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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Iran: No Surveillance Cameras Reactivated at Natanz Nuclear Site

Fars News Agency, June 17, 2023

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) ruled out as false media reports over Tehran's agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on re-installation of 10 monitoring cameras at Natanz nuclear facility in Central Iran for recording the activities. The AEOI said in a statement AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi has recently announced the re-activation of the IAEA cameras at a nuclear facility in Isfahan. In the interview, the spokesperson described the site as a "centrifuge manufacturing facility". The statement noted that some media outlets have mistakenly identified the site as Natanz in the Central city of Isfahan.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020327000224/Iran-N-Srveillance-Cameras-Reacivaed-a-Naanz-Nclear-Sie>

'Seas are frontline of our confrontation with foes': Iran defense chief

Tehran Times, June 18, 2023

The Iranian defense minister has made it clear that Tehran sees international waters as the nation's first line of defense against its adversaries, emphasizing the necessity for the highly developed maritime industry to maintain a commanding presence there.

Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani made the statement on Saturday at

a ceremony at the Marine Industries Organization (MIO), a division of the Iranian Defense Ministry. "The seas are the frontline of our confrontation and encounter with the enemies, and some of the threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran are rooted in the seas," he added. He went to highlight, "Therefore, we need an advanced, powerful and multi-purpose marine industry with international capabilities in order to have a strong presence in waterways and water lands."

Additionally, Ashtiani referred to marine science and technology as "the driving force" behind the nation's naval sector.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/485920/Seas-are-frontline-of-our-confrontation-with-foes-Iran-defense>

Iranian President Describes Nuclear Industry Role-Model for Other Industries

Fars News Agency, June 18, 2023

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi praised the country's remarkable achievements in the nuclear industry despite the US sanctions and threats, and further underlined the need to transfer the technologies developed in the nuclear industry to other industries. During a visit to an exhibition of the achievements of Iran's nuclear industry on Sunday, President Rayeesi underscored that the success achieved in the nuclear industry in the tough conditions should serve as a model for other industries. He stressed that

the gains made in the nuclear industry show how the Iranian youths and scientists “turned threats and sanctions into opportunities”.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020328000732/Iranian-President-Describes-Nuclear-Industry-Role-from-Other-Industries>

Nuclear Chief Rules Out Installation of 100 Surveillance Cameras at Isfahan Power Plant

Fars News Agency, June 21, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami dismissed rumors about activation of 100 monitoring cameras at a power plant in Central Iran, and said that such a site basically doesn't exist at the stated location. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a weekly cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, Eslami dismissed comments from an Iranian lawmaker that as many as 100 new cameras have been set up at a nuclear power plant in Isfahan. The nuclear head stressed that “no such plant exists there”. “We have no [nuclear] power plant in Isfahan to install 100 cameras there,” he stated.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020331000417/Nuclear-Chief-Rules-Out-Installation-of-100-Surveillance-Cameras-at-Isfahan-Power>

First hypersonic missile range may be extended to 2,000 km: IRGC

Tehran Times, June 23, 2023

Iran may eventually extend the range of Fattah, its first hypersonic missile, to 2,000

kilometers, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said. Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the IRGC Aerospace Division, stated during a ceremony at the University of Mazandaran on Wednesday that the next version of the missile may have a range of 2000 kilometers as opposed to its present range of 1,400 kilometers. Earlier this month, Fattah was put on display as a significant accomplishment for the Iranian Armed Forces in fortifying the nation's defensive might. Due to its tremendous mobility and speed, it is also able to break through any air defense systems and strike them. Also in his remarks, Brigadier General Hajizadeh hailed President Ebrahim Raisi's attendance at Fattah's unveiling ceremony.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/486090/First-hypersonic-missile-range-may-be-extended-to-2-000-km-IRGC>

Commander: Vessels Trying to Pass Through Hormuz Strait Should Communicate in Persian

Fars News Agency, June 23, 2023

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri underlined that vessels seeking to pass through the Strait of Hormuz must communicate with Iranian Naval Forces in the Persian language. “Any ship that wants to pass through the Strait of Hormuz must inform us of its nationality, type of cargo, and destination in Farsi, and

if it does not do this, we will definitely go after it," Admiral Tangsiri said on Friday.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020402000358/Cmmander-Vessels-Trying-Pass-Thrh-Hrmz-Srai-Shld-Cmmnicae-in>

Top Commander: Manufacturing Advanced Long-Range Military Equipment on Iran's Agenda

Fars News Agency, June 29, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard underscored the country's high military might and deterrence power, and further said that Iran's Air Defense Force plans to produce various types of long-range military equipment for potential challenges and threats.

Brig. Gen. Sabahifard said on Wednesday that concordant with "potential threats and possible challenges ahead", the production of "advanced long-range radar, missile and drone equipment" is definitely on the agenda of the Army's Air Defense Force in 2023.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020408000301/Tp-Cmmander-Manfacring-Advanced-Lng-Range-Miliary-Eipmen-n-Iran's>

Iraq

UKR downs Russian Kinzhal-type ballistic missile

Iraqi News Agency, June 16, 2023

The Ukrainian Air Force announced that it had managed to shoot down 12 Russian missiles, including 6 "Kinzhal" hypersonic

missiles, while the Ukrainian Foreign Minister said that Russia had launched the heaviest bombing of Kiev in weeks. According to the local administration of the city of Kiev, the Ukrainian air defenses shot down 12 missiles and two drones over Kiev, noting that the Russians used ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones at the same time.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27096-ukr-downs-russian-kinzhal-type-ballistic-missile.html>

Large-scale security operation begins in Nineveh

Iraqi News Agency, June 18, 2023

The Nineveh Operations Command of the Popular Mobilization announced on Sunday the launch of a large-scale security operation in Nineveh. According to a statement by the command received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "the command, represented by the brigades "21-25-44-60", embarked on a large-scale security operation from four axes, starting from Hatra to the border separating the Salah al-Din Operations Commands and Jazeera Operations."

<https://ina.iq/eng/27123-large-scale-security-operation-begins-in-nineveh.html>

Israel

France Interested in Procuring Loitering Munition: Will Israel Be Involved?

Israel Defense, June 18, 2023

Will we soon see the use of Israeli-made loitering munitions by the French army?

The French General Directorate of Armaments is stepping up its efforts to procure loitering munitions (LMs) with the issuing of a tender for a portable system.

While estimates in Israel are that France would prefer local manufacturers, it is not impossible that also Israeli companies, such as UVision, will take part in the competition. According to the German website European Security & Defense, last year – drawing on lessons learned from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 2020 and the ongoing war in Ukraine, that emphasized the impact of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and loitering munitions in tactical-level combat, France urgently requested US-made AeroVironment Switchblade LMs as an initial stop-gap measure.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58540>

Elbit Unveils New Active RF Decoy & Electronic Warfare Capabilities at Paris Air Show

Israel Defense, June 18, 2023

Elbit Systems is unveiling the Nano SPEAR™ at The Paris Air Show, an advanced, digital, miniature system designed as a countermeasure against radar-guided air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles that threaten aircrews and their platforms.

The Nano SPEAR™ is part of the Self Protection Electronic Attack and

Reconnaissance (SPEAR) product family, which is based on advanced hardware, including Digital Receiver Exciters, that are modular and provide ease of scalability.

The Nano SPEAR™ is an advanced, expendable RF decoy that uses the aircraft's existing dispensing system, and once launched, acts independently to lure away hostile radar-guided missiles.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58543>

Rafael Introduces "Puzzle" Intelligence System, Revolutionizing Target Precision with AI Integration

Israel Defense, June 18, 2023

Puzzle represents a major paradigm shift in situational analysis and the Sensor to Shooter circuit, enabling unprecedented efficiency, speed, and precision

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd announced the unveiling of Puzzle, an innovative intelligence knowledge management system that combines various intelligence and artificial intelligence capabilities. Puzzle, which will be unveiled at the Paris Air Show, represents a groundbreaking paradigm shift in situational analysis and the Sensor to Shooter circuit, enabling unprecedented efficiency, speed, and precision.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58544>

Israel Aerospace Industries' MMR radars pass Czech Army tests

Israel Defense, June 21, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) MMR radars have successfully passed Czech Army tests. According to IAI, these MMR radars are the world's most advanced air surveillance and air-defense radars. To date, 200 systems have been sold worldwide, and integrated into air-defense systems such as Barak and Iron Dome. The radar deal was signed with the Czech Defence Ministry in December 2019, and included close industrial cooperation between Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and local Czech companies RETIA and VTU. The joint production includes the transfer of technology to local Czech industries for production and lifetime maintenance, and upgrading existing systems to incorporate the world's most advanced technologies.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58594>

BlueBird Presents the SpyX, Its New Loitering Munition

Israel Defense, June 21, 2023

BlueBird Aero Systems, an Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Group Company, has unveiled its SpyX, a Loitering Munition UAV platform with tactical capabilities such as 50Km operational range, 1.5 hours mission time, autonomous electro-optical guided attack, optimal effect-on-target and tight

integration with Bluebird's VTOL ISR UAV family. According to BlueBird, this groundbreaking technology represents a significant milestone in the evolution of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems and brings a new era of precision and efficiency to the battlefield, and at an affordable price. SpyX is an expendable electric mini-UAV, designed for loitering & strike missions, to enable tactical teams to organically detect, confirm and hit targets at ranges up to 50 km.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58593>

"Sky Spear" Long-Range, Air-to-Air Missile at Paris Air Show

Israel Defense, June 21, 2023

Rafael has unveiled "Sky Spear" – its 6th generation long-range, air-to-air missile, at the Paris Air Show. The newest member of the air-to-air missile family for Rafael is a long-range solution that provides users with unparalleled operational capabilities in the complex arena of aerial combat. With the advent of long-range air-to-air missiles, the challenges faced by aerial forces have increased exponentially over time. The engagement range has extended longer, and the time gap between launch and endgame has created a significant zone of uncertainty. Therefore, the need to maintain a clear and accurate aerial picture is even more crucial.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58595>

Elbit Awarded \$180 Million Purchase Order to Supply Romania with Tactical UAS

Israel Defense, June 22, 2023

Elbit Systems announced that it received a first purchase order worth approximately \$180 million to supply the first three out of a maximum of seven Watchkeeper X tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) as part of a framework contract with the Romanian Ministry of National Defense with a maximum value of approximately \$410 million (1.89 billion Lei). The purchase order will be performed over a period of two years. Under the purchase order, Elbit Systems will provide upgraded Watchkeeper X tactical UAS with advanced capabilities including the Spectro XR™ multi-spectral electro-optical payload and new communication capabilities. The Watchkeeper X tactical, Dual Payload UAS is the UK export variant of the British Army manufactured by U-TacS, Elbit Systems' UK subsidiary in cooperation with Thales, and is a derivative of the Hermes™ UAS family. The Watchkeeper X is compatible with NATO standards enabling essential interoperability with NATO and other allied forces.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58613>

AI Signs Contracts with NATO Countries to Supply Loitering Munition System

Israel Defense, June 25, 2023

Following the recent announcement that NATO member Estonia has purchased long-

range loitering munitions from Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the company has signed separate contracts with three additional NATO countries worth several millions of dollars to supply Rotem loitering munitions. Rotem is a unique combat-proven Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) tactical loitering munition, intended for use by customers' special forces and can also serve for test and evaluation purposes. Rotem is part of IAI's family of loitering munitions which includes Harpy, Harop and Mini-Harpy, and has been proven in different combat situations since 2019.

https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58627#google_vignette

UVision Expanding Loitering Munition Portfolio

Israel Defense, June 28, 2023

UVision, an Israeli developer of aerial loitering systems, is expanding its product portfolio. At the Paris Air Salon held last week, the company unveiled its new Hero-90, Hero-900, and Hero-1250 systems, as well as the Viper system developed by SpearUAV. UVision developed the HERO-90 following the requests of customers, who expressed the need for an intermediate system between the 3.5 kg HERO-30 and the HERO-120. The weight is halved, 9 kg at launch compared to the 18 kg of the HERO-120, while range and endurance performances are slightly reduced, respectively over 40 km compared to 60 km and 45 minutes compared to one hour.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58693>

Elbit America Selected for US Navy Information Warfare Research Project

Israel Defense, June 28, 2023

Elbit Systems of America has been awarded a prime contract by the Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC Pacific) to develop and demonstrate an autonomous maritime target tracking capability as part of the United States Navy's Information Warfare Research Project (IWRP). The company will test its prototype in a series of at-sea demonstrations over the next twelve months. The IWRP supports the implementation of the Naval Operational Architecture to enable Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) and ensure connectivity of U.S. and allied forces across land, air, sea, space, and cyberspace. Elbit America's autonomy prototype will extend the reach of those forces by leveraging attributable systems to covertly find, fix and track maritime targets, as directed by operational commanders.

https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58697#google_vignette

Former Senior Pentagon Official Says Israel Must Maintain AI Edge

Israel Defense, June 29, 2023

In a recent interview during Tel Aviv University's Cyber Week conference, former US Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, Ezra Cohen, shared his perspectives on the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) in military applications. Addressing the

potential of AI in reducing civilian casualties and maintaining Israel's advantage over adversaries, Cohen – who is now VP for Corporate Strategy at Oracle Corp., highlighted the significance of technological advancements and ethical considerations in the field.

https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58718#google_vignette

Jordan

Jordan army downs drone carrying weapon parts from Syria

Arab News, June 17, 2023

The Jordanian army said on Friday that units on the country's eastern border shot down a drone carrying weapon parts from Syria. Border guards, in coordination with other security agencies, spotted the drone and downed it on Jordan's side of the border, an army statement said. The drone was found to be carrying weapons parts, the army said, adding that it will continue to deal with "any threat to our borders, and any attempt to destabilize the security of the country and terrorize its people." It was the second drone to be shot down by the Jordan army in a week.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2322916/middle-east>

Jordan plans nuclear plant for seawater desalination

Jordan News, June 18, 2023

Dr. Khaled Toukan, President of the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission unveiled new

details regarding the country's plan to establish a nuclear power plant dedicated to desalinating seawater and generating electricity. Toukan explained that the construction of the plant hinges on government approval and securing financing. The proposed location for the plant is in the northeastern region of the Aqaba Governorate, Ammon News reported. He elaborated on the cost of each unit in the proposed plant, which is estimated to be around \$750 million with a capacity of 100 megawatts. The advantage of the smaller unit is its quicker completion time, projected to take no more than four years once all necessary approvals and funding are obtained. In contrast, larger units typically require eight years to be fully operational.

<https://www.jordannews.jo/Section-109/News/Jordan-plans-nuclear-plant-for-seawater-desalination-29296>

Foreign ministers from Jordan, UK discuss boosting cooperation

Arab News, June 27, 2023

Jordan's Foreign Affairs Minister Ayman Safadi on Monday discussed with his British counterpart James Cleverly ways of boosting cooperation between the two countries, the Jordan News Agency reported. The ministers spoke of their shared desire to broaden cooperation in the areas of economics, trade, tourism, investment, and the military, as well as continuing their countries' efforts to resolve regional conflicts and achieve security and stability. They also focused on efforts to

stop the escalation of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and progress toward achieving a just and lasting peace. Safadi reaffirmed during the call that the only way to achieve peace was through a two-state solution, emphasizing the importance of halting illegal Israeli actions that undermined the prospects of such an eventuality.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2328606/middle-east>

Kuwait

Kuwait to Acquire Turkish-Made Bayraktar Drones for \$367 Million

The Defense Post, June 16, 2023

Kuwait has signed a \$367-million agreement with Turkish firm Baykar for an undisclosed number of Bayraktar TB2 combat drones. The move comes in the wake of the system's apparent success in helping Ukraine neutralize Russian assets. According to Kuwaiti Air Force operations chief General Fahad Al-Dosari, the drones will support various operations, including monitoring maritime and land borders. He added that the loitering munition can carry out reconnaissance and strike missions and support search and rescue efforts. The deal includes providing necessary maintenance and logistical supplies. Baykar will also prepare NATO-standard facilities in the Middle Eastern nation for weapons arming and electronic warfare component integration.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/06/16/kuwait-turkey-bayraktar-drones/>

Lebanon

Hezbollah set up armed posts in Israeli territory on Lebanon border 2 weeks ago

The Times of Israel, June 21, 2023

The Hezbollah terror group established two tents in Israeli territory on the Lebanon border some two weeks ago, and the army had yet to clear them out as of Wednesday.

The story was first published by the Kan public broadcaster on Wednesday, citing details from a recent closed meeting of the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. The Israel Defense Forces said in a statement in response that "the matter is known and being handled with all the relevant parties." Israel and Lebanon do not have a formal border due to territorial disputes; however, they largely abide by the United Nations-recognized Blue Line between the two countries.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-set-up-armed-posts-in-israeli-territory-on-lebanon-border-2-weeks-ago/>

Hezbollah Says Shot Down Israel Drone in South Lebanon

The Defense Post, June 26, 2023

Lebanon's Hezbollah movement said it downed on Monday an Israeli drone in southern Lebanon near the border. The Iran-backed group "shot down an Israeli drone that entered Lebanese airspace... near Zibqin in the south," Hezbollah said in a statement. The Israeli army told *AFP* that

one of its drones "fell in Lebanese territory during routine activity. There is no risk of a breach of information." Israeli warplanes and drones regularly violate Lebanon's airspace, while the powerful Shiite Muslim movement for years has been sending drones towards Israel. Both sides claim to have shot down the other's unmanned aircraft in the past.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/06/26/hezbollah-downs-israel-drone/>

US said pressing Lebanon to remove Hezbollah outpost from Israeli territory

The Times of Israel, June 29, 2023

The US is pressuring Lebanon's government to clear out a Hezbollah outpost set up within Israeli territory beyond the border fence between the countries, according to a Thursday report. The Walla news site reported, citing four unidentified Israeli and American officials, that Jerusalem and Washington believe the outpost, comprised of several tents just north of the fence — but still within the internationally recognized territory of Israel — presents a serious risk of escalation along the border. The report said Israel had conveyed a sharp message to Lebanon via the Americans that the outpost must be removed.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-pressing-lebanon-to-remove-hezbollah-outpost-from-israeli-territory-report/>

Oman

NSA Doval meets Oman sultan, foreign minister to boost ties

The Times, of India, June 27, 2023

Even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India from Egypt, where he signed a strategic partnership agreement with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, India's high-level engagement with the Arab world continued with NSA Ajit Doval travelling to the Sultanate of Oman on Monday to boost bilateral cooperation, including in defence and security. Doval called on Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and delivered a personal message of greetings from Modi, said the Indian government. Doval also held talks with Oman's foreign minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi with a focus on possible bilateral cooperation in the spheres of technology, military matters and mining, the Oman News Agency reported.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/nsa-doval-meets-oman-sultan-foreign-minister-to-boost-ties/articleshow/101292552.cms>

Qatar

Indonesia Buying Used Fighter Jets, Engines to Fill Air Defense Gaps

The Defense Post, June 22, 2023

Indonesia is turning to surplus combat aircraft and engines to fill a hole in its frontline air defenses. According to defense minister Prabowo Subianto, the government has no choice but to buy second-hand

defense hardware until it finds more money. He cited an urgent need to strengthen Jakarta's air defense capabilities due to rising tensions in the South China Sea. On Thursday, Prabowo confirmed that Indonesia is buying 12 used Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets from Qatar for \$792 million.

The move comes as the country awaits the delivery of its first batch of Rafale fighter jets from France, which will occur no earlier than January 2026.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/06/22/indonesia-jets-engines-gaps/>

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh wants nuclear programme for 'Israel ties': report

The New Arab, June 18, 2023

Saudi Arabia could make demands for US approval of a civilian nuclear programme as a condition for normalisation with Israel, a US report said on Saturday. *The New York Times* claims that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, made such demands to US Secretary General Antony Blinken during his trip to Riyadh earlier this month. The Crown Prince may also seek greater access to US weapons and a guaranteed defence pact with Washington in exchange for Israeli normalisation, which the US has been attempting to broker in recent years.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/riyadh-wants-nuclear-programme-israel-ties-report>

Airbus Agrees \$6.7 Billion Helicopter Pact With Saudi Arabia

Bloomberg, June 19, 2023

Scopa group will start building the plant in early 2024. The plant will produce 100 helicopters over the next decade. Airbus SE has signed an investment agreement worth more than 25 billion riyals (\$6.7 billion) to build military and civilian helicopters in Saudi Arabia with a local defense company.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-19/airbus-agrees-6-7-billion-helicopter-pact-with-saudi-arabia#xj4y7vzkg>

SAMI-AEC forges strategic partnership with Lockheed Martin to bolster regional repair capabilities

Zawya, June 20, 2023

SAMI-AEC, a subsidiary of SAMI (the Saudi Arabia's national champion of defense industries), proudly announces a strategic partnership with Lockheed Martin. This partnership officially designates SAMI-AEC's Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod (ATP) Repair Center as the world's premier, Middle East-based repair facility for Line-Replaceable Units (LRUs), offering enhanced maintenance and repair services. Lockheed Martin's decision to select SAMI-AEC's facility as its primary hub for specialized unit repairs reinforces the unrivalled competencies and expertise of SAMI-AEC in the realm of contemporary electronics and manufacturing. This unique designation in the Middle East signifies a major milestone for both SAMI-AEC and

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in fortifying their defense capabilities through state-of-the-art technology and innovation.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/sami-aec-forges-strategic-partnership-with-lockheed-martin-to-bolster-regional-repair-capabilities-pr3s7uqc>

US orders \$1.15 bln of AMRAAM missiles, including for sales to Ukraine, Saudi Arabia

Alarabiya News, June 22, 2023

The US Air Force awarded a \$1.15 billion contract to Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RTX) for AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM), the Pentagon said. This will cover missile sales to several foreign allies and partners of the US, including Ukraine and Saudi Arabia. The Pentagon said the AMRAAM contract involved “unclassified foreign military sales” to 18 countries: Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the UK. RTX will produce AMRAAM missiles, telemetry systems and spare parts under the contract, in addition to providing production engineering support, the Pentagon said. The company is expected to complete the work on Lot 37 of the missiles by January 31, 2027.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/06/22/US-orders-1-15-bln-of-AMRAAM-missiles-including-for-sales-to-Ukraine-Saudi-Arabia>

Saudi Arabia eyes defense deals at Paris show

Arab News, June 22, 2023

Saudi Arabia is seeking to explore partnerships and investment opportunities at the Paris Air Show 2023, which began on Monday in France. The General Authority for Military Industries, along with its partners Saudi Arabian Military Industries and the World Defense Show, is taking part in the event to showcase the Kingdom's progress in the defense industry. Saudi Arabia is keen on localizing the sector in line with its Vision 2030 goals, the Saudi Press Agency reported. GAMI Gov. Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Ohali said the authority's participation in the event is part of its efforts to enable the sector to achieve its objectives by creating strategic partnerships and networking with international investors interested in investing in the Kingdom.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2324426/business-economy>

Saudi Arabia, India bolster defense ties with joint naval training

Arab News, June 26, 2023

A new initiative that saw Saudi naval cadets training with their Indian counterparts will help to strengthen defense relations between the two countries, the Indian Navy said on Monday, as it considers extending the program. Fifty-five students and five instructors from the King Fahd Naval Academy in Saudi Arabia recently completed four weeks of training aboard

two Indian vessels. The students, from the main naval academy of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, traveled to a naval base in Kochi, Kerala last month and were attached to India's First Training Squadron ships INS Tir and INS Sujata. "Training onboard Indian Navy ships will ... strengthen the existing bonds and build bridges of friendship among the future leadership of both the navies," the Indian Navy told Arab News.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2328376/world>

India Has Become a Middle Eastern Power

Foreign Policy, June 30, 2023

A decade ago, I went to India on a three-week speaking tour that took me to New Delhi, Lucknow, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, and Hyderabad. The idea behind the trip, which the U.S. State Department sponsored, was to foster an exchange of ideas about the Middle East with officials in the Indian government, academics, students, and journalists. From the perspective of the diplomats who invited me, it was a great opportunity for Indians to understand a nonofficial U.S. perspective on a part of the world that was likely to loom large for New Delhi in the future. I had a wonderful trip, but I came back skeptical about a future Indian role in the Middle East.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/06/30/india-middle-east-power/>

Syria

Egyptian parties demand withdrawal of US and Turkish occupation forces from Syria

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 19, 2023

The Global Gathering in Support of the Choice of Resistance Conference in Egypt has demanded the withdrawal of the US and Turkish occupation forces from the Syrian territory, underscoring the importance of Arab solidarity to liberate the entire Arab territory from occupation.

During a symposium entitled “Syria after Arab Summit and the developments of situation in Lebanon”, General Coordinator of the Gathering, Dr. Jamal Zahran, said “Syria’s return to the Arab League is a victory for Syria and Arabism.”

Zahran called for Arab solidarity in confronting all the dangers facing the whole region, such occupation, economic crises, or attempts to impose domination.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=311211>

Syrian delegation meets delegations of Russia and Iran within 20th Int’l meeting in Astana format

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 20, 2023

Within the 20th International Meeting on Syria in the Astana format, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, headed by Dr. Ayman Sousan, Assistant Foreign and Expatriates Minister, met with the Russian delegation, headed by Mikhail Bogdanov, Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Representative of the Russian President for Middle East Affairs. Later, the Syrian

delegation held another meeting with the Iranian delegation, headed by Ali Asghar Khaji, senior Assistant to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs. During the two meetings, discussions revolved around the agenda of the meeting, and viewpoints converged on various relevant issues.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=311313>

Turkey’s acknowledgement to completely withdraw its troops from Syrian territories cornerstone of any discussion, Sousan

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 20, 2023

Assistant Foreign Ministers of Syria, Iran, Russia and Turkey held talks Tuesday in the capital city of Kazakhstan, Astana under the 20th International Meeting on Syria in the Astana format.

Upon participating in the meeting, Assistant Foreign and Expatriates Minister, Ayman Sousan, underlined that any effective results that may come out in the Astana process must be based on Turkey’s acknowledgement to completely withdraw its troops from the Syrian territories on a specific schedule and concrete steps and to start this actual withdrawal.

“That form the cornerstone for any discussion of other issues related to the return of refugees, fighting all forms of terrorism, and the relations between the two countries,” Sousan added.

He also clarified that the Turkish statements abo

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=311376>

Int'l Meeting on Syria final statement: guarantor states affirm adherence to Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 21, 2023

The final statement of the 20th International Meeting on Syria in the Astana format affirmed that the guarantor states renew their firm commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and to the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The statement added that the guarantor states renew their determination to continue joint action to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to reject separatist agendas aimed at undermining Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The statement stressed that the guarantor states condemn the activities of terrorist organizations and armed groups of different names in Syria and reaffirm their rejection of illegal operations to plunder the Syrian oil.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=311415>

Lavrentiev: US occupation coordinates with terrorist organizations in Syria to carry out terrorist attacks

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 22, 2023

The US occupation forces continue to coordinate with terrorist organizations in Syria, with the aim of carrying out more terrorist attacks there, Russian Presidential Special Envoy for Syria Alexander Lavrentiev said. "There is information that the US is reinforcing its forces in

northeastern Syria and in al-Tanf region which it occupies," Lavrentiev said in an interview with Novosti Agency Thursday.

He added "This measure may be due to tightening the American position towards Damascus, and Washington's attempts to destabilize Syria." Lavrentiev pointed out that the US intelligence services continue to work with extremist terrorist groups in Syria through their illegitimate military bases there, in order to carry out more subversive terrorist acts on Syrian territory.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=311494>

Russian airstrikes kill at least 11 people in rebel-held Syria

The Times of Israel, June 25, 2023

Russian airstrikes on Sunday on Syria's northwest killed at least 11 people including seven civilians, in retaliation for deadly drone attacks blamed on rebel forces, a war monitor said. "Six civilians were killed in Jisr al-Shughur and three rebel fighters were killed nearby by Russian airstrikes," Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told AFP.

Ahmed Yezidi of the civil defense in Jisr al-Shughur, a city in rebel-held Idlib province, said the strikes killed nine people, without specifying whether fighters were included in the toll. A fruit and vegetable market in the city was hit by the Russian strike, said the Observatory and an AFP correspondent at the scene.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russian-airstrikes-kill-at-least-11-people-in-rebel-held-syria/>

Türkiye

Turkish defense companies meet NATO defense ministers

Daily Sabah, June 16, 2023

Representatives from Turkish defense companies met with defense ministers from different countries on the sidelines of a two-day NATO meeting in Brussels. Representatives of 26 defense companies from the United States and Europe were invited to join a meeting in Brussels, where Türkiye was represented by National Defense Minister Yaşar Güler. The meeting was held on Thursday on the margins of the NATO defense ministers' meeting that focuses on stepping up support for Ukraine amid an ongoing war with Russia and strengthening deterrence and defense. The defense ministers are also preparing for NATO leaders' summit to be held in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius on July 11-12. Baykar and Roketsan were the companies invited from Türkiye, with CEOs Haluk Bayraktar and Murat İkinci, respectively, representing the firms at the reception.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-companies-meet-nato-defense-ministers>

From cargo drone to new chopper: Turkish firms dazzle at Paris Air Show

Daily Sabah, June 20, 2023

The Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) developed national combat aircraft KAAN is now ready to take flight thanks to its successful manufacturing and design, according to the general manager of the

company. Temel Kotil made the related statements to the press on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show, which returned Monday after a four-year COVID-19-induced hiatus. The Turkish company is showcasing many products, from unmanned platforms to helicopters, at the biennial event that features military and civilian aircraft streaking across the sky.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/from-cargo-drone-to-new-chopper-turkish-firms-dazzle-at-paris-air-show>

Turkish-built Anka combat drone to be deployed in 4 other countries

Daily Sabah, June 21, 2023

The Anka drone, a medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) class unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) manufactured by a pioneering Turkish defense industry company, is scheduled to commence its operational duties in several other countries in 2023, a company official said Wednesday. "Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) will ship Anka drones to four other countries this year," Chief Product Engineer Ziya Doğan told Anadolu Agency (AA). "One overseas customer is actively using Anka drones," Doğan said. He added that an export deal was signed with another country for the delivery in 2024. The total flight time of Anka drones delivered to domestic customers reached 200,000 hours, Doğan noted.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-built-anka-combat-drone-to-be-deployed-in-4-other-countries>

'Türkiye in contact with China for planned 3rd nuclear plant'

Daily Sabah, June 23, 2023

Türkiye is in contact with China regarding the construction of a planned third nuclear power plant (NPP) and is surveying sites for a fourth, a top ministry official said. Russia's Rosatom is building the country's first nuclear power plant, Akkuyu NPP, in its southern Mersin province, with the first reactor expected to go online next year.

The country plans to build a second one in the northern province of Sinop and a third in the northwestern province of Kırklareli.

Türkiye needs to generate slightly over 11% of electricity through nuclear energy by 2035, and 29% by 2053 to reach its climate goals, Salih Sarı, the head of nuclear infrastructure at the energy ministry told a local nuclear industry conference Wednesday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkiye-in-contact-with-china-for-planned-3rd-nuclear-plant>

Turkish defense giant Aselsan to soon deliver new miniature bomb

Daily Sabah, June 25, 2023

Turkish defense giant Aselsan's miniature bomb, TOLUN, is poised to debut as mass production has commenced following successful development. The company showcased its array of solutions, particularly focusing on ammunition, avionics and electro-optical products tailored for air platforms at the prestigious Paris Airshow, renowned for bringing together global aviation experts.

Noteworthy among these cutting-edge offerings were the TOLUN Miniature Bomb, the TOLUN IIR Guided Miniature Bomb, the SADAK-4T Smart Pneumatic Quad Rack, as well as the GÖZDE and LGK-82 guidance kits.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-giant-aselsan-to-soon-deliver-new-miniature-bomb>

Türkiye's Akkuyu NPP progressing rapidly, set to boost economy, power supply

Daily Sabah, June 26, 2023

Construction of Türkiye's first nuclear power plant, the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in southern Mersin province, is progressing at an impressive pace. Denis Sezemin, the production and construction organization director of the power plant, has confirmed that the first unit is on track to be completed this year. Once operational, the plant is expected to significantly contribute to the country's budget, estimated at \$50 billion (TL 1.296 trillion) over the lifespan of all four power units. The Akkuyu NPP project is important for Türkiye as it aims to supply 10% of the country's electricity.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkiyes-akkuyu-npp-progressing-rapidly-set-to-boost-economy-power-supply>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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