



Daily



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MAX - MENA Region Daily Summary - July 28, 2026

Highlights of the Day

- **MENA:** IRI denies involvement in UAV attack on Saudi's Abqaiq on July 27; unlikely to mitigate risk of retaliatory strikes in Iraq
- **Palestinian Territories & Israel:** US Embassy extends travel restrictions to West Bank on July 27; remain cognizant, avoid travel
- **Libya:** Libyan Markets Union warns of market closures in Tripoli over coming days in July 27 statement; to sustain protest movement
- **Saudi Arabia & Yemen:** UAV attacks target Saudi oil assets in Eastern Province's Abqaiq on July 27; to prompt deterrence measures

Actionable Items

Iraq: Fuel shortages, lines at gas stations reported in Baghdad on July 27; allot for supply disruptions

Current Situation – Reports indicate a kerosene shortage at fuel stations across Baghdad, causing long queues and traffic disruptions. In response, the Ministry of Oil (MoO) has reportedly begun importing kerosene to compensate for domestic shortages and maintain fuel supplies for private generators and domestic markets. An MoO spokesperson reportedly stated that increased summer demand, reduced imported gas supplies, and the Arbaeen pilgrimage have contributed to the shortages.

Assessments & Forecast – The shortage comes amid peak summer demand and highlights a strain on Baghdad's fuel distribution network, particularly as reliance on private generators increases during periods of high temperatures and electricity consumption. While the MoO's mitigation measures are aimed at improving supplies, localized shortages, long queues, and traffic disruptions are likely to persist in the near term as Baghdad continues to experience temperatures reaching 49 degrees and fuel demand remains high at least until the milestone of August 5 in the Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is expected to sustain generator use and increased vehicle transport activity. As shortages persist over the coming days, localized public frustration and protests at fuel stations, government offices, and major roads are likely to increase.

Recommendations – Those operating in Iraq are advised to anticipate fuel shortages and take precautions by securing fuel supplies in advance where possible. Maintain emergency fuel reserves, avoid unnecessary vehicle use, and maintain vigilance around fuel stations for signs of unrest.

Source: [Shafaq News](#)

Israel: Delays, flight cancellations recorded at Ben Gurion International Airport, per July 28 report; allot for disruptions, reconfirm travel itineraries

Current Situation – According to a report citing flight-tracking data, Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) has experienced significant operational congestion over the past week, affecting both international and domestic flight operations. The report indicates that only 31 percent of scheduled flights departed on time, while the remainder experienced varying degrees of delay, with the average delay reaching 40 minutes over the reporting period. 83 flights were reportedly canceled. The reported disruptions are attributed to the presence of 33 US Air Force (USAF) refueling tankers at TLV, which has constrained apron capacity and air traffic movements. Additionally, a major technical failure affecting radar systems and air traffic control equipment in Greece reportedly triggered cascading delays across the Mediterranean region.

Recommendations – Those residing in Israel or intending to travel via Ben Gurion International Airport on July 28 and over the coming days are advised to reconfirm travel itineraries and allot for disruptions due to the reported delays and flight cancellations.

Source: [Ynet](#)

Israel: Protest against settler violence slated in Tel Aviv at 19:00 on July 28; maintain

heightened vigilance

Current Situation – “Standing Together” and other activist groups have called for a protest against settler violence and the Israeli government at Habima Square, Tel Aviv, at 19:00 (local time) on July 28. Organizers stated that the demonstration is intended to condemn what they describe as government-backed “armed militias” and the “expulsion” of Palestinians from the West Bank.

Assessments & Forecast – The demonstration reflects growing mobilization among left-wing and Arab-Jewish groups and human rights organizations following a surge in [settler attacks](#) targeting Palestinian homes, agricultural assets, and mosques and intensified Israeli security operations since the [July 24](#) confrontation near Nablus’s Tell. Organizers’ framing of extremist settler groups and the government’s perceived responsibility underscores the increasingly polarized discourse surrounding the issue. Turnout is likely to reach the high dozens and a bolstered security deployment is anticipated. Given precedent, including police forces’ attempts to confiscate signs, and the scuffles and arrests reported during a similar protest in Tel Aviv on July 25, authorities’ intervention and attempts to remove protest material, localized confrontations, and additional arrests cannot be ruled out. Temporary traffic disruptions around Habima Square are likely during the evening hours.

Recommendations – Those operating or residing in Tel Aviv during the evening hours of July 28 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in the vicinity of Habima Square due to the slated protests and the associated risk of localized unrest.

Source: [Standing Together](#)

Libya: Libyan Markets Union warns of market closures in Tripoli over coming days in July 27 statement; to sustain protest movement

Current Situation – The Libyan Markets Union indicated this was because most markets in Tripoli had exhausted diesel supplies. On July 28, protesters stormed the Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex, closed gas valves, and temporarily halted operations, causing a complete power outage at the facility. The National Oil Corporation (NOC) stated that this shut down production at the el-Feel oil field and partial disrupted operations at the Wafa field. The Government of National Unity (GNU) had secured the complex and resumed gas pumping, while the General Electricity Company reported the gradual restoration of the national electricity grid.

Assessments & Forecast – The restoration of operations temporarily eases electricity supply constraints and reduces the immediate risk of prolonged power outages, but does not resolve Libya’s underlying electricity crisis, with further disruptions likely. The incident is also unlikely to diminish the broader protest movement, as demonstrations extend beyond electricity shortages to wider grievances against the GNU. Meanwhile, markets’ potential closures will worsen shortages of essential goods, increase socioeconomic pressure, and fuel anti-government protests. Localized confrontations between protesters

and security forces, as well as elevated tensions across Tripolitania, are likely to persist in the coming days.

Source: [Libyan Markets Union](#); [Mellitah Oil & Gas Complex](#); [NOC](#); [General Electricity Company](#)

Palestinian Territories & Israel: US Embassy extends travel restrictions to West Bank on July 27; remain cognizant, avoid travel

Current Situation – The US Embassy in Jerusalem issued a second security alert extending restrictions on personal travel by US Government personnel and their family members to the West Bank until July 29, citing “heightened security concerns and increased volatility.” According to an unconfirmed July 26 report, senior Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officials warned that the political echelon is “emboldening settler violence” and that Palestinians “may soon stop showing restraint.”

Assessments & Forecast – The extension of the US Embassy’s travel restrictions comes amid a [surge in settler violence](#) and expanded IDF operations in the West Bank. It points to Washington’s concerns that the violence will not subside and that the security environment in the region will become increasingly volatile and pose a heightened risk to US nationals. These assessments are bolstered by the alleged warnings issued by IDF officials. Israeli ministers’ rhetoric and the establishment of new Israeli civilian outposts in the northern West Bank following the fatal incident near Nablus on [July 24](#). Incidents involving Palestinians seizing nearby Israelis’ weapons also lend credence to concerns that such confrontations could encourage copycat attacks. Intercommunal violence in the West Bank will therefore persist.

Recommendations – Those operating or residing in Israel or the Palestinian Territories on July 28 and over the coming days are advised to remain cognizant of the US Embassy restrictions and avoid travel to the West Bank amid elevated tensions.

Source: [US Embassy in Jerusalem](#)

Notable Events

MENA: IRI denies involvement in UAV attack on Saudi's Abqaiq on July 27; unlikely to mitigate risk of retaliatory strikes in Iraq

Current Situation – The Islamic Resistance in Iraq (IRI) denied responsibility for the attacks, which Saudi Arabia assessed as originating from Iraq. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree stated that several targets were struck with UAVs in the Kingdom in response to Saudi UAVs breaching Yemen’s airspace.

Assessments & Forecast – Riyadh’s assessment is plausible. The Iraqi border is 300km

closer to Abqaiq compared to the nearest point along the Yemeni border, with the reduced flight distance likely increasing the prospects of a UAV reaching its target without interception. Despite its denial, the involvement of militias within the IRI is plausible given their proven track record in successfully targeting Gulf states in the past, and their motivation to support the wider Axis of Resistance. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has also reportedly established covert cells operating outside formal Iraqi militias to launch UAV attacks on Gulf states. Alternatively, the Houthis could have orchestrated or facilitated such an attack through their own presence in Iraq, where they have developed increasingly close operational ties with Iraqi militias under the auspices of Tehran. Regardless of the specific perpetrator, the incident highlights Iraq's importance in Axis of Resistance operations, increasing the prospects for retaliatory airstrikes on the country's soil.

Source: [Islamic Resistance in Iraq](#)

Israel & Palestinian Territories: IDF kills senior Hamas commander in Gaza's Deir al Balah on July 26; attempt to weaken group's control

Current Situation – The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced on July 27 that Hamas' internal security commander, Wael Musa al-Ladawi, was targeted in the strike. The IDF stated that the Internal Security Service under al-Ladawi was responsible for gathering intelligence for Hamas's senior leadership, supporting decision-making, and facilitating the planning and execution of attacks against Israel. Another senior Hamas operative was also reportedly killed in the strike.

Assessments & Forecast – The IDF periodically conducts strikes targeting senior Hamas officials in the Gaza Strip as part of its broader campaign to degrade the group's leadership, command-and-control capabilities, and intelligence networks amid the slow implementation of President Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza. The latest strike also underscores the IDF's ongoing efforts to weaken Hamas's effective control and governance in Gaza, despite the [dissolution](#) of its public administration body, especially amid growing internal dissent and the presence of anti-Hamas armed factions and clans challenging its authority. Nonetheless, Hamas will quickly appoint a replacement for the killed commander to project organizational resilience and maintain command continuity. Similar IDF strikes will also recur over the coming weeks.

Source: [IDF](#)

Saudi Arabia & Yemen: UAV attacks target Saudi oil assets in Eastern Province's Abqaiq on July 27; to prompt deterrence measures

Current Situation – Satellite imagery indicated increased heat signatures in the area and UAV impacts on gas storage tanks at the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (ARAMCO) oil-processing and stabilization facility in Abqaiq.

Assessments & Forecast – The attack marks a significant escalation in the campaign against Saudi energy infrastructure given the Abqaiq facility’s status as the processing site for over half of the Kingdom’s crude oil production and principal hub feeding the East-West Pipeline, which transports crude to Yanbu’s King Fahad Industrial Port on the Red Sea. While authorities have not confirmed the extent of damage, the incident could disrupt operations for up to months. The attack thus aligns with Iran’s broader objective of undermining alternative Gulf export routes and highlights the continued vulnerability of Saudi Arabia’s critical infrastructure. Coupled with the Houthis’ [successful targeting of ARAMCO facilities](#) in recent days, these factors will embolden Iran-backed groups to attempt striking similar Saudi infrastructure. Riyadh will therefore seek to establish deterrence against further such attacks, which thus far have primarily emanated from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen. Riyadh will likely prioritize increased support for Saudi-backed forces in Yemen, although Saudi-led coalition strikes on Houthi targets cannot be ruled out.

Source: [NASA FIRMS](#).

Other Developments

- **Algeria:** The Defense Ministry announced on July 27 that the People’s National Army (ANP) killed two militants and seized two Kalashnikov-type rifles and other ammunition in Chlef province.
- **Bahrain:** The Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) stated that it will conduct a joint military exercise, dubbed “Bahrain Shield,” with the armed forces of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries between July 28-30.
- **Iraq:** According to July 27 reports, unidentified individuals threw a hand grenade against a Ministry of Industry-affiliated company in the Ghazaliya area of Baghdad’s Mansour district, wounding two individuals.
- **Turkey:** According to July 26 reports, a Justice and Development Party (AKP) official was killed alongside his son and nephew in a shooting attack in Batman. The assailants’ identities and motives remain unidentified at the time of writing.

Notable Dates

4 AUG	Algeria Holiday: National Day of the Army
4 AUG	Iran Holiday: Arbaeen
4 AUG	Lebanon Commemoration: Day of Mourning
12 AUG	Iran Holiday: Death of Prophet Mohammad/Martyrdom of Imam Hasan
13 AUG	Tunisia Holiday: Women's and Family Day
13 AUG	Iran Holiday: Martyrdom of Imam Reza