



Daily



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MAX - MENA Region Daily Summary - August 3, 2026

The following report reviews current events in the MENA region and their possible effect on business continuity and security.

Highlights of the Day

- **MENA:** Iran dismisses Strait of Hormuz reopening agreement, denies talks with the US, as of August 3; security situation to remain volatile
- **Egypt:** Authorities on August 3 activate emergency response following earthquake in eastern Egypt; adhere to authorities' guidelines
- **Lebanon:** Commemorative events, protest marches slated in Beirut on August 4 for Beirut Port explosion anniversary; maintain heightened vigilance
- **Syria:** ISF dismantle IED attached to MoD vehicle in Latakia's al-Haffah area on August 2; authorities likely to launch arrest raids in region

Actionable Items

MENA: Iran dismisses Strait of Hormuz reopening agreement, denies talks with the US, as of August 3; security situation to remain volatile

Current Situation - Iranian officials denied US President Donald

Trump's statements that new talks to end the conflict would begin on August 3. Tehran also rejected reports that it had agreed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, stating its policy toward the waterway remains unchanged. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei stated that Tehran is holding discussions with Oman on a temporary safe maritime route through the Strait of Hormuz. He added that such an arrangement would not amount to reopening the Strait and reiterated that Iran requires an end to US attacks before doing so. Separately, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported an explosion near a tanker off the coast of Oman on August 2.

Assessments & Forecast - Iran's statements indicate that prospects for a near-term de-escalation remain low. Although Tehran is holding talks with Oman, they are likely a diplomatic gesture confined to limited maritime arrangements rather than indicating a willingness to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran continues to claim control over the Strait while showing no apparent willingness to engage with the US, making a mutually acceptable agreement with Washington unlikely in the near term. As demonstrated by the attack near Oman, Iran will continue enforcing its control of the Strait, leaving vessels transiting without prior coordination with Tehran at elevated risk of attack. Consequently, the risk of escalation will remain high, with the US likely to resume military operations to compel Iran to reopen the Strait.

Recommendations - Throughout the region, conduct timely risk assessments, refresh security protocols and business contingency plans (BCPs) for short-notice escalation scenarios, and continuously confirm travel itineraries.

Source: [IRNA](#), [IRNA](#), [UKMTO](#)

Egypt: Authorities on August 3 activate emergency response following earthquake in eastern Egypt; adhere to authorities' guidelines

Current Situation - During the morning hours (local time) of August 3, Egypt's Minister of Health and Population Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar has directed the immediate activation of the national health emergency plan following the 5.4 magnitude earthquake that struck north of Egypt's Suez. The ministry announced that no injuries related to the earthquake have been reported; however, limited property damage was reported in the Suez governorate and in the Rod El Farag in the Northern Area of Cairo. The Egyptian Red Crescent has also urged residents to stay away from old buildings or any structures displaying visible cracks or signs of damage and report emergencies only by calling the hotline 15322. The Ministry urged the public to follow instructions issued by the relevant official authorities, avoid spreading or relying on rumors, and use the emergency hotlines (105, 137, and 123) if urgent medical assistance is required. Reports indicate that earthquake tremors were also felt in parts of southern and central Israel. Tremors were also reported in Jordan.

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in Egypt over the coming hours on August 3 are advised to adhere to authorities' instructions and maintain heightened vigilance given the risk of aftershocks.

Source: [Red Crescent](#) ; [Egyptian Cabinet](#)

Israel: Dozens of ultra-orthodox protesters block roads in Jerusalem on August 1-2, remain cognizant of additional protests

Current Situation - Dozens of ultra-Orthodox protesters blocked Shivtei Israel Street in Jerusalem on August 3 in opposition to mandatory military conscription. According to the Israel Police, the demonstration escalated into a riot after participants refused repeated orders to disperse. Separately, on August 1, Israel Police dispersed dozens of Haredi protesters who attempted to enter a cafe in central Jerusalem in protest of its decision to remain open during the Jewish Sabbath.

Assessments & Forecast - The protests underscore persistent tensions surrounding military conscription. The latest protests followed reports that Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu stated that, if re-elected, he would not pursue legislation to prevent the arrests of ultra-Orthodox draft evaders, despite the measure having recently passed within his coalition. This policy shift signalled the PM's tougher stance on enforcing military conscription and likely heightened opposition among Haredi communities. Separately, the August 1 protest, the fifth consecutive weekend of demonstrations targeting the cafe, underscores the risk to businesses perceived by Israel's ultra-Orthodox community as violating religious norms. Similar protests targeting businesses operating during the Sabbath, as well as demonstrations over Haredi draft exemptions, are likely to continue.

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in Israel are advised to remain cognizant of the potential for additional protests by ultra-Orthodox individuals to materialize in Jerusalem and other areas of Israel.

Source: [Times of Israel](#) ; [Jerusalem Post](#)

Lebanon: Commemorative events, protest marches slated in Beirut on August 4 for Beirut Port explosion anniversary; maintain heightened vigilance

Current Situation - Ceremonies and protest marches will be held across Beirut on August 4 to commemorate the sixth anniversary of [the August 4, 2020, Beirut Port explosion](#). Events are to include ceremonies and a memorial prayer service. Victims' families will hold a commemorative march departing from Martyrs' Square at 16:00 (local time) and concluding at the Port of Beirut around 18:00 (local time).

Assessments & Forecast - The anniversary remains one of Lebanon's most politically sensitive commemorative events. Civil society and victim families'

demonstrations annually call for accountability and criticize the authorities over the stalled investigation into the explosion. Based on precedent, the commemorative march is likely to attract attendance in the low-to-mid hundreds. Temporary road closures, traffic disruptions, and an increased security presence are expected along the protest's route. While events are expected to remain largely peaceful, participants are likely to criticize the government's handling of the investigation and the perceived lack of accountability and compensation for victims. As such, localized confrontations with security forces and localized disruptions cannot be ruled out.

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in Beirut on August 4 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance and allot for disruptions to travel across the city, especially near the Port of Beirut, due to the slated commemorative events and protests.

Source: [NNA](#)

Notable Events

Iraq: NATO to open mission office in Baghdad, per August 2 statement; reflects effort to enhance state security capabilities

Current Situation - Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Aboudi spoke with NATO Mission-Iraq (NMI) Commander Lieutenant General Ramon Armada. Both sides reportedly agreed to establish a NATO Mission office in Baghdad and discussed ways to continue NATO's support for the Iraqi armed forces in consultation, training, and information exchange. Lieutenant General Armada stated that the goal of NATO's non-combat advisory and training mission is to develop the Iraqi armed forces to meet "potential challenges," affirming NATO's commitment to support Iraq according to priorities set by its government.

Assessments & Forecast - The agreement aligns with Baghdad's broader efforts to [strengthen state security institutions](#) and to [expand international cooperation](#), amid heightened regional tensions. This is especially following recent [US-Saudi strikes targeting Iran-backed targets operating in Iraq](#) on July 28-29. Increased institutional cooperation with NATO is likely intended to enhance the capabilities of official Iraqi security institutions, potentially reducing Baghdad's reliance on non-state armed actors such as militias operating within the Iran-backed Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). However, continued coordination between Baghdad and the NMI will further antagonize US-Iran rivalry in Iraq, and the new NATO office could become a target for Iran-backed militia attacks in the future.

Source: [Iraqi National Security Advisory](#)

Libya & Egypt: Egypt increases electricity exports to Libya, per August 1 reports; rolling blackouts likely to persist

Current Situation - Authorities have reportedly agreed to increase electricity exports from Egypt to Libya following Libya's nationwide grid collapse in mid-July. Egypt has reportedly increased exports by approximately 43 percent, with a further 100 MW expected once technical upgrades to the interconnection are completed.

Assessments & Forecast - The agreement comes amid a meeting in Egypt between Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and western Libya's Government of National Unity (GNU) Prime Minister Abdul Hamid al-Dbeibah. The meeting and agreement are notable given Egypt's longstanding preference for supporting the eastern Libya-based Libyan National Army (LNA). The agreement also comes amid widespread protests in western Libya over prolonged blackouts, including demonstrations that temporarily disrupted operations at the [Mellitah Oil & Gas Complex](#). The additional imports are likely intended to mitigate pressure on the national grid during peak summer temperatures, which are driving electricity demand toward maximum consumption. However, the additional 100 MW remains modest relative to Libya's estimated 1,300 MW generation shortfall following the recent grid collapse. While increased imports are likely to marginally improve supply reliability, persistent heatwaves, rolling blackouts, and associated protest activity in Libya are likely to continue unless authorities address underlying infrastructure deficiencies.

Source: [Bloomberg Asharq](#), [Libya Observer](#)

Syria: ISF dismantle IED attached to MoD vehicle in Latakia's al-Haffah area on August 2; authorities likely to launch arrest raids in region

Current Situation - Security forces discovered that unidentified perpetrators had attached an IED to a vehicle belonging to the Ministry of Defense (MoD) at an Internal Security Forces (ISF) checkpoint. ISF troops safely defused the IED.

Assessments & Forecast - The development coincides with an uptick of IED-related security incidents in Syria, particularly in the Damascus area, where security forces defused an IED in Qudsaya's al-Arin on [July 29](#). It also comes amid a nationwide surge in Islamic State (IS)-perpetrated [attacks](#), many of which targeted security forces. Although no notable terror attacks occurred in Latakia in recent months, ISF troops routinely conduct counter-militancy operations in the Alawite-populated region, predominantly targeting armed loyalists of former President Bashar al-Assad. On [July 25](#), such a raid resulted in armed clashes in Latakia's Falasqo. In this context, it remains plausible that al-Assad loyalists attached the IED to the MoD vehicle. Regardless of the perpetrator, the incident underscores the ISF's alertness and indicates heightened scrutiny measures at checkpoints, including in Latakia Province. Authorities will investigate the incident and are likely to launch arrest operations in the coming days, carrying a risk of localized armed clashes.

Source: [ISF](#)

Yemen: PCC-affiliated forces eliminate five Houthi members in armed clashes in Taiz, per August 2 statement; similar clashes to recur

Current Situation - Presidential Command Council (PCC)-affiliated forces reported thwarting a Houthi infiltration attempt in the Jabal Han area near Taiz city, triggering armed clashes. Additional fighting was reported in Taiz's Khadir district after the Houthis allegedly targeted PCC positions at Ali Nasser Camp, while clashes also occurred along the al-Barh frontline between Houthi forces and the PCC-affiliated National Resistance Forces (NRF). Meanwhile, a senior commander of the Homeland Shield Forces was killed in an armed attack in Hadhramaut on August 1.

Assessments & Forecast - The latest clashes reflect continued Houthi efforts to increase pressure on PCC-controlled territory following recent offensives in Hodeidah and Dhalea. PCC positions in Taiz are a key target because it connects northern and southern Yemen. Gaining additional territory in the governorate would enable the Houthis to disrupt PCC supply routes and improve their position for future military operations. Additionally, although the perpetrators remain unknown, the attack on the senior commander may have been intended to weaken a key PCC military formation in Hadhramaut expected to play a significant security role. Further Houthi infiltration attempts along contested frontlines and attacks on PCC personnel are likely.

Source: [PCC-backed Armed Forces](#) ; [Homeland Shield Forces](#)

Other Developments

- **Israel:** On August 2, the Israel Police stated that a stun grenade exploded near a residential building in Tel Aviv's Tzameret neighborhood. Police determined the incident was criminal in nature.
- **Lebanon & Israel:** On August 2, five Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) soldiers were wounded in southern Lebanon's Kfara. LAF initially blamed Israel, later citing a suspicious object. Concurrently, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) denied involvement, blaming Hezbollah for the incident.
- **Morocco:** On August 2, the Moroccan Ministry of Interior stated that 11 individuals were killed in the [mass exodus](#) of Moroccan migrants into Spain's Ceuta. Meanwhile, reports citing Spanish authorities indicate that at least 88 individuals have been killed in the incident.
- **Turkey:** Turkey's Minister of Justice stated on August 2 that authorities have opened investigations into 44 wildfires reported since June, arresting six suspects so far.

Notable Dates

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AUG Iran Holiday: Death of Prophet Mohammad/Martyrdom of Imam Hasan

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AUG Tunisia Holiday: Women's and Family Day

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AUG Iran Holiday: Martyrdom of Imam Reza

14
AUG Morocco Holiday: Oued Ed-Dahab Day

15
AUG Lebanon Holiday: Assumption of Mary

15
AUG Egypt Holiday: Flooding of the Nile
