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IRAN

Top Commander Underlines Iran's Readiness to Expand Military Cooperation with Muslim States

Fars News Agency, March 1, 2022

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri in separate messages to his counterparts in the Islamic states stressed Iran's readiness to develop mutual cooperation in military and defense fields. In separate congratulatory messages to his counterparts on the occasion of Eid al-Mab'ath, the day Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was chosen as God's messenger, General Baqeri announced that that Iran is ready to expand military and defense cooperation with Islamic states. He expressed the hope that abiding by the teachings of Islam as well as close rapport, unity, and fraternity among the Muslim states would contribute to peace, affection, friendship and all other values that the world needs today.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001210000412/Top-Commander-Underlines-Iran's-Readiness-Expand-Military-Cooperation-with-Muslim-States>

Iranian Air Force Commander in Pakistan to Bolster Cooperation

Fars News Agency, March 2, 2022

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Force Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi in meetings with the high-ranking Pakistani military officials underlined his country's willingness to further expand cooperation with the neighboring state's Air Force. General Vahedi made the remarks in a meeting with Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan Air Force Zaheer Ahmad Babar on Tuesday during the third day of his official visit to Pakistan. Air forces of Iran and Pakistan have made good progress in various areas, he stressed. During the meeting, Pakistan Air Force commander said that his

country is determined to expand and broaden cooperation with Iran in the relevant field. It is hoped that more solidarity between Iran and Pakistan cooperation will develop cooperation between the two countries especially in military and air fields, he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001211000629/Iranian-Air-Force-Commander-in-Pakistan-Bolster-Cooperation>

IAEA's Grossi Due in Tehran on Saturday

Fars News Agency, March 3, 2022

Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi is due to visit Tehran on Saturday to reportedly discuss the outstanding safeguards issues between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran. Nournews, a news website affiliated to Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), reported on Thursday that the safeguards issues between Iran and the IAEA have turned into one of the main factors slowing down the progress of the Vienna talks between Tehran and the G4+1 states on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). It added that Grossi's visit could help remove "an important obstacle" in the way of concluding an agreement in Vienna in case the IAEA chief will be able to facilitate the creation of a roadmap to resolve the outstanding issues. The report said that the UN nuclear agency's chief would hold talks with Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami, following intensive negotiations between officials of the IAEA and AEOI and general agreements reached in recent weeks.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001212000447/IAEA's-Grossi-De-in-Tehran-on-Saturday>

Iran says Vienna talks will continue until a good deal is reached

Tehran Times, March 5, 2022

In a Twitter message, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh stressed that early positive news will not substitute a good deal in the current Vienna talks aimed at removal of illegal sanctions.

“Vienna Talks still continue. Premature good news does not substitute good agreement,” Khatibzadeh tweeted on Thursday. “Nobody can say the deal is done, until all the outstanding remaining issues are resolved. Extra efforts needed. Everybody is now focused on the final critical steps,” he added.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47072/0/Iran-says-Vienna-talks-will-continue-until-a-good-deal-is-reached>

IRGC's Aerospace Force Unveils New Missile, Drone Bases

Fars News Agency, March 5, 2022

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force unveiled two missile and drone bases in the presence of IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami. The tunnel bases, built in the heart of high mountains, are home to surface-to-surface missile systems with advanced equipment, as well as offensive drones which are able to penetrate the enemy's radar and defense network systems. UAVs with a range of 2,000 kilometers, dual-missile launchers and Multiple-UAV launchers are present at these bases. The unveiled weapons and military equipment included various types of surface-to-air missiles, helicopter carriers, UAVs with various specifications and coordinates to suit the defense requirements, as well as artillery and mortars' long-range smart ammunition with precision-striking power.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001214000941/IRGC's-Aerspace-Frce-Unveils-New-Missile-Drne-Bases>

AEOI Chief Calls for IAEA's Non-Political Cooperation with Iran

Fars News Agency, March 5, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami called for non-political cooperation from the International Atomic Energy Agency after his meeting with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi in Tehran. Eslami made the remarks on Saturday in a joint news conference with Grossi who arrived earlier in the day for his third visit under the new Iranian administration. "I have been in regular contacts with his Iranian counterpart, but the two sides did have a number of important matters that had not been resolved for a long time and, hence, they had now decided to try a practical, pragmatic approach to overcome them," the AEOI chief said. "Political influence and lobbying should not impact the decisions of the IAEA. Iran and the IAEA should follow their issues in a completely professional way and behave within the framework of expertise," Eslami said. "There is no room for any political action."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001214000701/AEOI-Chief-Calls-fr-IAEA's-Nn-Pliiical-Cperain-wih-Iran>

Grossi: Iran-IAEA Ties Moving towards Better Atmosphere

Fars News Agency, March 6, 2022

Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said that relations between Tehran and the IAEA are moving towards a better atmosphere. “We are moving into a more cooperative relationship, things are moving toward a better atmosphere,” he said at the

presser that was held at the Vienna International Airport following his return from Tehran. The IAEA chief added that when in Tehran, he had held “very good talks” with the Iranian foreign minister.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001215000398/Grssi-Iran-IAEA-Ties-Moving-towards-Beer-Amsphere>

UN N. Watchdog Removes Site from List of Remaining Issues with Iran

Fars News Agency, March 7, 2022

The International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEA) removed one of the locations in Iran which was in the list of remaining issues, a senior diplomat said. Iran's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based International Organizations Mohammad Reza Qae'bi said on Sunday that a new report by the IAEA has removed one of the Iranian locations under question from the list of remaining issues. The new report, issued by IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi, is due to be read out in a seasonal meeting of the agency's Board of Governors which will begin on Monday.

Qae'bi said that the report also welcomes a joint statement on Saturday by Grossi and Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001216000492/UN-N-Wachdog-Removes-Site-from-List-of-Remaining-Issues-with-Iran>

IRGC Unveils New Economical Drone with Capability to Carry Explosives

Fars News Agency, March 7, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) unveiled a new cost-effective drone named Me'raj 504 with the capability to carry explosives to attack the enemy targets. The new kamikaze drone which is specialized in attacking enemy's defense

systems has been designed and produced by the IRGC's Ground Force and is capable of carrying a 2.5kg explosive payload over 100 kilometers. It uses a reciprocating engine for propulsion. The new drone is an upgrade of the IRGC's former Me'raj 214 UAV, which was also used to target enemy's air defense systems.

The new model has greatly decreased the design and manufacturing cost of this line of drones, which are now being operated by the IRGC's Ground Force.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001216000408/IRGC-Unveils-New-Economical-Drone-with-Capability-to-Carry-Explosives>

Iran launches second military satellite into space

Tehran Times, March 8, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has successfully put a second military satellite, called Noor 2, into orbit, Tasnim said on Tuesday. Noor 2 is orbiting at an altitude of 500 kilometers (311 miles). The first military satellite, launched by the Islamic Republic in April 2020, placed the Noor, or "light" in Persian, at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Putting the second satellite in space would be a major advance for Iran's military. The satellite was launched into space upon the three-stage Qased carrier from the Shahroud space port, Tasnim said.

The same type of rockets, which use a combination of liquid and solid fuels, carried the first military satellite. The U.S. military says the same long-range ballistic technology used to put satellites into orbit could also allow Tehran to launch longer-range weapons, according to Reuters.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/470854/Iran-launches-second-military-satellite-into-space>

Russia envoy to Iran deplores 'misunderstandings' over Lavrov's demand for guarantees

Tehran Times, March 8, 2022

Russian Ambassador to Iran Levon Dzhagaryan has offered explanations over controversial remarks by Russia's top diplomat in which he appeared linking talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal to developments in Ukraine. "There has been a misunderstanding," Dzhagaryan said. Lavrov has said the sanctions the West imposed on Russia over Ukraine will create a problem for the Iran nuclear deal and demanded written guarantees from the U.S. that these sanctions won't impede Russia-Iran cooperation in case the JCPOA is revived. "We want an answer - a very clear answer - we need a guarantee that these sanctions will not in any way touch the regime of trade-economic and investment relations which is laid down in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," the Russian foreign minister said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47084/1/Russia-envoy-to-Iran-deplores-misunderstandings-over-Lavrov-s>

Iran, Uzbekistan sign joint security cooperation document

Tehran Times, March 9, 2022

Top security officials of Iran and Uzbekistan have signed a joint document for security cooperation. The document was signed by Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and his Uzbek counterpart Viktor Makhmudov. The document is intended to lay the ground for the formation of a joint security commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan, according to Fars News. It also provides areas for joint cooperation between Tehran and Tashkent in the fight

against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and other transnational organized crime. Within the framework of this document, a wide range of intelligence and security cooperation has been initiated between the two countries, and meetings of the Joint Security Commission will be held annually to evaluate the results of cooperation in Tehran and Tashkent.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47088/7/Iran-Uzbekistan-sign-joint-security-cooperation-document>

Iran Warns of Threat of Israeli Atomic Program

Fars News Agency, March 10, 2022

Iran's acting Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohammad Reza Qae'bi warned that Israel's secret nuclear program is a threat to the peace and security in the region. Qae'bi made the remarks in response to anti-Iran comments made by the Israeli representative at a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors. He said Israel has committed all kinds of international crimes since its inception. "The international community has repeatedly underlined, through numerous resolutions and decisions, the necessity of Israel joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and placing all of its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency's comprehensive safeguards," Qae'bi said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001219000349/Iran-Warns-f-Threa-f-Israeli-Amic-Prgram>

IRGC Claims Responsibility for Missile Attack against Israel's "Strategic Center"

Fars News Agency, March 13, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement on Sunday claimed responsibility for a missile attack against

Israel's "strategic center for conspiracy and evil", warning Tel Aviv that any wrong move will not go unanswered. The IRGC in its statement issued a stern warning to Israel following a retaliatory missile strike on the "strategic center of Zionist conspiracy and evil" in the Northern Iraqi Kurdistan city of Erbil, stressing that the operation was in response to an Israeli airstrike on the Syrian capital of Damascus last Monday, in which two IRGC officers were martyred. "Following the recent crimes of the fake Zionist regime and the previous announcement that the crimes and evils of this infamous regime will not go unanswered, the strategic center for conspiracy and evil of the Zionists was targeted by powerful and pinpoint missiles of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps," it said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001222000660/IRGC-Claims-Responsibility-fr-Missile-Aack-agains-Israel%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%9CSraegic>

Israeli center hit with Iranian ballistic missiles

Tehran Times, March 13, 2022

At least a dozen ballistic missiles landed inside a vast compound that Iran says is used by the Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency. The missiles hit the compound early Sunday morning, wrecking damage to a set of buildings under construction and reportedly killing a number of agents. The Beirut-based news television Al-Mayadeen said some agents were killed and injured in the attack. Citing sources familiar with the matter, the news channel said the attack was carried out with more than 10 precision-guided ballistic missiles that succeeded in targeting an Israeli intelligence and security headquarters in the vicinity of Erbil. The sources confirmed that the attack led to the

destruction of the Mossad headquarters on the Masif road on the outskirts of Erbil.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/471010/Israeli-center-hit-with-Iranian-ballistic-missiles>

IRGC Forces Capture Members of Sabotage Group at Fordow

Fars News Agency, March 15, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Intelligence and Security Organization forces arrested members of a sabotage team which plotted acts against Fordow nuclear facility in Central Iran. The IRGC security forces managed to prevent a major act of sabotage at the Iranian nuclear facility in the Northeastern part of Qom province, as the network was attempting to carry out its act before the Persian New Year holiday that starts on March 20. Officers of the Israeli spy agency, Mossad, attempted to get close to one of staff members of the IR6 unit of the Fordow facility. To that aim, the officers first attracted the trust of one of the neighbors of that person by providing the neighbor with money and devices like a laptop and a cell phone.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001224000588/IRGC-Frces-Capre-Members-f-Sabage-Grp-a-Frdw>

IRGC Sets Up Nuclear-Security And Protection Command Center

Fars News Agency, March 15, 2022

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) set up a command center tasked with protecting security of the country's nuclear facilities. The existence of the newly-formed center was officially confirmed for the first time in a report that announced the arrest of a team planning sabotage acts at the Fordow Nuclear Facility. The team, appointed by the Israeli

spy agency Mossad, was arrested by the IRGC's Intelligence Organization and Nuclear Command Center. Earlier this year following several acts of sabotage at Iran's nuclear facilities, Head of the Passive Defense Organization Brigadier General Gholamreza Jalali announced that a command center for nuclear defense and security would be formed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001224001077/IRGC-Ses-Up-Nclear-Secriy-And-Precin-Cmmand-Cener>

Lavrov says Russia has received U.S. guarantees over JCPOA

Tehran Times, March 15, 2022

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday that Moscow has received written guarantees from Washington that Western sanctions on Russia over Ukraine will not affect cooperation with Iran within the framework of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Lavrov made the announcement as he hosted his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, for talks in Moscow. According to Al Jazeera, the remarks by Lavrov could potentially signal that Russia's demand that the sanctions would not impede its future dealings with Iran has been fulfilled. Moscow made the demand last week amid reports of an imminent agreement after more than 11 months of negotiations aimed at reviving the JCPOA

IRAQ

France: Direction to develop relations with Iraq in the fields of armament and equipment

Iraqi News Agency, March 3, 2022

The French embassy in Baghdad confirmed today, Thursday, the trend to develop

relations with Iraq in the fields of armament and equipment, while it clarified Baghdad's purchases from Paris in the military field. The armament attache at the embassy, Fouad al-Khatib, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "Iraqi-French cooperation, specifically within the political framework, is very important these days, as French President Emmanuel Macron stressed on more than one occasion the need to cooperate with Iraq in various fields, whether in Strengthening the sovereignty of the country and strengthening its capabilities and institutions, as well as with regard to services provided to Iraqis. With regard to military cooperation, he stressed that "Iraq previously used French equipment such as Mirage F1 aircraft, as well as radars and the Laurent air defense system.". He continued, "Now, in the presence of all French industrialists and companies in Iraq, we are up to the responsibility in rebuilding this joint relationship in the field of defense between Iraq and France," noting that "the French equipment is expensive, but it is excellent and of high quality.".

<https://ina.iq/eng/17916-france-direction-to-develop-relations-with-iraq-in-the-fields-of-armament-and-equipment.html>

Defense Minister: The Security Exhibition will allow Military industry Corporation to conclude contracts

Iraqi News Agency, March 6, 2022

Defense Minister Jumaa Inad clarified Sunday the importance of the Security and Defense Exhibition in developing armaments capabilities, while noting that the exhibition will open the door for the Military industry Corporation to conclude contracts and agreements. Inad told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The benefit of holding the Security and Defense Exhibition in its tenth session is to see the

productions of countries through the companies participating in the exhibition."

<https://ina.iq/eng/17980-defense-minister-the-security-exhibition-will-allow-military-industry-corporation-to-conclude-contracts.html>

US working to help Iraq get missile defense capabilities

The Jerusalem Post, March 14, 2022

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Sunday condemned Iran's ballistic missile attack on Iraq's northern Kurdish regional capital of Erbil, and said Washington was working to help Iraq get missile defense capabilities to defend itself. "We are in consultation with the Iraqi government and the government in Iraqi Kurdistan, in part to help them get the missile defense capabilities to be able to defend themselves in their cities," Sullivan said. Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed responsibility for a dozen ballistic missiles that struck Iraq's northern Kurdish regional capital of Erbil in the early hours of Sunday, Iran's state media reported.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701198>

ISRAEL

Gantz says Iran nuclear deal could be signed within days

The Times of Israel, March 2, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz vowed Wednesday that Israel will never give up on making sure Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons, as a deal between Tehran and world powers seemed imminent. "In the coming weeks, perhaps even in the coming days, a nuclear agreement may be signed between [world] powers and Iran," Gantz said during a graduation ceremony for navy officers in the Haifa bay area. "Whether that happens or not, Israel will continue to do whatever it takes to prevent Iran from

becoming an existential threat and possessing nuclear capability," he said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-says-iran-nuclear-deal-could-be-signed-within-days/>

The IDF is studying the war in Ukraine

The Jerusalem Post, March 2, 2022

The Israel Defense Forces have set up teams to track and learn from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned. According to Walla News, the teams will gather information and intelligence for the Israeli military in the fields of combat methods and doctrine, ground maneuvers, logistics, air defense, anti-tank, cyber and electronic warfare, psychological warfare and more. As the war in Ukraine enters its second week, thousands of videos are being posted on social media, making it possible for the Israeli military to gather mounds of critical intelligence that could help troops in future wars.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-699130>

IDF says intercepted 2 Iranian drones en route to Israel in 2021

Israel Hayom, March 7, 2022

The Israeli Air Force intercepted two drones carrying military equipment and launched from Iran toward the Gaza Strip. The incident, which took place last year, has only now been cleared for publication. The drones that were launched were aimed at testing out a new and unexpected route. Their flight also appears to have been an exploratory mission as the number of weapons they were carrying at the time was negligible. Flying at low altitudes, the drones were meant to leave the weapons they were carrying in Gaza. From there, they were apparently meant to fly back to

Iran. Fighter jets intercepted the drones before they were able to cross into Israeli territory.

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/03/07/idf-intercepted-2-iranian-drones-en-route-to-israel/>

Israel, Emirates coordinate positions against Iran nuke talks

Al-Monitor, March 15, 2022

While it appears that the the Iran nuclear talks in Vienna may be back on track, the United Arab Emirates and Israel are reportedly pressuring the United States to provide them with security guarantees against Iran if a nuclear deal is reached. Bloomberg claimed yesterday that Jerusalem and Abu Dhabi have been in contact with Washington officials about formulating a defense plan for the region in case a new nuclear agreement is signed. The report explained that while each country spoke with Biden administration officials separately, their position was coordinated ahead of time. Israel and the Emirates fear that with renewed financial means, the Iranian leadership could resume its support of terror activities and proxy groups. Israel and the Emirates would reportedly like to see a defense plan that bolsters missile defenses and intelligence sharing.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/israel-emirates-coordinate-positions-against-iran-uke-talks#ixzz7ONlv5wKs>

Iran has 3,000 ballistic missiles, many that can reach Israel - US general

The Jerusalem Post, March 15, 2022

Iran has more than 3,000 ballistic missiles, many of which can reach the State of Israel, commander of the United States Central Command Gen. Kenneth McKenzie said on

Tuesday. "At a military level my concern is first of all that they do not have a nuclear weapon but I am also very concerned about the remarkable growth and efficiency of their ballistic missile program," McKenzie told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "They have over 3,000 missiles of various types, some of which can reach Tel Aviv," McKenzie said in response to a query by the senate committee. "None of them can reach Europe yet."

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-701383>

KUWAIT

Kuwait ranks 22nd in purchase of US weapons worldwide, 2nd last in Gulf

Arab Times, March 12, 2022

The 24/7 Wall Street website has published a list of 25 countries that purchase mostly American weapons. In this list, Kuwait was ranked 22nd position, and second last among the Gulf countries, reports Al-Rai daily. The website explained that Kuwait, during the period between 2010 and 2020, purchased weapons worth \$ 1.37 billion from the United States of America. The imports of arms from the USA constituted 75.4 percent of the total during the same period. In contrast, military spending in Kuwait amounted to \$ 6.94 billion in 2020, or 6.5 percent of GDP.

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/kuwait-ranks-22nd-in-purchase-of-us-weapons-worldwide-2nd-last-in-gulf/>

LEBANON

Hezbollah, Amal boycott the panel to study Lebanon, Israel border demarcation proposal

Ya Libnan, March 6, 2022

The Iranian backed Hezbollah militant group and its ally the Amal movement have

refused to take part in a panel formed by President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Najib Mikati with the aim of studying the written proposal that has been sent to Lebanon by U.S. sea border demarcation envoy Amos Hochstein, Lebanese media reported on Saturday. As a result of Hezbollah and Amal boycott, it was decided to limit the committee's membership to representatives of the Presidency, the Premiership and the ministries of foreign affairs, defense, energy and public works," the daily added.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/03/06/hezbollah-amal-boycott-the-panel-to-study-lebanon-israel-border-demarcation-proposal/>

SAUDI ARABIA

GAMI, Lockheed Martin join forces to localize missile defense system in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Gazette, March 7, 2022

The General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI) has announced on Monday in the World Defense Show, its approval of two localization projects: the first, for localizing the manufacture of missile interceptor launchers, and the second for producing the missile interceptor canisters locally. In collaboration with Lockheed Martin, these projects fall under the program for localization of the THAAD Weapon System. Such projects serve GAMI's strategy to bolster relations with its international partners from across the globe along the Kingdom's localization journey, with the ultimate target of localizing more than 50% of expenditure on defense equipment and services by the year 2030.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/617850/SAUDI-ARABIA/GAMI-Lockheed-Martin-join-forces-to-localize-missile-defense-system-in-Saudi-Arabia>

Ministry of Investment signs 12 MoUs at World Defense Show

Saudi Gazette, March 7, 2022

The Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA) has signed 12 Memoranda of Understanding with a range of defense industry leaders at the inaugural World Defense Show Monday. The Memoranda of Understanding will see global industry leaders collaborating with the Ministry to promote areas related to investing in the Saudi defense sector, building in-Kingdom capabilities, and including Saudi Arabia in the defense industry's global value chain. Among the signatories were L3Harris Technologies, the global aerospace and defense technology innovator, and Hanwha, the video surveillance company. During the signing ceremony, MISA and Raytheon Saudi Arabia jointly announced a global supply chain initiative that will seek to identify key components of Raytheon's Patriot air and missile defense system for manufacture in Saudi Arabia.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/617865/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Investment-signs-12-MoUs-at-World-Defense-Show>

SAMI secures SR7 billion for major future projects

Saudi Gazette, March 10, 2022

As part of its strategic efforts to expand its operations in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Public Investment Fund (PIF), signed three separate financing agreements with three Saudi banks for a total amount of nearly SR7 billion. This is the first deal of its kind in Saudi Arabia's defense industries sector and will contribute to the company's future projects related to defense industries localization, infrastructure development, acquisitions, and working capital financing.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/617970/SAUDI-ARABIA/SAMI-secures-SR7-billion-for-major-future-projects>

Saudi Arabia reveals formation of nuclear energy company

Saudi Gazette, March 11, 2022

Prince Abdullah Bin Khalid Bin Sultan, Saudi Arabia's governor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), revealed that the Kingdom has established the Saudi Nuclear Energy Holding Company (SNEHC). He said that the company will be able to participate in nuclear economic projects locally and internationally, in addition to operating and developing nuclear facilities for the production of energy and desalinated water, setting a strategy for developing human capital in the field of atomic energy, its cooperation with the International Institutes for Atomic Energy Research and its work on creating a national digital platform to build and attract human capabilities in the field of atomic energy.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/618044/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Arabia-reveals-formation-of-nuclear-energy-company>

EU adds Houthi militia to black list

Saudi Gazette, March 15, 2022

The European Union (EU) has added the Yemeni Houthi militia to the black list of the union, after Houthi militia, lately, carried out attacks that injured civilians and damaged infrastructure in Yemen. They also obstructed the delivery of humanitarian aid, applied sexual violence and oppression against women, recruited and used children, used random landmines, attacked commercial ships on the Red Sea with bombs and underwater mines. The union, under this step, decided to freeze the militia's assets and ban its finance, where this decision matches a previous resolution

issued by the UN Security Council on Feb. 28, 2022.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/618172/World/Europe/EU-adds-Houthi-militia-to-black-list>

TURKEY

Ukraine to receive more missiles, combat drones: Defense minister

Daily Sabah, March 2, 2022

Ukraine is set to receive Stinger and Javelin missiles from abroad, as well as another shipment of Turkish drones, the country's defense minister, Oleksii Reznikov, said on Wednesday. Turkey-made drones have been very efficient in Ukraine's battle against invading Russian forces, Kyiv's ambassador to Ankara, Vasyl Bodnar, said Sunday. Turkey has sold Kyiv several batches of drone magnate Baykar-developed Bayraktar TB2s, which it had in the past deployed against Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. Ankara and Kyiv earlier this last month agreed on a deal aimed at expanding drone production in Ukraine.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/ukraine-to-receive-more-missiles-combat-drones-defense-minister>

Turkey's amphibious assault ship Anadolu begins sea tests

Daily Sabah, March 2, 2022

Sea tests began for Turkey's multipurpose amphibious assault ship TCG Anadolu, according to an official from the shipyard that undertook the project Tuesday. Sedef Shipyard Defense Industry Projects Manager Selim Buldanoğlu said the construction of the ship, which is set to increase Turkey's amphibious operations capabilities, has been completed and that the sea tests have begun. Upon its addition into the inventory, it will inherit the title of the flagship of the Turkish navy. TCG

Anadolu is a landing helicopter dock (LHD) type vessel modeled on Spain's LHD Juan Carlos.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-amphibious-assault-ship-anadolu-begins-sea-tests>

Turkey debuts landmark combat drone Akıncı with upgraded engines

Daily Sabah March 3, 2022

Turkey's landmark combat drone Akıncı on Wednesday underwent a successful flight test with upgraded engines that make it the most advanced platform in its class. Equipped with two engines of 750 horsepower (hp) each, the Akıncı B unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) stayed in the air for an hour and 16 minutes after it took off from the training and test center of its developer Baykar in northwestern Tekirdağ's Çorlu district, its developer Baykar said. A total of 1,500 hp makes it "the world's most powerful and highest combat-capable unmanned combat aerial vehicle" in its class, Selçuk Bayraktar, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at the drone maker, said on Twitter.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-debuts-landmark-combat-drone-akinci-with-upgraded-engines>

TAI builds Turkey's 1st bird strike testing facility for aircraft

Daily Sabah, March 4, 2022

Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) continues to carry out projects that contribute to the country's aviation sector with the latest being a bird strike testing facility that will benefit domestic aviation projects. The company said in a statement Friday that the facility will now enable one of the tests required for the development and certification processes of aircraft to be conducted within the country. The test data

of the domestic aircraft will be kept in the country with TAI's testing facility. Aircraft to be tested on the facility include Hürjet, the advanced jet trainer and light attack aircraft and the National Combat Aircraft (TF-X MMU), a fifth-generation jet with similar features to Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II which was dubbed one of the most important projects in the Turkish aviation sector and will be unveiled for the first time on March 18, 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/tai-builds-turkeys-1st-bird-strike-testing-facility-for-aircraft>

Turkey working with Rolls-Royce on 5th-gen combat aircraft engine

Daily Sabah, March 6, 2022

The top body of Turkey's defense industry has started cooperating with United Kingdom-based Rolls-Royce on the engine to power the country's National Combat Aircraft (MMU), the head of the authority said Saturday. In a televised program on broadcaster CNN Türk, Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), commented on the developments regarding the MMU, a long-awaited domestic defense industry project. The TF-X MMU, which is a fifth-generation jet with similar features to Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II, is being developed by the local defense industry with the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) as the main contractor. Stating that there is an alternative engine option in addition to the F-110 engine to be supplied from the U.S., Demir noted: "We also had the possibility of working with Rolls-Royce for the engine."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-working-with-rolls-royce-on-5th-gen-combat-aircraft-engine>

Philippines receives 1st batch of Turkey-made attack helicopters

Daily Sabah, March 9, 2022

The Philippines has received the first batch of Turkey-made attack helicopters, the country's air force announced on Wednesday. Two T129 Tactical Reconnaissance and Attack Helicopters (ATAK) arrived at Clark Air Base, Pampanga early Wednesday, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) said, cited by the country's news agency. The country had ordered six helicopters designed and developed by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). The Philippines – which is buying the six choppers worth approximately \$280 million (TL 4.1 billion) – is the first country abroad to use the ATAK. “The PAF welcomes the arrival of two units of T129 ‘ATAK’ helicopters onboard the (Airbus) A-400M from Turkey at 30 minutes past midnight March 9, 2022, at Clark Air Base, Mabalacat City, Pampanga,” Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Maynard Mariano was cited by Philippine News Agency (PNA) as saying in a message to reporters.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/philippines-receives-1st-batch-of-turkey-made-attack-helicopters>

Time to lift ‘unjust’ bans on Turkey’s defense sector: Erdoğan to Biden

Daily Sabah, March 11, 2022

The time has come to lift the “unjust” sanctions on Turkey’s defense industry, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told his American counterpart, Joe Biden, in a phone call on Thursday. Erdoğan also told Biden that Turkey expects that its request to purchase 40 new F-16 fighter jets and modernize its existing fleet be finalized as soon as possible, according to a statement from the president's office.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/time-to-lift-unjust-bans-on-turkeys-defense-sector-erdogan-to-biden>

Turkey’s unmanned fighter jet hits production line

Daily Sabah, March 13, 2022

Turkey’s drone magnate Baykar on Saturday announced it has reached a new phase in its unmanned combat aircraft project, unveiling that the first prototype has entered the production line. “A larger and more agile fish has entered the production line three and a half years later,” Selçuk Bayraktar, the chief technology officer (CTO) at the drone maker, said on Twitter. The National Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle System (MIUS) has been named Kızılelma (“red apple”), Bayraktar said, referring to an expression in Turkish mythology that symbolizes goals, ideas or dreams that are far away, but are more attractive the further that distance may be. The first prototype was earlier said to be expected to make its maiden flight in 2023, if not before. MIUS will be jet-powered and is expected to be capable of taking off from and landing on Turkey’s flagship-to-be amphibious assault ship TCG Anadolu.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-unmanned-fighter-jet-hits-production-line>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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