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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

American experts admit sanctions fail to prevent Iran to becoming 'prominent' drone power

Tehran Times, January 16, 2023

Eric Lob, an associate professor of politics and international relations at Florida International University, and Edward Riehle, a retired American colonel who works on advanced technologies, sensors, and sensor processing in Northern California, have admitted that Western sanctions on Iran have failed to prevent Iran from becoming a 'prominent player' in drone production. "Western sanctions have been unable to prevent Iran from becoming a prominent player in the military drone market and sharing drone technology with partners inside and outside of the Middle East," Lob and Riehle wrote in the National Interest on Sunday. The writers were referring to decade-old sanctions on Iranian drone manufacturers like the Quds Aviation and Aerospace Industries Organization (IAIO) and the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Corporation (HESA).

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48092/5/American-experts-admit-sanctions-fail-to-prevent-Iran-to-becoming>

Hezbollah: Encircling Israel with Missiles Gen. Soleimani's Idea

Fars News Agency, January 16, 2023

Iran's martyred anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani was behind the idea of surrounding the Israeli regime with missiles and he succeeded in finalizing and implementing his plan, Senior member of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah Mahmoud Qamati said. Qamati, a member of the Political Council of Hezbollah, stated if the

Lebanese resistance movement is ready to go to war with Israel and relies on its own missiles and drones, it is because of the great efforts made by Lieut. Gen. Soleimani, presstv reported. "Martyr Soleimani's idea was to encircle Israel, and he managed to do so in practice. It was Martyr Soleimani who made plans for the missiles of Lebanon and Gaza, as well as Iraq and even Yemen," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1401102/6000214/Hezbollah-Encircling-Israel-wih-Missiles-Gen-Sleimani's-Idea>

IRGC Navy conducts military drill in Persian Gulf

Tehran Times, January 17, 2023

With the launch of several missiles, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy conducted on Tuesday a military drill in the Persian Gulf. Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri, commander of the IRGC Navy, said that a wide variety of weaponry and gadgets, including helicopter-launched rockets, drones that dropped bombs with pinpoint accuracy, and unmanned smart submarine systems were used in the war game. In the exercise, which was named after martyr General Nasrollah Shafiee, IRGC Navy commandoes had engaged in heliborne operations, he stated. The commander noted that the war game's noteworthy elements included assault vessel combat operations, the launch of naval cruise missiles and rockets, the planting of naval mines in the exercise zone, and the destruction of a single target by cruise missiles fired from two distinct sites.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48096/3/IRGC-Navy-conducts-military-drill-in-Persian-Gulf>

No undeclared nuclear sites in Iran: Eslami

Tehran Times, January 18, 2023

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said Wednesday that there are no undeclared nuclear sites in Iran. Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet session on Wednesday, Eslami said Iran is focused on clarification and answering questions regarding its nuclear activity. "The issue that has been on our agenda has been to resolve the ambiguities and respond to them. The accusations that the anti-revolutionary elements have made over the years have been investigated by the Agency and all its steps have been taken," Eslami said, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA. He was referring to a safeguards probe by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over nuclear materials allegedly found in Iran. "As a result of all the negotiations that took place within twenty years, the JCPOA document has been concluded. They abandoned the JCPOA document and intend to return to it, and again put the accusations next to the JCPOA document, while these are not two issues but one issue," he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481004/No-undeclared-nuclear-sites-in-Iran-Eslami>

Iranian Navy Flotilla Berths at Pakistan's Karachi Port

Fars News Agency, January 18, 2023

Iran's Navy Flotilla comprising two frigates and a submarine berthed at the Southern Pakistani port of Karachi on Wednesday in line with the two countries' defense diplomacy. The tour of the Iranian Navy's

Flotilla to the Pakistani port will last four days and will follow policy on deepening bilateral military relations. Iran-Pakistan defense cooperation pursues provision of security for international waters. Concurrent with the friendly visit of an Iranian flotilla to Pakistan, a group of vessels from the neighboring country, will tour the Southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas today.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011028000491/Iranian-Navy-Flilla-Berhs-a-Pakistan's-Karachi-Pr>

Iran implements BINA radar system

Tehran Times, January 18, 2023

Iran has sought to implement the state-of-the-art radar system called "BINA". In a ceremony on Wednesday, Air Force commander Alireza Sabahifard attended the Bam radar site to evaluate the operational performance of the radar system. Sabahifard stressed that the radar system is completely indigenous. He also said it is apt for the geographical and environmental conditions of the country. "This system has been utilized by the air force in a bid to expand the radar coverage in the southeast of the country and will also step up the combat power of the air defense force." The air force commander described the air defense force as one of the most important and fundamental elements of national security.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481016/Iran-implements-BINA-radar-system>

Iran Rejects West's Allegations on Secret Nuclear Program

Fars News Agency, January 18, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami once again

denied all accusations levelled by the West over the existence of undeclared nuclear activities or material in Iran, describing the move by the US and its allies as a propaganda campaign against Tehran's peaceful nuclear program. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday in Tehran, Iran's nuclear chief once again dismisses claims about the existence of "undeclared" nuclear sites or activities in Iran. "All this claims are part of a propaganda campaign against Tehran," he added. Eslami noted the accusations leveled against the Iranian nuclear program are rooted in the claims by "counter-revolutionary elements" abroad. In spite of that, the official added, Iran has been cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in addressing the claims.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011028000694/Iran-Rejecs-Wes's-Allegains-n-Secre-Nclear-Prgram>

MP: Iranian Parliament Seeking to Declare EU's Armed Forces as Terrorist Organization in Tit-for-Tat Step

Fars News Agency, January 19, 2023

Iranian lawmakers have introduced a double-urgency bill to brand the armed forces of the European states as terrorist groups after the European Parliament called for the EU to list the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist entity, a legislator said. Iranian lawmaker Mohammad Khodabakhshi stated on Thursday the parliament is going to put a double-urgent bill to vote as part of a response to the EU's potential move to blacklist the IRGC as a terrorist organization. He added the legislation would call for blacklisting the armed forces of the EU as terrorist. The bill describes the

IRGC as a pillar of the Iranian ruling establishment and says if it is blacklisted by the bloc, Iran will blacklist the EU armed forces in West Asia, in which case any cooperation with them will be treated as complicity in act of terrorism.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011029000248/MP-Iranian-Parliamen-Seeking-Declare-EU's-Armed-Frces-as-Terrris>

Iran's Top Military Body Warns EU of Regional, Global Insecurity in Case of Labeling IRGC as FTO

Fars News Agency, January 19, 2023

The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces strongly condemned the European Parliament's move to blacklist the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, warning the EU of the dire consequences of the hostile action for regional and global stability. In a statement on Thursday, the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces has sharply condemned the European Parliament's "desperate" call for the EU and its member states to place the IRGC on the bloc's "terror" list, warning about the consequences of such a move for regional and global peace. The General Staff said the unwise call by the European Parliament is in contravention with all international regulations.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011029000521/Iran's-Tp-Miliary-Bdy-Warns-EU-f-Reginal-Glbal-Insecrity-in-Case-f>

EU's Borrell continues to work with Iran, U.S. on JCPOA: spokesman

Tehran Times, January 21, 2023

A senior spokesman for the European Union has said that Josep Borrell, the foreign policy chief of the bloc, continues

to work with the partners at the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. In remarks to Iran's official news agency IRNA, Peter Stano, the lead spokesperson for the external affairs of the European Union, underlined that the Vienna talks are separate from efforts to impose sanctions on Iran. He was responding to a question on whether the imposition of sanctions on Iran by the EU amounted to a change in the EU's approach toward the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "JCPOA is a separate process in which the High Representative of the European Union acts as a coordinator and coordinates between the participants," he said, adding, "The JCPOA process is determined by the parties and participants, not by the coordinator who has the role of coordination and facilitation." He continued, "In this regard, the high representative continues to interact with each of the participants, including Iran and the United States."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48109/8/EU-s-Borrell-continues-to-work-with-Iran-U-S-on-JCPOA-spokesman>

Iranian Navy's Flotilla Sets Sail for Americas for First Time

Fars News Agency, January 21, 2023

A flotilla of Iranian warships, comprised of Dena and Makran ships, will dock in the Brazilian Port of Rio de Janeiro in the coming days, marking the first ever presence of the Iranian Navy in the Americas' waters. The Iranian Navy's 86th flotilla of warships, comprised of Dena and Makran warships, is going to berth at Brazil's Southeastern port city of Rio de Janeiro within the next few days. The trip to Brazil appears to be part of a mission to the

Panama Canal. Dena is a Mowj-class warship that joined the Iranian Navy in June 2021. The military vessel is equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes and naval cannons. The other vessel of the flotilla is Makran, a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011101000762/Iranian-Navy's-Flilla-Ses-Sail-fr-Americas-fr-Firs-Time>

Iranian warships to arrive at Brazilian port

Tehran Times, January 21, 2023

A flotilla of Iranian warships is expected to arrive at Brazil's southeastern port city of Rio de Janeiro in the next few days. The Iranian flotilla, comprised of Dena and Makran warships, set sail from the south of Iran in early autumn with the purpose of circumnavigating the world, according to a Tasnim report. The trip to Brazil appears to be part of a mission to the Panama Canal. Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said nearly two weeks ago that Iran is planning to extend its area of operation to the Panama Canal that divides South and North America. "So far, we have been present in all the strategic straits of the world and we have not been present in only two straits, in one of which we will be present this year and we are planning to be present in the Panama Canal," Irani said, according to Fars News. The top military official also said Iran has established command centers for the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48109/7/Iranian-warships-to-arrive-at-Brazilian-port>

Vote against IRGC in EU Parliament breaches UN Charter, says Abdollahian

Tehran Times, January 21, 2023

Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, late on Friday highly denounced the European Parliament's irresponsible resolution in designating the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group, asserting it is in violation of the UN Charter. In a phone conversation with his Swedish counterpart Tobias Billstrom, whose country now holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, Amir Abdollahian stated that the IRGC had prevented strikes on European capitals by Daesh terrorists. "It played a key role in destroying Daesh terrorist group in Iraq, Syria and the West Asia region. Therefore, the IRGC's efforts in the war against terrorism should be appreciated by Europeans." The European Parliament on Thursday approved a bill urging the EU and its member states to add the IRGC to their list of terrorist organizations for alleged abuse of human rights during recent uprisings.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481089/Vote-against-IRGC-in-EU-Parliament-breaches-UN-Charter-says>

Iran mulls quitting NPT as retaliatory move: FM Abdollahian

Tehran Times, January 22, 2023

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Sunday did not rule out Iran's withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in case the European Union designates the IRGC as a terrorist organization. "Every possibility is probable," Amir Abdollahian told ICANA after attending a closed session of the Majlis (parliament) to discuss the European Parliament's resolution in putting the

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the list of terrorist organizations and asked the EU and its members states to do so. Amir Abdollahian was responding to a question on whether Iran will quit the NPT if the EU puts the IRGC on its terrorist list. Iran's chief diplomat also said a few number of European political leaders have "no experience in diplomacy." Amir Abdollahian classified German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock among these groups of European politicians. "...if they don't move on the path of wisdom and don't rectify their views every possibility is probable," Amir Abdollahian remarked.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481123/Iran-mulls-quitting-NPT-as-retaliatory-move-FM-Abdollahian>

NPT withdrawal; Iran's new option

Tehran Times, January 22, 2023

With the European Union making deliberations on whether to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group, Iran appears to be mulling its response options, including a withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iranian Parliament had a busy day on Sunday, with a lineup of high-level Iranian officials taking part in closed sessions to discuss the European Parliament's resolution on the IRGC, which called on the European Council to list the IRGC and its affiliates as a terrorist group. IRGC chief commander General Hossein Salami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian jointly attended a closed session dedicated to discussing the European move. Also, the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy also held specialized sessions on Saturday and Sunday to review the matter.

After the Sunday closed session, Amir Abdollahian made it clear that Iran is

mulling a range of options, including the strategically important possibility of withdrawing from the NPT.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481147/NPT-withdrawal-Iran-s-new-option>

Operational stage of Gen. Soleimani satellite project launched

Tehran Times, January 22, 2023

The Iranian Space Agency has kick-started the operational phase of the country's first satellite system project, named after anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani, the Agency's director Hassan Salarieh announced on Sunday. Salarieh broke the story on the Agency's official website while detailing about the most recent implementation status of the General Soleimani project, which is a part of Iran's continuing 10-year space program. "Based on the 10-year space program and in order to provide services to people, government institutions, and organizations as well as to provide services to private sector companies, the Iranian Space Agency has been tasked with placing a telecommunication satellite system in the Earth's orbit," Salarieh stated. "Implementation of the Martyr Soleimani Project is of tremendous importance because of the successes in the manufacture of satellite series and their network development," he underlined.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481145/Operational-stage-of-Gen-Soleimani-satellite-project-launched>

Iran, Syria Vow to Broaden Defense Cooperation

Fars News Agency, January 23, 2023

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri and Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud

Abbas in a meeting in Tehran on Monday underlined the need to expand bilateral relations in defense and military fields. During the meeting in the Iranian capital, General Baqeri and the Syrian defense minister explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating mutual cooperation in defense fields. During the meeting, General Baqeri said that cooperation between the the armed forces of Iran and Syria can be a complete role model for the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. "For this reason, many arrogant powers oppose this cooperation and do not accept it," he continued. Mahmoud Abbas, for his part, stated that the Syrian army is willing to utilize the experience of Iran's armed forces in different fields.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011103000759/Iran-Syria-Vw-Braden-Defense-Cperain>

Borrell says JCPOA not 'dead' but no progress in talks

Tehran Times, January 24, 2023

Josep Borrel, the head of foreign policy for the EU, stated on Monday that although there has been no progress in negotiations to resurrect the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal is not "dead."

Borrell made the comments while speaking with media in Brussels on the heels of a gathering of EU foreign ministers. He asserted that the latest unrest in Iran has complicated efforts to revive the JCPOA.

Iranian officials have repeatedly declared that their country is prepared for a solution that would revive the JCPOA, emphasizing that the U.S., which withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and reinstated penalties, should give up making unreasonable demands. Iran has also stated that it has fulfilled its obligations pursuant

to the deal and ball is now in the U.S. court to take a political decision.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481234/Borrell-says-JCPOA-not-dead-but-no-progress-in-talks>

Iran is fifth-largest producer of radiopharmaceuticals

Tehran Times, January 25, 2023

Mohammad Eslami, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), announced on Wednesday that Iran is presently one of the top five producers of radiopharmaceuticals in the world. Regarding Iran's export of radiopharmaceuticals, Eslami remarked that experts in the AEOI have worked hard to make Iran one of the leading manufacturers and distributors of radiopharmaceuticals in the world. After the COVID-19 epidemic subsided last year, Iran restarted shipments of radiopharmaceuticals, which are mostly used to treat cancer, to nine nations across the globe, he told reporters after a cabinet meeting. The official continued by stating that Iranian-produced radiopharmaceuticals are more effective than those made by other multinational brands, and that researchers in the country will keep working to increase the treatments' effectiveness.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481284/Iran-is-fifth-largest-producer-of-radiopharmaceuticals>

Top Commander: Iranian Navy Manufacturing Maritime Combat Helicopters

Fars News Agency, January 28, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani lauded the Iranian Army Navy for its strategic role in

maintaining stability and security in the country's waters, and declared that his forces have produced a number of maritime combat helicopters to be unveiled future. Referring to the significant importance of the country's maritime capacities, Rear Admiral Irani told MNA that the sea can be the centrepiece of the country's development. "Using the sea capacities is a geopolitical advantage for Iran," he stated. "The countries that do not have this capacity are experiencing geopolitical suffocation," the senior commander added.

The military official declared that the Iranian Navy has built maritime combat helicopters which will be showcased at the appropriate time.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011108000308/Top-Commander-Iranian-Navy-Manufacturing-Maritime-Combat-Helicopters>

Iranian warships sailing in Latin America's western waters

Tehran Times, January 28, 2023

Iran's 86th flotilla of warships is now sailing along the western shores of Latin America, the Navy second-in-command said on Saturday. Rear Admiral Hamzeh Ali Kaviani said the flotilla is going to berth at Brazil's southeastern port city of Rio de Janeiro within the next few days, Press TV reported. Addressing a ceremony in the northern city of Chalous, Kaviani stressed that Iran's military might is increasing day by day despite all the pressures against the Islamic Republic over the past 43 years. He added that most of the military hardware required by the country's Armed Forces is now manufactured at home. The admiral stated that the Navy's 86th flotilla, comprised of Dena and Makran warships, has raised the Iranian flag in the western waters of Latin America. Navy's flotillas

also have a strong presence in the northern tip of the Indian Ocean, he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/481369/Iranian-warships-sailing-in-Latin-America-s-western-waters>

Iran Air Defense Thwarts Drone Attack on Military Facility

Fars News Agency, January 29, 2023

Iran's Defense Ministry announced that the country's air defense units have foiled a drone attack on a defense industrial complex in the Central province of Isfahan.

The defense ministry made the announcement in an early Sunday statement, after an explosion was reported at one of Isfahan's defense military workshop late Saturday. The ministry said one of its workshop complexes had come under attack from a number of Micro Aerial Vehicles (MAVs), but the complex's air defenses successfully repelled the attack. "One of the MAVs was downed by the complex's air defense fire, while the other two were caught in its defensive traps and exploded," the statement added. The ministry noted that the unsuccessful attack did not cause any loss of life and only led to minor damage to the roof of a workshop. The complex, it stated, continues its ordinary operations following the attack.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011109000161/Iran-Air-Defense-Thwars-Drne-Aack-n-Miliary-Faciliy>

Nuclear Chief: Iran to Continue Developing Nuclear Power Plants

Fars News Agency, January 29, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Tehran will pursue the development of more nuclear power plants in line with its clean air law and as part of efforts to

develop technologies for the field. "All Iran's nuclear plants must be built along coastal areas in the South and in the Makran region and Hormuzgan Province, and in the North of the country as well," Eslami said. "Locations have been designated for this purpose and the goal is to generate electricity, which is a clean and sustainable source of energy," he added. Eslami also said it is the nation's adversaries that have reached an impasse, not the talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. "Iran has always been sincere in the talks and have followed through on its promises," he pointed out.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011109000405/Nclear-Chief-Iran-Cnine-Develping-Nclear-Pwer-Plans>

Senior Commander: Iran's Air Defense Units Fully Capable of Confronting Enemies' Threats

Fars News Agency, January 31, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard underlined the high capabilities of the country's radar systems to intercept all enemy airborne objects, and said that his forces are fully ready to counter any threat against the country's skies. Brig. Gen. Sabahi-Fard said Iran enjoys a strong deterrence thanks to the strategic goals established by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and the expertise of Iranian youths. "The powerful Air Defense Force is ready to confront any threat in the safe skies of our beloved country using its new domestically-build systems," the top commander added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1401111000594/Senir-Cmmmander-Iran-s-Air-Defense-Unis-Filly-Capable-f-Cnfrning>

Iraq

A force from 12th Brigade of PMF carries out a security operation in Tarmiya

Iraqi News Agency, January 16, 2023

The Popular Mobilization forces (PMF) announced on Monday, the implementation of search operation in Al-Tarmiya, in search of wanted persons and members belonging to the terrorist ISIS gangs. A statement by PMF, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "a force from the 12th Brigade in PMF carried out search operation in the Tarmiya district, in search of wanted persons and members belonging to the terrorist gangs of ISIS." The statement added, "The operation was carried out in two areas within the district of the brigade's responsibility in the district, to prevent the infiltration of terrorist elements of ISIS, and to enhance security and close security gaps to prevent any security breach."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24229-a-force-from-12th-brigade-in-pmf-carries-out-a-security-operation-in-tarmiya.html>

Security operation launched in Tarmiya: PMF

Iraqi News Agency, January 18, 2023

The Popular Mobilization Forces PMF announced on Wednesday, implementing a raid and search operation in Tarmiya district in search of Daesh terrorist remnants and their dens. The commander of the brigade Ali Al-Saiedi said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "a force from the 12th Brigade of the Popular Mobilization Forces carried out a raid and search operation in Tarmiya district, north of Baghdad, in search of Daesh remnants and their dens."

"The force, accompanied by the engineering of the brigade and the supporting forces, surveyed areas in the west of the district," Al-Saiedi said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/24264-security-operation-launched-in-tarmiya-pmf.html>

JOC, Peshmerga discuss 6 security files

Iraqi News Agency, January 18, 2023

The Joint Operations Command (JOC) and the Peshmerga discussed on Wednesday, 6 security files. JOC said, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "in continuation of security coordination and cooperation and the implementation of joint plans and visions, the Deputy Commander of JOC, Lieutenant General Qais al-Muhammadawi, met today Wednesday, at the headquarters of the Peshmerga Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Issa Aziz and his accompanying delegation from the Kurdistan region of Iraq, in the presence of the leadership bodies and departments."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24273-joc-peshmerga-discuss-6-security-files.html>

Rasoul calls to avoid firing bullets, with the conclusion of the competition

Iraqi News Agency, January 19, 2023

The spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yahya Rasoul, called on citizens to avoid firing bullets, with the conclusion of Gulf 25. "We call on citizens to celebrate the conclusion of the Gulf 25 in a civilized manner and to avoid firing bullets," Rasoul said in a recording received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). He added that "its launch could lead to deaths and injuries," praising the official, sports and popular events that supported the establishment of

the tournament and its success and supported the national team to reach the final.

<https://ina.iq/eng/24300-rasoul-calls-to-avoid-firing-bullets-with-the-conclusion-of-the-competition-.html>

JOC: We provided all facilities for the masses to enter the celebration arena

Iraqi News Agency, January 20, 2023

The Joint Operations Command confirmed the provision of facilities for the masses to enter the celebration square. The Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais Al-Muhammadawi, stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "the celebration and reception of the national team will be at five o'clock this evening, Friday, in the celebrations square, and the entrance will be from Al-Zaytoun Street, the gate opposite Al-Zawraa Park, for all citizens and media and press cadres," pointing out That "all facilities are available for attendance." Muhammadawi indicated that "the players and the training staff will go from Baghdad International Airport to the celebration square, and they can also be received on the road."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24327-joc-we-provided-all-facilities-for-the-masses-to-enter-the-celebration-arena.html>

4 ISIS dens were destroyed by air strikes in Tuz district

Iraqi News Agency, January 20, 2023

The Security Media Cell announced today, Friday, the destruction of 4 hideouts belonging to the terrorist gangs of ISIS, with air strikes in Tuz district. The cell said, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "The painful strikes

continue on the terrorists' hideouts for fair retribution from them, and through field follow-up and intensification of intelligence efforts, the Iraqi National Intelligence Service was able, in coordination with the targeting cell of the Joint Operations Command, and under the supervision of the Deputy Commander of Operations." Al-Mukhatara, from monitoring four terrorist dens north of Al-Tuz district.

<https://ina.iq/eng/24332-4-isis-dens-were-destroyed-by-air-strikes-in-tuz-district.html>

Joint security force carries out raid and search Ops south of Samara

Iraqi News Agency, January 24, 2023

The Popular Mobilization Forces- PMF announced on Tuesday, carrying out a joint raid and search Ops south of Samara. PMF said in a statement, received by The Iraqi News Agency (INA) that, "forces from Salah al-Din operations command at PMF, the army and the 41st, 43rd Brigade of PMF launched a joint operation to search the holy city of Samarra." The statement added, "the operation aims to secure the areas south of Samarra and the road linking Samarra to Baghdad prior to the pilgrimage to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam al-Hadi (peace be upon him)."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24413-joint-security-force-carries-out-raid-and-search-ops-south-of-samara.html>

Iraq 'concerned' over stalemate in Iran nuclear talks

Anadolu Agency, January 24, 2023

The Iraqi government has voiced concern over a stalemate in talks aimed at reviving

the Iran nuclear agreement. Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein met in Baghdad on Monday with Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Political Affairs and Peacebuilding, Rosemary A. DiCarlo, and Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert. Hussein said the Iraqi government is concerned about "the stagnation of the Iranian nuclear agreement", the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The top diplomat pointed to "the need to revive this file, although the region is witnessing less tension than before, especially between Iran and Saudi Arabia", it added. Hussein expressed "gratitude for the role played by the United Nations in Iraq," stressing his country's aspiration "for more international support to confront terrorism."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-concerned-over-stalemate-in-iran-nuclear-talks/2795905#>

JOC and NATO discuss common goals

Iraqi News Agency, January 26, 2023

The Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais Al-Muhammadawi, discussed today, Thursday, with the commander of the NATO mission in Iraq, Lieutenant-General Giovanni M. Iannucci, training files, capacity-building and common goals. A statement of the Joint Operations Command, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated, "The Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais al-Muhammadawi, met the commander of the NATO mission in Iraq, Lieutenant General Giovanni M. Iannucci, in the presence of the commander of the Federal Police Forces and the Director of the Planning Authority."

The statement added that the meeting witnessed a number of issues of common interest, foremost of which is coordination and joint cooperation.

<https://ina.iq/eng/24459-joc-and-nato-discuss-common-goals-.html>

Security operation launched north of Salah al-Din: PMF

Iraqi News Agency, January 29, 2023

The Popular Mobilization Forces PMF announced Sunday, the start of a security operation north of Salah al-Din. A statement by the Popular Mobilization Forces received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that "a force from the Salah al-Din Operations Command of the Popular Mobilization Forces launched a security operation in the north of the province." It explained, "The operation, included the inspection of areas located along the Tigris River and the Makhoul Mountains from the village of Al-Masahak to the Fatha area," noting that "the operation involved the 51st Brigade and a force from the Salah al-Din Operations Command of the Popular Mobilization." "The operation aims to secure and search areas within the area of responsibility, enhance security and stability, and pursue the remnants of ISIS terrorist gangs," it said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/24515-security-operation-launched-north-of-salah-al-din-pmf.html>

Airstrikes target weapons convoy crossing from Iraq to Syria - report

I24 News, January 30, 2023

The convoy numbering some 25 trucks was hit after it passed through a border crossing controlled by the Hezbollah terrorist group. A convoy of weapons crossing the border

from Syria to Iraq was targeted by airstrikes on Sunday evening, the Saudi *al-Arabiya* channel reported, alleging that Israel was behind the attack. According to the report, the convoy numbering some 25 trucks loaded up with munitions was hit after it passed through a border crossing controlled by the Hezbollah terrorist group, a proxy of the Iranian mullah regime. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The home base of Hezbollah is in Lebanon, however its presence in neighboring Syria, where the Shi'ite force is fighting on the side of Bashar al-Assad's regime in the Syrian civil war, is considerable.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east-stories/1675023210-air-strikes-target-weapons-convoy-crossing-from-iraq-to-syria-report>

Israel

Plasan to armor three Hunter class frigates for the Australian Navy

Israel Defense, January 16, 2023

Plasan Sasa, an Israeli manufacturer of survivability solutions for land, air and naval platforms for the defense and military market, announced this week they have signed a contract with BAE Systems Australia to armour the first three Hunter class frigates for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Plasan will deliver the armour in partnership with Australian steel manufacturer Bisalloy Steel Australia who will be responsible for the production of the ballistic steel under the contract. Plasan is currently providing composite armour for the UK Type 26 frigates. According the company, the unique installation approach that was demonstrated as part of the Type 26 delivery will allow for simple and cost-

effective integration into the Hunter class frigates

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56923>

Elbit signs \$95 million advanced electro-optical systems contract with Israeli MoD

Israel Defense, January 17, 2023

The Israel Ministry of Defense Signed a \$95 Million contract with Elbit Systems to purchase advanced electro-optical systems for the IDF ground forces. Under this \$95 million contract, Elbit will supply and maintain the systems over a 10-year period.

The various systems include long-range deployable observation systems, thermal weapon sights, and night vision equipment. These systems will provide the IDF with observation capabilities, target acquisition, and enemy exposure in various combat scenarios during day and nighttime.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56933>

XTEND awarded \$20m contract to develop and supply multi-drone operating system

Israel Defense, January 19, 2023

XTEND, an Israeli developer of XOS, a human-guided autonomous operating system that is revolutionizing 'human to machine' interaction, has been awarded a \$20M contract by Israel Ministry of Defense, for the development and supply of a multi-drone operating system. According to the company, the new joint project with MAFAT and the Israeli Ministry of Directorate of Defense Research & Development, will see XOS enable the remote, safe, and intuitive operation of

dozens of human-guided semi-autonomous drones simultaneously, utilizing the latest virtual reality, edge processing and AI technology. XOS will allow XTEND's drones to be deployed remotely by military units in various scenarios precisely, intuitively, and immersively.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56956>

US National Security Advisor to meet with Netanyahu, Abbas

Israel Defense, January 19, 2023

US National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, arrived in Israel yesterday (Wednesday), for a series of meetings with top officials. First on the agenda was Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who met with Sullivan last night for the fourth time. The president's spokesperson communicated the meeting was conducted in a "positive atmosphere," and that the two discussed "the strong partnership between Israel and the US, as a cross-party and cross-government issue, and ways to deepen the strategic cooperation between their nations. Sullivan, the first senior US administration official to visit Israel since its latest elections will also meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as with the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56957>

IAI unveils new hand-launched, electro-optical guided missile

Israel Defense, January 19, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have unveiled their POINT BLANK electro-optically guided missile, that can be carried in a soldier's backpack. The system

answers the battlefield requirement to provide tactical units ranging in size from small tactical teams to battalion level, with an independent and organic capability to increase their lethality. POINT BLANK allows these units to attack a variety of targets in real time with great precision and high lethality, without the need for support.

The missile is hand-launched, operated by a single soldier, and can take off from and land vertically back to, the soldier's hand.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56963>

Successful January for Oshkosh, with int'l transactions worth hundreds of \$millions

Israel Defense, January 22, 2023

January 2023 turns out to be a very successful month for Oshkosh Defense, which won three international contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars, including in Israel. Last week, the company announced that the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) has placed a \$141 million order for 414 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles A2 (FMTV A2) and 56 FMTV trailers. With this order, Oshkosh Defense has received orders for 1,412 FMTV A2s and 800 FMTV trailers for a total order value of \$627 Million to date. Early this month, Oshkosh announced that the U.S. Army Contracting Command – Detroit Arsenal has placed a \$102 Million order for Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs). The JLTVs will be delivered to Romania, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Brazil, and Montenegro.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56967>

IDF, CENTCOM launch major war games in Israel

Israel Defense, January 24, 2023

The IDF and the US Central Command (CENTCOM) launched the Juniper Oak 23.2 exercise yesterday (Monday), in order to test US-Israeli readiness and improve the interoperability of both forces. “Exercises like Juniper Oak show that interoperability and integration represent the improved security in the region,” said a US Navy statement, adding, in a clear message to Iran, that this will contribute to regional stability. During the exercise, the U.S. and Israeli air forces, navies and ground forces will conduct coordinated strikes against targets representing maritime threats. Israeli Navy missile boats as well as one of its submarines will maneuver in tandem with an American aircraft carrier.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57000>

Elbit awarded \$48 million contract to supply Swedish army with mobile comms shelters

Israel Defense, January 24, 2023

Elbit Systems announced today (Tuesday) that its subsidiary, Elbit Systems Sweden AB, was awarded a contract valued at approximately \$48 million by the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV), to supply Technical High Mobility Shelters (THMS) to the Swedish Army. The contract will be performed over a period of 3 years and includes options for further extensions. Under the contract, Elbit Systems Sweden will manufacture and deliver tactical communication shelters, leveraging Elbit Systems' extensive experience delivering customized

communication shelters to armed forces around the world.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57001>

Elbit to Provide DIRCM Service Center for NATO

Israel Defense, January 26, 2023

Israeli Elbit Systems announced this week (Tuesday) the signature of a five-year in-service support contract with the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for the Direct Infrared Counter Measures (“DIRCM”) systems supplied to the Multinational Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) fleet. The contract includes the establishment of a service center, located at NSPA dedicated facility in Luxembourg, to provide support and logistics to the system. In addition, Elbit was awarded a follow-up contract from NSPA for an additional J-Music system, part of the MUSIC DIRCM family. The laser-based fully autonomous system provides comprehensive protection against advanced heat-seeking ground-to-air missiles. To date, seven systems are already integrated, certified and operational on NATO MRTTs.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57021>

Report: Israel carried out drone attack on Iranian defense facility

The Times of Israel, January 29, 2023

Israel was behind a Saturday night drone attack that struck a defense facility in the Iranian city of Isfahan, according to a Sunday report. The Wall Street Journal cited US officials and people familiar with the matter to say Jerusalem

directed the strike. The report could not be independently confirmed. Israel's Channel 12 news reported Sunday that the site was a weapons production facility for Iran's killer Shahed-136 drones and that the attack drones in operation were launched from an area near the site by "highly-skilled" operators who knew their target well. The unsourced report said the attack incorporated high-quality intelligence and technological ability.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-israel-carried-out-drone-attack-on-iranian-defense-facility/>

Elbit Systems presents the Crossbow – its new 120mm turreted mortar

Israel Defense, January 29, 2023

Israel's Elbit Systems presented the Crossbow 120mm turreted mortar at Defence IQ's International Armoured Vehicles (IAV) 2023 conference, held in London this week. According to Elbit, the weapon can be installed in a mission module with minimal protrusion, can be easily operated by a single crew member, and is fused for fully automatic operation. Elbit officials told Janes that the mortar can fire the company's range of mortar rounds, including those with an extended range and precision guidance. It has a range of 10 km and a rate of fire exceeding 12 rds/min, achieving 16 rounds for the first minute. Crossbow is designed to be fired on the move and to shoot and scoot with a multiple round simultaneous impact (MRSI) capability.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57044>

Lebanon

Hezbollah erects new watchtowers on Lebanon border as IDF builds defensive wall

The Times of Israel, January 23, 2023

Lebanon's Hezbollah terror group has established new tall observation posts on Israel's northern border as the Israel Defense Forces has ramped up the construction of a defensive wall. Residents of the northern town of Shtula who spoke to the Ynet news site and Channel 12 news said one such 18-meter-high tower, a few dozen meters from the border, had been constructed over the past month, right where the IDF was replacing its aging border fence with a nine-meter-high concrete wall. The Israeli military has long accused Hezbollah of conducting clandestine activities along the Israel-Lebanon border under the guise of an environmental group known as "Green Without Borders," and published details of one such new site last year.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-erects-new-watchtowers-on-lebanon-border-as-idf-builds-defensive-wall/>

Saudi Arabia

Biden promised a reckoning when Saudi Arabia crossed him. 3 months later, it is clear he's backed down.

Business Insider, January 16, 2023

Back in October, relations between the US and its usually firm ally Saudi Arabia were on the rocks.

In concert with Russia, Saudi Arabia had cut oil production, an economic kick in the shin for the US just in time for the midterm elections. President Joe Biden vowed in response that unspecified "consequences" would be follow for the Saudis. As relations went into tailspin, officials from the countries exchanged petty insults. Three months later, Saudi Arabia and its crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, remain unpunished. Biden has been notably silent on specifically what form his retaliation might take, and has made no moves for proposed Congressional action. US officials told the Wall Street Journal in early January that the threat has been dropped.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/politics/world/news/biden-promised-a-reckoning-when-saudi-arabia-crossed-him-3-months-later-it-is-clear-hes-backed-down/articleshow/97031012.cms>

emen Rebels, Saudis in Back-channel Talks to Maintain Truce

Bloomberg, January 17, 2023

Amid Yemen's longest-ever pause in fighting — more than nine months — Saudi Arabia and its rival, the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, have revived back-channel talks, hoping to strengthen the informal cease-fire and lay out a path for a negotiated end to the long civil war, according to Yemeni, Saudi and U.N. officials. The quiet is fragile, with no formal cease-fire in place since a U.N.-brokered truce ended in October. It has been shaken by Houthi attacks on oil facilities and fiery rhetoric from Yemen's internationally recognized government, allied with Saudi Arabia, which complains it has so far been left out of the talks. Lack of progress could lead to

a breakdown and a renewal of all-out fighting.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-17/yemen-rebels-saudis-in-back-channel-talks-to-maintain-truce>

Iran has an obligation to give up its nuclear program, Saudi minister says

CNBC, January 18, 2023

Iran's announcements in recent months concerning its nuclear development have drawn condemnation and concern from parts of the international community, particularly the West.

But its near neighbor and longtime adversary Saudi Arabia likely feels that concern more acutely. Iran should relinquish its nuclear program, which violates international agreements, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir said Wednesday from the World Economic Forum in Davos. "I believe that Iran has an obligation to give up its nuclear program. I believe that Iran must be in compliance with the terms of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran, if it wants to be a member in good standing of the international community needs to respect international law, needs to respect international order," al-Jubeir told CNBC's Hadley Gamble.

<https://www.cnb.com/2023/01/18/iran-has-an-obligation-to-give-up-its-nuclear-program-saudi-minister.html>

Netanyahu discusses with US security advisor 'normalizing ties' with Saudi Arabia

Alarabiya News, January 19, 2023

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed normalizing ties with Saudi

Arabia in talks with visiting White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Thursday, his office said. Netanyahu, who returned to power last month with the formation of a new government, was also at the helm in 2020 when Israel established ties with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco as part of the Abraham Accords. The Israeli premier has repeatedly expressed his desire to see Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, join the list.

In their talks, Netanyahu and Sullivan discussed “measures to deepen the Abraham Accords and expand the cycle of peace, with an emphasis on a breakthrough with Saudi,” the Israeli leader's office said in a statement.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/01/20/Netanyahu-discusses-with-US-security-advisor-normalizing-ties-with-Saudi-Arabia->

Saudi Arabia, France discuss peaceful atomic energy cooperation

Arab News, January 29, 2023

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman held a meeting on Saturday with French Minister of Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire in the capital, Riyadh, the state-run SPA news agency reported. The two ministers praised the relations between their two countries and discussed prospects for cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. They also discussed future opportunities in various energy fields, including areas of cooperation in renewable energy, clean hydrogen, and electrical interconnection.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2240746/saudi-arabia>

UK gov't facing High Court battle over arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Aljazeera, January 31, 2023

A campaign group has launched a courtroom battle against the United Kingdom's arms sales to Saudi Arabia, warning the weapons are worsening a major humanitarian disaster in war-torn Yemen. The United Kingdom's High Court on Tuesday began hearing the case brought forward by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), which says arms exports have contributed to the deaths of thousands of civilians. The UK-based group is challenging the lawfulness of a decision taken by the British government in 2020 to continue supplying weapons to the Saudi-led coalition involved in the nine-year-old conflict in Yemen.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/31/uk-govt-facing-high-court-battle-over-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia>

United Arab Emirates

S. Korea, UAE agree to forge strategic defense industry cooperation

The Korea Herald, January 16, 2023

The arms procurement agencies of South Korea and the United Arab Emirates have signed a deal to strategically and substantially enhance defense industry cooperation, which has paved the way for South Korean defense contractors to expand their export horizons to the UAE. South Korean Minister of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration, Eom Dong-hwan, and Secretary General of the UAE's Tawazun Council, Tareq Abdulraheem Al Hosani, signed a memorandum of understanding on “strategic defense industry cooperation” on Sunday in Abu Dhabi, the DAPA

announced Monday. President Yoon Suk Yeol — who made his first state visit to the UAE as a South Korean leader — and Emirati leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan were present at the signing ceremony.

<https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230116000588>

Korea and UAE agree to expand nuclear cooperation

World Nuclear News, January 16, 2023

Yoon met with Al-Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on 15 January whilst on a state visit to the UAE. This marked the first state visit since the establishment of diplomatic ties between South Korea and the UAE in 1980 and the 10th visit to the UAE by a Korean president. During his visit, Yoon visited the Barakah nuclear power plant, supplied by Korea. "During the summit, the two leaders agreed to deepen and further develop the Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries," a joint statement said. "In particular, the two leaders agreed to strengthen strategic cooperation in four key areas: conventional energy and clean energy, peaceful nuclear energy, economy and investment, and defence and defence technology; as well as in other areas of mutual interest, including space, emerging industries and culture."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Korea-and-UAE-agree-to-expand-nuclear-cooperation>

UAE joins South Korea's military transport aircraft program

Defense News, January 18, 2023

South Korea and the United Arab Emirates have signed two memorandums of understanding to improve bilateral defense

ties, during a visit by the South Korean president to the Gulf kingdom. South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration and the UAE's Tawazun Council inked the agreements Jan. 15 in the presence of President Yoon Suk Yeol and his Emirati counterpart Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Tawazun Council serves as the acquisition authority for the Emirati military and the Abu Dhabi Police. The first memorandum called for both countries to continue efforts in joint investment, research and technological development to further develop bilateral cooperation in the arms industry, according to a DAPA news release.

<https://www.defensenews.com/industry/techwatch/2023/01/18/uae-joins-south-koreas-military-transport-aircraft-program/>

Abu Dhabi: Barakah nuclear power plant to cut more carbon emissions than expected

Khaleej Times, January 20, 2023

The Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in Abu Dhabi is spearheading efforts towards achieving UAE's Net Zero by 2050 target by preventing millions of tonnes of carbon emissions annually. As of today, the Barakah plant is the largest source of clean electricity in the region and will prevent more carbon emissions than previously expected. Based on the latest data, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (Enec) said that the four units of the Barakah plant will prevent 22.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year, 6 per cent more than previously forecast.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/energy/abu-dhabi-barakah-nuclear-power-plant-to-cut-more-carbon-emissions-than-expected>

UAE defense conglomerate invests in Israeli unmanned air traffic management

Breaking Defense, January 27, 2023

The United Arab Emirate defense conglomerate EDGE has announced a “strategic” \$14 million investment in the Israeli firm High Lander, the provider of an unmanned air traffic management system — an investment EDGE hopes will lead to more work together and the latest evidence of the warming between Gulf and Israeli firms. “We believe that our investment in High Lander is an excellent opportunity for EDGE to take part in the nascent technology space, such as [Unmanned Traffic Management],” an EDGE spokesperson told Breaking Defense of the deal announced Tuesday. “Through this investment, we will be engaging more with the company on various opportunities, which we believe will have mutual benefits for High Lander and EDGE.”

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/01/uae-defense-conglomerate-invests-in-israeli-unmanned-air-traffic-management/>

Syria

Turkish Offensive in Syria ‘Possible Any Time:’ Ankara

The Defense Post, January 16, 2023

A new Turkish ground offensive in Syria is “possible any time,” a top aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday, despite a Moscow-brokered rapprochement between Damascus and Ankara. The Kremlin is trying to end more than a decade of hostility between the neighbors that began when Turkey-backed rebel efforts to topple President Bashar al-Assad at the start of the Syrian civil war. Turkey has since also launched a series of

incursions into northern Syria, most of them targeting Kurdish forces it views as “terrorists.”

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/01/16/turkish-offensive-syria-any-time/>

US military captures IS members in Syrian helicopter raid

Wion News, January 23, 2023

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Sunday that three members of the Islamic State group had been captured by US forces during a helicopter and ground raid in eastern Syria. The terrorists, according to CENTCOM, were arrested a day earlier and were identified as logisticians, facilitators, and "associates" of the jihadist group. According to a statement from CENTCOM, a civilian suffered "minimal injuries" and was transferred to a hospital. An international coalition led by Washington is combating IS in Syria.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/us-military-captures-is-members-in-syria-helicopter-raid-554979>

Details About IRGC Building Air Defense Network in Syria

Iran International, January 23, 2023

Amid new sanctions by Western countries on Iran's Revolutionary Guard for human rights violations and other mischiefs, the multi-role organization is ramping up Syria's air defense system, despite rampant poverty in Iran. According to a report by the Newsweek earlier in the month, the Islamic Republic has invested tens of millions of dollars from the country's public budget for the deployment of a comprehensive aerial defense network in Syria. Newsweek cited an unnamed

intelligence source from a nation allied with the United States that the IRGC over the past two years has been “promoting the deployment of aerial defense capabilities on its behalf in Syria at a cost of tens of millions of dollars in order to deal with the Israeli airstrikes.”

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202301231229>

Turkey

Türkiye says Biden admin’s will to determine fate of F-16 jet deal

Daily Sabah, January 16, 2023

Türkiye’s top diplomat on Monday said the potential \$20 billion sale of F-16 fighter jets would be completed smoothly if the Biden administration proves the will to seal the deal. “The will is with the administration here. If the administration stands resolutely, there will be no problems,” Çavuşoğlu told a joint press conference with his Bosnian counterpart Bisera Turkovic in Ankara.

His remarks came after the Biden administration reportedly conveyed to Congress its intention to sell the fighter jets to Türkiye, a move that sparked an immediate objection from a senior U.S. lawmaker who has long opposed the deal. NATO member Türkiye has been seeking to modernize its existing warplanes to update its air force and sought to buy 40 Lockheed Martin F-16 jets and nearly 80 modernization kits from the U.S.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-says-biden-admins-will-to-determine-fate-of-f-16-jet-deal>

Türkiye can supply Hungary with HIMARS alternatives: Minister

Daily Sabah, January 17, 2023

Türkiye has alternative defense industry products to the U.S.-made HIMARS multiple rocket launcher system and is ready to provide them to Hungary, Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank said Monday. His statements came after the Central European country added acquiring such systems to its agenda. “We produce alternative products to HIMARS in Türkiye, and if there is a need for them, we are ready to provide the necessary support for these products,” Varank said. Varank, who was in Hungary as part of the official visit, attended the Türkiye-Hungary 8th Term Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting held at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-can-supply-hungary-with-himars-alternatives-minister>

Kyrgyzstan says it purchased 4 different combat drones from Türkiye

Daily Sabah, January 17, 2023

Kyrgyzstan has purchased Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI)-made Anka unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), said the Central Asian country’s Presidential Press Service head, Daiyrbek Orunbekov on Tuesday. Known to have supplied Baykar-made Bayraktar TB2 and Akıncı UCAVs along with TAI-made Aksungur UCAV before, Kyrgyzstan, with the latest procurement, will now have in its inventory all types of UCAVs produced by TAI and Baykar. “Kyrgyzstan bought modern military equipment such as Bayraktar TB2, Aksungur, Akıncı and Anka,” said Orunbekov. The Bayraktar

TB2 is currently actively used by the Kyrgyz Army.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/kyrgyzstan-says-it-purchased-4-different-combat-drones-from-turkiye>

Baykar inks \$370M export deal with Kuwait for Bayraktar TB2s

Daily Sabah, January 18, 2023

Turkish drone magnate Baykar signed a \$370 million (TL 6.95 billion) contract to export its Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) to Kuwait, the company said Wednesday. Baykar made the related statement via the company's Twitter account. The contract marks the first export agreement signed for Bayraktar TB2 in 2023. The number of export deals signed for this particular combat drone, meanwhile, has reached 28. The negotiations between Baykar and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense started in 2019. The country chose Türkiye's domestically developed, battle-proven UCAV which made a name for itself after being used in several conflicts from Syria to Ukraine, over competitive products of several companies from the U.S., Europe and China.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/baykar-inks-370m-export-deal-with-kuwait-for-bayraktar-tb2s>

Türkiye urges US to expedite F-16 process

Daily Sabah, January 18, 2023

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Türkiye expects the U.S. to approve the sale of F-16 fighter jets, noting that the purchase is in line with the "joint strategic interests" of both countries. Çavuşoğlu was speaking

in Washington, where he was welcomed by his U.S. counterpart, Antony Blinken. "As we said together before, this is not only for Türkiye but also important for NATO and for the United States as well," Çavuşoğlu said, adding that Ankara expects Washington's approval, in line with joint strategic interests of both countries. The Biden administration has expressed its support for the sale of the jets to Türkiye, despite opposition from the U.S. Congress.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkiye-urges-us-to-expedite-f-16-process>

Türkiye, US agree to continue to hold F-35 talks

Daily Sabah, January 19, 2023

Turkish and American defense ministry delegations have agreed to continue to hold consultative talks on F-35 fighter jets, said the Defense Ministry on Thursday. In a statement released following a Türkiye-U.S. meeting in Washington on Thursday, the ministry said the two delegations have agreed to continue to hold talks and plan to hold the next round in Ankara in spring 2023. The first round of talks was held in the capital Ankara in 2021. Türkiye had ordered more than 100 F-35 jets made by Lockheed Martin Corp. In 2019, the U.S. suspended Türkiye from the F-35 fighter jet program after objecting to the latter purchasing the Russian S-400 missile defense system.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkiye-us-agree-to-continue-to-hold-f-35-talks>

Türkiye plans to produce 3 new national warships simultaneously

Daily Sabah, January 23, 2023

Türkiye is planning to simultaneously build three new Istanbul-class frigate warships, designed by Turkish engineers. As work continues to build the TCG Istanbul, the first ship of the country's MILGEM (National Ship) I-class Frigate Project, Türkiye has begun work on its sixth, seventh, and eighth domestically built naval vessels, said the head of the country's Defense Industries' Presidency to Anadolu Agency (AA) on Monday. Ismail Demir said business partnerships had been signed with the Anadolu, Sedef, and Sefine shipyards, along with the Joint Venture Commercial Enterprise of TAIS, which is a consortium of Türkiye's top five leading shipyards, and state-run defense firm STM, for the three I-class frigate projects.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-plans-to-produce-3-new-national-warships-simultaneously>

Turkish unmanned fighter jet Kızılelma passes another test in 2nd flight

Daily Sabah, January 24, 2023

Türkiye's first indigenously designed and produced unmanned fighter aircraft successfully passed the system identification test during its second flight, the developing company said in a statement on Monday. Selçuk Bayraktar, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Baykar directed the test flight of the National Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle System (MIUS), named Kızılelma ("Red Apple"), in Çorlu district, northwestern Tekirdağ province. Bayraktar, also shared a statement on his social media account that read, "Bayraktar #KIZILELMA

successfully completed its second flight test. Godspeed."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-unmanned-fighter-jet-kizilelma-passes-another-test-in-2nd-flight>

Turkish defense firm STM aims to develop unmanned submarine

Daily Sabah, January 25, 2023

Turkish defense firm STM puts itself on a new target of developing unmanned submarines after delivering the second of the Agosta 90B class submarines owned by Pakistan's Navy in Türkiye's first and only submarine modernization export. Özgür Güleriyüz, general manager of STM told Anadolu Agency (AA) that they aim to become a strong player in the international arena with the work they carry out in submarine development. Emphasizing that a submarine is a very complex system in terms of engineering, which includes very high technology, Güleriyüz said: "We want to take an intense role in both modernization activities, design and construction activities by using our competence to the fullest," adding that their work is not limited to the manned platforms.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firm-stm-aims-to-develop-unmanned-submarine>

Project completed, legal framework ready for Ukrainian Bayraktar TB2 plant

Daily Sabah, January 25, 2023

A project to construct a plant in Ukraine for the production of Turkish drone magnate Baykar's famed Bayraktar TB2 unmanned

combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) has been completed and the legal framework formed, according to Ukraine's ambassador to Türkiye. "As of today, the entire legal framework has been formed. As you know, the relevant international agreement has already been ratified," Vasyl Bodnar was quoted by Ukrinform as saying during a briefing at the media center. "There is a company that is currently operating in Ukraine, and it has prepared a physical project... We expect that the plant will be put into service within the next two years and will start to produce goods with Ukrainian component parts," Bodnar noted.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/project-completed-legal-framework-ready-for-ukrainian-bayraktar-tb2-plant>

Finland OKs 1st military exports to Türkiye since 2019 amid NATO row

Daily Sabah, January 25, 2023

Finland has issued the first commercial export license for military material to Türkiye since 2019, a key demand for Ankara to approve Helsinki's NATO bid, the country's defense ministry said Wednesday. Riikka Pitkanen, a special adviser at Finland's defense ministry, told Agence France-Presse (AFP) that the export license granted concerned steel that would be used for armor. The move comes amid a spat that saw Türkiye on Tuesday indefinitely postponing upcoming talks with Finland and Sweden on their application to join the military alliance after a weekend protest in Stockholm that drew condemnation from Ankara.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/finland-oks-1st-military-exports-to-turkiye-since-2019-amid-nato-row>

Türkiye's STM to develop 'critical' NATO intel software in landmark deal

Daily Sabah, January 29, 2023

A prominent Turkish defense company has been selected to develop a critical software system that will be used in intelligence flows at all NATO facilities around the world, in what marks one of the most important projects ever assigned by the military alliance to Türkiye. STM on Saturday said it notched up one of the biggest export successes of the Turkish defense sector in the field of software to date as it has been awarded two major contracts regarding the direction, collection, process, dissemination and use of intelligence information within NATO. The decision was taken by the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), which handles all acquisition, deployment and maintenance of communications and information systems for the alliance's decision-makers and commanders.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-stm-to-develop-critical-nato-intel-software-in-landmark-deal>

Türkiye warns of 'price' if US fails to deliver long-sought fighter jets

Daily Sabah, January 30, 2023

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Sunday said "there would be a price" to pay if the United States fails to supply Türkiye with F-16 fighter jets it has been seeking in return for a payment it made for F-35 warplanes. NATO member Türkiye has been seeking to modernize its existing warplanes to update its air force and sought to buy 40 Lockheed Martin F-16 jets and nearly 80 modernization kits from the U.S.,

a deal reportedly valued at \$20 billion. Türkiye made this request instead of a refund for the payment it had made for the next-generation F-35 fighter jets. The payment was issued before it was removed from the multinational program developing the aircraft over Ankara's decision to acquire Russian-made S-400 air missile defense systems.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-warns-of-price-if-us-fails-to-deliver-long-sought-fighter-jets>

Türkiye inks \$200M deal with S.Korean firm for parts of MBT Altay

Daily Sabah, January 31, 2023

A South Korean firm will supply transmissions for the engines to be used on Türkiye's domestic main battle tank (MBT) project, Altay, which was on hold after a deal with a German company collapsed.

SNT Heavy Industries will supply Altay producer BMC with a 1,500-horsepower automatic transmission, the company said Monday. It said the export deal includes \$74.9 million of supply until 2027 and has an option for further sourcing priced at

\$141 million between 2028 and 2030. The South Korean company said the deal was signed after a test evaluation, including an endurance driving test last year. "It is a valuable achievement through a harsh test evaluation, such as completing a night-based driving of about 200 kilometers (124.27 miles) a day even in the local rough terrain and environment," the company said, adding that their transmission could perfectly replace the German parts.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-inks-200m-deal-with-skorean-firm-for-parts-of-mbt-altay>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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