The CENTCOM OSINT TRACKER

This OSINT publication contains foreign media perceptions derived entirely from open sources in and around the CENTCOM AOR.

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AFG-PAK-CAS

Jalaluddin Haqqani's Son Killed In Drone Attack: Dawn

A son of veteran Afghan militant commander Jalaluddin Haqqani was killed in Thursday's US drone attack on a village in North Waziristan. Official sources said here on Friday that Mohammad Haqqani, 22, was killed along with three other militants in the missile strike on a house and a vehicle in Derga Mendai, five kilometers west of Miramshah. They said that Mohammad Haqqani was actively taking part in the Taliban fight against US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan and that he was in the area to attend a funeral when the US drone fired two missiles at his vehicle, killing him and his three associates. His elder brother Siraj Haqqani is on the US list of most wanted militants. ***(Source: Karachi, Pakistan; Anti-Military Rule)***

US Marines Seize Taliban Headquarters in Marjah: Daily Times

After a fierce gun battle, US Marines seized a strongly defended compound on Friday that appears to have been Taliban headquarters, complete with photos of fighters posing with their weapons, dozens of Taliban-issued ID cards and graduation diplomas allegedly from a training camp in Pakistan. The Taliban, who had been using the field office just south of Marjah's town centre, abandoned it by the end of the day's fighting, as Marines converged on them from all sides, escalating operations to break resistance in this Taliban stronghold in southern Helmand province. Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines fought their way south from the town centre on Friday after residents told them that several dozen insurgent fighters had regrouped in the area. ***(Source: Lahore, Pakistan; Independent; Critical of Radical Elements)***

Concern over Civilians Slows NATO Advance: Frontier Post

Whenever Afghanistan's Taliban turn up the heat in the battle with US Marines, the troops have to think twice before retaliating or calling in air strikes in order to avoid civilian casualties. That caution is guiding a NATO and Afghan military offensive designed to break the Taliban's grip on their last big stronghold, in Helmand province, without alienating the local population. But while the strategy may raise chances of local government officials winning the trust of Afghans as they try to stamp their authority, it may also delay the end of the assault in Marjah district and put NATO forces in danger. ***(Source: Peshawar/Quetta, Pakistan; Govt. Supported)***

CIA Post in Karachi Helped Catch Top Guns of Taliban: Dawn

Pakistan allowed the US Central Intelligence Agency to set up a post in Karachi and the data collected by this post led to the arrest of a key Taliban commander and two 'governors', officials said. This enhanced cooperation between the CIA and the ISI led to the arrests of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar,

(U) Iranian Jamaran destroyer (Fars, 19 Feb 10)

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(U) Yemeni forces (SABA, file photo)

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the Afghan Taliban's second in command, and two Taliban shadow governors for northern Afghanistan, the report said. ***(Source: Karachi, Pakistan; Anti-Military Rule)***

Gilani Denies Deal with Judiciary: Pakistan Observer
Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani says that the issue of appointment of judges in the superior judiciary has been resolved amicably and denied rumors related to deal with the judiciary, added that the entire process resolved with consent. The Prime Minister said that his meeting with Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhary was part of consultation process. ***(Source: Pakistan; Pro-military)***

New Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Appointed: Turkmenistan.ru
According to a decree of the President of Turkmenistan, Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Nokerguly Atagulyev was relieved of his duties in connection with a transfer to another post. He was replaced by Bayar Abayev, formerly Chairman of the Association of Food Industry of Turkmenistan. Deputy Chairman of the Food Industry Association Oranyaz Rejepov was appointed acting chairman of this association. ***(Source: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, undetermined)***

IRAN

Iran Unveils Major Defensive Project: Fars
Iran on Friday launched its first home-made destroyer equipped with guided missile systems as one of the country's greatest defensive projects. The Jamaran destroyer was launched in the southern waters of the country in a ceremony on Friday attended by senior navy commanders and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei. The Mowdge Class vessel has a displacement of around 14,000 tons and is equipped with modern radars and electronic warfare capabilities. Jamaran, a multi-mission destroyer, can carry 120-140 personnel on board and is armed with a variety of anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles. It has a top speed of up to 30 knots and has a helipad. ***(Source: Iran; Private; Anti-West)***

Russia Urges Iran to Be More Cooperative With Int'l Community: SABA
Russia called on Iran Friday to be more cooperative with the international community on the nuclear issue, according to Xinhua. "Tehran must cooperate more broadly and actively with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the six countries (the UN Security Council's five permanent members plus Germany), which should have access to information on the Iranian nuclear program," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko was quoted as saying. "The international community needs to know for certain that it is peaceful," he added. The spokesman also said Iran could face additional sanctions though the issue was not currently being discussed in the UN Security Council. ***(Source: Sana'a, Yemen; Official, State-run News)***

IAEA Fears Iran Working Now On Nuclear Warhead: Times of Oman
The U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Thursday it feared Iran may be working now to develop a nuclear-armed missile, as Washington warned Tehran of "consequences" for ignoring international demands to stop its atomic program. In unusually blunt language, an International Atomic Energy Agency report for the first time suggested Iran was actively pursuing nuclear weapons capability, throwing independent weight behind similar Western suspicions. ***(Source: Ruwi, Oman; Morning Daily)***

IRAQ-ARABIAN PENINSULA

Talafar police detains Abu Omar aide in Mosul: Aswat al-Iraq
Iraq's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) forces in Talafr arrested on Friday a gunman of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) network, believed to e an aide of Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, during an operation in Mosul city, a security source said. "The man, of the name Zawyan Farhan Flayhan, was captured in Nablus neighborhood, Mosul. He is wanted by the al-Anbar province's Haditha police department for suspected involvement in murders and kidnappings," a source said. ***(Source: Iraq; Independent; First Commercial Iraqi News Agency)***

In Spite Some Breaches, Truce in the North Continues: SABA
Field overseeing committees are continuing on Friday supervision on the implementation of the ceasefire deal's six terms between government troops and Houthi rebels. The two sides resumed the implementation by removing mines, ending armed manifestations and opening roads. To secure Saada city, the committee has prepared a plan to establish a security cordon around the city. The committees affirmed that the Houthis are still committing some breaches in some areas, including shooting fires in some military locations, refusing to surrender the removed mines, digging trenches and sitting up new sites and blocks. ***(Source: Sana'a, Yemen; Official, State-run News)***

Investment in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Surpasses $12 Billion: Zawya
Non-oil investment in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq totaled more than $12 billion over the last three years, according to the Board of Investors of the Kurdistan Regional Government. While the rest of Iraq struggled for stability, the Kurdistan Region saw an influx in development and economic growth. "We want to inform the companies that we have a situation quite different from that in other parts of Iraq," Kamran Mufti, Director-General Council said. The primary source of investment in the Kurdistan Region was the local housing sector, which saw an increase of $4.7 billion. The banking sector followed at $2.29 billion. ***(Source: Dubai, UAE; Business Focus; Undetermined)***

PAN-AOR

Hundreds Welcome Ex-Nuke Boss Back To Egypt: Al Arabiya
Hundreds of Egyptian opposition activists defied warnings to welcome home Nobel Peace laureate and former U.N. atomic watchdog chief Mohammed ElBaradei on Friday amid hopes he will run for president. Chanting the national anthem, the crowd was so large that it twice prevented ElBaradei from exiting Cairo airport after he flew in from Vienna following 12 years at the helm of the International Atomic Energy Agency. ***(Source: Dubai, UAE; Independent; Claim Neutrality)***

PAN-AOI

Israeli Police Clash with Protesters in West Bank: Al Arabiya
Israeli forces on Friday fired teargas at stone-throwing youths during a protest to mark five years of weekly demonstrations against the separation barrier in the West Bank village of Bilin. Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and Geneva Mayor Remy Pagani were among the estimated 2,000 participants at the demonstration in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. ***(Source: Dubai, UAE; Independent; Claim Neutrality)***