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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Azerbaijani, Armenian top diplomats meet in Georgian capital for peace talks

Yenisafak, July 17, 2022

The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in the Georgian capital Tbilisi on Saturday as part of peace talks between the two South Caucasus countries. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, along with his delegation, met his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan in Tbilisi, Georgia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. According to the statement, Georgia expressed hope for peaceful coexistence in the South Caucasus and stable development of the region.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/azerbaijani-armenian-top-diplomats-meet-in-georgian-capital-for-peace-talks-3648799>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan, NATO discuss cooperation prospects, regional issues

Azernews, July 20, 2022

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg discussed cooperation prospects, regional issues, as well as current situation at the NATO headquarters, Azernews reports, per the ministry. A meeting was held as part of Bayramov's business trip to Brussels on July 19, the report adds.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196961.html>

Azerbaijani-Egyptian diplomatic relations at 30: On path of development

Azernews, July 21, 2022

In 2022, Azerbaijan marks the 30th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations with various states and

international organizations. Azernews, the nation's first English language media outlet, continues its own pet project of examining major aspects of Azerbaijan's relations with key actors of international policy in a Q&A format. This one is looking into Azerbaijan's relations with Egypt, a major actor in Africa and the Middle East.

<https://www.azernews.az/business/196963.html>

US Secretary of State calls Ilham Aliyev to discuss normalization of relations between Azerbaijan & Armenia

Azernews, July 26, 2022

On 25 July, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a phone call to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, president.az website reports. Emphasizing that the United States supports the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken hailed the meeting and direct dialogue between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Tbilisi.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/197231.html>

Iran

Iran Navy unveils drone carrier

Tehran Times, July 16, 2022

The Iranian Army's Navy has unveiled the first drone carrier that includes a variety of modern and advanced types of drones that were produced and manufactured by Iranian experts in the Army and the Ministry of Defense. The naval division, which joined the southern fleet, consists of military ships and submarines carrying a broad range of combat, reconnaissance and suicide drones, according to Tasnim. The event, held on Friday, was attended by Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Navy

Commander Rear Admiral Admiral Shahram Irani. The UAVs aboard the naval division include advanced aircraft manufactured by the Army and the Defense Ministry in cooperation with the knowledge-based centers, including Pelican, Homa, Arash, Chamrosh, Jubin, Ababil-4 and Bavar-5 drones, which flew over the Indian Ocean waters.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/474741/Iran-Navy-unveils-drone-carrier>

Iranian officials say decision is theirs to build bomb

Al-Monitor, July 18, 2022

Iranian officials have created a storm of controversy over the weekend with comments regarding Iran's nuclear capabilities. The first official to speak about it was Khamal Kharazi, adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and chairman of the Strategic Council of Foreign Relations. During an interview with Al Jazeera on July 17, Kharazi was asked about the indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Kharazi said that given the US actions, especially their withdrawal from the deal in 2018, "It is difficult to conduct direct negotiations." Kharazi added, "It is known to everyone that we have the technical ability to build a nuclear bomb, but we have not made a decision to do this. In the span of a few days, we increased enrichment from 20% to 60% and we could easily enrich to 90%."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/iranian-officials-say-decision-theirs-build-bomb#ixzz7asTyrD8D>

Iran's Khamenei tells Erdogan to avoid military action in north Syria

Al-Monitor, July 19, 2022

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei cautioned Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan today against launching an operation into Syria, a plan that has been in Ankara's pipeline for weeks. "Any military offensive into Syria's north will definitely harm Turkey, Syria and the greater region, and will benefit the terrorists," Khamenei told the visiting Turkish leader during a meeting in Tehran July 19. According to Khamenei's website, he did not specify who those "terrorists" were, but underscored the importance Iran attaches to Syria's territorial integrity. Turkey recently threatened an incursion into Syria's autonomous north controlled by People's Protection Units, a Kurdish group known by its Kurdish acronym, the YPG.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/irans-khamenei-tells-erdogan-avoid-military-action-north-syria#ixzz7asUIA8x9>

Iran: We will negotiate on nuclear deal until sanctions are removed

Al-Monitor, July 20, 2022

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian discussed the ongoing nuclear negotiations to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action today. In a video message, Amir-Abdollahian said, "To remove the sanctions, Iran will pursue negotiations while by abiding by its red lines." He added that Iran will "not leave the negotiations and sees logical and honorable negotiations to reach a deal as right." Amir-Abdollahian continued, "The American side has repeatedly stated that due to domestic problems it is not able to

accept and be committed to the what has been discussed in the negotiations.” He added, “Iran has been the most committed to the agreement and welcomes a good, strong and durable agreement and to reach an agreement to remove sanctions we will move in the direction of negotiations.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/iran-will-negotiate-nuclear-deal-until-sanctions-are-removed#ixzz7asUZHNsf>

Iran Expedites Building Phases 2, 3 of Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

Fars News Agency, July 23, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami underlined that the construction of the second and third phases of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has been expedited to overcome the Islamic Republic's need to diverse power generation resources. "After a tour of the region by President Ebrahim Raisi a few months ago, the pace of construction of the new phases expedited for electricity generation purposes," Eslami said while visiting the central Iranian city of Khondab on Friday. He pointed out that the new project is part of the plan to increase the electricity generation capacity across the nation by 10,000 megawatts. "Bushehr power plant currently generates 1,000 megawatts of electricity which is injected into the national grid as clean and pollution-free energy that has been effective in regulating the grid load," Eslami added. He, meanwhile, said that the heavy water complex and the reactor in Khondab have created a great scientific, industrial and research capacity.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010501000670/Iran-Expedies-Bilding-Phases-2-3-f-Bshehr-Nclear-Pwer-Plan>

Iran emerging as drone power

Tehran Times, July 24, 2022

After years of assiduous efforts, Iran has now mastered the process of producing state-of-the-art drones, something that has added another element to Iran's military prowess. Iran's drone capabilities are nothing new. Over the last decade, Iran, thanks to its native scientists, has succeeded in developing a full range of combat, reconnaissance, and surveillance drones. The latest major achievement in this regard was unveiled earlier this month when the Iranian Army's navy inaugurated Iran's first drone carrier which included a variety of modern and advanced types of drones all produced and manufactured by Iranian experts in the Army and the Ministry of Defense. Officials have highlighted the progress Iran has made in developing drones, which have increased Iran's power exponentially. Two weeks ago, a lawmaker said Iran's drone capabilities have increased the strength of Iran and the Resistance Axis. Mehrdad Veis-Karami told Iran's state news agency IRNA that the Axis is now enjoying drone and missile power.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475003/Iran-emerging-as-drone-power>

AEOI Chief: Iran Not to Turn on Beyond-Safeguards Cameras Before JCPOA Revival

Fars News Agency, July 25, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami stated on Monday that Tehran will keep the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) cameras, which had been installed beyond the country's undertakings under the safeguards agreement, switched off

until the nuclear deal is fully restored. "Those cameras are related to the nuclear deal," Eslami reminded. The Iranian official noted that when the Western parties to the 2015 accord return to the agreement, and "Tehran is assured that they will not commit any acts of mischief, AEOI will make a decision on the cameras". Iran announced in early June that it has removed the IAEA surveillance cameras that functioned beyond the safeguards agreement, after the United Nations Agency's chief Rafael Grossi started escalating tensions against Tehran. The AEOI announced at the time that the UN atomic body has not appreciated Iran's good-will gesture and has instead viewed Tehran's voluntary move as part of its undertakings.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010503000715/AEOI-Chief-Iran-N-Trn-n-Beynd-Safegards-Cameras-Befre-JCPOA-Revival>

Iran to propel brand-new satellite into space by year's end

Tehran Times, July 25, 2022

Iran will launch a new satellite into orbit by the end of the current Iranian year, which ends on March 20, 2023. The statement was made on Sunday on the side-lines of the 12th Malek Ashtar Festival in Tehran by Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, chief of the IRGC Aerospace Division. Hajizadeh said the Qaem satellite carrier will be used to launch the new home-grown satellite into space. He added this will be a continuation of the country's achievements in the field of aerospace technology. The IRGC Aerospace Division commander also said the adversary now acknowledges Iran's military capabilities. It will be Iran's third military satellite into space. The nation put its second satellite, Nour-2, into orbit in March 2022, and its first spacecraft, Nour-1, in April 2020. The orbiter, which was

charged with conducting reconnaissance missions, was launched from a launchpad located in Iran's Dasht-e Kavir desert aboard the domestically produced satellite carrier Qassed. It traveled 6.7 km/s for 480 seconds before entering orbit at a 500 km height.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475046/Iran-to-propel-brand-new-satellite-into-space-by-year-s-end>

Iran's nuclear chief: IAEA cameras remain off until JCPOA is restored

Tehran Times, July 25, 2022

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said on Monday that the Islamic Republic will keep the UN nuclear watchdog's cameras turned off until the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is restored. Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it had removed IAEA equipment, including 27 cameras installed under the 2015 pact, after the IAEA Board of governors passed a resolution in June criticizing Tehran. "We will not switch on the Agency cameras until the other side returns to the nuclear deal," Mohammad Eslami stated. Eslami also urged IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to avoid raising questions that had already been resolved based on the JCPOA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475045/Iran-s-nuclear-chief-IAEA-cameras-remain-off-until-JCPOA-is>

IRGC Navy boats armed with stealth technology

Tehran Times, July 26, 2022

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy announced on Monday that Iran has equipped the hulls of its boats with stealth technology and is

trying to use domestically made hulls. Speaking on the sidelines of an IRGC award giving ceremony, Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri noted that over the past 3 years, the IRGC Navy has seen more 8 new military equipment. Tangsiri considered one of the honors of the navy and the IRGC to be the use of domestic knowledge and products by Iranian scientists. He continued, "Our navy is a completely strategic force and everything that exists in other forces is also at our disposal, from tanks and water tanks to fixed-wing aircraft and drones." Therefore, he added, the IRGC Navy has always tried to be in close communication and continuous cooperation with other forces and military units as well as the defense ministry in production of systems and equipment.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47508/5/IRGC-Navy-boats-armed-with-stealth-technology>

Iran's N. Chief: Construction of Research Reactor to Start within Weeks

Fars News Agency, July 28, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that the building of a new research reactor in the Central city of Isfahan will begin in coming weeks. "The research reactor to test fuel for other reactors will be built at the Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center," the head of the AEOA noted during a visit to the Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) of the Isfahan site on Wednesday. "We have planned that based on the studies carried out, we will officially start the construction of the research reactor at the Isfahan site in the coming weeks," Eslami added. "It must be said that this project is completely indigenous and Iranian, which will complete the chain of research, evaluation, testing and assurance of our nuclear power production," he continued. Eslami noted the

nuclear fuel cycle is the most important part of the nuclear industry.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010506000265/Iran's-N-Chief-Cnsrcin-f-Research-Reacr-Sar-wihin-Weeks>

Iran Appoints New Representative to IAEA, UN Offices in Vienna

Fars News Agency, July 29, 2022

Mohsen Naziri Asl was appointed as Iran's new representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other UN offices in Vienna. Naziri Asl was also appointed as Iran's new ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna. Naziri Asl succeeded Kazzem Qaribabadi who was the last Permanent Representative of Iran to the UN Office in Vienna. He has served as Iran's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Geneva before.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010507000277/Iran-Appins-New-Representative-IAEA-UN-Offices-in-Vienna>

Iran succeeded to develop precision-strike ballistic missiles under sanctions: general

Tehran Times, July 29, 2022

Iran mastered the technology to build ballistic missiles and drones with pinpoint accuracy while under crippling sanctions, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said.

Speaking at a student gathering in Mashhad, General Hossein Salami said, "With this technology, a drone can travel a distance of more than 2,000 kilometers from any point and strike a moving target or a certain point." He added, "We achieved even stronger technologies. Today, we are not behind others in quantum technology."

Such sanctions that have been imposed on Iran would have dismantled any other country, IRNA quoted the top general as saying. He added, "We know that there are problems but we also know that climbing summits is a difficult job."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475160/Iran-succeeded-to-develop-precision-strike-ballistic-missiles>

AEOI: Iran's Nuclear Facilities 90 Percent Home-Made

Fars News Agency, July 31, 2022

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran announced that the country's nuclear industries conduct their activities by utilizing equipment-built 90 percent domestically. AEOI Deputy Head Pejman Shirmardi pointed out that the AEOI's achievements are the winning card of the negotiating team and the biggest fear of the western negotiator while science and technology used for making the achievements are native. Shirmardi reiterated that about 90 percent of the equipment in the field of nuclear technology has been domestically produced which is the result of the efforts of the Iranian scientists, and this would not have been achieved if the country depended on foreign powers.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010509000271/AEOI-Iran's-Nuclear-Facilities-90-Percent-Home-Made>

Iraq

MOFA: We will mobilize international efforts to support Iraq over the Turkish bombing

Iraqi News Agency, July 21, 2022

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it will summon the Turkish ambassador in Iraq to hand him a strongly worded protest note regarding the bombing of

Zakho, while indicating that international efforts will be mobilized around the bombing. The spokesman for the ministry, Ahmed Al-Sahaf, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the procedures of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Turkish bombing will not be traditional, but we will follow the highest levels of response and diplomatic deterrence," noting that "the ministry will start from resorting to the Security Council and taking a deterrent measure, and summoning the Turkish ambassador, to hand him a strongly worded protest note, while mobilizing international efforts to support Iraq as a result of the bombing.

<https://ina.iq/eng/20854-mofa-we-will-mobilize-international-efforts-to-support-iraq-over-the-turkish-bombing.html>

Urgent meeting for National Security Council headed by PM Al-Kadhimi

Iraqi News Agency, July 20, 2022

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces PM Mustafa Al-Kadhimi chaired an urgent meeting of the National Security Council to discuss the Turkish attacks. PM Al-Kadhimi chaired the urgent meeting of the Ministerial Council for National Security to discuss the repercussions of the Turkish attack on Dohuk Governorate," according to the Prime Minister's Media Office in a brief statement received by the Iraqi News Agency – INA. Earlier, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces directed to prepare a comprehensive file of the ongoing Turkish violations to be submitted to the UN Security Council. Al-Kadhimi affirmed in an official statement that Iraq has its full right to respond to the Turkish attacks, indicating that it will take all necessary measures to protect its people.

<https://ina.iq/eng/20832-urgent-meeting-for-national-security-council-headed-by-pm-al-kadhimi.html>

Defense Minister: Efforts to obtain a radar system for low and medium detection

Iraqi News Agency, July 24, 2022

Defense Minister Juma Inad revealed on Sunday, the imminent arrival of advanced American radars for long-range detection, and efforts to contract a radar system for low and medium detection. Inad said, during a ceremony laying the foundation stone for the Air Defense Command Operations Center, which was attended by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the new main operations center of the Air Defense Command will be an edifice of the Iraqi army and has a great service in the Air Defense Operations Command." He pointed out that "the center will be linked to the new radar system, which was contracted and imported from the French company Thales," stressing that "this system will work on high detection of hostile air targets, and will be installed in different places in the country."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20913-defense-minister-efforts-to-obtain-a-radar-system-for-low-and-medium-detection.html>

Air Defense Commander announces the arrival of high detection radars to Iraq

Iraqi News Agency, July 24, 2022

The Commander of the Air Defense Lieutenant-General Maan al-Saadi revealed on Sunday, the arrival of two high detection radars to Iraq, while noting that the operations center of the new Air Defense Command will be a qualitative shift towards monitoring Iraqi airspace. Al-Saadi said in his speech during the foundation stone laying ceremony for the main operations center at the Air Defense Command, which was attended by the

reporter of the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the foundation stone was laid today for the construction of the operations center for the Air Defense Command, which will be a qualitative transition towards monitoring Iraqi airspace," noting, that "the system of high detection radars has arrived in Iraq and will be deployed in the provinces of Diwaniyah and Anbar."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20912-air-defense-commander-announces-the-arrival-of-high-detection-radars-to-iraq.html>

Army Chief of Staff: Turkey is making incursions into Kurdistan region and we suggest sending The Federal Army

Iraqi News Agency, July 24, 2022

Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Rashid Yarallah revealed the state of Turkish forces incursion in northern Iraq, while stressing the need to send Federal Forces. Yarallah said during his hosting in the parliament in urgent session, which was followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "There is an increased incursion of the Turkish forces and the occupation of many areas, and the number of points has increased to reach one hundred points inside Iraqi territory and in a few distances away from the areas of Zakho and Amadiyah areas in Dohuk." He pointed out, "The necessity of sending the army and the Peshmerga forces to these areas and seize the empty areas of the border guards to force the Turkish forces to leave their points and imposed our control on these areas."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20925-army-chief-of-staff-turkey-is-making-incursions-into-kurdistan-region-and-we-suggest-sending-the-federal-army.html>

MOFA: We are in the process to expel Turkish forces from Iraq

Iraqi News Agency, July 26, 2022

Foreign Minister Fouad Hussein confirmed, today, Tuesday, work to persuade the Security Council to issue a resolution to remove Turkish forces from Iraq. Hussein said in a statement to Al-Iraqiya News, which was followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "We are working to persuade the members of the Security Council to issue a resolution to remove Turkish forces from Iraqi territory during today's emergency session," noting that "the council is expected to issue an important decision regarding the Turkish aggression." He added, "Turkey's attempt to deny that it was behind the bombing of Dohuk will not help it, and we have information confirming that it carried out the attack."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20964-mofa-we-are-working-to-expel-turkish-forces-from-iraq.html>

Israel

No Normalization With Israel Until Two-state Solution Reached, Saudi FM Says

Haaretz, July 16, 2022

JEDDAH—Saudi Arabia will not fully normalize ties with Israel until a two-state solution with the Palestinians is reached, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said Friday. Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as the capital is Saudi Arabia's requirement for peace with Israel, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir tells CNN

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2022-07-16/ty-article/.premium/no-normalization-with-israel-until-two-state->

[solution-reached-saudi-fm-says/00000182-0614-d213-adda-17bd7b2d0000](https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2022-07-16/ty-article/.premium/u-s-official-morocco-played-key-role-in-biden-israel-palestinian-mediation-effort/00000182-0670-db24-af96-ef73283f0000)

IDF Chief to Visit Morocco; U.S. Credits Rabat for Role in Israeli-Palestinian Talks

Haaretz, July 16, 2022

A senior U.S. administration official says that Morocco was a major player in negotiating the 24-hour, seven-day-a-week opening of the Allenby Bridge border crossing – the first time an Abraham Accord member played that role.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2022-07-16/ty-article/.premium/u-s-official-morocco-played-key-role-in-biden-israel-palestinian-mediation-effort/00000182-0670-db24-af96-ef73283f0000>

IDF chief: 'Diplomacy can fail,' attack on Iran 'at the center' of IDF preparations

The Times of Israel, July 17, 2022

Army chief Aviv Kohavi on Sunday said it was Israel's "moral obligation" to prepare a military response against Iran's nuclear program, hours after a senior Iranian official said his country has the ability to produce a weapon. In light of growing uncertainty regarding a return by Iran to the 2015 nuclear deal due to long-stalled negotiations with world powers, the past year has seen the Israel Defense Forces ramp up its efforts to prepare a credible military threat against Tehran's nuclear facilities.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-israel-has-moral-obligation-to-ready-military-response-to-irans-nukes/>

Israel Intercepts 'Likely Hezbollah' Drone That Crossed Over From Lebanon

Haaretz, July 18, 2022

The Israeli military downed a drone over Israel's border with Lebanon on Monday, the military said, weeks after four Hezbollah drones were intercepted on their way to an Israeli-operated gas field near a disputed area between Israel's and Lebanon's territorial waters.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/ty-article/.premium/israel-downs-lebanese-drone-that-crossed-into-territory-idf-says/00000182-11e3-d11c-a1da-5de792e20000>

Israel: Military chief warns country may have to act against Iran

i24, July 18, 2022

Israel's military (IDF) Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi said on Sunday that the army is preparing for the possibility of acting against Iran's nuclear program. "Preparing the home front for war is a task that must be accelerated in the coming years, especially in light of the possibility that we will be required to act against the nuclear threat," he said during the change command of the Homefront Command, according to The Jerusalem Post.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1658135921-israel-military-chief-warns-country-may-have-to-act-against-iran>

Kohavi lands in Morocco for first official trip by Israeli military chief

The Times of Israel, July 18, 2022

Israel Defense Forces chief Aviv Kohavi landed in Morocco on Monday, becoming the first Israeli army head to visit the North

African nation as part of an official trip. Kohavi was slated to meet Tuesday with Morocco's Defense Minister Abdellatif Loudiyi, chief of the Royal Armed Forces Belkhir El Farouk, and additional senior defense officials, the IDF said in a statement. "The aim of the visit is to learn from each other and share knowledge, and is part of the IDF's overall efforts to broaden military cooperation with other countries," the statement said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/kohavi-lands-in-morocco-for-first-official-trip-by-israeli-military-chief/>

EU Foreign Ministers Agree to Renew Annual Dialogue With Israel, Frozen Since 2012

Haaretz, July 18, 2022

Ministers decided in principle to renew the EU-Israel Association Council, which has not been held for a decade due to political tensions over European policy on Israeli settlements and pressure from pro-Palestinian groups.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-07-18/ty-article/.premium/eu-foreign-ministers-agree-to-renew-annual-dialogue-with-israel-frozen-since-2012/00000182-12c8-dee2-a786-bbdab9d40000>

Hezbollah demands return of border rail tunnel in likely bid to torpedo Israel talks

The Times of Israel, July 19, 2022

A Lebanese minister affiliated with the Hezbollah terror group demanded Monday that Israel give Lebanon control over a long-shuttered rail tunnel that goes from Israel's northern border town of Rosh Hanikra and stretches hundreds of meters into Lebanon. Hamieh's comments were seen as an effort to torpedo talks between Israel and Lebanon aimed at resolving their

disputed maritime border and the question of who has rights to lucrative offshore gas fields.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-demands-return-of-border-rail-tunnel-in-likely-bid-to-torpedo-israel-talks/>

Israeli Arms Exports to Morocco: From Pegasus to Kamikaze Drones

Haaretz, July 19, 2022

Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi arrived in Morocco on Monday in the first-ever visit by an Israeli chief of staff since the two countries normalized relations in 2020. But their relationship goes far back: Israel and Morocco maintained covert military ties over the last decades, and Israeli tourists could visit Morocco. Relations grew closer once the Oslo Accords were signed, severed with the outbreak of the second intifada and renewed at the end of 2020 when Morocco became the fourth country to join the Abraham Accords.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/security-aviation/2022-07-19/ty-article-timeline/.premium/israel-morocco-arms-sales-pegasus-harop-kamikaze-drones-barak-missiles/00000182-10f9-d1ad-a1b7-1ffd14150000>

Greece to purchase Israeli missiles for use against Türkiye: Report

Yenisafak, July 19, 2022

Greece is in advanced talks with Israel to purchase missile systems to use against Türkiye, local media reported Monday. The deal for Spike non-line-of-sight (NLOS) missiles produced by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. is expected to be signed soon, the Greek news outlet Newspost.gr reported.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/greece-to-purchase-israeli-missiles-for-use-against-turkiye-report-3648891>

Israel's military admits to using attack drones

i24, July 20, 2022

Israel's military (IDF) admitted on Wednesday that it regularly uses attack drones on targets after years of not allowing media outlets to report on that fact. "It was found that there did not impede publishing the IDF's use of strike UAVs as part of its operational activities," the military censor said in a message, according to The Jerusalem Post (The Post).

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1658338299-israel-s-military-admits-to-using-attack-drones>

30 Years Later, Israel's 'Central Project' Finally Revealed: Drones

Haaretz, July 21, 2022

Decades after top military officials picked drones as the aircraft of the future, Israel officially admitted that they are used in 'operational activity'.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-07-21/ty-article/.highlight/30-years-later-israels-central-project-finally-revealed-drones/00000182-1d0a-d0da-a583-fd8e50bd0000>

EU sounds alarm over Israel's 'continuously increasing settlement expansion'

The Times of Israel, July 21, 2022

The European Union accused Israel on Wednesday of undermining prospects for a two-state solution by expanding West Bank settlements and Jewish neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem. In a report, the bloc's mission to the Palestinians criticized the "continuously increasing settlement expansion on occupied Palestinian territories." The report charged that in 2021, the number of settlement units advanced in

East Jerusalem more than doubled, from 6,288 the previous year to 14,894.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-sounds-alarm-over-israels-continuously-increasing-settlement-expansion/>

What the Saudis think about when they think about peace with Israel

The Times of Israel, July 21, 2022

Their newly opened airspace has nothing to do with Israel, they say, and normalization can't happen until there's a Palestinian state. But actually, obviously, it's all about Iran. Israeli, American and Saudi leaders' public declarations on these air travel advances have been contradictory. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, in complete contrast, asserted that the opened airspace had "nothing to do with diplomatic ties with Israel" and was "not in any way a precursor to any further steps" toward normalization.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/what-the-saudis-think-about-when-they-think-about-peace-with-israel/>

Gantz: We can leverage the Abraham Accords to strengthen the Palestinian Authority

The Times of Israel, July 22, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Thursday expressed his support for leveraging Israel's new ties with several Arab countries to strengthen the Palestinian Authority, a first for a leading Israeli official. "I believe that we can leverage the Abraham Accords and ties with regional partners in order to strengthen the Palestinian Authority and promote confidence-building measures," he said during a live interview at the Aspen Security Forum.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-we-can-leverage-the-abraham-accords-to-strengthen-the-palestinian-authority/>

War with Iran is last resort, hope there will be US support -Gantz

The Jerusalem Post, July 23, 2022

War against Iran should only be a matter of last resort, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Thursday, adding that he hoped the United States would support such a step if necessary. "Should we jump to a war at the first opportunity we have? No," Gantz said at the Aspen Security Forum, doing a public interview by The Atlantic's Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Goldberg. The interview focuses on regional issues, including the Abraham Accords and Iran.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-712790>

Biden pressing Palestinians to cooperate on Abraham Accords, but Abbas undecided

The Times of Israel, July 24, 2022

US President Joe Biden asked Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for his cooperation as he looks to leverage the Abraham Accords normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab states to advance measures that benefit the Palestinians, a senior administration official told The Times of Israel. The PA until now has balked at requests to join multilateral initiatives that team up Israel with its new Arab allies, arguing that the Abraham Accords are an attempt to bypass the Palestinian issue.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-pressing-palestinians-to-cooperate-on-abraham-accords-but-abbas-undecided/>

Gantz declares Israel can ‘seriously harm and delay’ Iranian nuclear program

The Times of Israel, July 26, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Tuesday that Israel has the ability to cause serious damage to Iran’s nuclear program, and warned that reviving a 2015 pact with world powers to curb Iranian nuclear activities will only be a delaying tactic. “Iran is a global problem. It is not just Israel’s private problem,” Gantz said during an interview at a Channel 13 conference in Jerusalem. Asked if Israel has the ability to stop Iran’s nuclear development or merely delay it, Gantz said, “We are able to seriously harm and delay the nuclear [program].”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-declares-israel-can-seriously-harm-and-delay-iranian-nuclear-program/>

Lapid meets with Jordan’s Abdullah in Amman for first time as premier

The Times of Israel, July 27, 2022

Prime Minister Yair Lapid met Jordan’s King Abdullah II at the Royal Palace in Amman for the first time as premier Wednesday. While the Jordanian side said the two discussed a two-state solution with the Palestinians, an Israeli statement made no mention of the issue. In its statement, the Royal Hashemite Court confirmed that during the meeting, which came days after Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas visited Amman, Abdullah reaffirmed the need for a “just, comprehensive, lasting peace on basis of the two-state solution.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-meets-with-jordans-abdullah-in-amman-for-first-time-as-premier/>

Qatar

Gulf stability crucial for global welfare: Amir

Gulf Times, July 16, 2022

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani Saturday stressed the importance of achieving stability in the Gulf region by terming it as crucial for the well-being of the entire international community. Reiterating Qatar’s firm position, His Highness the Amir urged the world to spare the Gulf region, and the Middle East in general, from the dangers of nuclear armament, while recognising the right of the countries in the region to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with international rules.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/721094/Gulf-stability-crucial-for-global-welfare-Amir>

Amir, Biden review bilateral strategic ties

Gulf Times, July 16, 2022

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met Saturday with US President Joe Biden, on the sidelines of the Jeddah Security and Development Summit held in Jeddah. The meeting reviewed the bilateral strategic relations and ways to support and strengthen them in various fields, particularly security, defence and sports...

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/721097/Amir-Biden-review-bilateral-strategic-ties>

Qatar, Egypt keen to take ties to higher levels: envoy

Gulf Times, July 23, 2022

Qatar-Egypt relations are deep-rooted and historic, built on co-operation and mutual

respect, Egyptian ambassador to Qatar Amr El-Sherbini has stressed. He said the relations are currently undergoing a new phase, witnessing quick developments after a number of high-level visits between the two friendly countries that were crowned by the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Cairo in June. Accordingly, the two sides are having great aspirations to take these mutual relations to even higher levels and broader horizons to further expand the fields of co-operation.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/721539/Qatar-Egypt-keen-to-take-ties-to-higher-levels-env>

Qatar-UN relations reviewed

Gulf Times, July 27, 2022

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met Wednesday with the visiting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba. The meeting reviewed relations of co-operation between Qatar and the United Nations, as well as topics of mutual interest.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/721788/Qatar-UN-relations-reviewed>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, US announce several agreements during Biden visit

Alarabiya News, July 16, 2022

Saudi Arabia and the US will cooperate on a range of future industries including 5G networks, enhanced cybersecurity, and space exploration, in addition to public health, the two countries announced on Friday. The announcement came after US President Joe Biden met with Saudi Arabia's leaders King Salman and Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. Human spaceflight and commercial development in the space sector will also be amplified following expanded cooperation, the statement added. "The US and Saudi Arabia are expanding cooperation in all fields of space exploration, including human spaceflight, earth observation, commercial and regulatory development, and responsible behavior in outer space," according to the statement.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/07/16/Saudi-Arabia-US-announce-several-agreements-during-Biden-visit>

Biden at GCC summit in Saudi Arabia 'the US is not going anywhere'

Al-Monitor, July 16, 2022

US President Joe Biden arrived in Israel on Wednesday on his first visit to the Middle East since taking office last year. He then had stops in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia, where Biden is meeting with Arab leaders at a summit of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. The visit comes amid global energy and food crises and high oil prices as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, unfinished negotiations over a return to the Iran nuclear agreement, a fragile truce in the war in Yemen and strains in US-Saudi relations since the murder of Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi. President Biden stressed on the US' counterterrorism efforts in the region, highlighting that it will remain "an active, engaged partner in the Middle East" avoiding any opening for Russia, China, or Iran, concluding: "The United States is invested in building a positive future in the region, in partnership with all of you, and the United States is not going anywhere."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/live->

[updates-bidens-trip-middle-east#ixzz7asf0abEY](#)

US President Biden to discuss regional missile, defense capabilities in Saudi Arabia

Alarabiya, July 16, 2022

US President Joe Biden will discuss regional missile and defense capabilities on Saturday when he meets Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia, where he will be seeking to integrate Israel as part of a new axis largely driven by shared concerns over Iran, said a senior administration official. “We believe there’s great value in including as many of the capabilities in this region as possible and certainly Israel has significant air and missile defense capabilities, as they need to. But we’re having these discussions bilaterally with these nations,” the administration official told reporters. Biden, on his first Middle East trip as president, has focused on the planned summit with six Gulf states and Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/07/16/US-President-Biden-to-discuss-regional-missile-defense-capabilities-in-Saudi-Arabia>

Saudi Arabia signs energy agreement with Greece

Al-Monitor, July 16, 2022

Saudi Arabia and Greece have signed a new energy agreement.

The memorandum of understanding, signed on July 27, establishes a framework for bilateral cooperation on a variety of energy fields, including carbon capture, clean hydrogen, petrochemicals and Saudi electricity exports to Greece, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The two countries also announced today a strategic partnership on the building of a

data cable project between Europe, Asia and Africa. It will involve Saudi, Greek and Cypriot telecom companies, according to the agency.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/saudi-arabia-signs-energy-agreement-greece#ixzz7asetT6pP>

Integrated Mideast defense system still only an idea, says US official

Alarabiya, July 28, 2022

A senior US administration official said on Thursday that there was no framework yet for an integrated Middle East air and missile defense system but that the US believes there is potential for a multilateral regional approach for security. President Joe Biden raised the matter during a visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this month where he held a summit with leaders from nine Arab states following a trip to Israel, but left with no public Arab support for a regional security axis. “It’s an idea right now, there’s no framework for it ... but it was important for the president to raise the issue of better regional integrated air and missile defense,” said the administration official, who declined to be named.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/07/28/Integrated-Mideast-defense-system-still-only-an-idea-says-US-official>

Saudi Arabia, France issue joint statement following Crown Prince’s visit to Paris

Alarabiya, July 29, 2022

Saudi Arabia and France agreed to boost cooperation on renewable energy including solar, wind and clean hydrogen following the guidelines of the Paris Climate Accords, the Saudi Press agency reported on Friday. Citing a joint statement released following Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s

visit to Paris, SPA also said the leaders also discussed the importance of stabilizing the global energy market and maintaining a steady food supply of wheat and grains globally. The safety of the Syrian people and the preservation of the territory was a part of the talks, according to the SPA report. It added that the two leaders also explored the international efforts in place to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and urged its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/07/29/Saudi-Arabia-France-issue-joint-statement-following-Crown-Prince-s-visit-to-Paris>

Syria

Syrian government, Russia escalate attacks in Idlib amid looming Turkish operation

Al-Monitor, July 17, 2022

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) factions have recently intensified their bombing of the Syrian government posts on the southern and eastern Idlib fronts, which extend to the areas of Jabal al-Zawiya, Turkmen Mountain, Kurd Mountain and Al-Ghab Plain. The bombing campaign came in response to the increasing land and air attacks launched by the Syrian government and Russia against several villages and towns in Idlib countryside during the past week. This was coupled with ongoing government and Russian shelling in the area, with more than 10 air raids targeting the villages and towns of the Jabal al-Zawiya area on the southern fronts July 6.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/syrian-government-russia-escalate-attacks-idlib->

[amid-looming-turkish-operation#ixzz7aslhzf9h](#)

Ayatollah Khamenei to Erdogan: Any military attack on northern Syria serves terrorists interests

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 19, 2022

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Imam Seyyed Ali Khamenei, stressed that preserving of Syria's territorial integrity is very important, asserting that any military attack on northern Syria would actually benefit terrorists, and would be to the detriment of Syria, Turkey and the region. This came during a meeting held between Khamenei and President of Turkish regime, Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Tehran on Tuesday. Khamenei said that preserving Syria's territorial integrity is very important to Iran, adding that any military attack on northern Syria would actually benefit "terrorists", and would "be to the detriment of Syria, Turkey and the region".

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=278233>

Raisi and Putin: committed to Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 19, 2022

Presidents of Iran and Russia, Ebrahim Raisi and Vladimir Putin reaffirmed the need to adhere to Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, saying the Syrians alone would determine the future of their country without any foreign intervention. "We stress the importance of implementing the previous agreements among the guarantor states - Russia, Iran and Turkey- on Syria and announce our support for the political resolution in the country along with combating terrorism till eliminating it completely" said Raisi during the summit of heads of Astana guarantor states held Tuesday in Tehran. He added "we reiterate

Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity , as well as the right of Syrians in determining their country's future without any external interference and we hope that this meeting will achieve the aspired-for outcomes that enhance Syria's stability".

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=278256>

Sabbagh: OPCW ignores Syria's cooperation with the international organization

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 20, 2022

Syria's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh, said that some countries continue their hostile policy and politicize the chemical file in Syria, regretting that Syria's cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of chemical Weapons is met with denial as its monthly reports concentrate on negative sides and market for them, in addition, it ignores the positive sides. "Syria has voluntarily joined the Chemical Weapons convention, and it completely cooperated with the OPCW and destroyed all its stockpile in a record time," Sabbagh said at a UN Security Council session on Wednesday. He added that Syria condemns the OPCW's act of ignoring incidents where the terrorist organizations used chemical weapons though many years have passed on, and the OPCW non-commitment to the professional work methods included in the convention.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=278337>

Lavrov stresses the need to solve crisis in Syria, preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 24, 2022

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated that only the Syrian people can decide the future of their country without foreign interference. During a press

conference with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry in Cairo on Sunday, Lavrov stressed, the importance of the international community supporting the solution in Syria in a way that preserves the country's unity and sovereignty. Lavrov pointed out that he had held a constructive dialogue with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, adding that there is an agreement on a number of regional and international files between Russia and Egypt. Lavrov said that the second Russia-Africa summit is planned to be held in mid-2023.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=278710>

An army formation, in cooperation with Russian forces, carry out drills with live munition

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 30, 2022

Upon the directives of President Bashar al-Assad, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces , and in the presence of Chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces General Abdul Karim Mahmoud Ibrahim and General Alexander Chaiko, commander of the Russian forces operating in Syria, and a number of senior officers of the Syrian and Russian armies, one of the Syrian army formations, in cooperation with the Russian forces operating in Syria carried out a tactical, operational project with ammunition, in which various types of land, air, and naval forces, as well as types of forces and specialized forces, participated in conditions that imitate the nature of a real battle. Commander of the executing forces gave a detailed explanation about the map of the idea of the battle, which included the attack on the enemy's fortified points, with the storming of a water barrier from the movement to reach the opposite bank and liberate it.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=279252>

Turkey

Türkiye committed to working with Zambia in deepening democracy, national unity: Envoy

Yenisafak, July 17, 2022

Türkiye is committed to working with Zambia in deepening democracy and national unity, the Turkish ambassador to Lusaka said on Saturday. Speaking ahead of a friendly football match between Zambia and Türkiye in Lusaka, İstem Cırcıroğlu said the two countries also shared common values of bilateral cooperation.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkiye-committed-to-working-with-zambia-in-deepening-democracy-national-unity-envoy-3648808>

Bilateral, regional issues top agenda as Turkish, Iranian presidents meet in Tehran

Yenisafak, July 19, 2022

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi for talks in Tehran on Tuesday, with bilateral and regional matters the top issues on the agenda. Erdoğan and Raisi will co-chair the 7th Meeting of the Türkiye-Iran High Level Cooperation Council, where all aspects of bilateral ties and potential steps to enhance bilateral cooperation will be discussed.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/bilateral-regional-issues-top-agenda-as-turkish-iranian-presidents-meet-in-tehran-3648881>

Türkiye, Iran need to fight against terror groups in solidarity: Erdogan

Yenisafak, July 19, 2022

Türkiye and Iran need to continue to fight terrorist groups in solidarity, as they stir up trouble for both countries, the Turkish president said in the Iranian capital Tehran

on Tuesday. "The PJAK, PKK, PYD, YPG, and FETO terrorist organizations are troublemakers for both Türkiye and Iran. We need to continue the fight against them in solidarity," Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told a press conference alongside his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi,

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkiye-e-iran-need-to-fight-against-terror-groups-in-solidarity-erdogan-3648938>

System developed against mini-UAVs enters Turkish army's inventory

Daily Sabah, July 19, 2022

Turkey's ŞAHİN 40 mm Physical Destruction System developed for the destruction of mini-micro unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has entered the inventory of the armed forces, the head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), İsmail Demir, said Tuesday. Demir made the related statement via his Twitter account.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/system-developed-against-mini-uavs-enters-turkish-armys-inventory>

Norway, Canada start fundraising to buy Bayraktar TB2s for Ukraine

Daily Sabah, July 19, 2022

Following similar steps by Lithuania and Poland, the people of Norway and Canada have started crowdfunding campaigns to buy Turkey-made Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) for Ukraine. Norwegians plan to collect 55 million kroner (about \$5.5 million) and transfer it to the aid fund at the Ukrainian Embassy, media reports said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/norway-canada-start-fundraising-to-buy-bayraktar-tb2s-for-ukraine>

Turkish forces 'neutralize' three PKK terrorists in northern Iraq

Yenisafak, July 23, 2022

Turkish security forces "neutralized" three PKK terrorists near the Turkish border in northern Iraq, authorities said on Saturday. Two terrorists were targeted in Metina region, and another one in Operation Claw-Lock zone, the Turkish National Defense Ministry tweeted. Turkish authorities use the term "neutralize" to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/turkish-forces-neutralize-three-pkk-terrorists-in-northern-iraq-3649189>

Erdogan says Greece 'deliberately' eroding Lausanne Peace Treaty

Yenisafak, July 24, 2022

Greece has recently been deliberately eroding terms and conditions of the Lausanne Peace Treaty, Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday. In a video message on the 99th anniversary of the Lausanne Peace Treaty, he said: "The terms and conditions of Lausanne Peace Treaty, particularly rights of Turkish minority, have recently been deliberately eroded by Greece." "It is not possible for our country to accept this situation, which is incompatible with the principle of good neighbourly relations and loyalty to the treaty," he added.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/erdogan-says-greece-deliberately-eroding-lausanne-peace-treaty-3649217>

Top Turkish, Finnish diplomats discuss trilateral NATO membership accord

Yenisafak, July 24, 2022

The Turkish and Finnish foreign ministers on Sunday discussed implementation of a

trilateral memorandum signed along with Sweden to address Ankara's concerns on terrorism. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said Mevlut Cavusoglu and Pekka Haavisto spoke over phone, and also discussed the recent developments in Ukraine and Türkiye's mediation efforts for peace.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/top-turkish-finnish-diplomats-discuss-trilateral-nato-membership-accord-3649218>

Turkish, Uzbek presidents discuss bilateral, regional issues

Yenisafak, July 24, 2022

The presidents of Türkiye and Uzbekistan discussed bilateral ties and regional developments in a phone call on Sunday. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also congratulated his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his birthday, the Turkish Communications Directorate said in a statement.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkish-uzbek-presidents-discuss-bilateral-regional-issues-3649220>

Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Türkiye may sign trilateral declaration

Yenisafak, July 25, 2022

A trilateral declaration may be signed between Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Türkiye, TurkicWorld reports citing Uzbek diplomatic sources. The document is expected to be signed during the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs, economy, and transport of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey in Tashkent, which is scheduled for August 2.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/azerbaijan-uzbekistan-turkiye-may-sign-trilateral-declaration-3649254>

Russia, UAE mulled to be eyeing co-op with Turkish drone maker Baykar

Daily Sabah, July 26, 2022

Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are said to have expressed interest in working with Turkey on the development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), reports said Tuesday. Russia's President Vladimir Putin reportedly told his Turkish counterpart President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan that his country was interested in cooperating with Baykar, the developer of the most famous Turkish combat drone, Bayraktar TB2.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/russia-uae-mulled-to-be-eyeing-co-op-with-turkish-drone-maker-baykar>

Bangladesh to purchase Turkey's top exporting Bayraktar TB2 drone

Daily Sabah, July 26, 2022

Bangladesh will purchase the popular Turkish Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), which became one of the highlights of Ukraine's fight in the face of the Russian invasion. The Bangladeshi government signed an agreement to purchase the UCAVs, Prothom Alo cited Turkey's Ambassador to Bangladesh Mustafa Osman Tufan as saying. The envoy noted that the Bangladesh Armed Forces signed an agreement with Baykar Technology, the manufacturer of Bayraktar.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/bangladesh-to-purchase-turkeys-top-exporting-bayraktar-tb2-drone>

Military/technical cooperation of Russia, Türkiye to be discussed in Sochi: Kremlin

Yenisafak, July 27, 2022

Military and technical cooperation between Russia and Türkiye will be discussed

during a meeting of the countries' presidents in Sochi on Aug. 5, a Kremlin spokesman said on Wednesday. Asked whether Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin had discussed the issue of cooperation on Turkish-made Bayraktar combat drones, Dmitry Peskov said military and technical cooperation is constantly on the agenda of the two countries.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/militarytechnical-cooperation-of-russia-turkiye-to-be-discussed-in-sochi-kremlin-3649387>

United Arab Emirates

France, UAE sign energy cooperation deal

Reuters, July 19, 2022

The governments of France and the United Arab Emirates signed on Monday a strategic agreement to cooperate in the energy sector, the French government said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/france-uae-sign-energy-cooperation-deal-2022-07-18/>

U.S. State Department OKs potential sale of C-17 aircraft support to UAE - Pentagon

Reuters, July 20, 2022

The U.S. State Department has approved the potential sale of C-17 aircraft sustainment and related equipment to the United Arab Emirates for an estimated cost of \$980.4 million, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-state-department-oks-potential-sale-c-17-aircraft-support-uae-pentagon-2022-07-19/>

UAE: Hot functional test on fourth reactor completed at Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant

Gulf News, July 21, 2022

Pre-operational testing on the fourth reactor's cooling and safety systems at Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant has been completed, Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (Enec) announced today. Hot functional testing (HFT) on Unit 4, which exposed the reactor to extreme heat, showed that all systems performed in line with the required quality and safety standards. HFT takes place over a series of weeks and consists of nearly 200 individual and integrated tests performed on major

systems to check their performance under normal operational conditions, without the presence of nuclear fuel in the reactor. Enec said the successful completion of the tests demonstrates the integrity and robustness of the building structure and its ability to perform safely under normal and extraordinary circumstances.

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/science/uae-hot-functional-test-on-fourth-reactor-completed-at-barakah-nuclear-energy-plant-1.89431468>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Stephen Koshy James
with inputs from Mr. Kushal Agrawal, Mr. Aasi Ansari and and Mr. Niranjana Oak*

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

**No. 1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110 010
Telephone: 91-11-26717983;
Fax: 91-11-26154191,
Website: www.idsa.in**



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