Palestinian President stops funding Gaza electricity

Abbas to ' Dry up Hamas financial resources

JERUSALEM: Two Israeli air strikes against Hezbollah targets in Syria in recent weeks seem to mark a major escalation in Israel’s war on Iran, with potentially serious consequences for the region. Last week, Premier Benjamin Netanyahu met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. They discussed ways to prevent an escalation, including the need to monitor Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran’s activities in the region.

Rouhani's hardline challengers for the presidential vote next two years have coordinated with Hamas in the Gaza Strip to demand the release of some of their leaders who are in Israeli jails. Hamas is also concerned about the future of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the possibility of a new war with Israel.

Israel also seeks to avoid angering Russia

“Israel will not make a deal with any country that is considered a enemy of Israel, including Russia,” Netanyahu said in a statement.

However, some analysts believe that Israel may be preparing for a more aggressive approach to its relationship with Russia, which has been a key player in efforts to stabilize the region.

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