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Daily Terrorism Weather

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Middle East

Hundreds surrender at Islamic State enclave as SDF advance

Ellen Francis / Reuters

“Islamic State militants accompanied by women and children surrendered to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in their hundreds on Thursday as the jihadists lost ground to a U.S.-backed assault on their last shred of territory, the SDF said...”

Iraq set to try Islamic State detainees according to local laws

Adnan Abu Zeed / Al-Monitor

“Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said Feb. 26 that Iraq had received 250 Iraqi Islamic State (IS) fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)...”

Israel claims uncovered Hezbollah cell in Golan

Middle East Monitor

“The Israeli occupation army yesterday claimed that it had uncovered a secret Hezbollah cell which was preparing to strike it from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, a statement reported by Israeli media said...”

Israel petitions UN Security Council to act on uncovered Hezbollah cell

Times of Israel

“Israel on Wednesday filed a complaint with the UN Security Council shortly after revealing it had uncovered a terror cell near the border in the Syrian Golan Heights...”

Russian and Syrian airstrikes intensify on rebel-held Idlib

Patrick Wintour / The Guardian

“Russia has sent in aircraft to attack the Syrian rebel-held province of Idlib in its first major assault for months, as foreign ministers gathered in Brussels to pledge as much \$5bn (£3.8bn) to support countries like Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, where many Syrians have sought refuge...”

The West Doesn't Want ISIS Members to Return. Why Should the Syrians Put Up with Them?

Abdalaziz Alhamza / The New York Times

“A fiery debate has raged around Hoda Muthana, an American woman, and Shamima Begum, a British woman, who joined the so-called Islamic State as teenagers and now want to return to their home countries...”

Thousands of jihadists flee Isil's final stronghold as Baghuz is pounded

Josie Ensor / The Telegraph

“Western-backed forces on Wednesday claimed Isil’s caliphate was in its "final moments" after thunderous shelling on its last patch of territory in eastern Syria prompted a wave of jihadists to surrender...”

UN: Syria's Idlib could become century's worst humanitarian catastrophe

Federica Marsi / The National

“Syria’s rebel-held Idlib province could become the worst humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st century if it faces a large-scale military assault, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned during the opening remarks of the third Brussels conference for European member states to pledge humanitarian assistance to Syria...”

Central Asia

Armenia suggests reforming Refugee Convention

Media Max

“Armenia suggests reforming the 1951 Refugee Convention in compliance with modern challenges...”

South Asia

Afghan airstrikes kill 31 militants: officials

The New Indian Express

“Thirty-one militants, many of them believed to have been Al-Qaeda fighters, have been killed in airstrikes in south-eastern Afghanistan, officials said Thursday...”

India, US seek tangible and irreversible action by Pakistan against terrorism

The New Indian Express

“The US and India have asked Pakistan to take "tangible and irreversible action" against terrorist groups on its soil and deny safe haven to them to launch cross-border attacks, as Washington reiterated its firm support to New Delhi in the fight against terrorism...”

Taliban leader optimistic about peace, tries to reassure Afghans

Abdul Qadir Sediqi and Rod Nickel / Reuters

“The Taliban political chief, who headed the Islamist militants’ delegation during the most recent round of peace talks with the United States, said on Thursday that he was optimistic and assured Afghans that they had no reason to fear a settlement...”

Southeast Asia

Australia won't risk lives repatriating citizens from Syria, PM Scott says

Daily Sabah

“Australia's prime minister said on Thursday he won't put officials in danger by retrieving terrorists from the Middle East after an Australian Daesh group widow asked to bring her children home from a Syrian refugee camp...”

[Malaysia offers olive branch to IS returnees](#)

Victor Merrick and Kuala Lumpur / UCA News

“Malaysians who joined terror groups abroad are not barred from returning home as long as they submit to rehabilitation, a top police official says. “Not everyone will be detained, but all returnees will be interrogated,” said Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay, principal assistant director of the federal police's Counter-Terrorism Division...”

[Malaysia to abolish death penalty for 11 offenses](#)

Riyaz ul Khaliq / Anadolu Agency

“Malaysian government has decided to abolish death penalty for at least 11 offenses, including terror-related offenses, according to media reports...”

East Asia

[Is China's cyberespionage a military game-changer?](#)

Andrea Gilli and Mauro Gilli / The Washington Post

“According to an internal Navy review last week, China has the U.S. Navy “under cyber siege,” and Navy suppliers and contractors struggle to stem the supply-chain security breaches...”

[North Korea Is Still Trying to Hack US Critical Infrastructure](#)

Troy Stangarone / The Diplomat

“While Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un were meeting in Hanoi to discuss the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, North Korea was also running a cyber operation to access critical infrastructure in the United States and other countries around the world...”

[UNSC may seek other possible action if China continues blocking Azhar listing as global terrorist: diplomat](#)

Sriram Lakshman / The Hindu

“Outraged by China blocking for the fourth time a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) move to designate Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad's (JeM) leader Masood Azhar a global terrorist, Council members have warned that they “may be forced to pursue other actions” if Beijing continued with this policy...”

Africa

[AQIM official calls for sharia governance in Algeria](#)

Thomas Joscelyn / FDD's Long War Journal

“On Mar. 9 and 10, al Qaeda social media channels publicized a new speech by Abu Ubaydah Yusuf al-Anabi, a high-ranking official in Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)...”

Europe

[Pool Re releases fourth edition of Terrorism Frequency Report](#)

Terry Gangcuangco / Insurance Business Magazine

“Pool Re remains committed to improving the industry’s understanding of the threat posed by all forms of terrorism, and this report is an important part of our development of an ecosystem of expertise and knowledge...”

[Nuclear Fears: Russia accuses US of hiding nuclear weapons as it warns of SERIOUS problem](#)

Clive Hammond / Express

“The Russian Foreign Ministry argue the US is “juggling figures” in order to grow its weapons numbers...”

U.S. & Canada

[NAACP to Congress: investigate hate crimes spike amid 'xenophobic rhetoric'](#)

Jamiles Lartey / The Guardian

“The NAACP is asking Congress to hold hearings on what the group describes as a troubling spike in domestic terrorism aimed at racial, ethnic and religious minorities in the US – directly implicating the rhetoric of Donald Trump...”

[The US is ready to use more aggressive cyber operations to strike back at enemies](#)

Lolita C. Baldor / Business Insider

“Cyberattacks from Russia, China, North Korea and Iran are increasingly sophisticated and, until recently, were done with little concern for the consequences, the top Pentagon cyber leaders told a congressional committee on Wednesday...”

[Trump issues fresh veto threat of resolution on emergency declaration despite last-minute plea from three GOP senators](#)

Erica Werner, Seung Min Kim, and John Wagner / The Washington Post

“President Trump issued a fresh veto threat Thursday morning after three Republican lawmakers showed up at the White House the previous night, seeking a way to stave off an expected rebuke in the Senate over his national emergency declaration at the U.S.-Mexico border...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

[Maduro’s muscle: Politically backed motorcycle gangs known as 'colectivos' are the enforcers for Venezuela’s authoritarian leader](#)

Mary Beth Sheridan and Mariana Zuñiga / The Washington Post

“There were at least 20 of them, their motors buzzing, driven by men with scarves over their faces, according to interviews with 10 witnesses...”