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# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER  
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## ARMENIA

### Armenia, Russia discuss possible Yerevan–Baku peace deal

Pan Armenian, 9 June 2022

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan has said that he and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov have discussed a possible agreement on the settlement of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the process of settling the Karabakh conflict. Mirzoyan and Lavrov met in Yerevan on Thursday, June 9 and held a "constructive and sincere" discussion on issues of bilateral cooperation, partnership on international platforms, on issues of regional and international security.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/300808/>

### U.S. praises "historic" Armenia-Azerbaijan peace efforts

Pan Armenian, 9 June 2022

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has praised the "significant and historic" diplomatic efforts between Azerbaijan and Armenia toward a lasting peace. Sullivan made the remarks at a meeting with Hikmat Hajiyev, Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan on Monday, June 6.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/300765/>

### Armenian President credits Putin for "peace" in region

Pan Armenian, 10 June 2022

Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan has credited Russian President Vladimir Putin for the "peace" in the region.

Khachaturyan delivered remarks on Friday, June 10 when he met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov "You are always a welcome guest for Armenia, for the people of Armenia," Khachaturyan told Lavrov in the presidential residence.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/300828/>

### Armenian-French defense cooperation discussed in Paris

Pan Armenian, 14 June 2022

Armenia's Deputy Defense Minister Karen Brutyan and French Minister of the Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu discussed defense cooperation between the two countries on Monday, June 13.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/300890/>

## AZERBAIJAN

### Zangezur corridor extremely important for Armenia: Azerbaijani FM

Yenisafak, 8 June 2022

The Zangezur corridor is of "utmost importance" for Armenia, as well as Baku, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said on Tuesday. Bayramov noted that the neighbouring countries haven't yet achieved any concrete results concerning the Zangezur corridor. "Armenia keeps dragging out the issue on one pretext or another. It's the country with the most limited communication capabilities in the region. Therefore, the implementation of the Zangezur corridor is important for Armenia as much as for other South Caucasian states," concluded Bayramov.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/zangezur-corridor-extremely-important-for-armenia-azerbajani-fm-3622013>

### **Army units hold intensive live-fire tactical-special drills**

Azernews, 10 June 2022

Different units of the Azerbaijani army are conducting live-fire tactical drills, Azernews report, citing the Defense Ministry. The drills are being held at the army's combined-arms training grounds with the participation of the military leadership, the report added.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/195170.html>

### **Azerbaijani Army holds training-methodological sessions with military psychologists**

Azernews, 11 June 2022

According to the plan approved by Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, training-methodological sessions were held at the Training and Educational Center of the Azerbaijan Army with the participation of psychologists of the Army Corps, formations, and special educational institutions, Trend reports citing the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/195226.html>

## **BAHRAIN**

### **Ewec to conduct auction for clean energy certificates in Abu Dhabi**

GDN News, 11 June 2022

Emirates Water and Electricity Company (Ewec), a leading company in the integrated co-ordination of planning, purchasing and supplying of water and electricity across the UAE, will be conducting its fourth auction for clean energy certificates (CECs) in Abu Dhabi, on June 14, following three previous successful auctions. CECs are tradable

digital certificates issued by the Department of Energy (DoE) in units of 1 MWh upon receiving a request from the Single Registrant and are currently the only accredited instruments in Abu Dhabi to prove ownership of the environmental and economic benefits achieved by consuming clean energy.

<https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/1114626>

## **CYPRUS**

### **Cyprus opposition slams government for hosting Israeli military drills**

Times of Israel, 3 June 2022

The main Cypriot opposition party has slammed the government for hosting recently concluded Israel Defense Forces military drills, calling it “a dangerous development for Cyprus.” The IDF on Thursday wrapped up a major military exercise in Cyprus, simulating a military ground offensive deep inside Lebanon in a potential war against the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group. The drill simulated various difficulties in a ground assault, such as food, water, and ammunition supply; communication issues; and the general complications in operating in unfamiliar territory.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/cyprus-opposition-slams-government-for-hosting-israeli-military-drills/>

## **IRAN**

### **Spokesman: PGCC Not Qualified to Opine on Iran's Missile Program**

Fars News, 2 June 2022

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Thursday that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) member states which have turned into the

West-made arms' arsenal are not qualified to speak about Iran's defensive missile program. Khatibzadeh rejected the baseless allegations in the PGCC's recent statement, saying, "This council is not in a position to comment on Iran's missile program." He added that issuing such repetitive and destructive statements shows the completely wrong approach and strategic confusion of certain PGCC member states towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010312000356/Spkesman-PGCC-N-Qalified-Opine-n-Iran's-Missile-Prgram>

### **Iran rejects reports of cyber-attack at Imam Khomeini Int. Airport**

Iran Front Page, 4 June 2022

An Iranian official has rejected reports of a cyber-attack at the Imam Khomeini International Airport, south of Tehran, saying a technical glitch in the passport control system briefly left passengers stranded there earlier on Saturday. Javad Salehi, spokesman of the Imam Khomeini Airport City, said Saturday that no hacking attacking targeted the passport control system at the airport, and that "penetrating the system was impossible."

<https://ifpnews.com/iran-rejects-reports-of-cyber-attack-at-imam-khomeini-int-airport/>

### **Iran says any negative resolution by IAEA to harm nuclear talks**

Yenisafak, 7 June 2022

Iran will respond appropriately to any decision by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Foreign Ministry said Monday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Said Hatibzade said a draft resolution submitted to the IAEA Board of Governors is invalid and any anti-Iran

decision would harm talks between Tehran and global powers on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He also claimed that the IAEA's latest report on Iran's compliance with the JCPOA was indifferent to all the technical answers that Iran had presented, the state news agency IRNA reported.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/iran-says-any-negative-resolution-by-iaea-to-harm-nuclear-talks-3621922>

### **Iranian DM Slams West for Instrumental Use of Terrorism to Justify Deployment in Region**

Fars News, 7 June 2022

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said that the western states are using terrorism as an instrument to prolong their military presence in the region, and stressed continued support for Iraq in fighting terrorist groups. Iran enjoys valuable experience in the fight against terrorism and can help to enhance the security in Iraq, General Ashtiani said in a meeting with Iraqi Interior Minister Othman al-Ghanmi in Tehran on Tuesday. Noting that terrorism is a tool used by the West to justify its presence in the region, the Iranian minister stressed joint actions of Iraq, Iran, and Syria in the fight against terrorism.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010317000723/Iranian-DM-Slams-Wes-fr-Insrmenal-Use-f-Terrism-Jsify-Deplymen-in>

### **In new escalation, Iran tells IAEA it plans to further ramp up uranium enrichment**

Times of Israel, 9 June 2022

Iran plans to install two new cascades of advanced centrifuges that will allow Tehran

to rapidly enrich more uranium, the UN's nuclear watchdog said Thursday, the latest escalation in the standoff over the country's atomic program. The decision to add the two IR-6 centrifuges cascades at its underground Natanz nuclear facility comes as countries at an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna voted Wednesday night to censure Iran.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-watchdog-says-iran-plans-to-further-ramp-up-uranium-enrichment/>

### **Iran's nuclear tactics push Biden further from elusive JCPOA revival**

Times of Israel, 10 June 2022

A flare-up in tensions between the UN nuclear monitor and Iran this week has left US President Joe Biden in an increasingly tight jam. The US leader opened his presidency with a pledge to return to the 2015 international agreement that aimed to prevent Tehran from building nuclear weapons, after predecessor Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from it. Negotiations to restore that agreement have been at an impasse for three months over the very last details.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-nuclear-tactics-push-biden-further-from-elusive-jcpoa-revival/>

### **Iran says it's starting up new centrifuges, claims IAEA 'hostage to Zionist regime'**

Times of Israel, 11 June 2022

Amid global tensions with the West over its nuclear activity, Iran's atomic agency chief announced that it has begun injecting gas into newly installed advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges. The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Mohammad Eslami, who made the announcement during an interview with

Iranian national TV on Thursday, claimed the decision was in line with international regulations. Eslami did not specify where the centrifuges in question were located.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-its-starting-up-new-centrifuges-claims-iaea-hostage-to-zionist-regime/>

### **Iran, Venezuela sign 20-year cooperation deal for defense, energy and finance**

Times of Israel, 11 June 2022

Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year deal on cooperation between the two allies subject to US sanctions during a visit Saturday to the Islamic Republic by Venezuela's President Nicholas Maduro. The inking of the agreement "shows the determination of the high-level officials of the two countries for development of relations in different fields," Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said. Maduro, speaking at a joint news conference in the Iranian capital, said the cooperation covered the energy and financial sectors, as well as an agreement to "work together on defense projects."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-venezuela-sign-20-year-cooperation-deal-for-defense-energy-and-finance/>

### **Iran says its actions in contravention of 2015 nuclear deal are 'reversible'**

Times of Israel, 13 June 2022

Iran said Monday that all measures it has taken to roll back its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers are "reversible." "If the agreement is finalized in Vienna tomorrow, all the measures carried out by Iran are technically reversible," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters. Iran said on Wednesday it had

disconnected some UN nuclear watchdog cameras monitoring its nuclear site.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-its-actions-in-contravention-of-2015-nuclear-deal-are-reversible/>

### **Iran still hopeful for nuclear deal despite UN watchdog rebuke**

Times of Israel, 14 June 2022

Iran on Tuesday said it still believes that negotiations can succeed to revive the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, despite a recent rebuke from the UN nuclear watchdog. Tehran last week condemned as “unconstructive” a move by the International Atomic Energy Agency to censure the country for failure to cooperate over its nuclear program.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-still-hopeful-for-nuclear-deal-despite-un-watchdog-rebuke/>

### **Iran says rocket launch coming after photos show preparation**

AP News, 15 June 2022

Iran acknowledged Wednesday it plans two tests for its new solid-fuelled rocket after satellite photos showed preparations at a desert launch pad previously used in the program, even as tensions remain high over Tehran’s rapidly advancing nuclear program. The Islamic Republic will launch its satellite-carrying Zuljanah rocket twice more after conducting a previous launch, the state-run IRNA news agency quoted Defense Ministry spokesman Ahmad Hosseini as saying.

<https://apnews.com/article/space-launches-technology-politics-dubai-united-arab-emirates-b1759a8d692aa7f2bfe5b4e4e57a2583>

### **Ex-IRGC commander claims Iran dealing constant confidential ‘blows’ to Israel**

Times of Israel, 15 June 2022

The former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps claimed Wednesday that Iran is dealing ongoing “blows” to the State of Israel. “The Zionist regime and its officials know better what blows they have received from the Islamic Republic so far, some of which are even still in progress,” said Mohammad Ali Jafari in an interview with the semi-official Iranian Tasnim news agency.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-irgc-commander-claims-iran-dealing-constant-confidential-blows-to-israel/>

### **Air Defense Commander: Persian Gulf Region under Control of Iran's Radars**

Fars News, 15 June 2022

Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard said that the country's advanced radar and missile systems have full control over the region, especially the Persian Gulf. The radar, missile and UAV systems have full control over all parts of the country, especially in the Persian Gulf, and monitor all the moves by the enemies to take decisive action, if necessary.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010324000397/Air-Defense-Cmmander-Persian-Glf-Regin-nder-Cnrl-f-Iran's-Radars>

### **US says ‘closely’ monitoring Iran’s space program**

Iran Front Page, 15 June 2022

The United States has announced its military “will continue to closely monitor Iran’s pursuit of viable space launch technology.” Tehran says it plans to carry

out two more launches of its domestically-developed hybrid-propellant satellite carrier rocket called Zoljanah. A Pentagon spokesman, US Army Maj. Rob Lodewick, said the American military “will continue to closely monitor Iran’s pursuit of viable space launch technology and how it may relate to advancements in its overall ballistic missile program.”

<https://ifpnews.com/us-iran-space-programe/>

## IRAQ

### **Iraqi President urges to form international coalition to combat corruption**

Iraqi News, 1 June, 2022

The Iraqi President, Barham Salih, urged to form an international coalition to combat corruption similar to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, during his meeting on Wednesday with the head of the Federal Commission of Integrity (FCI), Alaa Jawad Al-Saadi, in Al-Salam Palace in Baghdad. A press statement issued by the Iraqi Presidency explained that Salih emphasized the importance of the FCI role in fighting corruption.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraqi-president-urges-to-form-international-coalition-to-combat-corruption/>

### **Iraq President discusses political, security issues with UN Special Representative**

Iraqi News, 2 June 2022

The Iraqi President, Barham Salih, discussed on Wednesday the overall political, security and economic developments with the Special Representative for Iraq of the United Nations Secretary-General, Jeanine

Hennis-Plasschaert, during a meeting in Al-Salam Palace in Baghdad. According to a press statement issued by the Iraqi Presidency, both Salih and Plasschaert confirmed the need to enhance stability in terms in security, the importance of pursuing remaining members of terrorist groups that try to destabilize public peace of citizens in some areas of Iraq.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraqi-president-discusses-political-security-issues-with-un-special-representative/>

### **Foreign Minister discusses bilateral cooperation with US Ambassador**

Iraqi News, 6 June 2022

The Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fuad Hussein, discussed on Sunday the bilateral cooperation as well as the regional and international developments with the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Alina L. Romanowski, during their meeting in Baghdad, according to a press statement issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides discussed the important developments of the Russian-Ukrainian war, its impact on the world and the efforts of the Arab Contact Group.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/foreign-minister-discusses-bilateral-cooperation-with-us-ambassador/>

### **Launching new security operation south of Nineveh**

INA, 6 June 2022

The Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) announced on Thursday, the launch of a large-scale search operation in southern Nineveh province.

<https://ina.iq/eng/19961-launching-new-security-operation-south-of-nineveh.html>

### **Iraqi PM discusses NATO mission work in Iraq**

Iraqi News, 8 June 2022

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, discussed on Wednesday the work of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Iraq, during his meeting with the commander of NATO Mission in Iraq, General Giovanni Iannucci, in the cabinet's headquarters in Baghdad. According to a press statement issued by the Prime Minister's media office, the meeting discussed ways to develop the work of the NATO mission in Iraq, and mechanisms to overcome any difficulties the NATO may face in Iraq. The statement mentioned that Al-Kazemi emphasized the need to strengthen the cooperation with the NATO mission in Iraq in the field of training the Iraqi security forces, developing their efficiency at the institutional level, and raising the performance skills of the security forces personnel.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraqi-pm-discusses-nato-mission-work-in-iraq/>

### **Iraq adopts two measures to counter cyber attacks**

INA, 11 June 2022

The Ministry of Communications has determined, today, Saturday, the percentage of completion of the international access gates project and the date of its entry into force, while confirming that Iraq has adopted two measures to be taken to confront cyber-attacks. On the methods of countering cyber-attacks, he explained, "There are measures to resist and prevent cyber-attacks in Iraq, and they adopt two measures, the first is to resist these attacks by fortifying the sites of institutions and

laying a technical firewall on them, and the second is to take measures to limit the damage of those attacks after they occur."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20012-iraq-adopts-two-measures-to-counter-cyber-attacks.html>

### **Iraqi Defense Minister discusses military cooperation with Egyptian counterpart**

Iraqi News, 12 June 2022

The Egyptian Minister of Defense and Military Production, Mohamed Zaki, received on Sunday the Iraqi Minister of Defense, Juma Inad, in Cairo to discuss military cooperation between both countries. The meeting between Inad and Zaki addressed topics of common interest, military cooperation and exchange of experience between the armed forces of both countries.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraqi-defense-minister-discusses-military-cooperation-with-egyptian-counterpart/>

### **NATO commander in Iraq discusses cooperation with Iraqi Armed Forces officials**

Iraqi News, 14 June 2022

Iraq's Army Chief of Staff, Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah, met on Tuesday with the commander of NATO Mission in Iraq, General Giovanni Iannucci, to discuss several topics, according to a statement of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense cited by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). The meeting discussed the cooperation with the NATO mission in Iraq in terms of training and providing advisory to develop the capabilities of the Iraqi army, according to the statement.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/nato-commander-in-iraq-discusses-cooperation-with-iraqi-armed-forces-officials/>



## **Iraq Resistance Vows to Continue Fight Against U.S., Zionists**

Kayhan, 14 June 2022

The leader of an anti-terror Iraqi group says the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), better known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, thwarted the enemies' plots against the Arab country and that the popular force will continue to fight American-Zionist terrorism in Iraq. Akram al-Ka'abi, the secretary general of Iraq's Harakat al-Nujaba movement, which is part of Hashd al-Sha'abi, made the comment in a statement on Monday on the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the popular anti-terror force. "On this auspicious day, the plot of the big powers with their extortionate spending and their various support for terrorist groups to occupy, disintegrate and commit genocide against the children of Iraq failed," Ka'abi said.

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/103661/iraq-resistance-vows-to-continue-fight-against-us-zionists>

## **Iraqi FM discusses political, security developments with National Security Advisor**

Iraqi News, 15 June 2022

The Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fuad Hussein, discussed on Wednesday the latest developments of the security and political situations in Iraq and the region, during his meeting with the National Security Advisor, Qasim al-Araji, in Baghdad, according to a press statement issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned that Hussein stressed the importance of the role Iraq plays in resolving conflicts based on dialogue and

diplomacy to spare Iraq from possible regressions.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraqi-fm-discusses-political-security-developments-with-national-security-adviser/>

## **SMC: A large-scale security operation launched in Diyala and Salah al-Din**

INA, 15 June 2022

Security Media Cell announced Wednesday the launch of a large-scale security operation in the governorates of Salah al-Din and Diyala. A statement by the cell, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "under the supervision of the Joint Operations Command, a wide security operation was launched at dawn today, Wednesday..."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20082-smc-a-large-scale-security-operation-launched-in-diyala-and-salah-al-din.html>

## **ISRAEL**

### **Egyptian Military Drone Intercepted Over Israel Earlier This Week**

Haaretz, 1 June 2022

The unarmed drone, part of Egypt's operations against ISIS in Sinai, crossed the border with Israel by mistake, sources say. The Egyptians were notified of the interception in advance. Israeli fighter jets intercepted this week an unarmed Egyptian military drone over the southern Negev desert.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-01/ty-article/.premium/israel-intercepted-egyptian-military-drone/00000181-1f8c-de27-a1bd-3fceb1aa0000>

### **Israel simulates airstrikes over Mediterranean on long-range targets**

Al Arabiya, 1 June 2022

The Israeli military said on Wednesday that dozens of its aircrafts conducted a drill simulating airstrike on long-range targets, a thinly veiled reference to a possible attack on regional rival Iran.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/06/01/Israel-simulates-airstrikes-over-Mediterranean-on-long-range-targets>

### **Bennett gets up-close view of Israel's new laser defense system**

I24, 1 June 2022

Prime minister praises Magen Or for giving Jewish state a strategic advantage during tour of Rafael. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Tuesday visited defense technology company Rafael to review the under-development laser defense system, the government said in a statement.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1654066668-bennett-gets-up-close-view-of-israel-s-new-laser-defense-system>

### **Biden's Mideast Visit Could Advance Israel-UAE-Saudi Air Defense Alliance**

Haaretz, 2 June 2022

The planned visit of U.S. President Joe Biden to Israel and the Persian Gulf later this month may bring about a significant advance in defense ties between Israel and states in the area. The need to strengthen ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, and perhaps even with Saudi Arabia, has already been raised in discussions between Jerusalem and Washington. One of the main operative directions this is taking is the formation of a regional defense system to help the area's

states cope with the developing threat from Iranian ballistic and cruise missiles, and drones.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-02/ty-article/biden-visit-could-advance-regional-air-defense-system/00000181-20d3-de27-a1bd-2bdfc0340000>

### **Israel 'Reserves the Right to Act Against Iran', Bennett Tells Nuclear Watchdog Chief**

Haaretz, 3 June 2022

The snap visit by IAEA's Rafael Grossi comes as Israel expresses mounting concerns about Iran's nuclear activities, and ahead of a meeting of the UN watchdog's board. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told the UN nuclear watchdog on Friday that Israel would prefer a diplomatic resolution to the standoff over the Iranian nuclear program but could take independent action, an Israeli statement said.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-03/ty-article/.premium/israel-reserves-the-right-to-act-against-iran-bennett-tells-nuclear-watchdog-chief/00000181-288a-d6f5-a1a7-eeee5a1c0000>

### **'Israel is back': Revitalized ties in Africa touted at Paris conference**

Times of Israel, 4 June 2022

"Israel is back in Africa" was the unmistakable message of a conference here this week on the Jewish state's ties with the continent in the years ahead. Organized by Israel's embassy in France (which paid for this reporter's flight) and the American Jewish Committee's Paris office, the one-day event brought together French and African journalists, diplomats, entrepreneurs and artists to examine the

future of Israeli cooperation with African countries and businesses.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-is-back-revitalized-ties-in-africa-touted-at-paris-conference/>

### **Israel and Saudi Arabia said in US-brokered talks to improve relations**

Times of Israel, 6 June 2022

Saudi Arabia is engaging in talks with Israel on economic ties and “security arrangements,” as it adjusts to shifting attitudes in the Middle East, where the Jewish state is no longer universally seen as an undisputed enemy, the Wall Street Journal reported Monday. The kingdom has identified growing support among young Saudis for establishing ties and is moving toward advancing cooperation, according to the report. Israel and Saudi Arabia do not have official diplomatic relations, but covert ties have warmed in recent years, as the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has increasingly been seeing Israel as a strategic partner in the fight against Iranian influence in the region.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-and-saudi-arabia-said-in-us-brokered-talks-to-improve-relations/>

### **Alleged Israeli strike said to prevent Iran from landing weapon systems in Syria**

Times of Israel, 8 June 2022

An unusual surface-to-surface missile attack targeting Damascus International Airport that took place two weeks ago and was attributed to Israel was successful in damaging some runways, preventing large cargo planes from landing at the airport. As a result, Iran has been unable to land the Boeing 747 cargo planes it uses to deliver

systems equipped with guidance technology for upgrading existing missiles into precision-guided missiles, Channel 12 news reported Tuesday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/alleged-israeli-strike-said-to-prevent-iran-from-landing-weapon-systems-in-syria/>

### **Rafael revamps anti-tank missile for longer range, more firepower**

Times of Israel, 9 June 2022

Israel’s Rafael defense contractor on Thursday unveiled a new version of its anti-tank missile, the Spike NLOS. The sixth-generation missile was touted by the Israeli arms manufacturer as now having the capability to be launched in a salvo of up to four missiles, and an extended range of 50 kilometres (31 miles) when launched by helicopter. The missile has a 32-kilometer (20-mile) range when launched from a ground-based system.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/rafael-revamps-anti-tank-missile-for-longer-range-more-firepower/>

### **RAFAEL's new next-gen precision missile can switch controller mid-flight**

The Jerusalem Post, 9 June 2022

Defense giant Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. has unveiled the 6th generation SPIKE NLOS electro-optical, precision-guided missiles at Eurosatory in Paris, the company announced on Thursday. The enhanced capabilities of the missile are new salvo controls, system handover, target image acquisition, and extended ranges.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709026>

### **Israeli tech: This new sensor can detect incoming fire on battlefield**

The Jerusalem Post, 9 June 2022

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has unveiled a new passive high-performance gunfire detection system (GDS), the OTHELLO-P, at the Eurosatory Exhibition in Paris. With integrated artificial intelligence processing and extended SWIR electro-optics and acoustic sensors, the OTHELLO-P system is a compact sensor designed to immediately detect, geo-locate and alert troops to incoming gunfire from small arms, snipers, machine guns, RPGs, subsonic munitions and indirect fire.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-708965>

### **An Israel-Gulf Defense Pact Won't Solve Israel's Greatest Challenge**

Haaretz, 10 June 2022

A defense accords with the Gulf states – which Israeli officials keep hinting at – will help foil Iran's regional ambitions but won't absolve Israel of the Palestinian issue and its unique threats. There's a new flavour of the month in Middle East geopolitics: a defense alliance between Israel and the Gulf states. Of sorts. It supplants the "Sunni-Israeli axis" that actually never existed and was supposed to counter the Iranian menace in the region. It also comes as prospects for a new nuclear deal with Iran seem tenuous and America's priorities have shifted dramatically but predictably elsewhere: in the long term to China and the rest of East Asia, and currently to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-10/ty-article/.premium/an-israel-gulf-defense-pact-wont-solve-israels-greatest-challenge/00000181-4dd8-d082-ad87-eddd47270000>

### **Report: Zionist Regime Deploys Radar Systems in UAE, Bahrain**

Kayhan, 11 June 2022

The Zionist regime has deployed radar systems in some West Asian countries as part of joint cooperation with the region's Arab states to counter what the occupying regime's media claims to be "missile threats". "Israel has deployed radar systems in several countries in the Middle East, including the UAE and Bahrain," Channel 12 said, claiming the measure was in line with joint cooperation with the countries to create an early warning system.

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/103526/report-zionist-regime-deploys-radar-systems-in-uae-bahrain>

### **Bennett: Iran dangerously close to nukes; may get there soon if no Western pressure**

Times of Israel, 12 June 2022

As tensions between Iran and the West ramped up this week, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned in an interview published Saturday that Tehran was drawing "dangerously close" to producing nuclear weapons. "Iran is enriching uranium at an unprecedented rate and moving dangerously close to getting their hands on nuclear weapons," he told the UK's Telegraph in an interview.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-without-western-pressure-iran-dangerously-close-to-nuclear-weapon/>

### **Israel unveils new radar system capable of tracking thousands of targets simultaneously**

I24, 12 June 2022

This week, the Israeli company Elbit Systems revealed a new radar system that is

capable of simultaneously detecting and tracking thousands of targets, Israel National News reported. The radar, called DAiR, was presented at the Eurosatory exhibition in Paris, and is perceived as a technological breakthrough, enabling targeting objects at different speeds without prioritizing them, according to the news outlet.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1655044287-israel-unveils-new-radar-system-capable-of-tracking-thousands-of-targets-simultaneously>

### **Israeli firm IAI unveils new tactical sensor system at Eurosatory**

The Jerusalem Post, 13 June 2022

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has unveiled the GREEN LOTUS (ELI-2139), its latest tactical multi-mission, multi-sensor system, as part of Eurosatory, Europe's leading land defense and security exhibition. The GREEN LOTUS system is designed to provide both high-performance counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) capabilities and air and ground surveillance capabilities to both stationary and manoeuvring forces.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709298>

### **Thanks to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's Recognition of Israel Is Now Inevitable**

Haaretz, 13 June 2022

The visit to Israel of a group of Pakistani-Americans and Pakistanis last month has mainstreamed the debate surrounding the formalization of ties between the two countries. From newspaper columns, to blogs, to YouTube videos, to Twitter threads in the local Urdu language – all are dedicated to the discussion. While the most visible narrative still betrays Islamist

hyperbole and antisemitic hysteria, even the hyper-nationalist internet fora in Pakistan have found space for arguments in favor of recognizing Israel.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-08/ty-article-opinion/saudi-arabia-pakistan-recognition-israel-inevitable/00000181-441d-dada-a9a7-fe9d68970000>

### **Israel presents new robotic combat vehicle raising questions about AI security**

I24, 13 June 2022

A new medium robotic combat vehicle developed by the Israeli defense ministry along with the country's security industry was unveiled on Monday at the Eurosatory defense exhibition in France. The MRCV vehicle operates autonomously and is able to detect and destroy incoming threats along with fire control and emission management systems. It can also operate a drone and has a built-in system for transporting and receiving unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1655120376-israel-presents-new-robotic-combat-vehicle-raising-questions-about-ai-security>

### **Iran carried out a cyberattack targeting senior Israeli officials**

I24, 14 June 2022

Iranian hackers recently carried out a hacking operation against senior Israeli officials, including former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and a former US ambassador to the Jewish state, an Israeli cybersecurity firm announced Tuesday. Check Point Research described the attack in a statement, saying it used a wide range of fake email accounts to gain parties' trust,

take control of targets' accounts, steal information and use it to attack other targets.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1655214466-iran-carried-out-a-cyberattack-targeting-senior-israeli-officials>

### **US pushing Israel to avoid unilateral steps in lead-up to Biden visit**

Times of Israel, 15 June 2022

The US administration has been pushing Israel to avoid taking unilateral steps that would further damage ties with the Palestinians in the lead-up to President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and the West Bank next month, two Israeli and Palestinian officials told The Times of Israel Wednesday. Recent meetings and conversations US officials have held with Palestinian Authority officials "set off a warning light" for Washington regarding the urgency of the problem and the nadir to which Israeli-Palestinian ties had plummeted, a source familiar with the matter said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-pushing-israel-to-avoid-unilateral-steps-in-lead-up-to-biden-visit/>

### **Lapid: All UN Security Council nuclear sanctions on Iran must be restored**

Times of Israel, 15 June 2022

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called on Wednesday morning for the United Nations Security Council's "snapback" sanctions on Iran to be implemented over its resurgent nuclear program. "We've arrived at the point at which the Iranian nuclear issue needs to return to the UN Security Council and all sanctions need to be reactivated," said Lapid. "According to the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the world

powers, UN Security Council sanctions could be reimposed on Iran — without Russia or China being allowed to veto — if one of the parties to the agreement lodges a complaint.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-all-un-security-council-nuclear-sanctions-on-iran-must-be-restored/>

### **With tensions running high, IDF to hold drill near border with Lebanon**

Times of Israel, 15 June 2022

The Israel Defense Forces said it would conduct a military drill in the Galilee panhandle in northern Israel on Thursday morning, which will include artillery fire toward the Mount Dov area on the border with Lebanon. The IDF said the exercise will end in the afternoon hours of Thursday. Explosions are expected to be heard in nearby towns, it added. The military said the drill was planned in advance, indicating that it did not stem from a new assessment.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-tensions-running-high-idf-to-hold-drill-near-border-with-lebanon/>

## **JORDAN**

### **Jordanian King exalts Iraqi-Jordanian relations**

Iraqi News, 13 June 2022

Jordan's King Abdullah II renewed his country's full support to Iraq, on Monday, during his meeting with the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, Mohammed Al-Halbousi, in the Jordanian capital Amman. Halbousi expressed Iraq's keenness to strengthen cooperation with Jordan, based on the importance of the strategic relations between the two countries for the future of Iraq. Halbousi and the accompanying delegation stressed the need to support and

implement the bilateral programs and projects agreed upon with Jordan.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/jordanian-king-exalts-iraqi-jordanian-relations/>

## **KUWAIT**

### **Kuwait Foreign Ministry praises Yemen's truce**

Kuwait Times, 4 June 2022

Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs has lauded the announcement of UN's special envoy to Yemen on truce extension for two more months. The ministry stressed on Kuwait's support for the UN's efforts in reaching a permanent political solution for the Yemeni crisis, which reflects on the Yemen's people and its stability.

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwait-foreign-ministry-praises-yemens-truce/>

### **Kuwait's Crown Prince praises historic ties with Jordan**

Kuwait Times, 7 June 2022

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed on the historic bilateral ties between Kuwait and Jordan. This came during His Highness the Crown Prince's reception of the Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah at Bayan Palace on the occasion of his official visit to the country. Moreover, His Highness the Crown Prince praised the important role played by Jordan to enhance stability in the region and its valued efforts in supporting the Arab causes.

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwaits-crown-prince-praises-historic-ties-with-jordan/>

### **Kuwait concerned over rising tensions on Korean Peninsula**

Kuwait Times, 9 June 2022

Kuwait reiterated Thursday that it is following with great concern the rise in tensions on the Korean Peninsula and the danger of military escalation following the launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles by North Korea, saying that it is one of the oldest and most serious issues. He reiterated Kuwait's principled and solid stance on non-proliferation issues, which is to condemn the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction anywhere, anytime and by any party, as a grave violation of international law.

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwait-concerned-over-rising-tensions-on-korean-peninsula/>

### **Kuwaiti, British officials discuss regional, int'l issues**

Kuwait Times, 11 June 2022

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Majdi Al-Dhefeeri met British Minister of State for Europe and North America James Cleverly on Thursday to discuss a range of regional and international issues of common concern. The meeting, held at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, dealt with the historical cooperation and exemplary relationship that kept growing steadily over the past 123 years, according to a statement from Kuwait Embassy in London.

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwaiti-british-officials-discuss-regional-intl-issues/>

## LEBANON

### Lebanon reportedly ready to back down on some claims in maritime dispute with Israel

Times of Israel, 14 June 2022

Lebanon is reportedly prepared to offer a compromise in its maritime border dispute with Israel under which it will move the position it currently claims is the boundary between the two countries northward, to a point where it won't include an Israeli natural gas field. President Michel Aoun will pitch the proposal to visiting US energy envoy Amos Hochstein, who is in Beirut to try to resolve the issue, according to a Reuters report Monday that cited three officials with knowledge of the Lebanese government's strategy.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lebanon-reportedly-ready-to-back-down-on-some-claims-in-maritime-dispute-with-israel/>

### Lebanese President affirms deep ties with Kuwait

Kuwait Times, 15 June 2022

Lebanese President Michel Aoun affirmed on Tuesday the deep bilateral ties between his country and Kuwait. This came in a statement by the Lebanese President during his reception of Kuwait's Ambassador to Lebanon Abdulaal Al-Qenae in the occasion of his tenure ending after 15 long years. He granted the Ambassador the National Cedar Medal of the rank of Senior Officer. The Lebanese Presidency expressed its appreciation to the Kuwaiti officials' permanent support for Lebanon, especially in the difficult circumstances the Lebanese people went through.

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/lebanese-president-affirms-deep-ties-with-kuwait/>

## OMAN

### Oman, European Union discuss bilateral relations

Times of Oman, 6 June 2022

A third round of political consultations was held here on Monday between the Foreign Ministry and the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union (EU). The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Diplomatic Affairs Undersecretary and Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary General and Political Director of the EEAS. The discussions covered the bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the EU and means of developing them to serve the joint interests of the two sides.

<https://cdn.timesofoman.com/article/11763-3-oman-european-union-discuss-bilateral-relations>

### Deputy PM for Defence Affairs meets Ambassador of Korea

Times of Oman, 8 June 2022

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received Kiejoo Kim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman, in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Wednesday. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on several matters of common interest.

<https://cdn.timesofoman.com/article/11771-2-deputy-pm-for-defence-affairs-meets-ambassador-of-korea>

### Deputy PM for Defence Affairs receives British Senior Defence Adviser

Times of Oman, 15 June 2022

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence



Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison today, Maj. Gen Joi Martin Simpson, Senior Defence Adviser of the United Kingdom (UK) for the Middle East Affairs. The two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries and means of enhancing them. They also discussed several matters of common interest.

<https://cdn-4.timesofoman.com/article/117971-deputy-pm-for-defence-affairs-receives-british-senior-defence-adviser>

## PALESTINE

### **Hamas: Normalization Emboldens Zionists to Continue Aggression**

Kayhan, 13 June 2022

The Zionist regime is exploiting normalization deals with Arab states to press ahead with its attacks on Syria and assassinate Iranian scientists and military forces, a high-ranking official with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas says. Khalil al-Hayya, deputy chief of the Hamas political bureau in the Gaza Strip, made the remarks in an interview with the Arabic-language and Palestinian television channel al-Aqsa TV. Hayya strongly condemned the latest Zionist missile attack on the Damascus International Airport, stressing the need for preserving the unity of the Syrian nation as well as the Arab country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He stated that the occupying regime keeps attacking Syria because unlike some Arab states, it has not normalized ties with the occupying regime.

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/103614/hamas-normalization-emboldens-zionists-to-continue-aggression>

## QATAR

### **Qatar's strong relations with African continent highlighted**

Gulf Times, 2 June 2022

Qatar has distinguished and excellent relations with Africa as an outcome of the ongoing fruitful and positive co-operation between Qatar and the African continent, ambassador Abdulla bin Hassan al-Jaber, director of the African Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has stressed. Al-Jaber made the observation while addressing a large gathering of representatives of African and other diplomatic missions in Qatar at the Diplomatic Club Wednesday evening to mark the 59th Africa Day.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/718347/Qatar-s-strong-relations-with-African-continent-highlighted>

### **Asst FM, top EU official review bilateral relations**

Gulf Times, 3 June 2022

HE Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater met in Brussels with the Director General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs Monique Pariat. During the meeting, bilateral cooperation relations between Qatar and the European Union were reviewed, especially in the field of humanitarian aid, the file of exempting Qatari citizens from the Schengen visa. The latest developments in Afghanistan and the humanitarian situation in Ukraine were also discussed.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/718432/Asst-FM-top-EU-official-review-bilateral-relations>

### **FM meets US secretary of state**

Gulf Times, 7 June 2022

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met on Monday with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during his current visit to Washington, DC. During the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the US State Department, they reviewed bilateral co-operation, especially the annual strategic dialogue in its fifth session, developments in Afghanistan, developments in the nuclear agreement talks with Iran, and the repercussions of the war in Ukraine, besides regional and international issues of common interest.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/718762/FM-meets-US-secretary-of-state>

### **Defence minister visits BMC factory in Turkey**

Gulf Times, 9 June 2022

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah visited the BMC factory, specialised in the manufacturing of civil and military vehicles, in the Turkish city of Izmir. It is worth noting that the BMC factory is one of the leading factories in the field of civilian and military machinery manufacturing in Turkey.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/718919/Defence-minister-visits-BMC-factory-in-Turkey>

### **Defence minister attends EFES 2022 final in Turkey**

Gulf Times, 9 June 2022

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin

Mohamed al-Attiyah witnessed the conclusion of EFES 2022 exercise hosted by the Turkish Armed Forces at Izmir in the west of Turkey. He witnessed the activities of the final distinguished observer day, which included a number of exercises, including air attack operations, amphibious operations, special forces operations, air supply support, military search and rescue operations, and medical evacuations.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/718922/Defence-minister-attends-EFES-2022-final-in-Turkey>

### **Qatari-Swedish relations are good and growing steadily: Swedish envoy**

The Peninsular Qatar, 9 June 2022

HE State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Magnus Nilsson, described the Qatari-Swedish relations as good, and they are growing steadily. In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the side-lines of his visit to Doha, His Excellency indicated that the second round of political consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Sweden has achieved remarkable progress, expressing his hope that the strong cooperation between the two countries will continue.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/09/06/2022/qatari-swedish-relations-are-good-and-growing-steadily-swedish-envoy>

### **Amir and Somali President discuss bilateral relations**

The Peninsular Qatar, 9 June 2022

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held yesterday a telephone conversation with President of the Federal Republic of Somalia H E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. During the call, they discussed relations between the two brotherly

countries and ways of enhancing them, in addition to reviewing the latest developments in the situation in Somalia.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/09/06/2022/amir-and-somali-president-discuss-bilateral-relations>

### **Qatar, Singapore review military ties**

Gulf Times, 11 June 2022

Singapore's President Halimah Yacob has received HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah at the Istana Presidential Palace in Singapore. During the meeting, they reviewed the bilateral military relations, and ways to enhance them. The meeting was attended by Qatar's ambassador to Singapore Saud bin Jassim al-Jufairi.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/719004/Qatar-Singapore-review-military-ties>

### **Amir meets Armenian Prime Minister**

Gulf Times, 13 June 2022

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met on Monday morning at his Amiri Diwan office with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, and the accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of developing and strengthening them in various fields, in addition to discussing regional and international issues of common interest.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/719113/Amir-meets-Armenian-Prime-Minister>

### **Chief of Staff meets US Commander of Naval Forces Central Command**

Gulf Times, 14 June 2022

HE Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel Al Nabit met on Tuesday with Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command Vice Admiral Brad Cooper. During the meeting, they reviewed the bilateral military relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing and developing them.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/719178/Chief-of-Staff-meets-US-Commander-of-Naval-Forces->

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Saudi Arabia welcomes IAEA's resolution on Iran**

Arab News, 9 June 2022

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors' resolution stressing that Iran must comply with its obligations under the safeguards agreement, and the necessity to cooperate with the agency to resolve all outstanding nuclear issues, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2099826/saudi-arabia>

### **Saudi Arabia tells Iran to resolve all outstanding nuclear issues**

Saudi Gazette, 09 June 2022

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors' resolution stressing that Iran must comply with its obligations under the safeguards agreement, and the necessity to cooperate with the agency to resolve all outstanding nuclear issues. Saudi Arabia

called on Iran to cooperate with the IAEA and resolve outstanding issues without delay, hoping that member states in the board of governors will fully support the agency and its director general.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/621567/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Arabia-tells-Iran-to-resolve-all-outstanding-nuclear-issues>

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

### Foreign Ministry: Turkish regime's aggressive threats pose violation of international law, sovereignty and safety of Syrian territories

Sana, 6 June 2022

Syria is following up on the aggressive statements by the Turkish regime on establishing the so-called "safe zone in northern Syria" and the repeated attacks on the Syrian territory, which claimed the souls of numerous innocent citizens, an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said.

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=273614>

### Syria, Russia carry out joint exercise after alleged Israeli airstrikes

Times of Israel, 8 June 2022

The air forces of Russia and Syria conducted a joint drill over the war-torn country Tuesday, the first since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began more than three months ago, Syria's Defense Ministry said. The ministry said two Russian SU-35 fighter jets and six Syrian MiG-23 and MiG-29 aircraft simulated facing "hostile" warplanes and drones. Syrian pilots dealt with them with cover and support from the Russian warplanes, it said. "All illusive targets were monitored and completely destroyed while aerial targets were hit at

night for the first time," the Syrian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-russia-carry-out-joint-exercise-after-alleged-israeli-air-strikes/>

### Syria, Russia discuss means to boost maritime cooperation

Sana, 15 June 2022

Participants in the meeting held on Wednesday between the Syrian and Russian sides at the General Directorate of Ports in Lattakia discussed ways to enhance maritime cooperation between the two countries, on the side-lines of the 4th Syrian-Russian joint meeting to follow up on the international conference on the return of Syrian refugees and displaced currently being held in Damascus.

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=274815>

## TURKEY

### Finland hints at buying Turkish drones in charm offensive amid NATO row

Daily Sabah, June 2, 2022

In what is seen as an effort to persuade Ankara to back its NATO application, Finland on Wednesday suggested it may be interested in buying Turkish drones. Along with Sweden, Finland applied to join NATO last month in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but they have faced resistance from Turkey. Ankara is accusing them of being safe havens for terrorists, including members of the YPG/PKK terrorist group, and wants them to scrap arms export bans.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/finland-hints-at-buying-turkish-drones-in-charm-offensive-amid-nato-row>

### **Türkiye reiterates NATO members should work in harmony to combat terrorism**

Yenisafak, June 3, 2022

NATO members should work in harmony to combat terrorism, Türkiye's communications director said on Thursday. Türkiye wants to see concrete and permanent steps to be taken to prevent activities of terrorist groups which threaten its statehood and citizens, Fahrettin Altun said in the interview with the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat. On the NATO bids of Finland and Sweden, he said: "It is our most fundamental right to expect the countries that we would pledge to assist in times of war not to support or tolerate organizations targeting our nationals." Turkish people no longer value words, but deeds, he said.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkey-reiterates-nato-members-should-work-in-harmony-to-combat-terrorism-3621708>

### **Türkiye taking steps for security zone on border, says Erdogan**

Yenisafak, June 4, 2022

Türkiye is taking steps to establish a 30-kilometer (18.7 miles) security zone south of its border with Syria against the threat posed by the PKK/YPG terror group, the country's president said on Saturday. Erdogan said that with the operations Türkiye has carried out in recent years in northern Syria and Iraq, the country "shattered the terror corridor that is being attempted to be created on our southern border."

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkey-taking-steps-for-security-zone-on-border-says-erdogan-3621810>

### **Turkey starts mass production of laser-guided munition for its drones**

Daily Sabah, June 5, 2022

Turkey has started to mass-produce its latest miniature munition developed for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), an official said Saturday. Developed by TÜBİTAK Defense Industries Research and Development Institute (SAGE), the laser-guided munition Bozok has undergone multiple successful fire tests. Its firing tests saw it being integrated into the Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), developed by drone magnate Bayraktar.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-starts-mass-production-of-laser-guided-munition-for-its-drones>

### **Turkey's new kamikaze UAV Kargı debuts in Aegean drill**

Daily Sabah, 6 June 2022

The new Kargı kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the Turkish defense industry was showcased for the first time as part of the EFES-2022 military drill. One of the largest planned exercises of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), the EFES-2022 field exercise is ongoing in the Seferihisar district of western Izmir with the participation of friendly and allied country elements. The Kargı project was initiated by Lentatek with the support of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-new-kamikaze-uav-kargi-debuts-in-aegean-drill>

### **Turkish defense industry eyes new air-to-air missiles for Akıncı UCAV**

Daily Sabah, 7 June 2022

The Defense Industries Research and Development Institute (SAGE) of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) is working with the team that developed Turkey's state-of-the-art unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Akıncı for air-to-air missiles.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-industry-eyes-new-air-to-air-missiles-for-akinci-ucav>

### **'Greece's illegal militarization of Aegean islands could put their sovereignty in question'**

Yenisafak, 7 June 2022

Greece's militarization of islands in the eastern Aegean Sea is a violation of longstanding international treaties, and the continuation of this violation calls the islands' sovereignty into question, Türkiye's top diplomat said Tuesday. "The sovereignty of the islands will be questioned if (Greece) does not end its violation," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told a joint news conference in the Turkish capital Ankara alongside his North Macedonian counterpart Bujar Osmani.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/greece-illegal-militarization-of-aegean-islands-could-put-their-sovereignty-in-question-3621964>

### **Turkey has legitimate security concerns: NATO chief Stoltenberg**

Daily Sabah, 12 June 2022

Security concerns raised by Turkey in its opposition to Finnish and Swedish NATO

membership applications are legitimate, the Western military alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in Finland on Sunday. Stoltenberg, visiting Finland's President Sauli Niinisto, said it was important to note that no other NATO ally had suffered more terrorist attacks than Turkey, and that therefore its concerns needed to be taken seriously. He also pointed to its strategic geographic location with neighbours like Iraq and Syria.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-has-legitimate-security-concerns-nato-chief-stoltenberg>

### **Akar, Blazczak discuss Turkey-Poland defense ties**

Daily Sabah, 13 June 2022

Defense Minister Hulusi Akar discussed bilateral and regional issues with his Polish counterpart Mariusz Blazczak in a phone call on Monday. The two ministers touched upon bilateral and regional defense and security issues, as well as cooperation in the defense industry sector, Demirören News Agency (DHA) reported. Poland's purchase of Turkish armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) earlier in 2021 marked the first time a NATO or European Union member state acquired drones from Turkey.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/akar-blazczak-discuss-turkey-poland-defense-ties>

### **Türkiye's satellites in space to increase to 10, says Erdogan**

Yenisafak, 14 June 2022

With the launching of the national surveillance satellite İMECE next January and Türksat 6A in mid-2023, the number of Türkiye's satellites in space will reach 10, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on

Tuesday. Speaking at the Turksat 5B Satellite Commissioning Ceremony in the capital Ankara, Erdogan provided information about the latest developments in the country's space activities... Turksat 5B satellite will serve for 30 years."

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkey-satellites-in-space-to-increase-to-10-says-erdogan-3622394>

### **Baykar becomes top exporter in Turkey's defense, aerospace sector**

Daily Sabah, 15 June 2022

Turkish drone magnate Baykar outperformed major companies in the defense and aerospace industry in terms of sales abroad last year, becoming the export champion of the sector, according to official data. The Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM) recently announced the top exporters in the 27 sectors, revealing that the export titan of the defense and aerospace industry has changed after many years.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/baykar-becomes-top-exporter-in-turkeys-defense-aerospace-sector>

### **NATO urges Turkey, Greece to resolve disagreements over Aegean**

Daily Sabah, 15 June 2022

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday urged Turkey and Greece to resolve their disagreements over the Aegean Sea, where the two are at loggerheads over islands and airspace. "Diverse views and debate are an essential part of our democracies," the head of the trans-Atlantic military alliance told Greek news agency ANA. But, he said, "we urge Greece and Turkey to solve their

differences in the Aegean in a spirit of trust and Allied solidarity."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/nato-urges-turkey-greece-to-resolve-disagreements-over-aegean>

### **Why Athens' role as a US 'proxy' directly threatens Türkiye**

Yenisafak, 15 June 2022

...Their suggestion that in order for Türkiye to overcome the crisis with Greece, to solve the Sweden-Finland issue is to maintain even closer ties with the U.S. and the EU! A "proxy" signifies using one country as a "tool" to harm another country. In this respect, Greece, Alexandroupoli, is a threat. Not because they store weapons there, but because the U.S. stands between Greece and Türkiye. "Everything about them is a lie. The West cannot be trusted. Their policies cannot be trusted. They have been wasting our time even in the EU since 1963. They are dishonest." I took this quote from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, because it is his most recent description of the West (June 6).

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/columns/nedret-ersanel/why-athens-role-as-a-us-proxy-directly-threatens-turkey-3622431>

## **UAE**

### **MENA Project Tracker: Work on UAE's Barakah nuclear plant 97% complete**

Arab News, 06 June 2022

Work on the UAE's Barakah Nuclear Plant is almost complete. In addition, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman Foundation has appointed Australia's Conrad Gargett for its headquarters project. Also, UAE's Masdar and Egypt's Infinity Energy are on track to acquire a majority

stake in Lekela Power. Meanwhile, the Kuwait Oil Co is in talks with the Central Agency for Public Tenders to restart the second phase of price negotiations for a large contract that has already been delayed multiple times.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2097776/business-economy>

### **Biden will see a new Middle East when he visits next month**

Arab News, 15 June 2022

...this is the facade of a new Middle East: Trade-centric, pro-diplomacy, less confrontational and more explorative of committed partners, as the US is taking steps back and projecting a leadership crisis in the region... the new Middle East is cementing a pathway in coordination with new and old partners and other major global players, including Washington. In what looks almost like a post-American world, the real challenge in the international relations context — at least in the Middle East — revolves around trustworthiness.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2104226>

## **YEMEN**

### **Ansarullah: Yemen's Home-Grown Ballistic Missiles Can Hit U.S.-Made Systems**

Kayhan, 11 June 2022

The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah his resistance Abdul-Malik al-Houthi says his country now has home-grown ballistic missiles that can defeat the U.S.-made missile systems owned by the Saudi-led coalition, al-Masirah TV reported. In January, Yemeni forces launched several rounds of missile and drone attacks against targets in the United Arab Emirates (UAE),

which is more than 2,000 km away from Yemen. The attacks prompted fears that the resistance movement owns more powerful missiles that can reach farther targets.

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/103473>

### **Yemen truce holding, but full measures still not in place**

Saudi Gazette, 15 June 2022

The “unprecedented” truce in Yemen has so far led to a reduction in fighting and other positive developments, but action is needed on its full implementation and to address rising humanitarian needs and insecurity, the UN Security Council heard on Tuesday.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/621804/World/Mena/Yemen-truce-holding-but-full-measures-still-not-in-place>



# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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