

# CLAWS Newsletter



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by Suyash Dwivedi

## Domestic Developments

### **29 April ([News.IQ](#)): Al-Zaidi designated as Iraq's new Prime Minister.**

Ali Faleh Al-Zaidi received regional and international support following his designation as Iraq's new prime minister. The Embassy of the United Kingdom in Baghdad welcomed the appointment and expressed readiness to cooperate with the incoming government on security and economic issues. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation also welcomed the development and said it looked forward to working with the new administration. Meanwhile, outgoing Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani directed ministers to support the transition process. Al-Zaidi also held discussions with Jaafar Hassan on bilateral cooperation.

### **4 May ([Gulf Today](#)): The UAE issues an air alert after Iran launches loitering munitions.**

The United Arab Emirates issued a second missile alert on Monday after detecting four loitering munitions launched from Iran toward the country. The Ministry of Defence said three were intercepted over territorial waters, while the fourth fell into the sea. Authorities stated that sounds heard in some areas were linked to interception operations. Emergency mobile alerts advised residents to seek shelter and avoid open areas before an all-clear notice was later issued. No casualties were immediately reported. Officials urged the public to follow verified information and comply with safety instructions amid ongoing regional tensions.

### **11 May ([Arab News](#)): Bahrain arrests 41 people connected to the IRGC.**

Bahrain's Interior Ministry announced on Saturday that security authorities had dismantled a group allegedly linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards and arrested 41 suspected members. The statement followed earlier investigations into espionage and alleged support for foreign entities. Bahrain, which hosts a major US military base, was significantly affected by Iranian attacks on Gulf states carried out in response to US and Israeli strikes on Iran. Since the conflict began, Bahraini authorities have also taken action against individuals expressing support for Tehran, including revoking the citizenship of 69 people last month.

**17 May ([Gulf Today](#)): Nearby drone strike causes damage to the UAE's Barakah Nuclear Plant.**

Authorities in Abu Dhabi said emergency teams quickly contained a fire at an electrical generator outside the inner perimeter of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant following a drone strike in the Al Dhafra region. Officials confirmed there were no injuries and no impact on radiological or operational safety, with all reactor units continuing normal operations. The incident marked the first reported targeting of the Barakah facility during the ongoing regional conflict. Authorities urged the public to rely on official information as investigations continue into the drone strike and broader regional security tensions.

**22 May ([Kibris Postasi](#)): Turkish court replaces Opposition leader with former party leader.**

A Turkish appeals court has annulled the 2023 congress of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), citing unspecified irregularities, and reinstated former party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu in place of current chairman Ozgur Ozel. The CHP condemned the decision as a "judicial coup" and said it would challenge the ruling through legal appeals, while Ozel pledged to remain at the party headquarters in Ankara. Analysts said the decision could deepen political tensions, trigger opposition protests, and affect internal dynamics within the opposition ahead of future elections. Turkish financial markets also reacted negatively, with the lira reaching a record low before central bank intervention. The CHP has faced an ongoing legal crackdown since 2024, including arrests of party officials and the detention of Ekrem Imamoglu, a leading opposition figure and potential presidential candidate.

**24 May ([Press TV](#)): Supreme Leader's Advisor warns of moving away from the NPT.**

Warning of a naval blockade and a withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), senior advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader, Mohsen Rezaei, said Iran would strongly respond to any renewed military action by the United States or its allies in the Persian Gulf. Speaking at a ceremony commemorating those killed in the recent conflict involving Iran, the US, and Israel, Rezaei stated that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and under monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency. According to Rezaei, Iranian negotiators would not relinquish what Tehran considers its nuclear rights and warned that further escalation could affect key waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean. Rezaei also referred to Iran's tightened controls in the Strait of Hormuz following recent US

maritime measures against Iranian shipping, which Tehran says violate the Pakistan-brokered ceasefire that took effect in April.

**24 May ([Ilkha](#)): Riot police storm the Turkish opposition party's office.**

Police in Ankara carried out an operation on Saturday to evacuate the headquarters of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) after the Ankara Regional Court of Justice ordered the evacuation, and the governorate implemented it. Witnesses and party officials said riot police initially attempted negotiations before entering the building after breaking the main gate. According to reports, some CHP members resisted by throwing objects at officers and building barricades inside the headquarters. Police responded with pepper spray during the operation. CHP chairman Ozgur Ozel released a video statement from inside the building, saying the party would continue its political struggle. Former CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu called for calm and urged respect for the court decision. The operation followed an ongoing dispute over control of the party headquarters amid internal leadership tensions within the CHP.

**External Affairs**

**24 April ([Anadolu Agency](#)): Saudi Arabia and Lebanon push for a complete halt to Israeli attacks.**

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri discussed efforts to achieve a full cessation of Israeli attacks on Lebanon during a telephone call on Thursday, according to the Saudi Foreign Ministry. Prince Faisal reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's support for Lebanon's stability and state institutions, while Berri praised Riyadh's role in supporting Lebanese and regional security. Berri also reiterated Lebanon's commitment to the Taif Agreement and rejection of actions threatening Saudi Arabia. The call followed reports of an extension of the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

**24 April ([Al Arabiya](#)): Saudi Crown Prince holds talks with Ukrainian President on key sectors, including defence.**

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Jeddah on Friday, with the latter describing the discussions as productive. Zelenskyy expressed appreciation for ongoing cooperation with Saudi Arabia and said both sides were developing a strategic security arrangement covering three main areas: air defense cooperation and the export of Ukrainian security expertise, energy collaboration, and food

security initiatives. The meeting followed previous engagements between Kyiv and Riyadh, including a defense cooperation agreement reached during Zelenskyy's visit to Saudi Arabia in May. The discussions reflected continued efforts by both countries to expand bilateral cooperation in security, economic, and strategic sectors.

**25 April ([Press TV](#)): Araghchi's Pakistan visit concludes as Trump cancels envoys' trip to Pakistan.**

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, concluded a visit to Pakistan on 25<sup>th</sup> April after discussions with senior Pakistani leaders on regional security, mediation efforts, and the ceasefire between Iran and the United States. During meetings with senior leaders and officials like Asim Munir, Shehbaz Sharif, and Ishaq Dar, Iran outlined its position on ending the conflict and continuing diplomatic talks. Iran stated that its delegation had no plans to meet American representatives in Islamabad during ongoing mediation efforts. The diplomatic initiative has reportedly faced difficulties due to the US naval blockade of Iranian ports and Washington's demands. Abbas Araghchi is expected to visit Oman and Russia for further talks on ending the conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. Meanwhile, Iran maintained restrictions on transit through the Strait of Hormuz, while Donald Trump extended the ceasefire and said he awaited a proposal from Tehran.

**28 April ([Emirati News Agency-WAM](#)): UAE exits OPEC after being a member since 1967.**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has exited OPEC, an organisation of the world's leading petroleum-exporting countries, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. UAE's seemingly sudden exit has occurred in the backdrop of intense geopolitical tension in the region and a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. However, the analysts note that the UAE's move is neither sudden nor impulsive. Rather, it is part of a long-term policy to move away from OPEC's production restraints and exercise greater autonomy in oil production. While OPEC quotas allow production of 3.2 million BPD (barrels per day), the UAE has developed a production capacity of 4.8 million BPD, targeting 5 million BPD by 2027.

**12 May ([Arab News](#)): Oman and IMO discuss maritime security.**

Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi, and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation, Arseneo Dominguez, discussed challenges affecting maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz during a meeting in Muscat on Monday. The talks focused on efforts to address regional maritime issues through peaceful means while reaffirming the commitment to international law. Both sides also emphasized the importance of respecting states' sovereignty over their territorial waters as a key factor in maintaining safe and stable navigation in the region.

**13 May ([Kataeb](#)): Lebanon files an official UN complaint against Iran.**

Lebanon has submitted a formal complaint against Iran to the United Nations Security Council, accusing Tehran of violating international law, interfering in Lebanese sovereignty, and contributing to regional conflict. Filed on April 21 by Lebanon's UN ambassador Ahmad Arafa, the complaint marks the first such action by Beirut against Tehran at the UN. The document challenges Iranian statements regarding diplomatic coordination in Beirut and alleges violations of the Vienna Convention by Iran's embassy and individuals linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Lebanon also accused Iran of supporting actions that intensified the conflict involving Hezbollah and Israel, resulting in casualties, displacement, and infrastructure damage. Lebanese officials said the complaint forms part of broader diplomatic efforts to document sovereignty violations and strengthen Lebanon's position in future international negotiations and legal discussions.

**16 May ([NNA](#)): BRICS calls upon Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.**

Foreign ministers of BRICS nations called on Israel to withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territory, including five positions still held in southern Lebanon. The appeal was made during a ministerial meeting held in New Delhi, where ministers urged Israel to comply with agreements reached with the Lebanese government and end its military presence in the country. The statement emphasized that withdrawal from the remaining sites in southern Lebanon would help strengthen Lebanon's sovereignty, stability, and regional security.

**16 May ([Syrian Arab News Agency](#)): West Asia conflict fuels piracy in the Arabian Gulf and Western Indian Ocean.**

Rising tensions in the Middle East are contributing to increased maritime security concerns off the coast of Somalia, where analysts warn of renewed pirate activity. Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have prompted some shipping companies to reroute vessels around the Cape of Good Hope, bringing more commercial traffic near Somali waters. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations reported that Somali pirates are currently holding at least three vessels, including oil tankers and a cargo ship. Analysts said the redeployment of international naval assets toward the Arabian Gulf has reduced security coverage in the western Indian Ocean, creating opportunities for piracy networks to regroup. Concerns have also emerged over possible coordination between some pirate groups and the Houthis. The European Union Naval Force Operation Atalanta confirmed that several pirate groups remain active in northern Somalia while counter-piracy operations continue with international partners.

**17 May ([Syrian Arab News Agency](#)): UK deploys low-cost anti-drone APKWS in West Asia.**

The United Kingdom announced the deployment of a new low-cost missile system for Royal Air Force operations in West Asia to counter drone threats. According to the British government, the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) will be integrated onto RAF Typhoon fighter jets operating in the region to help protect British forces and partner countries from drone attacks. The UK Ministry of Defence said the system was rapidly moved from testing to operational deployment following successful air-to-air and air-to-ground trials earlier this year. The APKWS uses laser-guidance technology to convert unguided rockets into precision-guided weapons capable of intercepting drones at a lower cost than conventional missile systems.

**19 May ([Jordan News](#)): President Trump signals a possible resumption of nuclear talks with Iran.**

US President Donald Trump said the US halted a planned military strike on Iran after Tehran submitted a new peace proposal through Pakistan. Trump stated that US forces remain prepared for possible military action if negotiations fail, while expressing optimism that an agreement limiting Iran's nuclear program could still be reached. According to Iranian Foreign Ministry

spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, Tehran's positions had been conveyed to Washington through Pakistani mediation. Reports indicated the proposal focused on ending the conflict, reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and easing maritime sanctions. A fragile ceasefire remains in place after weeks of conflict, although regional tensions continue. Iranian officials warned against further military action, while Gulf states reported drone activity linked to Iranian-aligned groups. Saudi Arabia said it intercepted three drones that entered its airspace from Iraq.

**20 May (Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UAE)): UAE accuses Iraq in official condemnation of the Barakah drone attack.**

The United Arab Emirates condemned drone attacks launched from Iraq, including a strike targeting the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant on Sunday that hit an electricity generator outside the facility's inner perimeter. In a statement, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the incidents as violations of sovereignty, airspace, and international law. The ministry called on the Iraqi government to prevent further attacks originating from its territory and to address related security threats. It also emphasized Iraq's role in supporting regional stability and strengthening cooperation across the Gulf.

**20 May (Oman Observer): Oman participates in the GCC-EU Political Committee.**

Oman participated in the 26th Political Committee meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union held in Brussels. Shaikh Ahmed bin Hashel al Maskari, head of the GCC and Regional Neighbourhood Department at the Foreign Ministry, led Oman's delegation. Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation, consultation, and coordination on regional and international issues of mutual interest between the GCC and the EU.

**21 May (Jordan News): Iran says it is reviewing the US peace proposal.**

Iran said it is reviewing the latest proposals from the United States aimed at ending the ongoing conflict, while Pakistan's mediation efforts continue through diplomatic exchanges between the two sides. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei confirmed that Tehran had received Washington's latest views and was evaluating them. Meanwhile, Donald Trump said the US was prepared to wait only a few days for a response, warning that further military action remained possible if no agreement is reached. Discussions remain stalled despite a fragile ceasefire that took effect in April. The conflict has disrupted global energy markets,

particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, where shipping activity remains below pre-war levels. Iran recently introduced new transit controls in the strait, while limited commercial tanker traffic from China and South Korea has resumed under coordination with Tehran.

**21 May ([Syrian Arab News Agency](#)): Syrian Foreign Minister and Lebanese PM review ways to improve ties.**

Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani, and Lebanese PM, Nawaf Salam, held a telephone conversation on Thursday to discuss bilateral relations and avenues for expanding cooperation between Syria and Lebanon. According to a statement issued by the Syrian Foreign Ministry, the two sides reaffirmed the strength of ties between the neighbouring countries and reviewed opportunities to enhance collaboration in economic, trade, and energy sectors. During the discussion, Shaibani expressed Syria's readiness to support initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in ways that serve the interests of both countries and their populations. The officials also agreed on the importance of continuing efforts to establish a joint coordination committee intended to facilitate implementation of the understandings reached during Salam's recent visit to Syria. The call reflected ongoing diplomatic engagement between Damascus and Beirut as both governments seek to expand practical coordination and advance cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

**21 May ([Arab News](#)): Saudi Arabia condemns the Damascus car bombing.**

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud held a telephone conversation with Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani to discuss relations between Saudi Arabia and Syria, as well as regional developments, according to the Saudi Foreign Ministry. Separately, Saudi Arabia condemned a car bomb attack near a Syrian Defense Ministry-affiliated building in Damascus that reportedly killed one soldier and injured several civilians. In its statement, the Kingdom reaffirmed its rejection of violence and attacks threatening regional security and stability. The developments come amid ongoing diplomatic engagement between Riyadh and Damascus following the restoration of bilateral ties.

**23 May ([Press TV](#)): No trust in the US; Iran will not back down: Iran's Speaker.**

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran would not retreat from what he described as its national rights in ongoing negotiations with the United States aimed at ending

the regional conflict. Speaking during a meeting in Tehran with Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces, Asim Munir, Qalibaf stated that Iran does not trust Washington and accused the US of violating previous understandings during negotiations and ceasefire efforts brokered by Pakistan. Qalibaf said Iran would continue pursuing its interests through both military preparedness and diplomatic engagement. He added that Iranian officials viewed peace as important but would not accept actions they considered harmful to the country's sovereignty or dignity. The meeting focused on recent regional developments and Pakistan's mediation efforts between Tehran and Washington amid continuing tensions and discussions over maritime restrictions and broader ceasefire arrangements.



## **About the Author**

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