

This Week's Developments

March 7 - 13, 2021

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- Israel 'secretly attacked Iranian oil tankers'
- Iran reports attack on its cargo vessel in Med
- B-52s fly over Mideast in US military warning to Iran
- Kremlin alarmed at US 'plan for Russian cyberattacks'
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Iran Will 'Raze' Tel Aviv If Israel Attacks, Defence Minister Warns Amid Nuclear Standoff

Newsweek, March 8, 2021



EVENT

Iran's defence minister has responded to the suggestion of military action from Israel by threatening to "raze" the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa, as regional tensions remain high amid U.S. President Joe Biden's efforts to revive the Iran nuclear deal. Israel remains staunchly opposed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which it says is inadequate and will only embolden Tehran in its weapons programs, and has threatened military action against Iran's nuclear program. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last month that his country would stop Iran's nuclear program "with or without" the JCPOA, while Defence Minister Benny Gantz and Israel Defence Forces chief Aviv Kohavi have both said their troops are drawing up attack plans. Iran's Defence Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said Sunday that the country would retaliate if attacked, the state-run Fars News Agency reported. Hatami dismissed Israeli leaders as "dogs" and the country as "too small to show hostility to the Islamic Republic."

COMMENT

This isn't the first time Iran has threatened to destroy Tel Aviv and Haifa. In January, Iranian Armed Forces spokesperson Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said Iran could "level Haifa and Tel Aviv in the shortest possible time." Iran also accuses them of killing its top nuclear scientist a few months ago. Israel has been striking Iranian proxy forces in Syria for several years. The Bible doesn't say if Israel strikes Iran. It does talk about Israel being drawn into conflict with its nearby neighbours eg Hezbollah, the Palestinians and Syria. Northern Israel is also mentioned as being greatly weakened when Damascus is destroyed. Iran could well have a hand in that...

BIBLE QUOTE

The fortified towns of northern Israel will also be destroyed, and the royal power of Damascus will end. All that remains of Syria will share the fate of Israel's departed glory," declares the Lord of Hosts. "In that day Israel's glory will grow dim; its robust body will waste away. The whole land will look like a grainfield after the harvesters have gathered the grain. (Isaiah 17:3-5 NLT)

Israel 'secretly attacked Iranian oil tankers and weapons carriers'

The Times, March 13, 2021



EVENT

Israeli special forces have been accused of repeated sabotage against Iranian shipping in international waters, targeting oil tankers apparently with the knowledge of the US. The attacks caused at least one big oil spill, in the Red Sea in October 2019, according to reports from Washington. Another spill, along the Israeli and Lebanese coasts in the past month, was blamed by Israeli politicians on a tanker carrying crude oil from Iran to Syria but will now be viewed in a different light. Iran has not reacted directly to the claims, reported in the Wall Street Journal, but said last night that one of its cargo ships, the Shahr e Kord, had been attacked and caught fire off the Syrian port of Latakia on Wednesday night. It called the attack "terrorism" but is still trying to identify the perpetrator. At least a dozen vessels, mostly carrying Iranian oil to Syria and mostly hit by mines, have been damaged by Israeli attacks since late 2019, the newspaper reported, citing US and other officials.

COMMENT

All signs are currently pointing to serious escalation in the Middle East between Israel and Iran. This bombshell report in the Wall Street Journal shows that for the last 12 months Israel has been attacking Iranian ships in the Red Sea and in other areas of the region. Israel's goal is to put economic pressure on Iran, which regularly sends oil to Syrian refineries. The ships also are believed to carry weapons throughout the region. This would mean the attacks could also be intended to disrupt the flow of support from Tehran to various proxy groups across the Middle East. Psalm 83 speaks of Assur (which covered part of modern Iran) supporting terror groups around Israel.

BIBLE QUOTE

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, ...; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: (Psalm 83:4-8)

Iran reports attack on its cargo vessel in Mediterranean Sea

Associated Press, March 12, 2021



EVENT

An Iranian cargo vessel was targeted this week in a “terrorist attack” in the Mediterranean Sea, the country's state TV reported on Friday. There were no casualties in the explosion, the report said. The report quoted Ali Ghiasian, spokesman for the state shipping line, as saying that Wednesday's attack damaged Shahr-e Kord, a commercial vessel traveling to Europe. Ghiasian said an “explosives device” damaged the hull of the ship and set off a small fire that was quickly extinguished. Ghiasian said such acts of terrorism and instances of piracy are contrary to international regulations. He said “legal prosecution of the perpetrators of this terrorist action will be pursued through competent international organizations.” The report said the ship would continue on its path following a damage assessment, without providing more details. It did not blame anyone for the attack. Earlier this week, Israel accused Iran's Revolutionary Guard of attaching an explosive device to the Israeli-owned cargo vessel Helios Ray in international waters near the Gulf of Oman in February.

COMMENT

As the rhetoric increases so do the attacks. On Wednesday an Iranian-flagged container vessel Shar-e Kord suffered an explosion in the eastern Mediterranean offshore Haifa. Interesting that Iran threatens to raze Haifa and then days later an Iranian ship is struck near Haifa. On Friday Iranian General Esmail Ghaani, chief of the Quds Force, the foreign wing of the Revolutionary Guard, warned that Tehran “will destroy the wall,” referring to Israel's West Bank separation barrier. The Bible says the Medes (Iranians) will be stirred up. We are certainly seeing this happening now. These events could easily lead to the inner ring conflict detailed in Zechariah 12 and Psalm 83.

BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

Isaiah 13 through to Isaiah 25 all have latter day fulfilment as well as ancient. *(Isaiah 13:17-18)*

B-52s again fly over Mideast in US military warning to Iran

Newsweek, March 9, 2021



EVENT

A pair of B-52 bombers flew over the Mideast on Sunday, the latest such mission in the region aimed at warning Iran amid tensions between Washington and Tehran. The U.S. military's Central Command said the two B-52s flew over the region accompanied by military aircraft from nations including Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. It marked the fourth-such bomber deployment into the Mideast this year and the second under President Joe Biden. Flight-tracking data showed the two B-52s flew out of Minot Air Base in North Dakota, something Central Command did not mention in its statement on the flights though authorities later published images of the flight crew preparing its departure there. The military did not directly mention Iran in its statement, saying the flight was to “deter aggression and reassure partners and allies of the U.S. military’s commitment to security in the region.” Biden has expressed a desire to return to the deal if Iran honors the deal’s limits on its nuclear program. However, tensions remain high after militias in Iraq (likely backed by Iran) continue to target American interests.

COMMENT

Biden wants to resurrect the nuclear deal that he helped put in place when Obama was president. The trouble is Iran won't revert to parts of the deal it has broken. Iran wants sanctions lifted first. During this stalemate both sides are flexing their muscles. Iran is upping its attacks on Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The US is sending its B52 bombers again as a show of strength. Also this week Biden for the first time in his presidency introduced new sanctions on Iran. Russia and China have both backed Iran's stance and called on Biden to lift sanctions first. The stage is set for a showdown- someone has to back down first. If not the danger is that all this show of strength could lead to a mistake and conflict. We know conflict is coming - the nations prepare for war....

BIBLE QUOTE

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

(Joel 3:9-10)

Kremlin alarmed at US 'plan for cyberattacks on Russia'

The Times, March 10, 2021



EVENT

The Kremlin has lashed out over reports that the US is planning retaliatory cyberattacks on its military for the alleged hacking of American government agencies by Russian agents. Hackers thought to be working for the SVR, Russia's foreign intelligence service, were blamed last year for attacks on US government agencies including the State Department and the Pentagon. President Biden has promised that the actions will not "go unanswered". The White House intends to retaliate with clandestine cyberstrikes that will send a message to President Putin, his intelligence services and military, The New York Times reported this week, citing US officials. "A set of measures that are understood by the Russians, but may not be visible to the broader world, are actually likely to be the most effective measures in terms of clarifying what the United States believes are in bounds and out of bounds, and what we are prepared to do in response," Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, said. The cyberattacks are likely to be backed by additional economic sanctions against Russia, the report added.

COMMENT

Trump's strategy was to try and befriend Russia and make friends with Putin. He respected strong leaders. Biden however wants to pay Russia back for their interference in previous US elections. The US imposed sanctions last week on senior Russian officials and Russian businesses over the poisoning of Alexei Navalny, the prominent critic of the Kremlin. This week there are reports of the US planning its own cyber attacks on Russia. Russia has parliamentary elections in September and is paranoid about outside interference. Putin's spokesman said "this is alarming information" in relation to the report. The king of the north and south are squaring off.

BIBLE QUOTE

He [Gog] will honour those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward. "Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy."
(Daniel 11:39-40)

MEPs vote to declare the European Union an 'LGBTIQ freedom zone'

The Guardian, March 11, 2021



EVENT MEPs have voted to declare the EU an “LGBTIQ freedom zone” in a symbolic protest against discriminatory policies promoted in Poland and Hungary where regions have set themselves against the “ideology” of equality. Two years after the first local authority in Poland declared itself an “LGBTIQ-free zone”, the European parliament adopted its resolution by 492 votes in favour, 141 against and 46 abstentions. MEPs said that people “in the EU should enjoy the freedom to live and publicly show their sexual orientation and gender identity without fear of intolerance, discrimination or persecution”.

COMMENT Many regions in Poland have taken a stand against LGBTIQ ideology. The EU responded to this this week by declaring the whole of the EU an LGBTIQ freedom zone. The EU is the home of the “Declaration of the Rights of Man” which says that people are free to do whatever they like as long as they don’t harm anyone else. This thinking is enshrined in the Human Rights Act. But of course it has led to the promotion of godless practices. What were considered perversions not long ago are now not only accepted but taught as acceptable behaviour to children. The growing list of letters (now with IQ) added is basically adding more perversions to the list. God has given us freewill – but he wants us to live as he designed us as Male and Female. Not male & male or female & female or changing sex etc. Far from bringing freedom this ideology enslaves people in sin. We all sin but this ideology says it is not sin. The Bible says that God gives mankind over to wicked thinking when they reject Him.

BIBLE QUOTE And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols... That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other.

(Romans 1:23+26-27 NLT)
(see also Leviticus 20:13 NLT)

US coalition military base in Iraq hit by ten missiles

The Times, March 3, 2021



EVENT

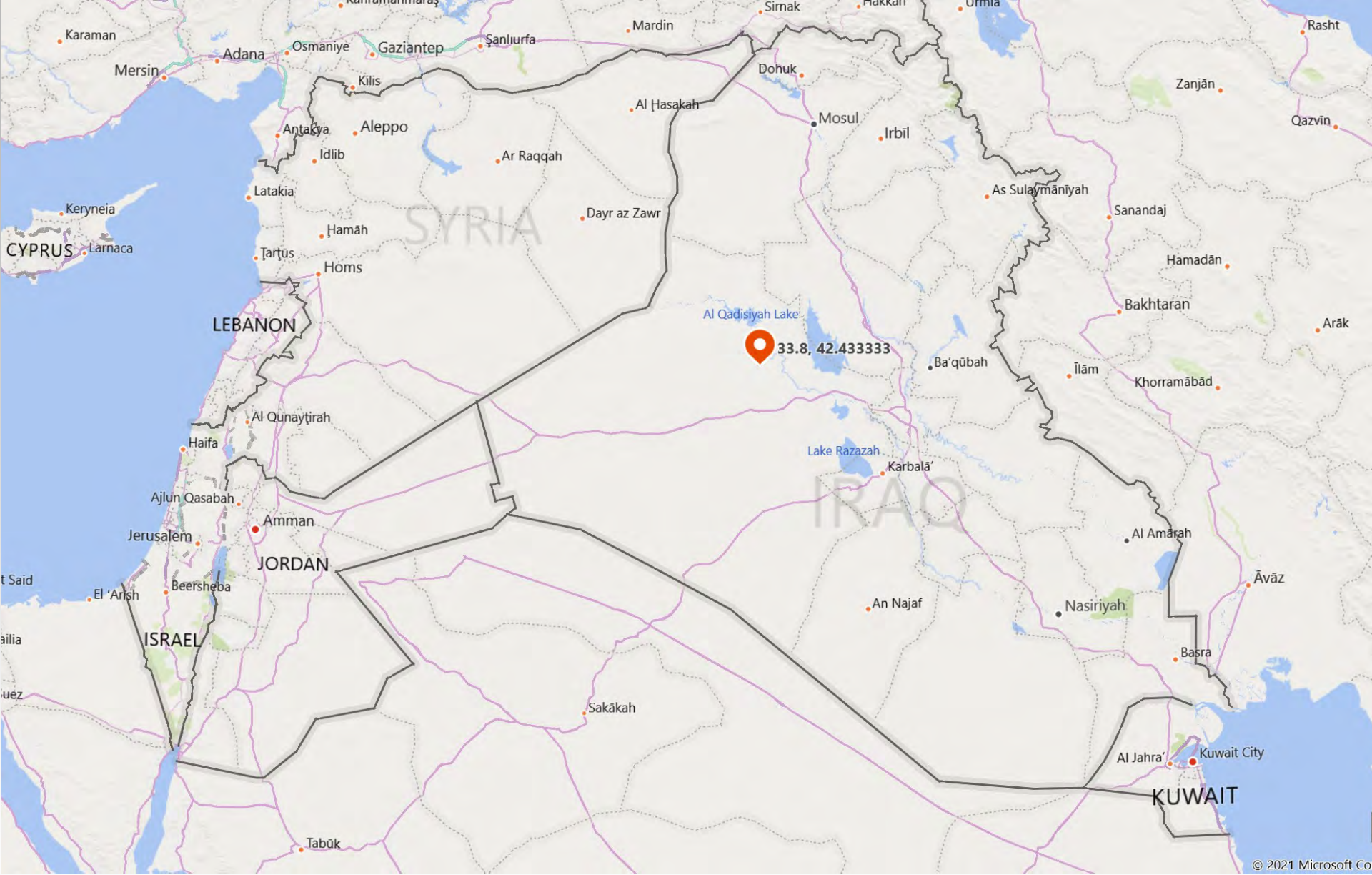
A US coalition military base in Iraq has come under rocket fire, five days after President Biden retaliated for a previous strike with air raids on Iranian-backed Shia militias in neighbouring Syria. A volley of ten missiles this morning hit the Ain al-Assad base in Anbar, western Iraq. The Iraqi military and the US-led coalition, which share the base, were still assessing the damage early afternoon local time. The Vatican insisted that the rocket attacks would not deter the Pope, who is due to make his first visit to Iraq on Friday. Two contractors were killed in a strike two weeks ago against a similar combined base in northern Iraq, which was blamed on Iraqi Shia militias. In response, Biden ordered the bombing of warehouses belonging to what the Pentagon said were the same militias just over the border with Syria, where they are also operating. Iran denied direct responsibility for the attack, but the exchange has led to a worsening of relations between Washington and Tehran, which had been expected to improve after Biden said he wanted to re-join the 2015 nuclear deal.

COMMENT

After the US Syria strike last week on Iranian targets, Iran refused an offer to join preliminary, informal talks on the nuclear programme hosted by the European Union, saying the US had to lift sanctions before it would respond. This week we have seen another attack on a US base. Neither side want full blown war but as each week goes by there is an increase in rhetoric and an increase in action. The US has around 3000 troops in Iraq and they become a “local” and easy target for Iran to threaten. In January last year Iran fired numerous ballistic missiles at a US base in Iraq. The Bible speaks of Iraq becoming like Sodom & Gomorrah. Great fire and destruction is coming to Iraq.

BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will stir up the Medes [Iran] against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children. And Babylon [Iraq], the glory of kingdoms,shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. (Isaiah 13:17-19)



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ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

This Week's **DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

2021-01-16 - Iran Fires Test Missiles Over Indian Ocean Against Virtual Targets Within 100 Mi Of Nimitz-

Gantz- IDF updating military plans for potential strike on Iran nuclear sites - The Times of Israel

Israel said very pleased with US strikes in Syria- 'Biden is not Obama' - The Times of Israel

Netanyahu asked Biden to maintain US sanctions on ICC -- report - The Times of Israel

Official- Israel upgrading contingency plans for Iran attack - ABC News

Pope Francis on Iraq visit calls for end to violence and extremism - BBC News

The Pope in Iraq- Fraternity between all faiths - The Indian Express

US opposes ICC probe into Israel, Palestinians; weighs maintaining sanctions

Western envoys warn ICC its future is at risk over probe of Israel, Palestinians

The 'Great Reset,' world leaders' radical plan to transform the economy – The Hill