the village of Ya'bad near Jenin in the West Bank, opened fire from an automatic rifle in two separate locations in the predominately ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak. The gunman was shot and killed on the scene.

Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai said his forces would be deployed in city centers and in the entrance to major urban areas in the wake of the shooting spree.

The IDF was also bolstering its deployment along the border with the West Bank with four battalions, according to Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi

In addition, the security cabinet will convene on Wednesday to consider additional steps meant to prevent the terror wave from deteriorating.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett conducted a security assessment immediately after the attack on Tuesday and said Israel is facing a murderous wave of Arab terror.

"My heart is with the families of the victims and my prayers are with the wounded," Bennett said. "Our security forces are carrying out their mission. We will fight terrorism

with conviction and **with an iron fist**. They will not move us from here. We will win," Bennett said.

The deadly attack in Bnei Brak was the **third in a week after four died in a stabbing and car ramming attack** in Be'er Sheva last Tuesday, and **two** more were **killed** in a **shooting** attack in Hadera on Sunday.

Those **attacks were carried out by Arab Israelis**, who were affiliated with the Islamic State.

Bennett, who is isolating having been infected with COVID, met on Tuesday with Defense Minister Benny **Gantz and other security officials to discuss** the deteriorating security **situation, with the IDF and the police** bracing for an outbreak of violence during the Muslim holy month of **Ramadan, which begins April 2.**

On Wednesday, Israeli Arabs will mark Land Day, commemorating the death of six Arab citizens who were killed by police in 1976 during a demonstration protesting land confiscations in the Galilee.

Extreme right-wing legislator Itamar Ben Gvir announced his intentions to enter the Temple Mount compound on Land Day in what can be seen as a provocation, which may bring about clashes with Muslims who regard the Al Aqsa Mosque compound a holy site.

Earlier on Tuesday, Gantz met in Amman with King Abdullah II and briefed him on the government's efforts to reduce tensions ahead of the holiday and allow freedom of worship including in Jerusalem, as well as efforts to improve the lives of Palestinians in the West Bank and in Gaza.

Palestinian President Mahmoud **Abbas condemned the attack** on Tuesday. "The killing of Israeli and Palestinians civilians will only cause further deterioration," Abbas said but warned that the attack on Tuesday **should not be used as a pretext to target Palestinians.** Meanwhile, in the village of Ya'bad, and elsewhere on the West Bank and in Gaza, **Palestinians celebrated the killing of Israelis in Tuesday's attack, by serving sweets to passers-by.**

Hamas had served a prison term in 2013, for security offenses and according to his social media posts, was a devout Muslim.

On Sunday he **posted** on his Facebook page **"Glory to those who change reality."** Hamas and the Islamic **Jihad terror groups praised the attack in Bnei Brak.**

03.29.22

Gantz met Jordan's King in Amman, to enable PA worship during Ramadan

03.29.22

Israel defense minister meets Jordan's King Abdullah in Amman

Gantz and the king discuss Israel's steps to enable freedom of worship for Palestinians during the holy month of Ramadan, government initiatives to improve the lives of West Bank and Gaza residents

Yossi Yehoshua, Reuters | Published: 03.29.22, 18:07

Defense Minister Benny Gantz met on Tuesday with Jordan's King Abdullah II in Amman in an apparent joint effort to lower Israeli-Palestinian tensions as the Muslim holy month of Ramadan approaches.

Gantz told the king of the steps that Israel intends to take to enable freedom of worship in Jerusalem and the West Bank and the government's initiatives to improve the quality of lives the Palestinians, while still preserving Israeli's security interests.

Citing security concerns, Israel has imposed age limits on Muslim worshippers at Al-Aqsa during periods of tension and restricted Palestinian travel to Jerusalem from the West Bank.

Gantz emphasized the importance of maintaining regional peace and stability and the need to fight terrorism in all its forms, including against ISIS, which was the motivating force behind the recent attacks in Israel."

The Defense Ministry said in a statement that the two men discussed "regional and security challenges."

Gantz wished the King and Jordanians the best for the holiday and thanked Abdullah "for his leadership and positive influence in the region, as well as for his willingness to deepen peaceful relations and to expand cooperation between the Kingdom and Israel in all areas," the ministry said in its statement.

The Jordanian King discussed the need to "honor the right of Muslim worshippers at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, and prevent provocations that would lead to escalation".

The office of Jordan's King Abdullah II said the meeting was in line with efforts lead by the king, in an attempt to create "a real horizon for establishing a justified comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution, while maintaining the historic and legal status quo in Jerusalem and the holy places which would ensure freedom of worship for Ramadan's prayers."

The meeting was coordinated with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. According to some reports, Gantz initially sought to hold a trilateral summit together with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, but Bennett opposed the initiative.

President Issac Herzog will visit Amman on Wednesday for a meeting with the king, his office said on Tuesday.

Public Security Minister Omer Bar-Lev visited Jordan in secret last week and met with Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi ahead of Ramadan Month.

03.29.22

Israel nabs 12 Arabs having ties with terror group of Hadera shooting spree

03.29.22

Israel nabs 12 suspected Islamic State members in Arab sector

Some of the suspects in the past expressed support for the terror group, and even served time in Israeli prisons over their affiliations with it; Shin Bet says it takes responsibility for failing to prevent the deadly attack in Hadera

Liran Levi | Published: 03.29.22, 10:16

Israeli security forces raided several towns in northern Israel early Tuesday and arrested 12 people suspected of having ties with the Islamic State terror group.

The suspects, from the Arab cities of Umm al-Fahm, Wadi Ara, and Sakhnin, in the past expressed support to the terror group, with some of them even serving time in Israeli prisons.

Following the deadly Hadera shooting spree in which two Border Police troops were killed, Israel's security forces remain on high alert due to fear of copycat attacks and further escalation.

The Israel Police reported on Monday night that they reinforced security forces across the country following two deadly terror attacks in the space of a week. Part of the reinforcement includes roadblocks that were deployed and increased police presence in crowded places and shopping centers.

Also on Monday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett convened a situational assessment, with the participation of Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Interior Minister Omer Bar-Lev, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi, Police Commissioner Kobi Shatbai, Shin Bet head Ronen Bar, and others.

In the meeting it was decided that Gantz would postpone his planned trip to India, the security forces would be reinforced and the social networks would be closely monitored for incitement to violence. In addition, IDF soldiers in training will be able to leave bases with their personal weapons when they head home.

Meanwhile, the Shin Bet has taken responsibility for failing to prevent the deadly attack in Hadera and said it has launched an internal investigation to determine how the perpetrators of the terror spree managed to evade their radar.

Security forces remain on high alert due to the the holy month of Ramadan which is set to start April 2. Ramadan usually spells an uptick in Arab violence and acts of terrorism in Israel.

03.29.22

Israel-Turkey gas pipeline an option for Europe, if Turkey helps 1.5 billion build

03.29.22

Israel-Turkey gas pipeline an option for Russia-wary Europe, say sources
Israeli firms which own Leviathan gas rig, say they plan to crank up production from 12 to 21 billion cubic meters a year; EU imports 155 billion cubic meters of gas, 40% of overall consumption, from Russian
Reuters, Ynet | Published: 03.29.22, 09:19

A Turkey-Israel gas pipeline is being discussed behind the scenes as one of Europe's alternatives to Russian energy supplies, but it will take complicated maneuvering to reach any deal, government and industry officials in both countries say.

The idea, first conceived years ago, is to build a subsea pipeline from Turkey to Israel's largest offshore natural gas field, Leviathan. Gas would flow to Turkey and on to southern European neighbors looking to diversify away from Russia.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said last week that gas cooperation was "one of the most important steps we can take together for bilateral ties," and told reporters he was ready to send top ministers to Israel to revive the pipeline idea that has lingered for years.

A senior Turkish official said talks have continued since President Isaac Herzog visited Ankara earlier this month and "concrete decisions" could follow in coming months on a proposed route and participating entities.

Industry officials are more circumspect, however, saying production restraints and geopolitics could leave the plan dead in the water.

The Leviathan field already supplies Israel, Jordan and Egypt. Its owners - Chevron and Israeli firms NewMed Energy and Ratio Oil - plan to crank up production from 12 to 21 billion cubic meters (BCM) a year.

By comparison, the European Union imported 155 billion cubic meters of Russian gas last year, covering close to 40% of its consumption.

Much of the extra gas output will be liquified and exported on ships to Europe or the Far East, according to NewMed. Its chief executive said last month Turkey could become a destination too, but needed to put "skin in the game" and commit to building the pipeline. Asked about talks with Turkey, the Leviathan partners declined to comment.

Energy Minister Karine Elharrar told Ynet on Sunday many considerations had yet to be discussed, including the finances. "It needs to be found economically feasible, which is not something self-evident," she said.

ENERGY BRIDGE

Israel and Turkey are looking to put a decade of diplomatic impasses, usually over Israeli-Palestinian issues, behind them. Energy partnership could be key, especially after Russian invasion of Ukraine made Europe more determined to find alternatives to its energy supplies.

"There has been a recent rapprochement with Israel and we want its gas to transit Turkey en route to Europe," said another Turkish official. "Israel is looking positively on this, some talks have been held and there is a will to do it."

Turkey consumes about 50 billion cubic meters of natural gas a year and imports nearly all of that, most through pipelines from Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan. It is well placed as a transport hub in the region where energy politics can be heated.

Citing Iraqi and Turkish officials, Reuters has reported that a plan to bring, with Israel's help, gas from Iraq's Kurdistan region to Turkey and Europe is part of what triggered Iran's missile attack on the Kurdish capital Erbil this month.

"Turkey is of great interest, for its domestic consumption as well as a channel to countries in southern Europe," said a senior official in the Israeli gas sector.

The problem, the official said, is that there were already two proposed routes for the extra supplies from Leviathan: via existing LNG plants in Egypt or a planned floating LNG facility.

"If Turkey responds quickly then it may be a third alternative," the official said.

The pipeline would run 500-550 km and cost up to 1.5 billion to build, according to Israeli officials, making it more manageable than the 6 billion euro pipeline EastMed proposed to connect Israel with Cyprus, Greece and Italy.

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias (C) and his counterparts from Cyprus Nikos

However, any subsea line would need to cross waters of either Cyprus, which Ankara does not recognize, or Syria, with which Ankara has no diplomatic relations and has backed rebels fighting the government in Damascus.

This could complicate construction and financing if Turkey had a direct stake in the pipeline, said Gokhan Yardim, a Turkish gas industry consultant who worked on the assessment of the possible pipeline over two decades.

Two previous assessments were based on 8 to 10 billion cubic meter gas flows, and anything less may not be feasible, Yardim said.

03.28.22

Israel welcomed 10,000 fleeing Ukraine, with more expected in weeks and months

03.28.22

Israel welcomes 10,000 immigrants since start of Ukraine war

Immigration Ministry says Sasha Zlobjn, a native of the Ukrainian city of Karkiv, is the 10,000th person to immigrate to Israel since the country opened its gates to those fleeing the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War

i24NEWS| Published: 03.28.22, 22:35

Israel welcomed no less than 10,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union since Russia invaded Ukraine last month, the Immigration and Integration Ministry said Monday.

According to the ministry, Sasha Zlobjn, a native of the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, is the 10,000th person to immigrate to Israel since the country opened its gates to those fleeing the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War.

Zlobjn arrived at Ben Gurion Airport with his grandparents earlier Monday on a flight with dozens of other Ukrainian refugees.

"I fled Kharkiv with my grandmother and grandfather, but unfortunately, my parents stayed behind. It was an exhausting journey that ended with this beautiful reception," Zlobjn told immigration officials, according to the ministry.

The ministry said that more than two-thirds of the 10,000 people who immigrated to Israel in the past month are from Ukraine, and the rest are from Russia and Belarus.

Since the government considers all these immigrants from the former Soviet Union to be fleeing humanitarian crises - the war in Ukraine and increased repression in Russia and Belarus - the ministry decided to group them together for its statistics.

Immigration and Integration Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata welcomed the massive wave of migration from Ukraine but acknowledged that it is motivated by "difficult circumstances."

Tamano-Shata added that there is "a real national and governmental commitment to the integration of immigrants."

Israeli officials have estimated that tens of thousands more people from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus will immigrate to Israel in the coming weeks and months due to the war.

03.28.22

Israel offers support to Morocco from Algeria demanding Western Sahara

03.28.22

Israel offers support to Morocco over Western Sahara after summit

Lapid says Jerusalem and Rabat would work together to counter 'attempts to weaken Moroccan sovereignty' in Western Sahara, welcomes Spain's recognition of Moroccan control over contested territory

Reuters| Published: 03.28.22, 20:52

Israel on Monday voiced support for Morocco's autonomy proposal for Western Sahara after the countries' foreign ministers met at an historic, two-day five-way regional summit in the Negev.

Following his meeting with Nasser Bourita from Morocco, Foreign Minister and summit host Yair Lapid issued a statement that the countries would work together to counter "attempts to weaken Moroccan sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Morocco considers Western Sahara its own but an **Algeria-backed** independence movement **demands the territory** for its sovereign state. Rabat says its 2007 proposal to offer Western Sahara autonomy within Morocco is the most it can propose as a political solution to the conflict.

Lapid, echoing the sentiment of the European Commission, also lauded a recent decision by Spain to support Morocco's autonomy plan, calling it "a positive development". Morocco's Bourita attended the regional **summit in Israel** alongside foreign ministers from **Egypt, Bahrain, and the UAE** as well as **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken**.

Morocco agreed to **normalize ties with Israel in 2020** under the so-called Abraham Accords that were brokered by the United States.

As part of the deal that would see Rabat join the accords, and in a departure from longstanding U.S. policy, then-President Donald **Trump also agreed to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara.**

03.28.22

Putin not compromising ahead of peace talks in Istanbul Tuesday

03.28.22

Putin not seen ready to compromise ahead of peace talks

First bilateral **talks** in more than two weeks **arranged** after call between Erdogan and Putin; **160,000 people still trapped** in Mariupol, mayor says; **Russians turn effort towards separatist areas**

Reuters| Published: **03.28.22**, 21:07

Ukraine and Russia were preparing on **Monday** for the **first face-to-face peace talks in more than two weeks**, but a senior U.S. official said Russian President Vladimir **Putin** **did not appear ready to make compromises** to end the war.

Ukrainian officials also **played down the chances of a major breakthrough** at the talks, **due to be held in Istanbul** after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke to Russia's Vladimir Putin on Sunday.

But the fact that they were taking place in person at all - for the first time since an acrimonious meeting between foreign ministers on March 10 - was a sign of shifts behind the scenes as Russia's invasion has stalled and sanctions have hit home.

There was no sign of respite for civilians in besieged Ukrainian cities, especially the devastated port of Mariupol, whose mayor said 160,000 people were still trapped inside and Russia was blocking attempts to evacuate them.

But the **mayor of Irpin, near Kyiv**, said Ukrainian forces had seized back full control of the town. "We have good news today - **Irpin has been liberated**," Oleksandr Markushyn said, adding that it expected further attacks.

"The Ukrainians are continuing to try to take back ground," a senior U.S. defense official said on condition of anonymity, telling reporters that the eastern town of Trostyanets, south of Sumy, was back in Ukrainian hands.

Russia's defense ministry, for its part, said its troops had destroyed large ammunition depots in the Zhytomyr region west of Kyiv and had hit 41 Ukrainian military sites in the past 24 hours.

Reuters could not immediately verify any of the reports.

In K harkiv, Ukraine's second-biggest city and one of its hardest hit, people were sweeping rubble out of a classroom on the third story of a school, where a wall had been blown out by a missile before dawn.

"They've not been able to take the city, so they've decided to destroy it," said Oleksandr, who had been sheltering with his mother on a lower floor of the school after their own neighborhood was hit.

'Change the goals'

Russia's military signaled last week it would concentrate on expanding territory held by separatists in eastern Ukraine, but Ukraine said it saw no sign Russia had given up a plan to surround the capital, which it targeted in its Feb. 24 invasion.

Kyiv's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said 100 people had been killed, including 4 children, and 82 multi-story buildings had been destroyed. It was not possible to verify the figures.

"We have destroyed the myth of the invincible Russian army. We are resisting against the aggression of one of the strongest armies in the world and have succeeded in making them change their goals," Klitschko said.

Ukrainian officials have recently suggested Russia could be more willing to compromise having seen stiff Ukrainian resistance and heavy Russian losses.

But a senior U.S. State Department official said Putin did not give that impression.

"Everything I have seen is he is not willing to compromise at this point," the official told Reuters on condition of anonymity after Ukraine's president sketched out a potential way to end the crisis over the weekend.

Russia and Ukraine said talks would start in Turkey on Tuesday. When the sides last met in person, Ukraine accused Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of ignoring pleas to discuss a ceasefire, while Lavrov said a halt to fighting was not even on the agenda.

Since then, they have held talks via video link and publicly discussed a formula under which Ukraine might accept some kind of formal neutral status. But neither side has budged over Russia's territorial demands, including Crimea, which Moscow seized and annexed in 2014, and eastern territories known as the Donbas, which Moscow demands Kyiv cede to separatists.

"I don't think there will be any breakthrough on the main issues," Ukrainian interior ministry adviser Vadym Denysenko said.

In an interview with Russian journalists at the weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky mentioned some form of "compromise" involving Donbas, although he did not suggest this might involve ceding the territory. He has since said territorial integrity remained Kyiv's priority.

Biden call 'alarming'

The Kremlin said Biden's surprise comment about Putin at the end of a speech in Warsaw at the weekend, "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power" was "certainly alarming" after earlier saying it was up to Russians to choose their leader.

On Sunday Biden said he was not calling for regime change.

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a "special military operation" to disarm and "denazify" its neighbor. Kyiv and the West consider this a pretext for an unprovoked invasion to try to topple the elected Ukrainian government.

Last week, Ukrainian forces pushed Russian troops back in areas around Kyiv, the northeast and the southwest, while Russia kept up pressure in the southeast near separatist areas, including its devastating **siege of Mariupol**.

Mayor Vadym Boichenko, speaking from an undisclosed location outside the city, said **26 buses were waiting to evacuate some of 160,000 trapped civilians** but **Russia** was denying safe passage.

"People are beyond the line of humanitarian catastrophe," Boichenko said on national television. "We **need to completely evacuate Mariupol**." A spokesperson for Boichenko said later that nearly **5,000** people had been **killed** and **90% of buildings damaged, of which 40% were destroyed**.

Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said intelligence reports of possible Russian "provocations" along evacuation routes out of besieged cities meant there were no plans for such evacuations on Monday.

Elsewhere, **Russia's** armored columns are **bogged down**, with **trouble resupplying** and making little or **no progress**.

Britain's defense ministry said there had been no major change in Russia's positions in the past 24 hours, with **most Russian gains near Mariupol** and heavy fighting underway there. "As of today, the enemy is regrouping its forces, but they cannot advance anywhere in Ukraine," Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said.

03.28.22

Two Ukrainian negotiators suffered poison symptoms of after meeting in Kyiv

03.28.22

Russian-Israeli billionaire Abramovich suspectedly poisoned, WSJ reports
Abramovich and Ukrainian peace negotiators suffered symptoms of suspected poisoning following a meeting in Kyiv after he accepted a Ukrainian request to help negotiate an end to the Russian invasion

Reuters| Published: **03.28.22**, 19:55

Sanctioned Russian-Israeli billionaire Roman Abramovich and Ukrainian peace negotiators suffered **symptoms of suspected poisoning** earlier this month **after a meeting**

in Kyiv, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Abramovich, who accepted a Ukrainian request to help negotiate an end to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and at least two senior members of the Ukrainian team, were affected, the WSJ report said.

Their symptoms included red eyes, constant and painful tearing, and peeling skin on their faces and hands, the WSJ report added.

Abramovich and the Ukrainian negotiators, including Crimean Tatar lawmaker Rustem Umerov, have since improved and their lives are not in danger, WSJ reported. A person familiar with the matter confirmed the incident to Reuters but said Abramovich had not allowed it to stop him from working.

The Kremlin has said Abramovich played an early role in peace talks between Russia and Ukraine but the process was now in the hands of the two sides' negotiating teams.

The Russian oligarch, who is mostly known as the owner of English soccer club Chelsea, has been hit with sanctions by the European Union earlier this month as part of a package of measures targeting Russia and President Vladimir Putin's close allies.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has asked his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden not to sanction Abramovich, hoping the billionaire could use his close ties with Putin to facilitate ceasefire talks. According to the publication, the U.S. Treasury Department was ready to impose sanctions on Abramovich earlier this month, but the White House halted the move. Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in what Putin calls a "special military operation" to demilitarize and "denazify" Ukraine. Ukraine and the West say Putin launched an unprovoked war of aggression.

03.28.22

March 13, Iran 12 missile attack on Iraq Kurdish villa of a pipeline meeting spot

03.28.22

Iran struck Iraq target over gas talks involving Israel, officials say
Iraqi, Turkish officials say plan to pump Kurdish gas into Turkey and Europe, with Israel's involvement, triggered Iran's attack on Erbil earlier this month; villa destroyed in attack allegedly a meeting spot for U.S., Israeli energy officials
Reuters| Published: 03.28.22, 17:36

A nascent plan for Iraq's Kurdistan region to supply gas to Turkey and Europe — with Israeli help — is part of what angered Iran into striking the Kurdish capital Erbil with ballistic missiles this month, Iraqi and Turkish officials say.

The March 13 attack on Erbil came as a shock to officials throughout the region for its ferocity, and was a rare publicly declared assault by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

The IRGC said the strike hit Israeli "strategic centers" in Erbil and was retaliation for an Israeli air raid that killed two of its members in Syria.

The choice of target, however, baffled many officials and analysts. Most of the 12 missiles hit the villa of a Kurdish businessman involved in the autonomous Kurdistan region's energy sector.

Iraqi and Turkish officials who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity this week said they believe the attack was meant as a multi-pronged message to U.S. allies in the region — but that a key trigger was a plan to pump Kurdish gas into Turkey and Europe, with Israel's involvement.

"There had been two recent meetings between Israeli and U.S. energy officials and specialists at the villa to discuss shipping Kurdistan gas to Turkey via a new pipeline," an Iraqi security official said.

Iran's foreign ministry and the IRGC did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A senior Iranian security official told Reuters the attack was a "multi-purposed message to many people and groups. It's up to them how to interpret it. Whatever (Israel) is planning, from energy sector to agriculture, will not materialize."

Two Turkish officials confirmed that talks involving U.S. and Israeli officials recently took place to discuss Iraq supplying Turkey and Europe with natural gas, but did not say where they took place.

The Iraqi security official and a former U.S. official with knowledge of the plans said the Kurdish businessman whose villa was hit by the Iranian missiles, Baz Karim Barzanji, was working to develop the gas export pipeline.

The disclosure puts Iran's attack on Erbil in the context of regional players' energy interests, rather than a single Israeli military attack on the IRGC, as widely reported. Israel's foreign ministry said it was not familiar with the matter. Barzanji's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The office of Iraqi Kurdish President Nechirvan Barzani denied any meetings with U.S. and Israeli officials to discuss a pipeline that took place at Barzanji's villa. The Kurds deny there is any Israeli military or official presence in their territory.

TURKEY-ISRAEL RAPPROCHEMENT

The Iraqi, Turkish and Western sources said the move comes at a politically sensitive time for Iran and the region: the gas export plan could threaten Iran's place as a major supplier of gas to Iraq and Turkey while its economy is still reeling from international sanctions.

Efforts to revive a nuclear deal between Iran and the West have faltered in recent weeks, casting doubt on prospects for lifting sanctions on Tehran including on its energy sector. It also comes as Israel, Iran's biggest enemy in the region, and Turkey are strengthening ties and looking at further energy cooperation as sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine threaten severe shortages across Europe.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said last month that Turkey and Israel can work together to carry Israeli natural gas to Europe. Erdogan also met Barzani and said that Ankara wants to sign a natural gas supply deal with Iraq. Iraqi and Turkish officials did not give specific details on the plan to pump gas from Iraqi Kurdistan to Turkey, say how far along it was, or what Israel's role is in the project.

03.28.22

In wake of terror wave, Israel launches manhunt for domestic Islamic State members

03.28.22

In wake of terror wave, Israel launches manhunt for domestic Islamic State members
Police estimates Israeli Arabs supporting Islamic State number dozens and are set to use administrative detention on some, if no evidence is found indicating an imminent attack is being planned; Brother of Hadera terrorist is a member of the Israel police
Yoav Zitun, Liran Levi | Updated: 03.28.22, 12:25

Police and security forces were to launch a wide spread operation to identify and detain supporters of the Islamic State in the Arab sector.

As in the murderous killing spree in Be'er Sheva last week, Sunday's terror attack in Hadera was carried out by Israeli citizens.

The terrorists who opened fire in Hadera killing two Border Police officers and wounding others, were cousins, residents of Umm al Fahm, one of whom was convicted in 2016 of attempting to join the Islamic State fighters, while the terrorist in the Be'er Sheva attack served a four year prison term for the same offence.

CCTV footage of the Sunday attack showed the two men fire multiple rounds and calmly replacing magazines to fire more, mimic ISIS style operations. They wore cloths with the image of "the punisher," a Marvel character, imprinted on the back.

After illegal weapons were prevalent in the Arab sector, the terrorists likely had no difficulty to obtain weapons to carry out their attack.

The Shin Bet and the police are expected to conduct arrests of ISIS supporters in the coming days fearing copy cat attacks that could be carried out by sleeper cells.

Some suspects may be arrested and held under administrative detention which would be implemented if no direct evidence of imminent intentions to attack, is found.

Such detentions are rarely used in cases involving citizens, unlike with West Bank Palestinians. Security forces are likely to request court orders before administrative detentions are made.

Security officials say they estimate up to dozens of ISIS sympathizers among Israeli Arab citizens, some have actively attempted or even succeeded in traveling to Syria or Iraq to join the Islamic State fighters in the past decade.

Initial security assessments indicate there was no direct contact between the perpetrator of the deadly killing spree in Be'er Sheva last week and the terrorists who carried out the attack in Hadera on Sunday.

Police said the two terrorists who were killed by Border Police officers on Sunday, had body armor and an array of weapons that indicated they were prepared for an extensive attack that likely included hostage taking as well.

The men had automatic rifles, knives and additional magazines with hundreds of bullets stolen from IDF bases. Only the quick action by the Border Police fighters prevented a mass casualty event.

The police were expected to tighten restrictions on those IS supporters who had served prison terms in the past.

But officials said the difficulty faced by intelligence forces, was to locate lone wolves or small cells operating under the radar.

A brother of one of the terrorists who carried out Sunday's Hadera attack was a member of the police force, posted to central Israel.

He was described by officers as an excellent member of the force and was said to be in shock following the attack.

03.28.22

Blinken joins rare Israel-Arab summit as Iran deal looms

03.28.22

Blinken joins rare Israel-Arab summit as Iran deal looms

U.S. Secretary of State says when it comes to the most important element, we see eye to eye, Iran will never acquire a nuclear weapon; however, Gulf Arab allies, as well as Israel, remain concerned

Reuters| Published: 03.28.22, 11:47

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will join a rare summit of Arab and Israeli nations held in Israel on Monday, seeking to reassure Middle Eastern allies over a looming Iran nuclear deal and to garner stronger support for Ukraine.

Blinken, who is on a three-nation Middle East and North Africa tour, on Sunday, met with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett who tested positive for coronavirus early on

Monday. A State Department spokesperson said Blinken was considered a close contact and would get tested.

The summit, dubbed historic by Israel and the four Arab nations attending - Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates, comes as U.S. allies in the Middle East raise concerns over what they see as a lack of commitment by President Joe Biden's administration to the region.

Washington has repeatedly said it remains deeply invested in the region but its focus has been elsewhere - strategically on China and in the near-term on Russia's invasion of Ukraine which started on Feb. 24 and has killed thousands.

Blinken has sought to reassure allies over Iran. Speaking in Jerusalem alongside his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid, Blinken said on Sunday that restoring a 2015 nuclear deal was the best way to rein in Iran's nuclear program.

"When it comes to the most important element, we see eye to eye. We are both committed, both determined that Iran will never acquire a nuclear weapon," Blinken said. But Gulf Arab allies, as well as Israel, remain concerned.

The nuclear talks between world powers and Tehran had been close to an agreement several weeks ago until Russia made last-minute demands of the United States, insisting that sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine should not affect its trade with Iran.

After talks with Blinken, Israeli Prime Minister Bennett, who has cautioned that a nuclear deal with Iran would not be binding on Israel, said he hoped Washington would be attentive to regional concerns.

"The moderates are convening to talk and to form a front against the extremists," Israeli Foreign Ministry official Gil Haskel told Israeli Kanan radio.

"There are nuances, different perspectives being discussed or argued about, there is some agreement about some issues and less so about others but there's no doubt in this room around the table that Iran must not be nuclear," he said.

Blinken is also expected to press Arab allies to step up support for Ukraine to fend off Russia's invasion as several Gulf nations have so far stopped short of providing meaningful assistance. Israel has been trying to mediate an end to the crisis, holding talks with the Russian and Ukrainian leaders.

Arab and Israeli nations are expected to discuss how to advance their ties after three of the four countries attending normalized ties with Israel through the so-called Abraham Accords brokered by the Trump administration in 2020. Egypt's foreign minister, whose country on Saturday marked 43 years of peace with Israel, will also join the summit.

For Israelis, the diplomatic summit has been somewhat overshadowed by a deadly shooting attack late on Sunday when Arab assailants, identified by security officials as Israeli citizens and Islamic State sympathizers, shot and killed two border police officers in Hadera, a city 50km (30 miles) north of Tel Aviv. Police shot the two men dead.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, according to a statement posted on the group's Telegram account and Blinken condemned it.

03.27.22

Top diplomats of Bahrain, UAE, Egypt begin Negev Summit on Iran sanctions

03.27.22

Top diplomats of Bahrain, UAE, Egypt touch ground in Israel ahead of Negev Summit
Foreign ministers of U.S. Middle East allies will meet with Blinken and Lapid to address regional issues, chief among them Iran's nuclear program; Israeli envoy to Cairo calls 'historic' meeting a 'very significant development'
Alexandra Lukash, Attila Somfalvi, Elior Levy | Published: 03.27.22, 19:14

The foreign ministers of Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates landed in Israel on Sunday ahead of a summit hosted by Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid that will also feature the top diplomats of Morocco and the United States.

During the meeting, dubbed the Negev Summit, representatives of a host of U.S. allies in the Middle East will address several pressing regional issues, chief among them the nuclear threat posed by Iran as Washington and world powers are holding talks to revive a 2015 pact to rein in Tehran's nuclear program.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Amira Oron called the summit "historic" and stated that relations between Jerusalem and Cairo have recorded a "very significant development" over the past two years, led by the Foreign Ministry.

Delegations from each country would meet over the evening to discuss issues such as strategic and economic cooperation, as well as energy and resources.

The main meeting featuring the foreign ministers will take place at 10am Monday local time.

Earlier Sunday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Jerusalem where he urged the United States to heed calls against the removal of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) from the U.S. terrorism blacklist.

"We're concerned about the intention to delist the IRGC," Bennett told visiting Blinken. "I hope the United States will hear the concerned voices from the region, Israel's and others, on this very important issue."

Speaking to reporters after the meeting Bennett said the Middle East was changing for the better and his government was cultivating old ties and building new bridges to overcome what he called "dark forces," and for a better future.

"Israel was a source of peace, stability and prosperity and was all about doing good," Bennett said.

03.27.22

Settlers argue; Gantz froze West bank construction in violation of coalition

03.27.22

Settler leaders launch campaign calling to topple government

Yesha Council heads torch coalition's decision to 'freeze' Jewish construction in the West bank while ignoring illegal Arab construction, a move they say 'endangers national security'

Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 03.27.22, 17:45

Settler leaders launched a campaign Sunday to bring down the coalition and force a new round of elections due to what they deem as biased government policies vis-à-vis construction in the West Bank.

The heads of the Yesha Council — an umbrella organization of municipal councils of Jewish settlements in the West Bank — said that the move was prompted by the government's decision to “freeze” Jewish construction in the West bank, all while effectively ignoring any illegal Arab construction.

"I supported [the government's] lines when it was established," said David Elhayani, the chairman of the Yesha Council, during a press conference launched in front of the Jerusalem office of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett — himself a former chairman of the Yesha Council.

“The agreements said that the status quo would be preserved as it had in the past.

Elhayani added that “recently, it became clear to us that Defense Minister Benny Gantz violated all coalition agreements, and in fact froze all [construction] plans. This reality cannot continue,” said Elhayani.

The Yesha chair accused Gantz of ceding Israeli territory to the Palestinians and endangering national security. “Thus this government has no right to exist and should be toppled,” he concluded.

The head of the Shomron Council in the northern West Bank, Yossi Dagan, added: “The government is destroying [the Homesh outpost] and freezing construction in the West Bank, all while abandoning the Negev. Such a government will fall.”

The settler leaders added that the Civil Administration's planning committee — which issues construction permits in the West Bank on behalf of the Israeli government — has not convened in several months.

In addition, the Yesha heads claim that the Defense Ministry's policy regarding the demolition of illegal outposts has become more aggressive.

"The prime minister was once the director-general of the Yesha Council... I remember him explaining how very important construction is in the West Bank," said Yesha Council Director Yigal Dilmoni, who added that the settler movement “will not give up until the freeze is over or until the government falls.”

03.27.22

Israel's Ben-Gurion University warns modesty patrol stalking female Bedouin students

03.27.22

Israel's Ben-Gurion University uncovers 'modesty patrol' Islamist cell

Be'er Sheva university's chief says cell's members threatened to expose female Bedouin students, who they thought weren't modest dressers, to their families and communities; university fails to clarify if students from the cell still enrolled at university

Ilana Curiel | Published: 03.27.22, 12:12

Israel's Ben-Gurion University said Saturday it has exposed an Islamist cell, whose members were conducting "modesty patrols" of female Muslim students on campus.

Ben-Gurion University President Daniel Chamovitz said the cell consisted of three students who mainly targeted female Bedouin students living near Be'er Sheva, where the educational facility is located.

According to Chamovitz, the cell threatened to expose the female Bedouin students, who they believed were dressed in an immodest way, to their families and communities - which are largely conservative.

"The female students complained to us, although it's a very socially complex situation because they can't complain publicly," Chamovitz said.

He refused to answer if the students who had set up the cell were still enrolled at the university, but said the matter was "taken care of" and handled in an extraordinary way. "We found ways to handle it. We warned them, however, we didn't file a complaint with the police, because the victims of the incident must be the ones filing it," he said, adding he doesn't know if a complaint was actually filed by any of the victims.

"When we uncover something like this, it's a win for us because we can change the reality for those students. Even though there are those who do not want it to change, just like in the ultra-Orthodox sector," he said.

"There are things we deal with behind closed doors. All I can say [the cell] no longer exists and I'm very proud of our actions."

Six months ago, a similar incident was reported when Bedouin women were secretly filmed on their way to school, shopping malls, and walking down the streets, and the videos were posted on social networking sites. Some of the young women reported it to the police and local authorities, and some of the videos were eventually removed.

Chamovitz also addressed the tensions in the Negev since the deadly terror attack in Be'er Sheva last week. Mohammad Abu al-Kian from the Bedouin town Hura killed four people at a local shopping center before being shot dead by civilians.

"I had visited the first Bedouin School of Science in Hura, and the next day the attack occurred. We held a memorial service at the university organized together by Jewish and

Arab students. I'm not saying everything's perfect. There is tension, but that is the tension we must deal with in our society."

03.27.22

Israel/Arab Negev summit on US removal of Iran from the terror list & sanctions

03.27.22

Israel's historic summit to focus on Iranian threat, Mideast security

Analysis: Latest regional developments place Israel in a great position to host the Negev summit, since all participating states share similar concerns over renewal of Iran nuclear deal; however, potential Ramadan violence could tramp political aspirations

Amichai Attali | Published: 03.27.22, 11:24

A historic regional summit is set to kick off later on Sunday in Israel's south, with participation of representatives from the United States, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco. Threats posed by Iran's nuclear problem and its ramifications on the Middle Eastern security are set to be the main topics on the agenda.

The Negev Summit, set to be hosted in the remote Negev desert farm collective Sde Boker, comes after a series of political developments in the region over the past two years, which helped solidify Israel as an important political player in the Middle East.

Of these important developments, some occurred in the past few weeks: President Isaac Herzog's visit in Turkey after more than a decade of stagnation in ties, the meeting of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett last week in Sharm al-Sheikh with leaders of Egypt and the UAE, and the strengthening of security cooperation with Morocco.

All of these mark the geopolitical development of the Jewish state, especially in the Middle East. However, Israel's main concern remains the potential renewal of the nuclear agreement with Iran as well as fears of security escalation in the face of the start of the holy month of Ramadan on April 2.

Bennett appears to have been able to fill the political shoes left by his predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, who laid the groundwork for these recent developments – with the Abraham Accords signed during his tenure - initiated by the American administration and former U.S. President Donald Trump.

The prime minister's meeting in Egypt only emphasized Israel's warming relations with the Arab countries. At the meeting, the three leaders discussed the stability of energy markets, food security, and technological developments.

Egypt faces new economic pressures due to the war in Ukraine, and Bennett hopes to seize the opportunity and offer the Egyptians a deal that would see the Israeli gas undergo a refinery process in Egypt and then shipped to Europe.

The Iranian nuclear threat was also brought up in last week's Egyptian summit, as the Vienna talks to revive the agreement enter their final stage. Both Israel and the Sunni

Arab countries share the concern regarding potential consequences of reviving such a deal.

In an attempt to leverage the shared concern about Iran, Bennett on Saturday issued a condemnation of Houthi rebels' attack on Saudi Arabian targets, even though the country is not part of the Abraham Accords. The unofficial relations between the two states have undoubtedly tightened, with the Sunni state now allowing flights from Israel to pass over its territory.

“The State of Israel expresses its sorrow to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after the horrific attack by the Iranian-backed Houthis,” said Bennett in the statement. “The attack is further proof that Iran’s regional aggression knows no bounds and reinforces the concern of Iran’s IRGC being removed from the FTO list.”

An Israeli official said on Saturday that “the purpose of the Negev Summit is a different Middle East.”

“Israel never hosted a summit of this kind, in which four Arab foreign ministers attend to.” The official added the concerns over the revival of the Iranian deal is on the agenda, even though the U.S. Secretary of State will be present. “All the participating countries share the same Iranian threat,” he said.

Unlike the Netanyahu era, the current Israeli approach doesn't include a clear propaganda campaign against the nuclear agreement and mainly focuses on an aggressive campaign of procurement of security equipment - with the understanding that Israel can't trust anyone but itself.

Another shared issue is the removal of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from the terror list by the U.S.

The United States is prepared to remove the IRGC from its notorious list and demands an amorphous exchange in the form of a commitment by the Iranians to "restrain" the organization. Israel and its new regional allies are having trouble accepting such a move.

03.27.22

Ukraine says Russia wants to split nation; Separatists encircled southern ports

03.27.22

Ukraine says Russia wants to split nation, calls for more arms
Ukraine president urges west to supply aircraft he says are collecting dust rather than defending his civilians while officials dismiss legitimacy of referendum to join Russia in separatist areas; UN confirms 1,119 civilian deaths in month-long war
Reuters| Published: 03.27.22, 18:30

Russia wants to split Ukraine into two, as happened with North and South Korea, Ukraine's military intelligence chief said on Sunday, vowing "total" guerrilla warfare to prevent a carve-up of the country.

President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the West to give Ukraine tanks, planes and missiles to help fend off the Russian forces, which the Kyiv government said were increasingly targeting fuel and food depots.

Meanwhile ceasefire talks to resume in Turkey on Monday, Ukraine officials said. U.S. officials continued efforts to soften comments on Saturday from U.S. President Joe Biden, who said in a fiery speech in Poland that Russian leader Vladimir Putin "cannot remain in power".

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had no strategy of regime change in Moscow and that Biden had simply meant Putin could not be "empowered to wage war" against Ukraine or anywhere else.

After more than four weeks of conflict, Russia has failed to seize any major Ukrainian city and Moscow signaled on Friday it was scaling back its ambitions to focus on securing the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting the Ukrainian army for the past eight years.

A local leader in the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic said on Sunday the region could soon hold a referendum on joining Russia, just as happened in Crimea after Russia seized the Ukrainian peninsula in 2014.

Crimeans voted overwhelmingly to break with Ukraine and join Russia -- a vote that much of the world refused to recognize.

"In fact, it is an attempt to create North and South Korea in Ukraine," Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, said in a statement, referring to the division of Korea after World War Two.

He predicted Ukraine's army would push back Russian forces.

"In addition, the season of a total Ukrainian guerrilla safari will soon begin. Then there will be one relevant scenario left for the Russians, how to survive," he said.

Ukraine's foreign ministry spokesperson also dismissed talk of any referendum in eastern Ukraine.

"All fake referendums in the temporarily occupied territories are null and void and will have no legal validity," Oleg Nikolenko told Reuters.

Cruel and senseless

Moscow says the goals for what Putin calls a "special military operation" include demilitarizing and "denazifying" its neighbor. Ukraine and its Western allies calls this a pretext for an unprovoked invasion.

The invasion has devastated several Ukrainian cities, caused a major humanitarian crisis and displaced an estimated 10 million people, nearly a quarter of Ukraine's total population.

Tatyana Manyek, who crossed the Danube by ferry into Romania on Sunday with other refugees, said people in her home city of Odesa were "very afraid" but she would have stayed were it not for her daughter.

"It would be very difficult to provide the child with basic living conditions. That's why we decided to leave," she said, clutching a pet dog in her arms.

In his Sunday blessing, Pope Francis called for an end to the "cruel and senseless" conflict.

"We must repudiate war, a place of death where fathers and mothers bury their children, where men kill their brothers without even seeing them, where the powerful decide and the poor die," he said.

Zelensky demanded in a late-night television address on Saturday that Western nations hand over military hardware that was "gathering dust" in stockpiles, saying his nation needed just 1% of NATO's aircraft and 1% of its tanks.

Western nations have so far given Ukraine anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles as well as small arms and protective equipment, without offering any heavy armor or planes.

"We've already been waiting 31 days. Who is in charge of the Euro-Atlantic community? Is it really still Moscow, because of intimidation?" Zelensky said, suggesting Western leaders were holding back on supplies because they were frightened of Russia.

Ukrainian Interior Ministry adviser Vadym Denysenko said Russia had started destroying Ukrainian fuel and food storage centers, meaning the government would have to disperse stocks of both in the near future.

Appearing to confirm that, Russia said its missiles had wrecked a fuel deposit on Saturday as well as a military repair plant near the western city of Lviv, just 60 km (40 miles) from the Polish border.

The British Ministry of Defense said Russian forces appeared to be concentrating their efforts on encircling Ukrainian troops directly facing separatist regions in the east.

"The battlefield across northern Ukraine remains largely static with local Ukrainian counterattacks hampering Russian attempts to reorganize their forces," the ministry said.

Biden drew criticism for his improvised remarks during a speech in Warsaw that sought to frame the war as part of a historic struggle for democratic freedoms.

"For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power," Biden said of Putin. Earlier he called Putin a "butcher".

U.S. officials tried to walk back the president's words.

"As you know, and as you have heard us say repeatedly, we do not have a strategy of regime change in Russia - or anywhere else, for that matter," Secretary of State Blinken told reporters during a trip to Jerusalem.

The United Nations has confirmed 1,119 civilian deaths and 1,790 injuries across Ukraine but says the real toll is likely to be higher. Ukraine said on Sunday 139 children had been killed and more than 205 wounded so far in the conflict.

Ukraine and Russia agreed two "humanitarian corridors" to evacuate civilians from frontline areas on Sunday, including allowing people to leave by car from the southern city of Mariupol, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

The encircled port, located between Crimea and eastern areas held by Russian-backed separatists, has been devastated by weeks of heavy bombardment. Thousands of residents are sheltering in basements with scarce water, food, medicine or power.

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Ynet-News, Mar 25, 2022 – Friday

03.25.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in Mar 25 spot – Friday
Israel, UAE, Bahrain and Morocco unite against renewing Iran nuclear deal

03.24.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Mar 23 spot – Wednesday
Israel thwarts arms smuggling from Lebanon Arab crime gangs

03.24.22 – Th- - - News
UAE hosts 'Abraham Accords Festival and Games' in Dubai March 29

03.24.22 – Th- - - News
Fresh outbreak of Daily virus top 13,000 as Israel faces mild cases

03.23.22 – We- - - News
Putin discusses Ukraine with Bennett, differences of NATO alliance

03.24.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Mar 24 spot – Thursday
G7 & EU meet; NATO deploys front line in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia

03.23.22 – We- - - News
Iran Guards commander warns Israel of swift revenge for any soldiers killed

03.23.22 – We- - - News
Case 4000 aide testifies Netanyahu orchestrated positive coverage in newspaper

03.22.22 – Tu- - - News
Israel, UK & US condemn a Bedouin preacher's deadly attack, praised by PA

03.22.22 – Tu- - - News
Israel, Egypt, UAE summit discuss Russia & Ukraine as primary source of wheat