The Pentagon announced that “more defensive military capabilities will deploy to the Middle East to bolster force protection for U.S. troops in the region and to defend Israel… in response to threats from Iran and Iranian-backed militias”. The same day, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin conferred with his Israeli counterpart on “the destabilising threats posed by Iran, its partners and proxies”. He reaffirmed “ironclad support for Israel’s security”, emphasising that “further escalation is not inevitable and that all countries in the region would benefit from a de-esalation in tensions, including through completing a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal”. “The unprecedented scale of U.S. support for Israel since 7 October should leave Iran, Lebanese Hizbollah and other Iranian backed terrorist groups with no doubt about U.S. resolve”, Austin highlighted.

Hizbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah described the 30 July killing by Israel of a senior Hizbollah commander as an “act of war” and crossing “a red line”, asserting: “Our response will certainly come. We are looking for a real and very calculated response. The Axis of Resistance will fight on wisely and courageously”. He further noted: “Starting tomorrow morning, we will resume our pro-Gaza operations, and this has nothing to do with the retaliation to the assassination”.

Amid cross-border exchanges, Lebanese sources reported four Syrian fatalities and several Lebanese civilian casualties from an Israeli strike in southern Lebanon.

President Biden spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu, reiterating “his commitment to Israel’s security against all threats from Iran, including its proxy terrorist groups Hamas, Hizbollah and the Houthis”. According to a White House readout, Biden “discussed efforts to support Israel’s defence against threats, including against ballistic missiles and drones, to include new defensive U.S. military deployments”. He also “stressed the importance of ongoing efforts to de-escalate broader tensions in the region”. Later, Biden emphasised that “we have the basis for a ceasefire. He [ie, Netanyahu] should move on it, and they should move on it now”, while noting that the killing of Ismail Haniyeh had “not helped” with the deal.