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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Grossi: Progress Made in Implementation of Iran-IAEA Agreement

Fars News Agency, June 5, 2023

Grossi made the remarks while addressing the June meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors. In early May, the IAEA installed surveillance cameras in Iranian facilities where centrifuge equipment is produced, Rafael Mariano Grossi said. In order to monitor the level of uranium enrichment produced by Iran in the said facilities, the IAEA, for the first time, installed an enrichment monitoring device in the Fordow and Natanz nuclear sites, he added. These measures will help the agency quickly identify any changes in enrichment levels at these facilities, Grossi said. Claiming that the progress had not been as great as he had hoped, he said, "What needs to happen now is a sustained and uninterrupted process that will lead to the fulfillment of all the commitments contained in the joint statement without further delay."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020315000440/Grssi-Progress-Made-in-Implementain-f-Iran-IAEA-Agreemen>

Blinken says US won't let Iran get nuclear weapons

Alarabiya, June 5, 2023

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a powerful pro-Israel lobby group Monday that Saudi-Israeli normalization is deeply important for Washington and pledged that Iran would never be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. "The United States has a real national security interest in promoting

normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. We believe we can and indeed we must play an integral role in advancing it," Blinken told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC. Speaking hours before departing for talks in Riyadh and Jeddah, Blinken said the administration of President Joe Biden was committed to the Abraham Accords, an initiative launched under previous president Donald Trump to persuade Arab countries to establish formal relations with the Jewish state.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/06/05/US-top-diplomat-All-options-on-table-to-stop-Iran-from-obtaining-nuclear-weapons>

IRGC navy disputes U.S. claims on 'harassment' of merchant ship

Tehran Times, June 6, 2023

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy on Monday refuted Western reports that a commercial ship was "harassed" by its boats in the Strait of Hormuz as the elite force responded to a distress signal and went to its rescue.

The statement was made by Brigadier General Abbas Gholamshahi, commander of the IRGC Navy's First Zone, after the U.S. navy claimed that its sailors and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom came to the aid of a ship in the Strait of Hormuz after the so-called "harassment" of the Iranian force's fast-attack boats. According to General Gholamshahi, the hostile media outlets, in an unprofessional manner and in violation of media ethics, strived to spread false information, sow unrest and legitimize the "illegitimate and unjustifiable presence

of the extra-regional countries in the Persian Gulf.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48546/5/IRGC-navy-disputes-U-S-claims-on-harassment-of-merchant-ship>

Advisor: Iran Not to Sign Nuclear Deal Until IAEA Closes All Files

Fars News Agency, June 6, 2023

Marandi, a media adviser to the Iranian negotiations team, told Al Mayadeen news channel that "the western governments were lying from the very beginning" about Iran's nuclear activity, stressing that today this has been proven. "The number of files in the International Atomic Energy Agency [regarding the Iranian nuclear project] has decreased" now that "the last two files have been closed," Marandi added. "The [nuclear agreement] text is basically ready and is awaiting both parties' signature," he revealed, adding that "the time is ripe for the deal". Marandi said that the current Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency is not independent.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020316000372/Advisr-Iran-N-Sign-Nuclear-Deal-Unil-IAEA-Closes-All-Files>

Fattah's impact on the missile defense systems of the region

Tehran Times, June 6, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps unveiled its first hypersonic missile, Fattah. With a range of 1400 kilometers and a speed equivalent to 13 Mach, or 16000 kilometers per hour, this missile also utilizes a solid fuel spherical motor and a

movable nozzle for maneuverability in all directions. Iran's achievement in designing and producing hypersonic missiles may be the most important news in the missile field in recent years, and the worst news for enemy defense systems, as this missile's high speed makes it very difficult for anti-missile defense systems to intercept it effectively. However, speed is not the only important component of hypersonic missiles; more importantly, their trajectory with guidance and control to reach their target and evade enemy defense systems with high maneuverability is crucial. With Iran's achievement of its desired range in ballistic missiles (2000 kilometers), Iranian manufacturers have focused on two other components: accuracy and power, which have led to improved accuracy of missiles and their guidance and control until they hit their target.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48546/8/Fattah-s-impact-on-the-missile-defense-systems-of-the-region>

Iran's Envoy Calls on E3 to Put Aside 'Provocative, Unconstructive' Attitudes

Fars News Agency, June 8, 2023

Iran's Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohsen Naziri Asl once again underlined that his country's nuclear activities, including uranium enrichment at various levels, are solely for peaceful purposes, and further urged the European governments to refrain from "provocative and unconstructive" approaches towards Tehran's nuclear program. He made the statement at a session of the IAEA Board of Governors on

Wednesday while explaining Iran's principled stance regarding the 2015 nuclear deal, calling on the European countries to avoid provocative and unconstructive approaches towards Tehran's peaceful nuclear program.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020318000159/Iran's-Envy-Calls-n-E3-P-Aside-'Prvcaive-Uncnsrcive'-Aides>

Mission to UN: No Secret Nuclear Activities in Iran

Fars News Agency, June 10, 2023

Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations dismissed all accusations, including the UN nuclear watchdog's allegations, about the existence of undeclared nuclear activities or material in Iran. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on Saturday quoted Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN as saying that all of the country's nuclear materials and activities have been fully declared to and verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), adding the agency's claim over undeclared materials is solely based on false and fabricated information of the Zionist regime.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020320000365/Missin-UN-N-Secre-Nclear-Aciviies-in-Iran>

Leader Calls for Commercialization of Iran's N. Products

Fars News Agency, June 11, 2023

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei urged nuclear officials to take the necessary steps

to commercialize domestically-built nuclear productions and services, saying that this indigenous industry is capable of luring foreign costumers in the nuclear-related market. Iran's Leader made the remarks in a meeting with a group of nuclear experts and officials in Tehran on Sunday. Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that Iranian nuclear managers, authorities and activists have over the past years set up important infrastructure for the country's nuclear industry.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020321000632/Leader-Calls-fr-Cmmercializain-f-Iran's-N-Prdcs>

Iran triples arms exports

Tehran Times, June 11, 2023

Iranian Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani has said that the ministry's exports of military defense products tripled in the past Persian calendar year, which ended on March 20.

Brigadier General Ashtiani noted on Saturday that his ministry is working to improve Iran's military prowess by increasing the production of both military and civilian items and services, boosting the capability of missiles, drones, air defense, and electronic warfare, and pursuing defense diplomacy with a focus on export capacity building.

Speaking in a gathering of senior managers at the Defense Ministry, he stressed that "due to the efforts of the Defense Ministry, we registered a threefold increase in exports, a twofold rise in the production of civilian goods and services, and an 81

percent increase in military production last year.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/485632/Iran-triples-arms-exports>

N. Chief: 1mln Patients Enjoy Treatment by Home-Made Radiopharmaceuticals

Fars News Agency, June 11, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami lauded the country's achievement in the nuclear industry, and said that around 1 million patients benefit from home-grown radiopharmaceuticals in the field of diagnosis and treatment, especially for cancer. Eslami made the remarks before the launch of an exhibition showcasing Iran's latest achievements in the nuclear industry at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Hosseinieh on Sunday.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020321000738/N-Chief-mln-Patients-Enjoy-Treatment-by-Home-Made-Radiopharmaceuticals>

AEOI Spokesman: Foreign Customers of Iran's Heavy Water Standing in Line

Fars News Agency, June 12, 2023

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi praised the high quality of the heavy water produced in Iran, and further said that this indigenous nuclear material has lured foreign customers in the international market. "Many customers are looking for Iran's heavy water and the world countries are queuing to buy this product," Kamanvandi told reporters on Sunday. On

the talks for the purchase of Iranian heavy water, the spokesperson stated that the customers propose more than 1,000 dollar per liter.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020322000167/AEOI-Spokesman-Foreign-Customers-of-Iran's-Heavy-Water-Standing-in-Line>

IRGC vessels equipped with 2,000-km-range missiles

Islamic Republic News Agency, June 12, 2023

Speaking on Monday in Tehran, Tangsiri said that the missiles have been mounted on the Iranian-made warship dubbed Martyr Soleimani. The commander said that the warship has been for the first time equipped with domestically-made vertical launch missiles as well as surface-to-surface cruise missiles with ranges from 40 to 2,000 kilometers. Tangsiri also spoke about the progress the Iranian missile industry has made after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He said that the missiles Iran possessed before the Islamic Revolution had a maximum range of 40 km, but now they have a minimum range of 2,000 km.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85138523/IRGC-vessels-equipped-with-2-000-km-range-missiles>

President Rayeesi: Iran to Continue Supporting Nuclear Industry

Fars News Agency, June 12, 2023

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi vowed to continue supporting the nuclear industry within the framework of Iran's national interests. President Rayeesi made

the remarks addressing a cabinet session on Sunday. "The nuclear industry is among driving industries in the country," President Rayeesi said. He lauded grand achievements made by young Iranian scientists in the nuclear industry. "In line with serving national interests, the administration considers itself duty-bound to support the nuclear industry," President Rayeesi added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020322000333/Presiden-Rayeesi-Iran-Cnine-Sppring-Nclear-Indsry>

AEOI Head: 159 Nuclear Achievements Registered by Iranian Scientists Last Year

Fars News Agency, June 13, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami praised the country's progress in the nuclear industry despite the US sanctions and threats, saying that his organization has recorded 159 nuclear achievements in the last Iranian calendar year. "Last year, we had 159 achievements. It was important for us to speed up the time needed to get results and ... turn an idea into a product," Eslami noted on Monday. The nuclear chief stated that the nuclear achievements were made by young Iranian experts in different fields - including irradiation systems, microwave, radiopharmaceuticals and plasma technology -- in the past Persian calendar year (ending on March 20) in defiance of US sanctions as well as hurdles created by the West.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020323000490/AEOI-Head-59-Nclear-Achievemens-Regisered-by-Iranian-Scieniss-Las>

Iraq

F16 planes kill a number of terrorists in Diyala

Iraqi News Agency, June 2, 2023

The F-16 aircraft launched a successful air strike, killing a number of terrorists in Diyala. A statement by the Security Media Cell, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "in continuation of the offensive approach and the pursuit of terrorist elements of ISIS, and according to accurate information and follow-up by the Directorate of Military Intelligence and under the supervision, planning and follow-up of the targeting cell in the Joint Operations Command, the air hawks successfully carried out an air strike by F16 aircraft." in Hamrin within the Diyala operations sector.

<https://ina.iq/eng/26822-f16-planes-kill-a-number-of-terrorists-in-diyala.html>

DGIS found a cache of equipment in Diyala province

Iraqi News Agency, June 14, 2023

The Directorate General of Intelligence and Security (DGIS) announced on Wednesday, that a cache of equipment had been found in Diyala province. The directorate said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The detachments of the Diyala Intelligence and Security Directorate affiliated to the General Directorate of Intelligence and Security, and in coordination with the Diyala Operations Command, found a stack of equipment in a confined area between the villages of Hashimiyat and Al-Ghaliya,

containing 30 people's mines Gelkan contains C4, in addition to (5) hand grenades, a drone, various other tools, and explosive rulers, as the engineering effort of the force lifted them without incident."

<https://ina.iq/eng/27044-dgis-found-a-cache-of-equipment-in-diyala-province.html>

Interior minister: Disarmament measures in Maysan will begin soon

Iraqi News Agency, June 15, 2023

Interior Minister Abdul Amir Al-Shammari stressed on Thursday the imminent start of disarmament measures in Maysan, while stressing the security services to pursue all armed manifestations. Al-Shammari said during a press conference held in Maysan Governorate, followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "We met with the governor of Maysan, the leaders of operations, the police and the sheikhs of the governorate clans, and everyone expressed support for the work of the security services and security forces in following up on criminals, whatever their affiliation."

<https://ina.iq/eng/27065-interior-minister-disarmament-measures-in-maysan-will-begin-soon.html>

Israel

Rafael's C-Dome One Step Closer to Operational Capability

Israel Defense, June 6, 2023

Israeli defense giant Rafael, alongside the Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) and in collaboration with the Israeli Navy, successfully completed a

series of comprehensive tests for the naval version of the Iron Dome system, known as "C-Dome." According to the company statement, these tests mark a significant step towards achieving the final operational capability of the C-Dome system on the Israeli Navy's Sa'ar 6-class corvettes. Throughout the rigorous testing process, the C-Dome system, installed on the Sa'ar 6 "Magen" corvettes, demonstrated its exceptional capability to intercept and neutralize advanced threats that pose a danger to Israel's strategic assets and infrastructure within its exclusive economic zone.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58402>

Israeli Defense Ministry selects Leonardo's DRS RADA Technologies to supply tactical radar systems

Israel Defense, June 7, 2023

Leonardo DRS announced that its DRS RADA Technologies business unit has been selected to provide the Israeli Ministry of Defense with advanced mobile radars providing additional capabilities to defend against a range of emerging regional threats. The company will produce and deliver the radars to support existing Israeli Defense Force (IDF) air surveillance and early warning capabilities. These advanced systems are proven throughout the IDF and with allied military forces around the world.

"We are extremely proud to continue our support of the IDF by supplying these advanced, lifesaving capabilities," said Dubi Sella, senior vice president and

general manager of the company's DRS RADA Technologies business unit.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58415>

Will IWI supply its Negev 7 machine guns to the Indian Special Forces?

Israel Defense, June 7, 2023

Are the Special Forces of the Indian army about to be equipped with the Negev 7 light machine gun, produced by the Israeli company IWI (Israel Weapon Industries)?

According to an article in the German website Soldat & Technik, the Indian Special Forces are apparently looking for a new 7.62 x 51mm caliber machine gun. The website bases its information on a Request for Information (RFI) published at the end of May. The Indian Special Forces have long used the IWI Negev 5 in 5.56 x 45 mm caliber as their standard group and squad level machine gun. These are supplemented by 7.62 x 51 mm caliber FN MK 48 machine guns.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58416>

Israel on verge of largest-ever defense deal, as Germany advances Arrow 3 purchase plans

Israel Defense, June 11, 2023

The German government will ask its lawmakers to release advance payment of up to 560 million euros this week, in order to buy Israel's Arrow 3 missile defense system. This, according to a Reuters report from Friday, which relies on exclusively

seen documents. In total, Germany is expected to pay almost 4 billion euro (or \$4.3 billion) for this system, an exo-atmospheric interceptor for long-range threats developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. According to Reuters, Germany hopes to strike a deal by the end of 2025, and receive the systems by the end of 2025. Originally, the deal was supposed to close for about 3 billion euros. The report doesn't mention when exactly this is expected to take place. However, according to the Bundestag's official weekly schedule, a "National Security Session" is scheduled for Thursday, June 15th, at 09:00 am.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58462>

MBDA Opens Missile Engineering Center in Abu Dhabi

Israel Defense, June 13, 2023

European multinational missile developer and manufacturer MBDA inaugurated the Missile Engineering Center in Abu Dhabi last week. The center's aim, according to the official press release, is to "strengthen the long-term partnership between the UAE and MBDA and to establish a bedrock for joint development of missile systems."

The Missile Engineering Center in the UAE is the first of its kind for MBDA outside Europe; it is operational with a joint team of engineers from Tawazun Technology Innovation and MBDA working on the next generation of the Smart Weapons family.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58494>

Aeronautics Launches Orbiter 5 - a Tactical UAS with MALE Mission Capabilities

Israel Defense, June 14, 2023

Aeronautics, an Israeli designer, developer, and manufacturer of comprehensive solutions focused on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for the global defense and HLS markets, is introducing the Orbiter 5 UAS at the Paris Air Show. This new innovative platform enables MALE mission capabilities in a tactical UAS, delivering a high-performance, multi-mission/multi-payload capabilities, and all in a cost-effective solution. According to Aeronautics, the Orbiter 5 provides an extended endurance time of more than 25 hours with multi-mission capabilities, enabled by its capacity to carry payload weight of more than 25k g, including two payloads simultaneously, and implementing advanced AI capabilities. In addition, the platform offers redundancy with a dual avionic system and a dual ignition engine for high degree of safety and ensures mission success.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58514>

German Parliament Approves \$4.3 Purchase of Israel's Arrow-3 Missile Defense Systems

Israel Defense, June 15, 2023

The German Bundestag and Budget Committee agreed yesterday (Wednesday) to release advance payments of up to 560 million euros, the first step in procuring the Arrow-3 missile defense system, developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

In total, Germany is expected to pay almost 4 billion euro (or \$4.3 billion) for this system – an exo-atmospheric interceptor for long-range threats developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. According to Reuters, Germany hopes to strike a deal by the end of 2025, and receive the systems by the end of 2025.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58526>

Rafael Announces It Has Developed Hypersonic Missile Interceptor

Israel Defense, June 15, 2023

RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems announced yesterday (Wednesday) that it has developed an advanced interceptor, named “Sky Sonic,” as a ground breaking defensive response to the growing threat of hypersonic missiles. This system will be officially unveiled for the first time at the Paris Air Show, one of the world’s largest aerospace exhibitions, opening next week. The Sky Sonic interceptor represents a major technological leap in hypersonic missile defense. Designed with exceptional maneuverability and high-speed capabilities, it effectively neutralizes hypersonic missiles, which travel at ten times the speed of sound, with unmatched precision and stealth. RAFAEL’s booth at the Paris Air Show will showcase the interceptor, highlighting the company’s commitment to pushing the boundaries of air defense technology.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58527>

Israel's Controp Signs Joint Venturer Deal with India-based Paras Defence and Space Technologies

Israel Defense, June 15, 2023

Controp Precision Technologies, an Israel-based global EO/IR company, has signed an agreement with electronics producer Paras Defence and Space Technologies India to establish a new company in India. This Joint Venture (JV) will focus on manufacturing innovative, EO/IR advanced multi-domain solutions for various defense applications and in accordance with the Indian government. At the signing ceremony that was held in Mumbai, in the presence of Controp CEO Hagay Azani, and Paras CEO Munjal Shah, a JV for the procurement of innovative, EO/IR state-of-the-art solutions for defense applications was established, in accordance with "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliance) initiative implemented by the Indian government for creating and boosting local independent capabilities.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58525>

Jordan

Jordan looks to expand cooperation with Iraq in peaceful use of nuclear energy

Jordan News, June 11, 2023

Jordan Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Khaled Toukan, expressed Jordan's interest in strengthening cooperation with Iraq and other Arab nations in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. During a meeting with an Iraqi

delegation led by Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Naeem Al-Aboudi, Toukan emphasized Jordan's commitment to fostering ties with Iraq, particularly in scientific, technological, and nuclear energy fields, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. Highlighting the achievements of Jordan's national nuclear program, Toukan emphasized the significance of the Jordanian nuclear reactor as a landmark scientific accomplishment.

<https://www.jordannews.jo/Section-109/News/Jordan-looks-to-expand-cooperation-with-Iraq-in-peaceful-use-of-nuclear-energy-29154>

Qatar

Qatar says cooperation between global nuclear agency and Iran 'only way' to resolve issues

Doha News, June 8, 2023

Qatar said cooperation between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran is the only way to resolve all outstanding issues posing as an obstacle to the revival of the nuclear deal, Fars News Agency reported. Top Qatari official, Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi suggested positive interaction between the two sides through full respect for the agency's authority and Iran's rights and commitments, remains the only way to resolve all outstanding issues. Al Hammadi, who serves as the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Qatar's Governor to the IAEA, made the comments during a discussion on the implementation of monitoring, verification, and safeguards

in Iran, at the ongoing session of the Board of Governors in Vienna.

<https://dohanews.co/qatar-says-cooperation-between-global-nuclear-agency-and-iran-only-way-to-resolve-issues/>

Saudi Arabia

IAEA recognizes Saudi Arabia's role in Compass nuclear initiative

Arab News, June 3, 2023

Saudi Arabia has received a certificate of appreciation and gratitude from the International Atomic Energy Agency for its recent participation in the IAEA's Comprehensive Capacity Building Initiative (Compass), a first-of-its-kind initiative. The certificate of merit was handed over by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to Jalawi bin Nasser Al-Qahtani, Saudi Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission representative, during a reception at the Saudi permanent delegation headquarters in Vienna on Friday. Compass was initiated in 2020 to help member countries strengthen the effectiveness of their safeguarding implementation and their respective system of accounting for and controlling nuclear material.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2315306/saudi-arabia>

Peace in Gulf region 'vital,' says China as Iran, Saudi, UAE mull naval alliance

Anadolu Agency, June 6, 2023

In an apparent approval of reports that Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates,

and Oman were forming a joint naval group with China, Beijing has said peace and stability of the Gulf region was of "vital importance to safeguarding world peace."

Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, said in a news briefing in Beijing on Monday: "Upholding the peace and stability of the Gulf region in the Middle East bears on the wellbeing of countries and people in the region and is of vital importance to safeguarding world peace, boosting global economic growth and keeping energy supply stable."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/peace-in-gulf-region-vital-says-china-as-iran-saudi-uae-mull-naval-alliance/2915647#>

Israel undecided on Saudi Arabia's demand for civil nuclear technology

Al-Monitor, June 6, 2023

Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz expressed on Monday reservations about Saudi Arabia's plans to establish a US-backed nuclear power program, in a first public statement on the issue by a senior Israeli official. Katz made this statement as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was preparing to fly to Saudi Arabia for talks expected to include discussions of the nuclear program for which the Saudis are seeking US technology and know-how. "Naturally, Israel does not encourage such things. I don't think Israel should agree to such things, but there are contacts underway," Katz told Ynet TV when asked about Israel's stance on the Saudi demands that

the US green-lights the nuclear program as a condition for the kingdom's normalization of relations with Israel.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/06/israel-undecided-saudi-arabias-demand-civil-nuclear-technology#ixzz87JEYM5gj>

Source Speculates on Iran-Saudi Nuclear Cooperation

Tasnim News Agency, June 7, 2023

Iran's Nour News raised the possibility of cooperation in the nuclear industry between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as the two regional heavyweights have recently buried the hatchet after years of strained relations. "Despite Zionists' opposition to Saudi Arabia's nuclear advancement, cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technologies and transfer of experiences under supervision of IAEA, can be one of the main axes in the bilateral relations between Tehran and Riyadh," Nour News, affiliated with Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in a post on its Twitter account on Tuesday. After several days of intensive negotiations hosted by China, Iran and Saudi Arabia clinched a deal on March 10 to restore diplomatic relations and reopen embassies and missions after seven years of estrangement.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2023/06/07/2907211/source-speculates-on-iran-saudi-nuclear-cooperation>

Saudi Arabia defence spending rebounds

Airforce Technology, June 8, 2023

Against a backdrop of improving economic conditions and heightened security

concerns, Saudi Arabia's government has announced a significant increase in its defence budget, anticipated to progressively increase to reach \$86.4bn in 2028, according to GlobalData's 'Saudi Arabia Defense Market 2023-2028' report.

With the nation's economy on the mend following the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent surge in oil prices, it is expected that the country will gradually ramp up its defence spending. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been severely impacted by the instability in the worldwide oil industry, as well as the widespread disturbance to economic and commercial operations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/saudi-arabia-defence-spending-rebounds/>

Saudi FM: Normalization with Israel would have benefits, but less without two states

The Times of Israel, June 8, 2023

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan said Thursday that Riyadh normalizing ties with Israel would bring significant benefits to the region but that those benefits would be limited by the absence of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "We believe that normalization is in the interest of the region, that it would bring significant benefits to all," bin Farhan said in response to a question during a press conference in Riyadh with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, following a meeting of the global coalition fighting the Islamic State group. "But without finding a pathway to peace for the Palestinian people, without addressing that challenge, any normalization will have

limited benefits,” he said, without mentioning Israel by name.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-fm-normalization-with-israel-would-have-benefits-but-less-without-two-states/>

No secret that Saudi Arabia is developing civilian nuclear program: Prince Faisal

Alarabiya, June 8, 2023

Saudi Arabia is developing its civilian nuclear program and prefers to have the US as one of the bidders for that program, Riyadh’s top diplomat said Thursday.

“There are others that are bidding, and obviously, we would like to build our program with the best technology in the world, and that will require a certain agreement to be in place,” Prince Faisal bin Farhan said during a joint press conference with Secretary of State Antony Blinken. “We have differences of opinion [with the US], and so we’re working on finding a mechanism for us to be able to work together on civilian nuclear technology. But, you know, we intend to move forward on that program,” Prince Faisal said. Saudi Arabia has requested US technology to enrich the uranium Riyadh possesses to produce and then sell fuel. Otherwise, Saudi officials have said they could look to China, Russia or France for help, which are the countries Prince Faisal may have been alluding to.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/06/08/No-secret-that-Saudi-Arabia-is-developing-civilian-nuclear-program-Prince-Faisal>

Syrian Arab Republic

Berlin Group 21: OPCW investigations on alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria are unprofessional

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 5, 2023

Berlin 21 Group said that the investigations by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, specifically in Douma city in April 2018, are biased. In a letter addressed to the Syrian Permanent Mission and representatives of international missions to OPCW, the group said that a group of experts reviewed the organization’s investigations into the alleged Douma incident, including all related to chemistry, toxicology and ballistics, witness testimonies procedural irregularities that caused serious controversy over the investigations that took place in connection with that incident.

The letter indicated that the scientific evidence was manipulated by the OPCW, specifically the investigation and identification team, which led to biased conclusions.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=310184>

Khaddour: IAEA’s Board of Governors’ discussion on implementation of safeguards item in Syria ineffective

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 7, 2023

Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Vienna,

Ambassador Hassan Khaddour, affirmed that the continuation of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to discuss the implementation of safeguards item under the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the Syrian Arab Republic on a repeated basis in terms of form and content is ineffective and a waste of time. Khaddour, in a statement delivered on Tuesday before the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, said that the continuation of the discussion allows some countries to confuse the work of the Council and divert its attention from the activities of “Israel” and its military nuclear capabilities, which is the only country that did not join the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=310430>

Lavrov, Pedersen discuss efforts to solve the crisis in Syria

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 9, 2023

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed with UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, the situation in the country.

“During the meeting, the two sides discussed the new situation in and around Syria, and providing comprehensive and large-scale assistance to all Syrians, especially in order to overcome repercussions of the earthquake that hit Syria on February 6 and the efforts exerted to solve the crisis there,” Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The statement asserted the importance of strict respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab

Republic, and compliance with the guiding principles for humanitarian assistance stipulated in the main resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly, including UN Security Council Resolutions No. 2254 and 2672.”

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=310642>

Arab Parliament affirms keenness to support Syria’s security, stability, unity and sovereignty

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 11, 2023

The Arab Parliament affirmed its keenness to support Syria’s security, stability, unity and sovereignty, welcoming its return to the Arab League and the Arab Parliament.

That came during the 5th session of the third legislative term of the Arab Parliament, which was held Saturday at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo. The Arab Parliament expressed aspiration for more Arab involvement with the aim of reaching a purely Syrian-Arab solution to the crisis in Syria, away from any external interference. Members of the Arab Parliament commended the return of the Syrian parliamentarians to their seats in the Arab Parliament, wishing them success in the tasks entrusted to them.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=310729>

Mikdad arrives in Saudi Arabia to take part in meeting of Arab-Pacific States

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 11, 2023

Foreign and Expatriates Minister, Dr. Fayssal Mikdad, and an accompanying

delegation arrived in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Sunday, upon an invitation by his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah. Upon arrival, Mikdad and the accompanying delegation were received by senior officials of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mikdad will participate in the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Arab States and the Pacific Islands Countries, which began its activities on Sunday at the expert level.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=310783>

Bogdanov: Deputy foreign ministers of Russia, Syria, Iran and Turkey to meet on June 21

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 14, 2023

The deputy foreign ministers of Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iran will meet in the Kazakh capital, Astana, on June 21st, Russian President's Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and Africa and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said. "A large Russian delegation is going to Astana to participate in this meeting" Bogdanov said in a press statement on Wednesday. A quadripartite meeting for Syrian, Russian, Iranian and Turkish foreign ministries was held on 10th of last May in the Russian capital Moscow.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=310975>

Türkiye

'Türkiye, IAEA cooperating on nuclear plant construction'

Daily Sabah, June 6, 2023

Türkiye is closely cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding the construction of the

Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, a Turkish envoy said on Monday. Speaking to Anadolu Agency (AA), Levent Eler, Türkiye's permanent representative at the U.N.'s office in Vienna, said Ankara and the agency are coordinating over the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant. He noted that as part of the coordination, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi attended the ceremony marking the first delivery of nuclear fuel to the power plant on April 27.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkiye-iaea-cooperating-on-nuclear-plant-construction>

Türkiye to revamp 1st aircraft factory in multimillion-dollar revival

Daily Sabah, June 12, 2023

Türkiye is set to revamp its first aircraft factory in the central Anatolian province of Kayseri by investing some TL 205 million (\$8.6 million) to produce aircraft and helicopter parts, a report said Monday.

The revival of the TOMTAŞ Aviation and Technology will play a significant role and make a major contribution to Türkiye's aviation sector, according to information cited by Anadolu Agency (AA).

Main assembly parts such as the fuselage, wings, doors, control surfaces, landing gear, propellers, helicopter rotors and engine parts will be produced at TOMTAŞ Aerospace, which was established by defense firm ASFAT, Erciyes Technopark, Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) and the TOMTAŞ Investment Partnership.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-to-revamp-1st-aircraft-factory-in-multimillion-dollar-revival>

Türkiye's Baykar, Kuwait finalize \$367M drone deal

Daily Sabah, June 13, 2023

Turkish drone magnate Baykar has finalized an export contract worth \$367 million with the Kuwaiti government on Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), the company and the Kuwaiti army announced on Tuesday. “We have successfully completed the contract process with the Government of Kuwait on the export of domestically made Bayraktar TB2 UCAVs,” Baykar said in a statement on Twitter.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-baykar-kuwait-finalize-367m-drone-deal>

Bayraktar Akıncı UCAV hits target with precision guidance kit

Daily Sabah, June 15, 2023

Türkiye’s most advanced and sophisticated drone, the Bayraktar Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), conducted a firing test with a domestically developed Precision Guidance Kit (HGK). This marks the first launch of the HGK from an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The kit was developed by the Defense Industries Research and Development Institute (SAGE) of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), and the Baykar-manufactured drone fired HKG-82 during the test. Departing from Akıncı Flight Training and Test Center in the northwestern province of Tekirdağ’s Çorlu district, Akıncı took off with the

HKG-82 ammunition. Bayraktar Akıncı’s HKG-82 ammunition struck the target with remarkable precision.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/bayraktar-akinci-ucav-hits-target-with-precision-guidance-kit>

United Arab Emirates

MBDA opens Missile Engineering Centre in Abu Dhabi

Zawya, June 9, 2023

The Missile Engineering Centre was officially inaugurated on 6th June, in the presence of Tareq Al Hosani, Secretary-General of Tawazun Council, M. Nicolas Niemtchinow, Ambassador of France to the UAE, and M. Eric Béranger, Chief Executive Officer of MBDA. The aim of the Missile Engineering Centre is to strengthen the long-term partnership between the UAE and MBDA and to establish a bedrock for joint development of missile systems. This cooperation has the ultimate objective of offering missile systems at the right level of performance while leveraging and reinforcing the sovereign capabilities of the UAE defence industry through significant local content. The Missile Engineering Centre in the UAE is the first of its kind for MBDA outside Europe; it is operational with a joint team of engineers from Tawazun Technology Innovation and MBDA working on the next generation of the Smart Weapons family.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/technology-and-telecom/mbda-opens-missile-engineering-centre-in-abu-dhabi-ipucs3s8>

India, France, UAE hold maiden maritime exercise in Gulf of Oman

The Hindu, June 9, 2023

Navies of India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held the maiden trilateral maritime partnership exercise on June 7 and June 8 in the Gulf of Oman. “During the maiden edition of the exercise, a wide spectrum of operations at sea such as surface Warfare involving tactical firing and drills for Missile engagements, close quarter manoeuvres, advanced air defence exercise with French Rafale and UAE Dash-8 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA), Helicopter cross landing operations, drills for replenishment at sea were undertaken by the participating units,” the Navy said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-france-uae-hold-maiden-maritime-exercise-in-gulf-of-oman/article66950692.ece>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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