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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

IRGC Chief: Iran-Pakistan Cooperation to Eradicate Terrorism

Fars News Agency, July 16, 2023

Maj. Gen. Salami made the remarks in a meeting with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir in Tehran on Saturday. The expansion of interaction between Tehran and Islamabad would uproot terrorists and establish sustainable security and stability in border areas, the IRGC commander stressed. He also stressed the importance of promoting cooperation to fight terrorist groups and annul security threats posed to the border areas, adding that security challenges and clashes on the Iran-Pakistan border are in line with the "dangerous policies of the arrogant system to sow bloody discord among Muslims". "West Asia has always been affected by international political forces," the senior commander stated, adding, "There are powers who do not tolerate unity and coherence among Muslims."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020425000228/IRGC-Chief-Iran-Pakistan-Cooperation-Eradicate-Terrorism>

US Sending More Planes, Ships To Mideast To Counter Iran

Iran International, July 18, 2023

The United States has officially confirmed earlier reports of sending more warplanes and additional warships to the Persian Gulf region to deter Iranian moves. The

Pentagon said Monday that it will send additional F-35 and F-16 fighter jets, along with a warship to the Middle East, in a bid to monitor key waterways in the region following Iran's seizure and harassment of commercial shipping vessels in recent months. Meanwhile, in a telephone conversation on Monday US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed security challenges Iran poses in the region.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202307182044>

Iran Downplays US Deployment of Navy Destroyer, More Warplanes in West Asia

Fars News Agency, July 19, 2023

Speaking to reporters after a cabinet session on Wednesday, Brig. Gen. Ashtiani shrugged off the US plan to dispatch a new fleet of jets and the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner to the Persian Gulf, underscoring that Tehran does not care about Washington, which is pursuing its own agenda. "Basically, Iran has reached such a stage of power that nobody would be able to threaten it," the minister stressed. He stated that Iran plays an important regional and international role without feeling any threat. Pentagon announced on Monday it plans to send additional fighters and naval assets to the Persian Gulf region to increase US military presence in the region in a bid to "protect ships" from "Iranian seizures".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020428000502/Iran-Downplays-US-Deployment-of-Navy-Destroyer-More-Warplanes-in-West-Asia>

Iranian, Bolivian ministers ink defense MOU

Tehran Times, July 21, 2023

Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Iranian Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said Latin American countries are of special significance in Iran's foreign and defense policy, calling Latin America a highly significant and sensitive region. Regarding Bolivia's needs in the field of border defense and combating drug trafficking, Brigadier General Ashtiani said the Iranian side have tried to have interactions with the Latin American country to provide it with the necessary equipment. This sort of cooperation can serve as a role model for other nations in South America, the Iranian defense chief remarked.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48708/1/Iranian-Bolivian-ministers-ink-defense-MOU#:~:text=TEHRAN%20-%20The%20defense%20ministers%20of,a nd%20security%20affairs%2C%20IRNA%20reported.>

AEOI Chief: Iran to Run 6 More Uranium Mines

Fars News Agency, July 24, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami announced that his country's uranium reserves are much larger than previous estimates, and said that the country plans to operate six more uranium mines by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (which

will end on March 20, 2024). "Currently eight uranium mines are operating in the country," Eslami said. "Our uranium reserves in the country now exceed the previous estimates. We are currently operating eight mines, and six more mines are planned to come on stream by the end of the [Iranian calendar] year," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020502000632/AEOI-Chief-Iran-Rn-6-Mre-Uranim-Mines>

Iran's Su-24, F-4 Jets Annihilate Mock-Up Targets During Massive Drills

Fars News Agency, July 24, 2023

Spokesman for the wargames General Alireza Roudbari said the strategic Su-24 military aircraft successfully bombarded mock enemy targets and the F4 jets then flew at low altitudes to fire upgraded indigenous Qassed missiles at the designated targets. A range of missiles, including laser-guided, thermal and radar-guided ones as well as various domestically-produced bombs and rockets were utilized in the maneuver to hit the aerial targets in various altitudes, he added.

F-4 aircraft deployed flares to lighten up the battlefield and help identify targets, and F-14 aircraft drilled aerial fueling from a Boeing 707 tanker, the spokesperson continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020502000398/Iran's-S-24-F-4-Jes-Annihila-Mck-Up-Targes-Dring-Massive-Drills>

Iran naval forces receive dozens of cruise missiles

Islamic Republic News Agency, July 25, 2023

The Iranian Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy took delivery of the “Abu Mahdi” cruise missiles in a ceremony attended by senior commanders on Tuesday. The Abu Mahdi cruise missile, with a range of over 1,000 kilometers, has been produced by the Aerospace Industries Organization of Iran’s Defense Ministry. It can destroy mobile naval targets and is capable of covering a wide range of operations while streaking at low altitudes to evade enemy radars. The cruise missile is able to destroy all types of ships, frigates and destroyers thanks to its high destructive power and the explosives in its warhead. Abu Mahdi is the first long-range cruise missile that uses artificial intelligence to plan its flight path and has the ability to pass over natural and artificial obstacles as well as the enemy’s radar and defense systems.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85180394/Iran-naval-forces-receive-dozens-of-cruise-missiles>

IRGC Commander: Iran's AI-Powered Cruise Missile Game-Changer in Confronting US Aircraft Carrier

Fars News Agency, July 25, 2023

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri underlined the vital role the Abu Mahdi cruise missile will play in enhancing the country's naval forces'

defensive power and underscored that the missile is capable of turning US aircraft carriers to metal scrap. He said that Abu Mahdi cruise missile exemplifies the pinnacle of Iran's technological prowess, stressing, "A main feature of the new missile is keeping the enemy away from the Iranian coasts." "We can fire the Abu Mahdi missile from deep inside the country. The missile has a dual seeker and performs successfully against the enemy’s electronic warfare," the top general said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020503000399/IRGC-Cmmander-Iran's-AI-Pwered-Crise-Missile-Game-Changer-in-Cnfrning>

Iran-Russia Fighter Jet Deal Far Might Not Materialize, Reports Say

Israel Defense, July 25, 2023

It is possible that the deal for the advanced Russian combat aircraft, SU-34, to Iran, might not be realized. Iran claims to be manufacturing its own domestically-produced aircraft.

The British Guardian reports that in January this year, Tehran ordered 24 Russian SU-34 fourth-generation dual-engine aircraft, with a delivery summary after three months, which would be around March 21st, according to the Iranian parliament member, Haidar Haidari.

However, seven months after the deal was closed, the aircraft still haven't arrived in Iran.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59027>

Nuclear Chief: Iran-IAEA Interaction Constant, Sustainable

Fars News Agency, July 26, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami described the coordination between his country and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as constant and sustainable, and once again underlined that the interaction between the two sides is in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Safeguards Agreement. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Eslami underscored Tehran and the United Nations nuclear watchdog have continuous and stable cooperation based on an agreement reached months ago. The bilateral collaboration conforms with the Safeguards Agreement and the NPT, the official stated.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020504000609/Nuclear-Chief-Iran-IAEA-Interaction-Constant-Sustainable>

Airborne Commander: Iranian Air Force Equipping with Modern, State-of-Art Equipment

Fars News Agency, July 30, 2023

Iranian Army Airborne Commander General Yousef Qorbani said that his country enjoys the most powerful helicopter fleet in West Asia despite severe sanctions in the aviation field, adding that the Army Ground Force has armed its copters with precision striking missiles. The ranking commander stated on Sunday that Iran is in possession of the largest and strongest fleet of military helicopters in

West Asia with the highest aviation combat preparedness. He noted that the Iranian Army Aviation is in a very desirable state in terms of combat readiness, pointing to the aviation's self-sufficiency, component-manufacturing campaign and installation of indigenous night vision cameras as some of the achievements of the unit.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020508000533/Airbrne-Cmmander-Iranian-Air-Frce-Eipping-wih-Mdern-Sae-f-Ar-Eipmen>

Iraq

Defense Minister: The success of Iraqi armed forces in defeating terrorism has strengthened regional stability

Iraqi News Agency, July 18, 2023

Defense Minister Thabet Al-Abbasi affirmed on Tuesday, that the success of the Iraqi armed forces in defeating terrorism has strengthened regional stability. Al-Abbasi said in a tweet on his Twitter account, which was followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "I received the French Minister of Armies, Sébastien Lecornu at the Ministry of Defense headquarters, and we held bilateral talks on regional security and joint cooperation between the two countries." "We have shown that the success of the Iraqi armed forces in defeating terrorism has strengthened regional stability, and we have stressed the need to preserve this historic achievement," he added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27637-defense-minister-the-success-of-iraqi-armed-forces-in-defeating-terrorism-has-strengthened-regional-stability.html>

Interior Minister assures his Jordanian counterpart of Iraq's keenness to consolidate relations with its neighbors

Iraqi News Agency, July 24, 2023

Interior Minister Abdul Amir Al-Shammari confirmed, during his meeting with his Jordanian counterpart, Mazin Al-Faraya, Iraq's keenness to consolidate relations with its neighbors and brothers. A statement of the Ministry of Interior received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) stated that, "Amidst an atmosphere full of cordiality and the depth of the close relations that bind Iraq and Jordan, the Minister of Interior, Abdul al-Amir al-Shammari, and his Jordanian counterpart, Mazin al-Faraya, who arrived Sunday in Baghdad, made a tour in the Ummah Square in the center of the capital, as the two ministers met a group of citizens who were present, and were briefed on their conditions and exchanged conversations with them, and the citizens praised the relations between Iraq and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27732-interior-minister-assures-his-jordanian-counterpart-of-iraqs-keenness-to-consolidate-relations-with-its-neighbors.html>

A joint security operation launched in Nineveh: PMF

Iraqi News Agency, July 27, 2023

The Popular Mobilization Forces PMF announced, on Thursday, the launch of a joint security operation in Nineveh. A

statement by PMF received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said that " a large-scale security operation was launched today from several axes south of Nineveh Governorate with the participation of the Iraqi army units and the Nineveh Operations Command for the Popular Mobilization represented by the forces of the brigade (33, 50, 58, 59) and the sections of the Operations Command. "The operation is aimed at inspecting, clearing and securing villages and hills," The statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27789-a-joint-security-operation-launched-in-nineveh-pmf.html>

US, Russia mum as Turkey escalates attacks against Kurdish groups in Syria, Iraq

Al-Monitor, July 31, 2023

Turkey's military campaign against alleged Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets in Syria and Iraq is continuing full blast with at least four fighters of the US-allied Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and four others from the outlawed PKK killed in drone strikes in northeast Syria and Kurdish-administered northern Iraq, Kurdish-led armed groups and Iraqi Kurdish security officials said. The Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration in North and Northeast Syria on Sunday denounced Russia and the US-led Global Coalition to Defeat the Islamic State (IS) in a statement over their silence in the face of the attacks. The assaults continued throughout the weekend

when three civilians were injured as a result of Turkish shelling that targeted a village located south of Tell Tamar in northeast Syria, Kurdish media reported.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/07/us-russia-mum-turkey-escalates-attacks-against-kurdish-groups-syria-iraq>

Israel

IAI Signs Cooperation Agreement with German Missile Systems Company MBDA

Israel Defense, July 16, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and MBDA Germany have signed a cooperation agreement for the production, integration, sales, and marketing of IAI's loitering ammunition systems in Germany. MBDA is a leader in Germany in developing, producing, and maintaining guided missiles, air defense systems, and effective systems. Four decades ago, IAI was the first company in the world to develop loitering ammunition. The current IAI Loitering Munition portfolio includes the Harop, Harpy, Mini-Harpy, and Rotem systems. Together with MBDA Germany, IAI offers this loitering ammunition portfolio to the German Armed Forces to close capability gaps in the Air Force, Navy and Army.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58894>

UK to Integrate Rafael's Trophy Active Protection System into Challenger 3 Tanks

Israel Defense, July 17, 2023

The British government has awarded Rafael a £20 million contract in order to purchase hardware for the Trophy Active Protection System, for its Challenger 3 tanks, says a UK Defense Journal report.

The contract will allow the acquisition of multiple systems, countermeasures, and testing equipment required for certification and integration activities for the upcoming demonstration phase. The tank is expected to enter service in 2027. The Challenger 3 tank is being developed within the framework of a £800 million contract from 2021, awarded to RBSL to deliver 148 fully digital, upgraded combat tanks. According to reports in the UK, the Challenger 3 is within budget and ahead of schedule.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58904>

Italian Army Signs Spike Missile Deal

Israel Defense, July 18, 2023

The Italian Ministry of Defense has decided to acquire Spike LR2 missiles from Israel's Rafael. This purchase was made through a single-source procurement process without a tender, as reported by Ares Osservatorio Difesa. According to the publication, the contract value signed with Rafael is 143 million euros, and the program will be operational from 2023 until 2030. The new missiles will be integrated into the landing

force of the Italian Navy and other units of the Italian Army. The Spike LR2 missile can be used effectively on land, and mounted on various vehicles, helicopters, and naval units. It is the most advanced version of the SPIKE Long Range series, weighing less than 13 kg, with a length of 1.2 meters and a diameter of 130 mm.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58932>

Elbit Awarded \$150 Million Contract to Supply PULS Rocket Artillery Systems to Int'l Customer

Israel Defense, July 18, 2023

Elbit Systems was awarded a \$150 million contract to supply PULS™ (Precise and Universal Launching Systems) rocket launchers and a package of precision-guided long-range rockets to an international customer. The contract will be performed over a period of three years. Elbit's PULS provides a comprehensive solution that can launch unguided rockets, precision-guided munitions, and missiles with an effective range of up to 300km. With its unique design, the PULS can also support future growth capabilities such as the ability to launch loitering munitions, including the canister-launched configuration of Elbit Systems' SkyStriker loitering munition. The PULS launcher is fully adaptable to existing wheeled and tracked platforms, enabling a significant reduction in maintenance and training costs.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58941>

Plasan Secures Major US Deal

Israel Defense, July 19, 2023

Plasan North America (PNA), a manufacturer of advanced survivability solutions and a subsidiary of Israel's Plasan, has announced its selection as a subcontractor for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle A2 (JLTV) program by AM General. The subcontract award is valued at \$300 million over five years and includes supplying the major subcomponents of the armored vehicle. "We are honored to be selected as a subcontractor for the JLTV A2 program by AM General," said COL (Ret.) John Cavado, president of Plasan North America. "This partnership recognizes our long-standing dedication to the success of the program and our unwavering commitment to supporting our armed forces. We are proud to build on our legacy and expand our involvement with the JLTV A2, create new job opportunities for West Michigan, and contribute to the growth of our local community."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58949>

Elbit opens UK R&D, manufacturing facility

Israel Defense, July 23, 2023

Elbit Systems UK has opened a manufacturing and development facility in Bristol, England, following three years of planning and more than £35 million (U.S. \$46 million) in investments. The facility will act as a research, development, and

manufacturing hub for the high-tech solutions already being provided to the British Armed Forces and other NATO customers by Elbit Systems UK. At the opening ceremony, a number of capabilities of Elbit Systems UK were demonstrated, including EW Solutions for multiple domains (air, land, and naval applications) including the MEWSIC1 program of the Royal Navy; interim combined armed virtual simulator (deployable); full land integrated systems demonstration; ground-based surveillance radar; nv33 night vision goggles; and a range of unmanned systems.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58979>

Israel Receives Three New F-35 Fighter Jets

Israel Defense, July 23, 2023

The Israeli Air Force received three new F-35 Lightning II (“Adir”) aircraft on Thursday. The Lockheed Martin aircraft arrived from the US and landed in the Nevatim Air Force base. Normally, the Lightning II armament is installed inside the aircraft, in order to preserve its stealth characteristics. However, this time, the Israeli Air Force carried out a test flight with heavy external armament, the JDAM 84 bomb, under the aircraft’s wings. This demonstrated the capabilities of engineering cooperation between the IAF and Lockheed Martin. The three new aircraft will join the 140 “Golden Eagle” Squadron at the Nevatim Air Base, and

bring the total number of Israeli Lightning II fighter jets to 39.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58993>

Israeli-German Cooperation to Supply Hungary with Hero Loitering Munitions

Israel Defense, July 24, 2023

Israeli company UVision and Germany’s Rheinmetall has secured an order from Hungary for Hero Loitering Munitions. Contracts to this effect have now been signed. The munitions are worth a figure in the low three-digit million-euro range. Delivery will begin in 2024 and is scheduled to end in 2025. The Hero loitering munitions is a family of operationally proven, widely used effectors which Rheinmetall fabricates and markets in Europe under a cooperation agreement with UVision Air Ltd. of Israel. In October 2021 Rheinmetall and UVision embarked on a strategic partnership aimed at addressing sharply increased demand for remotely controlled precision munitions.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59003>

Aeronautics Integrates CRFS’ RF Technology into Aerostar UAV

Israel Defense, July 24, 2023

Israeli company Aeronautics has integrated UK Company CRFS’ RF technology on Aeronautics family of Aerostar UAVs with the first system already deployed with an undisclosed European customer. Shephardmedia.com website reported that

Aeronautics approached CRFS to enhance a SIGINT/ELINT capability by integrating the company's RFeye technology for RF signal detection, capture, and geolocation missions across a wideband spectrum range (10MHz-18GHz).

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59004>

Rafael Systems' Subsidiary to Supply Ukraine With 80 Heidrun Reconnaissance Drones

Israel Defense, July 24, 2023

Dynamit Nobel Defense (DND), a subsidiary of Israeli Rafael Systems, is to deliver 80 Heidrun reconnaissance drones to Ukraine. The delivery is financed by the Federal Republic of Germany. The German website Soldat & Technik reports that the Heidrun is a combat-proved system and was first delivered to Ukraine in 2022 as part of Denmark's military aid – at the time still via Danish manufacturer Sky-Watch. In addition, several systems were produced through a crowdfunding campaign led by Hollywood star Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker from Star Wars) and were also handed over to the Ukrainian armed forces.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59017>

India to Purchase Software-Defined Radios for Tanks Based on Elbit's Technology

Israel Defense, July 25, 2023

Bangalore-based company Alpha Design Technologies has signed an order to supply

400 Software-Defined Radios (SDRs) manufactured locally, which will be installed in tanks operated by the Indian Army. This, according to a Times of India report. The technology is based on developments by Elbit Systems, which were transferred to Alpha Design as part of a collaboration between the companies.

The Times of India quoted a senior Alpha Design official who said that "The Indian Army took a significant step by ordering 400 SDR systems for some of its tanks. We have already signed the contract, and the manufacturing is underway."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59025>

Cyber Cooperation in the Middle East: a Way to Counter the Iranian Threat?

Israel Defense, July 25, 2023

In recent years, the Arab world, particularly in the Middle East, has experienced significant political and strategic changes in the form of the Abraham Accords.

The Abraham Accords are a series of joint declarations of normalizing the relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain, followed by Morocco and Sudan. These agreements manifest new diplomatic, economic, and security relations between Israel and those countries, and also open the door to a new form of cooperation at the cyber level.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59029>

Thales Acquires Cybersecurity Company Imperva, Established in Israel

Israel Defense, July 27, 2023

French multinational Thales announced today that it has reached an agreement with Thoma Bravo, a major software investment firm, for the acquisition of 100% of Imperva, a leading data and application cybersecurity company, for an enterprise value of \$3.6 billion. Established in Israel, Imperva moved its center of operations to the US over 10 years ago.

“With this acquisition, Thales is taking its cybersecurity business to the next level. Imperva will enable growth in data security and Thales’ entry into the attractive application security market. Thales total cybersecurity business will generate more than € 2.4 billion in revenues,” says the Thales statement. The transaction price is based on a \$3.6 billion enterprise value.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59054>

Major Deal for Israeli Defense Industry: Redback Chosen as Australian Army’s Future APC

Israel Defense, July 27, 2023

The Australian press is reporting in recent days that the big winner in the Australian Army's future APC tender - LAND 400 program - is the South Korean company Hanwha Defense, which will produce and

supply the Australian Army with 129 Redback APCs.

From the Israeli perspective, what is special about this APC is the wealth of Israeli systems installed in it: Rafael's "Spike" anti-tank missile launchers; Elbit's "Iron Fist" active protection system, a turret, and Electro-optics devices; and Plasan's armor protection.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59064>

IAI’s DS-SAR Satellite Successfully Launched, Enters Orbit

Israel Defense, July 30, 2023

The DS-SAR radar satellite, developed and produced by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), was successfully launched into space on a PSLV-C56 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) rocket, this morning at 04:00 from the launch site SDSC SHAR Sriharikota, India. In line with the original launch program, the satellite entered its orbit around the Earth, began transmitting data, and underwent a series of preliminary performance tests, conducted by IAI's engineers, who validated the correct functioning and performance level of the systems. While in orbit, the satellite will begin a preplanned series of tests, and following their completion, will be formally handed over to its Singaporean customers DSTA and ST Electronics.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59076>

Elbit Awarded \$60 Million Contract to Supply Artillery Shells to the Israel MoD

Israel Defense, July 31, 2023

Elbit Systems announced that it was awarded a contract worth approximately \$60 million to supply thousands of 155mm artillery shells to the Israel Defence Forces' Artillery Corps. The contract will be performed over a period of one year. "Elbit Systems is proud to be a leading supplier to the IDF, supporting its ongoing operational requirements. The expansion and the upgrade of our production infrastructure enable the provision of rapid production of a range of high-quality solutions to the Israel Ministry of Defense," said Yehuda (Udi) Vered, General Manager of Elbit Systems Land.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59102>

Oman

DOD Increases Military Presence Near Oman

U.S. Department of Defense, July 17, 2023

The Defense Department today announced an increased presence in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, including an additional Navy destroyer along with fighter jets. "In response to a number of recent, alarming events in the Strait of Hormuz, the secretary of defense has ordered the deployment of the of the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner, F-35 fighters and F-16 fighters to the U.S.

Central Command area of responsibility to defend U.S. interests and safeguard freedom of navigation in the region," said Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh during a briefing. Earlier this month, Singh said, the Iranian navy attempted to illegally seize two merchant vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3461167/dod-increases-military-presence-near-oman/>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia buys Turkish drones during Erdogan's visit

Aljazeera, July 18, 2023

Saudi Arabia has agreed to buy Turkish drones, one of several lucrative contracts President Recep Tayyip Erdogan secured for Turkey's struggling economy as Ankara reaps the benefits of his recent diplomatic push to repair ties with Gulf Arab powers.

Erdogan arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday, accompanied by an entourage of some 200 businesspeople, according to the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey, as part of a three-stop tour of the region. Both countries signed several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in many fields, including energy, direct investments and defence industries.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/18/saudi-arabia-buys-turkish-drones-during-erdogans-visit>

Saudi Arabia to showcase defense, security capabilities and technologies at Istanbul military fair

Arab News, July 21, 2023

Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Military Industries will showcase the nation's military and security capabilities, and related investment opportunities, during the International Defense Industry Fair 2023 in Turkiye this month, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Thursday. The authority, the Kingdom's defense regulator, will join government agencies, national institutions, and businesses operating in the military, defense and security industries, in the Saudi pavilion at the event, which runs from July 25 to 28 at the Tuyap Fair Convention and Congress Center in Istanbul. The authority said its aims at the fair include highlighting high-quality investment opportunities in the sector and encouraging international cooperation with major regional and global companies, and enabling Saudi companies in the defense and security industries to forge strategic partnerships.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2341426/saudi-arabia>

Landmark defense deals are evidence of warmer Saudi-Turkish relations, experts say

Arab News, July 21, 2023

Ties between Ankara and Riyadh are improving as the bilateral relationship continues to warm following the signing of a significant defense export deal, analysts

say. During his official tour of the Gulf this week, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a number of agreements with Saudi Arabia late on Monday, which many experts viewed as sending a signal about the future of defense cooperation between the two countries. They included a pivotal defense-cooperation deal, and an agreement between the Saudi Ministry of Defense and Turkish defense equipment manufacturer Baykar for the supply of drones. Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman emphasized the important nature of these agreements, stating that they aim to enhance the readiness of the Kingdom's armed forces and bolster the country's defense and manufacturing capabilities.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2341796/middle-east>

Saudi Arabia concludes participation in Istanbul defense industry fair

Arab News, July 28, 2023

Saudi Arabia on Friday concluded its participation in the four-day International Defense Industries Fair, or IDEF 2023, held in Istanbul. Local and international visitors, specialists and investors were briefed on the pavilions of national companies taking part in the exhibition. Products on display were aimed at the military, defense and security sectors. Prominent developments in the military industries sector were reviewed regarding the localization of military industries and technology transfer.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2346001/saudi-arabia>

Syrian Arab Republic

Iran renews commitment to continue supporting Syria to overcome terrorism and occupation

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 20, 2023

Iran renewed its commitment to continue supporting the Syrian people and government to overcome the threats of terrorism and foreign occupation, in addition to assist Syria in its rebuilding and preserving territorial integrity. "It is necessary to guarantee sending non-politicized humanitarian aid to all Syrian areas, but it is very important to respect Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national sovereignty during this process," Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, said before the UN Security Council, adding that sending aid must help to rebuild infrastructure, strengthen the Syrian economy, and support sustainable and long-term development.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=313379>

Russian fighter jet damages US Reaper drone with flare over Syria: Officials

ABC News, July 25, 2023

A Russian fighter jet fired flares directly at an American MQ-9 Reaper drone over Syria on Sunday, damaging its propeller, U.S. Air Forces Central announced Tuesday -- the latest in a string of what military officials have denounced as risky and provocative behavior. The drone was on a

counter-terrorism mission against the Islamic State group, according to the Air Force. Russian fighter aircraft flew dangerously close to a U.S. MQ-9 drone on a defeat-ISIS mission, harassing the MQ-9 and deploying flares from a position directly overhead, with only a few meters of separation between aircraft," Air Forces Central Commander Lt. Gen. Alex Grynkewich said. One of the flares hit the drone, "severely damaging its propeller," according to Grynkewich.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/russian-fighter-jet-damages-us-reaper-drone-flares/story?id=101620956>

Terrorist organizations target, with missiles and drones, firefighting crews, north of Lattakia

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 27, 2023

The terrorist organizations deployed to Lattakia northern countryside and Idleb northwestern countryside continued to target forests and agricultural fields in Lattakia northern countryside, with missiles and drones, aiming at setting fire and targeting firefighting crews and civilians. All what hinder the firefighters' work is firing mortar shells and explosive bullets on the firefighters, by the terrorist organizations deployed to the north, during the attempts to put out the fire, which negatively affects the speed of distinguishing fires, in addition to the natural obstacles that does not allow the arrival of vehicles, Brigadier General Jalal

Daoud, Director of Civil Defense in Lattakia, said in a statement to SANA

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=313782>

Six citizens killed, 23 others injured in terrorist explosion in Damascus countryside

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 27, 2023

Six citizens were killed Thursday and nearly 23 others were injured in a terrorist explosion that targeted Assayida Zainab town in Damascus countryside. A motorcycle was detonated near a taxi of SABA at Kou Sudan street in Sayyida Zainab. “The police and authorities concerned rushed to the explosion place as bodies of the martyrs and the injured were admitted to hospitals,” the interior Ministry said in a statement on telegram.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=313856>

Causalities inflicted on terrorists due to infighting among them in Hasaka countryside

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 31, 2023

The occupied countryside of Ras al-Ayn witnessed fighting among the terrorist organizations backed by Turkish occupation. Civil sources told SANA reporter that an infighting broke out between terrorists affiliated with the so-called al-Hamza Division in Mukhtala village in the western countryside of Ras al-Ayn, in which the terrorists used machine

guns and RPGs were used, causing causalities and material damage to public and private property. The sources added that the reason of infighting was the dispute over the smuggling revenues that from the Syrian lands to the Turkish lands, which has become one of the most important sources of funding for terrorist groups in the region.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=314098>

Qatar

After Qatar talks, France sees chance to develop defence partnership

Reuters, July 25, 2023

France and Qatar have a common will to develop a defence partnership that builds on the existing cooperation with Rafale fighter jets, a French defence ministry source said on Tuesday, days after the minister visited Doha to cement military ties. Qatar did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The source declined to confirm a report from economic daily La Tribune newspaper on Tuesday that Doha wanted to buy 24 extra Dassault-made planes PA> and possibly upgrade its existing fleet with the latest technologies. La Tribune did not identify its sources. Sebastien Lecornu held talks with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Qatar last week.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/france-eyes-new-qatar-rafale-warplane-deal-defence-ministry-source-2023-07-25/>

Qatar Interested in Additional Rafale Fighter Jets

Israel Defense, July 27, 2023

France is exploring a new deal with Qatar for the supply of additional Dassault Rafale fighter jets, according to Reuters. Qatar has expressed its desire to acquire more Rafale fighter jets after purchasing 36 aircraft in 2015 and 2017. A source in the French defense ministry confirmed to Reuters that Qatar has shown interest in buying 24 additional Rafale jets. The French source stated that there was a feeling that Doha was satisfied with the purchase of Rafale jets, and their impression was that Qatar wanted to continue the partnership. This could imply the acquisition of new aircraft and upgrades to the existing fleet, potentially to the F4 standard.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59051>

Turkey

Kosovo buys batch of famed Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones

Daily Sabah, July 17, 2023

Kosovo on Sunday announced the purchase of a batch of pioneering Turkish-made armed drones, in what comes when the Balkan country faces unrest in the north where ethnic Serbs refuse to recognize the Pristina authorities. In a Facebook post, photographed in front of a Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), Prime Minister Albin Kurti said the latest security spending was making the country

safer. "We have added the Bayraktar TB2 UAVs, which we purchased from Türkiye as a state, to our army's inventory!" said Kurti, posing in front of the Kosovo-flagged drone along with Defense Minister Armend Mehaj and Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Commander Bashkim Jashari.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/kosovo-buys-batch-of-famed-turkish-bayraktar-tb2-drones>

‘National technologies, local production vital to Turkish defense industry’

Daily Sabah, July 18, 2023

Developing national technologies and local production is essential for the growing Turkish defense industry, said Deputy Defense Minister Celal Sami Tüfekçi Tuesday. Speaking at a gathering between the Machinery and Chemical Industry (MKE), SAHA Istanbul Defense and Aerospace Cluster Association, sector representatives and subcontractors in the capital Ankara, Tüfekçi underlined that “Türkiye aims to reach the super league in terms of the defense industry.” “Our policy in the defense industry, of which MKE is a part, is not to grow the MKE on its own, but let an ecosystem of defense industry grow with it together. Therefore, we aim to increase the indigenusness of our defense industry with new cooperations and the transformation of our product range,” Tüfekçi continued.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/national-technologies-local-production-vital-to-turkish-defense-industry>

The Netherlands lifts some defense industry restrictions on Türkiye

Daily Sabah, July 18, 2023

The Netherlands announced that it lifted some restrictions on the export of defense industry equipment to Türkiye, Dutch ministries announced on Tuesday. The Dutch Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry and the Economy and Climate Affairs Ministry released a joint statement on the lifting of restrictions. The statement included a list of precautions taken by the Dutch government related to restrictions on weapons exports. Noting that the Dutch government wants to strengthen defense cooperation in Europe, the statement pointed out that there is a need for fair competition in the EU. It also pointed out that the Dutch defense sector's vitality mostly depends on exports and that more than half of this sector's revenue is generated from exports.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/the-netherlands-lifts-some-defense-industry-restrictions-on-turkiye>

Türkiye's 1st long-range early warning radar to enter inventory soon

Daily Sabah, July 19, 2023

Türkiye is counting the days for its first long-range domestically-produced, early warning radar, ERALP, to enter the inventory. The radar was developed by the defense giant Aselsan, which will be showcasing its capabilities in

communications, air defense, avionics, electro-optics, electronic warfare, radar and unmanned systems to local and foreign visitors at the upcoming 16th International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF 2023) to be held in Istanbul on July 25-28. ERALP Portable Early Warning Radar System, which was developed in line with the needs of the Turkish Air Forces Command, will also be exhibited at IDEF 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-1st-long-range-early-warning-radar-to-enter-inventory-soon>

Turkish army adds domestic unmanned ground vehicle Barkan to inventory

Daily Sabah, July 23, 2023

The Turkish defense industry achieved a significant milestone as the unmanned land vehicle "Barkan" officially entered the inventory of the country's security forces.

Developed by Havelsan, this cutting-edge unmanned ground vehicle is set to be showcased at the upcoming 16th International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF 2023), scheduled to take place in Istanbul from July 25 to 28. The exhibition will provide an opportunity for Havelsan to present the latest advancements in unmanned vehicle solutions under the theme of "digital unity."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-adds-domestic-unmanned-ground-vehicle-barkan-to-inventory>

Following Saudi drone deal, Turkey's Erdogan targets \$6B in defense sales

Al-Monitor, July 25, 2023

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday that Turkey expected to reach \$6 billion in arms sales in 2023, hoping for a nearly 36.3% rise from last year's \$4.4 billion. "We have already achieved a record export level of \$2.3 billion in the first half of the year," Erdogan said in a video message to the International Defense Industry Fair 2023 (IDEF'23), held in Istanbul between July 25-28. The Turkish defense and aeronautics sector's export revenues passed the \$4 billion mark in 2022, up from \$3.2 billion in 2021. The sharp defense export rise is attributed mainly to aerospace and the country's popular drones used by more than 30 countries.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/07/following-saudi-drone-deal-turkeys-erdogan-targets-6b-defense-sales>

Türkiye inks defense, military cooperation deals with Kenya, Tajikistan

Daily Sabah, July 26, 2023

In a bid to bolster bilateral relations in the defense sector and enhance the supply and development of defense industry products and services, Türkiye and Kenya have officially signed a "Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement." The agreement was inked during the 16th International Defense Industry Fair, IDEF'23, currently

held in Istanbul. The signing ceremony took place between Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Haluk Görgün and Kenya's Defense Minister Aden Duale, highlighting the mutual commitment to collaborate on various aspects of defense and security.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-inks-defense-military-cooperation-deals-with-kenya-tajikistan>

Türkiye to modernize F-16 aircraft by 2025

Daily Sabah, July 26, 2023

Türkiye will complete the modernization of its F-16 Block-30 and F-16 Block-40/50 type fighter jets by 2025, according to an agreement signed at the 16th International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF) in Istanbul on Wednesday. The Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) project will be conducted by the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). The head of SSB, Haluk Görgün, said the F-16s will be modernized with indigenous avionic equipment. Software and hardware for the jets will be changed to integrate them with indigenous ammunition, he noted.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-to-modernize-f-16-aircraft-by-2025>

Pakistani official eyes cooperation with Türkiye on UAVs, advanced fighters

Daily Sabah, July 27, 2023

Saying that the defense industries of Türkiye and Pakistan have been working

together for more than two decades, the Pakistani secretary for defense production added that the two countries will consolidate their work and look ahead to new fields, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and advanced fighters. Turkish-Pakistani relations have expanded "exponentially" over the last decade, Humayun Aziz told Anadolu Agency (AA).

He stressed that Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC), Pakistani Karachi Shipyard, and Turkish defense firm STM have established ties.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/pakistani-official-eyes-cooperation-with-turkiye-on-uavs-advanced-fighters>

Major international fair IDEF sees several defense deals

Anadolu Agency, July 28, 2023

Several deals in the defense and aviation sectors were signed at the 16th International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF). The four-day event, which closed on Friday, saw the participation of around 1,500 domestic and foreign companies in Istanbul. Türkiye's Defense Industry Agency (SSB) has signed an agreement for radar systems and the production and integration process of some missiles. TAI Engine Industries (TEI) and Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (Botas) signed a deal for maintenance and support of turbine and natural gas compressor systems.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/major-international-fair-idef-sees-several-defense-deals/2956941>

Türkiye's homegrown fighter jet KAAN to take wing in December

Daily Sabah, July 28, 2023

Türkiye's domestically developed 5th-generation fighter jet "KAAN" will start flights in December, according to the head of Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). TAI General Manager Temel Kotil told a television program that they chose Dec. 27, for KAAN's first appearance in Turkish skies, five years earlier than planned. On Dec. 27, 1919, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Türkiye, and his brothers-in-arms arrived in Ankara, which was one of the watershed moments in the establishment of the independent Turkish republic and the beginning of the War of Independence.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-homegrown-fighter-jet-kaan-to-take-wing-in-december>

Azerbaijan's Su-25 jet passes 1st test flight after Turkish upgrade

Daily Sabah, July 29, 2023

Azerbaijan's Su-25 fighter jet modernized by Türkiye's aerospace and defense company has successfully passed its first tests, the country's Defense Ministry said Saturday. "The process of modernization of the Azerbaijan Army's weapons and equipment is being carried out by the application of the latest technologies," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said in a statement. "According to plan, the Su-25 attack aircraft sent to Türkiye was brought

back to Azerbaijan after modernization work by Turkish Aerospace Industries,” the statement noted.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/azerbaijans-su-25-jet-passes-1st-test-flight-after-turkish-upgrade>

Turkey’s Indigenous Fighter Jet to Take to the Skies 5 Years Earlier than Expected

Israel Defense, July 31, 2023

Turkey’s indigenous fighter jet, KAAN, is expected to start flights in December of this year, five years ahead of schedule. The Turkish Aerospace Industries General Manager, Temel Kotil, announced the news on Friday and said that chosen date is December 27th – a significant date in modern Turkish history. That day, in 1919, the founder of the Turkish Republic Mustafa Kemal Atatürk arrived in Ankara.

Turkey’s state-run Anadolu Agency notes that the aircraft is 21 meters long, and can reach a maximum speed of Mach 1.8 thanks to its twin engines. The KAAN project, which was launched in 2016, was expected to be delivered to the Turkish Air Force by 2028. The aircraft’s capabilities also include situational awareness, optimized pilot workload, combat damage detection, new-generation mission systems, low observability, precision strikes, and an internal weapon bay.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59082>

Ukraine inks deal with Türkiye’s Baykar on drones repair

Daily Sabah, July 31, 2023

Ukraine's defense ministry signed an agreement with Turkish drone magnate Baykar Makina to build a service center for the repair and maintenance of drones in Ukraine, a ministry official said on Monday. Ukraine is seeking to boost domestic production of drones to build an "Army of Drones" in its fight against Russian forces who invaded the country in February 2022. "The creation of a service center will be a significant contribution to strengthening Ukraine's defense capabilities and will help bring our victory closer," the ministry's state secretary Kostiantyn Vashchenko said in a statement.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/ukraine-inks-deal-with-turkiyes-baykar-on-drones-repair>

United Arab Emirates

Türkiye, UAE sign 13 deals worth \$50.7B

Anadolu Agency, July 19, 2023

Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday signed a total of 13 deals worth \$50.7 billion, the Turkish Communications Directorate said. In a statement, the directorate said that both sides have reached an agreement to establish a High-Level Strategic Council, to be chaired by the presidents of Türkiye and the UAE. Türkiye's relations with the UAE

have been elevated to the level of strategic partnership as a result of the agreement, it said.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkiye-uae-sign-13-deals-worth-507b/2949799>

UAE launches nuclear educational courses

World Nuclear News, July 20, 2023

Nawah - Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation's (ENEC's) joint venture operating and maintenance subsidiary - said it is committed to Emiratisation as part of its efforts to develop a sustainable nuclear energy industry in the UAE. The Diploma in Nuclear Technology (DNT) is a 24-month, entry level programme for high-performing students. The programme is aimed to encourage, support and nurture the next generation of UAE Nationals to discover and pursue a career as nuclear professionals, ENEC said. The first intake of high school graduates will begin their training in September and following successful completion of the training and assessment programme, will become local operators at Barakah. The programme will be delivered at ENEC headquarters and at the Barakah plant, located in the Al Dhafra Region of Abu Dhabi.

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UAE-launches-nuclear-educational-courses>

Emirati company, Turkish defense cluster sign deal

Anadolu Agency, July 27, 2023

Abu Dhabi-based tactical equipment maker Black Cobra Military Supplies (BCMS) and Türkiye's OSTİM Defense and Aviation Cluster (OSSA) have reportedly signed a cooperation deal during an ongoing defense fair in Istanbul. At the 16th International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF), negotiations were held between the managers of both parties, according to information received on Thursday by Anadolu. Following discussions in line with the vision of strengthening cooperation between Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates, a cooperation agreement was drawn up to create a roadmap for mutual business development activities with Turkish small- and medium-sized enterprises, technology transfer, and establishing strategic partnerships.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/emirati-company-turkish-defense-cluster-sign-deal/2955790>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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