

Weekly Update

1. Macron: France intercepted Iranian drones 'at Jordan's request'

France shot down Iranian drones and missiles in Jordanian skies over the weekend (during the Iranian attack) at the request of Amman, the French Foreign Ministry told Saudi Arabia's Al Arabiya.

Source: Politico

<https://www.politico.eu/article/france-intercepted-iranian-drones-at-jordans-request-emmanuel-macron/>

2. US said to believe Israel won't strike Iran directly, will focus on proxies instead

Israel coordinated a retaliatory strike against Iran with Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. German publication Bild has given this news quoting its sources. According to him, the above countries told Israel that they would help shoot down missiles and drones in the event of a new Iranian attack on the Jewish state.

Source: The Times Of Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-said-to-believe-israel-wont-strike-iran-directly-will-focus-on-proxies-instead/>

3. Brazil negotiates with India to purchase anti-aircraft defense missile system

The talks will include the exchange of KC-390 cargo aircraft manufactured by national company Embraer for Akash batteries manufactured in India. Brazil and India have expanded their relations within the BRICS framework, a bloc formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Source: Gazetadopovo

<https://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/republica/brasil-esta-negociando-a-compra-de-missis-de-defesa-antiaerea-com-a-india/>

4. Venezuela Closes Its Embassy In Ecuador To Protest The Police Raid On The Mexican Embassy There

An extraordinary meeting of the heads of SLAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries) to investigate the illegal act of Ecuador in relation to the attack on the Mexican Embassy in Quito.

Source: NewsonAir

<https://www.newsonair.gov.in/venezuela-closes-its-embassy-in-ecuador-to-protest-the-police-raid-on-the-mexican-embassy-there/>

5. Dien Bien Phu Victory echoes, 70 years on

Vietnam is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the victory at Dien Bien Phu, which led to the country's independence from France in May 1954.

Source: **Vietnam Pictorial**

<https://vietnam.vn/vietnam.vn/english/tin-van/dien-bien-phu-victory-echoes-70-years-on-365262.html>

6. France Approves Transfer of 30 Mirage 2009-E Fighter Jets from UAE to Morocco

This time with the help of France, Morocco has continued the arms race. It is no longer just the US or Israel, now Morocco buys 30 French-made Mirage 2000-9 aircraft from the UAE, with the authorization of the Elysee, which was required as per the contract.

Source: **MoroccoWorldNews**

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2024/04/362057/france-approves-transfer-of-30-mirage-2009-e-fighter-jets-from-uae-to-morocco>

7. Xi Jinping Meets with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

German President Scholz meets Xi Jinping: Topic of the meeting: Basic principles of a just peace in Ukraine. In particular, the Chinese President has expressed the need to maintain peace rather than selfish desires.

Source: **China-embassy.gov.cn**

http://in.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zgxw/202404/t20240416_11282464.htm

8. Need for North-South Transport Corridor Increases Amid Middle East Crisis: Media

According to Sahay, the North-South Transport Corridor is also important for India from the point of view of developing trade relations with Russia and the countries of Central Asia. Furthermore, South Asian nations gain direct access to Afghanistan through it, bypassing Pakistan.

Source: **Sputnik**

<https://sputniknews.in/20240420/need-for-north-south-transport-corridor-increases-amid-middle-east-crisis-media-7180977.html#:~:text=The%20ongoing%20crisis%20in%20the,bene%20ficial%20for%20India.The%20FIEO>

9. Taliban requests invitation to OIC's meeting in Gambia

The Taliban demand an invitation from the OIC to the 15th OIC summit in Gambia in May. This was stated by Taliban Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Abdul-Salam Hanafi at a meeting with OIC Special Representative Tariq Ali Bakhit, who was accompanied for the first time by ladies - Nura al-Rashud, Amina al-Hajiri and Afnan al-Shuaibi, heads of the Rights Commission person and departments for family and women's affairs.

*Source: **amu.tv***

<https://amu.tv/92903/#:~:text=Taliban%20has%20requested%20an%20invitation,humanitarian%20affairs%20at%20the%20OIC.>

10. Chinese Investors Eager in Water Transfer Project from Panjshir River to Kabul

Contract for the project of supply of river water to Kabul. The Chinese are trying to get Panjshir. The Taliban had estimated the cost of the project at \$3 million. Iranian investors were already interested in it. Of the Chinese companies, negotiations on the Panjshir projects were first conducted by Yellow River Engineering Consulting Co., Ltd.

*Source: **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan***

<https://www.alemarahenglish.af/chinese-investors-eager-in-water-transfer-project-from-panjshir-river-to-kabul/>