

This Week's Developments

March 21 - 27, 2021

- Israeli ship sailing to India hit by an 'Iranian missile'
- Iran concealing elements of nuclear activities
- Royal Navy ship to protect 'critical' undersea cables
- SAS to start disrupting Russian meddling around world
- Final vote results major setback for Israel's Netanyahu
- North Korea claims it tested a new guided missile
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Israeli ship sailing to India hit by an 'Iranian missile'

The Times, March 26, 2021



EVENT

An Israeli ship was hit by at least one missile in the Arabian Sea, intelligence agents claimed yesterday. The missile, identified as Iranian, could have been fired on Monday by the Revolutionary Guards or the Houthi militia in Yemen, they said. No casualties or injuries were reported. The ship, which was sailing under a Liberian flag from Tanzania to India, is owned by XT Holdings, an Israeli corporation whose chairman is Udi Angel. He has close ties to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, who flew in the businessman's private jet to a secret meeting recently with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. News sites reported that the container ship Lori was struck after it left Dar es Salaam in Tanzania on Sunday, heading for the port of Mundra, western India, about 500 miles north of Mumbai.

The attack is the second time in four weeks that an Israeli ship has been targeted.

COMMENT

The confrontation between Iran and Israel is escalating dangerously at sea. This is the second Iranian attack on an Israeli ship in weeks. On February 26, a blast struck the Israeli-owned MV Helios Ray, a Bahamian-flagged cargo ship, in the Gulf of Oman. Netanyahu accused Iran of attacking the ship. Iran has taken a more aggressive posture on several fronts, both rhetorically and in its operations, as tensions rose with the new US administration and and also with Saudi Arabia. Last week we reported that Israel had attacked at least 12 Iranian ships bound for Syria. Israel is in political deadlock and Iran might also want to take advantage of this. The Bible tells us that Persia (Iran) will join forces with Russia when they both invade Israel. But before then Iran is behind an initial inner ring war against Israel involving Hamas and Hezbollah.

BIBLE QUOTE

Assur [Iran] also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah. Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. The fate of the Psalm 83 confederacy against Israel is that of Sisera – he was killed with a tent peg hammered through his temples (Psalm 83:8-10)

Iran concealing elements of nuclear activities, officials fear

The Telegraph, March 22, 2021



EVENT

Iran is deliberately concealing key components of its nuclear programme from UN inspectors that can be used for producing nuclear weapons, according to the latest reports received by Western intelligence officials. The equipment being hidden from UN inspectors includes machinery, pumps and spare parts for centrifuges, the machines used to enrich uranium to weapons grade. In addition, materials such as carbon fibre, which can be used in the production of advanced centrifuges, are also being stored at secret sites in Iran administered by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has overall responsibility for Iran's nuclear programme. Intelligence officials believe the material, which is supposed to be declared to UN inspectors under the terms of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, is being stored in 75 containers. The containers are regularly transported around the country to sites administered by the Atomic Energy Agency of Iran (AEOI). According to recent images collected by intelligence

COMMENT

Under the terms of the Iranian nuclear deal, Iran must disclose all its equipment and materials in relation to its nuclear program. But UN inspectors this week have said that Iran is concealing key elements of its nuclear activities. They are also blocking inspectors from key sites. It leads many to believe that Iran remains committed to acquiring nuclear weapons. The Bible speaks of Iran making a deal. But in Isaiah 21 it says it is a treacherous deal. The treacherous deal leads to conflict with Saudi Arabia but also a time of such trouble and distress that Isaiah (who saw the vision) collapsed on the floor. He describes the time as a woman in labour pains. We know this time is coming – God is raising the spirit of the Medes to cause enormous pain and conflict.

BIBLE QUOTE

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down [doubled over in pain] at the hearing of it; (Isaiah 21:2-3)

New Royal Navy ship to protect 'critical' undersea cables

BBC, March 23, 2021



EVENT

A new Royal Navy surveillance ship is to be built to protect "critical" undersea cables. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace warned "the lights could go out" if national infrastructure was lost, and the cables were "incredibly important". He also told the BBC's Andrew Marr that Russia had "taken a deep interest" in the cables and the UK would be "deeply exposed" without further measures. It comes ahead of Monday's publication of the defence command paper. The document will give more detail for the armed forces on the conclusions of the integrated review of the UK's foreign and defence policies. Hundreds of thousands of miles of undersea cables circle the globe, providing internet and communications links between nations and continents. The Ministry of Defence said they are "vital to the global economy and communications between governments" and are at "risk of sabotage" due to "submarine warfare".

COMMENT

Today, there are around 380 underwater cables in operation around the world, spanning a length of over 745,645 miles. Underwater cables are the invisible force driving the modern internet. Despite satellites these cables carry almost all our communications. Russia has been spotted checking the UK internet cables that come ashore in Scotland. A few years ago the UK defence chief said Russia "could cut UK's undersea internet cables" and "there is a new risk to our way of life". It is incredible that the world's technology is literally hanging on a thread. When the world is shaken by the earthquake that is coming these threads will surely snap and the world will be plunged into instant chaos. Everything mankind believes is so stable will come to a sudden end....

BIBLE QUOTE

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.
(Revelation 16:17-18)

SAS ordered to start disrupting Russian meddling around the world

The Telegraph, March 20, 2021



EVENT

£120 million of new spending will be allocated to create the new Special Operations Brigade, based around a Ranger Regiment of four battalions. SAS soldiers will be told to disrupt Russian meddling around the world as part of a major shake up of defence priorities. The SAS and other units in the Special Forces Group will likely work alongside MI6 to conduct covert surveillance operations against Russian spies and military units. Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, the chief of the general staff, told The Telegraph that special forces will be tasked with tackling “hostile state actors”. The move comes ahead of the publication of the Defence Command Paper, the MoD’s contribution to the Government’s Integrated Review of foreign, defence, security and development policy, which will be published on Monday. Writing for the The Telegraph, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said that Britain must reinvent its armed forces for the 21st century as the threat it faces “has changed beyond recognition” in 30 years. He says: “Our enemies have infinitely more options.

COMMENT

It is interesting that since Britain left the EU there has been an increase in tension between Russia and the UK. As an independent nation again Britain feels more able to call out Russian activities and put measures in place to combat them. In his first speech as Director General of MI5 last October, Ken McCallum said Russian intelligence services were causing “the most aggravation” to the UK. Russia is considered the most pressing security concern he said. Notice in the article that the UK is looking to disrupt “Russian meddling” around the world using the SAS. The Bible says there will be a king of the south (UK) “push” (military aggravation) against the king of the north (Russia).

BIBLE QUOTE

He [Gog] will honour those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward. “Then at the time of the end, the king of the south [US/UK] will attack [military aggravate] the king of the north [Russia].

(Daniel 11:39-40 NLT)

Final vote results show major setback for Israel's Netanyahu

Associated Press, March 25, 2021



EVENT

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-wing allies fell short of winning a parliamentary majority in Israel's latest election, according to a final vote count released Thursday, leaving a political deadlock that put the long-time leader's future in question. The fourth election in just two years brought a stinging rebuke for Netanyahu, the most dominant figure in Israeli politics in a generation. Adding to the pain, he lost ground to former partners who vowed never to sit in a government with him again. Under Israel's fragmented political system, Netanyahu could still try to reach across the aisle and cobble together a governing coalition. But the makeup of the new parliament will make that extremely difficult, giving his opponents the upper hand in coalition talks. It's also quite possible Israel will go into a fifth election later this year. "It is clear that Netanyahu does not have a majority to form a government under his leadership," said Gideon Saar, one of the former Netanyahu allies who now oppose him. "Action must now be taken to realize the possibility of forming a government for change."

COMMENT

This week Israel went to the polls - again! This election was the fourth in two years and once again produced a stalemate. No one has a clear path to forming a government. This time it will be even more difficult for Netanyahu to form a government as his party performed slightly worse than previous elections. Israel has 3 months to cobble together a government - if they can't - it will be yet another election. While this is going on Netanyahu (who has been charged for corruption) will have to give evidence at his trial. All this leads to a weakness of government in Israel. Israel's enemies see this and may believe it is the right time for them to act. Psalm 83 must still be fulfilled - when Israel's nearby neighbours decide to make a pact to destroy Israel - but they fail...

BIBLE QUOTE

They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:
(Psalm 83:2-5)

North Korea claims it tested a new guided missile

The Guardian, March 26, 2021



EVENT

North Korea has claimed that it has tested a new guided missile, as US President Joe Biden warned of consequences if Pyongyang escalates tensions. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the two "new-type tactical guided projectiles" accurately hit the target off the eastern coast on Thursday. Photos on the website of the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed a missile lifting off from a transport erector launcher amid bright flames. KCNA quoted top official Ri Pyong Chol, who supervised the test, as saying that the new weapon's development "is of great significance in bolstering up the military power of the country and deterring all sorts of military threats existing on the Korean Peninsula." The weapons hit a target 600 kilometres (370 miles) away, KCNA said - further than the 450 kilometres reported by South Korea's military - and could carry a payload of 2.5 tons.

COMMENT

The test-firings this week were North Korea's first major provocation since Biden took office in January. Some experts say this is aimed to apply pressure on the new US administration to boost its leverage in future talks. This is similar to Iran piling on the pressure by sniping at US bases to try and get a better outcome from the new Biden presidency as well. America's enemies are pushing back and we wait to see how Biden responds. The Bible says that the world will prepare for war – they will turn their ploughshares into swords and their pruninghooks into spears. In other words instead of concentrating on feeding people they will concentrate on killing people....

BIBLE QUOTE

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. North Korea is on the brink of famine but pours money into building nuclear weapons and missiles. In its last famine around 3.5m people died of starvation

(Joel 3:9-10)



Last year, there were months of tensions around the Arabian Peninsula which has seen attacks on tankers, drones and oil facilities



A Israeli cargo ship was hit by 'Iranian' missile in the Arabian Sea

■ **Mondra** The vessel was struck as it travelled from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to Mundra on the west coast of India

Iran reveals new missile base on the Persian Gulf

Deutsche Welle, January 8, 2021



EVENT

Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) published photos of a **new underground missile base on the coast of the Persian Gulf** on Friday, amid **increasing tensions** between the Islamic Republic and the US. "The base is one of several bases housing the Guards' Navy's strategic missiles," state media quoted IRGC Chief Commander Hossein Salami, regarding the base located somewhere in the province of Hormozgan. "Our logic in defending the territorial integrity, the independence of the country, and the achievements of the Islamic Revolution is strengthening," Salami said, according to the national newspaper Mehr News. The commander also boasted that **the new Naval Missile Facility held long-range missiles with pin-point precision and "huge destructive power."** Rising tensions between the Islamic Republic and the US came to a head on Monday when **Revolutionary Guards seized a S. Korean tanker in the straits of Hormuz.**

COMMENT

This week has seen a **number of aggressive moves** by Iran. The **seizing of a South Korean tanker** in the Persian Gulf. The announcement that they will **now enrich uranium to 20%** (half way to that needed to make a nuclear bomb). Another announcement that they are **installing another 1000 centrifuges** at its nuclear facilities to speed up the rate at which it can enrich uranium. And then on Friday the **unveiling of a new underground missile base**. This base is interesting because it is in the exact territory of ancient Elam. **Elam is south west Iran bordering the Persian Gulf**. Elam is mentioned in Isaiah 21. We are told Elam will "go up"- means to arise, ascend, to burn brightly! The chapter is headed up **"the burden of the desert of the sea". The sea is the Persian Gulf**. When Isaiah saw what was to happen he was totally dismayed....

BIBLE QUOTE

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. **Go up, O Elam:** besiege, O Media; Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; **I was dismayed at the seeing of it.**

(Isaiah 21:2-3)



Niniveh
ASSYRIA

Assur

Tigris

BABYLONIA

Sippar

Eshnunna

Babylon

Kish

Nippur

SUMER

Uruk

Lagash

Ur

Euphrates

Awan

Susa

Susa

ELAM

Anshan

MEDES

PARTHIANS

PERSIANS

ARABS

Persian Gulf





Last year, the Guards said Iran had built underground 'missile cities' along the Gulf coastline, warning of a 'nightmare for Iran's enemies'. Pictured: Missiles on display during an inauguration of a new missiles military base



Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards unveiled an underground missile base at an undisclosed Gulf location today, Iranian state media reported



'These missiles have ranges of hundreds of kilometres, enjoy pinpoint accuracy and huge destructive power, and can overcome the enemy's electronic warfare equipment,' Salami said

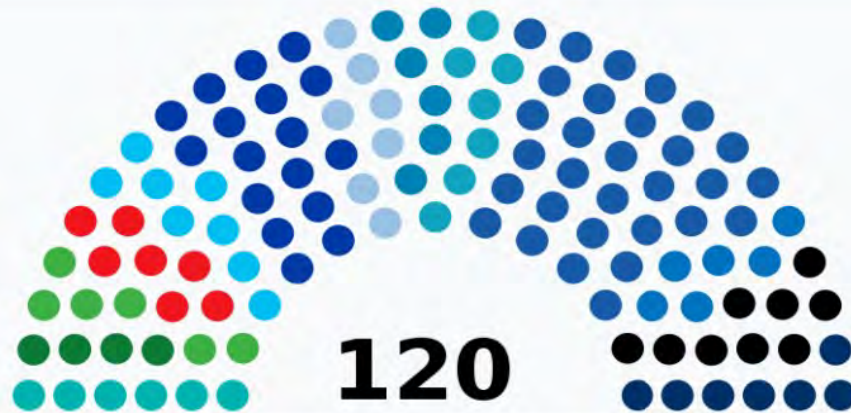


Scores of anti-ship missiles are placed under the careful watch of soldiers in the underground missile base at an undisclosed Gulf location



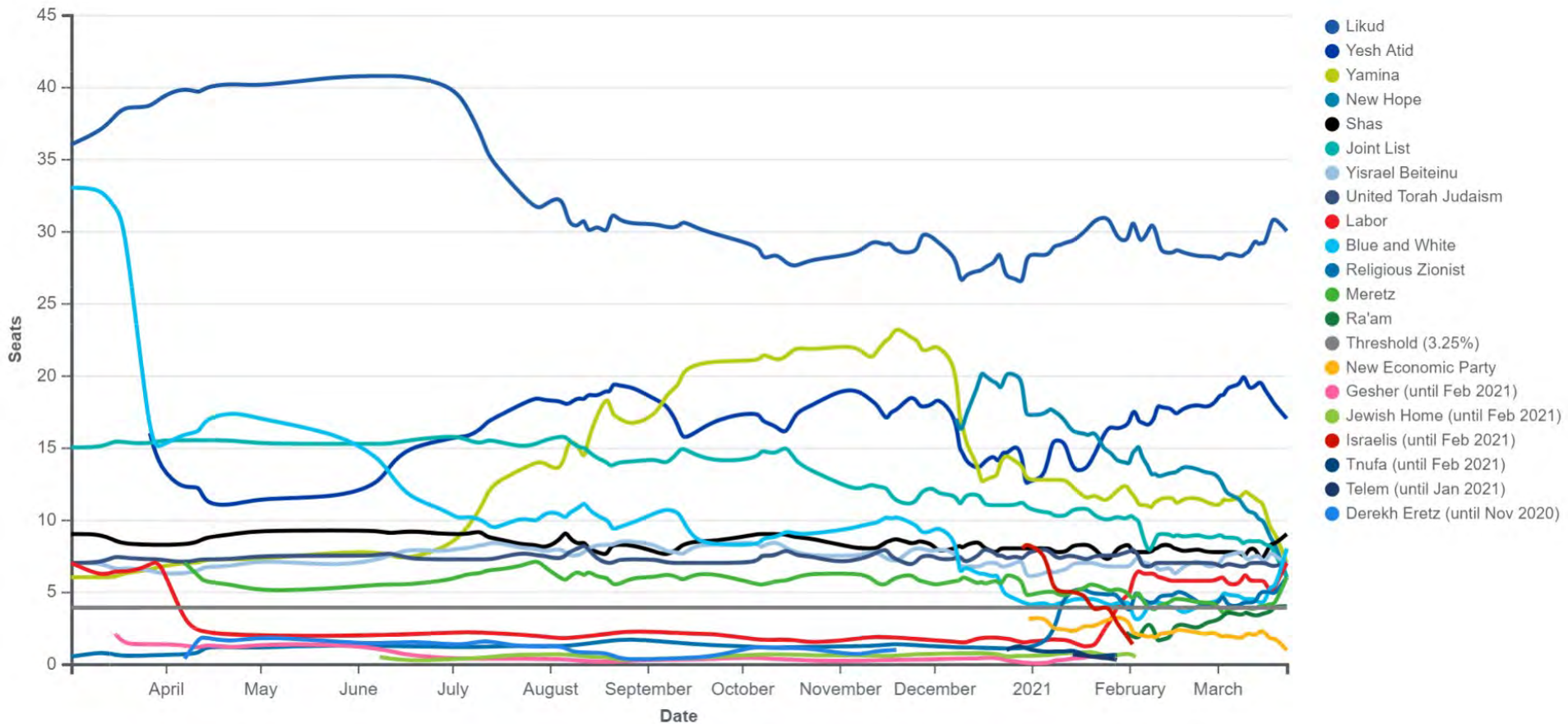
'The base is one of several bases housing the Guards' Navy's strategic missiles,' the state media quoted the head of the Guards, Major General Hossein Salami, as saying

2021 PRELIMINARY ELECTION RESULTS



Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
Likud	1,066,595	24.19	30	-7
Yesh Atid	613,578	13.91	17	+1
Shas	315,963	7.17	9	0
Blue and White	291,537	6.61	8	-4
Yamina	273,890	6.21	7	+4
Israeli Labor Party	268,737	6.09	7	+5
United Torah Judaism	248,748	5.64	7	0
Yisrael Beiteinu	248,522	5.64	7	0
Religious Zionist Party	225,494	5.11	6	+4
Joint List	212,048	4.81	6	-5
New Hope	209,137	4.74	6	+4
Meretz	202,189	4.59	6	+2
United Arab List	167,132	3.79	4	0

PARLAMENTARY
FACTIONS PRIOR
TO 2021 ELECTIONS



2021 PRE-ELECTION OPINION POLLS

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

This Week's **DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

Israel's Latest Election Too Close to Call - WSJ

Israel election- In tight race to power, Palestinian party emerges as possible kingmaker for Netanyahu — RT World News

Water fight- Israel turns off Jordan's water supply amid drought and 'personal frictions' — RT World News

Iran and China sign 25-year cooperation agreement - Reuters

Iran blamed as Israeli-owned ship said hit by missile near Oman - The Times of Israel

Navalny Joins the Ranks of Russia's Religious Dissidents - The Moscow Times

What Does China's Latest Five-Year Plan Mean for Russia- - The Moscow Times

The revolt of the public- Martin Gurri on a world without trust - Vox

Egypt Expanded the Suez Canal. It Wasn't Enough. - WSJ

Could Russia Benefit From the Suez Canal Blockage- - The Moscow Times

Russia's Pursuit of Internet Sovereignty Backfires, Again - The Moscow Times