

1542

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sets sail from the Mexican port of Navidad to explore the west coast of North America on behalf of the Spanish Empire

1929

1st color TV demo, performed by Bell Laboratories in NYC



North Korean troops reach Seoul, UN asks members to aid South Korea, Harry Truman orders US Air Force & Navy into Korean conflict

1950

1954

1st atomic power station opens - Obninsk, near Moscow in Russia

# rikes gather

Russia has stepped up air strikes on Ukraine this weekend, which has also seen the fall of a strategic eastern city to pro-Russian forces.

"It's more of their barbarism," said Biden, referring to the missile strikes on Kyiv, as leaders from the Group of Seven (G7) rich democracies gathered for a summit in Germany.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said G7 countries should respond to the latest missile strikes by imposing further sanctions on Russia and providing more heavy weapons to Ukraine.

As Europe's biggest land conflict since World War Two entered its fifth month, the Western alliance supporting Kyiv was starting to show signs of strain as leaders fret about the growing economic cost.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the West needed to maintain a united front against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The price of backing down, the price of allowing Putin to succeed, to hack off huge parts of Ukraine, to continue with his programme of conquest, that price will be far, far higher," he told reporters.

There had been no major strikes on Kyiv since early June.

The city's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said on the Telegram messaging app that Sunday's strike had partially destroyed a nine-storey apartment building in the historic Shevchenkivskiy district of central Kyiv and caused a fire.

"There are people under the rubble," Klitschko said. "They have pulled out a seven-year-old girl. She is alive. Now they're trying to rescue her mother."

# d imports

"We need to starve the Putin regime of its funding. The UK and our allies are doing just that."

The latest initiative follows the London Bullion Market Association's (LBMA) March suspension of accreditation for six Russian precious metals refiners.

# s work in hortage

where wages are higher.

Israel employs nearly 100,000 West Bank and Gaza Palestinian workers, according to the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority. But most work in construction or agriculture, with only a comparatively small number given permits for jobs in factories or the services sector.

Israel's jobless rate is around 3%, and the economy ministry said the existence of 14,000 vacancies in manufacturing was creating a barrier to economic growth.

## Iraqi PM in Iran for revival of Tehran-Riyadh talks



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi

Reuters | Dubai

Iran and Iraq have agreed to seek stability in the Middle East, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi said in Tehran yesterday, a day after he visited Saudi Arabia in a bid to revive talks to ease years of hostility.

Iran and Saudi Arabia severed ties in 2016.

"We have agreed to work together to bring stability and calm to the region," Kadhimi said in a joint televised news conference with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi.

An Iranian official told Reuters earlier on Sunday that "the resumption of talks between Tehran and Riyadh will be discussed during Kadhimi's trip to Iran".

"Dialogue with regional officials can resolve the regional issues," Raisi said, without elaborating.

The fifth round of talks between the regional rivals were held in April, after Iran suspended the negotiations in March without giving a reason.

On Saturday, Kadhimi held talks with Saudi ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah that the state news agency SPA said included bilateral relations and "boosting security and stability in the region".

Kadhimi's visit comes as a months-long impasse in the indirect talks between Tehran and Washington is expected to break in the coming days to secure a 2015 nuclear pact which curbed Tehran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

US President Joe Biden is expected to visit Riyadh in mid-July and talks are expected to include Gulf security concerns over Iran's ballistic missiles programme and network of proxies across the Middle East.



Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi performs Umrah in the Grand Mosque

# US held secret meeting with Israeli, Arab military chiefs to counter Iran air threat, reports WSJ

## Meeting in Sharm El Sheikh included military officials from Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain

TDT | agencies

The United States of America held a secret meeting of top military officials from Israel and Arab countries, including Bahrain, in March to explore how they could coordinate against Iran's growing missile and drone capabilities, a Wall Street Journal report said quoting officials from the US and the region.

The report said the meeting, which had officers from Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates were held at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

WSJ says it was also the first time that such a range of ranking Israeli and Arab officers have met under US military auspices to discuss how to defend against a common threat.

Top military officers from Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and Jordan and Israel and its neighbours were part of the early stage of discussing potential military cooperation, the report quoting officials said.

The US was represented by Gen. Frank McKenzie, then the head of the US Central Command.

Discussions among the Middle East nations about cooperating on air defence, however, have a long way to go and are still diplomatically sensitive, WSJ adds.

In a statement, Col. Joe Buccino, a Central Command spokesman, said the command "maintains a firm commitment to increasing regional cooperation and developing integrated air and missile defence architecture to protect our force and our regional partners." Iran "is the primary destabilising factor across the Middle East," he added. "The UAE is not party to any regional military alliance or cooperation targeting any specific country," the government there said in a statement. "Furthermore, the UAE is not aware of any formal discussions relating to any such regional military alliance."

The Sharm El Sheikh



Gen. McKenzie

talks followed secret discussions in a lower-level working group among representatives from Middle East nations that discussed hypothetical scenarios about how they could cooperate to detect and defend against air threats. The working group included the Central Command's then-chief planning officer, Marine Maj. Gen. Scott Benedict.

WSJ report says at the high-level Sharm El Sheikh talks, the participants reached agreement in principle on procedures for rapid notification when aerial threats are detected, according to people familiar with the talks.

For now, such notifications would be carried out by phone or computer but not through high-speed digital US military-style sharing of data. Officials also discussed how decisions might be made on which nation's forces would intercept aerial threats.

Those understandings, however, weren't binding, people familiar with the meeting said. The next step is to secure the support of political leaders to codify the notification arrangements and determine the interest of Middle East leaders in broadening the cooperation.

### Air Defence already in place?

Many of the building blocks for a potential regional air defence system are in place. Saudi Arabia has bought as many as 22 US Patriot antimissile batteries, according to a US official, and is in the process of acquiring Terminal High Altitude Area Defense batteries, another US antimissile system known as THAAD, says WSJ.

The UAE already has a THAAD system, which it says was used to shoot down a missile fired at Abu Dhabi from Yemen by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in January.

Israel has the Iron Dome system and other advanced aerial-defence systems for detecting and shooting down rockets, missiles and other threats, including short-range rockets fired by Palestinian militants from Gaza and drones launched from Iran and other countries.

"The task in the theater is really how do you knit those together so you create more than the simple sum of the component parts," Gen. McKenzie said at a Pentagon press conference in March. "So everybody gets early warning, everybody can be prepared to react very quickly to a potential Iranian attack."

Gen. McKenzie, who handed off command of US forces in the region to Gen. Erik Kurilla in April before retiring from the military, didn't mention the Egypt meeting at the press conference.

In a briefing last week for Israeli lawmakers, Israel's Defence Minister Benny Gantz described the emerging arrangement as the "Middle East Air Defence Alliance," though some people informed about the talks said they hadn't heard that term used previously and it appeared to overstate how far the effort has progressed.

Mr. Gantz also said the air defence initiative had already enabled "the successful interception of Iranian attempts to attack Israel and other countries" in the region." Israeli officials declined to provide details about such intercepts.

"It's still a work in progress. It's a mechanism that's being built," said a senior Israeli official, who declined to discuss the Sharm El Sheikh talks. "There are definitely partners who see it as too sensitive to talk about."



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I am inspired by the energy & commitment of the young climate activists I met today at the @UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. Youth of the world: We need your passion, your ideas & your action. You are the generation that will help us #SaveOurOcean & our future.

@antoniogetterres

02



Just arrived in #Germany to join the @G7 Leaders Summit. @WHO is aligned with the #G7GER presidency goals, incl. emergency preparedness, 'One health' approach, clean energy & #ClimateAction. This Summit offers an opportunity to recommit to a healthier, safer, fairer, peaceful

@DrTedros

03



Our youngsters continue to shine on the sports field and scale new heights!

@narendramodi

04



We must support Ukraine to strengthen their hand in both the war and any future negotiations. President @Emmanuel-Macron and I agreed to step up our military support for Ukraine at this critical moment, and to enhance Anglo-French cooperation on defence and security.

@BorisJohnson

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