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Iran

Iranian Military Adviser Martyred in Israeli Attack on Syria, IRGC Vows Tough Response

Fars News Agency, April 1, 2023

A military advisor of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force in Syria was martyred in the latest Israeli raid on the suburbs of Damascus, the IRGC announced in a statement on Friday. Milad Heidari was martyred on Friday morning in the Zionist regime's aerial attack on the Syrian capital, the IRGC public relations office announced in a statement. The statement also condemned the silence and inaction of the international bodies over the repeated crimes and aggressions committed by the Zionist regime and the continued violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent country that is a member of the United Nations.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020112000286/Iranian-Military-Adviser-Martyred-in-Israeli-Attack-on-Syria-IRGC-Vows-Tough>

Iranian Navy's 86th Fleet Docks at Cape Town Port in South Africa

Fars News Agency, April 1, 2023

Iranian Navy's 86th Flotilla of Warships docked in South Africa's Cape Town Port in line with the Islamic Republic's efforts to expand its naval presence in international waters. The Iranian Navy's flotilla, comprised of Dena and Makran warships, arrived at the port Friday morning and was welcomed by Iran's Ambassador to Pretoria Mehdi Aqa Jafari and local officials.

Addressing the ceremony, Aqa Jafari said the flotilla's travel aims to convey the Iranian nation's message of peace and friendship to the peoples of South Africa and all the African countries. He hailed the strong presence of the Islamic Republic's strategic Naval Fleet in the Atlantic Ocean and South Africa's hosting of it, and said the flotilla's mission would certainly play an important role in promoting global peace and stability and security of maritime connecting routes.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020112000183/Iranian-Navy's-6h-Flee-Docks-at-Cape-Town-Port-in-South-Africa>

Another Iranian Military Adviser Martyred in Israeli Attack on Syria

Fars News Agency, April 3, 2023

Iranian military adviser Meqdad Mahghani Jafarabadi who was wounded in Friday's attack by the Israeli regime near Damascus has succumbed to his injuries, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced. On Sunday, the IRGC issued a statement to confirm the martyrdom of the military advisor following suffering from wounds during a heinous Friday morning attack by the Israeli regime in the suburb of the Syrian capital. Undoubtedly, the crime committed by the fake and criminal regime will not be unanswered and the Zionist regime will pay the price for the martyrdom of the IRGC military advisor, the statement added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020113000263/Another-Iranian-Military-Adviser-Martyred-in-Israeli-Attack-on-Syria>

Iranian Navy Shoos off US Spy Aircraft in Sea of Oman

Fars News Agency, April 3, 2023

The Iranian Army's Navy identified and warned off a US spy aircraft after it crossed the country's borders near the Sea of Oman.

"A US Navy EP-3E aircraft entered the borders in the vicinity of the Sea of Oman, but with the full vigilance of the Navy's forces and by sending warnings to the plane, it was prevented from entering the country's sky without authorization," the Navy's Public Relations Office reported. It said that after receiving the warning message, the aircraft left the country's air border and returned to international air routes. The EP-3E aircraft, with four turboprop engines, is made by the US military aircraft manufacturer Lockheed Martin.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020113000411/Iranian-Navy-Shs-ff-US-Spy-Aircraf-in-Sea-f-Oman>

Iran calls for an end to space arms race

Tehran Times, April 5, 2023

The First Counselor of Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations has called for an end to arms race in space and the need to avoid a serious danger to world peace and security. In a statement addressing the United Nations Disarmament Commission on Tuesday, Heidar Ali Balouji underlined that "Iran believes that outer space and other celestial bodies are humanity's common heritage and must be used only for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all countries." "Averting an arms race in space can be a starting step toward attaining this

aim and averting a serious danger to world peace and security," Balouji continued.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483390/Iran-calls-for-an-end-to-space-arms-race>

Deputy DM: Iran to Help Syria Boost Defense Power in Face of Israeli Assaults

Fars News Agency, April 5, 2023

Iranian Deputy Defense Minister for International Affairs Brigadier General Hamzeh Qalandari underlined his country's commitment to the security and stability of friendly states, including Syria, and said that Tehran is going to assist Damascus beef up its air defense systems to thwart Israeli attacks. Brig. Gen. Qalandari made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony to mark the International Mine Awareness Day and Assistance in Mine Action in Tehran on Tuesday. "We find ourselves committed to help friendly countries, like Syria, improve their air defenses and fend off aerial attacks," he stated, as he talked about the export of defense products at the event.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020116000167/Depy-DM-Iran-Help-Syria-Bs-Defense-Pwer-in-Face-f-Israeli-Assals>

Game-change in Syria: Iran to boost air defense

Tehran Times, April 5, 2023

Hamzeh Qalandari, Iran's deputy defense minister for international affairs, has reiterated Tehran's dedication to the safety of friendly nations, stating that Tehran sees it as its "obligation" to support the development of Syria's air defense capabilities in order to fend off Israeli

strikes on the country. Qalandari made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony marking International Mine Awareness Day and Assistance in Mine Action in Tehran on Tuesday. Referring to the export of military equipment, he stated, “We find ourselves dedicated to help friendly nations, like Syria, enhance their air defenses and ward off aerial attacks.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483406/Game-change-in-Syria-Iran-to-boost-air-defense>

US Deploys Guided-Missile Submarine Amid Tensions With Iran

VOA News, April 8, 2023

The U.S. Navy has deployed a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk missiles to the Middle East, a spokesman said Saturday, in what appeared to be a show of force toward Iran following recent tensions. The Navy rarely acknowledges the location or deployment of submarines. Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the 5th Fleet based in the Gulf nation of Bahrain, declined to comment on the submarine's mission or what had prompted the deployment. He said the nuclear-powered submarine, based in Kings Bay in the U.S. state of Georgia, passed through the Suez Canal Friday. “It is capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet to help ensure regional maritime security and stability,” Hawkins said.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-deploys-guided-missile-submarine-amid-tensions-with-iran-/7042130.html>

AEOI Head: 20 Iranian Radiopharmaceutical Projects in Progress

Fars News Agency, April 9, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami hailed the country's great progress in nuclear medicine, and said that his country is working on 20 projects for developing new radiopharmaceuticals. Speaking during a TV program on Saturday night, Eslami said the National Nuclear Technology Day is a special day for the AEOI to take bigger steps. “We have 20 radiopharmaceutical projects in progress,” he said, vowing to step up efforts to achieve more progress in the application of peaceful nuclear technologies. He added that in the previous Iranian year, Iranian scientists registered 159 scientific, technological, and industrial achievements. Registering 159 nuclear achievements, he stated, is a clear manifestation of being active and innovative.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020120000385/AEOI-Head-20-Iranian-Radiopharmaceutical-Prjecs-in-Progress>

Iran Successfully Tests Another Suicide Drone

Fars News Agency, April 9, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force has developed a new domestically-build suicide drone which can destroy targets within a range of 450 kilometers, Head of IRGC Ground Force's Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization (RSSJO) General Ali Kouhestani said on Sunday. General Kouhestani stated that the unmanned aerial

vehicle (UAV), dubbed Me'raj 532, with a piston engine has a one-way range of 450 kilometers. The kamikaze drone, which designed and manufactured by young Iranian experts, he added, is capable of flying up to a height of 12,000 feet for 3 hours and taking off from a vehicle.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020120000587/Iran-Successfully-Tess-Anher-Sicide-Drne>

AEOI Spokesman: High Quality of Iran's Heavy Water Acknowledged by US

Fars News Agency, April 12, 2023

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi praised the high quality of the heavy water produced in his country, and further said that Washington was once seeking to buy heavy water from Tehran. Kamalvandi made the remarks while elaborating on AEOI's accomplishments in using the nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, including for the development of highly-needed medicines and in agricultural production processes. The official stated that the United States was once trying to buy heavy water from Iran because of the high quality of isotope which is a byproduct of the nuclear enrichment process.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020123000240/AEOI-Spkesman-High-Qaliy-f-Iran-s-Heavy-Waer-Acknowledged-by-US>

Iranian Army unveils jammer drone

Tehran Times, April 12, 2023

The Iranian Army on Tuesday unveiled its first locally-built jammer drone, called

Mahajer 6. It has been designed to disrupt communication between hostile unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and their controllers. Equipped with a high-tech system capable of transmitting interfering radio signals, it was inaugurated at a ceremony in presence of Army chief Abdolrahim Mousavi and a number of senior ground force commanders. The jammer drone is the Army's first UAV with the capability to operate and support electronic warfare and electronic offense against the enemy's communication networks, Press TV reported.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483597/Iranian-Army-unveils-jammer-drone>

Senior Commander: Iran Equips Helicopters with New Precision Missiles

Fars News Agency, April 12, 2023

Iranian Army Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari said that a homemade precision-guided missile has been handed over to the Airborne Division of the Iranian Army's Ground Force. The homegrown missile, dubbed "Shafagh", has a range of 20 kilometers, Brig. Gen. Heidari told reporters on Tuesday. "The Iranian helicopters are capable of filming, bombing and missile evasion," the top commander stated, adding that by installing night vision systems, they can carry out night combat operations in a remarkable way. Back in early July, Brig. Gen. Heidari said his forces have been supplied with different types of precision-striking and smart weapons to defend the country's peace and stability.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020123000124/Senir-Cmmander-Iran-Eips-Helicpers-wih-New-Precisin-Missiles>

Iran Successfully Tests New Top Attack Missile Capable of Overcoming Tanks' APS

Fars News Agency, April 15, 2023

The missile, dubbed Sadid-365, is a guided anti-armor missile with a range of 8 kilometers and is capable of demolishing various types of armored equipment.

The optically guided missile is highly accurate in hitting the target and can also pass through the barrier of the active defense systems of tanks and smash them thanks to the ability to attack from above. Head of the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC Ground Force General Ali Kouhestani said the missile has retractable wings and a fire-control system.

[https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020126000544/Iran-Scsessfily-Tess-New-Tp-Aack-Missile-Capable-f-Overcming-Tanks'](https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020126000544/Iran-Scsessfily-Tess-New-Tp-Aack-Missile-Capable-f-Overcming-Tanks)

Iraq

Defense Ministry announces the landing of the first military aircraft at Mosul Airport after the liberation operations

Iraqi News Agency, April 5, 2023

Ministry of Defense announced Wednesday the landing of the first military aircraft at Mosul International Airport after the liberation operations. A statement by the ministry, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "the first military aircraft, type (C130), landed on the ground of Mosul International Airport after the liberation operations." The statement added, "The military plane was carrying Defense Minister Thabet Muhammad al-

Abbasi, accompanied by Nineveh Governor Najm al-Jubouri, and a number of ministry leaders."

<https://ina.iq/eng/25822-defense-ministry-announces-the-landing-of-the-first-military-aircraft-at-mosul-airport-after-the-liberation-operations.html>

Iraq and Poland sign a work protocol to develop the capabilities of the Iraqi Border Guard forces

Iraqi News Agency, April 6, 2023

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Iraq and Poland signed a work protocol to develop the capabilities of the Iraqi Border Guard forces. The ministry's spokesman, Ahmed Al-Sahaf, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The head of the European Department at the ministry's center, Ambassador Haider Al-Athari, signed on behalf of the Iraqi side, while the Polish side was represented by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Border Guard, General Gregory Nemes, in the presence of the Charge d'Affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey." Iraq in the Republic of Poland, Miqdad Ayoub Al-Mandalawi, and representatives of the Iraqi and Polish sides.

Al-Sahhaf noted, "This agreement includes the exchange of experiences between the two sides and systematic training courses for Iraqi border guards in Poland that are adapted to the needs of the Iraqi border guard forces."

<https://ina.iq/eng/25846-iraq-and-poland-sign-a-work-protocol-to-develop-the-capabilities-of-the-iraqi-border-guard-forces.html>

A joint force launch a large-scale security operation in western Nineveh

Iraqi News Agency, April 7, 2023

A joint security force launched a large-scale security operation in western Nineveh Governorate. A statement of the Popular Mobilization Forces-PMF website, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "The forces of the 33rd Brigade at PMF, the 16th Division of the Iraqi Army, and the operations and intelligence departments of the Nineveh Operations Command, launched at dawn on Friday, a large-scale security operation to search the mountains of Adayah, the quarries of Ain Al-Jahsh, and the strategic road towards the west of Nineveh Governorate. The statement indicated that "the operation aims to impose security and stability in the west of the province, to pursue the terrorists and destroy their hideouts."

<https://ina.iq/eng/25852-a-joint-force-launch-a-large-scale-security-operation-in-western-nineveh.html>

JOC: 5 ISIS terrorists were killed in an air strikes in Diyala

Iraqi News Agency, April 7, 2023

The Joint Operations Command announced today, Friday, the killing of 5 members of the terrorist ISIS gangs, with two air strikes in the Diyala sector. The leadership said, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "5 ISIS members were killed in two Iraqi air strikes that targeted the caves of these gangs in the Narin sector in Diyala Governorate, destroying several guesthouses."

<https://ina.iq/eng/25857-joc-5-isis-terrorists-were-killed-but-an-air-strikes-in-diyala.html>

Joint operations: The international coalition does not have any air strikes against ISIS in Iraq

Iraqi News Agency, April 10, 2023

The Joint Operations Command confirmed today, Monday, that ISIS terrorist gangs are suffering from great pressure, and their material, administrative and combat capabilities have become weak, and while it announced the imminent entry of T50 aircraft into service in Iraq, it indicated that there are no air strikes by the international coalition against ISIS in the country at present. The spokesman for the command, Major General Tahsin Al-Khafaji, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the terrorist ISIS gangs are under great pressure from the security forces," noting that "the technical effort of the Military Intelligence Directorate, in cooperation with the targeting cell, stripped the gangs of their material capabilities, administrative or even combative."

<https://ina.iq/eng/25901-joint-operations-the-international-coalition-does-not-have-any-air-strikes-against-isis-in-iraq.html>

Al-Araji meets the deputy head of the Turkish intelligence service

Iraqi News Agency, April 10, 2023

The National Security Adviser, Qasim Al-Araji, discussed today, Monday, with the Deputy Head of the Turkish Intelligence Service, Mutlu Toga, a roadmap for resolving security problems between the two countries and border control. The media office of the National Security Adviser said, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The National Security Adviser, Qasim Al-Araji, received

in his office today, Monday, the deputy head of the Turkish Intelligence Service, Mutlu Toga, and the security delegation accompanying him.

<https://ina.iq/eng/25906-al-araji-meets-the-deputy-head-of-the-turkish-intelligence-service.html>

Israel

Saab to deliver anti-tank systems to NATO

Israel Defense, April 2, 2023

Swedish Saab announced that it has signed framework agreements with NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for the Carl-Gustaf M4 weapon system and the AT4 anti-armour weapon with a total value of approximately \$33.5 million. Last month, Saab announced it will sell weapon systems (multi-purpose shoulder launched weapons, short-range air defense systems and radars) to a western country, in a deal worth over \$761 million.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57759>

Israeli Navy features Sa'ar 6- class corvette in int'l "Noble Dina" exercise for first time

Israel Defense, April 3, 2023

The international naval exercise "Noble Dina 2023," lead by the Israeli Navy, wrapped up after two weeks on Thursday. The IDF communicated that this represents another step forward in strengthening international and regional cooperation in order to guarantee maritime freedom and defense. This is an annual exercise, which takes place in the Mediterranean and

includes both maritime and aerial drills. This year, it included forces from Israel, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, France and the US. Israeli forces included two Sa'ar 4.5- class missile boats, a Sa'ar 5- class corvette, and a Sa'ar 6- class corvette – which made its debut appearance at Noble Dina. Other Israeli forces included a Dolphin-class submarine and Israeli Air Force fighter jets and helicopters.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57767>

Elbit to supply precision munitions, defense electronics systems in \$280 deal

Israel Defense, April 4, 2023

Elbit Systems announced today that it was awarded a contract to supply, among others, precision munitions, radio and defense electronics systems as well as maintenance services to a European Country, with a cumulative value of approximately \$280 million. The contract will be performed over a period of three years. Bezhael (Butzi) Machlis, President and CEO of Elbit Systems: "These contract extensions demonstrate our customers' continued trust in our customized products and services, as well as the sustained demand for our market leading solutions from customers across Europe."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57789>

Israel to help Finland, NATO's newest member, with aerial defense

Israel Defense, April 9, 2023

The Ministry of Defense has authorised the Finnish Defense Forces to procure the David's Sling system as the next long-range

air defense system of Finland. Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems will deliver the system. The value of the procurement without value added tax is approximately 316 million euros. The David's Sling system is a long-range air defense system jointly developed by Israel and the United States. The sale of the system to Finland will require a sales release by the United States Government. The system will extend the operational range of Finland's ground-based air defense capabilities significantly. The minimum flight altitude requirement of the system was set at 15 000 meters in the request for quotation.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57815>

Greece signs \$400m contract with Israel for anti-tank missiles

The Jerusalem Post, April 10, 2023

Israel signed a NIS 1.44 billion (\$400 million) deal to sell Spike anti-tank missiles to Greece, Israel's Defense Ministry said on Monday, just days after reaching a similar-sized deal to provide air defenses to newly-inducted NATO member Finland. The Spike is a guided anti-tank missile used by many EU and NATO countries produced by Israeli state-owned defense contractor Rafael. "The Spike missiles will strengthen the Greek army's portfolio of operational tools and we expect further expansion through strategic collaborations in the near future," said Rafael CEO Yoav Har-Even. Israel's defense minister said the agreement reinforces ties between the countries.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-738853>

Switzerland goes for Rafael's SPIKE anti-tank missiles

Israel Defense, April 10, 2023

Armasuisse, Switzerland's Federal Office for Defense Procurement, has selected the model for a new anti-tank missile system with SPIKE LR2 from Eurospike. It is planned to propose procurement of the weapons systems to Parliament in the 2024 Armed Forces Dispatch. The official press release of the Federal Council said that Armsuisse carried out a market analysis and subsequently requested information on anti-tank guided missiles from various European and American manufacturers. The information on which these requests focused included, for example, the function, the effect, technical data on the operations system, the potential integration in the existing infrastructure, and the commercial framework conditions.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57831>

Israeli Light weapons in Cypriot Special forces

Israel Defense, April 13, 2023

A tweet on Twitter reveals the inventory of the personal light weapons in a Cypriot Special forces squad and it is all Israeli.

According to the photo in the tweet - which deals with the visit of the President of Cyprus to the unit - in the 8-soldier squad of the Raider Command unit, there are 2 "Negev" NG5SF light machine guns, one Micro Tavor X95FT Assault rifle with a barrel length of 419 mm that is used as a light Designated Marksman Rifle (DMR), three Micro Tavor X95FT Assault rifle with a barrel length of 330 mm as well as two 40

mm GL40 grenade launchers installed on Micro Tavor Assault rifles. All weapons are manufactured by the Israeli company IWI. The Raider unit is the Special Forces unit of the Cypriot National Guard and is stationed in Larnaca. The unit's missions today are mountain/ border patrols, combat search and rescue, paratrooping operations, hostage rescue and Close-quarters combat.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/57863>

Lebanon

France informs Hezbollah that the Franjeh / Salam barter deal is dead

Ya Libnan, April 4, 2023

Hezbollah was informed that the proposed barter deal which calls for Marada Movement chief Suleiman Franjeh as President of the Republic and ambassador Nawaf Salam as Prime Minister is dead, according to a report by Lebanon Debate web site. Salam is a Lebanese diplomat, jurist, and academic. He was elected on 9 November 2017 as judge on the International Court of Justice for the 2018–2027 term .He served as Lebanon's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2007 to 2017, during which period he held the positions of President of the Security Council and Vice President of the General Assembly. This development comes after France decided to invite more presidential candidates. The list of candidates that will be receiving the invitation to come to Paris has not been made public. France reportedly is coordinating this issue with its partners.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/04/04/france-informs-hezbollah-that-the-franjeh-salam-barter-deal-is-dead/>

Israel says Hamas behind rocket barrage from Lebanon; IDF expected to retaliate

Ya Libnan, April 6, 2023

Several mortars impacted near the northern Israeli town of Metula, the Israeli military confirmed, according Israeli media reports

Local security officials instructed residents of the town near the border with Lebanon to remain in shelters amid sounds of explosions. The Israel Defense Forces says several mortars were found following scans of the area. The attack did not cause any injuries or damage. Opposition leader Yair Lapid responds to the escalation in violence and blasted the Israeli government. "The extreme and irresponsible behavior of the current government led to a serious damage to deterrence," the Yesh Atid leader says. Despite his criticism of the government he said" the opposition will give the government full backing for a harsh response by the IDF and the security forces."

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/04/06/israel-says-hamas-behind-rocket-barrage-from-lebanon-idf-expected-to-retaliate/>

Dozens of rockets fired from Lebanon into Israel

Ya Libnan, April 6, 2023

Dozens of rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel on Thursday, the Israeli military said, in a major escalation that comes amid tensions over Israeli police raids at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. It was the largest such attack since a 2006 war between the two countries left around 1,200 Lebanese people and 165 Israelis dead in an exchange of fire that involved a nationwide Israeli aerial assault, and a naval and aerial blockade, after Hezbollah militants crossed

from Lebanon into Israel and ambushed two Israeli Army vehicles, killing three soldiers and capturing two other soldiers. Israel closed its northern airspace in the wake of the barrage. No deaths were reported as of Thursday afternoon, and it is not yet known which group in Lebanon launched the rockets. Videos posted on social media showed rockets streaking through the skies over northern Israel, and the sounds of explosions in the distance.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/04/06/154454/>

Hezbollah flag sparks Lebanon-Israel border tensions

Alarabiya, April 14, 2023

UN peacekeepers in Lebanon appealed for calm late Friday after supporters of the Hezbollah movement clashed with Israeli border guards as Iran and Arab countries marked Jerusalem Day. The annual commemoration is staged in support of the Palestinian cause, and earlier in the day Palestinian factions paraded in the Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp in Lebanon, a Hezbollah stronghold. Later, Hezbollah supporters approached the border fence with Israel in south Lebanon and placed one of the group's flags there.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/04/14/Hezbollah-flag-sparks-Lebanon-Israel-border-tensions->

Business as usual for Hezbollah, despite Iran -Saudi peace deal

Ya Libnan, April 15, 2023

UN peacekeepers in Lebanon appealed for calm late Friday after supporters of the Iran backed Hezbollah militant group clashed with Israeli border guards as Iran and Arab

countries marked Jerusalem Day. The annual commemoration is staged in support of the Palestinian cause, and earlier in the day Palestinian factions paraded in the Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp in Lebanon, a Hezbollah stronghold. Later, Hezbollah supporters approached the border fence with Israel in south Lebanon and placed one of the Shiite group's flags there. "UNIFIL peacekeepers observed a crowd of 50 or 60 individuals throwing stones and placing a Hezbollah flag in the technical fence," deputy UN Interim Force in Lebanon spokesperson Kandice Ardiel said.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/04/15/business-as-usual-for-hezbollah-despite-iran-saudi-peace-deal/>

Qatar

Qatar Emiri Air Force and AFCENT host Air and Air Defense Intelligence Symposium

U.S. Air Forces Central, April 11, 2023

Qatar Emiri Air Force and Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central) hosted the inaugural Air and Air Defense Intelligence Symposium (AADIS) in Doha, Qatar, Feb. 19-22, 2023. The symposium provided an opportunity for intelligence professionals from 11 countries and institutions of academia to discuss their perspective on emerging threats facing the region. The 3-day event covered a wide range of topics related to air and air defense intelligence, cyber threats, and opportunities for intelligence training. One of the most significant topics discussed was an emerging threat shared by all attendees--the unmanned aerial system (UAS). As these devices become increasingly abundant and affordable, they pose a significant threat to

civil aviation, critical infrastructure, military operations and installations worldwide.

<https://www.afcent.af.mil/News/Article/3358021/qatar-emiri-air-force-and-afcent-host-air-and-air-defense-intelligence-symposium/>

Saudi Arabia

Russia Navy frigate Admiral Gorshkov visits Saudi Arabia for first time ever

Navy Recognition, April 6, 2023

Admiral Gorshkov left Murmansk, Russia, on January 4 and traveled to South Africa, where it conducted naval exercises before heading to Chabahar, Iran, for further military exercises. Last month, Russia announced naval exercises with China and Iran in the Arabian Sea, aiming to strengthen ties with both countries. The ship also held a training drill in the Indian Ocean, focusing on seeking and destroying submarines using its Ka-27 series helicopter. After completing its mission in the Indian Ocean, the ship sailed to Djibouti and then to Jeddah, marking its historic first visit to Saudi Arabia. The frigate has a displacement of 4,550 tons (standard) to 5,400 tons (full), with a length of 135 meters and a beam of 16 meters. She is powered by a CODAG propulsion system with 2 10D49 cruise diesel engines and 2 M90FR boost gas turbines, producing a total of 65,400 shp (48,800 kW) and allowing her to reach a speed of 29.5 knots (54.6 km/h; 33.9 mph).

<https://navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-news-archive/2023/april/13026-russia-navy-frigate-admiral-gorshkov-visits-saudi-arabia-for-first-time-ever.html>

Ties between US, Saudi Arabia improving despite recent China-backed deal with Iran

Alarabiya, April 7, 2023

The relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia has undoubtedly gone through one of its roughest phases since the two established formal ties more than 70 years ago. But despite the recent China-backed deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran to restore ties, officials and recent statements from the Biden administration signal that the tide may be slowly turning in favor of a more stable environment between Washington and Riyadh. “Looking ahead, we are focused on ensuring that our engagement with Saudi Arabia continues to serve the interests of the American people, and we have seen and continue to see great strategic value in this relationship,” a State Department spokesperson told Al Arabiya English.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/04/07/Ties-between-US-Saudi-Arabia-improving-despite-recent-China-backed-deal-with-Iran>

Saudi officials visit Yemen’s capital for talks with rebels

ABC News, April 9, 2023

Saudi officials were in Yemen's capital Sunday for talks with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, as part of international efforts to find a settlement to Yemen’s nine-year conflict, officials said. Saudi Arabia’s delegation, chaired by the kingdom’s ambassador to Yemen, Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Jaber, met with Mahdi al-Mashat, head of the Houthi’s supreme political council, which runs rebel-held areas in Yemen, according to the Houthi-run SABA news agency. An Omani delegation, which

arrived in Sanaa on Saturday, joined the talks, the agency reported. It said al-Mashat hailed Oman's efforts to bridge the gap between different sides in the war to achieve peace in Yemen. SABA did not give further details.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/saudi-officials-visit-yemens-capital-talks-rebels-98458186>

White House hails Yemen steps after meeting with Saudi crown prince

Jerusalem Post, April 15, 2023

Senior aides to US President Joe Biden on Friday hailed progress toward resolving conflict in Yemen after "constructive" talks in Saudi Arabia with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. The meetings included Biden's top Middle East adviser, Brett McGurk, and his Yemen envoy, Tim Lenderking, and took place on Thursday and Friday, said Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council. "Their discussions focused on the critical progress being made toward a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Yemen, which President Biden has long prioritized," Watson said in a statement. "The US side confirmed its support for the defense of Saudi Arabia against threats from Yemen and elsewhere."

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-739264>

Syria

Syria Says Israel Hits Homs Outposts, Sources Say Air Bases Bombed

VOA News, April 1, 2023

Israeli forces carried out air strikes on outposts in Syria's Homs province in a raid

early on Sunday, Syria's defence ministry said, while Western intelligence sources said a series of air bases in central Syria where Iranian personnel are based were hit in the bombings. The Israeli military declined to comment on the reported strikes in Syria, the third since Thursday. An Israeli attack near Damascus on Friday killed two members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Iranian state media reported on Sunday. Without referring to any specific places or strikes, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel is "exacting a heavy price from terrorist-supporting regimes" outside of its borders. He was speaking to his cabinet in televised remarks.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/israeli-airstrikes-wound-5-soldiers-in-homs-province-syria-says-/7032531.html#:~:text=Israeli%20forces%20carried%20out%20air,were%20hit%20in%20the%20bombings.>

Israel shoots down unmanned aircraft from Syria

Siasat Daily, April 3, 2023

Israeli military intercepted an unmanned aircraft that entered Israeli airspace from Syria, according to a statement by the military. The Israeli Air Force sent helicopters and fighter jets to track the unidentified aircraft, which was crossing into Israeli territory from the direction of Syria, it added on Sunday. The aircraft was monitored and shot down in an open area, it noted, adding that it did not pose a threat, Xinhua news agency reported. Israeli soldiers were sent to collect the debris from the aircraft, the statement said, adding the incident is under review. The incident came

hours after Israeli airstrikes hit several sites in the Homs province of Syria, wounding five soldiers, according to a report by Syria's state-owned SANA news agency.

<https://www.siasat.com/israel-shoots-down-unmanned-aircraft-from-syria-2560117/>

Iran Commits to Supporting Syria's Defense Against Israeli Air Strikes

Caspian News, April 7, 2023

Iranian Deputy Defense Minister for International Affairs Hamzeh Qalandari said his country is committed to helping Syria to bolster its air defense capability. "Syria was practically defenceless in the face of the Zionist regime airstrikes in the past. However, Syria is currently able to repel a large number of air strikes, and we are committed to helping friendly countries," Brigadier-General Qalandari said on April 4, according to Fars News Agency. "As in Syria, let us help in the field of empowering air defense and countering air targets," he added. He noted that there is a high demand for Iran-made arms since the end of the international sanctions, which banned Iran from engaging in the global arms trade.

<https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/iran-commits-to-supporting-syrias-defense-against-israeli-air-strikes-2023-4-6-6/>

Iran transferred weapons into Syria under cover of earthquake aid flights – report

Times of Israel, April 12, 2023

Iran has transported weapons and military equipment into Syria on flights bringing in humanitarian aid after February's

devastating earthquake, it was reported Wednesday. Nine Syrian, Iranian, Israeli and Western sources told the Reuters news agency that the weaponry was to "buttress Iran's defenses against Israel in Syria," as well as to bolster Syrian President Bashar Assad, a key ally of Tehran. The report said the equipment included advanced communications equipment and radar batteries, as well as spare parts required for an upgrade of Syria's air defense system that was provided by Tehran. Reuters said that its sources for the report included Western intelligence officials, sources close to the Iranian and Israeli leadership, a Syrian military defector and a serving Syrian officer.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-transferred-weapons-into-syria-under-cover-of-earthquake-aid-flights-report/>

Turkiye

Flagship-to-be Anadolu LHD enters Turkish Navy's inventory next week

Daily Sabah, April 6, 2023

Türkiye's largest warship, the multipurpose amphibious assault ship Anadolu, is set to be delivered to the Naval Forces Command on Monday, marking a significant milestone for the country's defense industry, the head of the top defense body said Thursday. Ismail Demir, head of the Defense Industries Presidency (SSB), spoke during a signing ceremony to construct three new frigates under the MILGEM (National Ship) project. The MILGEM project was initiated in 2000 to locally design and build a new line of multi-purpose frigates and corvettes to replace the older ones. So far, the commissioning of four corvettes and one frigate, the Istanbul

frigate, has been carried out. Demir previously said that Türkiye was planning to simultaneously build the three new I-class frigates designed by Turkish engineers.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/flagship-to-be-anadolu-lhd-enters-turkish-navys-inventory-next-week>

Türkiye, Serbia developing early anti-nuke strike warning system

Daily Sabah, April 9, 2023

Professors from universities in Türkiye and Serbia are working on an early warning system to safeguard the border areas of NATO countries against nuclear attacks. Prepared by Türkiye's Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University and Serbia's University of Nis to develop an early warning system for the protection of NATO countries, the project was accepted by the military alliance. The project began around three months ago, according to Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University. Ercan Yılmaz, a physics professor at the university, is leading the production of sensors. Meanwhile, the Serbian team will develop reader circuits and software compatible with these devices.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-serbia-developing-early-anti-nuke-strike-warning-system>

Israel signs \$400M deal to sell anti-tank missiles to Greece

Daily Sabah, April 10, 2023

Israel signed a 1.44 billion shekel (\$400 million) deal to sell Spike anti-tank missiles to Greece, Israel's Defense Ministry said Monday, just days after reaching a similarly

sized deal to provide air defenses to newly inducted NATO member Finland. The Spike is a guided anti-tank missile used by many EU and NATO countries produced by Israeli state-owned defense contractor Rafael. "The Spike missiles will strengthen the Greek army's portfolio of operational tools and we expect further expansion through strategic collaborations in the near future," said Rafael CEO Yoav Har-Even. Israel's defense minister said the agreement reinforces ties between the countries. Last week Israel and Rafael said they would provide the advanced air-defense system David's Sling to Finland, after it officially joined NATO on April 4.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/israel-signs-400m-deal-to-sell-anti-tank-missiles-to-greece>

Türkiye commissions its largest warship, world's 1st drone carrier

Daily Sabah, April 10, 2023

In a historic milestone, Türkiye on Monday commissioned its long-anticipated largest warship, bolstering its naval capabilities and making the country one of the few nations in the world with a domestically built aircraft carrier. Set to be Türkiye's flagship, the multipurpose amphibious assault ship TCG Anadolu represents a symbol in the "Century of Türkiye," President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said, addressing the delivery ceremony in Istanbul. More than Türkiye's first aircraft carrier, the ship will also be the world's first vessel with an air wing mainly consisting of unmanned aircraft. "The TCG Anadolu ... is the world's first warship in its field where UAVs can land and take off," Erdoğan said, stressing that the vessel would host many of

Türkiye's manned and unmanned aerial vehicles.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-commissions-its-largest-warship-worlds-1st-drone-carrier>

Israel, Greece ink long-stalled deal for Spike missiles

Daily Sabah, April 10, 2023

Israel Monday announced a nearly \$400 million agreement to supply Greece with guided anti-tank missiles.

In a statement, the Israeli Defense Ministry said it would provide Greece Spike missiles manufactured by the state-run Rafael Advanced Defense Systems company. It added that the agreement was signed between Israeli Defense Ministry Director-General Maj. Gen. Eyal Zamir and Greece's director of defense investments and armaments, Vice Adm. Aristeidis Alexopoulos. In a separate statement, Greek Defense Ministry detailed the missiles would come in three different configurations.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/israel-greece-ink-long-stalled-deal-for-spike-missiles>

Yemen

Houthis agree to restore UN-brokered truce, negotiate with opponents

Arab News, April 6, 2023

The Houthis have agreed to restore a lapsed, UN-brokered ceasefire in Yemen for six months, discuss the exchange of all the prisoners they hold, and engage in direct negotiations with the Yemeni government, Yemeni government officials and local

media said on Thursday. In return, the Houthis will get salary payments for civil servants in areas they control and an easing of restrictions on Sanaa airport and Hodeidah port. Saudi officials informed Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council in Riyadh that in addition to the truce and prisoner swap, the Houthis had agreed during direct talks to negotiate with the Yemeni government for six months, under the auspices of the UN, and discuss a two-year transitional period, two Yemeni government officials told Arab News.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2282596/middle-east>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Kushal Agrawal
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