

[With Iran in mind, new Israeli leaders cozy up to Putin](#)

Wed, 2023-01-04 22:39

RAMALLAH: The new Israeli government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking to restore close ties with Russia in a bid to counter Moscow's increasingly friendly relationship with Iran, analysts say.

At least one observer believes Russia's support for Iran could pose a future threat to Israeli security operations against Iranian targets in Syria.

On Jan. 3, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, after a phone call with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, asked his Cabinet colleagues to avoid commenting on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.



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[US looks at ways to further target Iranian drone production, White House](#)

says

Wed, 2023-01-04 22:41

WASHINGTON: The US is looking at ways to target Iranian drone production through sanctions and export controls, and is talking to private companies whose parts have been used in production, the White House said on Wednesday. "We are assessing further steps we can take in terms of export controls to restrict Iran's access to technologies used in drones," White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement.



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[Houthis abduct 3 YouTubers amid social media influencer crackdown](#)

Tue, 2023-01-03 21:25

AL-MUKALLA: Three well-known Yemeni YouTubers have been kidnapped by Houthis in Sanaa, as the militia steps up its crackdown on online influencers who expose its leaders' flaws.

Activists reported that Houthis have abducted Mustafa Al-Mumari, Hamoud Al-Mesbahi, and Ahmed Elaw for posting videos on social media which support prominent YouTuber Ahmed Hajar, who was seized from a Sanaa street more than 10 days ago.

The social media posts also criticized widespread corruption and the failure to address famine.



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[Uninvited to Moscow meeting about Syria, Iran appears dismayed](#)

Tue, 2023-01-03 20:27

ANKARA: Tehran announced its uneasiness about being sidelined from the recent meeting between Syrian and Turkish defense ministers and intelligence chiefs in Moscow with the mediation of Russia.

The critically worded comment came from Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasseer Kanaani, who said during a press briefing on Monday: "Iran has always insisted on a political solution and not a military solution, and it insists on this position regarding Syria."



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[Look Ahead 2023: Grim forecasts underscore importance of climate adapation for Middle East and North African countries](#)

Tue, 2023-01-03 18:39

DUBAI: For much of the past year, climate change had been high on the global policy agenda as extreme weather events, including floods, dust storms, heatwaves, droughts and blizzards, were reported from different parts of the world.

At the same time, governments pledged to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, move toward cleaner, renewable sources of energy, take steps to increase resilience and advance the cause of environmental justice. But are these commitments bold enough or too little too late?



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