Washington/Iraq 27 July
A U.S. diplomatic spokesperson confirmed that “earlier in July the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York removed fourteen banks from access to the Central Bank of Iraq’s foreign currency sale window, known as the dollar and wire auctions. These actions help limit the ability of bad actors seeking to launder U.S. dollars, profit from the exploitation of money owned by the Iraqi people, and evade U.S. sanctions”.

Washington/Riyadh/Yemen 27 July
U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan visited Saudi Arabia and conferred with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other Saudi officials on “bilateral and regional matters, including initiatives to advance a common vision for a more peaceful, secure, prosperous and stable Middle East region interconnected with the world”. According to a White House readout, “Sullivan also reviewed significant progress to build on the benefits of the truce in Yemen… and welcomed ongoing UN-led efforts to bring the war to a close”.

Tehran 26 July
The head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) indicated that Iran had provided the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with “detailed answers” toward the IAEA’s safeguards investigation into past activities at undeclared sites, asserting: “We have sent evidence and documents to the agency. If they are not accepted, we will clarify [our position] and provide further evidence and documents

Updated -> MERV/Tanf 25 July
U.S. Air Forces Central reported that on July 23 “Russian fighter aircraft flew dangerously close to a U.S. MQ-9 drone on a defeat-ISIS mission… One of the Russian flares struck the U.S. MQ-9, severely damaging its propeller. Fortunately, the MQ-9 crew was able to maintain flight and safely recover the aircraft to its home base”. It further urged “the Russian forces in Syria to put an immediate end to this reckless, unprompted and unprofessional behaviour”. The following day, a White House spokesperson indicated that “we’ve seen the early reports of a second Russian fighter aircraft this week flying dangerously close to our drone on a defeat ISIS mission… Russia’s close approach to and deployment of flares over U.S. drones during a routine mission against ISIS targets indeed violates established protocols and international norms”.