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Israeli warplanes prepare for simulated attack on Iran

December 9, 2021 dailymail.co.uk reported: "Israel is preparing for an aerial training mission that will simulate an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, as the country's defence chiefs meet with their US counterparts to plan their next moves should negotiation with Tehran fail. The Israeli exercise will take place next year and involve F-35 stealth bombers accompanied by F-16 and F-15 fighters flying 600 miles out over the Mediterranean to replicate the distance required to strike nuclear targets in Iran.



News of the drill emerged ahead of a meeting between Israeli defence minister Benny Gantz and US defence chiefs today, with sources saying the two sides will discuss joint drills designed to prepare for strikes on Iran if they become necessary.

Israel and Iran have been at loggerheads for decades over Tehran's nuclear ambitions, with the latter insisting the technology will be used for peaceful purposes while the former says it will be used for a weapon aimed at them. In 2015, then-President Obama struck a deal with Tehran aimed at allowing the regime to create low-enriched uranium for use in nuclear reactors while committing it to inspections and other checks to prevent the mullahs from creating a bomb.

Israel vociferously opposed the deal, and in 2018 succeeded in persuading President Trump to walk away from it by reimposing sanctions and taking a much harder stance with Iran's rulers. Since then, Iran has breached various terms of the deal including enriching uranium to 60 per cent - just shy of the 90 per cent needed to build a bomb - and doubling its stockpile of highly enriched material.

Joe Biden is now trying to bring Iran back to the negotiating table, but faced with a new hardline regime in Tehran - elected after moderate Hassan Rouhani's approach to deals with the West was deemed a failure - he has met with little success." ..."

Israel will protect itself against Iran if world won't, Herzog warns new US envoy

December 8, 2021 timesofisrael.com reported: "President Isaac Herzog told the incoming US ambassador Sunday that Israel will take action to 'protect itself' should the international community fail to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

The comments, during a traditionally sedate ceremony to accept the credentials of Tom Nides, underlined tensions between Israel and the US amid talks in Vienna last week aimed at bringing the United States back into the 2015 nuclear pact between Iran and world powers.

Speaking in English alongside Nides, Herzog called the Iran threat 'the greatest challenge Israel and the United States face.'

'We are closely following the international community's recent negotiations with Iran,' said Herzog. 'Israel will welcome a comprehensive, diplomatic solution which permanently solves the Iranian nuclear threat.'

'In the case of a failure to achieve such a solution, Israel is keeping all options on the table and it must be said that if the international community does not take a vigorous stance on this issue, Israel will do so. Israel will protect itself,..."

South Korea unveils model for hypersonic weapon prototype

December 8, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The South Korean Defense Ministry has unveiled a model for some hypersonic weapon prototype months after North Korea tested its own weapon. Just days ago while in South Korea, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin criticized Chinese hypersonic weapons tests for destabilizing the region.

The model for the weapon, named Hycore, was revealed on Friday by the Defense Ministry's Agency for Defense Development (ADD), according to Aviation Week, which first reported the story. Seoul is reportedly aiming to begin testing in 2022.

The weapon, which bears a stark resemblance to Boeing's X-51 Waverider experimental hypersonic vehicle, is a ground-launched cruise missile launched from a TEL, similar to the US Army's forthcoming Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW). However, the weapon's potential range wasn't stated.

An animated video released by ADD shows the missile's basic structure, including its two-stage solid-fueled rocket and scramjet engine, which seems to operate in a similar way to Russia's Zircon surface-to-surface hypersonic missile..."

Syria FM tells Iran it will respond to Israeli attacks

December 7, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Syria's Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad was in Iran this week and told his counterparts that Syria will respond to Israeli attacks on Syria. 'We are responding to these attacks every day,' Mekdad said, according to reports in Iranian media. He noted that the 'Israeli regime's attacks on Syria could not go unanswered,' *Tasnim* news said. 'Those who attack Syria are the enemy of Syria and they supported the terrorists. Israel is doing this today. Maybe today's answer is different from tomorrow and today's answer is different from yesterday.'

He said that Syria is responding in 'various ways.' He claimed Syria is pursuing 'terrorists,' which apparently refers to Syria's regime cracking down on former Syrian rebels in southern Syria near the Golan. 'Some expect the response to the airstrikes, but Israel should not forget that Syria may waive such attacks, but it will not forget the essence of the issue...Israel should not be misunderstood and should know that these attacks will be answered,' he said..."

Britons Told to Take a COVID Test Every Time They Leave Home

December 7, 2021 breitbart.com reported: "A ruling politician in Northern Britain has suggested that people should take a COVID test every time they leave home.

John Swinney, the Deputy First Minister for Scotland and member of the Scottish National Party — which, ironically enough, campaigns to split Scotland away from the rest of the United Kingdom so the state could then be absorbed into a Federal Europe — has suggested that people should take a test for the Chinese Coronavirus every time they leave the house. The Minister suggested that the test should be taken if there is any chance of interactions with other members of the public from other households..."

Israeli security forces raise alert level at West Bank crossings

December 6, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Defense Minister Benny Gantz ordered an increase in the level of alert at crossings between the West Bank and Israel on Monday following a vehicular ramming attack overnight.

'The defense minister ordered a comprehensive investigation, that the lessons are learned and level of alertness and readiness be raised in all crossings in the area of Judea and Samaria,' read a statement released by Gantz's office, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name.

The attack, which took place shortly after 1 AM, was carried out by a 16-year-old Palestinian teenager who accelerated into the Te'enim Crossing near the West Bank city of Tulkarem with a stolen car. Guards at the crossing opened fire at the driver, fatally wounding him..."

Putin to land in India with eye on military, energy ties

December 6, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin will arrive in India on Monday for just his second overseas trip since the pandemic, seeking to bolster military and energy ties with a traditional ally being courted by Washington.

In its efforts to address a rising China, Washington has set up the QUAD security dialogue with India, Japan, and Australia, raising concerns in both Beijing and Moscow. India was close to the Soviet Union during the Cold War, a relationship that has endured, with New Delhi calling it a 'special and privileged strategic partnership'.

'The friendship between India and Russia has stood the test of time,' Modi told Putin at a virtual summit in September. 'You have always been a great friend of India.'



Russia Pres. Putin& PM Modi

It is only the Russian leader's second trip abroad since the coronavirus pandemic began —he skipped both the G20 and COP26 summits this year — after a June summit with US President Joe Biden in Geneva..."

Report: Taliban is executing, or 'disappearing,' hundreds

December 3, 2021 World Net Daily reported: "There was considerable alarm – even outrage – when Joe Biden stranded hundreds or even thousands of Afghans who had helped the U.S. during its occupation of Afghanistan, or had helped run the U.S.-aided government, behind what appeared to be enemy lines.

That abandonment happened when Biden abruptly ordered Americans out of the country. He left behind billions of dollars of American war machinery, hundreds of Americans and thousands of those Afghans who were expected to be targeted by the Taliban terrorists who took over the country. As expected, they are now being sought, and caught, by the Taliban. And executed..."