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## IRAN

### Commander: Damavand Destroyer to Join Iran's Navy Soon

Fars News Agency, April 3, 2022

Commander of the Iranian Army Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said that Damavand destroyer is under final testing and will join the Navy in the near future.

"The process of building naval equipment will accelerate in the current year," Rear Admiral Irani said. Referring to the fact that the domestically-built Damavand destroyer is under final testing, he pointed out that the destroyer will join the navy soon. In relevant remarks in February, Rear Admiral Irani had announced that the Iranian Navy made great achievements in the field of the naval fleet, navigation, vessels and submarine as well as in the fields of equipment and weapons.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010114000554/Cmmander-Damavand-Desryer-Jin-Iran's-Navy-Sn>

### Iran blames US for halt in nuclear talks

Al-Monitor, April 4, 2022

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadesh addressed reporters today about the fate of the nuclear talks in Vienna. Khatibzadeh accused the United States of bringing the talks to a "suspension point." He said, "What has become clear for us in the last two weeks is that [US President Joe] Biden and the White House have not made a decision." He continued that the United States has made the nuclear talks a "hostage" in domestic partisan issues. He added, "The US is responsible for the suspension of the negotiations." If talks are resumed, the United States must provide a

"logical answer" to Iran's demands, Khatibzadeh said. According to most observers, the stalemate is over the designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/iran-blames-us-halt-nuclear-talks#ixzz7SFjyf068>

### Spokesman: Iran to Unveil Strategic Document N. Industry Development on Saturday

Fars News Agency, April 5, 2022

Iranian Government Spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi said on Tuesday that the country will unveil a comprehensive strategic document on the development of the nuclear industry on April 9. The comprehensive strategic document for the development of country's nuclear industry will be unveiled on April 9 concurrently with the National Day of Nuclear Technology in the presence of President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi, Bahadori Jahromi told reporters in a press conference in Tehran. Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami announced last month that the country will unveil several achievements in different fields of the nuclear industries on April 9, marking the National Nuclear Technology Day. The AEOI will unveil important programs and achievements in the fields of health, agriculture and radiation of products and food on National Nuclear Technology Day (to fall on April 9), Eslami said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010116000556/Spkesman-Iran-Unveil-Sraegic-Dcmen-N-Indsry-Develpmen-n-Sarday>

### **Iran urges international community to pressure Israel to join NPT**

Tehran Times, April 6, 2022

Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations on Tuesday urged the international community to exert pressure on the Israeli regime to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Zahra Ershadi emphasized how nuclear weapons posed "an existential threat to humanity." "This global cause of insecurity should have brought the international community together. Instead, we are witness to the ongoing escalation of political and military tensions, including the continuous threat to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries," she told the annual meeting of the UN Disarmament Commission. The diplomat drew attention to the Islamic Republic's initiative at the UN to establish a zone in West Asia free from weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). "The Israeli regime is a vivid obstacle to this noble goal. It possesses all types of WMD and threatens to use them against the regional countries," Ershadi warned.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/471439/Iran-urges-international-community-to-pressure-Israel-to-join>

### **Iran Asks for Int'l Pressures on Israel to Join NPT**

Fars News Agency, April 6, 2022

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi blasted Tel Aviv's threats to use nukes against the regional states, and called on the international community and organizations to make Israel join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Ershadi made the remarks on Tuesday, addressing the annual meeting of

the UN Disarmament Commission. She underlined how the nuclear weapons constituted "an existential threat to humanity". "This global cause of insecurity should have brought the international community together. Instead, we are witness to the ongoing escalation of political and military tensions, including the continuous threat to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries," Ershadi said. She drew attention to the cause of Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of WMDs (weapons of mass destruction), which the Islamic Republic initiated at the UN.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010117000167/Iran-Asks-fr-In%E2%80%99l-Pressres-n-Israel-Jin-NPT>

### **Iran's parliament presses Raisi to ask for more in nuclear talks**

Al-Monitor, April 6, 2022

Members of the Iranian parliament submitted a letter to the country's President Ebrahim Raisi on April 5, calling on him to take a tougher stand in the currently paused indirect talks with the United States over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal. Drafted by hard-line lawmaker Mahmoud Nabavian, the letter received signatures from 190 members, more than two thirds of the conservative legislative body. According to Iranian media outlets, the document specifically urged Raisi to seek "more robust guarantees" from Washington before any new accord, which Tehran and world powers have been intensely negotiating in multiple rounds over the past year.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/irans-parliament-presses-raisi-ask-more-nuclear-talks#ixzz7SFjOHhMb>

### **AEOI Chief: Iran to Build N. Power Plant without Foreign Assistance**

Fars News Agency, April 6, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami announced the country's plans to construct a fully home-grown nuclear power plant in Southwestern Iran. The AEOI plans to build an entirely Iranian-built power plant in Khuzestan province, Eslami said on Tuesday. "We are planning to build a 360-megawatt power plant in Darkhovin. This project will be an all-Iranian made power plant, which we have included in the development plan along with the research reactors required by the organization," he added. Eslami also announced that the comprehensive development document of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran will be unveiled on April 9. The document has passed the legal approval process and will be unveiled by Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi on April 9, he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010117000176/AEOI-Chief-Iran-Bild-N-Pwer-Plan-wih-Freign-Assisance>

### **Iranian Envoy Rejects Media Claims about IAEA Report**

Fars News Agency, April 7, 2022

Iran's Acting Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohammad Reza Qa'ebi dismissed media claims about the IAEA's report on his country's implementation of the nuclear deal. Certain foreign media claims about the latest IAEA report on the verification of implementation of the 2015 Iran deal are "inaccurate, incorrect and biased", Qa'ebi told reporters on Wednesday. He added the report was only a technical update presented by the Agency's director-general on monitoring the implementation of the

multilateral deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses it. Qa'ebi said the report was drawn up to inform the Agency's members about the latest developments and new technical information on Iran's nuclear activities. Summarizing a confidential report to the IAEA member states, Reuters claimed on Wednesday that Iran has moved all its machines that make centrifuge parts from its mothballed workshop at Karaj to its sprawling Natanz site, just six weeks after it set up another site at Isfahan to make the same parts.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010118000206/Iranian-Envy-Rejecs-Media-Claims-ab-IAEA-Repr>

### **AEOI Head: Iran to Continue Progress in N. Industry Regardless of Israeli Threats**

Fars News Agency, April 7, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that the country will continue development of its peaceful nuclear industry without attention to the warnings and threats raised by Israel. "The Israeli regime resorts to producing fake documents, sabotage, including industrial sabotage, and terrorist operations [against Iran]," Eslami told reporters in a press conference on Wednesday. "These measures are neither condemned nor confronted, but are, to the contrary, [even] welcomed," he added. "Naturally, this is a battle between wrong and right. This battle remains in place. We too have goals here that we must pursue and not fall prey to such alarmism," Eslami said. He noted how the Israeli regime's claims regarding Iran's nuclear work had been proven wrong in the case of one

location inside the Islamic Republic. “In one site, reference has been made to [a type of] uranium that does not exist in Iran at all,” Eslami said. “It is the Zionist regime that takes these [adversarial] measures and conducts terrorist activities and whatever [other] vexatious measure that it can [against Iran].”

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010118000231/AEOI-Head-Iran-Cnine-Progress-in-N-Indsry-Regardless-f-Israeli-Threas>

### **Senior Cleric Underlines Iran's Right to Develop Nuclear Technology**

Fars News Agency, April 8, 2022

Tehran's provisional Friday Prayers leader Hojjatoleslam Kazzem Seddiqi underlined Iran's right to make peaceful use of the nuclear technology and develop its nuclear industries. Addressing a congregation of people at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla (congregational prayers site), Hojjatoleslam Seddiqi said, "As regards the Vienna talks, the Supreme Leader (of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei) stresses distrust in the other side (the West) and securing guarantees and verifications on the removal of sanctions." The senior Iranian cleric pointed to a recent letter from the Iranian lawmakers to President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi called on the government to secure concrete guarantees from the United States in the wake of the possible agreement in Vienna talks and said that the legislators demand is exactly what people want. "Nuclear energy is one of the necessities in today's world as it has many uses in the medical field, so possessing the industry is within our religious and legitimate right," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010119000464/Senir-Cleric-Underlines-Iran's-Righ-Develp-Nclear-Technlgy>

### **President Underlines Iran's Right to Use Peaceful N. Technology**

Fars News Agency, April 9, 2022

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi stressed on Saturday that the country is entitled to use peaceful nuclear technology, adding that Iran's progress in this field is "irreversible". Iran's nuclear technology is "irreversible" and research in the field will not be tied with others' requests, Rayeesi said, addressing the unveiling ceremony of 9 nuclear achievements on the National Day of Nuclear Technology. "Relying on Iranian young people and scientists is a role model that always works and should be used in other areas as well, he added.

Emphasizing the right to use peaceful nuclear energy, the President called Iran's nuclear knowledge and technology in the nuclear field irreversible.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010120000536/Presiden-Underlines-Iran%E2%80%99s-Righ-Use-Peacefl-N-Technlgy>

### **AEOI Head: Iran Expects IAEA Not to Surrender to Outside Pressures**

Fars News Agency, April 9, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that the country expects the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) not to succumb to pressures exerted by Tehran's enemies, specially Israel. Eslami made the remarks on Saturday, addressing a ceremony to celebrate the National Nuclear Technology Day also participated by President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi. He said that the AEOI has managed to prepare the Comprehensive Strategic Document of Iran's Nuclear Industry for the next two decades with the collaboration of a group of

Iranian experts. Iran's nuclear chief also noted that the organization has planned to direct interactions with the IAEA towards a professional approach and to prepare the Country Program Framework (CPF) to submit it to the IAEA in order to prevent future allegations and psychological operations by the enemies on Iran's nuclear activities. With the clarification policy adopted by Iran, Eslami underlined, Tehran expected the IAEA to be committed to implementation of its legal tasks and stop succumbing to excessive demands, pressure and malign operations from Iran's enemies, the Israeli regime in particular.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010120000774/AEOI-Head-Iran-Expects-IAEA-N-Srrender-Oside-Pressres>

### **Pres. Raisi: Iran will never step back from its right in Vienna talks**

Islamic Republic News Agency, April 9, 2022

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday that the government will never step back from the rights of the Iranians in nuclear negotiations. Speaking at the National Nuclear Technology Day celebration on Saturday, President Raisi said that Iran's nuclear scientists, and at the head of them nuclear martyrs, were people who actively faced numerous obstacles while they never succumbed. President Raisi noted that the enemies know well that nuclear weapons have no place in the Islamic Republic's defense doctrine, and the IAEA has confirmed more than 15 times in its reports that there have been no violations of Iran's nuclear activities. Stating that the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to defend the inalienable right of the Iranians, President Raisi highlighted that they will never allow the hegemonic powers to

encroach upon Iranians' inalienable rights, or slow down or stop Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84710560/Pres-Raisi-Iran-will-never-step-back-from-its-right-in-Vienna>

### **Iranian Scientists Develop Radiation Detection Devices**

Fars News Agency, April 10, 2022

Iranian experts produced radiation detection machines to measure the level of ambient radiation pollution. Iran on Saturday unveiled the home-made radiation detection machines on the National Day of Nuclear Technology. The devices include dosimeters for measuring the level of ambient radiation pollution as well as individual radiation detection gates. They have been developed by the experts of Iran's radiation defense base. The two new knowledge-based products significantly improve the speed of assessment when accidents are highly likely and enhance the success rate of rescue operations when it comes to controlling the level of radiation contamination.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010121000445/Iranian-Scieniss-Develp-Radiain-Deecin-Devices>

### **AEOI Spokesman: Iran Plans Construction of More N. Power Plants**

Fars News Agency, April 10, 2022

Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said that the country plans to build several other nuclear power plants in different parts of Iran, including Darkhovin in Khuzestan province. The Iranian government has put on its agenda building the 360MW-Darkhovin plant, Kamalvandi

said. He added that the European states have also accepted the fact that building nuclear plants is inevitable. Kamalvandi underlined the importance of building nuclear power plants, saying it is an essential part of the country's needs. He also lauded Iran's achievements in nuclear technology, saying that these achievements are divided into four categories of radiation, energy, fuel generation, and research and development.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010121000830/AEOI-Spkesman-Iran-Plans-Cnsrcin-f-Mre-N-Pwer-Plans>

### **GOP senators warn Biden against taking Iran's IRGC off terror list**

Al-Monitor, April 11, 2022

A group of Republican senators warned President Joe Biden on Monday against lifting the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' terrorist designation, which Iran has made a condition of its return to the landmark nuclear accord. Whether the IRGC remains on Washington's formal list of terror organizations remains the principal sticking point in the now-paused talks in Vienna. On Monday, 14 Senate Republicans wrote that dropping the label would be "wildly misguided" given that the IRGC has "shown no meaningful change in conduct." Last week, armed groups linked to the IRGC were blamed for attacks in Syria and Iraq that targeted facilities hosting the US-led international coalition. The IRGC took credit in March for a ballistic missile attack near the US Consulate in the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Erbil.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/gop-senators-warn-biden-against-taking-irans-ircg-terror-list#ixzz7SFjfiPlz>

### **AEOI Chief: Iran Plans Production of 10kMW of Nuclear-Powered Electricity**

Fars News Agency, April 12, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami announced that the newly-unveiled Comprehensive Strategic Document of Iran's Nuclear Industry has envisaged generation of 10,000MW of electricity by development of nuclear power plants. Eslami wrote on his twitter page on Monday that the Document would hopefully be an effective step towards removing obstacles and developing the nuclear industry. He added that the Document, which sets goals for the country's nuclear industry for the next 20 years, deals with different dimensions of nuclear technology in order to bring Iran a good world status in this regard. Eslami said that the production of 10,000 megawatts of nuclear-powered electricity as well as the construction of a 360-megawatt power plant in Darkhovin, which will be built by Iranian scientists, are among other goals of the Document.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010123000276/AEOI-Chief-Iran-Plans-Prdcin-f-0kMW-f-Nclear-Pwered-Elecriciy>

### **Iran's supreme leader says stalled nuclear talks going well**

Al-Monitor, April 13, 2022

During a speech to government officials today, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, discussed the ongoing nuclear negotiations and Iran's plans for moving forward with or without a nuclear deal. Khamenei said that the direction of the nuclear talks is going well. Khamenei presumably meant Iran's position in the nuclear talks is strong, since the talks are essentially stalled as the United States has

been hesitant to remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from its list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Khamenei praised Iran's foreign minister and nuclear negotiators for their reports about the state of the nuclear talks.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/irans-supreme-leader-says-stalled-nuclear-talks-going-well#ixzz7SFk146pq>

## IRAQ

### Ministry of Defense and the NATO Group sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Iraqi News Agency, April 5, 2022

The Council of National Security Agents held its eighth session for the year 2022, headed by National Security Adviser, Qasim Al-Araji, and in the presence of members of the Council. A statement by the Media Office of the National Security Adviser, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "the council discussed the topics on its agenda and took the necessary decisions and recommendations regarding it," noting that "the council agreed to conclude (the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Defense and the NATO group)." With regard to the issue of (the Security-Intelligence Center in the Iraqi Reform Department), "the Council directed the formation of a joint committee to reconsider, review, and clarify what is related to defining the tasks, authorities, and coordination mechanisms between them and preventing potential intersections."

<https://ina.iq/eng/18641-ministry-of-defense-and-the-nato-group-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding.html>

### JOC: ISIS has lost the ability to penetrate the international borders of Iraq

Iraqi News Agency, April 8, 2022

The Joint Operations Command revealed, today, Friday, joint efforts to pursue impersonators, and while confirming that ISIS terrorist gangs receive strong strikes by land and air, while referring to stopping the infiltration of the enemy across the Iraqi border and impeding its movement. The spokesman for the joint operations, Major General Tahsin al-Khafaji, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the leadership has efforts with the National Security Advisory, the two intelligence and military intelligence agencies, the Investigation Agency and our deployed detachments to pursue such impersonators and bring them to justice.". Al-Khafaji added, "impersonators will be criminalized for their actions according to the military penal code for the army in the Ministry of Defense or the police in the Ministry of Interior."

<https://ina.iq/eng/18706-joc-isis-has-lost-the-ability-to-penetrate-the-international-borders-of-iraq.html>

### Attacks target US forces on both sides of Iraqi-Syrian border

Al-Monitor, April 9, 2022

Factions linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) are widely thought to have been behind incidents involving missiles and armed drones 24 hours apart from each other at facilities hosting forces from the US-led international coalition on both sides of the Iraqi-Syrian border. The attacks, which happened in the early morning hours of Thursday and Friday, have come as the US discusses delisting the IRGC as a terrorist



organization, in response to reported demands by Iran as part of talks on its nuclear program. There had been an uptick in attacks on facilities hosting US forces in early January, incidentally targeting the same bases and other locations. Neither of the latest attacks resulted in any reported deaths. However, four US servicemen were “being evaluated for minor injuries and possible traumatic brain injuries” after the April 7 attack, according to a statement issued by the coalition.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/attacks-target-us-forces-both-sides-iraqi-syrian-border#ixzz7SGAKmSIH>

### **Security meeting headed by Al-Kadhimi directs decisions to enhance level of performance air Bases**

Iraqi News Agency, April 10, 2022

Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi stressed on Sunday, on raising the level of alertness and tighten security during the month of Ramadan, noting that strengthening the role of our armed forces and improving their performance requires exerting more effort. "The meeting approved a number of decisions aimed at enhancing the level of performance of air bases and rehabilitating it in all respects to be among the best air bases for the armies of the world rehabilitating the stores of equipment currently used and upgrading their specifications as needed, as well as intensifying the enhanced procedures for the rest of the supportive and supportive types to raise the security performance and military," Al-Kadhimi added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/18746-security-meeting-headed-by-al-kadhimi-directs-decisions-to-enhance-level-of-performance-air-bases.html>

## **ISRAEL**

### **Israel and India collaborate to complete missile defense system tests**

The Jerusalem Post, April 1, 2022

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) collaborated to complete missile defense system tests, the IAI announced on Thursday. The tests resulted in the MRSAM Air and Missile Defense System, co-developed by the two organizations, which completed four successful interceptions which were conducted in various scenarios at different ranges and angles. The trials were conducted in India and were operated from Indian Navy ships with DRDO and IAI engineers. The trial included two interceptors that were launched from a portable land-based system and two others from a naval-based system — and the system's radar managed to detect all four.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-702931>

### **First MMR radar delivered to Czech Republic from Israel**

The Jerusalem Post April 5, 2022

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has delivered the first of eight [ELM-2084 multi-mission radar](#) (MMR) systems to the Czech Republic, the company announced on Tuesday. The radar systems, which will replace obsolete Soviet-made ones that the Czech military received in 1991, are part of a deal signed in December 2019 by the two defense ministries. The first system was delivered in late February and the others will be delivered throughout the year, with the last one arriving in early 2023. The operational and combat-proven MMR that is integrative with NATO systems is the radar of Israel's Iron Dome, David's Sling

and IAI's land-based Barak missile defense weapon systems. Some 150 such systems have been sold to customers around the world.

<https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/tech-and-start-ups/article-703284>

### **Germany gets approval for Israel's Arrow 3 missile defense system**

The Jerusalem Post, April 6, 2022

Germany has received approval from Israel and the United States to purchase the Arrow-3 missile defense system, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned. German legislators have in the past pushed for Berlin to buy Israel's Iron Dome system to ward off aerial threats, but on Monday the head of the German Air Force, Lt.-Gen. Ingo Gerhartz, told the *Post* that the Arrow 3 is the most relevant system for the threats facing the European nation. "The Iron Dome is used for short-range threats, and we have quite a capable industry back home, and we will procure systems for that," Gerhartz said. "And for higher interceptors, we have the Patriot weapons system that we will modernize. [But] if it means [threats at a range of ] 15,000 km. [9,320 miles] and then it is exo-atmospheric, we don't have anything, and that is why I had a close look at the Arrow 3 and we are really interested in the system."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-703266>

### **Rare daytime Israeli airstrike targets northwest Syria - report**

The Jerusalem Post, April 10, 2022

A rare daytime alleged Israeli airstrike targeted sites near Masyaf in northwestern Syria on Saturday afternoon,

according to Syrian reports. The airstrikes were carried out from over northern Lebanon, with Syrian air defenses responding to the strikes, according to Syrian state news site SANA. According to SANA, only material damage was caused.

Video reportedly from the scene showed large plumes of smoke rising from hillsides in the area. The Step News Agency reported that the strikes targeted sites belonging to pro-Iranian militias and scientific research sites in Masyaf.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-703682>

### **In 'game changer,' Israeli laser-based air defense shoots down drones**

The Times of Israel, April 14, 2022

The Defense Ministry revealed Thursday that a laser air defense system it is developing successfully shot down drones, rockets, mortars, and anti-tank missiles in a first series of tests last month. According to the head of the ministry's research and development team, Brig. Gen. (res.) Yaniv Rotem, the tests were conducted at "challenging" ranges and timings. "The use of a laser is a 'game changer' and the technology is simple to operate and proves to be economically viable," he said. Its research and development department initially planned to deploy the anti-missile system by 2024, but the military has pushed for an earlier deployment. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced in February that Israel would deploy the system within the year.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/laser-based-air-defense-shoots-down-drones-rockets-in-first-series-of-trials/>

## LEBANON

### At least 1 killed, 7 injured in a blast at an Amal center near Sidon, Lebanon

Ya Libnan, April 12, 2022

At least one person was killed and seven were injured in an explosion at a scout centre affiliated with the Shi'ite Amal Movement near Sidon in southern Lebanon, officials told Reuters early on Tuesday. The blast demolished the building and army personnel were searching through the rubble for any further casualties, sources added. The explosion also damaged the town hall nearby. The Amal Movement said in an official statement that an "electric short circuit" led to a fire that resulted in the explosion of oxygen canisters that had been stored in the building during the Covid-19 crisis. On Dec. 10, a large blast rocked a Palestinian camp in the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre, injuring about a dozen people, according to rescue workers on scene and a Palestinian source inside the camp.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/04/12/at-least-1-killed-7-injured-in-a-blast-at-an-amal-center-near-sidon-lebanon/>

## QATAR

### Qatar Accepts Delivery Of First Two NH90 NFH Naval Helicopters

Naval News, April 8, 2022

Another major program achievement in the Qatar Emiri Air Force's NH90 program was made on 31 March with the delivery of the first two NFH naval variant helicopters. The aircraft handover, achieved in accordance with contractual commitments, was performed during an official ceremony held at Leonardo's Venice Tessera NH90 final assembly line (Italy) in the presence of Qatar Emiri Air Force, Leonardo, and NHI representatives. This event follows the

delivery of the first TTH aircraft for land operations from the Airbus Helicopters' facility in Marignane (France) in December 2021, while the second TTH was handed over recently. The first NFH naval helicopter had its public premiere in Qatar on 18 December 2021 during National Day.

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/04/qatar-accepts-delivery-of-first-two-nh90-nfh-naval-helicopters/>

## SAUDI ARABIA

### Saudi Navy Commander Al-Ghufaili launches HMS Al-Jubail in Spain

Saudi Gazette, April 1, 2022

The Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) and its Commander Lt. Gen. Admiral Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Ghufaili celebrated the ceremonial launching of the warship of "AVANTE 2200" Corvette, which is the first of its type within the Sarawat Corvette Project. The warship was officially named His Majesty's Ship Al-Jubail, as part of its ceremonial launching held in the city of San Fernando, Spain. RSNF Commander raised the flag of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on HMS Al-Jubail marking its entry into service with the Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/618886/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Navy-Commander-Al-Ghufaili-launches-HMS-Al-Jubail-in-Spain>

### SAMI announces joint venture agreement with Boeing

Saudi Gazette, April 10, 2022

SAMI group, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Public Investment Fund and the Kingdom's national defense localization champion, has announced a preliminary agreement with the Boeing Company, the world's largest aerospace company and

leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners, defense, space and security systems, and provider of aviation services to both the commercial and defense sectors. Under the terms of the agreement, both companies will enter into a Kingdom-focused joint venture. The announcement was made at a signing ceremony during the inaugural World Defense Show in Riyadh. Commemorating the parties' intention to sign the definitive agreements in the coming weeks, the ceremony was attended by top officials from both sides, including Ahmed Al-Khateeb, minister of tourism and chairman of SAMI, Leanne Caret, executive vice president and senior advisor to Boeing Company and Ted Colbert, president and CEO of Boeing defense, space and security.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/619212/SAUDI-ARABIA/SAMI-announces-joint-venture-agreement-with-Boeing>

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

### **Syrian regime, Russian forces escalate attacks in Idlib amid stalled war in Ukraine**

Al-Monitor, April 6, 2022

The battles between the Syrian government forces and opposition fighters have recently intensified in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, where both sides have been making military movements and redeploying their troops. The Russian aircraft, meanwhile, have escalated their air raids in support of government forces. The escalation comes after a relative calm in March, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine Feb. 24. The regime's bombardment reached in the past days the vicinity of Kansafra and Bara villages in Idlib's southern countryside. Meanwhile, the regime and opposition forces exchanged artillery shelling on the Maarat al-Naasan axis. The regime and Russian

forces have repeatedly bombarded the town of Maarat al-Naasan in the past weeks, which is close to the demarcation lines.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/syrian-regime-russian-forces-escalate-attacks-idlib-amid-stalled-war-ukraine#ixzz7SI9F4jBS>

### **Four US soldiers injured by rocket attack in Syria**

Al-Monitor, April 7, 2022

Four US soldiers have received medical attention for "minor injuries" and possible brain trauma following a projectile attack on a US-led coalition base in eastern Syria.

The Green Village base near Syria's largest oilfield, called Al-Omar, in eastern Deir Ezzor province was targeted by two indirect fire munitions, likely rockets or mortars, shortly after 1 a.m. local time, the coalition said in a statement released Thursday evening. On April 14, the US-led coalition announced that the incident was not caused by indirect fire at all, "but rather the deliberate placement of explosive charges by an unidentified individual(s) at an ammunition holding area and shower facility." "The incident remains under investigation," the statement read.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/four-us-soldiers-injured-rocket-attack-syria#ixzz7SILejS6x>

### **Syrian air defenses confront Israeli aggression on central region**

Syrian Arab News Agency, April 9, 2022

Syrian army air defenses confronted an Israeli aerial aggression in the central region. A military source said that "at about 19:45 p.m. on Saturday, the Israeli enemy launched an aerial aggression from the

direction of the north of Lebanon that targeted some points in the central region as the army air defenses confronted it and shot down a number of missiles.” After verifying the impacts of the Israeli aggression on the central region, the losses were restricted to materials only.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=268955>

### **The army air defenses confront Israeli air aggression on some points in Damascus countryside**

Syrian Arab News Agency, April 15, 2022

The Israeli enemy perpetrated on Thursday an air aggression that targeted some points in Damascus country side. A military source told SANA that nearly at 23.02 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022, the Israeli enemy carried out an air aggression from the direction of northern occupied Syrian Golan that targeted some points in Damascus western countryside. The source added that the army air defenses intercepted the aggression missiles and downed some of them as the losses were restricted to materials .

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=269423>

## **TURKEY**

### **Philippines gets Turkish-made choppers with eyes on greater cooperation**

Daily Sabah, April 6, 2022

The first Turkish-made attack helicopters were officially delivered to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on Wednesday, as the two countries continue talks that could pave the way for new defense deals. Two T129 Tactical Reconnaissance and Attack Helicopters (ATAK) arrived in the Philippines last month and were subject to a technical inspection and flight tests. They were delivered to the PAF in a ceremony on Wednesday marking their acceptance for

service to the PAF. Philippines had ordered six helicopters designed and developed by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) in 2020, in a deal that is said to be worth approximately \$280 million. The Philippines is the first country abroad to use the ATAK.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/philippines-gets-turkish-made-choppers-with-eyes-on-greater-cooperation>

### **F-16 sales to Turkey to serve US, NATO interests: State Department**

Daily Sabah, April 6, 2022

The Biden administration believes a potential sale of F-16 fighter jets to NATO ally Turkey would be in line with U.S. national security interests and would also serve NATO's long-term unity, the U.S. State Department said in a letter to Congress that fell short of explicitly supporting the deal. The letter comes after Turkey made a request in October to the United States to buy 40 Lockheed Martin-made F-16 fighters and nearly 80 modernization kits for its existing warplanes. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said last month that negotiations with the U.S. were progressing positively. Washington has so far refrained from expressing any opinion on the sale, saying it needs to go through the standard arms sales process.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/f-16-sales-to-turkey-to-serve-us-nato-interests-state-department>

### **UK lifts defense export ban on Turkey, Canada may be next: Çavuşoğlu**

Daily Sabah, April 8, 2022

Amid war in Ukraine, the United Kingdom has lifted the defense industry export ban imposed on Turkey, Foreign Minister

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Thursday. The minister hinted that Canada is also aiming to loosen the ban. Çavuşoğlu was speaking at a press conference in Brussels, where he attended the NATO foreign ministers' meeting. "We spoke with British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. We followed up the issues that came to the fore in the meeting between U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in this hall about 15 days ago," the minister said, emphasizing that one of the issues concerns engine procurement of the TFX National Combat Aircraft, Turkey's one of the most awaited defense projects.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/uk-lifts-defense-export-ban-on-turkey-canada-may-be-next-cavusoglu>

### **Erdoğan promised Serbia Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones: Vucic**

Daily Sabah, April 10, 2022

Serbia has reiterated its intention to acquire Turkish combat drones as its president on Saturday vowed to further strengthen the country's defenses, amid tensions in the Balkans and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "We will strengthen our aviation. We will also increase the number of drones," Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic was cited by the local media as telling reporters after Serbian military forces completed their exercise named "Fire Shield 2022." Vucic said that during their talks last week, he asked President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to supply Serbia with landmark unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) Bayraktar TB2s, which have provided successful results and made a meaningful impact in several regional conflicts.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/erdogan-promised-serbia-turkish-bayraktar-tb2-drones-vucic>

### **Turkey integrates Anka UCAVs with radar to detect stray mines in Black Sea**

Daily Sabah, April 13, 2022

Turkey has integrated a new radar into its Anka unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) to deploy drones in the Black Sea to detect floating naval mines that have been found recently in the Black Sea amid Russia's war with Ukraine. Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), made the related statement via his Twitter account Tuesday, saying that this particular drone will be used to detect mines so they can be defused by Turkey's elite Underwater Defense (SAS) teams. Demir said that they integrated the synthetic aperture radar (SAR) into the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI)-made Anka UCAVs already added to the Turkish Naval Forces Command (DzKK) inventory.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-integrates-anka-ucavs-with-radar-to-detect-stray-mines-in-black-sea>

### **Slovakia considers buying Turkish Bayraktar TB2 combat drones**

Daily Sabah, April 14, 2022

Battle-tested Turkish combat drones seem to have gotten yet another customer as Slovakia has expressed interest and signaled it could become the second European Union member state to acquire Bayraktar TB2s. The intention was reaffirmed by Slovakia's Defense Minister Jaro Nad who on Wednesday said talks on acquiring unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) for the country's armed forces were moving forward. "Works on acquiring drones for the Slovak military (are) moving forward," Nad said in a tweet after meeting with Haluk Bayraktar, the CEO of the Turkish drone magnate, Baykar.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/slovakia-considers-buying-turkish-bayraktar-tb2-combat-drones>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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