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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

IRGC hits terrorists involved in Kerman attacks with missiles in Syria

IRNA, January 16, 2024

The IRGC issued two separate statements following the strikes, which it said, were in response to recent terrorist attacks in Iran, a reference to terror bombings in the southeastern city of Kerman as well as a terrorist attack on the Rask police station in Sistan and Baluchistan province.

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps in its second statement confirmed the missile attacks on gathering places of the leaders and key elements involved terrorist attacks in Kerman and Rask. It said the part of the missile operation targeted terror hideouts in Syria.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85355511/IRGC-hits-terrorists-involved-in-Kerman-attacks-with-missiles>

Iranian missiles destroy Mossad HQ in Iraqi Kurdistan: IRGC

IRNA, January 16, 2024

The IRGC in three separate announcements linked the overnight operations to terrorists and their backers involved in the recent terror attacks in the Iranian cities of Kerman and Rasak.

Two earlier statements published by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps clarified that it fired a number of missiles on spy centers and the gathering of anti-Iran terrorist groups in parts of the region, including in Syria.

A third statement addressing to the Iranian nation, the IRGC announced the targeting

and destruction of the Mossad headquarters in Iraq's Kurdistan with ballistic missiles for its role as well as the plot the Israeli regime's spy agency hatched to assassinate Iranian and resistance commanders.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85355520/Iranian-missiles-destroy-Mossad-HQ-in-Iraqi-Kurdistan-IRGC>

IRGC commander reveals details of Iran's missile attacks on regional terrorists

IRNA, January 16, 2024

In a phone call with the IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami, Hajizadeh said four Kheibar Shekan ballistic missiles had been fired from an area in the southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan to targets controlled by Takfiri terrorist groups in Idlib, Syria in the early hours of Tuesday.

He said that the IRGC had also fired four missiles from Kermanshah (western Iran) and seven from East Azarbaijan (northwestern Iran) at targets controlled by terrorists.

The general said that nine more missiles had targeted a second group of Takfiris and Daesh terrorists in the region.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85356066/IRGC-commander-reveals-details-of-Iran-s-missile-attacks-on-regional>

Navies of Iran, Pakistan hold joint military exercise

IRNA, January 16, 2024

In the military training exercise, naval tactical maneuvers, communication and telecommunication circuits check

operation, practice of sending and receiving messages in emergency situations at sea, formation of tactical formations and communication practice with flags and signals at sea, were conducted by young officers and non-commissioned officers of the two countries' navies.

The one-day exercise led to the exchange of training experiences between the officers and young non-commissioned officers of the navies of the two countries.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85356614/Navies-of-Iran-Pakistan-hold-joint-military-exercise>

Americans have purchased Iranian heavy water, Iran nuclear chief says

Tehran Times, January 17, 2024

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) revealed that the United States has previously purchased Iran's heavy water.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Eslami stated that Iran exports heavy nuclear water to various advanced nations.

He emphasized Tehran's commitment to cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), adding that Iran collaborates with the IAEA in accordance with standards.

He also said that under the IAEA terms, the agency can deploy experts and install cameras in Iran's nuclear facilities.

Eslami clarified that the IAEA is not obligated to report any non-compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by its parties, stressing that the responsibility to communicate such

matters lies with Tehran, but unfortunately, Tehran's reports have not garnered attention.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/493857/Americans-have-purchased-Iranian-heavy-water-Iran-nuclear-chief>

Khordad 15 missile system smashes targets in Iran Army-IRGC drills

IRNA, January 19, 2024

The indigenous Khordad 15 air defense system of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army's Air Defense Force, which has been manufactured by Iranian young scientists, successfully intercepted and neutralized certain targets by the use of integrated air defense network.

Amir-Abbas Farajpour, the spokesperson for the specialized joint air defense exercise Defenders of Velayat Skies 1402, emphasized on Friday that the drills focus on defending sensitive centers of the Islamic country in a real combat and 360-degree defense situation.

The missile system is a medium-range air defense system capable of engaging against various targets, including reconnaissance aircraft, bombers, and tactical fighter jets with a range of up to 200 kilometers.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85358981/Khordad-15-missile-system-smashes-targets-in-Iran-Army-IRGC-drills>

Khordad-3 air defense system destroys targets in joint drills

IRNA, January 19, 2024

The Khordad-3 air defense system, manufactured by the Aerospace Force of

the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), is equipped with homegrown missiles. The air defense system was used to hit mock targets in the second day of the drills on early Friday.

Amir-Abbas Farajpour, the spokesperson for the specialized joint air defense exercise Defenders of Velayat Skies 1402, noted that Iranian military forces are exercising the preservation of nuclear, economic, and trade centers of the country in a real combat and 360-degree defense situation during the military exercise.

The Khordad-3 air defense system is one of the most advanced and powerful Iranian medium-range air defense missile systems.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85359066/Khordad-3-air-defense-system-destroys-targets-in-joint-drills>

Iran places first satellite into orbit of 750km

IRNA, January 20, 2024

The satellite, dubbed Sorayya which means Pleiades, a space constellation, in Persian, was placed into an orbit of 750 kilometers above the earth's surface on Saturday.

Sorayya was launched by Qaem 100 satellite carrier which relies on solid fuel and has been developed by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

This is the first time that an Iranian home-made satellite is successfully put on an orbit above 500 kilometers.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85359665/Iran-places-first-satellite-into-orbit-of-750km>

Iran receives first signals from Sorayya satellite: Minister

IRNA, January 21, 2024

Issa Zarepour wrote on his social media account on Sunday that last night, Iran's satellite monitoring stations received signals from the Sorayya satellite as well as telemetry data concerning the state of energy supply, automatic positioning, communication and control, and processing systems, which indicate that the satellite is in good condition.

As he announced the launch on Iranian social media platforms, Zarepour also said on Saturday that for the first time an Iranian satellite carrier placed an object into space at an orbit 750km above the Earth's surface.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85360723/Iran-receives-first-signals-from-Sorayya-satellite-Minister>

Fighter jet flying low caused loud blast sound in Iran's Semnan: Source

IRNA, January 22, 2024

An informed source told the IRNA on Monday that at about 09:15 am local time (0545 GMT) a fighter jet flying at a level lower than permissible altitude broke the sound barrier and caused a loud blast.

The governor of Garmsar also told the IRNA that there had been no explosions in the city's industrial park as reported by some media outlets earlier on Monday.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85361981/Fighter-jet-flying-low-caused-loud-blast-sound-in-Iran-s-Semnan>

Iranian army receives new strategic drones

IRNA, January 23, 2024

The strategic drones were delivered to the Iranian army during a ceremony attended by Army Chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani on Tuesday.

The unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) include multipurpose Ababil-4 and Ababil-5 drones that can be employed in reconnaissance operations, patrol missions, electronic warfare, data gathering, and aerial combat.

The army also received Arash and Bavar drones with the ability to perform long-range, strike, and precision operations, as well as Krrar drones capable of performing various target, combat and aerial interception missions.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85363271/Iranian-army-receives-new-strategic-drones>

Iran Navy to get new hovercraft equipped with long-range missiles: Cmdr.

IRNA, January 27, 2024

“We have successfully modernized our aging fleet in all dimensions, ensuring entirely Iranian capabilities. Additionally, we have prepared and modernized our aerial fleet,” Irani said on Saturday.

“New hovercraft with long-range missile capabilities will soon be added to the naval fleet,” he added.

The Admiral emphasized significant improvements in missile capabilities of

Iran’s Southern Fleet, both in terms of quantity and range, with missiles boasting a range of 1,000 kilometers.

In addition, the commander said that the operational readiness of all classes of submarines has also been significantly enhanced, especially that of the Fateh-class submarine.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85367239/Iran-Navy-to-get-new-hovercraft-equipped-with-long-range-missiles>

Iran simultaneously launches three satellites into orbit

IRNA, January 28, 2024

Mahda, Keyhan-2, and Hatef-1 research satellites were put at altitudes between 450 and 1,100 kilometers above the Earth’s surface on Sunday.

Mahda is a research satellite developed and tested at the Iranian Space Research Center. It weighs 32 kilograms and has been designed to test advanced satellite subsystems.

Mahda’s main mission is to examine the performance of the Simorgh satellite carrier in launching multiple space payloads in low Earth altitudes and evaluate new homegrown space technologies.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85367913/Iran-simultaneously-launches-three-satellites-into-orbit>

Iraq

SMC: Plans supported by PM to develop the Air Force

Iraqi News Agency, January 19, 2024

The Security Media Cell confirmed today, Friday, the existence of plans supported by

the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani, to strengthen and develop the capabilities of the Army Aviation, Air Force, and Air Defense. The head of the Security Media Cell, Major General Tahseen Al-Khafaji, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The Iraqi army ranked fourth in the classification of Arab armies and ranked 45th in the world according to the results of surveys conducted by centers in developed countries confirming that it deserves those ranks.". He added, "We seek during the current year to arm the army to meet the challenges, and there is great work towards arming and developing our systems, especially in the field of air defense."

<https://ina.iq/eng/30977-security-media-plans-supported-by-the-commander-in-chief-to-develop-the-capabilities-of-the-air-force.html>

Waad al-Haq operations launch in Diyala, announces JOC

Iraqi News Agency, January 20, 2024

Joint Operations Command (JOC) announced on Saturday, the launch of "Waad al-Haq" operations in the Diyala operations sector. "JOC began "Waad al-Haq" operations in Diyala Operations Sector, using ground, air, and elite units," JOC stated, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "Our air force has begun directing three strikes against the enemy's hideouts, based on accurate intelligence information and follow-up of the targeting cell/Joint Operations Command, and our operations are still continuing," the statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/30983-waad-al-haq-operations-begin-in-diyala-announces-joc.html>

Iraq No longer needs foreign forces: Rasoul

Iraqi News Agency, January 20, 2024

The spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yahya Rasoul, confirmed on Saturday, that there is no need for any foreign forces inside Iraqi territory. Rasoul stated in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "the reports that spoke about the entry of additional foreign forces into Iraq are not true," indicating "the activation of the work of the joint committee between Iraq and the international coalition to schedule the coalition's withdrawal from Iraq and reconsider the nature of the relationship in general." He added, "The Iraqi government is moving towards ending the foreign presence in Iraq and has a vision in the next stage that includes joint technical work to end the mission of the international coalition and move to the levels of bilateral security and military cooperation in armament and advice."

<https://ina.iq/eng/30986-iraq-no-longer-needs-foreign-forces-confirms-majgen.html>

JOC: A complete destruction of ISIS hideouts in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, January 20, 2024

The Joint Operations Command announced today, Saturday, the complete destruction of ISIS terrorist hideouts in Wadi al-Shay in Kirkuk Governorate. A statement by the Joint Operations Command, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated, "The (Sazna Caravan) aircraft, within the (Waad al-Haq) operation, and with accurate

intelligence information, planning and follow-up of the targeting cell/Joint Operations Command, directed a crushing air strike against ISIS terrorist cells in Wadi al-Shay/Kirkuk Operations Sector.”, noting that “these guest houses were completely destroyed while a force from the Intelligence Directorate in Kirkuk operations to search and inspect the place with the aim of determining the losses of terrorist elements in this place.”.

<https://ina.iq/eng/30987-joc-a-complete-destruction-of-isis-hideouts-in-kirkuk.html>

Interior Minister receives NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations

Iraqi News Agency, January 23, 2024

Interior Minister Abdul Amir Al-Shammari confirmed on Tuesday, the development of a plan to secure the Iraqi borders and combat drugs. “The Minister of Interior received NATO Assistant Secretary for Operations Thomas Goffus, and discussed with him coordination and cooperation between the ministry and NATO in the field of training and consultation,” The ministry of Interior said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). “The Ministry of Interior has developed a plan to secure the Iraqi borders and combat drugs and crime, which decreased by 40 percent during the year 2023, it has also intensified its intelligence efforts to support the security stability of Iraq,” Al-Shammari confirmed, according to the statement.

<https://ina.iq/eng/31031-interior-minister-receives-nato-assistant-secretary-general-for-operations.html>

MOI praises the cooperation with neighboring countries in combating drugs and terrorism

Iraqi News Agency, January 23, 2024

Minister of Interior Abdul Amir Al-Shammari praised the cooperation with neighboring countries in combating terrorism and drugs in addition to exchanging information. Al-Shammari received the Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, Muhammed bin Ali Koman, at the ministry’s headquarters, as the two sides discussed several matters related to the security aspect in the Arab countries, according to a statement by the ministry received by the Iraqi News Agency - INA.

<https://ina.iq/eng/31035-moi-praises-the-cooperation-with-neighboring-countries-in-combating-drugs-and-terrorism.html>

Rasool: Violations threaten Iraq's sovereignty will be treated as aggressions, necessary actions to be taken

Iraqi News Agency, January 24, 2024

Major General Yehia Rasool, Spokesperson for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, said in an official statement obtained by the Iraqi News Agency INA that “In a clear determination to harm security and stability in Iraq, the United States has resumed carrying out airstrikes against the locations of Iraqi military units from the army and the Popular Mobilization Forces, in the areas of Jurf Al-Nasr and Al-Qaim.” Major General Rasool signaled that “While positive steps have been taken to reshape the future relationship and missions of the Coalition members and advisors in Iraq, the recent

actions are hindering this progress, undermining agreements and various sectors of joint security cooperation.”

<https://ina.iq/eng/31048-major-general-rasool-violations-threatening-iraqs-sovereignty-will-be-treated-as-acts-of-aggression-necessary-actions-to-be-taken.html>

MOI confirms the development of its technical capabilities in 3 fields

Iraqi News Agency, January 28, 2024

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) confirmed on Sunday, the imminent receiving of the security file in three governorates while revealing that it had concluded contracts to equip and develop its capabilities in three areas. “The Iraqi forces have integrated capabilities and there is no need for the international coalition,” The spokesman for the Ministry and the Security Media Cell, Brigadier General Miqdad al-Moussawi, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA). He noted that “Ministry of Defense handed over the security file of 3 governorates to MOI and all the procedures are proceeding according to the designated plan and the correct timing.”

<https://ina.iq/eng/31120-moi-confirms-the-development-of-its-technical-capabilities-in-3-fields.html>

SMC: We've been successful in hitting ISIS remnants in challenging terrain

Iraqi News Agency, January 31, 2024

The Security Media Cell declared on Wednesday that the security forces had successfully targeted the enemy in geographically challenging areas and that

they had located terrorist remnants in three different areas. "The results achieved by the security forces in 2023 against terrorist gangs are the killing of large numbers of them, as only very few numbers remain hiding in some difficult areas such as mountains, valleys, and desert areas," Major General Tahsin Al-Khafaji, the head of SMC, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA). He went on to say, "The security forces succeeded in reaching those cells through air strikes and qualitative operations. The strategic vision for 2024 is to pursue those terrorist cells and put pressure on them in geographically challenging areas."

<https://ina.iq/eng/31167-smc-weve-been-successful-in-hitting-isis-remnants-in-challenging-terrain.html>

Israel

Meet the Rooster, Robotican's New Hybrid Robotic Drone Employed by the IDF in Gaza

Israel Defense, January 18, 2024

Israel Defense has learned that the IDF is employing a hybrid robotic drone called "Rooster" during its fighting in the Gaza Strip. The drone is manufactured by the Israeli company Robotican, a developer and manufacturer of autonomous robots and drone systems.

The Rooster is designated for commando units and special forces for ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) missions and tactical combat, and is already in use by The IDF and various militaries worldwide. According to Robotican, the Rooster hybrid drone is a groundbreaking solution that

seamlessly combines ground robotics and drone capabilities to redefine indoor and underground infrastructure reconnaissance.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60981>

Elbit to Produce Integrated Headborne Sensor System Prototype for U.S. Army

Israel Defense, January 18, 2024

Elbit Systems of American will produce the Integrated Headborne Sensor System (IHSS) prototype for dismounted Soldiers in the US Army.

The company announced receiving an Other Transaction Authority contract from SOSSEC.Inc. through the Sensors, Communication, and Electronics Consortium (SCEC).

Elbit America's IHSS is a wearable system, which allows soldiers to remain mobile while they acquire, share, and utilize critical information on the battlefield. The system fuses a myriad of sensors into a lightweight head-up display that provides unprecedented situational awareness. Elbit America's prototype evolves through three prototype development phases over 72 months.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60971>

IDF says it finished razing Hamas's main weapons manufacturing zone in central Gaza

Times of Israel, January 19, 2024

The Israel Defense Forces said Thursday it had completed demolishing Hamas's main rocket and weapons manufacturing industrial zone in the central Gaza Strip,

along with a vast tunnel network beneath it that housed some of the facilities.

The development came as the army said troops reached the southernmost point of their ground offensive in Gaza so far on Thursday as they intensified operations across the south of the Palestinian territory.

At the same time, a UN rights expert accused Israel Thursday of breaking international law with its "relentless" bombardment of Gaza.

Parts of the weapons manufacturing facility were shown to reporters, including The Times of Israel, during a media tour earlier this month on Salah a-Din road in the Bureij area.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-it-finished-razing-hamass-main-weapons-manufacturing-zone-in-central-gaza/>

IMCO Secures NIS 30 M. Contract to Provide Spare Parts for IDF APVs

Israel Defense, January 21, 2024

In continuation of an existing maintenance order from the Israeli Ministry of Defense, Israeli IMCO Group announced that it has received a follow-on order from the IMOD Directorate of Production and Procurement (DOPP) for the supply of spare parts for the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) armored fighting vehicles (AFVs), valued at approximately 30 million NIS (about 8 million USD). These spare parts are essential for the ongoing maintenance and operational readiness of the IDF's AFVs in routine and during the "Swords of Iron" war. The order is scheduled for delivery throughout 2024.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60986>

Report: Germany to Supply 10,000 120 Tank Shells to Israel

Israel Defense, January 22, 2024

According to Der Spiegel, Germany is about to supply Israel with tank shells to aid in its war in the Gaza Strip. The paper reports that the German government has responded to Israel's request to supply it with 10,000 120 mm caliber tank shells, manufactured by the German Rheinmetall.

The German Chancellor and the German Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs have been discussing the issue since November 2023 and have now agreed in principle to do so, according to the report. However, official confirmation has not yet been given and the website notes that the Israeli embassy in Berlin has also refrained from commenting on this issue.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60999>

IAI to Maintain PW4000 Engines for Air Transport Services Group

Israel Defense, January 22, 2024

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Aviation Group announced that it will maintain and service PW4000 engines for Air Transport Service Group's (ATSG's) leasing company, Cargo Aircraft Management (CAM), under a long-term contract, the company has said.

The PW4000 engine maintenance will be carried out at IAI's Bedek MRO Division's facilities. ATSG has a long-standing relationship with IAI as they have converted more than 150 Boeing 767 aircraft.

Ido Ben Cnaan, VP & General Manager, Bedek MRO, Aviation Group: "For the last 70 years, Bedek MRO has been considered a world leader in the MRO sector, with extensive experience in the fields of maintenance, repair, and overhaul, for a variety of aircraft and engines – including the PW4000.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61001>

Netherlands Presents Upgraded CV90 IFV Laden with Israeli Defense Systems

Israel Defense, January 29, 2024

The Dutch army revealed at the IHV 2024 exhibition held last week in London the improved version of the CV90 Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV), which has been used as the army's main combat vehicle since 2009. The upgraded version of this vehicle includes an Active Protection System "Iron Fist" made by Israeli Elbit Systems and a Spike LR2 anti-tank missile launcher made by Israeli Rafael.

The Dutch army currently has 144 CV9035NL infantry fighting vehicles purchased from BAE Systems between 2004 and 2009. With the absence of tanks in the Dutch Army, the CV90 plays a pivotal role as the primary weapons system. The mid-life upgrade, set to be completed by 2026, focuses on enhancing firepower, situational awareness, and survivability.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61077>

Kuwait

U.S. Military and Kuwait Armed Forces Collaborate in Exercise Eager Defender 24

US Marines Corps, January 29, 2024

The Kuwait Naval Force, Kuwait Coast Guard, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command have joined forces in Exercise Eager Defender 24, a bilateral maritime drill aimed at strengthening mutual interoperability and capabilities. This exercise, led by Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, taking place in Kuwait and the North Arabian Gulf from January 28 to February 7, showcases the commitment of both nations to regional security and readiness.

<https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3658944/us-military-and-kuwait-armed-forces-collaborate-in-exercise-eager-defender-24/>

US DoD contracts for support and maintenance of Kuwaiti F/A-18 fleet

Airforce Technology, January 31, 2024

The US Department of Defense (DoD) awarded a \$153.3m contract modification to Kay & Associates, an Illinois-based engineering solutions provider to the US Armed Forces, on 30 January 2024 to support and maintain F/A-18C and D aircraft in the Kuwaiti Air Force.

Under this modified contract, the aircraft will receive maintenance, operation, and management support services and missile maintenance repair and storage facilities.

Their work will be performed in undisclosed locations in Kuwait, and the DoD expects the work to be completed in January 2025. Foreign Military Sales customer funds in the amount of \$76.6m will be obligated at the time of award, none of which will expire at the end of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/us-dod-to-provide-support-and-maintenance-of-kuwaiti-f-a-18-fleet/>

Lebanon

Israel hits deep in Lebanon; U.S. strikes Yemen again as tensions rise across region

Washington Post, January 16, 2024

Israel's military said it launched a barrage against Hezbollah targets deep in southern Lebanon on Tuesday. Tensions are rising across the region amid a spate of military activity, including Israel's continued strikes in Gaza and tit-for-tat exchanges with Hezbollah; a strike on a Maltese-flagged vessel by Yemen's Houthis, who are attacking ships in the Red Sea in support of Gaza; a new round of U.S. strikes on what officials said were Houthi missile sites in Yemen; and strikes by Iran on what it said was an Israeli intelligence site in Iraq and a militant site in Pakistan, to which both countries immediately objected.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/01/16/israel-hamas-war-news-gaza-palestine-updates/>

Israel said pressing mediators for Lebanon solution by month's end as combat continues

Times of Israel, January 20, 2024

Israel plans to escalate fighting on the Lebanese border with Hezbollah if a long-term diplomatic agreement is not reached soon, The Washington Post reported Friday. An unnamed Western diplomat and three Lebanese officials were cited as sources in the article. A US official told the publication on Friday that Israel has not put forward a "hard deadline" but the officials said that Jerusalem was looking at the end of January as a target for a potential agreement, as Washington and the European Union work to avoid a major conflict. The US official said the window of opportunity for talks was narrowing.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-pressing-mediators-for-lebanon-solution-by-months-end-as-combat-continues/>

Tel Aviv seeks agreement with Lebanon through political channels: Israeli media

Anadolu Agency, January 23, 2024

Israel is trying to reach a political settlement with Lebanon to avoid a military conflict, Israeli media said Tuesday. "Tel Aviv prefers diplomacy over war with Lebanon because even if we were to resort to military solutions, there would ultimately be a cease-fire," Israeli Channel 14 quoted Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant during a meeting with the mayors of towns and settlements near the Lebanese border. "Israel has no intention of staying in Lebanon, and that's why we must try to

reach a cease-fire even without fighting," said Galant. He noted that if a political settlement is not reached, "Israel has other options."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/tel-aviv-seeks-agreement-with-lebanon-through-political-channels-israeli-media/3116761>

Israel is 'closer to war' with Hezbollah than ever, senior Israeli official says

ABC News, January 29, 2024

Israel is "closer to war" with Hezbollah and a possible regional war than ever, a senior Israeli official said.

Israeli and Hezbollah forces have traded fire across the Lebanese-Israeli border for over three months. The violence has killed about 15 Israelis, including both civilians and Israel Defense Forces members, according to The Times of Israel. The Hezbollah terrorist organization claims 171 of its members have been killed since Oct. 8, The Times of Israel reported.

On Thursday, the Israel Defense Forces reported they struck Hezbollah infrastructure in at least five locations in southern Lebanon. No deaths were immediately reported. There have since been other strikes back and forth, including one Friday when the IDF said it carried out strikes that purportedly killed four members of Hezbollah, per The Times of Israel.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/israel-closer-war-hezbollah-senior-israeli-official/story?id=106675658>

Oman

India, Oman ink pact for collaboration in defence sector

Economic Times, January 31, 2024

India and Oman signed an agreement to collaborate in defence engagement, including procurement of military equipment. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was finalized at a meeting of the India-Oman JMCC in Muscat. The two sides reviewed their defence cooperation, explored ways to boost it, and focused on collaboration in the defence industrial sector. The talks also addressed security concerns in West Asia and discussed regional and global issues of shared interest. An MoU on procurement of defence material was signed, following the joint vision document titled 'A Partnership for the Future'. India and Oman on Wednesday signed an agreement that would provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was firmed up at a meeting of India-Oman joint military cooperation committee (JMCC) in Muscat.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-oman-ink-pact-for-collaboration-in-defence-sector/articleshow/107300991.cms?from=mdr>

Palestine

China rejects supplying weapons to Hamas

The Hindu, January 25, 2024

The Chinese military on January 25 asserted that it has never supplied any

weapons to conflict areas and always adopted a "responsible attitude" to defence exports as it rejected allegations of China providing arms to the Palestinian militant group Hamas in its ongoing conflict against Israel. Earlier this month, quoting the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), *The Telegraph* newspaper reported that it discovered a "massive" stockpile of Chinese-made weapons being used by Hamas. According to the IDF's investigation, Hamas possessed advanced weapons and equipment made in China, such as cartridges and rifle sights for M16 assault rifles, automatic grenade launchers and communications devices, a report in the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-rejects-supplying-weapons-to-hamas/article67776584.ece>

Saudi Arabia

Eurofighters Or Rafales? Saudi Arabia Might Take A Page From Qatar's Book And Buy Both

Forbes, January 19, 2024

The German government's recent decision to lift its export ban on Eurofighter Typhoons to Saudi Arabia could impact Riyadh's recent decision to negotiate a potential acquisition of Dassault Rafale fighter jets from France. Will Riyadh decide to end negotiations for 54 Rafales now that Germany has lifted its ban on the 2018 deal for 48 Eurofighters from Britain? Or, might it follow in the footsteps of its much smaller neighbor, Qatar, and acquire both? The latter move would result in the Royal Saudi Air Force operating three different 4.5-generation fighter types

from three countries. Acquiring different types of advanced fighters would present the kingdom with certain challenges but also some advantages.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/pauliddon/2024/01/19/eurofighters-or-rafales-saudi-arabia-might-take-a-page-from-qatars-book-and-buy-both/?sh=64a17b2c508b>

Türkiye

'US policy on sale of F-16 jets to Türkiye hasn't changed'

Daily Sabah, January 18, 2024

The U.S. has not changed its stance regarding its backing for the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye, the White House said Wednesday.

National Security Council Spokesman John Kirby said President Joe Biden "has been pretty consistent and we continue to support the additional sale of F-16s and modernization of the current F-16 fleet for Turkey." "That's a consistent policy position that we've had since coming into office," Kirby told reporters. "I don't have an update for you on the dates and the calendar items in terms of what that looks like but, our policy with respect to F-16s for Turkey has not changed," he added.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplo-macy/us-policy-on-sale-of-f-16-jets-to-turkiye-hasnt-changed>

Türkiye delivers new ships, sea drone in fresh bolster for navy

Daily Sabah, January 19, 2024

Türkiye on Friday commissioned new maritime platforms, including the country's first sea drone boasting electronic warfare

capabilities, as it maintains the drive to bolster the capabilities of its naval forces.

A ceremony in northwestern Yalova province saw the delivery of the replenishment combat support ship TCG Derya, TCG Istanbul frigate, TCG Lt. Arif Ekmekçi logistics support ship, and the armed unmanned surface vessel (AUSV) named Marlin.

"Today, we are not only delivering ships but also our navy's first unmanned surface vehicle with electronic warfare capability in the world," President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told the ceremony at the Sefine Shipyard.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkiye-delivers-new-ships-sea-drone-in-fresh-bolster-for-navy>

Spotlight on US F-16 deal as Türkiye gives Sweden NATO go-ahead

Daily Sabah, January 24, 2024

As Türkiye has cleared the long-delayed path for Sweden's bid to join NATO, eyes have now turned toward the U.S.' prolonged approval of sales of F-16 fighter jets, which has been linked to Ankara's approval of Stockholm's application to join the military bloc.

The Turkish Parliament ratified Sweden's NATO membership bid on Tuesday, clearing the biggest remaining hurdle to expand the Western alliance after 20 months of delay. All existing NATO countries must approve before a new member can join the alliance, and Hungary is now the only member that hasn't given Sweden the green light.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/spotlight-on-us-f-16-deal-as-turkiye-gives-sweden-nato-go-ahead>

Biden admin. writes letter to US Congress to OK F-16 sales to Türkiye

Daily Sabah, January 24, 2024

The Joe Biden administration urged the U.S. Congress to approve the sale of F-16 fighter jets and modernization kits to Türkiye in a letter submitted on Wednesday, sources said.

The administration wrote to members of Congress, urging the approval of a \$20 billion sale of Lockheed Martin F-16 aircraft and modernization kits, three sources familiar with the letter told Reuters. The Biden administration backs the modernization of Türkiye's F-16 fleet but it recognizes that the U.S. Congress has a significant role to play in this regard, the State Department said Wednesday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/biden-admin-writes-letter-to-us-congress-to-ok-f-16-sales-to-turkiye>

Canada to restart parts of arms exports to Türkiye after Sweden bid

Daily Sabah, January 26, 2024

Türkiye and Canada reached an agreement to relaunch Canadian exports of drone parts after Ankara approved Sweden's NATO membership bid, sources said Friday.

After 20 months of delay, Türkiye moved swiftly this week to endorse Sweden's membership in the Western military alliance, including a parliamentary vote and presidential sign-off, leaving Hungary as the sole ally yet to ratify it. Türkiye is expected to send the final documents to Washington as soon as Friday, which would clear the way for Canada to

immediately lift the export controls that it adopted in 2020, the two sources said, requesting anonymity.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/canada-to-restart-parts-of-arms-exports-to-turkiye-after-sweden-bid>

US finally approves F-16 sale to Türkiye after long-delayed process

Daily Sabah, January 27, 2024

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has finally approved the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye, ending years of sometimes tense negotiations after Ankara formally ratified Sweden's membership in NATO last week.

The State Department late Friday formally informed Congress of its intention to proceed with the \$23 billion (TL 697.8 billion) sale of F-16 warplanes and modernization kits to Türkiye, taking a major step toward completing a long-delayed process that tested ties with Ankara.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/us-finally-approves-f-16-sale-to-turkiye-after-long-delayed-process>

PM Mitsotakis welcomes US decision to sell Greece F-35 jets

Daily Sabah, January 27, 2024

Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis welcomed the U.S.' approval to sell them up to 40 F-35 fighter jets, as he thanked Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"Today is an important day for our national defense and Greek diplomacy," Mitsotakis said in a video message posted on his X

account shortly after receiving a letter from Blinken informing him of the U.S. decision.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/pm-mitsotakis-welcomes-us-decision-to-sell-greece-f-35-jets>

Canada resumes weapons exports to Türkiye, including drone tech

Daily Sabah, January 29, 2024

Canada announced late Monday it had dropped weapons export controls to Türkiye, including drone optical technology, according to a notice posted online, saying that from now on, it would review all exports on a case-by-case basis.

Canada suspended drone technology sales to Türkiye in 2020 after concluding its optical equipment attached to Turkish-made drones had been used by Azerbaijan while fighting ethnic Armenian forces in Karabakh, an enclave Baku has since retaken.

The announcement by Global Affairs, the country's foreign ministry, confirms reports from last week.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/canada-resumes-weapons-exports-to-turkiye-including-drone-tech>

US open to Türkiye's return to F-35 'family' if S-400 issue resolved

Daily Sabah, January 31, 2024

The United States on Tuesday expressed willingness to welcome Türkiye back into its F-35 fighter jet program if a row over the S-400 air defense system Ankara acquired from Russia is resolved.

"If we could get through this S-400 issue, which we would like to do, the U.S. would

be delighted to welcome Türkiye back into the F-35 family," Deputy Secretary of State Nuland said during a visit to the country.

"But first, we need to resolve this other matter and ensure that Türkiye maintains a robust air defense while doing so," Nuland told private broadcaster CNN Türk.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/us-open-to-turkiyes-return-to-f-35-family-if-s-400-issue-resolved>

United Arab Emirates

Milrem Robotics to Supply Dozens of Robotic Combat vehicles to the UAE

Israel Defense, January 25, 2024

UAE orders dozens of robotic combat vehicles from Estonia. Estonian robotics firm Milrem announced this week that it has signed a significant contract to provide the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Defense with 20 tracked robotic combat vehicles (RCVs) and 40 THeMIS unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) worth more than \$200 million.

Under the terms of the contract, which, according to Milrem Robotics represents the world's largest combat robotics, the company will lead an experimentation and trial program to integrate unmanned ground capabilities into the UAE Armed Forces' arsenal. This initiative is a significant step towards enhancing the Armed Forces' combat capabilities by deploying THeMIS UGVs and tracked RCVs, which are equipped with advanced autonomy features, third-party payloads, and high-quality communication solutions.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61039>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Kushal Agrawal
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