

Intelligence Digest | Middle East

18-24 November 2012

Afghanistan

6 insurgents killed in Wardak operation

Afghanistan Times, 25 November: Six Taliban fighters were killed in a joint operation by Afghan and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) personnel in the central province of Maidan Wardak, officials said on Sunday.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1677&&cid=1

5 dead in Takhar, Kunduz incidents

Afghanistan Times, 25 November: Five people were killed in two separate incidents in northern Takhar and Kunduz provinces, an official said on Sunday.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1679&&cid=1

One killed in clashes between Taliban and security forces in Nangarhar

Afghanistan Times, 24 November: A civilian was killed during a Taliban-police encounter in the Batikot district of eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday, an official said.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1671&&cid=1

UK assures Afghanistan of economic development assistance

Afghanistan Times, 24 November: Britain on Thursday assured Afghanistan of continued economic development assistance to Afghanistan until 2017, despite a post-2014 change of mission. UK troops within the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) framework will support, counsel and train Afghan security personnel after the combat mission ends in two years' time.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1659&&cid=1

Afghanistan truck bomb kills two, foreign troops among 70 wounded

Reuters, 23 November: A suicide truck bomb killed two people and wounded more than 70 in volatile eastern Afghanistan on Friday, officials said, with several foreign troops among those injured.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/23/us-afghanistan-bomb-idUSBRE8AM04T20121123

6 insurgents killed, 50 arrested in Kunar

Afghanistan Times, 23 November: Six Taliban militants were killed and 50 suspected insurgents detained during an operation by Afghan National Army (ANA) in the Ghaziabad district of eastern Kunar province, an official said on Friday.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1663&&cid=1



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Washington for fair trials of prisoners in Afghanistan

Afghanistan Times, 23 November: The Obama administration on Wednesday called for transparent and fair trials for prisoners, as Afghanistan executed 14 prisoners over the past two days.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1660&&cid=1

Afghanistan economy also affected by Iran sanctions

VOA, 22 November: Government officials and money exchangers in Kabul say that Iranian businessmen, hungry for foreign exchange in the face of international sanctions, are buying up dollars from the Afghan economy and driving the Afghani down.

voanews.com/content/afghanistan-also-pinched-by-iran-sanctions/1550925.html

12 rebels including Pakistani killed in Zabul

Afghanistan Times, 22 November: A dozen Taliban, including Pakistani fighters, were killed in a joint military operation by Afghan and NATO-led forces in southern Zabul province, an official said on Thursday.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1652&&cid=1

Transfer of prisons: President Karzai receives report of commission

Afghanistan Times, 21 November: President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday received the report of commission to oversee the implementation of the agreement between Kabul and Washington to transfer prisons to the Afghan government.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1642&&cid=1

Afghanistan to unblock Youtube

Afghanistan Times, 21 November: Afghanistan is set to lift a block placed on Youtube more than two months ago over a controversial anti-Islamic video, a communication ministry official said on Wednesday.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1654&&cid=1

Border coordination: Pakistan, Afghanistan, ISAF sign agreement

Express Tribune, 21 November: Pakistan, Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) signed an agreement on Tuesday to "improve near border coordination".

tribune.com.pk/story/468993/border-coordination-pakistan-afghanistan-isaf-sign-agreement/

Afghanistan criticised for spate of executions

BBC, 21 November: Six prisoners have been hanged in Afghanistan, bringing to 14 the number of executions in the past two days, officials say. Human rights groups have condemned the hangings as cruel and inhuman. They have raised concerns about the safety of some of the convictions.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20425514

Two killed in suicide bomb attack near Kabul NATO base

Reuters, 20 November: A suicide bomber killed two Afghan guards outside a NATO-run compound in the main diplomatic area of the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Wednesday, Interior Ministry officials said, an attack that was quickly claimed by the Taliban.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSBRE8AK06M20121121

Afghanistan to execute more than 10 prisoners

AFP, 20 November: Afghanistan's president has given the go-ahead for the execution of more than 10 prisoners on death row, his spokesman said Monday -- marking a rare use of the death penalty in the war-racked nation.

google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iEQdiUFZnJdQSpadscTTDDlnKr0Q?docId=CNG.6f62ffdf1afc-d844ad043bf8066ac8f3.f1

France ends Afghan combat mission early

BBC, 20 November: French troops have pulled out of north-eastern Kapisa province, ending their combat operations early in Afghanistan.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20417134

Afghanistan opium harvest drops by a third - UN

BBC, 20 November: Opium production in Afghanistan has fallen by a third, according to a United Nations report. The fall came even as the amount of land used to cultivate the crop rose by 18%, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20407511

Karzai accuses US of breaching prison pact

Express Tribune, 19 November: President Hamid Karzai has accused the United States of breaching an agreement to transfer more than 3,000 detainees at a controversial prison north of Kabul to Afghan control.

tribune.com.pk/story/468000/karzai-accuses-us-of-breaching-prison-pact/

Freed Taliban prisoners get Afghan passports

Afghanistan Times, 19 November: In a bid to accelerate the ongoing reconciliation campaign, the Afghan government has issued passports to the Taliban prisoners who were recently released by Pakistan.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1635&&cid=1

Quetta Shura reviews Afghan peace negotiations

Afghanistan Times, 18 November: Members of the Taliban leadership council, known as Quetta Shura, have reportedly reviewing Afghan peace process days after an Afghan delegation convinced Pakistani government to release senior Taliban officials as a confidence-building measure to bring Taliban to the negotiation table.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1618&&cid=1

Bahrain

Bahrain opposition leader vows to defy march ban

Gulf News, 25 November: The head of Bahrain's main opposition group says backers will resume street protests in a direct challenge to a government ban on political gatherings.

gulfnews.com/news/gulf/bahrain/bahrain-opposition-leader-vows-to-defy-march-ban-1.1109622

Bahrain donates \$1.3m for Syrian refugees

Gulf Daily News, 25 November: BAHRAIN yesterday presented \$1.3 million in aid to Syrians living in refugee camps in Turkey after fleeing the civil war in their country.

gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=342448

Nasrallah: Bahrain crisis escalators afraid of reforms

Voice of Bahrain, 25 November: Secretary General of Hizbollah Seyyed Hassan Nasrollah on Sunday warned regional countries, that are preventing any solution in Bahrain, and said they are afraid that the call for reforms would spread to the neighbouring countries.

vob.org/en/index.php?show=news&action=article&id=2061

U.N. rights team to visit Bahrain next week over crackdown

Reuters, 24 November: U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay is sending a team of experts to Bahrain next week to discuss how the Gulf state can improve its rights record amid concerns over Manama's decision to revoke the nationality of 31 people and ban public protests.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/24/bahrain-rights-idUSL5E8MO0G220121124

Bahrain reconciliation distant amid slow reform pace

BBC, 23 November: One year on from a groundbreaking report into human rights abuses in Bahrain, its author, the Egyptian lawyer Cherif Bassiouni, has cast doubt on claims that many of his recommendations are being implemented.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20449587

23 Bahrain medics get 3-month jail terms

Peninsula, 22 November: A Bahrain court yesterday sentenced 23 medics to three months in jail each for taking part in anti-regime protests last year and acquitted five others, the prosecution said.

thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215200-23-bahrain-medics-get-3-month-jail-terms-.html

Amnesty condemns Bahrain's 'spiralling repression'

BBC, 21 November: Amnesty International has condemned what it says is the failure of the government of Bahrain to deliver on its promise of reform. The human rights organisation says a "groundbreaking report has been shelved by spiralling repression in Bahrain".

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20401228

U.S. concerned about Bahrain violence, weak follow-up on reforms

Reuters, 20 November: U.S. officials voiced concern on Tuesday that Bahrain's failure to implement key reforms outlined in an independent 2011 report is making political dialogue more difficult and widening fissures in society in ways that would benefit Iran.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/20/usa-bahrain-idUSL1E8MKFH420121120

Bahrain activists demand action over rights abuses

BBC, 20 November: Leading Bahraini human rights activists have demanded "accountability" over government pledges to address abuses outlined in a report a year ago. Meeting in the Netherlands, they said the government had failed to act on the recommendations of the report into the handling of anti-government protests.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20408613

Iran

Iran Tries to Choke Israel with Free Oil Offer to Jordan

Arutz Sheva, 25 November: Iran is trying to surround Israel on three sides with its "axis of evil" by offering free oil to Jordan.

israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/162471#.ULNqwde0OSo

Iran warns Turkey not to deploy Patriot missiles

Reuters, 25 November: Iran said Turkey's plans to deploy Patriot defensive missiles near its border with Syria would add to the region's problems, as fears grow of the Syrian civil war spilling across frontiers.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/25/us-syria-crisis-iran-idUSBRE8AO01X20121125

Iran oil curbs dodged by Asian economies

Peninsular, 24 November: Iran is supplying more oil to Asia's largest economies than at any time since the West tightened sanctions in July, threatening to undermine efforts to halt the country's nuclear programme and curbing gains in crude prices.

thepeninsulaqatar.com/business/215455-iran-oil-curbs-dodged-by-asian-economies-.html

Iranian blogger Beheshti 'may have died of shock'

BBC, 23 November: Iranian prosecutors say the death of blogger Sattar Beheshti in police custody may have been due to "excessive psychological stress".

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20463078

Iran House calls off plan to grill Ahmadinejad

Peninsula, 22 November: Iran's parliament called off plans to grill President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said they must not act in the interests of Iran's enemies.

thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215201-iran-house-calls-off-plan-to-grill-ahmadinejad-.html

Iran angered after France's Fabius blames Tehran for Gaza conflict

Reuters, 22 November: Iran reacted angrily to assertions by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and accused him of not understanding the realities in the region after the diplomat accused Tehran of being responsible for the Gaza conflict.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-palestinians-israel-iran-idUSBRE8AL05C20121122

Irani President concern about US presence in Afghanistan

Afghanistan Times, 22 November: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday suggested a meeting of religious scholars from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan to devise a joint strategy against terrorism in the region.

afghanistantimes.af/news_details.php?id=1657&&cid=1

Israel desire to attack Iran "childish" -Ahmadinejad

Reuters, 22 November: Israel has a "childish" desire to attack Iran and Tehran is capable of defending itself, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/israel-palestinians-iran-idUSL4N0922TW20121122

Fill brought to Iran site IAEA wants to inspect-diplomats

Reuters, 22 November: Iran has been hauling dirt to a military site U.N. nuclear inspectors want to visit, Western diplomats said on Wednesday, saying the findings were based on satellite images and they reinforced suspicions of a clean-up.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/nuclear-iran-iaea-idUSL5E8MLM5U20121122

Iran nuclear work at constant pace despite sanctions - IAEA

Reuters, 20 November: Iran is enriching uranium at a constant pace and international sanctions aimed at making Tehran suspend the activity are having no visible impact, the U.N. nuclear watchdog chief said in unusually blunt remarks on Tuesday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/20/nuclear-iran-idUSL5E8MKA6720121120

Iran starts building \$10 billion gas pipeline to Syria to boost energy sector

Washington Post, 19 December: Iran has started construction on a \$10 billion natural gas pipeline to key ally Syria, a news agency reported Monday, in an apparent nod of support to President Bashar Assad's embattled regime and a further attempt by Tehran to boost energy exports battered by international sanctions.

washingtonpost.com/business/report-iran-starts-building-10-billion-gas-pipeline-to-syria-to-boost-its-energy-sector/2012/11/19/500244dc-322b-11e2-92f0-496af208bf23_story.html

Iraq

Millions flood Iraq shrine city for Ashura peak

Gulf News, 25 November: Millions of Shiites flooded the Iraqi shrine city of Karbala on Sunday for the peak of Ashura rituals, which have been largely spared the deadly attacks that struck visitors in past years.

gulfnews.com/news/region/iraq/millions-flood-iraq-shrine-city-for-ashura-peak-1.1109733

Kurds send in the troops to confront Iraq

Albawaba, 25 November: Iraq is gearing up for a potential conflict with its semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in a battle over the oil-rich land situated there, Al Jazeera reported on Sunday.

albawaba.com/news/iraq-kurdistan-troops-452516

Gunmen kill one, wound two soldiers in east of Falluja

Aswat al-Iraq, 24 November: One soldier was killed and another one was wounded in an armed attack that targeted a military vehicle patrol in east of Falluja, a police source said on Saturday.

en.aswatiraq.info/%28S%28dtwasz55rlo1ksnj3i2wxj45%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=151518&l=1

Terrorist cell captured in Baghdad

Iraqi News, 24 November: The security forces managed to dismantle a car bomb and arrested a terrorist cell composed of nine terrorists in Mahmudiya district of southern Baghdad.

iraqinews.com/iraq-war/terrorist-cell-captured-in-baghdad/

Parliamentary Committee accuses USA, UK of keeping Iraq under UN Charter's 'Chapter VII'

Iraqi News, 24 November: Rafea Abdul Jabbar, of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee accused the US and the UK of keeping Iraq under the UN Charter's Chapter VII in order to maintain control over the country.

iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/parliamentary-committee-accuses-usa-uk-of-keeping-iraq-under-un-charter-s-th-chapter/

3 al-Qaeda elements captured in Wassit

Aswat al-Iraq, 22 November: Three al-Qaeda elements were arrested on Thursday, in addition to a drug gang in northern Wassit, the Wassit police department said.

en.aswatiraq.info/%28S%28dtwasz55rlo1ksnj3i2wxj45%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=151504&l=1

US soldier accused of Iraq shooting 'psychotic' - doctor

Reuters, 20 November: A U.S. soldier accused of killing five fellow servicemen at a military combat stress center in Baghdad in 2009 was psychotic and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder during the shooting frenzy, a top U.S. forensic psychiatrist testified on Tuesday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/usa-iraq-trial-idUSL1E8MKG9I20121121

IA Soldiers killed in north of Mosul

Iraqi News, 19 November: Two Iraqi army soldiers were killed when an Improvised Explosive Device exploded in north of Mosul city, capital of Nineveh province.

iraqinews.com/iraq-war/soldiers-killed-in-north-of-mosul/

Israel

Israel shoots down first missile with 'David's Sling' defence system

Fox News, 25 November: Israel says its new mid-range missile defense system has successfully passed a test. The "David's Sling" system is designed to stop mid-range missiles. The military says it shot down its first missile in a drill Sunday.

foxnews.com/world/2012/11/25/israel-shoots-down-first-missile-with-david-sling-defense-system/

Sudan to move Yarmouk factory outside Khartoum

Jerusalem Post, 25 November: Officials say they intend to move sections of military plant outside capital after accusing Israel of conducting recent airstrike.

jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=293391

Cease-fire may create new bond with Egypt

Jerusalem Post, 25 November: The cease-fire with Hamas might have created a new bond between Israel and Egypt's new government, according to Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor.

jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=293299

Israeli spy satellites spot Iranian ship being loaded with rockets for Gaza

Haaretz, 25 November: Israeli spy satellites have spotted an Iranian ship being loaded with missiles that analysts say may be headed for Gaza.

haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/report-israeli-spy-satellites-spot-iranian-ship-being-loaded-with-rockets-for-gaza-1.480303

Hamas defiant as Israel eases Gaza curbs

Peninsula, 25 November: Israel eased restrictions on Gaza fishermen and farmers yesterday, Palestinian officials said, advancing a three-day-old truce brokered by Egypt after a week of fierce fighting.
thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215554-hamas-defiant-as-israel-eases-gaza-curbs-.html

Hezbollah warns Israel on Ashura speech

World Bulletin, 25 November: Nasrallah said Hezbollah's response to any attack would dwarf the attacks from Gaza during the eight-day conflict between Israel and Hamas.
worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99201

Hezbollah says could hit all of Israel in future war

Reuters, 25 November: Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel on Sunday that thousands of rockets would rain down on Tel Aviv and cities across the Jewish state if it attacked Lebanon.
reuters.com/article/2012/11/25/us-lebanon-israel-hezbollah-idUSBRE8AO03W20121125

Israel Eases Gaza Restrictions as Last Week's Cease-Fire Holds

Bloomberg, 24 November: Israel eased restrictions on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip yesterday after last week's cease-fire with Hamas survived claims of breaches by both sides.
bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-24/israel-expands-west-bank-arrests-after-gaza-accord-ends-fighting.html

Hamas polices Gaza border after Israel kills Palestinian

Peninsula, 24 November: Hamas Islamists enforced a fragile two-day-old truce yesterday by evacuating Palestinians from a "no-go" border zone after Israel shot dead a Gaza resident there in the first fatality since the ceasefire.
thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215411-hamas-polices-gaza-border-after-israel-kills-palestinian.html

Gaza conflict shows Israel must "bow" to Palestinian rights: Iran

Reuters, 24 November: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told the head of the Hamas government in Gaza on Saturday that eight days of cross-border fighting showed that Israel had no choice but to "bow" to Palestinian rights, according to Iran's IRNA news agency.
reuters.com/article/2012/11/24/us-palestinian-israel-iran-idUSBRE8AN08V20121124

Tel Aviv bus bombing suspect is arrested

Albawaba, 24 November: Israel arrested an Israeli Arab on suspicion of planting a bomb in a Tel Aviv bus that wounded 15 people hours before Israel agreed a ceasefire with Hamas in Gaza, police and security officials said on Thursday.
albawaba.com/news/tel-aviv-bomb-452459

Arafat to be exhumed on Tuesday over poisoning claim

BBC, 24 November: The body of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is to be exhumed on Tuesday, Palestinian officials say. His body is to undergo tests to find out whether his death in Paris in 2004 was caused by poisoning.
bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20475737

'Son of Hamas': Taking down Hamas is a necessity

Jerusalem Post, 23 November: Taking down the Hamas regime is a necessity, Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of Hamas founder Sheikh Hassan Yousef told Channel 2 on Friday.

jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=293214

Gaza ceasefire holds but mistrust runs deep

Reuters, 23 November: A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas held firm on Thursday with scenes of joy among the ruins in Gaza over what Palestinians hailed as a victory, and both sides saying their fingers were still on the trigger.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/23/us-palestinians-israel-hamas-idUSBRE8AD0WP20121123

Israeli Troops Fire on Palestinians at Gaza Border Fence

Bloomberg, 23 November: Israeli troops fired on Palestinians near the Gaza Strip border, in an incident Hamas said left one dead and 25 injured, leading to accusations from both sides that a two-day-old ceasefire was breached.

bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-22/israel-lauds-strikes-as-hamas-says-invasion-threat-ended.html

Truce hits Netanyahu support but still set for poll win

Reuters, 23 November: Discontent over the ceasefire Benjamin Netanyahu struck with Hamas in Gaza has cost the Israeli prime minister support but he should still win a January 22 election, an opinion poll showed on Friday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/23/us-israel-election-idUSBRE8AM05U20121123

Iran supplied Gaza with weapons – Hamas leader

Gulf News, 22 November: Iran supplied Gaza fighters with weapons, Khalid Mesha'al, the political leader of Islamist group Hamas, has said.

gulfnews.com/news/region/palestinian-territories/iran-supplied-gaza-with-weapons-hamas-leader-1.1108674

Gaza war offers boost to Hamas leader Meshaal

Reuters, 22 November: Khaled Meshaal narrowly survived an assassination attempt ordered by Benjamin Netanyahu in 1997 the first time he was Israeli prime minister. Fifteen years on, the Hamas leader claims to have defeated Netanyahu once again.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-palestinians-israel-meshaal-idUSBRE8AL0PB20121122

Gazans celebrate "victory" over Israel

Reuters, 22 November: Gazans savoured the calm that pervaded their coastal enclave on Thursday after an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire halted eight days of relentless Israeli bombardment that killed 162 people.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-palestinians-israel-gaza-idUSBRE8AL0E120121122

Entering Israel, Mexican tourist busted with drone parts in luggage

Haaretz, 21 November: A Jewish citizen of Mexico tried to go through the "nothing to declare" lane with three suitcases. Something in his behavior aroused the customs inspectors' suspicions, so they asked him to open the bags.

haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/entering-israel-mexican-tourist-busted-with-drone-parts-in-luggage.premium-1.479377

Abbas to Clinton: UN statehood bid to move forward

Jerusalem Post, 21 November: Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday rejected US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's request to refrain from asking the UN to upgrade the status of the Palestinian state.

jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=292927

Israel bus bomb complicates Gaza invasion equation

Reuters, 21 November: As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu weighs whether to agree a truce with Hamas or send the Israeli army into Gaza, a bomb on a bus in Tel Aviv on Wednesday may sway reluctant national opinion behind a ground invasion.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-palestinians-israel-gaza-invasion-idUSBRE8AK0XD20121121

Iran in oil spat with Saudi Arabia

Gulf News, 21 November: Iran on Tuesday accused Saudi Arabia of searching for oil in what it called a "prohibited" offshore zone in response to Riyadh's earlier allegations that Tehran had violated its airspace.

gulfnews.com/news/region/iran/iran-in-oil-spat-with-saudi-arabia-1.1108069

Iran speaker confirms military aid to Hamas

Gulf News, 21 November: Iran has supplied military aid to Hamas, the Islamist group in Gaza locked in a conflict with Israel during which it has fired missiles at Tel Aviv for the first time, the parliament speaker said on Wednesday.

gulfnews.com/news/region/iran/iran-speaker-confirms-military-aid-to-hamas-1.1108366

Obama commends Netanyahu on ceasefire pledge

Reuters, 21 November: U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and commended him for agreeing to the Egyptian government's ceasefire plan in the Middle East, the White House said.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/usa-obama-israel-idUSL1E8ML3Q220121121

Obama speaks with Egypt's Mursi, commends ceasefire efforts

Reuters, 21 November: President Barack Obama on Wednesday spoke with Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi, praising his efforts to help broker a ceasefire in the conflict flaring in the Middle East, the White House said.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/usa-obama-egypt-idUSL1E8ML4E220121121

Tel Aviv bomb blast on bus

BBC, 21 November: Twenty-eight people have been injured in a "terrorist attack" on a bus in Israel's commercial capital Tel Aviv, Israeli officials say.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20425352

Israel bombs house of Gaza PM's senior adviser

World Bulletin, 21 November: An Israeli plane bombed the vacated house on Wednesday of a top adviser to Gaza's prime minister, local residents said.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98998

Israeli air strikes kill three Palestinian journalists on cars

World Bulletin, 21 November: Two cameramen working for al-Aqsa TV and an educational programming director for the al-Quds channel were killed by Israeli air strikes on their cars on Tuesday.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98990

Israel's battle damage report says Hamas crippled

Reuters, 21 November: Israel's Operation Pillar of Defence has crippled the military power of Gaza's ruling Islamist movement Hamas, the Israeli military said on Wednesday, as an Egyptian-brokered truce halted eight days of combat.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-palestinianans-israel-gaza-scoresheet-idUSBRE8AK1D720121122

Hamas feels more at home in a changing Arab world

Reuters, 20 November: Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal looked like a man at home in Cairo this week as he used the Egyptian capital to declare terms for a ceasefire with Israel, his confidence reflecting the historic changes shaping an Arab world more supportive of his cause.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/20/palestinians-israel-hamas-region-idUSL5E8MK82720121120

World powers to meet in Brussels to map out Iran plans

Reuters, 20 November: Officials from six world powers meet in Brussels on Wednesday to plan for a possible new round of talks with Iran, the latest effort to resolve a decade-long stand-off over its nuclear program and avert the threat of a military conflict.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/20/us-iran-nuclear-talks-idUSBRE8AJ1L820121120

Israel-Gaza crisis: UK minister in Mid-East for talks

BBC, 20 November: UK Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt has arrived in the Middle East to meet senior Israeli and Palestinian figures amid the escalating violence.

bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20403993

Mid-East press fears Gaza invasion

BBC, 19 November: Newspapers in the Middle East are concerned with two questions: Will diplomacy steer the Gaza conflict towards a political settlement, or will Israel decide on a ground invasion?

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20394369

Israeli ground forces poised as Gaza conflict enters sixth day

Al-Arabiya, 19 November: Israel continued to deploy ground forces along Gaza's border as hostilities between Islamist militants and Israel entered a sixth day on Monday.

english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/11/19/250537.html

Israel says prefers diplomacy but ready to invade Gaza

Reuters, 19 November: Israel bombed dozens more targets in the Gaza Strip on Monday and said that, while it was prepared to step up its offensive by sending in troops, it preferred a diplomatic solution that would end Palestinian rocket fire.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/19/us-palestinians-israel-hamas-idUSBRE8AD0WP20121119

Diplomats Try to End Israel-Gaza Conflict

Wall Street Journal, 19 November: The five-day conflict between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers reached its deadliest point yet, as diplomats in Cairo and elsewhere tried to forestall an Israeli ground invasion that would lead to a far bloodier battle.

online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324307204578126872809041636.html

Gaza crisis: 'More than 100' killed in Israeli strikes

BBC, 18 November: At least 105 people have died in the Gaza Strip in six days of violence, Hamas officials say, as Israeli forces continue their bombardment.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20391558

An Outgunned Hamas Tries to Tap Islamists' Growing Clout

New York Times, 18 November: Emboldened by the rising power of Islamists around the region, the Palestinian militant group Hamas demanded new Israeli concessions to its security and autonomy before it halts its rocket attacks on Israel, even as the conflict took an increasing toll on Sunday.

nytimes.com/2012/11/19/world/middleeast/an-outgunned-hamas-tries-to-leverage-rise-of-islamists-in-region.html?ref=middleeast&_r=1&

Jordan

Jordan subsidy cuts to spur aid, growth: minister

Reuters, 22 November: Jordan's controversial fuel price hikes last week, which sent thousands of protestors onto the streets, have been painful but clear the way for the economy to grow and attract foreign aid, a minister responsible for economic policy said on Wednesday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-mideast-summit-jordan-idUSBRE8AK11120121122

Gulf states extend lifeline to Jordan as they seek to contain unrest

Middle East Online, 20 November: Oil-rich Gulf states are mulling ways to help Jordan shore up its fuel supplies after sharp price increases sparked protests against the king, the United Arab Emirates foreign minister said on Monday.

middle-east-online.com/english/?id=55632

Jordan's military prosecutor charges 89 activists with inciting revolt, after week of unrest

Fox News, 18 November: A Jordanian official says the country's military prosecutor has charged 89 activists with inciting violent revolt, after protests over price hikes swept through the U.S.-allied kingdom last week.

foxnews.com/world/2012/11/18/jordan-military-prosecutor-charges-8-activists-with-inciting-revolt-after-week/

Kuwait

'No license required for daytime procession' claims opposition

Kuwait Times, 23 November: Leading opposition figure Ahmad Al-Saadoun said that obtaining a license for a procession held at daytime isn't required according to the Constitution, calling simultaneously for police protection for a demonstration planned on the eve of parliament elections set for Dec 1.

news.kuwaittimes.net/2012/11/24/no-license-required-for-daytime-procession/

Kuwait ruler urges citizens to vote

World Bulletin, 21 November: Kuwaitis should use the ballot box to express their demands in a parliamentary election on Dec. 1 and not take to the streets "screaming and wailing" in protest, the Gulf Arab country's ruling emir said on Wednesday.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99030

Lebanon

Lebanon police arrest suspects in bomb plot against Shias

Peninsula, 25 November: The Lebanese army said yesterday it had arrested five Syrian men found with explosives and suspected of planning an attack on a Shias procession on Sunday.

thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215557-lebanon-police-arrest-suspects-in-bomb-plot-against-shias-.html

Lebanon dismantles rocket aimed at Israel

Haaretz, 22 November: Security sources said one of the 107 millimeter rockets fired on Wednesday fell about 500 meters inside Lebanese territory and the other landed right on the border. There were no reports of casualties.

haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/lebanon-dismantles-rocket-aimed-at-israel.premium-1.479829

Oman

Nothing significant to report.

Pakistan

20 Afghan shells land in Pakistan border areas

The Nation, 25 November: Some 20 mortar shells have been fired from Afghanistan that landed into Pakistani territory on Saturday, say reports.

nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/25-Nov-2012/20-afghan-shells-land-in-pakistan-border-areas

Pakistani Taliban claim responsibility for bomb attack on Shia procession

Guardian, 25 November: The Taliban have said it carried out a bombing that killed at least five people and wounded more than 90 others at a Shia religious procession in north-west Pakistan on Sunday.

guardian.co.uk/world/2012/nov/25/pakistan-bomb-shia-procession-taliban

Children among the dead after Taliban targets Shias in Pakistan

Albawaba, 25 November: Seven Shias, including four children, were killed on Saturday after the Taliban in Pakistan targeted their procession in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. According to local police, a remote-controlled bomb detonated close to Dera Ismail Khan during the Shia march to commemorate the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussain.

albawaba.com/news/pakistan-bomb-taliban-452547

Pakistan attacks kill 37 as summit convenes

AFP, 23 November: Muslim leaders pledged to work more closely at a rare summit in Pakistan on Thursday as militant attacks killed 37 people across the country in some of the deadliest violence claimed by the Taliban for months.

google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jDNNILzaSqWM2F8ccAWCW_1cqETg?docId=CNG.6611fb1b0c38c4c3fd36e91b1738c55e.1061

Bomb kills 3 soldiers, 2 civilians in Pakistan

Reuters, 21 November: A bomb blast killed three soldiers and two civilians in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Wednesday, security officials said.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-pakistan-violence-idUSBRE8AK0HA20121121

IHC quashes Rimsha 'blasphemy' case: lawyers

Dawn, 20 November: Islamabad High Court (IHC) throws out all charges against a Christian girl accused of blasphemy in a case that drew international condemnation, lawyers said.

dawn.com/2012/11/20/ihc-orders-removal-of-fir-against-rimsha/

Female suicide bomber in Pakistan attacks prominent Islamist politician

Washington Post, 19 November: A government official says a female suicide bomber in northwest Pakistan detonated her explosives near the convoy of a former leader of the country's largest Islamist party.

washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/female-suicide-bomber-in-pakistan-attacks-prominent-islamist-politician/2012/11/19/56308224-321c-11e2-92f0-496af208bf23_story.html

Bomb targeting Shiite Muslims kills 2 Karachi, in Pakistan's largest city

Washington Post, 18 November: A police officer says a bomb has exploded outside a Shiite Muslim mosque in Pakistan's largest city, killing at least two people.

washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/bomb-targeting-shiite-muslims-kills-2-karachi-in-pakistans-largest-city/2012/11/18/cd7d2940-31a9-11e2-92f0-496af208bf23_story.html

Saudi Arabia

Saudi dynasty faces generational choice

Reuters, 25 November: Two royal deaths and two cabinet reshuffles in just over a year have edged Saudi Arabia's ruling family toward a tough decision: turning to a new generation after 60 years of rule by sons of the founding patriarch.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/25/saudi-king-succession-idUSL5E8MI44C20121125

Saudi royals, officials visit king in hospital after surgery

World Bulletin, 25 November: Senior Saudi royals and government officials have visited King Abdullah in hospital, state news agency SPA reported, a week after the monarch - believed to be in his late 80s - had surgery to tighten a ligament in his back.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99200

Saudi Grand Mufti warns Gulf public against unrest

Reuters, 24 November: Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti, the highest religious authority in the birthplace of Islam, issued a condemnation of demonstrations that appeared to blame Iran for unrest among Shi'ite Muslims in Gulf Arab states.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/24/us-saudi-mufti-protests-idUSBRE8AN06Q20121124

Syria

Rebels attack Aleppo, shelling in Damascus

Peninsula, 25 November: Syrian rebels attacked army positions in the northern province of Aleppo yesterday while violence also raged in and around the capital, monitors and residents said.

theinsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215551-rebels-attack-aleppo-shelling-in-damascus.html

Syria fighters claim capture of helicopter base

World Bulletin, 25 November: Syrian rebels said on Sunday they had captured a helicopter base 15 km (10 miles) east of Damascus after an overnight battle, the second military facility on the outskirts of the capital to fall to President Bashar al-Assad's opponents this month.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99199

More than 40,000 killed since start of Syria conflict: monitor

World Bulletin, 23 November: The British-based Observatory, which supports the opposition, has been collating the names of the dead since government security forces started shooting pro-democracy protesters in March 2011.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99115

Turkey & Russia agree on coordinating resolution of Syria

World Bulletin, 23 November: Russian Foreign Ministry stated that Turkey and Russia agreed to work in coordination to find a solution to Syria crisis.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99107

Turkish FM says no one need feel uneasy about Patriot

World Bulletin, 23 November: Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said that countries, especially Russia, needn't feel uneasy about Turkey's Patriot demand from NATO.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99121

Syria says Turkey's bid for NATO missiles "provocative"

Reuters, 23 November: Syria on Friday condemned Turkey's request for NATO to deploy Patriot defense missiles near their common border, calling it "provocative", after a spate of clashes there that has raised fear of the Syrian civil war embroiling the wider region.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/24/us-syria-crisis-idUSBRE8AJ1FK20121124

Jets blast rebels in Damascus

Peninsula, 22 November: Syrian warplanes bombed a Damascus suburb yesterday in a push to dislodge rebels from a stronghold that threatens President Bashar Al Assad's hold on the capital, opposition activists said.

theinsulaqatar.com/middle-east/215203-jets-blast-rebels-in-damascus.html

Syria rebels capture army base in eastern oil region

Reuters, 22 November: Syrian rebels captured an army base in an eastern oil province on Thursday, further weakening President Bashar al-Assad's control in the strategic region bordering Iraq.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-syria-crisis-idUSBRE8AJ1FK20121122

Syria Kurdish leader rejects new opposition coalition

World Bulletin, 21 November: A party that controls much of Syria's Kurdish region on Tuesday rejected the new opposition coalition, highlighting the deep divisions still remaining between the many Syrian armed groups 20 months into the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98995

Syria now running a war economy as conflict spreads

Reuters, 21 November: At a rebel-controlled border crossing in northern Syria, camps housing thousands of refugees trying to flee the country occupy an area that less than two years ago was usually crammed with lorries queuing to pass through customs.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-syria-economy-idUSBRE8AK0RZ20121121

New container cities to be established in Turkey

World Bulletin, 21 November: Turkey will establish two new "container cities" for Syrian refugees in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, southeastern provinces of Turkey.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98941

Russia says US blocks UN condemnation on Israel-Gaza conflict

World Bulletin, 20 November: Russia accused the United States on Monday of blocking a bid by the U.N. Security Council to condemn the escalating conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and said other council members were filibustering the issue.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98925

Mortar fire hits Syrian Information Ministry

World Bulletin, 20 November: Mortars hit Syria's Information Ministry building in the capital Damascus on Tuesday, Syrian state television said, causing some damage but no casualties.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98934

Syria conflict: UK recognises opposition

BBC, 20 November: UK Foreign Secretary William Hague has said the UK has decided to recognise the Syrian opposition coalition.

bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-20406562

Rebels eye Assad's economic lifeline in east

World Bulletin, 19 November: A Syrian rebel offensive that captured border crossings with Turkey and Iraq aims to cut off supplies from the country's main grain and oil-producing region and speed President Bashar al-Assad's downfall, a tribal leader said.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98901

Syrian rebels clash with Kurdish militias

World Bulletin, 19 November: Gunfire clattered in the mixed Arab and Kurdish frontier town of Ras al-Ain, at least four Kurdish militiamen had been wounded in the fighting and that a rebel sniper had shot dead the leader of Ras al-Ain's local Kurdish Council.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=98907

Refugee children 'face winter risks'

BBC, 19 November: International charity Save the Children has warned that 200,000 Syrian refugee children are at serious risk from freezing temperatures, as winter sets in the Middle East.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20390511

Israeli soldiers fire toward Syrian fighters after stray bullets from Syria's civil war hit

Washington Post, 18 November: Israel shelled Syrian fighters after gunfire from their civil war spilled over to the Israel-controlled Golan Heights, the military said Sunday, as the conflict appeared to inch closer to the Jewish state.

washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/israeli-soldiers-fire-toward-syrian-fighters-after-stray-bullets-from-syrias-civil-war-hit/2012/11/17/857bcb60-3118-11e2-af17-67abba0676e2_story.html

Israel Reports 'Direct Hit' on Syrian Soldiers

Turkish Weekly, 19 November: Israeli soldiers fired artillery into Syria in response to gunfire aimed at its troops in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, but caused no casualties, a military spokeswoman said yesterday, in the latest spillover of violence across the ceasefire line.

turkishweekly.net/news/144919/israel-reports-%C3%ABdirect-hit%C3%AD-on-syrian-soldiers-.html

Syria gunfire on Golan Heights prompts Israeli shelling

Al-Arabiya, 18 November: Israeli artillery fired into Syria early Sunday after gunfire from Syria hit an army vehicle but caused no injuries, the Israeli military said, in the latest spillover of violence from the bloody civil war raging across the ceasefire line.

english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/11/18/250295.html

Syria Says Foreign Support for Rebels Aids Terrorism

New York Times, 18 November: Senior Syrian officials lashed out on Sunday at foreign governments that have recognized the opposition, while armed skirmishes around the country included a fresh salvo across the border with Israel.

nytimes.com/2012/11/19/world/middleeast/syria-assails-foreign-support-for-rebels.html

UAE

Nothing significant to report.

Yemen

Killing of 4 Shiites in Yemeni Capital Sanaa Increases Tension

Bloomberg, 24 November: Four Shiite Houthi Muslims were killed in an explosion at a worship site in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa in an increase of tension in the poorest Arab country.

bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-24/yemen-blast-kills-four-shiite-muslims-during-religious-festival.html

Marib pipeline attacked, military leader dead in tribesmen ambush

Yemen Times, 22 November: One soldier died and others were injured Wednesday morning when tribesmen in Wadi Habab ambushed them. The soldiers were following armed tribesmen who sabotaged an oil pipeline in Serwah Valley of Marib on Tuesday night.

yementimes.com/en/1627/news/1638/Marib-pipeline-attacked-military-leader-dead-in-tribesmen-ambush.htm

Yemen military plane crash kills 10

BBC, 21 November: A Yemeni military plane has crashed in the capital, Sanaa, killing all 10 people on board, officials have said. The Antonov came down in an empty market in the al-Hassaba district as it tried to make an emergency landing after one of its engines failed.

bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20426767

U.N. chief pushes for political dialogue in divided Yemen

Reuters, 19 November: U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pledged on Monday to help rescue stumbling efforts to implement a power transfer deal in Yemen that pulled the Arabian Peninsula country back from the brink of civil war last year.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/19/us-yemen-un-idUSBRE8AI0OI20121119

Human rights groups call for the protection of marginalized communities

Yemen Times, 19 November: Human rights and anti-discrimination organizations have condemned the repeated killing of people from marginalized communities, calling on security forces to bring perpetrators of such crimes to trial.

yementimes.com/en/1626/news/1620/Human-rights-groups-call-for-the-protection-of-marginalized-communities.htm

Yemenis march in solidarity with Gaza

Yemen Times, 19 November: Hundreds of Yemenis in Sana'a held a demonstration Sunday to affirm their solidarity with those under siege in the Gaza strip.

yementimes.com/en/1626/news/1618/Yemenis-march-in-solidarity-with-Gaza.htm



Related issues

Large blast destroys Egypt intelligence building in Sinai

Al-Arabiya, 25 November: An explosion in the Egyptian city of Rafah near Gaza Strip destroyed part of an intelligence building, Al Arabiya correspondent reported early on Sunday.

english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/11/25/251606.html

Will Mursi's Egypt become a new Iran?

Al-Arabiya, 24 November: Egyptian President Mohammed Mursi's recent decisions were seen by critics as an attempt to convert Egypt into an Islamic single-party state, but analysts downplay those fears citing Egypt's moderate nature and its cultural diversity. Some political experts interviewed by Al Arabiya English cited moderation and tolerance as major characteristics of Egypt, adding that any attempt to change these "deep-rooted facts" and transform Egypt into an Islamic nation will fail.

english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/11/24/251588.html

UK hopes Mideast nuclear talks can be held next year

Reuters, 24 November: Britain said on Saturday it hoped a conference on banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East could take place "as soon as possible", after the United States said it would not be held next month.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/24/britain-weapons-conference-idUSL5E8MO0LL20121124

Middle East nuclear talks will not occur next month: U.S.

Reuters, 23 November: Talks planned for next month on banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East will not take place, the United States said on Friday, a development likely to anger Arab states but please Israel.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/24/us-nuclear-middleeast-idUSBRE8AN01L20121124

Russian forensics team to help Arafat exhumation

World Bulletin, 22 November: Russia will send forensics experts to help examine the body of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat which is due to be exhumed next week as part of international attempts to establish whether he was murdered, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=99048

U.S. has decimated al Qaeda chiefs but must persist in fight: Panetta

Reuters, 21 November: U.S. forces have decimated al Qaeda's leadership and made gains against some of its affiliates, but the fight has shifted in new directions that will require persistent U.S. efforts to truly end the threat, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said on Tuesday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-usa-qaeda-panetta-idUSBRE8AK03R20121121

U.S. carrier presence in Gulf to decline, briefly

Reuters, 21 November: The U.S. aircraft carrier presence in the Gulf region will decline for about two months, from two to one carrier, due to unexpected repairs that have triggered a reshuffling of deployments, the Navy said on Wednesday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/usa-gulf-navy-idUSL1E8ML9HY20121121

China to host Palestine envoy on Gaza tensions

Reuters, 21 November: China will host an envoy of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the crisis in Gaza, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday, adding the government had been in touch with all players in the conflict to try and find a solution.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-palestinians-israel-china-idUSBRE8AK0DE20121121

Four men charged in California with plot to join al Qaeda

Reuters, 20 November: Four men with California ties who are accused of arranging to join up with al Qaeda and Taliban militants for training in Afghanistan have been arrested on U.S. charges of plotting to provide material support to terrorists, the FBI said on Tuesday.

reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-usa-security-arrests-idUSBRE8AJ1JQ20121121

Cyber Attacks From Iran and Gaza on Israel More Threatening Than Anonymous's Efforts

New York Times, 24 November: Anonymous, the loose coalition of hackers waging war on Israeli Web sites, is the least of Israel's cyber problems. Its campaign against Israel is a minor annoyance compared with a wave of cyber-attacks that have hit the country over the last year from Iran and Gaza.

bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/20/cyber-attacks-from-iran-and-gaza-on-israel-more-threatening-than-anonymouss-efforts/

Panetta says war on al-Qaida taking new direction

MSNBC, 20 November: America's war on al-Qaida is taking a new direction, moving beyond declared combat zones like Afghanistan while countering the terrorist network's search for new sanctuaries, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said Tuesday.

msnbc.msn.com/id/49910097/ns/politics/t/panetta-says-war-al-qaida-taking-new-direction/#.ULNbate00So

US pivots, China bristles

BBC, 18 November: President Obama's Asia trip contains two messages that could be summed up, like some martial-arts pose, as "pivoting with an outstretched hand".

bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-20387131

Opinion and analysis

Can the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Resolve Conflicts?

Brookings, 25 November: Examining the potential of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to contribute to mediation of conflicts in the Muslim world.

brookings.edu/research/articles/2012/11/oic-resolve-conflicts-sharqieh?rssid=LatestFromBrookings&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+BrookingsRSS%2Ftopfeeds%2FLatestFromBrookings+%28Latest+From+Brookings%29

The Mainstream Media's Biased Coverage of the Gaza Blockade

The Atlantic, 25 November: "If you're wondering where to turn for background information about the Gaza blockade, I have this guidance: stay as far away from mainstream media as possible."

theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/11/the-mainstream-medias-biased-coverage-of-the-gaza-blockade/265565/

Iraq: World's fastest growing economy

Zawya, 25 November: Iraq will emerge as the world's fastest growing economy in 2012 and 2013, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

zawya.com/story/Worlds_fastest_growing_economy-ZAWYA20121125050844/

Women Should Have Larger Role In Israeli Security Debate

Al-Monitor, 25 November: Much has already been said about the similarity between “Pillar of Defense” and past operations, regarding tactics, strategy, the pre-election [timing] and more. But allow me to note one additional dimension with no substantive difference: the exclusion of women from the current security/military discourse.

al-monitor.com/pulse/culture/2012/11/stop-the-exclusion-of-women-in-u.html

Failure in Gaza war indicates Israel's weakness against Iran: official

Tehran Times, 25 November: Undersecretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Baqeri (on Saturday) downplayed Israeli rhetoric against Tehran, saying that when the regime is defeated in a war against the besieged Palestinians in Gaza, it has absolutely nothing to say in confrontation with Iran.

tehrantimes.com/component/content/article/103536

What did Israel gain by its Gaza war?

Ma'an, 25 November: Discussion on the respective losses and gains of the Gaza outbreak.

maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=541668

Election Spurred a Move to Codify U.S. Drone Policy

New York Times, 24 November: Facing the possibility that President Obama might not win a second term, his administration accelerated work in the weeks before the election to develop explicit rules for the targeted killing of terrorists by unmanned drones, so that a new president would inherit clear standards and procedures, according to two administration officials.

nytimes.com/2012/11/25/world/white-house-presses-for-drone-rule-book.html

Life Inside the Iron Dome

Foreign Policy, 23 November: Why President Obama shouldn't accept Israel's policy of defensiveness and despair.

foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/11/23/life_inside_the_iron_dome

Hamas Won Partial Victory In Gaza Cease-Fire Deal

Al-Monitor, 23 November: Another viewpoint on the respective losses and gains of the Gaza outbreak.

al-monitor.com/pulse/politics/2012/11/palestine-achieved-half-victory-in-gaza-ceasefire.html

The Cult of Massoud

Foreign Policy, 23 November: How Afghanistan's 'Che Guevara' still haunts Hamid Karzai.

foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/11/23/the_cult_of_massoud

Arabs and Kurds Must Bridge Cultural, As Well As Political, Divides in Iraq

Al-Monitor, 23 November: Ethnic challenges facing the new Iraq.

al-monitor.com/pulse/politics/2012/11/iraq-where-can-an-arab-kurdish-dialogue-begin.html

Iran's 'Free Oil' Offer Bewilders Jordanians

Al-Monitor, 22 November: Yesterday, Jordan expressed reservations about Iran's "unusual" proposal, which claims it can "save" the kingdom's from its financial distress, after its budget deficit reached nearly \$21 billion.

al-monitor.com/pulse/politics/2012/11/jordan-expressed-reservations-ab.html

Israel, Face New Reality: Talk to Hamas

CNN, 21 November: Israel's might won't bring peace; time to make Hamas part of process. Israel should end war tactics and embrace Arab peace plan offered since 2002.

edition.cnn.com/2012/11/20/opinion/husain-hamas-israel/index.html?iref=allsearch



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