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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

IRGC test-fires new domestic anti-tank missile

Tehran Times, April 16, 2023

In an effort to create cutting-edge military hardware, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force has effectively test-launched a new domestic top attack anti-tank missile. General Ali Kouhestani, the head of the IRGC Ground Force's Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization, announced on Saturday that the Sadid-365 anti-tank missile, which has an 8-kilometer range and can destroy a variety of armored vehicles, is a noteworthy military development. He pointed out that the optically guided missile, designed and produced locally, has a high degree of pinpoint precision. The weapon is intended to engage targets from above using plunging fire, and can even pierce the active protection system (APS) of tanks and obliterate them, Kouhestani explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483729/IRGC-test-fires-new-domestic-anti-tank-missile>

N. Chief: Iran Working on Manufacturing 2 New Radiopharmaceuticals

Fars News Agency, April 19, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami lauded the country's remarkable achievements in the field of nuclear medicine, and said that the country is seeking to pass the clinical trial phase of two new types of radiopharmaceuticals in the current Persian year. Commenting on the development of radiopharmaceuticals inside Iran, Eslami stated that 67 such medicinal items were in distribution at 210 medical centers and

hospitals across the country. He told reporters after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday that one million cancer patients had used radiopharmaceuticals in Iran, and that work was underway to increase this capacity. "Two new radiopharmaceuticals were being developed in the current year," he continued, adding that all such medication was being produced domestically.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020130000789/N-Chief-Iran-Wrking-n-Manfacring-2-New-Radipharmaceicals>

Senior Commander: Iran's Anti-Sub Drones Come into Service

Fars News Agency, April 19, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said that the country's navy has manufactured unmanned aerial vehicles which enjoy advanced technologies to hunt hostile submarines. Rear Admiral Irani stated that his force has employed new drones designed and built domestically to detect and destroy hostile vessels and submarines. He noted that the drone uses a homegrown sonar system and other homemade-developed equipment to stalk and hunt submarines. The commander added that the new unmanned aerial vehicle is currently in service in the Iranian Navy.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020130000181/Senir-Cmmander-Iran's-Ani-Sb-Drnes-Cme-in-Service>

Iran has never left negotiating table: Raisi

Tehran Times, April 19, 2023

President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi has said that Iran has never left the negotiating table to revive the JCPOA – the 2015 nuclear deal -but it sought to neutralize economic sanctions. Speaking on Tuesday evening in

a cordial meeting with clerics, Friday prayer imams and groups and young elites of seminary students, Raisi said the government is determined to solve the problems with a plan and relying on the internal power, the will of the nation, the blood of the martyrs and the considerable increase and strong presence of the people in the Feb. 11 demonstrations and Quds Day this year as the elements of production of power for the country, according to a readout by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483875/Iran-has-never-left-negotiating-table-Raisi>

Iranian Army's Ground Force Receives New Defense Equipment

Fars News Agency, April 19, 2023

Iranian Army's Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari voiced Iran's full-preparedness to confront enemy's threats, and announced that his force has received over 1,000 pieces of new equipment. Brigadier General Heidari made the remarks on the sidelines of the parade marking Iran's Army Day on Tuesday. "We have received some 1,084 new pieces of defense equipment," he said.

Referring to the profound changes created in the structure of the Iranian Army over the past few years, General Heidari underlined that the Iranian Army's ground force has evolved into a dynamic force that benefits from new capabilities, including long-range, precision-guided, smart, and network-oriented equipment.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020130000530/Iranian-Army's-Grnd-Frce-Receives-New-Defense-Eipmen>

Iran's Army Receives Over 200 Strategic Drones for Various Missions

Fars News Agency, April 20, 2023

The Iranian Army took delivery of more than 200 domestically-manufactured strategic drones which have been designed to carry out a broad range of missions, including reconnaissance, surveillance and aerial combat operations against moving and fixed targets.

Mass delivery of the new strategic, sea-based and vertical launch drones took place in a ceremony in some parts of the country on Thursday in the presence of top military brass, including Chief Commander of the Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, and Deputy of Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh.

The new anti-radar drones have different missions of reconnaissance, destruction, combat reconnaissance, aerial interception, and hitting mobile and fixed targets with a low radar cross-section.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020131000394/Iran's-Army-Receives-Over-200-Sraegic-Drnes-fr-Varis-Missins>

Iran Warns Off US Nuclear-Powered Submarine in Strait of Hormuz

Fars News Agency, April 20, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said that the country's naval forces have detected and warned off an American nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine as the seagoing vessel was sailing to cross the Hormuz Strait in stealth mode.

Rear Admiral Irani stated on Thursday that the naval forces detected the US submarine, Florida, as it entered the strategic region.

“The US submarine was approaching the Strait of Hormuz while submerged, but the domestically-manufactured Iranian submarine, Fateh, detected it and carried out... maneuvers to force it to surface and cross the Strait [of Hormuz] on the surface,” the senior commander explained.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020131000549/Iran-Warns-Off-US-Nuclear-Powered-Submarine-in-Strait-of-Hormuz>

Defense official says foreigners willing to buy Iranian-made drones

Tehran Times, April 24, 2023

The head of the Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO) has emphasized the nation’s independence in producing military hardware, particularly drones, and said that several nations are interested in buying Iranian defense items. Brigadier General Afshin Khajeh Fard praised the advancements made in the field of creating manned drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with fixed and moveable wings during a Monday speech at the AJA University of Command and Staff. “We first wanted to buy military equipment, but we were unable to do so because of Western sanctions. But now, we are able to accept a lot of requests from many nations for the purchase of our defense equipment and collaboration,” he stated.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483954/Defense-official-says-foreigners-willing-to-buy-Iranian-made>

Hostile Aircraft Systems Hacked as Attempting to Intrude Iran's Airspace

Fars News Agency, April 24, 2023

CEO of Iranian Defense Ministry's Electronics Industries Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari said that the country has managed to hack the control systems of three spy aircraft near the Iranian air border, forcing the hostile planes to leave the area. "Some time ago, a hostile aircraft moved across our FIR [Flight Information Region] and started emitting waves to gather data. We disrupted the activity of the plane," Rear Admiral Rastegari said in an interview with Tasnim news agency. "The pilot of the plane thought that his system was malfunctioning; so he called the base and informed them that the aircraft system had a problem and he will return; We have recorded their conversations," he stated. "The next day, two other planes flew and started spying; this time we disrupted both of them as we have achieved the technology at that bandwidth," the official added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020204000493/Hostile-Aircraft-Systems-Hacked-as-Attempting-to-Intrude-Iran's-Airspace>

New Fateh-class submarines to join Iranian Navy fleet

Tehran Times, April 26, 2023

Two new models of domestically produced Fateh-class submarines will soon join the Iranian Navy fleet, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Tuesday, highlighting the Iranian Army’s most recent accomplishments and efforts to fortify its naval forces. The admiral also said that the submarines will soon be

included into the nation's naval fleet. Referring to the new characteristics and capabilities of the new submarines, Fateh-2 and Fateh-3, Irani went on to say, "Today, they are equipped with dual-purpose and home-made torpedoes, and all their test launches have been successful." In other parts of his remarks, Irani stated that the Navy will soon inform Iranians of an extremely good news on a "unique achievement".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484043/New-Fateh-class-submarines-to-join-Iranian-Navy-fleet>

Iran Unveils 1st Indigenous Drone Flight Simulator

Fars News Agency, April 27, 2023

The Iranian Army showcased the first domestically-manufactured flight simulator system, compatible with various types of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), during a ceremony participated by Iranian Army's Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari. At the event which was attended by Iran's Army commanders and drone experts, Brigadier General Heidari said, "Today, drones play an important and decisive role in promoting defensive and combat power of militaries, and it is a very valuable industry." The military official stated that the Iranian Army's Ground Forces have reached a desirable position in the manufacturing UAVs, adding, "All the country's borders where the ground forces are deployed are monitored and controlled with reconnaissance drones."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020207000198/Iran-Unveils-s-Indigens-Drne-Fligh-Simlar>

U.S. Arms Warplanes With 'Bunker Busting' Bombs in Message to Iran

The Wall Street Journal, April 28, 2023

The U.S. military is for the first time putting 250-pound "bunker busting" bombs on attack aircraft recently sent to the Middle East, American officials said, in the latest move to deter Iran. The decision to put more powerful weapons on a squadron of A-10 Warthogs was designed to give pilots a greater chance of success in destroying ammunition bunkers and other entrenched targets in Iraq and Syria, where U.S. forces have been repeatedly targeted by Iran-backed fighters, the officials said. The move marks the first time that the U.S. military will put these precision-guided weapons on board the Warthogs, which were recently refitted so that they could each carry up to 16 bunker busters, known formally as GBU-39/B bombs.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-arms-warplanes-with-bunker-busting-bombs-in-message-to-iran-ba1ecb08>

Iran Declares Readiness to Expand Military Exercises with China

Fars News Agency, April 29, 2023

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani voiced his country's readiness to expand joint wargames with China in a bid to further develop the two countries' strategic relations and counter the West's unilateralism. Brig. Gen. Ashtiani made the remark in a meeting on Saturday with his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in the Indian capital of New Delhi. The Iranian minister stressed that the SCO has turned into an

influential organization in global developments, adding that the expansion and consolidation of the organization is an effective step towards promoting multilateralism in the international arena.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020209000487/Iran-Declares-Readiness-Expand-Military-Exercises-wih-China>

Iraq

Interior Minister: Intensive work to control the Iraqi-Iranian borders

Iraqi News Agency, April 17, 2023

Interior Minister Abdul Amir Al-Shammari confirmed on Monday, that there is intensive work to control the Iraqi-Iranian borders. Al-Shammari said in a press conference he held with Maysan Governor Ali Dawai, which was attended by the reporter of the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the security forces are able to control matters in any region of the country, including Maysan Governorate." He added, "The aim of the visit is to see the security situation and evaluate the performance of security formations, units, and agencies," noting that "security challenges and ways to confront them were discussed, especially the issue of combating drugs and criminal crimes."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26019-interior-minister-intensive-work-to-control-the-iraqi-iranian-borders.html>

PM Mohammed Shia al Sudani helping Iran boost military influence in Iraq, claim reports

Firstpost, April 18, 2023

Prime Minister of Iraq Mohammed Shia al Sudani has allegedly permitted Iran to increase its military presence in Iraq,

particularly in the regions of Kirkuk and Sinjar. According to a report by the Institute for Study of War, Iran has boosted its influence in neighbouring Iraq through the use of Iranian proxies – a process allegedly aided by Mohammed Shia al Sudani. The PMF will establish a new operational headquarters in Kirkuk Province on April 17, according to a statement made on April 17 by the Popular Mobilisation Authority, the PMF's official governing body. According to UK-based Arabic language media outlet Al Araby, Mohammed Shia al Sudani had also given the go-ahead for Faleh al Fayadh, the head of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), to establish a new PMF-affiliated brigade at Sinjar in the Ninewa province of Iraq, on April 17.

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/pm-mohammed-shia-al-sudani-helping-iran-boost-military-influence-in-iraq-claim-reports-12467772.html>

The Joint Forces: 4 terrorists were killed in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, April 18, 2023

The Joint Operations Command announced today, Tuesday, the killing of 4 terrorists in an air strike by Iraqi F-16 warplanes in the Kirkuk operations sector. The leadership of the Joint Operations Command said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): " In continuation of the pursuit of ISIS terrorist, 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 of the Joint Operations Command, the air hawks of the heroes (F16) carried out a successful air strike in Kirkuk Operations Sector - Wadi Al-Shay. "The strike led to the killing of 4

terrorists and the destruction of hideouts and guesthouses belonging to ISIS gangs."

<https://ina.iq/eng/26038-the-joint-forces-4-terrorists-were-killed-in-kirkuk.html>

CJTF-OIR: A coalition UAV crashed south of Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, April 22, 2023

Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) announced on Saturday, the crash of a Coalition Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) south of Kirkuk, Iraq. CJTF-OIR said, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "On the morning of April 22, 2023, a Coalition Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), in direct support of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) operations, experienced a mechanical failure and crashed south of Kirkuk, Iraq. " The statement added, "The ISF quickly secured the crash site, while Coalition service members cleared the area with a controlled detonation. There were no injuries and no damage to civilian infrastructure".

<https://ina.iq/eng/26091-cjtf-oir-a-coalition-uavs-crashed-south-of-kirkuk.html>

Turkish troops kill 21 terrorists in Syria, Iraq: Defence Minister

The Siasat Daily, April 23, 2023

A total of 21 “terrorists” were killed by Turkish troops over the past four days in northern Syria and Iraq, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said. Three of the “terrorists” were killed in Iraq’s Zap region, semi-official Anadolu Agency quoted Akar as saying during an event in the Turkish central province of Kayseri on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported. Calling the

Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) a “tool in the hands of imperialists” to hinder Turkey’s development, Akar said that the Turkish government is determined to eliminate the PKK. The fight against “terrorists” will not end until the security of Turkey’s borders and the nation is ensured, he said.

<https://www.siasat.com/turkish-troops-kill-21-terrorists-in-syria-iraq-defence-minister-2574170/>

Israel

Philippine Navy receives two Israeli-made Shaldag MKV patrol ships

Israel Defense, April 17, 2023

The Philippine Navy (PN) confirmed that two more brand-new fast attack interdiction-missile Shaldag Mark 5 ships – designated FAIC-M in the Philippine Navy - were delivered to the Philippine. Set for christening in May, these Shaldag Mark 5 ships will soon join the Acero-class patrol gunboats along with frontrunners BRP Nestor Acero (PG-901) and BRP Lolinato To-ong (PG-902) which were commissioned late last year. According to the Philippine News Agency, five more are expected to be delivered within the next two years. The scope of the entire project is about \$195 million.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57891>

British Army orders Carl-Gustaf M4 weapon systems

Israel Defense, April 17, 2023

The British Defense Equipment & Support (DE&S) placed a \$5.7 million order with Saab for a delivery of Carl-Gustaf M4s, plus a package of ammunition and training

to the British Army. The new systems will replace the anti-structure munitions, that the UK had sent to support Ukraine against the Russian invasion last year. The Carl-Gustaf was first adopted by the British Army towards the end of the 1960s in its M2 variant, referred to in the UK as “Mark 2”, as an infantry anti-tank capability.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57892>

Aeronautics to supply Greece with dozens of advanced Orbiter 3 tactical UAV systems

Israel Defense, April 18, 2023

Aeronautics, an Israeli designer, developer and manufacturer of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for global defense and HLS markets, announced a contract to supply dozens of its Orbiter 3 systems to the Greek Ministry of Defense. The agreement is part of the large contract between the Israeli and Greek Ministry of Defense, worth approximately €370 million, for the procurement of Rafael's Spike missiles. While the Orbiter 3 systems detect, recognize and identify (DRI) the target, the Spike missiles, launched from the air, sea, or land can rapidly close the sensor-to-shooter loop, using the "Fire Weaver" C4I system. The rapid Sensor to Shooter process implementing advanced technologies, enables mission success.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57908>

Elbit awarded \$102 million contract to supply int'l customer with artillery systems

Israel Defense, April 19, 2023

Elbit Systems announced that it was awarded a contract worth approximately

\$102 million to supply artillery systems to an international customer. The contract will be performed over a period of eight years.

Under the contract Elbit Systems will supply a battalion's worth of ATMOS (Autonomous Truck Mounted Howitzer) 155mm/52 caliber truck-mounted howitzers systems. The ATMOS modular artillery system is a combat proven wheeled Howitzer solution, capable of firing all NATO-certified 155mm projectiles that has an effective range of over 40km with standard projectiles and offers extended range with Rocket-Assisted Projectiles (RAP). The ATMOS is designed for rapid deployment and operation enabling provision of fire support for a broad range of missions.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57922>

Netherlands to procure Israeli-made Rocket launchers

Israel Defense, April 20, 2023

The Netherlands is about to purchase artillery rocket systems from Israel. The Dutch Minister of Defense, Christoph van der Maat, confirmed that the Dutch army is going to be equipped with PULS (Precise and Universal Launching System) rocket launchers made by Elbit Land Systems. The minister did not disclose the value of the deal, but the Spanish website Infodefensa indicates that its value is estimated at over 0.5 billion euros. In his announcement, the Dutch minister explained that he has evaluated two systems that meet his requirements: the Himars and the PULS and concludes that the latter stands out in several areas. Compared to the American Himars system, it can carry more

missiles, it also makes it possible to buy more rockets with the same budget and they can also be available sooner. And to all this he adds that the PULS will be suitable for ammunition from European manufacturers in the future.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57934>

Elbit to supply intelligence, EW aircraft to int'l customer in \$100 million deal

Israel Defense, April 23, 2023

Elbit Systems announced that it was awarded a follow-on contract worth approximately \$100 million to convert commercial aircraft into Intelligence and Electronic Warfare (EW) aircraft for an international customer. The contract will be performed over a period of three years.

As part of the contract, Elbit Systems will equip the aircraft with advanced Intelligence Mission Suite and EW capabilities. This solution will provide a comprehensive operational picture of the arena generated by SIGINT and Electro-Optics VISINT sensors and systems as well as the capability to activate Electronic Counter Measures against a range of threats. The aircraft will also be equipped with Immune Satellite Navigation Systems (ISNS) and an advanced self-protection solution.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57957>

Raytheon Wins \$237 million counter-UAS US Army contract

Israel Defense, April 25, 2023

American Raytheon Technologies announced last week that it was awarded

a \$237 million U.S. Army contract for Ku-band Radio Frequency Sensors (KuRFS) and Coyote effectors to detect and defeat unmanned aircraft. The contract includes a combination of fixed-site and mobile systems as well as a quantity of effectors, designated to support the Army's U.S Central Command operations. As part of the U.S. Army's Low, slow, small-unmanned aircraft Integrated Defeat System, called LIDS, KuRFS provides advanced 360-degree threat detection, while Coyote low-cost effectors defeat drones.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57978>

SCD launches SWIR detector for defense applications

Israel Defense, April 25, 2023

SCD, an Israeli developer and manufacturer of cooled and uncooled infrared detectors and high-power laser diodes, announces the launch of its latest product, the SWIFT-EI. This SWIR detector is designed as a very low Size Weight and Power (SWaP) and low-cost VGA format 10-micron pitch SWIR detector. According to SCD, The SWIFT-EI is the world's first SWIR detector integrating event-based imaging capabilities, making it a revolutionary addition to the defense and industrial sectors. Its advanced FPA level detection capabilities enable tactical forces to detect multiple laser sources, laser-spots, Hostile Fire Indication (HFI), and much more. Its state-of-the-art ROIC imager technology offers two parallel video channels in one sensor - a standard imaging SWIR video channel, and a very high frame event imaging channel.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57979>

Sierra Nevada Corporation, BIRD Aerosystems enter airborne missile protection system agreement

Israel Defense, April 25, 2023

Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) announced an agreement with BIRD Aerosystems to jointly offer the full spectrum of BIRD Airborne Missile Protection Systems (AMPS) to a wide range of domestic and international customers. Leveraging SNC's mission system integration capabilities together with BIRD Aerosystems' AMPS technology allows the companies to maximize opportunities to safeguard the warfighter across a wide range of military and civil aircraft. As part of the agreement, SNC will manufacture AMPS in the United States. Together, the companies intend to pursue U.S. Department of Defense markets, foreign military sales to U.S. allied nations and various international commercial markets.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57980>

Elbit signs \$100 million follow-on contract with Israeli Ministry of National Security

Israel Defense, April 30, 2023

Elbit Systems announced today that it has signed a follow-on contract worth approximately \$100 million to provide aerial firefighting services to the Israeli Ministry of National Security. The contract will be carried out over a period of eight years. As part of the contract, Elbit Systems will continue to provide aerial firefighting services in Israel to the Ministry of National

Security through a fleet of 14 aircraft, as well as additional operational services including ongoing maintenance of the aircraft and their preparation for flights. The squadron will be operated under the guidance of the Israeli Police and in accordance with the operational needs determined in coordination with the Fire and Rescue Authority.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58019>

Lebanon

US imposes sanctions on Hezbollah-linked money laundering network

Al-Monitor, April 18, 2023

The Biden administration announced sanctions Tuesday on what it described as an international money laundering and sanctions evasion network backing an art dealer suspected of funding Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) unveiled designations on 52 individuals and entities in Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. According to OFAC, the network facilitated the payment, shipment and delivery of cash, diamonds, precious gems, art and luxury goods for the benefit of alleged Hezbollah financier Nazem Said Ahmad.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/04/us-imposes-sanctions-hezbollah-linked-money-laundering-network>

Israel shells Hezbollah targets in Syria in latest escalation

Al-Monitor, April 24, 2023

Israel reportedly shelled Hezbollah positions in southern Syria early Monday morning as its proxy conflict with Iran continues to play out. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Israeli ground forces fired more than 20 shells at targets west of Hadr in southern Syria's Quneitra province. Militias close to Lebanese Hezbollah operate in the area, according to the observatory, which did not report any casualties. Syria's official news outlet SANA, which usually reports alleged Israeli strikes in the country, notably did not report the incident. The pro-Syrian government Al-Mayadeen reported that Israeli tanks fired 12 shells into the area, causing no casualties. The pro-Syrian opposition Orient News reported that Israeli shelling caused casualties among pro-government militias and Hezbollah.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/04/israel-shells-hezbollah-targets-syria-latest-escalation>

Did France become the “tender loving mother” of Hezbollah?

Ya Libnan, April 26, 2023

When French forces landed in Beirut in September 1920 to put an end to the short-lived Arab government, Maronites and other Christians waving French flags cheered their arrival at the Beirut port. They hailed France as their “tender, loving mother” (Arabic, *al-umm al-hanuni*). Returning to the Pine Residence in Beirut, General Gouraud assembled with leaders of the Maronites, and the other religious sects of the newly forming country to announce

the establishment of the new state: Greater Lebanon. But 103 years later France ceased to be the “tender, loving mother” of the Christians according to analysts. For reasons none of the largest Christian parties and other opposition leaders can understand why France is still trying to dictate to the Lebanese people its proposal that calls for the election of Suleiman Franjeh as president despite the objections of the group of 5 countries involved in resolving the crisis .

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/04/26/did-france-become-the-tender-loving-mother-of-hezbollah/>

Qatar

Saudi Arabia, Qatar see sharp jump in military spending in the Middle East: Report

Breaking Defense, April 28, 2023

The war in Ukraine may have pushed Europe to contribute to the largest global defense spending year in history in 2022, but it was the nations of the Middle East that shouldered the highest average “military burden” per country last year, driven by large jumps in spending from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, according to recent analysis. According to a report published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the countries of the Middle East on average spent 3.9 percent of their GDP on defense, what's known as “military burden,” compared to a global average of 2.2 percent. But that doesn't mean every nation increased its overall spending. In fact, while Saudi Arabia and Qatar saw significant increases, most other nations in the region saw their overall military spending stagnate or slightly decline, the report says. That latter group

includes, perhaps surprisingly, the military industrial powerhouse that is Israel.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/04/saudi-arabia-qatar-see-sharp-jump-in-military-spending-in-the-middle-east-report/>

Saudi Arabia

President Raisi invites Saudi King Salman to visit Iran: Iranian foreign ministry

Alarabiya, April 17, 2023

Iran has officially invited Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz to visit the country, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday, after the two regional rivals agreed to end years of hostility following a China-brokered agreement in March. After years of bad relations, the two countries reached an agreement to end a seven-year diplomatic rift. "Iranian President (Raisi) has sent an invitation to the Saudi King in return for an invitation by Riyadh for him," Nasser Kanani told a televised news conference. Technical delegations from both countries are preparing to officially reopen their missions, and Tehran said these missions would restart their activities by May 9, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News agency reported.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/04/17/Iran-officially-invites-Saudi-King-Salman-to-visit-Tehran-Iranian-FM->

Syria

Israel Shells Hezbollah Position In Syria Amid Fears Of Multi-Front War

Iran International, April 24, 2023

Israel reportedly shelled the positions of Iran-backed Hezbollah near its northern

borders with Syria in Al-Quneitra province, near the Golan Heights. More than 20 shells were fired Monday morning at a position controlled by the Lebanese Hezbollah, which has established many similar bases near the Israeli border. So far, there is no official word from the Syrian or Israeli governments about the attack, that came barely three weeks after extensive terror and rocket attacks by Iran-backed Palestinian groups against Israel. Times of Israel reported that artillery strike was reported by Sham FM, a Syrian radio station affiliated with the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202304248473>

Turkey border guards shooting, torturing Syrians: Rights group

Alarabiya, April 27, 2023

Human Rights Watch on Thursday accused Turkish border guards of shooting, torturing and using excessive force against Syrians seeking to flee their war-racked country into neighbouring Turkey. It urged Ankara to investigate border guards, hold those responsible for "grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings" to account, and end "longstanding impunity for these abuses." "Turkish border guards are indiscriminately shooting at Syrian civilians on the border... as well as torturing and using excessive force against asylum seekers and migrants trying to cross," the New York-based rights group said in a statement. Syria's war since 2011 has killed more than half a million people and displaced millions.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/04/27/Turkey-border-guards-shooting-torturing-Syrians-Rights-group->

Türkiye

Türkiye's uncrewed fighter jet Kızılelma conducts 4th test flight

Daily Sabah, April 16, 2023

Türkiye's unmanned fighter jet, the Bayraktar Kızılelma, completed its fourth test, the System Identification Test, a high-ranking official from the developing company said Saturday. Selçuk Bayraktar, Baykar chairperson and chief technology officer (CTO), shared the update on his Twitter account with video footage. The Bayraktar Kızılelma will be showcased at the major technology event Teknofest, which will be held this year in Istanbul from April 27 to May 1. Having completed its maiden flight in December last year, the fast drone fighter jet, Kızılelma, marks a significant expansion of capabilities for slow-moving reconnaissance and missile-carrying drones.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeyes-uncrewed-fighter-jet-kizilelma-conducts-4th-test-flight>

White House notifies Congress on F-16 equipment sale to Türkiye

Daily Sabah, April 17, 2023

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration officially notified Congress Monday about the planned sale to Türkiye of avionics software upgrades for its current fleet of F-16 fighter aircraft. Valued at \$259 million (TL 5.02 billion), the deal will move ahead with the sale of the modernization package for Türkiye's aircraft, after leaders of U.S. congressional committees gave informal approval. A larger agreement, NATO member Türkiye's request to buy billions of dollars worth of F-16s, remains uncertain

amid ongoing opposition in Congress. If Congress clears it during the formal approval process, the package would be the first major military sale to Türkiye that Congress has approved for years.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/white-house-notifies-congress-on-f-16-equipment-sale-to-turkiye>

National utility chopper takes flight with 1st Türkiye-built engine

Daily Sabah, April 22, 2023

Developed within the scope of the contract signed between the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAŞ), the T625 Gökbey Helicopter on Saturday successfully completed its first test flight with the Türkiye-developed TS1400 Turboshift Engine produced by TUSAŞ Engine Industries (TEI). Testing and certification activities of the T625 Gökbey Utility Helicopter, which is an indigenous project of TUSAŞ, have continued successfully. The helicopter, whose mass production continues and three of which will be delivered to the Gendarmerie General Command in 2023, is set to be able to perform transport, cargo, air ambulance, search and rescue, and offshore transport duties thanks to its wide range of mission capabilities.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/national-utility-chopper-takes-flight-with-1st-turkiye-built-engine>

Türkiye's largest warship sets sail after public unveiling

Daily Sabah April 23, 2023

Türkiye's recently commissioned, long-anticipated largest warship sailed through the Bosphorus on Sunday as it headed for the

Black Sea. The TCG Anadolu rendered a 21-gun salute in honor of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as the citizens along the coast of Istanbul closely followed its passage. Türkiye's first amphibious assault ship departed the port of Sarayburnu, where the vessel was opened to the public, and sailed past Dolmabahçe Palace. On the palace's shore, Erdoğan and first lady Emine Erdoğan were accompanied by children from Türkiye's southern quake-hit provinces to see off the TCG Anadolu. Addressing the ship's crew, Erdoğan said they are eager to build an even larger vessel in the coming period.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-largest-warship-sets-sail-after-public-unveiling>

Turkish army gets revamped indigenous main battle tank for trials

Daily Sabah, April 24, 2023

Türkiye's army has received what officials dub one of the most modern main battle tanks in the world that will undergo testing in the period ahead before the country launches its mass production and deliveries.

Two long-anticipated domestically built Altay tanks were delivered to the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) on Sunday in a ceremony led by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who praised Türkiye's current capability of meeting almost all of its land vehicle needs with domestic resources. The final trials of the Altay tank are expected to be completed within 2024. Its mass production will be launched in 2025, and South Korean-made power packs will power the first tanks.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-gets-revamped-indigenous-main-battle-tank-for-trials>

Türkiye's homegrown 5th-gen light attack jet makes maiden flight

Daily Sabah, April 25, 2023

Türkiye's first domestically produced jet-powered training and light attack aircraft, Hürjet, successfully completed its inaugural flight on Tuesday. Developed by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), the Hürjet initially started its engine in February. Featuring a single-engine, tandem cockpit and modern avionics suite, the Hürjet is expected to play a critical role in the Turkish Air Forces Command's inventory, leveraging its superior performance features. The Hürjet project aims to design, manufacture, and complete qualification and certification activities for the new generation jet trainer by the end of 2025.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-homegrown-5th-gen-light-attack-jet-makes-maiden-flight>

Turkish unmanned jet Kızılelma, drone Akıncı conduct formation flight

Daily Sabah, April 25, 2023

Türkiye's homegrown unmanned fighter aircraft, Bayraktar Kızılelma, has achieved another milestone in its flight test campaign. According to a statement by the developing company, Baykar, the campaign is progressing as planned. During the ninth and 10th flight tests at the Akıncı Flight Training and Test Center in the Çorlu district of northwestern Tekirdağ province, Bayraktar Kızılelma, the country's first unmanned fighter jet, successfully conducted a formation flight with Baykar's Bayraktar Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV). This marks the first time

that two unmanned aerial vehicles have flown together in formation.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-unmanned-jet-kizilelma-drone-akinci-conduct-formation-flight>

Romania grants \$321M contract to buy Turkish TB2 combat drones

Daily Sabah, April 26, 2023

Romania's Ministry of National Defense has granted a contract worth \$321 million to Turkish drone magnate Baykar, to purchase Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), according to the recently published official document. The official contract award notice was published on the Tenders Electronic Daily website, an online version of the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union. Haluk Bayraktar, general manager at Baykar also confirmed the contract, saying that Romania, "which has long-standing friendship and strong ties based on mutual trust," has joined the list of countries that have taken the high-tech Bayraktar TB2 UCAV into its inventory.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/romania-grants-321m-contract-to-buy-turkish-tb2-combat-drones>

Türkiye's 1st flying-wing, deep-strike stealth drone gets on runway

Daily Sabah, April 26, 2023

Turkish combat drone Anka-3, with its "flying-wing" structure enabling low radar visibility, high-speed transfer capability, and high payload, got on the runway and is counting the days until its maiden flight. Developed by the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), the first footage of the

Anka-3 unmanned fighter drone was captured by Anadolu Agency (AA). Anka-3, which has no tail surface, has great advantages, Bülent Körkem, the unmanned aerial vehicles engineering director at TAI, told AA. "One of the advantages of its design and the most important one is low radar visibility. Because the aircraft has neither horizontal nor vertical tails, the visibility decreases considerably. With some extra measures, it is possible to further reduce the visibility," Körkem said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-1st-flying-wing-deep-strike-stealth-drone-gets-on-runway>

Turkish arms pioneer CANiK buys British defense firm AEI Systems

Daily Sabah, April 27, 2023

Turkish pioneering gun maker CANiK announced Thursday it had completed a purchase of well-established British defense company AEI Systems, in a move that promises to make Türkiye a major player in manufacturing medium-caliber weapons. The merger of CANiK's new-generation technology-backed high production capacity and AEI Systems' 60-year knowledge of medium-caliber weapons was announced at a reception at the Consulate General of the United Kingdom in Istanbul. The synergy will see cannons, which will be produced in high quantities both in the U.K. and Türkiye, be offered on remote-controlled weapon systems to the service of land, air and sea platforms of all friendly and allied countries, a statement by CANiK said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-arms-pioneer-canik-buys-british-defense-firm-aei-systems>

Aliyev hopes to see Turkish jet Kızılelma in Azerbaijan skies

Daily Sabah, April 29, 2023

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev attended Teknofest, the world's largest aviation, space and technology festival in Istanbul, on Saturday with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, as he said that he hoped to see Türkiye's homegrown unmanned fighter aircraft, Bayraktar Kızılelma, in Azerbaijan skies as well. President Aliyev stated that Türkiye was the guarantor of peace, stability and security in the region. "Kızılelma in the air, Altay and Togg here, Anadolu in the sea... This is Türkiye today," he said. Emphasizing that Türkiye and Azerbaijan were close allies, Aliyev stated that Türkiye played a very important role in the unification of the great Turkic world. Aliyev said that the Turkish world has a great geography, potential and natural resources.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/aliyev-hopes-to-see-turkish-jet-kizilelma-in-azerbaijan-skies>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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