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IDF calls up reserves, security cabinet to meet, amid threat of attack from Iran

April 4, 2024 ynetnews.com reported: “The Security Cabinet will meet on Thursday amid concerns that an Iranian attack was imminent soon after the IDF said it was suspending weekend leaves for troops in combat units. On Wednesday, the military said it was calling up reserve forces to bolster deployment of the IDF aerial defense systems and today that decision was extended to reservists serving in the military intelligence and in the Home Front command. The call up was sent to soldiers in the reserves that have just recently been released from active duty in the war and have now been instructed to return to base.

‘I’ve told you repeatedly that we cannot be sure the worse is behind us and we are facing complex days ahead,’ military intelligence chief Major General Aharon Haliva told his senior officers on Thursday...”

North Korea says it tested new solid-fuel intermediate-range missile with hypersonic warhead

April 4, 2024 voanews.com reported: “North Korea said Wednesday it tested another new hypersonic intermediate-range missile powered with solid propellants as it continues to expand its nuclear and missile program in the face of deepening tensions with neighbors and the United States.

The report by North Korean state media came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries detected the North launching the missile from an inland area around its capital toward its eastern sea.

North Korean state media said the test was supervised by leader Kim Jong Un, who described the missile – named Hwasong-16B – as a key piece of his nuclear war deterrent, which he vowed to further build up to counter his ‘enemies,’ a reference to the United States, South Korea and Japan. Kim said the North has now developed nuclear-capable, solid-fuel systems for ‘all the tactical, operational and strategic missiles with various ranges,’ the Korean Central News Agency said.



Iran vows to punish Israel for deadly strike on embassy annex

April 3, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “Iran warned its arch foe Israel on Tuesday that it will retaliate for an air strike that killed seven Revolutionary Guards, two of them generals, and destroyed its consular annex building in the Syrian capital.

Israel declined to comment on Monday’s strike in Damascus, which fueled Middle East tensions already inflamed by the Gaza war and violence involving Iran-backed groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Iranian state media said 13 people were killed in the strike in which, according to Tehran’s ambassador, Israeli F-35 fighter-jets fired six missiles that levelled the five-story consular building adjacent to the embassy.

The building was reduced to a mountain of rubble by the blasts which blew out windows in nearby buildings and incinerated cars parked on the roadside in a leafy and upscale suburb of the city.

Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed that Israel ‘will be punished at the hands of our brave men. We will make them regret this crime and the other ones.’

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi condemned the attack as a ‘clear violation of international regulations’ which ‘will not go unanswered’.

‘After repeated defeats and failures against the faith and will of the Resistance Front fighters, the Zionist regime has put blind assassinations on its agenda in the struggle to save itself,’ Raisi said on his office’s website...”

Why are Americans so unhappy?

April 1, 2024 thehill.com reported: “We don’t feel like a happy country. And, in fact, on the list of the happiest nations, generated by Gallup each year, America is 23rd this year, behind the United Arab Emirates, and we have dropped from last year’s place of 15th. If you are looking for a happy country, go to Finland, which tops the list along with most of the Nordic countries.

Most surprising about the data on happiness is that the most unhappy demographic is people under 30, which is ironic given their unique understanding of, and access to, new media.

But no matter which age bracket you look at, people are feeling depressed.

Overall, Americans feel broke and brokenhearted even with overall good national news on inflation.

Financial stress is one reason so many Americans want to move to another country. In a recent poll by Monmouth University, one-third of respondents said they would like to live in a different nation — a figure that stood at 10 percent 50 years ago. (Not many people had an exact destination in mind.)

Other factors contribute to unhappiness, but the common issue is generalized worry about where America is going on almost every issue from education to politics, according to the most recent Gallup polling data.

And the discontentment leads to a belief that America is not well respected overseas. Americans' satisfaction with our global position is at its lowest since 2017 — also according to Gallup. Unhappiness is both a political state and a mental health crisis, although we rarely see them as interrelated. Anxiety affects 1 in 5 adults..."

Marcos says Philippines will not be 'cowed into silence' by China

April 1, 2024 spacewar.com reported: "President Ferdinand Marcos said Thursday the Philippines will not be 'cowed into silence' by Beijing after confrontations in the South China Sea that injured Filipino troops and damaged vessels. Marcos's remarks came as China blamed the Philippines for raising tensions in the hotly contested waterway, which Beijing claims almost entirely.



Beijing and Manila have a long history of maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea and there have been repeated confrontations between their vessels near disputed reefs in recent months.

Manila summoned a Chinese envoy over the latest incident near Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, which occurred last Saturday during a Philippine mission to resupply troops garrisoned on the BRP Sierra Madre, a grounded navy ship. The Philippines said the China Coast Guard blocked its supply vessel and damaged it with water cannon, injuring three soldiers. The China Coast Guard has defended its actions, describing them as 'lawful regulation, interception and expulsion' of a foreign vessel that 'tried to forcefully intrude' into Chinese waters..."

Is Iran planning something big? Iraqi-based attacks on Israel raise alarms – analysis

April 1, 2024 jpost.com reported: "Iranian-backed militias in Iraq claimed credit for two attacks on Israel this week. The 'Islamic resistance' in Iraq claimed that it struck a 'vital target deep in the occupied Palestinian territories,' according to the pro-Iranian *Al-Mayadeen* media.

'The Islamic Resistance in Iraq announces that its mujahideen attacked, Monday morning...with appropriate weapons,' the report claimed. The report appeared to link the claims to an incident in Eilat overnight. The targeting of Eilat from Iraq is a major escalation by Iranian-backed groups and follows other incidents and escalation.

This came a day after the same group in Iraq, which represents several pro-Iranian militias that possess drones and missiles, claimed to have targeted the Christian village of Eilaboun in the Galilee. They claimed to have used a drone flown from Iraq in the attack. Pro-Iranian groups in Iraq have increased their number and capability of drones in recent years. In January, Kataib Hezbollah in Iraq carried out a drone attack on US service members in Jordan, killing three Americans..."

Taiwan conducts missile drills 'in face of' China military intrusions

March 29, 2024 spacewar.com reported: "Taiwan conducted an air defence test on Tuesday deploying US-made Patriot missiles and its anti-aircraft artillery systems, saying it will ramp up training in the face of Chinese military 'intrusions' around the self-ruled island.

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has said it will not rule out using force to bring the island under its control. Chinese warplanes and ships maintain a near-daily presence around the island, as Beijing has ramped up military pressure against Taipei using what experts say are 'grey zone' actions — tactics that stop short of outright acts of war.

Taiwan's Air Force Command said it conducted an exercise between 5:00 and 7:00 am (2100-2300 GMT Monday) that included the island's domestically made Sky Bow and US-made Patriot surface-to-air missiles along with army and navy units. 'The aim was to verify the command and control of joint air defence operations among the three branches of the military,' it said, adding that the exercise went smoothly..."

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