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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

IRAN

Smart submarines delivered to IRGC Navy

Tehran Times, March 16, 2022

A series of new advanced homegrown defense hardware with special capabilities, including smart sub-surface vessels along with missiles and speedboats, were delivered to the IRGC Navy on Tuesday. The new armaments were handed over during a ceremony attended by top military officials, including the IRGC chief Hossein Salami, in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas. For the first time, the IRGC naval fleet was unequipped with domestically developed smart submarines, which will significantly boost its capabilities in detecting and thwarting sub-surface threats.

The new speedboats, which feature high maneuverability, are capable of traveling at up to 95 knots. They can also carry and fire various missiles and rockets. The IRGC Navy was also furnished with new maneuverable missiles, whose range has been increased and can be used in electronic warfare, Press TV reported.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/471118/Smart-submarines-delivered-to-IRGC-Navy>

Iran among world leaders in nanotechnology

Al-Monitor, March 17, 2022

Iran gained more than \$2.7 million from nanotechnology sales in 2021, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday. Nanotechnology refers to industrial production from atomic and molecule-sized matter. The field has several industrial and environmental benefits, but also has downsides, such as the possibility of creating toxic waste. Among Iran's nanotechnology products, 42% are

related to construction, 17% are related to petroleum and 13% are related to automobile manufacturing, according to the agency.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/iran-among-world-leaders-nanotechnology#ixzz7SFfNsW3X>

Iran says nuclear deal within closest reach yet

Al-Monitor, March 17, 2022

"We have inched to an agreement closer than ever," Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told his British counterpart Liz Truss in a phone conversation on the status of the talks over the revival of the Iran nuclear deal. Amir-Abdollahian maintained that Iran is ready to sign a final deal if its "red lines" are minded. "What determines a good and lasting deal is America's realistic behavior by not presenting new and unfitting demands." Seeking reentry into the nuclear deal after its 2018 withdrawal, the United States has engaged with Tehran through intermediaries in eight rounds of negotiations over a period of nearly a year.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/iran-says-nuclear-deal-within-closest-reach-yet#ixzz7SFffRcex>

IRGC Warns to Target More Israeli Bases in Iraqi Kurdistan

Fars News Agency, March 18, 2022

Spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif announced that the IRGC will not hesitate to strike other Israeli bases in Iraqi Kurdistan Region if its officials do not dismantle them. "If Iraqi officials do not take action to remove other bases of the Zionists in that country while our security

continues to be threatened from this region, we will respond without hesitation," General Sharif said. He reiterated that "the Zionists had admitted themselves that their drones" which flew over a military base in Iran's Kermanshah Province had taken off from their bases in Erbil (capital city of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region). "It is our natural right to destroy any base from which any attack is carried out against the security of Iran and this is a redline for us," General Sharif said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001227000284/IRGC-Warns-Targe-Mre-Israeli-Bases-in-Irai-Krdisan>

Iranian Intelligence Minister Hails IRGC's Missile Attack against Israeli Centers

Fars News Agency, March 19, 2022

Iranian Intelligence Minister Esmayeel Khatib lauded the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for launching successful missile attacks on Israeli centers in Iraqi Kurdistan region. Khatib on Friday praised the IRGC for conducting a "timely" and "powerful" missile raid on positions of Israel's Mossad spy agency in Iraqi Kurdistan region in response to the regime's evil acts. Israel only shortens its existence through its own acts of mischief, he said, warning that all those who either aid the regime or play host to it will pay the price for their actions. The IRGC's response, Khatib added, will contribute to the security of the people and the Islamic establishment. "Anyone who provides support or plays host to this anti-Islam, anti-religion and anti-human regime should know that it will eventually pay the price," the intelligence minister said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001228000322/Iranian-Intelligence-Minister-Hails-IRGC%E2%80%99s-Missile-Attack-against-Israeli>

Iranian Navy Sends 81st Fleet of Warships to Int'l Waters

Fars News Agency, March 19, 2022

The 81st flotilla of the Iranian Navy set off for the high seas to safeguard maritime routes for the country's vessels. The flotilla left the Iranian Southern port city of Bandar Abbas for high seas on a routine mission to maintain the Islamic Republic's sway in international waters, not least the Gulf of Aden. The 81st naval fleet, comprised of the Alborz destroyer and a logistic ship, left Bandar Abbas on Friday, following a see-off ceremony attended by the Navy's Rear Admiral Shahram Irani. The mission aims to equally protect the Islamic Republic's interests and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers in the region. The Iranian naval forces succeeded in escorting 10,000 commercial ships to ensure their safe passage during the eight years of the Sacred Defense (1980-88). And over the past 12 years, the forces have thwarted numerous pirate attacks.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001228000225/Iranian-Navy-Sends-s-Flee-f-Warships-In'l-Waers>

AEOI Head: Iran to Continue Development of Peaceful N. Technology

Fars News Agency, March 21, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that the country has decided to make further progress in the development of its peaceful nuclear activities. The AEOI will not stop continued peaceful nuclear activities in the country by no means, Eslami said. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has gone through a difficult and exhausting path during the last four decades and the Iranian scientists in the nuclear industry succeeded in acquiring the latest

achievements despite the arrogant powers' opposition, he added. The guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the development of application of nuclear technology in Iran completely changed the position of the country in the level of science and technology, industry, environment and health, Eslami said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010101000408/AEOI-Head-Iran-Cnine-Develpmen-f-Peacefl-N-Technlgy>

AEOI Head Declares Iran's Plan to Unveil New N. Achievements

Fars News Agency, March 23, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami announced on Wednesday that the country will unveil several achievements in different fields of the nuclear industries on April 9, marking the National Nuclear Technology Day. Eslami hailed capabilities of the Iranian nuclear industry scientists and Iran's entry into club of powerful countries with nuclear technology, and noted that the issue of Iran's presence among the world's nuclear powers is very strategic and important. Last week, US officials explicitly acknowledged for the first time that nuclear sanctions would have no effect on Iran, he emphasized.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010103000458/AEOI-Head-Declares-Iran's-Plan-Unveil-New-N-Achievemens>

Iraqi foreign minister says Iran nuclear deal in Iraq's interest

Al-Monitor, March 25, 2022

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, in an exclusive interview with Al-Monitor's Andrew Parasiliti on the sidelines of the Doha Forum, says an Iranian nuclear deal is in Iraq's interest. "It is true that the Iranian

minister [Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian] called me and he mentioned that they had reached the last stage of the negotiations" in Vienna on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, said Hussein. Asked about what role Iraq can play in diplomacy between the US and Iran, Hussein said that "we are on good terms, and in contact with both sides. In fact, from the beginning of the negotiations until now ... they have been talking about the process of the negotiation with us, and sometimes we are trying to get messages between the Americans and the Iranians."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/iraqi-foreign-minister-says-iran-nuclear-deal-iraqs-interest#ixzz7SFfziHyq>

Lifting bans on IRGC is an 'important' and 'serious' issue: Amir Abdollahian

Tehran Times, March 27, 2022

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Saturday that removing sanctions on the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is an "important" and "serious" issue in negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The remarks by Amir Abdollahian came one day before Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator for the Vienna nuclear talks, held talks with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani and possibly some other Iranian officials in Tehran. Lifting sanctions on the IRGC is one of the "important issues of negotiations," the foreign minister told the national TV. He added, "Removing the name of real and legal persons from the 'red list' and from a complex of sanctions and unilateral sanctions that the U.S. has imposed on Iran is one of the serious issues of our recent negotiations in Vienna." By red list the

minister means “list of terrorist organizations”.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/471193/Lifting-bans-on-IRGC-is-an-important-and-serious-issue-Amir>

Iran Attends IONS 2022 Combined Maritime Drills in India

Fars News Agency, March 29, 2022

The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, commonly known as IONS (IMEX 2022), began in the Indian port of Goa with the participation of the naval forces of Iran, India, Bangladesh and the littoral Indian Ocean states. Stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran currently chairs the IONS Maritime Security Committee, the commander of the dispatched Iranian naval fleet to the drills Captain Farhad Fattahi said that IMEX 2022 exercise will be held in two phases, coastal and naval. The coastal phase includes workshops and visits to the fleets of the two sides, while the naval phase is concerned with specialized naval operations including formulation exercises, guard officer maneuvers, medical aid exchange operations, and rescue operations, according to Fattahi.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010109000490/Iran-Aends-IONS-2022-Combined-Maritime-Drills-in-India>

Iran's foreign minister in China to pursue partnership deal

Al-Monitor, March 29, 2022

Iran's top diplomat, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, headed to the eastern Chinese city of Tunxi on March 29 to join a summit of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors. The Iranian foreign minister's agenda, according to the hard-line Tasnim News Agency, is expected to largely focus on the trajectory

of the 25-year China-Iran Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Amir-Abdollahian has told Iran's state television that he will meet with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, for a review of where the two sides stand in the deal, which he said is already in fast-paced motion with the "outcomes to be seen in the not-distant future." The deal also played central to another Amir-Abdollahian trip to Beijing earlier this year, where the start of its implementation was hailed by Iran's China ambassador "as one of the key achievements" of the visit.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/irans-foreign-minister-china-pursue-partnership-deal#ixzz7SFgLpykJ>

Iran slams new US sanctions amid nuclear deal uncertainty

Al-Monitor, March 31, 2022

The spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, dismissed new sanctions announced by the US Treasury against an Iranian national and his four companies connected to Tehran's missile program. "It is yet another indication of the US government's ill intentions toward the Iranian nation," Khatibzadeh said in a statement on March 31. The US Treasury stated on Wednesday that it had levied the punitive measures as it was convinced the firms and its owner had supported Iran in its development of ballistic missiles. Those missiles, US officials said, allegedly are being used by the Islamic Republic in its ambitious regional activities and in pursuit of deeper influence, a policy that Tehran has defiantly defended as "strategic."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/iran-slams-new-us-sanctions-amid-nuclear-deal-uncertainty#ixzz7SFhSonh9>

IRAQ

An intention sign military cooperation agreement between Iraq and Romania

Iraqi News Agency, March 19, 2022

Romanian ambassador to Baghdad Radu-Octavian Dobre revealed on Saturday that there is an intention to conclude military cooperation agreements between Iraq and Romania. Dobre said in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "Romania has a long history of cooperation with Iraq at all levels since 1950," noting that "Romania focuses on the security and defense aspect, but that does not prevent focusing on other aspects, including economic, cultural and sports." He pointed out that "Romania has many memoranda of armament with Iraq in the past years, and we hope that cooperation will be better, especially as we see that cooperation needs to be developed in a broader fields." He stressed that "There are preliminary agreements with the Iraq concerning the military side and the protection of confidential information, as well as a memorandum of understanding on Military education and training."

<https://ina.iq/eng/18285-an-intention-sign-military-cooperation-agreements-between-iraq-and-romania.html>

JOC announces exchanging information with neighboring countries in fighting terrorism

Iraqi News Agency, March 27, 2022

The Joint Operations Command announced Sunday that it had exchanged information with neighboring countries in the fight against terrorism, while specify the role of thermal cameras to monitor the movements of terrorists. "Securing the Iraqi-Syrian border includes technical equipment, equipment, smart control towers, and the strengthening of security sectors and

defensive lines," Said General Tahsin al-Khafaji, spokesman for the joint operations, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "The security forces were able to monitor the movement of terrorists through thermal cameras and we became highly capable of preventing any breach or infiltration towards our borders from all directions," he said, adding that "cameras at the border now provide intelligence to the security forces, give a precise security position and work excellently with our units."

<https://ina.iq/eng/18452-joc-announces-exchanging-information-with-neighboring-countries-in-fighting-terrorism.html>

Air Force destroys ISIS' dens with four strikes in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, March 29, 2022

The Iraqi air force carried out Tuesday four devastating air strikes to destroy isis terrorist gangs in Kirkuk. "The air force aircrafts carried out four devastating strikes to the dens of isis terrorist gangs in Wadi Al-Shay in Kirkuk province," said Maj. Gen. Yahya Rasool, spokesman for the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, In a statement received by the Official Iraqi News Agency (INA). "The strikes were based on the information of the intelligence and counter-terrorism cell of the Military Intelligence Directorate and in coordination with the Joint Operations Command," he said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/18498-air-force-destroys-isis-dens-with-four-strikes-in-kirkuk.html>

ISRAEL

Israel moves forward on laser-based rocket defense, will begin initial procurement

The Times of Israel, March 17, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Thursday his office would be signing a

contract in the coming days to begin procurement of a laser air defense system to protect Israel against rockets and UAVs. “We are at the start of the journey. It will take time, it isn’t a short process, but we will get it done in the shortest amount of time possible,” Gantz told reporters. The ministry has been testing the laser-based defense system for several years, shooting down a drone with it last year. Its research and development department initially planned to deploy the anti-missile system by 2024, but the military has pushed for an earlier deployment.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-moves-forward-on-laser-based-rocket-defense-will-begin-initial-procurement/>

Bennett says US determined to sign nuclear deal at ‘any cost’

The Times of Israel, March 20, 2022

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday sounded the alarm over the potential US decision to remove Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from its list of terrorist groups as part of a revived nuclear deal with Tehran. Reports in recent days have indicated that Iran is demanding the IRGC be delisted as a condition of its return to the 2015 accord. “We are very concerned about the United States’ intention to give in to Iran’s outrageous demand and remove the IRGC from the list of terrorist organizations,” Bennett said at a cabinet meeting. “Unfortunately, there is still determination to sign the nuclear deal with Iran at almost any cost – including saying that the world’s largest terrorist organization is not a terrorist organization,” he added. “This is too high a price.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-says-us-determined-to-sign-nuclear-deal-at-any-cost/>

Bennett says he won’t pick public fight with US over Iran nuclear deal

The Times of Israel, March 21, 2022

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Monday that he has no intention of creating a public rift with the United States over the renewed nuclear deal with Iran, which he said he believes Washington will sign no matter what. “In 2015 [ahead of the first deal], the pre-signing rhetoric was at its peak, and it failed. The deal was signed,” Bennett told a conference organized by the Ynet news site. “Not only was it signed, but after that ears in Washington were closed on all other matters.” Bennett added: “I do not get into quarrels just for the sake of quarrels. I will only go to war if there is a real chance of success and a worthy purpose.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-says-he-wont-look-for-public-fight-with-us-over-iran-deal/>

Morocco and Israel to cooperate in civilian aerospace projects

The Jerusalem Post, March 23, 2022

Israel and Morocco signed an agreement on Wednesday to cooperate in civilian aerospace projects as the two countries push for closer economic ties after resuming their diplomatic relationship last year. Moroccan Industry Minister Ryad Mezzour said the agreement would cover potential projects in innovation and airplane maintenance and transformation after a signing ceremony in Rabat with Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) chief Amir Peretz. There were no details on specific projects that the agreement might lead to, or on the size of investments that it might cover. In November, Israel and Morocco agreed a defense pact covering intelligence and cooperation in military industries and procurement. Israeli media

reported that Morocco wants to buy Israeli-made drones and other arms.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-702128>

Giant missile-detecting balloon begins operational use over northern Israel

The Times of Israel, March 23, 2022

The military on Tuesday officially received a massive new balloon equipped with an advanced missile and aircraft detection system from the Defense Ministry. The radar-based system, deployed in the north at an unspecified date, is part of a general effort by the Israeli Air Force to improve the country's air defenses, particularly in the north, due to the proliferation of Iranian drones and cruise missiles in the region. The detection system, dubbed "Elevated Sensor," or "Sky Dew" in Israel, is deployed at high altitudes in order to detect incoming long-range missiles, cruise missiles, and drones, officials said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/giant-missile-detecting-balloon-begins-operational-use-over-northern-israel/>

Israel reportedly working on air defense pact with regional allies

The Times of Israel, March 29, 2022

Israel and its regional allies are working on developing a joint defense system to protect against the threat of Iranian drones and missiles, according to Tuesday reports. Jerusalem may soon sign the prospective alliance with its Middle East partners, and the countries have also recently developed joint systems for detecting missile and drone threats, Hebrew media reported, following an off-record briefing with Israeli Air Force officials. Officials also pulled the curtain back on some aspects of Israel's shadowy air campaign in Syria and

Damascus' attempts to thwart the strikes, during the briefing.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-reportedly-working-on-air-defense-pact-with-regional-allies/>

US envoy says Israel's 'hands not tied' on Iran, even if nuke deal signed

The Times of Israel, March 31, 2022

US Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides said on Thursday Israel won't be faced with any American restrictions if it wishes to act against Iran, whether or not a nuclear deal is signed between Tehran and world powers. Asked in a Channel 12 interview if the US expects Israel to "sit quietly and not do anything" if a deal is signed, Nides replied: "Absolutely not. We've been very clear about this. If we have a deal, the Israelis' hands are not tied. If we don't have a deal, the Israelis' hands are certainly not tied." "Israel can do and take whatever actions they need to take to protect the state of Israel," he added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-envoy-says-israels-hands-not-tied-on-iran-even-if-nuke-deal-signed/>

LEBANON

Lebanon's Hezbollah chief denies sending fighters to support Russia in Ukraine

Ya Libnan, March 20, 2022

Lebanon's Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah on Friday denied reports about sending fighters and experts to fight alongside Russia in Ukraine, Lebanese Al Mayadeen TV reported. "No one from Hezbollah, neither a fighter nor an expert, went to this arena or any of the arenas of these wars," Beirut-based Al Mayadeen TV which is aligned with Hezbollah and the Syrian regime quoted him as saying. Last

week, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave the green light for up to 16,000 volunteers from the Middle East to be deployed alongside Russian-backed rebels to fight in Ukraine. "I categorically deny anything of this sort. These are baseless lies. No one from Hizbollah, neither a fighter nor an expert, has gone to this war zone," Nasrallah stressed.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/03/20/lebanons-hezbollah-chief-denies-sending-fighters-to-support-russia-in-ukraine/>

QATAR

Qatar signs deal with Leonardo for first ever Navy Operations Center

Breaking Defense, March 23, 2022

The Qatari Navy has signed a new contract with Italy's Leonardo to develop a Naval Operation Center (NOC) for the military service, the first of its kind in the country. The center will ensure navy forces monitor and control Qatar's territorial water, Exclusive Economic Zone and adjacent waters. The center, which will control radars and sea-based tracking in real time, will include electronic warfare systems. "This agreement is very important for us," Qatari Emiri Navy Chief Maj. Gen. Abdullah Hassan Al-Sulaiti told Breaking Defense. "The resulting maritime command and control center will be linked with the ships in the theater of operations. It is like the Navy's eye in the sea."

<https://breakingdefense.com/2022/03/qatar-signs-deal-with-leonardo-for-first-ever-navy-operation-center/>

Qatar calls for nuclear deal with Iran

The New Arab, March 27, 2022

Qatar called for a nuclear agreement with Iran on Saturday, saying it would increase security and stability in the region. "We believe in diplomatic solutions

to maintain global security and the resolving of crises through dialogue and diplomacy," Qatar's Foreign Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, stated while speaking at the Doha Forum international conference. The 20th edition of the Doha Forum started on Saturday in the Qatari capital. The two-day event usually gathers diplomats, international NGOs, business leaders, activists and academia.

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/qatar-calls-nuclear-deal-iran>

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi armed forces concludes joint exercise in US

Saudi Gazette, March 19, 2022

The Saudi armed forces, along with the GCC counterparts and the American forces, concluded on Wednesday the activities of 'Eagle Resolve 22' exercise at Fort Carson base in Colorado. The joint witnessed many joint combat scenarios regarding joint defense integration. The exercise aimed to refine expertise and raise the level of joint combat readiness of the Saudi armed forces; the GCC counterparts and the American forces. The participants were briefed during the closing summary of the exercise, then momentos were exchanged souvenirs, and the participants in the exercise were honored.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/618331/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-armed-forces-concludes-joint-exercise-in-US>

Arab Coalition: Houthis escalation represent the militia's position to peace talks

Saudi Gazette, March 20, 2022

The Arab Coalition said that the recent Iranian-backed Houthi militia escalation by targeting civilian facilities in Saudi Arabia

represent the militia's position to peace talks announced recently by the GCC. The official spokesperson of the Coalition Brig. Gen. Turki Al Maliki said on Sunday: "The attacks underline the militia's approach of rejection towards all international efforts and initiatives, including the Saudi Initiative, and reaching a comprehensive and sustainable political resolution to end the Yemeni crisis." The Royal Saudi Air Defense Force and Royal Saudi Air Force have intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched towards Jazan City, in addition to nine bomb-laden drones launched towards Jazan, Khamis Mushait, Taif, Yanbu and Dhahran Al Janub. "The terrorist, Iran-backed Houthi militia has escalated its hostile, cross-border attacks towards the Kingdom Saturday night and earlier this morning, targeting civilian objects and economic installations in a deliberate, systematic manner," Brig. Gen Al Maliki said. He described the brutal attacks as a dangerous escalation.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/618372/SAUDI-ARABIA/Arab-Coalition-Houthis-escalation-represent-the-militias-position-to-peace-talks>

Arab Coalition says intercepted, destroyed 'hostile target' launched towards Jeddah

Alarabiya News, March 20, 2022

The Arab Coalition said on Sunday it intercepted and destroyed an "aerial hostile target" launched towards Saudi Arabia's city of Jeddah, state TV reported. Earlier on Sunday, the Arab Coalition announced that Saudi Arabia's Air Defense Forces had intercepted and destroyed nine drones launched by the Houthi militia towards Jazan, Khamis Mushait, Taif, Yanbu and Dhahran al-Janoub in the Kingdom. Later that day, the Coalition reported that the Houthis attacked an Aramco petroleum

products distribution plant in Jeddah, which led to a "limited fire" in one of the tanks. The fire was brought under control without injuries or casualties.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/03/20/Arab-Coalition-says-intercepted-destroyed-hostile-target-launched-towards-Jeddah>

US condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, affirms support to Riyadh: White House

Alarabiya News, March 20, 2022

The US condemned Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia attacks on Saudi Arabia and affirmed its support for the Kingdom's defense, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Sunday. "We condemn the Houthi attacks over the last 48 hours against civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. These attacks reportedly targeted water treatment facilities as well as oil and natural gas infrastructure. The Houthis launch these terrorist attacks with enabling by Iran, which supplies them with missile and UAV components, training, and expertise. This is done in violation of UN Security Council resolutions prohibiting the import of weapons into Yemen," Sullivan said in a statement.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/03/20/US-condemns-Houthi-attacks-on-Saudi-Arabia-affirms-support-to-Riyadh-White-House>

Houthi attack on Aramco distribution plant in Jeddah causes fire: Coalition

Alarabiya News, March 21, 2022

The Arab Coalition said on Sunday an Aramco petroleum products distribution plant in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah was attacked by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis, leading to a "limited fire" in one of the tanks which was brought under control without injuries

or casualties, state TV reported. The coalition stressed that “the hostile Houthi attacks confirm the rejection of peace efforts aiming to end the suffering of the Yemeni people.” Earlier on Sunday, the Coalition reported the destruction of an explosive-laden boat in Hodeidah, and the thwarting of an imminent attack targeting the freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/03/20/Houthi-attack-on-Aramco-distribution-plan-in-Jeddah-causes-fire-Coalition>

Riyadh gets US military help as Washington seeks better ties

Alarabiya, March 22, 2022

The United States has stepped up its military support for Saudi Arabia over the past few months following missile strikes on the kingdom by the Iran-backed Houthis, Western diplomats said, an indication that Washington is trying to mend its strained ties with traditional Gulf allies. The desire for improved relations has been made more pressing by the Russian invasion of Ukraine last month, which has led to economic sanctions on Moscow by Washington, the European Union and others. The United States and other Western countries have been trying to persuade Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter, to pump more oil to offset potential losses in Russian supplies.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/03/22/Riyadh-gets-US-military-help-as-Washington-seeks-better-ties>

Saudi Arabia intercepts, destroys ballistic missile launched toward Jazan

Alarabiya, March 22, 2022

The Arab Coalition said on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia’s Air Defenses intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched

toward the Kingdom’s Jazan, state news agency (SPA) reported. The coalition added that the Iran-backed Houthi militia’s escalations against the Kingdom “deliberately aim to thwart” Yemeni talks. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/03/22/Saudi-Arabia-intercepts-destroys-ballistic-missile-launched-toward-Jazan>

Saudi-led coalition sets deadline for Houthi weapons withdrawal

The Jerusalem Post, March 26, 2022

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen on Saturday set the Iran-aligned group Houthis a three-hour deadline to withdraw weapons from the airport of Sanaa and from two ports on the Red Sea, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV reported. Retaining weapons in the Yemeni capital's airport and the ports of Hodeidah and Saleef would "end their status" as safe regions not to be targeted by coalition air strikes, it said, without saying exactly at what time the deadline would expire. The coalition said earlier on Saturday it was carrying out air strikes on Sanaa and Hodeidah in reaction to Houthi attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-702390>

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Russia not sending Syrians to Ukraine just yet, top US general says

Al-Monitor, March 21, 2022

US military officials say Syrian fighters are not being transported to fight on behalf of Russia in Ukraine, at least not yet. “We have not seen an influx into Ukraine of foreign fighters hired or recruited by Russia, but we are seeing an interest by Russia in doing just that,” Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters on Monday. “We haven’t seen any flow at this point,” he added. Kirby’s comments came

after the top commander of US military forces in the Middle East said last week he had seen no sign yet of widespread Russian recruitment of Syrians to fight in Europe.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/russia-not-sending-syrians-ukraine-just-yet-top-us-general-says#ixzz7SI94TxKW>

TURKEY

Turkey says idea to send its S-400s to Ukraine 'quite unrealistic'

Daily Sabah, March 24, 2022

Turkey has rejected the idea of sending its Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems to Ukraine to help it fight the invading Russian forces. "Though quite unrealistic today, this idea presents an opportunity to discuss the problems Turkey has experienced lately with the West," Communications Director Fahrettin Altun said Wednesday in an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal. Reports over the recent week floated that the United States informally raised with Turkey the unlikely possibility of transferring the S-400s to Ukraine as it tries to fend off the Russian invasion that began on Feb. 24. Altun also cited an article published last week that suggested that the transfer would lead to a betterment of the relationship between Washington and Ankara.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-says-idea-to-send-its-s-400s-to-ukraine-quite-unrealistic>

Greece buys 6 more Rafale jets, frigates amid tensions with Turkey

Daily Sabah, March 25, 2022

Greece has signed deals to buy six additional Rafale fighter jets and three Belharra navy frigates from France as tensions continue to flare up with Turkey in the Eastern

Mediterranean on Thursday. The Rafale fighter jets will be sold to Greece by Dassault Aviation and the delivery will begin from the summer of 2024, bringing the Hellenic Air Force's fleet to 24 Rafales, the French warplane maker said in a statement. The orders were signed aboard the retired Greek battleship Averof by the defense ministers of the two countries. "With this acquisition of frigates and fighter jets the firepower of Greece's navy and air force will be strengthened," Greek Defense Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/eu-affairs/greece-buys-6-more-rafale-jets-frigates-amid-tensions-with-turkey>

Turkey, France, Italy to revive steps on SAMP/T missiles: Erdoğan

Daily Sabah, March 25, 2022

Turkey, France and Italy have decided to continue exploring reviving the steps for the SAMP/T missile defense system, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Friday. Erdoğan made the comments while speaking to reporters on his way back from Brussels where he attended an extraordinary summit of NATO leaders. The president said he discussed the possibility of buying SAMP/T missile defense systems from the Franco-Italian Eurosam consortium with French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi at the summit. He reiterated that NATO is the cornerstone of European security and that Turkey is an indispensable ally for ensuring regional security.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-france-italy-to-revive-steps-on-sampt-missiles-erdogan>

Turkey develops new-gen cruise missile with range of 150 km

Daily Sabah, March 31, 2022

The Turkish defense contractor Roketsan Thursday announced it had developed a new generation cruise missile that can be launched from land, sea and air platforms.

The cruise missile, named Çakır, will be a new force multiplier for the armed forces with its state-of-the-art features and effective warhead, the company said in a statement. It is still in the design phase, and its first tests are scheduled for later this year, with platform integration to take place in 2023. It will be test-fired from the country's landmark unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Akıncı, the most advanced and sophisticated drone built by Turkey.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkey-develops-new-gen-cruise-missile-with-range-of-150-km>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE's Barakah Nuclear plant to double clean electricity generation

Arab News, March 24, 2022

UAE based nuclear energy company The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, or ENEC, has announced the commencement of commercial operations of Unit 2 at the first power station located at the Arabian Peninsula Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, according to a statement. The commencement of Unit 2 reflects the transformative effect of nuclear energy on the UAE's clean energy transition journey. Combined, Unit 1 and 2 will be producing a total of 2,800 MW. This falls in line with the Barakah plant's goal of providing 25 percent of the Gulf country's electricity requirements via clean electricity while decarbonizing the Nation's power sector

simultaneously. It also brings the UAE one step closer to its net zero target by 2025.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2049476/business-economy>

Saudi Arabia, UAE seek US defence pact after attacks by Yemen's Houthis: Report

Middle East Eye, March 30, 2022

After a series of attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels, [Saudi Arabia](#) and the [United Arab Emirates](#) are pursuing a formal written agreement with the US that could provide defence support, [Bloomberg reported](#) on Wednesday. The two countries are ideally seeking a formal treaty, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg, as they attempt to redraw a decades-old relationship at a time of broad geopolitical tensions in the shadow of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. One person said bilateral defence agreements, expanded and revised over time, could be one option. The UAE has also been asking Israel to help push their case, according to people familiar with the discussions on both sides.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-arabia-uae-seek-us-defence-pact-after-houthi-strikes-yemen-report>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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