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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Atomic Chief Rejects West's Claims about IAEA Trouble in Monitoring Iran's N. Activities

Fars News Agency, May 17, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami rejected the Western states' claims that the UN nuclear body is facing a serious challenge in its ability to continue surveillance activities in Iran, and further added that IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi is in no position to comment on JCPOA revival negotiations. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head has said in an interview with CBC News it is important to keep interacting with Iran despite slim chances of reviving the US-abandoned nuclear deal between Tehran and major world powers. "Probably there could be a return to the negotiating table, but if the interactions between Iran and the agency are seen or assessed as bad and the cooperation is not good, the chances are zero," he claimed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020227000437/Amic-Chief-Rejecs-Wes's-Claims-ab-IAEA-Trble-in-Mniring-Iran's-N>

Iran Showcases Largest Maritime Simulator in West Asia

Fars News Agency, May 17, 2023

The Iranian Navy unveiled the largest ship navigation and command simulator in West Asia during a ceremony in the Northern city of Nowshahr. The event was attended by Commander of the Iranian Army Major

General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Shahram at the Imam Khomeini Naval University of Nowshahr on Wednesday. The simulator is the largest in West Asia, Second Flotilla Admiral Arya Shafeghat said. He stated that the simulator was a great achievement for the Iranian Armed forces, adding that it was developed using state-of-the-art domestic technology. It comes as the Iranian Navy has set up three ocean commands supervising naval missions to the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020227000554/Iran-Shwcases-Larges-Mariime-Similar-in-Wes-Asia>

Iran's foreign policy outlook in light of new world order

Islamic Republic News Agency, May 20, 2023

Iran has chosen a new path in its foreign policy in light of recent changes in international political and security equations. An administration led by President Ebrahim Raisi has tried to establish closer ties with Iran's neighbors as well as with friendly countries like Russia and China. The policy has clearly paid off, says Ali Bagheri Kani, who serves as Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs and head of the country's diplomatic team in international negotiations that are aimed at reviving a 2015 deal on Tehran's nuclear program. "In light of significant international and regional developments, an evaluation of foreign policy dynamics under the current

Iranian government becomes necessary to analyze the emerging prospects in the evolving global system," said Bagheri in a recent article.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85116322/Iran-s-foreign-policy-outlook-in-light-of-new-world-order>

IRGC Commander Confirms Monitoring US Guided-Missile Destroyer in Hormuz Strait

Fars News Agency, May 21, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) confirmed that its naval forces are keeping track of the American military movement in the Strait of Hormuz, including the recent traverse of the US, UK and French navy chiefs aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton.

Commander of the IRGC Navy's First Zone Brigadier General Abbas Gholamshahi stated on Saturday that the naval forces have been monitoring the moves of the commanders of the US, British and French navies transiting the Strait of Hormuz aboard the USS Paul Hamilton warship.

He added that drones and vessels had been engaged in a precision mission in that regard.

The IRGC Navy monitors the movement of vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf "round-the-clock", the senior commander stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020231000126/IRGC-Commander-Confirms-Monitoring-US-Guided-Missile-Destroyer-in-Hormuz-Strait>

Taliban says committed to more cooperation with Iran

Islamic Republic News Agency, May 21, 2023

The Taliban Defense Ministry issued the statement on Sunday following a meeting between Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Bahram Hosseini Motlaq and his Afghan counterpart Haji Mali Khan in Kabul.

According to the statement, the two sides discussed border issues and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation while stressing the need for resolving bilateral problems through dialog.

Iran and Afghanistan are locked in a long-running dispute over water rights from the Helmand (Hirmand) River.

The dispute has escalated recently as Iran insists the Afghan side has failed to deliver Iran's water rights from the river.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85117232/Taliban-says-committed-to-more-cooperation-with-Iran>

IRGC Calls on Iraq to Adhere to Commitment on Disarming, Expelling Anti-Iran Terrorists

Fars News Agency, May 21, 2023

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour warned that his units will continue striking positions of terrorist groups in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region if Baghdad fails to honor its commitment to disarm and evict the militants. Brig. Gen. Pakpour stated on Saturday that the Iraqi

government has undertaken a commitment to disarm and expel anti-Iran terrorists operating in the Kurdistan region. “We are waiting for the government of Iraq to honor its commitments, and have offered them an opportunity (to flush out the terrorists). Otherwise, and if no action is taken, the IRGC’s strikes will persist,” the high-ranking commander stressed. Asked if Baghdad has a deadline of months or days, he stated that the Iraqi government itself knows the given time.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020231000202/IRGC-Calls-n-Ira-Adhere-Cmmimen-n-Disarming-Expelling-Ani-Iran>

N. Chief: Global Demand for Iran's Heavy Water, Derivatives on Rise

Fars News Agency, May 24, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami hailed the country's progress in the nuclear industry, and said that nine states have purchased Tehran-made nuclear medicine products, and several companies have requested to buy high-quality heavy water produced in Iran. Speaking at a gathering of the heads of Iranian diplomatic missions held at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, Eslami highlighted Iran’s nuclear achievements, including developing the technology to produce heavy water. He acknowledged that demand has been on the rise from companies and countries around the world for the high-quality heavy water produced in Iran as well as its derivatives.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020303000458/N-Chief-Glbal-Demand-fr-Iran's-Heavy-Waer-Derivaives-n-Rise>

Iran Rejects Western Media Claims over Construction of Deep Underground Nuclear Site

Fars News Agency, May 24, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami dismissed The Associated Press news agency report claiming that Tehran is working to build a secret nuclear facility deep inside the Zagros Mountains near Natanz in the Central Iran. Citing experts and satellite imagery, The Associated Press has claimed that Tehran has been digging tunnels in the Zagros Mountains near the Natanz nuclear site located in Central Iran. It comes as Iranian officials have repeatedly reiterated that Tehran has no secret nuclear activities and undeclared atomic sites. Repudiating the report, Eslami stressed that Iran's nuclear activities comply with regulations and safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020303000561/Iran-Rejecs-Wesern-Media-Claims-ver-Cnsrcin-f-Deep-Undergrnd-Nclear>

Iran Unveils New 2,000km-Range Ballistic Missile Capable of Overcoming Air Defense Shields

Fars News Agency, May 25, 2023

Iran on Thursday showcased a medium-range precision-guided missiles dubbed "Kheibar", with a range of 2,000 km, which enjoys advanced technologies to evade radars and penetrate advanced air defense systems.

The advanced missile, designed and manufactured by Iranian experts, was

unveiled during a ceremony with Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and other military officials in attendance.

The showcasing of the projectile marks a eye-catching advancement in Iran's ballistic missile capabilities as well as Tehran's firm determination to enhance its deterrent power.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020304000122/Iran-Unveils-New-2-000km-Range-Ballistic-Missile-Capable-f-Overcming>

DM: Reports on Iran Purchasing Russia's Su-35 Jets Speculations

Fars News Agency, May 28, 2023

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said that reports on Tehran's purchase of Sukhoi-35 fighter jets from Moscow are based on speculations, reminding that his country is a manufacturer of fighters, transport and training aircraft. Over the past months, there have been media reports of Iran receiving the SU-35 planes from Russia. During an interview on Sunday, Brig. Gen. Ashtiani was asked about reports on Iran's purchase of Sukhoi-35 fighters from Russia and their possible shipment in the near future. "We are a manufacturer ourselves and work in the aviation industry regarding fighters, as well as transport and training aircraft..., but if we feel the need concerning our defense power, we try to get technological facilities or equipment from any country that possesses them," the minister said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020307000701/DM-Reprs-n-Iran-Prchasing-Rssia's-S-35-Jes-Speclains>

Iran will unveil hypersonic ballistic missile soon: IRGC Comdr.

Islamic Republic News Agency, May 29, 2023

"The hypersonic missile has completed its tests and will be unveiled soon," Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Force, said on Monday. This missile has an extremely high speed, approximately 12 to 13 Mach, and can maneuver both within and outside the Earth's atmosphere, he added. Among the missile's other features, the commander said, is its ability to bypass all missile defense systems. Hypersonic missiles can fly at speeds at least five times faster than the speed of sound. Their sheer speed and intricate trajectories make their interception almost impossible.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85125957/Iran-will-unveil-hypersonic-ballistic-missile-soon-IRGC-Comdr>

IAEA Cases on Alleged Uranium Traces in Iran Closed Ahead of BoG Meeting

Fars News Agency, May 30, 2023

Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolved two cases of dispute over alleged uranium traces in Western Iran and alleged detection of particles of uranium enriched to 84 percent purity level at Fordow nuclear facility in Central Iran. The IAEA dropped claims over an "undeclared" nuclear site in Iran and closed one of the three cases of dispute over what the UN nuclear watchdog calls "undeclared" nuclear activities as a result of interactions between the two sides, The Fars News Agency said in a report on Tuesday. The report added that the dispute

over the discovery of uranium particles enriched to 83.7% purity level at Fordow nuclear site has likewise been resolved following the explanations provided by Tehran.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020309000261/IAEA-Cases-n-Alleged-Uranium-Traces-in-Iran-Closed-Ahead-of-BG-Meeting>

IRGC Aerospace Commander: Hypersonic Ballistic Missile Tested Successfully

Fars News Agency, May 30, 2023

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Commander Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said that Iran has successfully tested a new hypersonic missile which is capable of overcoming all defense shields with high maneuverability and at the speed of 12 Mach, adding that Tehran is preparing to unveil the advanced projectile in the near future.

Brig. Gen. Hajizadeh said on Monday the hypersonic missile has passed its tests and will be unveiled soon.

He added that the new missile is capable of bypassing all air defense missile systems and targeting the enemy's anti-missile systems.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020309000176/IRGC-Aerospace-Commander-Hypersonic-Ballistic-Missile-Tested-Successfully>

Iran's Indigenous Transport Airplane Passes Flight Test

Fars News Agency, May 31, 2023

Iran successfully conducted flight test for a domestically-developed light transit

aircraft, dubbed "Simorgh" (Phoenix), developed for civil and military purposes.

The transport plane Simorgh has made its maiden flight one year after it was unveiled. The test flight was carried out successfully in an airbase in the Central Iranian city of Isfahan on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani.

The aircraft has been designed and manufactured by Iran Aviation Industries Organization, which is a subsidiary of the Iranian Defense Ministry.

Authorities stated that the plane has been developed to boost Iran's defensive superiority.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020310000192/Iran's-Indigenous-Transport-Airplane-Passes-Flight-Test>

Iraq

Launching of a large-scale security operation north of Baghdad: PMF

Iraqi News Agency, May 16, 2023

Popular Mobilization forces (PMF) announced on Tuesday, the launch of a large-scale security operation, west of Tarmiya, to search for the wanted persons and the remnants of ISIS terrorist elements. A statement by PMF, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "a force from the 12th Brigade in PMF, in coordination with the security forces, is launching a large-scale security operation in the areas west of Tarmiyah." The statement added, "The security operation came to search for the wanted

persons and the remnants of ISIS terrorist elements, with the aim of securing the north of the capital, Baghdad."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26496-launching-of-a-large-scale-security-operation-north-of-baghdad-pmf.html>

A security meeting between JOC and the Peshmerga to activate the committees and enhance security

Iraqi News Agency, May 16, 2023

The Joint Operations Command (JOC) announced on Tuesday, the holding of a security meeting with the Peshmerga forces to activate the committees and cooperate to enhance security, while it indicated that the terrorist ISIS gangs have very few remnants in the regions of Diyala, Tuz Khurmatu and Kirkuk. The Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais Al-Muhammadawi, said in a press conference he held with the Commander of the Seventy Forces in the Peshmerga, Mustafa Jawresh, in the city of Sulaymaniyah, and was attended by the correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency (INA)

<https://ina.iq/eng/26501-a-security-meeting-between-joc-and-the-peshmerga-to-activate-the-committees-and-enhance-security.html>

Security operation launched in Salah al-Din: PMF

Iraqi News Agency, May 21, 2023

The Popular Mobilization Forces PMF announced on Sunday the launch of a security operation in Salah al-Din. A statement by the Popular Mobilization Forces received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that "a force from the federal police and the 88th Brigade within the

Kirkuk and East Tigris command of the Popular Mobilization Forces carried out an operation in the Dhuluiya and Al-Mu'tasim districts in Salah al-Din province in search of wanted persons." The statement explained that "a joint force from the second regiment in the 88th Brigade launched an operation of two axes: the first axis is the Mu'tasim section to search several areas east of Al-Mu'tasim, as many villages were searched, including the villages of Sheikh Mohammed, Abu Zughayer, Al-Kush and the banks of the Rasasi River."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26594-security-operation-launched-in-salah-al-din-pmf.html>

Jordanian Interior: The development of security work in Iraq opens the door for cooperation between the two countries

Iraqi News Agency, May 22, 2023

The Minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of Jordan, Mazen Al-Faraya, confirmed today, Monday, that the great development in security work in Iraq opens the door for cooperation between the two countries. A statement by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated, "The Minister of Interior, Abdul Amir Al-Shammari, and the Jordanian Minister of Interior, Mazen Al-Faraya, visited the Federal Police Training School in Baghdad with the accompanying delegation, and they were received by the commander of the Federal Police Forces, the Ministry's advisor for training affairs, and the director Training in the Ministry of the Interior and Director of Training in the Federal Police."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26614-jordanian-interior-the-development-of-security-work-in-iraq-opens-the-door-for-cooperation-between-the-two-countries.html>

Iraq's Air Force modernisation accelerates with new aircraft

Airforce Technology, May 23, 2023

With a defence budget of \$5.2bn in 2023 and a total defence spending of \$27.3bn in the forecast period, according to GlobalData's "Iraq's Defence Market 2023-2028" report, Iraq aims to enhance its defence capabilities amidst regional instability and the resurgence of ISIS. Iraq is making strides in modernising its air force as part of its military reform program. Iraq is prioritising the acquisition of modern military equipment to strengthen its defence capabilities and address regional instability and the growing threat of ISIS. In line with this objective, Iraq has recently finalised a contract with Dassault Aviation to purchase 14 units of Rafale aircraft. The \$3.2bn allocation for this contract aims to replace the country's ageing F-16IQ jets, which have proven challenging to maintain.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/iraqs-air-force-modernisation/>

Rafale appears in the lead as Iraq seeks new fighter jets for its fleet: Maj. Gen. Yehia Rasool

Iraqi News Agency, May 23, 2023

The spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yehia Rasool, confirmed on Tuesday, the seeking to include the French Rafale planes in the Iraqi air fleet, while explaining the importance of the (Ababil - 1) exercise for the Iraqi Air Force. Rasool told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The Commander-in-Chief Mohammed

Shia al-Sudani ordered complete the capacity-building of the Iraqi Armed Forces, including the Air Force Command, so Iraq will purchase modern military equipment from many countries, including the Republic of France." He explained, "France is considered one of the developed countries in the field of military industries, including the air force," noting that: "Iraq is cooperating with France in many fields, including air defense."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26629-rafale-appears-in-the-lead-as-iraq-seeks-new-fighter-jets-for-its-fleet-maj-gen-yehia-rasool.html>

Deputy Commander of Joint Operations: NMI helps Iraq with 15 strategic goals

Iraqi News Agency, May 24, 2023

The Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais Al-Muhammadawi, confirmed on Wednesday, that the NATO mission Iraq (NMI) is helping Iraq with 15 important strategic goals, while indicating that its duties have not changed in the country. Al-Muhammadawi told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The duties of the NATO mission in Iraq have not changed, and its mission, according to the request of the Iraqi government, is to provide advice and training to empower the Iraqi military sectors." He added, "Iraq is destined to rely on itself, benefit from foreign expertise and hold joint exercises, and we still need training and the involvement of students in external courses, and with the passage of time our sectors will be able to rely on themselves."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26661-deputy-commander-of-joint-operations-nmi-helps-iraq-with-15-strategic-goals.html>

More than 119 terrorists killed and 303 hideouts destroyed since the beginning of this year, JOC reports

Iraqi News Agency, May 26, 2023

The Joint Operations Command –JOC counted on Friday, the death toll of ISIS terrorist gangs since the beginning of this year. The spokesman for JOC, Major General Tahsin Al-Khafaji, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The Joint Operations Command continues to pursue ISIS terrorist members everywhere, especially in the areas in which the terrorists consider remote and safe areas for them, which are mountainous, especially in the Hamrin mountain range, Lake Hamrin, Wadi al-Shay and Wadi Zaytoun," Pointing out that "the terrorists always hide in the desert of Anbar and the areas of western Nineveh them because they are besieged by the security forces." He added, "ISIS terrorist members take several forms to hide from the security forces, including using or exploiting sheep herders and moving around in the form of very small detachments to carry out terrorist operations or adopting methods of threat, kidnapping and robbery in mountainous areas, valleys, deserts, and others," stressing that "the security forces chasing and pursuing these gangs in order to eliminate them."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26701-more-than-119-terrorists-killed-and-303-hideouts-destroyed-since-the-beginning-of-this-year-joc-reports.html>

JOC: The fifth phase of Operation Swords of Truth launched

Iraqi News Agency, May 27, 2023

The Security Media Cell-SMC announced on Saturday, the launch of the fifth phase of Operation "Swords of Truth" in areas of common security interest. SMC said in statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that, "According to the directives of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Muhammad Shia' al-Sudani, the fifth phase of the Swords of Truth operations was launched, based on intelligence information in Diyala, Tuz Khurmato and Kirkuk to pursue the remnants of ISIS terrorist gangs in the regions." of common security concern between the center and Kurdistan region".

<https://ina.iq/eng/26713-joc-the-fifth-phase-of-operation-swords-of-truth-launched.html>

Al-Araji in Tehran for border security talks

Iraqi News Agency, May 29, 2023

National Security Adviser Qassim Al-Araji headed on Monday, to Tehran at the head of a security delegation to discuss measures to secure the borders between Iraq and Iran. A statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated, "Under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the National Security Adviser, Qassem Al-Araji, went to Tehran at the head of a security delegation." The statement added, "The visit came to discuss measures to secure the borders between Iraq and Iran."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26753-al-araji-head-to-tehran-at-the-head-of-a-security-delegation.html>

Israel

Israel, Montenegro sign \$20 million defense exports agreement

Israel Defense, May 16, 2023

Elbit Systems announced yesterday (Monday) that it was awarded a contract valued at approximately 20 million Euros, as part of a defense export agreement signed between the Israel and Montenegro Ministries of Defense to acquire Elbit Systems-made weapons including mortar munition systems and training equipment.

Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eyal Zamir, approved the government-to-government (GTG) agreement between the ministries, the third between the countries in recent years. Director of SIBAT in the Israel Ministry of Defense, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yair Kulas and Director of Logistics in the Montenegro Ministry of Defence, Col. Vladan Martic, signed the agreement in a ceremony held at the IMoD HQ in Tel Aviv.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58179>

German army to equip with 50 additional Puma infantry fighting vehicles with Spike LR missiles

Israel Defense, May 17, 2023

Germany's two military vehicle makers, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and Rheinmetall, announced this week that they have been awarded by Germany's Federal Office for Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) an order to build a further fifty Puma infantry fighting

vehicles. The total value of the order comes to €1.087 billion. Of this amount, €574 million will go to KMW and €501 million will go to Rheinmetall, both of which are serving as subcontractors in the project. In addition to the fifty armored fighting vehicles, the order encompasses spare part packages and special tool sets as well as eight MELLs flight-phase simulators. Furthermore, an option exists for additional driver training vehicles and the integration of a turret-independent secondary weapon system, or TSWA. Delivery is set to start in December 2025 and be complete by the beginning of 2027.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58201>

Elbit Systems marks milestone with first two M-346 aircraft arriving in Greece

Israel Defense, May 18, 2023

A special event was held at the International Pilot Training Center at 120 ATW Kalamata, where representatives of the Greek Government and the Ministry of Defense, the Hellenic Air Force, as well as representatives of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, the Israeli Air Force and Elbit Systems, welcomed the two first M-346, the modern training aircraft that will undertake the training and familiarization of the Air Force's new generation of Icari to the requirements of modern fighter jets. Present at the 120 ATW Kalamata ceremony were the Minister of Defense, Mr. Nikos Panagiotopoulos, Deputy Minister of National Defense of Greece, Mr. Nikos Chardalias, the Chief of the General Staff of the National Defense, General Konstantinos Floros, the Chief of

the General Staff of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Themistoklis Bourolias, the Head of SIBAT, the IMoD International Defense Cooperation Directorate, Brig.-Gen. Yair Kulas, the head of the Israel Air Force Maj.-Gen. Tomer Bar, Mr. Rani Kril, Executive Vice President International Marketing and Business Development and Mr. Yoram Shmuely, General Manager of Elbit Systems Aerospace.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58213>

Regulus Cyber launched Ring ARM-V

Israel Defense, May 22, 2023

Regulus Cyber, an Israeli expert in software-based GPS/GNSS security, launched the fully-functional Ring ARM-V specifically designed to protect armored vehicles, convoys and deployed troops from drone attacks, including multicopter, fixed-wing, swarm and dark drones. The company announced that the Ring ARM-V system has recently been installed, integrated and certified in an armored vehicle. This makes it the first armored vehicle ever to have an internal C-UAS capability. The integration was quick and easy and took less than a month. Operational testing is beginning now, and the ARM-V ring will be deployed for testing on other platforms throughout 2023. With dual protection from above and all-round protection, it provides troops with unrivaled C-UAS capabilities in any combat situation without the need for a jam or cyber hack.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58240>

Elbit UK to deliver ground-based surveillance radars to British Army

Israel Defense, May 23, 2023

Elbit Systems UK announced that it has been awarded a contract from the UK Ministry of Defense to provide a series of ground-based surveillance radar systems (GBSR), manufactured and developed in the UK and Europe, to the British Armed Forces to support front line threat detection for a range of end-users. The company will deliver 90 GBSR systems throughout 2023 and 2024, with a follow-on option of an additional 40 systems. According to Elbit, the GBSR system is easily portable and uses digital signal processing to detect, track and classify targets moving on or close to the ground.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58275>

IDF chief on Iran nuke program: 'Negative developments' could prompt Israeli response

The Times of Israel, May 23, 2023

Military chief Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi warned Tuesday of potential “negative developments” regarding Iran’s nuclear program that would cause Israel to react.

“Iran has made more progress in uranium enrichment than ever before. We are also closely examining other aspects of the [Iranians’] path to nuclear capability,” the IDF chief of staff said at a conference hosted by the Institute for Policy and Strategy of Reichman University in Herzliya. “Without going into details, there are possible negative developments on the horizon that could prompt action,” Halevi said. “We have abilities and others have

abilities. We have the ability to hit Iran. We are not indifferent to what Iran is trying to build around us, and it is difficult for Iran to be indifferent to the line we are taking,” he added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-on-iran-nuke-program-negative-developments-could-prompt-israeli-response/>

International University of Rabat, Israel Aerospace Industries sign MOU to establish aeronautics & AI center of excellence

Israel Defense, May 23, 2023

The International University of Rabat (UIR) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a center of excellence focused on aeronautics, artificial intelligence research and innovation. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation and partnership in applied research, innovation, co-development and incubation. It follows the signing of a partnership agreement a few months ago between Mr. Nouredine Mouaddib, President of UIR, and Eytan Eshel, CTO of IAI.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58276>

IDF downs drone crossing into Israel from Lebanon

I24 news, May 24, 2023

The unmanned aircraft was monitored through the incident, and the military says it will continue to prevent any attempt to violate Israeli sovereignty. Israel's military recently identified and downed a drone that

crossed from Lebanon into Israel. It was monitored by the IDF throughout the incident, and security forces said that any further attempt will be thwarted as they continue to prevent violations of Israeli sovereignty. IDF chief Maj. Gen. Herzi Halevi on Tuesday spoke about escalating security issues in the region, in particular, the nuclear situation in Iran as well as growing challenges from the Hezbollah terror movement in Lebanon.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1685022714-idf-downs-drone-crossing-into-israel-from-lebanon>

Elta to provide Peruvian Navy with Fokker 50 SIGINT next month

Israel Defense, May 27, 2023

Elta Systems, an Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) subsidiary, will deliver the Peruvian Navy a Fokker 50MPA, configured and equipped with signal intelligence (SIGINT) equipment, in the middle of June. According to the Spanish website Defensa.com, the aircraft underwent a series of structural modifications in the aircraft factory “Brigadier San Martin” – FadeA in Córdoba, Argentina. Due to administrative problems and the crisis generated by the Coronavirus pandemic, which delayed the initially planned deadlines, the Fokker 50MPA arrived at the FadeA facilities in mid-September 2020 and returned to Peru in May 2022, where the installation process began. Operational tests of the SIGINT equipment should be completed in the coming days.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58288>

Elsight wins Israeli Police drone connectivity contract

Israel Defense, May 27, 2023

Elsight, an Israeli drone connectivity solutions company, has won a multi-year public tender to supply the Israeli police and other government departments with solutions for Communication-on-the-Move (COTM). The solutions will be provided to border patrol, drone, K9 and SWAT police units. According to the company, Elsieht's Halo platform is the first AI-powered connectivity solution for unmanned vehicles to market and ensures businesses have continuous and reliable service and communication with their drones. The difference between regular drone connections and Elsieht's hardware is its beyond-visual line of sight (BVLOS) capability, meaning increased range for long distance applications.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58289>

IDF launches major drill focused on preparing for all out multi-front war

The Times of Israel, May 29, 2023

The Israel Defense Forces on Monday launched a large-scale two-week-long drill across the country, simulating a potential multi-front war. A military source said the drill would include the Air Force conducting simulated "strategic" strikes deep in enemy territory in an all out war scenario, and the Navy carrying out mock offensive and defensive actions. The IDF said troops from the standing and reserve army, from nearly all units, would participate in the exercise — dubbed Firm

Hand — over the next two weeks. "The forces will practice handling challenges and sudden events on multiple fronts simultaneously," the IDF said. According to the military, the drill was pre-planned, meaning it did not stem from any recent security assessments.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-launches-major-drill-focused-on-preparing-for-all-out-multi-front-war/>

Airobotics to deploy autonomous drone network in Abu Dhabi

Israel Defense, May 31, 2023

Airobotics, an Israeli developer and provider of autonomous drone infrastructures for smart cities, signed a Term Sheet for Joint Venture (JV) with SkyGo to provide aerial drone services to the city of Abu Dhabi. As a part of the partnership, signed in February, Airobotics has received an initial multi-system purchase order for \$3.5 million from SkyGo, subject to the finalization of required formalities. The purchase order is conditioned by the completion of proof of concept. Through the SkyGo JV, both companies will deploy Airobotics' Optimus systems at industrial and municipal sites, leveraging the autonomous drone platform for various services and capabilities. The companies expect to deploy more than 20 systems across Abu Dhabi over the next few years to conduct various types of missions, including providing public services in a sustainable and scalable manner.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58339>

Israeli Minister of Defense briefs CENTCOM commander on “Firm Hand” exercise

Israel Defense, May 31, 2023

Israeli Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, held a meeting with CENTCOM Commander, General Michael “Erik” Kurilla at the MoD headquarters in Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening, during which he provided a briefing on the launch of the IDF exercise, “Firm Hand,” which simulates a multi-front threat on the State of Israel.

The “Firm Hand” exercise, which began on Monday and is expected to last for approximately two weeks, will simulate a multi-arena battlefield in land, sea, air, and cyber. The exercise will test the IDF’s preparedness for a prolonged armed conflict on multiple fronts.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58347>

Jordan

Jordan, Iraq discuss security cooperation

Arab News, May 21, 2023

Jordan’s Interior Minister Mazen Al-Faraya met on Saturday with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Amir Al-Shammari to discuss ways to boost security cooperation, Jordan News Agency reported on Sunday.

The ministers discussed ways to facilitate the movement of people, vehicles and goods between the two countries, as well as exchanging security and administrative expertise. Al-Faraya will meet with several

senior Iraqi officials during his stay in Baghdad.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2307521/middle-east>

Five Countries Join IAEA's Radiation Monitoring System

IAEA, May 23, 2023

Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand recently joined the IAEA’s International Radiation Monitoring System (IRMIS), bringing the total number of participating countries to 48. In the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency, IRMIS supports the assessment of the radiological situation and provides critical data to immediately inform emergency response decision makers. The system gathers radiation monitoring data from over 6000 monitoring stations worldwide, which are part of nationally operated networks.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/five-countries-join-iaeas-radiation-monitoring-system>

Lebanon

Lebanese army arrests prominent al-Qaeda leader in Deir Ammar town: Statement

Alarabiya, May 20, 2023

The Lebanese army said on Saturday it had arrested a prominent al-Qaeda leader in Deir Ammar town, northeast of the city of Tripoli. It identified the arrested man only as “T.M.” and said in a statement that the arrest took place on Friday. “T.M. is one of the most prominent leaders of al-Qaeda and the founder of its cells in Lebanon,” it

added. “He has also played a key role in establishing the terrorist Fatah al-Islam organization,” the statement added, referring to an al-Qaeda-inspired militant group that used to be active in Lebanon over a decade ago.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/05/20/Lebanese-army-says-it-arrests-prominent-al-Qaeda-leader-in-Deir-Ammar-town>

Lebanon’s Hezbollah Displays Combat Capabilities in Military Drills

Tasnim News Agency, May 22, 2023

Large-scale military exercises were held by the Hezbollah resistance movement in Southern Lebanon ahead of the 23rd anniversary of the country's liberation from the Israeli occupation. The drills, which were held at a resistance camp near the village of Mleeta in southern Lebanon on Sunday, included several exercises simulating Hezbollah attacks on Israeli outposts in any future battle. Local, regional and international reporters were invited to cover the drill. During the military exercise, Hezbollah displayed its combat capabilities, while its fighters paraded on all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles. The resistance fighters successfully captured an enemy military vehicle, demonstrating their tactical prowess. They also showed valiant military skills using both light and heavy weapons, while simulating an attack on an Israeli settlement to capture the regime's soldiers.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2023/05/22/2899516/lebanon-s-hezbollah->

[displays-combat-capabilities-in-military-drills](#)

Hezbollah conducts wargames near Lebanon’s border with Israel

Aljazeera, May 22, 2023

Lebanon’s Hezbollah movement has carried out military exercises near the country’s southern border with Israel in a show of its military power. About 200 Hezbollah fighters used live ammunition and an attack drone to take part in the exercises on Sunday in Aaramta, 20km (12 miles) north of the Israeli border. The drills took place ahead of the anniversary of Israel’s withdrawal from southern Lebanon on May 25, 2000. It was the largest demonstration of Hezbollah’s military might in years. Hezbollah fighters carried out simulated raids involving sniper and drone attacks against Israeli targets as part of the exercise. In another case they engaged in attacks across a mock border. The group displayed heavy and light arms, including anti-aircraft weapons, rocket launchers and rocket-propelled grenades.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/22/hezbollah-conducts-wargames-near-lebanons-border-with-israel>

Lebanon PM condemns Hezbollah military maneuver

Arab News, May 22, 2023

Lebanon Prime Minister Najib Mikati has condemned a military exercise by Hezbollah that used live ammunition, warning against any action that “undermines the authority and sovereignty of the state.” His remarks came in response to a question from US Special Coordinator

for Lebanon Joanna Wronecka regarding the Hezbollah maneuver, which was held on Sunday in southern Lebanon. The exercise included demonstrations of heavy weapons, missiles and drones. Mikati said: “The issue of Hezbollah’s weapons specifically is linked to a reality that requires a comprehensive national consensus, and it must be a priority for the upcoming phase.”

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2308296/middle-east>

OMAN

Iran, Oman Agree to Set Strategic Cooperation Document

Caspian News, May 30, 2023

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq have agreed to set a strategic cooperation document between the two countries in various fields that enhance mutual benefits. In a statement on May 29, at the end of the sultan’s two-day official visit to Tehran, the two leaders expressed satisfaction regarding the increase in trade exchanges and investments, according to the official website of the Iranian president. “They welcomed the signing of agreements and memoranda of understanding in economic, commercial, transit, investment, energy and cultural fields and the need to activate the existing agreements between the two countries and cooperate to reach new agreements that serve common interests,” the statement said.

<https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/iran-oman-agree-to-set-strategic-cooperation-document-2023-5-30-5/>

US reportedly looking to Oman to broker new Iran nuclear talks

The Times of Israel, May 31, 2023

US officials have made contact with Omani counterparts to explore the possibility of reviving mediated nuclear talks between Washington and Tehran, with Israeli officials accusing them of seeking an interim agreement that would allow Iran to continue enriching uranium, according to a report Tuesday. The report in Axios came some nine months after indirect talks aimed at reenergizing the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers collapsed, with the US saying the negotiations were no longer a top priority. But on Tuesday, US President Joe Biden’s top official on Iran indicated that the US was looking to try again for a diplomatic solution to the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program, which Israel alleges constitutes an existential military threat.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-reportedly-looking-to-oman-to-broker-new-iran-nuclear-talks/>

Qatar

Corvette delivery to Qatar completed by Fincantieri

Naval Technology, May 17, 2023

On 16 May at the Muggiano La Spezia shipyard, the Qatari Ministry of Defence took delivery of the fourth and final Al Zubarah-class corvette, named *Semaisma*. This vessel was ordered from Fincantieri as part of Qatar’s national naval acquisition programme. Awarded in 2016, the contract required Fincantieri to deliver an amphibious landing platform dock, four

corvettes and two offshore patrol vessels. The Al Zubarah-class corvettes, which adhere to the RINAMIL regulations, are versatile and adaptable vessels that can perform a range of duties, including surveillance and sea rescue operations, as well as combat missions. The vessels, measuring approximately 107m in length by 14.7m in width, can hold a crew of 112 personnel, and are outfitted with a combined diesel and diesel plant, enabling it to reach a top speed of 28 knots.

<https://www.naval-technology.com/news/corvette-delivery-to-qatar-completed-by-fincantieri/>

Qatar Signs \$10B Contract To Develop Gas Field Shared With Iran

Iran International, May 17, 2023

A \$10 billion project has been agreed to develop a vast natural gas field shared between Qatar and Iran. The deal was signed by QatarEnergy with French-owned Technip Energies for the scheme in the world's largest natural gas field. The Iranian part, known as South Pars, supplies 70% of Iran's gas. In a statement on Tuesday, QatarEnergy stated that the project will include two giant liquefied natural gas (LNG) production lines, with an annual capacity of 16 million tons. The company said the extra LNG capacity would increase the country's total production by 60 percent reaching 126 million tons by 2027. The Russian war on Ukraine and sanctions imposed by Europe and the US on Moscow have increased global demand for Qatar's gas.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202305177875>

Exclusive: Qatar prime minister, Taliban chief hold secret Afghan talks

Reuters, May 31, 2023

The Qatari prime minister held secret talks with the supreme leader of the Taliban this month on resolving tension with the international community, a source briefed on the meeting said, signaling a new willingness by Afghanistan's rulers to discuss ways to end their isolation. The May 12 meeting in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar between Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and Haibatullah Akhunzada is the first the reclusive Taliban chief is known to have held with a foreign leader. U.S. President Joe Biden's administration was briefed on the talks and is "coordinating on all issues discussed" by the pair, including furthering dialogue with the Taliban, said the source.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatar-prime-minister-taliban-chief-hold-secret-afghan-talks-source-2023-05-31/>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, Algeria sign deal to establish Supreme Coordination Council

Alarabiya, May 17, 2023

Saudi Arabia and Algeria have signed an agreement to establish a Saudi-Algerian Supreme Coordination Council to expand bilateral ties and strengthen cooperation, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Tuesday. The agreement was signed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Attaf, in Jeddah where the latter is present to attend the Arab League summit on Friday. During the meeting, the ministers discussed brotherly

ties and means to strengthen them as well as regional and international developments.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/05/17/Saudi-Arabia-Algeria-sign-deal-to-establish-Supreme-Coordination-Council>

Biden admin pushing for Saudi-Israeli peace deal by end of year, officials say

Axios, May 17, 2023

The White House wants to make a diplomatic push for a Saudi-Israeli peace deal in the next six to seven months before the presidential election campaign consumes President Biden's agenda, two U.S. officials with knowledge of the issue told Axios. Any normalization agreement between Saudi Arabia and Israel brokered by the U.S. will likely include an upgrade in U.S.-Saudi relations and a package of tangible deliverables from the U.S. government.

<https://www.axios.com/2023/05/17/saudi-arabia-israel-peace-normalization-deal-biden-admin>

SpaceX sends Saudi astronauts, including first Arab woman, to ISS

Aljazeera, May 22, 2023

A private rocket carrying the first Arab woman astronaut has blasted off on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS). Rayyanah Barnawi, a breast cancer researcher from Saudi Arabia, was joined on Sunday's mission by fellow Saudi Ali al-Qarni, a fighter pilot. The pair are the first Saudi astronauts to voyage into space in decades. They took off on board a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in the southern

United States at 5:37pm local time (21:37 GMT). The team also includes Peggy Whitson, a former NASA astronaut who will be making her fourth flight to the ISS, and John Shoffner, a businessman from Tennessee who is serving as pilot.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/22/spacex-sends-saudi-astronauts-including-first-arab-woman-to-iss>

Report: Saudis want US alliance, nuclear program in exchange for deal with Israel

The Times of Israel, May 23, 2023

Amid reports that the US is mediating a normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia, Channel 12 reports on apparent Saudi and US demands for the deal to go ahead. The report says that Saudi Arabia is demanding the Biden administration unfreeze several major arms deals, a military alliance with the US and a full nuclear program. Riyadh is also demanding that Israel begin a peace process with the Palestinians that will lead to a two-state solution, the report says. The US is also demanding a peace process from Israel and an end to the controversial judicial overhaul plan, which critics say undermines Israel's democracy.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/report-saudis-want-us-alliance-nuclear-program-in-exchange-for-deal-with-israel/

Saudi embrace of Assad sends strong signal to US

Reuters, May 24, 2023

Once labelled a pariah, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman took centre stage as master of ceremonies last week when Arab states readmitted Syria to the Arab

League, signaling to Washington who calls the regional shots. His effusive greeting of President Bashar al-Assad at the Arab summit with kissed cheeks and a warm embrace defied U.S. disapproval at Syria's return to the fold and capped a turnaround in the prince's fortunes spurred by geopolitical realities. The prince, known as MbS, seeks to reassert Saudi Arabia as a regional power by using his place atop an energy giant in an oil-dependent world consumed by the war in Ukraine.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-embrace-assad-sends-strong-signal-us-2023-05-24/>

World's largest green hydrogen plant reaches financial close

Power Technology, May 25, 2023

Saudi Arabia's Neom Green Hydrogen Company (NGHC) has completed a financial close for its hydrogen plant at a total investment value of \$8.4bn. Currently being built at Oxagon in the regional development of Neom, Saudi Arabia, the project will be the world's largest commercial-scale green hydrogen production facility. The project plans to use 4GW of solar and wind energy to produce up to 600 tonnes of green hydrogen in the form of liquid ammonia per day by 2026. The site has received a \$6.1bn investment from 23 local, regional and international banks and investment companies. NGHC has also secured a 30-year green offtake agreement for all green ammonia produced at the facility.

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/worlds-largest-green-hydrogen-plant-reaches-financial-close/>

Turkiye

Viewpoint: Turkey's ambitions as a nuclear energy player

World Nuclear News, May 16, 2023

With fuel having arrived at the Akkuyu nuclear power plant, the President of the Nuclear Industry Association of Turkey (NIATR), Alikaan Çiftçi, explains that Turkey aspires to be a major regional manufacturing, trade and logistics hub to meet the opportunities for nuclear energy in the Middle East, Africa and Turkey. Nuclear electricity generation capacity in Turkey, the Middle East and Africa is expected to increase rapidly in the next two decades thanks to the completion of existing projects and projected construction agreements between countries in the region and nuclear vendors.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Viewpoint-Turkey's-ambitions-as-a-nuclear-energy-p>

Modernization set to make F-16 fighter jets 'truly Turkish'

Daily Sabah, May 18, 2023

Through the Turkish defense industry's F-16 modernization project "Özgür," the F-16 aircraft in the Turkish army's inventory will be transformed into Turkish planes, Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Ismail Demir said Thursday. Demir made the related statements to Turkish broadcaster NTV. Demir emphasized the significance of reducing foreign dependency in the defense industry, which aligns with Türkiye's main principle. He highlighted that the F-16 is a purchased

system, but the "Özgür" project aims to enhance its capabilities and make it genuinely Turkish.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/modernization-set-to-make-f-16-fighter-jets-truly-turkish>

Turkish firm's smallest laser-guided missile up for mass production

Daily Sabah, May 18, 2023

Prominent Turkish defense industry company Roketsan's laser-guided mini-missile system Mete, the smallest version of the guided missiles that the company developed, is ready for mass production, Roketsan said in a statement Thursday.

The company shared the update on its official Twitter account with video footage showing test firings of the missile system.

Mete has a range of about 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) and weighs 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) and can be launched from unmanned land and small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-firms-smallest-laser-guided-missile-up-for-mass-production>

Turkish defense giant successfully tests ballistic missile Tayfun

Daily Sabah, May 23, 2023

Turkish missile producer Roketsan Tuesday successfully tested the short-range ballistic missile Tayfun (Typhoon) in the country's Black Sea province of Rize. Ismail Demir, the head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), congratulated the team involved in the project. Tayfun is Türkiye's longest-range missile so far. The firm

previously tested the missile in October 2022, when it hit a target from 560 kilometers (some 348 miles) away. Meanwhile, the images of the Cenk ballistic missile, announced by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan following the introduction of Tayfun, were displayed for the first time by the SSB head on May 12, 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-giant-successfully-tests-ballistic-missile-tayfun>

Türkiye's Baykar inks deal to replace embargoed drone electro-optic systems

Daily Sabah, May 24, 2023

Turkish defense giant Aselsan and drone magnate Baykar signed a new contract worth \$17.6 million, both companies announced Wednesday. Aselsan made a related statement to the Public Disclosure Platform (KAP). "An order has been received by Aselsan from Baykar Makina for the delivery of the Electro-Optical System in the amount of \$17.5 million. Deliveries will be made in 2023-2024 within the scope of the order," the statement included. Meanwhile, Haluk Bayraktar, general manager at Baykar said on his Twitter account that following the embargo by Canada on Baykar's acquiring of electro-optical systems, which came after the Baykar-made unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) used by Azerbaijan in liberating Karabakh, they now started to use the domestically-developed Aselsan system, Common Aperture Targeting System (CATS).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-baykar-inks-deal-to-replace-embargoed-drone-electro-optic-systems>

Turkish defense firm introduces unmanned chopper to Malaysian market

Daily Sabah, May 26, 2023

Turkish defense industry company Titra Technology has signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Malaysia-based drone solutions provider Aerodyne Group for introducing Türkiye's first unmanned mini helicopter, Alpin, to the Malaysian market. Titra participated in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aviation Fair (LIMA 2023), where the company signed the agreement. It signed the agreement with Aerodyne Group, the world's leading provider of drone services, as part of the fair. An exclusive partnership will be established between Aerodyne Group and Titra, which is known for its strong expertise in unmanned systems technology and its ability to deliver innovative solutions.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firm-introduces-unmanned-chopper-to-malaysian-market>

Turkish army receives 27 modernized armored amphibious assault vehicles

Daily Sabah, May 26, 2023

Some 27 of the Turkish defense industry company FNSS-developed Armored Amphibious Assault Vehicles (ZAHA), which are described as the best in their class in the world, entered the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) with a ceremony on Friday. The ZAHA Vehicles Delivery and Enhanced Armored Personnel Carrier (GZPT) Modernization Project

Signature Program was carried out at FNSS Defense Systems' facilities in the capital Ankara's Gölbaşı district. Speaking at the event, the head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), Ismail Demir, said there are very effective companies in armored vehicles in Türkiye that produce compatible products.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-receives-27-modernized-armored-amphibious-assault-vehicles>

Turkish defense firm, African nation ink \$36.5M border security deal

Daily Sabah, May 28, 2023

ASISGUARD, a prominent player in the Turkish defense industry specializing in armed drones, electro-optics and vehicle modernization, has recently celebrated a major milestone in its export endeavors.

After extensive negotiations, ASISGUARD has successfully secured a contract worth around \$36.5 million with an undisclosed African nation for the procurement of a comprehensive border and internal security system. The agreement was officially signed by ASISGUARD's General Manager Barış Düzgün cementing the partnership between the company and the African country. The project includes products for detection, command and control and precautionary/intervention purposes.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firm-african-nation-ink-365m-border-security-deal>

United Arab Emirates

Japan, UAE sign agreement to transfer defense equipment and technology

Arab News, May 25, 2023

Japan and the UAE signed an agreement in Abu Dhabi on Saturday to transfer defense equipment and technology. This marks the first time such an agreement with a country in the Middle East region has been made, the Foreign Ministry said in Tokyo. Isomata Akio, Ambassador of Japan to UAE and Dr. Mubarak Saeed Ghafan Al Jabri, Major General Staff of Assistant Undersecretary for Support and Defense Industries of the Ministry of Defense of the United Arab Emirates, signed the accord. The accord establishes a legal framework for both governments to hand defense equipment and technology to be transferred for joint research, development and production and for enhancing cooperation in security and defense.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2310406/world>

UAE commits \$275 million for landmark nuclear energy initiative

Oil and Gas Middle east, May 25, 2023

UAE has pledged its support, along with partners from the US, Japan, and South Korea, to invest up to \$275 million in nuclear energy project in Romania. The UAE's contribution, facilitated by the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC), will be directed towards the deployment of a NuScale Small Modular Reactor (SMR) in Romania. Leveraging its expertise in constructing and operating

light water reactors, ENEC will assist with crucial aspects such as procurement, engineering, and project management. This announcement, made by US President Joe Biden during the G7 Summit in Japan, marks the first major initiative under the Partnership for Accelerating Clean Energy (PACE), a global effort to promote clean energy adoption.

<https://www.oilandgasmiddleeast.com/news/uae-commits-275-million-for-landmark-nuclear-energy-project>

Japan seals deal for defense equipment, technology transfers with UAE

Hindustan Times, May 26, 2023

Japan and the United Arab Emirates have agreed a deal on defense equipment and technology transfers, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said late Thursday, in a move that enables joint research, development and production. While Tokyo has sealed about a dozen similar bilateral deals, including with the US, the UK and Australia, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is considering loosening the strict limits on Japanese arms exports more generally. The UAE is the world's 11th largest arms importer, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The agreement comes as Japan works on a next-generation fighter aircraft with the UK and Italy, which is likely to be marketed beyond the three countries.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/japan-seals-deal-for-defense-equipment-technology-transfers-with-uae-101685085463882.html>

UAE withdraws from US-led maritime coalition

Aljazeera, May 31, 2023

The United Arab Emirates has withdrawn from a United States-led maritime coalition after an extensive evaluation of its security needs, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

“As a result of our ongoing evaluation of effective security cooperation with all partners, two months ago, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces,” the ministry said on Wednesday in a statement quoted by state news agency WAM. The UAE also said it was committed to dialogue and diplomatic engagement to advance regional security and stability as well as ensuring navigation safety near its shores in accordance with international law. The decision marks a pivotal moment in the region’s geopolitical landscape, altering the dynamics of international cooperation in maritime security.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/31/uae-withdraws-from-us-led-maritime-coalition>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Kushal Agrawal
with inputs from Mr. Niranjana C. 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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