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AZERBAIJAN

Turkish, Azerbaijani defense ministers discuss tension at Armenia border

Anadolu Agency, November 16, 2021

Turkish National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar held a telephone conversation Tuesday with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Zakir Hasanov, to discuss Azerbaijan-Armenia tension. Hasanov informed Akar about recent tension at the Armenian border, stressing that Armenia's "provocation was prevented," according to a statement by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry. Akar stressed that Turkey, as always, stands by Azerbaijan, the statement added. Armenian armed forces once again opened fire on Azerbaijani army positions on the border Tuesday, according to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry. Two Azerbaijani soldiers were injured in the attack, it noted.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/turkish-azerbaijani-defense-ministers-discuss-tension-at-armenia-border/2422692>

Azerbaijan, Armenia agree to meet for talks in Brussels

Anadolu Agency, November 19, 2021

The presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia will meet in Brussels in mid-December for talks to defuse escalating tensions amid recurring border clashes, the European Union said on Friday. Ilham Aliyev and Nikol Pashinyan "agreed to meet in Brussels to discuss the regional situation and ways of overcoming tensions for a prosperous and stable South Caucasus, which the EU supports," read a statement.

The breakthrough came after Charles Michel, president of the European Council, spoke to the duo over the phone on Friday "in follow up to discussions earlier this week on the situation in the region and in

the context of preparations of the Eastern Partnership Summit (EaP)."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/azerbaijan-armenia-agree-to-meet-for-talks-in-brussels/2425774>

IRAN

President Raisi: Iran is serious in nuclear talks

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 16, 2021

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday that Iran is serious about the upcoming nuclear talks in Vienna and is serious as well to secure the rights of its citizens by ensuring the removal of the sanctions on the country. The president made the remarks in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Stressing Iran's resolve to expand trade and economic relations with Russia, Raisi said that Tehran is ready to finalize a comprehensive cooperation deal between the two countries. He said that Tehran and Moscow have many common grounds in the international arena, including the fight against unilateralism and strengthening multilateralism. The Iranian president appreciated Russia's support for Iran's nuclear rights and the need for removal of all the sanction on Tehran.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84543351/President-Raisi-Iran-is-serious-in-nuclear-talks>

Iran Stresses Continued Interactions with IAEA, Urges Member States to Avoid Political Comments

Fars News Agency, November 17, 2021

Caretaker of Iran's mission at the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohammad Reza Qa'ebi said that Tehran and the IAEA continue interactions despite some differences on technical issues, and urged members of the UN nuclear watchdog to avoid hasty or politically-

tainted remarks. "The Agency's new quarterly report on the implementation of the nuclear deal states that the Agency has continued its verification and monitoring activities regarding Iran's undertakings," Qa'ebi said on Wednesday. "According to the IAEA report, enrichment activities in Natanz and Fordow, including the installation of cascades and new centrifuge machines and enrichment up to 60% and beyond 3.67% set by the nuclear deal, continue while the Agency is informed," Qa'ebi said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000826000796/Iran-Sresses-Cnined-Ineracins-wih-IAEA-Urges-Member-Saes-Avid>

Iran increases enriched uranium, prevents inspector access, says IAEA

Al-Monitor, November 17, 2021

Iran has increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium and is refusing to grant inspectors access to a nuclear site where it has reportedly resumed production of advanced centrifuges, according to United Nations nuclear watchdog reports issued ahead of renewed nuclear talks between Tehran and world powers. In two International Atomic Energy Agency reports to member states seen by Reuters, the IAEA said Iran prevented inspectors from reinstalling cameras at the Karaj nuclear facility, which was the site of a sabotage attack Tehran blamed on Israel earlier this year. Under an agreement reached with the IAEA in September, Iran agreed to allow inspectors to service surveillance equipment at the key manufacturing site. According to the confidential IAEA reports, Iran hasn't granted inspectors access as promised.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/iran-increases-enriched-uranium-prevents-inspector-access-says-iaea#ixzz7DsxpPT1k>

Iran Warns of Lack of Int'l Supervision over Israel's Atomic Program

Fars News Agency, November 18, 2021

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi warned that Israel is advancing its nuke program without any supervision by the relevant world bodies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Takht Ravanchi enumerated a long list of the Israeli regime's violations of international nuclear regulations and its terrorist activities targeting the Islamic Republic's nuclear work and professionals, and criticized the world body for refusal to deal with the Israeli regime in a "professional and unbiased" manner. "The Israeli regime continues to be a non-signatory to the NPT (nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty)," he told a UN General Assembly meeting on Wednesday. The Israeli regime has, thanks to steadfast support on the part of its biggest ally the United States, consistently avoided all sorts of accountability to the world body. This comes despite the regime's being the Middle East's sole possessor of nuclear weapons, including hundreds of atomic warheads.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000827000262/Iran-Warns-f-Lack-f-In'l-Spervisin-ver-Israel's-Amic-Prgram>

Iran's Nuclear Chief: AEOI's Main Priority Development of Accelerators

Fars News Agency, November 19, 2021

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami underlined that the expansion of accelerators is among AEOI's main priorities. "The deficiencies must be identified and the AEOI will support the projects wherever it is needed. The projects need time schedule so that the affiliated companies and those whose work is related to this project will offer the technical support, parts manufacturing, executive

affairs, and the required commercial and financial activities,” Eslami said. He said if the AEOI will expand its radiation centers it will be a great contribution to Iran’s exports. In a relevant development earlier in November, AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi announced that Iran’s 20-percent enriched uranium stockpile has exceeded 210 kilograms, while its 60-percent enriched uranium stands at 25kg.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000826000874/Iran's-Nuclear-Chief-AEOI's-Main-Priority-Development-of-Accelerators>

Water protests spread in Iran

Al-Monitor, November 22, 2021

Just days after thousands of Iranians took to the streets in Isfahan to protest water policies and the government’s inability to address the water shortages, Iranians in an adjacent province took the streets over the same cause. For back-to-back days, hundreds of residents of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province gathered in the provincial capital Khahrekord to protest water scarcity. According to hard-line Tasnim News Agency, nearly half of the million residents of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province struggle to obtain consistent potable water. According to provincial officials, nearly 200 villages in the province receive their potable water through tankers that are delivered to their areas. The region also struggles to supply water for agriculture, which employs most residents of the province.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/water-protests-spread-iran#ixzz7DsznsmBA>

AEOI Head: Iran Determined to Develop N. Program

Fars News Agency, November 23, 2021

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that

his country is determined to use peaceful nuclear program to improve the Iranian people’s lives, adding that the UN nuclear watchdog is due to help Tehran to this end. “The important point between us and the Agency is that issues between the two sides are technical and (the assurance) that the Agency does not pay attention to the political issues and the enemies’ plots to influence the path of progress of Iran’s nuclear program and is not influenced by them,” Eslami told reporters in a joint press conference with Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi in Tehran on Tuesday. “Mr. Grossi said several times today that they have witnessed no deviation in Iran’s nuclear programs and Iran continues its nuclear activities based on treaties and regulations,” he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000902000543/AEOI-Head-Iran-Determined-Develop-N-Program>

IAEA Chief Calls for Supervision over Israel’s Atomic Program

Fars News Agency, November 24, 2021

Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi underlined the need for Israel to join the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to provide the UN nuclear watchdog’s access to its clandestine nuclear program. “What I can say is that we believe that every country should subscribe to the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. This is something which is very important. The General Conference of the IAEA has approved several resolutions insisting that every state in the world adheres to this treaty, which we believe is very important,” Grossi told presstv on Tuesday. He said the IAEA General Conference had “repeatedly approved resolutions exhorting” Israel, among others, to be part of the NPT.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000903000554/IAEA-Chief-Calls-fr-Spervisin-ver-Israel's-Amic-Pgram>

US General Acknowledges Iran's Ballistic Missiles Precision

Fars News Agency, November 25, 2021

The head of US Central Command has been surprised by improvements in Iranian ballistic prowess, admitting the significant progress Tehran has made in its ballistic missile capabilities in recent years. Iran has shown its missiles have a proven ability to strike targets with precision, Commander of US Central Command General Kenneth McKenzie told Time. In January 2020, just days after assassination of Tehran's legendary anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani at the direct order of then-President Donald Trump, Ein Al-Assad, which houses US troops in Iraq's Al-Anbar province, found itself under fire from volleys of ballistic missiles launched from Iran, which is considered as the largest ballistic missile attack against Americans in history. "Those missiles hit within tens of meters of their targets," McKenzie said, adding, "The one thing the Iranians have done over the last three-to-five years is they built a very capable ballistic missile platform."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000904000187/US-General-Acknowledges-Iran's-Ballistic-Missiles-Precisin>

Iran, Iraq Investigating US Assassination of General Soleimani

Fars News Agency, November 25, 2021

An Iranian delegation has traveled to Iraq for joint cooperation to investigate the assassination of Iran's anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani by the US. Upon arrival in the Iraqi capital, the delegation held meeting and talks with Chairman of Iraqi Supreme

Judicial Council Faiq Zidan. The Iranian delegation's visit to Baghdad came as Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian had previously emphasized on holding a meeting of Special Committee for legal and international prosecution of assassins of General Soleimani and his companion to pursue the case and bring them to justice.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000904000354/Iran-Ira-Invesigaing-US-Assassinain-f-General-Sleimani>

Members of new Iranian team in nuclear negotiations + resume

Islamic Republic news Agency, November 28, 2021

A new Iranian negotiating team has been dispatched to Vienna for a fresh round of nuclear negotiations. The Iranian team is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani. Apart from Bagheri Kani, a number of top experts in different legal, banking, and energy sectors are also included in the Iranian negotiating team.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84558426/Members-of-new-Iranian-team-in-nuclear-negotiations-resume>

Bagheri terms Vienna talks as constructive

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 29, 2021

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani described the first day of his talks on lifting the sanctions as constructive. According to an IRNA correspondent, Bagheri told reporters on Monday evening after the end of the first day of the Vienna talks that all the issues of the previous six rounds of talks could be negotiated. He added that some members, including Russia and China, supported Iran's views expressed during the meeting. The senior

negotiator of Iran further said that regarding the future perspective of the negotiations, the point we emphasized was that the indicators, criteria and criteria that the Islamic Republic of Iran should consider in order to reach a fruitful, fruitful and lasting agreement should be considered. Many of the criteria and indicators that Iran briefly outlined at this meeting were welcomed by other parties, including the fact that the United States must ensure that new sanctions and sanctions that have already been imposed are lifted and not re-imposed, Bagheri underlined.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84560072/Bagheri-terms-Vienna-talks-as-constructive>

First round of Vienna talks and facts on previous rounds

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 30, 2021

Representatives of Iran and the P4+1 group - Britain, France, Russia, China plus Germany - held the first round of talks in Vienna, Austria, on Monday, to resume negotiations on lifting the illegal sanctions on Iran. Most representatives illustrated a positive start for the talks on revival of the nuclear deal and lifting of anti-Iran sanctions, while the parties are well aware that the last copy of previous six rounds is just an open draft and not a finalized text. The Islamic Republic has shown seriousness to take part in the new round of Vienna talks in order to pave the ground for removal of sanctions and urge other parties to respect Iranians' rights for peaceful nuclear program.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84560792/First-round-of-Vienna-talks-and-facts-on-previous-rounds>

IRAQ

International Coalition: Our role in Iraq will not change

Iraqi News Agency, November 17, 2021

International Coalition confirmed on Wednesday, that the coalition's role in Iraq will not change along with the approaching withdrawal of combat forces at the end of December, this year. "The role of the international coalition in Iraq will not change, and it will move from combat operations to the role of advisory, empowerment and assistance," said the spokesman for the Joint Task Force and Director of Public Affairs in the International Coalition, Joel Harper, to the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "We're already pretty much playing that role now, so there won't be a dynamic change in the numbers or the mission that we have here now," he added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/15545-international-coalition-our-role-in-iraq-will-not-change.html>

Launching a large-scale security operation in Hawi al-Azeem, SMC reports

Iraqi News Agency, November 17, 2021

The Security Media Cell announced, today, Wednesday, the launch of a security operation to search Hawi Al-Azeem, with the air support of the army's aviation, to eliminate the remnants of ISIS terrorist gangs. "A wide security operation was carried out ,within the Diyala Ops sector, in coordination with the leaderships of Samarra and Salah al-Din, to search Hawi al-Azeem ,by the first division units , the special forces, and units of the Ninth Division and the formations of PMF In Diyala axis, with the support of the Air Force and the Army's aviation ," noting that "the security operation was preceded by implementing a number of effective air

strikes,” SMC said in a statement , received by The Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/15540-launching-a-large-scale-security-operation-in-hawi-al-azeem-smc-reports.html>

JOC denies extending the date of US forces withdrawal from Iraq

Iraqi News Agency, November 19, 2021

The Joint Operations Command-JOC-denied on Friday, extending the date for the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq, elaborating the nature of the relationship between Baghdad and Washington after the withdrawal of the combat forces. The spokesman for JOC, Major General Tahsin Al-Khafaji, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "The talk about extending the date for the withdrawal of US forces is inaccurate and incorrect," emphasizing that "the date for the departure of combat forces on the 31st of next December is unchanged." Major General Al-Khafaji added, "The relationship between the two parties after the departure of the combat forces will be an advisory relationship in the fields of training, armament, intelligence and security information against the terrorist groups ISIS."

<https://ina.iq/eng/15604-joc-denies-extending-the-date-of-us-forces-withdrawal-from-iraq.html>

US defense secretary reaffirms commitment to withdraw US combat troops from Iraq

Alarabiya, November 21, 2021

The US will uphold its commitments to withdraw all troops with a combat role from Iraq by the end of the year, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on Saturday. In a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Defense Jumah al-Jaburi on the sidelines of the annual Manama Dialogue summit in Bahrain, Austin reiterated the US' support

in the fight against ISIS. US involvement in Iraq will consist of sharing intelligence, advice, and assistance with the Iraqi security forces, he said.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/11/21/US-defense-secretary-reaffirms-commitment-to-withdraw-US-combat-troops-from-Iraq>

Iran-linked militia calls up thousands of volunteers to fight US forces

Al-Monitor, November 24, 2021

An IRGC-linked armed faction in Iraq has urged men across the country to take up arms against any US forces remaining after Dec. 31, claiming to have received tens of thousands of "calls" from citizens willing to help. Little more than a month prior to the official end to the US "combat mission" in Iraq, an Iran-linked armed group has called for "volunteers" to fight any forces remaining post-midnight Dec. 31. A man known as Abu Ala al-Walai, commander of Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS), on Nov. 19 announced a call for volunteers to fight the "US occupation" should troops fail to leave. US President Joe Biden had in July announced after meetings with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi that US forces in Iraq would "continue to train, to assist, to help and to deal with" the Islamic State (IS), but that they would no longer be "by the end of the year in a combat mission."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/iran-linked-militia-calls-thousands-volunteers-fight-us-forces#ixzz7DyfEdwDN>

Karbala Operations denies drone crash in province

Iraqi News Agency, November 25, 2021

The Karbala Operations Command denied on Thursday social media reports that a drone crashed in the province. "What was

posted on social media about the downing of a drone in the holy city of Karbala is untrue," director of the command's media office Fahem al-Kreiti told the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "There are no drones over Karbala," he said, adding that Karbala will remain safe."

<https://ina.iq/eng/15724-karbala-operations-denies-drone-crash-in-province.html>

Islamic State down but not out in Syria and Iraq: Pentagon report

Al-Monitor, November 26, 2021

The most recent report from the Pentagon's Inspector General on Operation Inherent Resolve, the US-led diplomatic and military operation against the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria, indicates that IS has weakened but remains a priority for US national security interests in the region. The US mission in Iraq will transition to "training, advising and intelligence gathering" on Dec. 31. There are no expected changes in the numbers of US troops in Iraq, currently at approximately 2,500. While IS has carried out a decreasing number of attacks, in some cases it has shown unusual complexity and a "higher level of operational maturity."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/islamic-state-down-not-out-syria-and-iraq-pentagon-report#ixzz7DyiIOLOn>

Army aviation destroys a vehicle of ISIS gangs in the Hamrin Mountains

Iraqi News Agency, November 27, 2021

The Security Media Cell confirmed, today, Saturday, that army aircraft destroyed a vehicle belonging to ISIS terrorist gangs in the Hamrin Mountains within the Kirkuk Operations Command. A statement by the cell, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "the heroes of the army

aviation managed to destroy the pickup wheel of the terrorist gangs of ISIS, while carrying out the duty of armed reconnaissance, search in the Hamrin mountain range within the operations command of the advanced headquarters in Kirkuk."

<https://ina.iq/eng/15769-army-aviation-destroys-a-vehicle-of-isis-gangs-in-the-hamrin-mountains.html>

ISRAEL

Ahead of Vienna meeting, Israel's Lapid multiplies efforts against Iran

Al-Monitor, November 16, 2021

Alon Ushpiz, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, visited Brussels Nov. 10, meeting with European Commission leaders, representatives of the 27 member states and high officials in NATO, including Secretary-General of the European Union External Action Service Stefano Sannino and Secretary-General of the European Parliament Klaus Welle. Ushpiz was following up on the July 12 visit there by Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who participated as guest at the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union. Both visits were designed to relaunch and reshape relations between Israel and the European Union in general, but also to advocate in particular for the Israeli position on talks with Iran. This was true especially for the meetings of Ushpiz in Brussels, in view of the upcoming Nov. 29 convening of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors and resumption of negotiations with Iran for a possible new nuclear deal. A statement by the Foreign Ministry said Ushpiz had told his interlocutors in Brussels that Iran is advancing toward nuclear weapon capabilities every day, and warned that now is the time to stop Iran's nuclear program.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/ahead->

[vienna-meeting-israels-lapid-multiplies-efforts-against-iran#ixzz7DypYMWtk](#)

Iran drone attacks from Hormuz islands, smuggling weapons to Venezuela - Gantz

The Jerusalem Post, November 23, 2021

Iran has launched maritime attacks with unmanned aerial vehicles from bases in Chabahar and Qeshm Island in the country's south, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Tuesday. Gantz said that the threat posed by the Islamic Republic is not only facing Israel but the entire world. "One of the key tools is UAVs and precision weapons, which can reach strategic targets within thousands of kilometers, and thus this capability is already endangering Sunni countries, international troops in the Middle East, and also countries in Europe and Africa," the defense minister said at the Institute for Policy and Strategy Herzliya Conference. Iranian drones can reach a range of 1,700 kilometers, and their attacks have targeted assets belonging to the United States, Saudi Arabia, Israel as well as Sunni organizations in Syria and Iraq.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-drone-attacks-from-hormuz-islands-smuggling-weapons-to-venezuela-gantz-685759>

After Jerusalem killing and 50 terror arrests, Lapid urges Turkey to shut down Hamas

Times of Israel, November 23, 2021

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on Monday demanded Turkey shut down the offices of the Hamas terror group operating in the country after Israel announced the arrests of a sophisticated 50-member West Bank Hamas cell being directed from Istanbul. "Hamas' offices in Istanbul will be shut down. We must prevent these heinous acts of terrorism against Israeli citizens everywhere and under any conditions,"

Lapid said, a day after another Hamas terrorist carried out a deadly terror shooting in Jerusalem. Lapid urged other nations to follow the example of the United Kingdom, which announced last week that it intended to ban Hamas in its entirety and stop differentiating between its political and military wings.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-jerusalem-killing-and-50-terror-arrests-lapid-urges-turkey-to-shut-down-hamas/>

Israel, Morocco sign historic defense agreement

The Jerusalem Post, November 24, 2021

Israel and Morocco signed a defense agreement Wednesday as Defense Minister Benny Gantz made the first official visit to the North African kingdom by an Israeli defense official. The memorandum of understanding was signed by Gantz and his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Loudiyi and sets a solid security cooperation framework that formalizes defense relations between the two countries, allowing for increased cooperation in the fields of intelligence, industrial collaboration, military training and more.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israel-morocco-sign-defense-agreement-686858>

Air Force suspends training after jet almost crashes during exercise

Times of Israel, November 25, 2021

The Israel Defense Forces Air Force announced it was suspending training exercises late Wednesday after a fighter jet almost crashed during a drill. According to the military, the incident occurred during a training exercise on dealing with air and ground threats, "when the pilot turned his attention to the aircraft's screen and did not notice that he had lost height and was heading into the ground." A disaster was averted when the jet's navigator realized

what was happening and pulled the fighter out of its dive.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/air-force-suspends-training-after-jet-almost-crashes-during-exercise/>

Lapid Meets U.K.'s Johnson: 'Shared Determination' to Stop Iran's Nuke Drive 'At All Costs'

Haaretz, November 29, 2021

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid met with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday and reiterated their "shared determination to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, at all costs," as negotiations between Iran and six world powers restarted in Vienna. The British positions on the Iranian nuclear issue are relatively close to those of Israel, and Israeli officials believe that the United Kingdom is also trying to influence its partners to the agreement. He also launched a new strategic plan with the U.K. and Israel spanning cyber, tech, trade, and defense. On Sunday, the foreign minister penned a joint op-ed piece in the British newspaper The Telegraph on the deal and on their shared commitment to "work night and day to prevent the Iranian regime from ever becoming a nuclear power."

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/deal-is-a-must-lapid-meets-british-foreign-secretary-as-iran-nuke-talks-resume-1.10424156>

Defense procurement committee greenlights deal for CH-53K helicopters

The Jerusalem Post, November 29, 2021

Israel's ministerial committee that oversees defense procurement has approved a deal for the Israel Air Force's new heavy-lift CH-53k helicopters. The committee approved the Defense Ministry's recommendation to purchase the new helicopters at a cost of \$2.4 billion. The

committee includes Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who was out of the country did not attend the meeting yesterday. Israel announced in February that it would purchase one squadron of CH-53K over Boeing's CH-47 to replace its fleet of Yasur helicopters at Tel Nof Air Base.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/committee-that-oversees-defense-procurement-greenlights-deal-for-ch-53k-helicopters-687296>

JORDAN

Jordan to support US Navy unmanned drone task force in Red Sea

Al-Monitor, November 25, 2021

A Jordanian naval base at the Red Sea port city of Aqaba will become the latest hub for a new US Navy task force to test unmanned technology in Middle Eastern waters. In the coming weeks, the US 5th Fleet's Task Force 59 will work with members of the Royal Jordanian Navy to deploy Saildrone unmanned surface vessels via Aqaba. The 7-meter (23-foot) wind-powered craft are designed to gather a variety of maritime data for up to a year under monitoring by remote operators.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/jordan-support-us-navy-unmanned-drone-task-force-red-sea#ixzz7ECvN2lwz>

LEBANON

Turkey offers to help mend Lebanon relations with Arab nations

Ya Libnan, November 16, 2021

Turkey's foreign minister said Tuesday his country is ready to offer whatever support

it can to help mend relations between Lebanon and Gulf Arab nations, embroiled in an unprecedented diplomatic rift. The spat with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states unraveled late last month and has threatened to destabilize the new Lebanese government and escalate the country's economic tailspin. It erupted over comments by a Lebanese Cabinet minister over the war in Yemen that angered Saudi Arabia. "We have expressed our sadness over the recent crisis between Lebanon and the Gulf. We received information concerning the latest developments toward its resolution. And if there is anything that can be done for the issue to be resolved as soon as possible we are ready to carry it out," Cavusoglu told reporters after meeting his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bouhabib.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/committee-that-oversees-defense-procurement-greenlights-deal-for-ch-53k-helicopters-687296>

U.S. Delivers Six Attack Helicopters to Lebanese Army

Naharnet, November 16, 2021

The U.S. embassy in Lebanon on Tuesday delivered six MD-530F+ Light Attack Helicopters to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) Air Force. "Since 2017, the U.S. military teams have worked closely with the LAF to ensure the capabilities of these aircrafts would fill mission requirements and enhance the operational capacity of the LAF in providing for Lebanon's security. Today, we are not only formally inaugurating these helicopters, valued at over \$40 million dollars, but we are welcoming them as the newest additions of the LAF's air fleet," U.S. ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea said at a ceremony at Hamat Airbase. "This helicopter is the first light attack helicopter of its kind to integrate APKWS missiles and live

downlink of targeting data," Shea stressed, adding that "this technology showcases the LAF's increasing levels of combat capabilities."

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/285766-u-s-delivers-six-attack-helicopters-to-lebanese-army>

Russia provides Lebanon with satellite images of Beirut port blast

Ya Libnan, November 22, 2021

Russia has sent Lebanon the satellite images it has for Beirut's port before and after a huge explosion rocked it last year, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after talks with his Lebanese counterpart in Moscow on Monday. Russia's space agency Roscosmos said last week it agreed to provide the images after a request from Lebanese President Michel Aoun. The blast was the country's worst peace-time disaster. "At the request of the Lebanese government, today we handed over materials prepared by Roscosmos... satellite images, and we hope they will help in the investigation of the causes of this incident. This issue is now receiving quite serious attention in Lebanon and we hope it can be closed," Lavrov told reporters.

<https://yalibnan.com/2021/11/22/russia-provides-lebanon-with-satellite-images-of-beirut-port-blast/>

Report: Hochstein to Carry Important Israeli Stance to Lebanon Soon

Naharnet, November 23, 2021

U.S. envoy to the Lebanon-Israel sea border demarcation talks Amos Hochstein will return soon to Lebanon to convey an Israeli stance, LBCI TV reported. "It is believed that the envoy has managed to make a certain breakthrough in the Israeli stance," the TV network quoted sources as saying. "Israeli and the United States are hurrying to find an agreement before March, the date

when the Israelis will begin drilling for oil in the Karish offshore field, and they don't want to face any threats during the drilling operation," LBCI quoted observers as saying. The observers added that the Israelis have likely agreed to give Lebanon a complete field in return for having the entirety of the Karish field.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/285894-report-hochstein-to-carry-important-israeli-stance-to-lebanon-soon>

Australia designates Hezbollah a 'terrorist organisation'

AlJazeera, November 24, 2021

Australia has designated Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed, Lebanon-based Shia group, as a "terrorist" organisation. The designation covers the entirety of the group, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported. Hezbollah's military wing has been on the list since 2003. In May, the United States had called on governments worldwide to take action against Hezbollah.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/24/australia-lists-hezbollah-as-terrorist-organisation>

2 Pro-Hizbullah Fighters Killed in Syria Airstrike

Naharnet, November 24, 2021

Israeli strikes targeting a part of Syria where fighters loyal to Lebanon's Hizbullah are based killed five people Wednesday, a war monitor said. The Israeli missiles struck an area near three villages in the west of Homs province, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group with a wide network of sources on the ground. Three Syrian soldiers as well as two Syrian militiamen affiliated with Hizbullah were killed in the early morning strikes, the monitoring organization said.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/285967-2-pro-hizbullah-fighters-killed-in-syria-airstrike>

OMAN

'Oman desires India's partnership in materialising its Vision-2040'

Economic Times, November 18, 2021

Oman has been a key pillar of India's West Asia policy and its oldest strategic partner in the region. The defence MoU has been renewed this year as both sides seek to expand Navy to Navy partnership. Today as Oman has launched Vision -2040 to transform its economy it desires strong Indian investments across sectors including port infrastructure and Special Economic Zones, Hamed Saif AL Rawahi, Ambassador of Oman to India told ET's Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury in a wide-ranging interview.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/oman-desires-indias-partnership-in-materialising-its-vision-2040/articleshow/87770462.cms>

QATAR

Qatar, Brazil ink military cooperation agreement

Middle East Monitor, November 18, 2021

The Defence ministers of Qatar and Brazil signed a military cooperation agreement in the Qatari capital, Doha, on Wednesday, *Anadolu News Agency* reports. According to a statement by Qatar's royal court, Defence Minister, Khalid Al-Attiyah and his Brazilian counterpart, Walter Souza Braga Netto signed the deal in the presence of high-ranking officers from both sides. Both sides also "reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest," it added.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20211118-qatar-brazil-ink-military-cooperation-agreement/>

Defence Secretary and Qatari Defence Minister unveil new Joint Hawk Squadron

UK Ministry of Defence, November 24, 2021

Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace MP and the Qatari Minister of State for Defence, His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, have unveiled a new Joint Hawk Training Squadron at RAF Leeming in Yorkshire. This new Joint Squadron builds on years of close partnership between the Royal Air Force and the Qatari Emiri Air Force (QEAF). The Squadron will deliver advanced and high-speed jet training to QEAF and RAF pilots in the new Hawks. This will greatly enhance the capabilities of the two Air Forces and improve their ability to operate together.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defence-secretary-and-qatari-defence-minister-unveil-new-joint-hawk-squadron>

Defence minister reviews progress of production line of Typhoon, Hawk aircraft

Gulf Times, November 25, 2021

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah visited on Thursday the facility of BAE Systems in the British city of Wharton. During the visit, he was briefed on the progress of work in the Typhoon and Hawk aircraft production line, in addition to attending the first flight of the Qatari Typhoon aircraft. HE Commander of Amiri Air Force Staff Major General (Pilot) Jassem bin Mohamed al-Mannai, a number of senior officers of the Qatari Armed Forces and Group Managing Director of BAE Systems Chris Boardman participated in the visit.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/705205/Defence-minister-reviews-progress-of-production-line-of-Typhoon-Hawk-aircraft>

SAUDI ARABIA

Lt. Gen. Al-Maqdashi: Yemen won't be secure unless it is rid of the evils of Iran, Houthis

Saudi Gazette, November 17, 2021

Yemeni Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Mohammed Ali Al-Maqdashi reaffirmed that Yemen will not be secure and stable unless it is rid of the evils of Iran and its Houthi militias and their subversive actions.

In an interview with Okaz/Saudi Gazette, he made a scathing attack on the Iranian regime. Al-Maqdashi said that Yemen has no longer been happy ever since the Persian devil laid its hand on the capital Sanaa. The Yemeni minister praised the Kingdom's efforts as the key supporter of Yemen and its people in their decisive battle against the Houthi militia, stressing that it is the first Arab shield in the face of the Iranian cross-border project. Al-Maqdashi called for exerting pressure for the total implementation of the Riyadh Agreement, especially its military and security aspect, in restoring legitimacy in his country.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/613715/SAUDI-ARABIA/Lt-Gen-Al-Maqdashi-Yemen-wont-be-secure-unless-it-is-rid-of-the-evils-of-Iran-Houthis>

Arab coalition carries out military operation against Houthi targets

Saudi Gazette, November 18, 2021

The Arab coalition supporting legitimacy in Yemen declared on Thursday, carrying out a large military operation against Houthi targets. Saudi News Agency (SPA) quoted the coalition as saying that the airstrikes included targets located in Sanaa, Dhamar, Sadah and Al-Jawf, indicating that ballistic missiles, drones and communication system workshops and storages were destroyed. It also added a secret facility belonging to "Iran National Guard experts"

was targeted and that "Hezbollah" is implicated in the hostile attacks, affirming that the military operation is in accordance with international humanitarian law and its principles.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/613748/SAUDI-ARABIA/Arab-coalition-carries-out-military-operation-against-Houthi-targets>

Coalition forces shoot down 3 drones targeting Saudi city

Saudi Gazette, November 20, 2021

The Saudi-led Arab Coalition to support the legitimate Yemeni government said its air defense forces shot down three explosives-laden drones flown by "the terrorist Houthi militias" from Yemen towards Saudi Arabia. In response to the threats, the Coalition forces started a qualitative operation to tackle the sources of threats, the Saudi Press Agency tweeted on Friday, citing a statement from the Coalition command. The Houthis failed to fire two ballistic missiles from an area near Sanaa towards the Kingdom and both missiles landed inside Yemen, according to the statement.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/613798/SAUDI-ARABIA/Coalition-forces-shoot-down-3-drones-targeting-Saudi-city>

Saudi deputy defense minister discusses defense cooperation with GCC

Arab News, November 22, 2021

Saudi Arabia's Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman has held talks on regional defense cooperation with officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council. He was heading the Kingdom's delegation at the 18th session of the Joint Defense Council of the GCC Ministers of Defense, which was held in Riyadh on Monday, chaired by Bahraini Minister of Defense Affairs Lt. Gen. Abdullah Al-Nuaimi and in the

presence of GCC Secretary-General Nayef Al-Hajraf. "During the meeting, we discussed aspects of coordination and integration among the GCC states in the defense field in a way that enhances the security and stability of the region," Prince Khalid said on Twitter. He said that his country was looking forward to hosting the 19th session of the Joint Defense Council.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1973066/saudi-arabia>

Arab Coalition releases satellite images from latest air strike on Houthi military camps in Sanaa

Arab News, November 26, 2021

The Arab Coalition published details on Friday of an operation targeting Houthi military camps in the presidential palace in Yemen's militia-held capital Sanaa, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Satellite images showed the presidential palace and its link to a secret underground facility located south of the palace and linked to Jabal Al-Nahdain. The intelligence photos showed the aftermath of the airstrikes conducted by the Coalition's planes as well as a transfer of weaponry from the secret facility after the coalition targeted it with strikes earlier this week.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1976076/saudi-arabia>

At least 200 Houthis killed in fighting, airstrikes in Marib, Jouf

Arab News, November 28, 2021

The Arab coalition on Sunday announced that it had killed 110 Houthis in 15 airstrikes that destroyed nine Houthi military targets in Marib and Jouf during the past 24 hours. At least 200 Houthis were killed in heavy fighting with government forces and in airstrikes by Arab coalition warplanes during the past 24 hours in the Yemeni provinces of Marib and Jouf, as the

militia pushed into Marib to seize control of strategic terrain, coalition and local military figures said on Sunday. “All waves of the Houthis failed to advance or capture an inch in Thana. Many Houthis were killed when our forces and the (Arab) coalition’s warplanes wiped out those waves,” the official said, adding that most of the Houthi fatalities were caused by “precise” airstrikes.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1976986/middle-east>

SYRIA

12 attacks launched by al-Nusra terrorists in Idleb de-escalation zone, Russian MoD says

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 16, 2021

The Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) has announced that the terrorist organizations positioned in Idleb de-escalation zone have carried out 12 attacks over the past 24 hours. “Twelve attacks were monitored from the areas in which terrorist organizations spread, 11 attacks on Aleppo and one another on Lattakia”, Deputy Head of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim Airport, Rear Admiral Vadim Kolet, said in a statement

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=254672>

Intel: Pentagon chief briefed on 2019 Syria airstrike

Al-Monitor, November 17, 2021

The head of US forces in the Middle East, Gen. Kenneth “Frank” McKenzie, briefed US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday about a 2019 airstrike in Syria that the US military admitted for the first time this week had killed civilians. Austin requested the briefing after The New York Times revealed Saturday that military officials had serious concerns that dozens

of civilians had been killed in the bombing during the final battle against the Islamic State (IS), Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby revealed. The strike at Baghuz may be one of the highest single incidents of civilian casualties caused by the United States during the five-year war against IS.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/intel-pentagon-chief-briefed-2019-syria-airstrike#ixzz7EFToYljs>

Russian security service arrests foreigner involved in funding terrorism in Syria

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 24, 2021

The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) has announced arresting a foreign citizen in Khabarovsk region in the Russian Far East region, who is involved in financing Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist organization in Syria. “The arrested person was a citizen of a Central Asian country and he had been transferring money to a group affiliated with the “Jabhat al-Nusra ” organization,” the press office of the FSB regional branch in Khabarovsk region said in a statement.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=255625>

US amends sanctions regulations to ease aid delivery in Syria

Al-Monitor, November 25, 2021

The US Treasury Department has rolled out new authorizations for nongovernmental organizations working in war-torn Syria, in a move designed to ensure aid agencies can deliver humanitarian assistance without running afoul of existing US sanctions. In a statement Wednesday, the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control said NGOs are now permitted to engage in new investment in Syria; the purchase of Syrian

petroleum products for use in Syria; and certain transactions with elements of the Syrian government. The department said those actions are authorized only for not-for-profit activities such as humanitarian projects and democracy-building.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/us-amends-sanctions-regulations-ease-aid-delivery-syria#ixzz7EFUU28Jz>

Russia, China, India call for respecting Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 26, 2021

Russia, China, India renewed on Friday constant support to Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the necessity of finding a political solution to the crisis in the country, in addition to taking all the necessary actions to rebuild it. In a joint statement following a meeting between the foreign ministers of the three countries via video, they expressed their conviction that there is no military solution to the crisis in Syria, affirming their continued support for the peaceful political process under the auspices of the UN.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=255831>

Islamic State down but not out in Syria and Iraq: Pentagon report

Al-Monitor, November 26, 2021

The most recent report from the Pentagon's Inspector General on Operation Inherent Resolve, the US-led diplomatic and military operation against the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria, indicates that IS has weakened but remains a priority for US national security interests in the region. The report makes clear that the United States and its coalition partners remain essential to the continued success of the mission. The Iraq-Syria border remains an area of concern for IS activity. Iran-backed proxy

forces and militias in both countries remain a threat to coalition forces and operations. Both the Iraqi Security Forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) will continue to depend on US training and support in "conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), intelligence integration and airstrikes."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/islamic-state-down-not-out-syria-and-iraq-pentagon-report#ixzz7EFV4PdRC>

Ambassador Attiya: OPCW has turned into a tool of political manipulation by Washington and its allies

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 30, 2021

Syria's Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Milad Attiya said that Syria has faced a historically unprecedented campaign of false accusations of not cooperating with the organization. "What Syria has been exposed to over the past years within the organization raised a serious question about the organization's ability to carry out its mandate under the Convention and its ability to stand against the US pressures and its Western allies," Attiya said in Syria's statement during the opening session of the 26th session of the Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Hague on Monday.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=256158>

Sabbagh: Israel is the main source of threat to peace and security in the region

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 30, 2021

Syria said that establishing a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East requires forcing Israel entity to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty and subjecting all

its facilities to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "Syria considers the Establishment of zones free from nuclear weapon and weapons of mass destruction a positive step forward achieving of non-proliferation and disarmament goals, and a key element in the creation of a peaceful and stable world," Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations, Bassam Sabbagh said in a statement read before the Second Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=256161>

TURKEY

Turkey plans to look elsewhere if US rejects F-16 deal

Daily Sabah, November 16, 2021

Turkey will have to consider alternatives to ensure its security if the United States responds negatively to a deal for F-16 fighter jets, Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said Tuesday. Talks are ongoing, Akar said, and a delegation from the Defense Ministry is currently in the U.S. to hold talks on Turkey's request to buy 40 F-16s and nearly 80 modernization kits in return for the payment Ankara had allotted for the F-35 fighter jet program. "If the U.S.' stance is negative, Turkey will necessarily and naturally have to evaluate other alternatives in order to ensure its security in the threat environment in which it is located," said the minister.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-plans-to-look-elsewhere-if-us-rejects-f-16-deal>

Russian Sberbank to loan \$800M for Turkey's Akkuyu Nuclear Plant

Daily Sabah, November 17, 2021

Russian bank Sberbank will provide a loan of \$800 million (TL 8.3 billion) to Akkuyu

Nuclear Inc. for a period of seven years to construct four units at the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). Sberbank Deputy Chairperson of the Board Anatoly Popov noted that Sberbank had provided a seven-year term loan of \$400 million for Akkuyu Nuclear Inc. in 2019. "In 2019, Sberbank became the first lender of Rosatom's large-scale project to build a modern nuclear power plant in Turkey. We are pleased to continue the financing as this project is of strategic importance for the bank" Popov said. "This year, the pace of construction at Akkuyu NPP has reached a new level. Today, work is underway on all four power units at various stages. We completed the licensing process with the issuance of the license for the construction of the fourth power unit in October, and we are nearing the pinnacle of construction work," Anton Dedusenko, vice chairperson at Akkuyu Nuclear Inc. said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/russiansberbank-to-loan-800m-for-turkeys-akkuyu-nuclear-plant>

US affirms Turkey's military modernization needs, Pentagon says

Anadolu Agency, November 17, 2021

A top Defense Department official affirmed Turkey's "military modernization needs in support of NATO," the Pentagon said on Wednesday. The department's acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Laura Cooper also "highlighted cooperation on the Black Sea" during a US-Turkey High Level Defense Group dialogue session at the Pentagon, spokesman Lt. Col. Anton Semelroth said in a statement. Cooper is serving as the Pentagon's lead for the discussions. Following Turkey's removal from the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, Ankara proposed compensation for a \$1.4 billion payment it made for the jets by

Washington selling its new F-16 fighter jets, and upgrading its existing fleet.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-affirms-turkeys-military-modernization-needs-pentagon-says/2423897>

Ukrainian parliament approves military deal with Turkey

Daily Sabah, November 18, 2021

The Ukrainian Parliament passed a bill approving a military agreement signed between Ukraine and Turkey.

Some 303 out of 450 lawmakers voted in favor of the law. The agreement was signed during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to Turkey on Oct. 16, 2020. It includes the legal framework for mutual defense cooperation issues. The agreement reflects a guarantee for security and peace in the Black Sea region. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry also signed a series of agreements on Dec. 14 with the Turkish side on the production and technology transfer of naval corvettes and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV), which were the first direct foreign trade deals inked in the defense field in the ministry's history.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/ukrainian-parliament-approves-military-deal-with-turkey>

Turkey launches new operation to root out terrorism

Anadolu Agency, November 19, 2021

Turkey on Friday launched a new terror operation in the country's east, the Interior Ministry announced. According to a statement, as many as 1,060 personnel and 72 operational teams from the Gendarmerie General Command, Gendarmerie Special Operations, police and rangers are part of the Operation Eren Winter-6 Mercan Mountains Martyr Gendarmerie Specialist

Sergeant Burak Tortumlu. The latest action aims to eliminate the PKK terror group, and neutralize the terrorists trying to take shelter in the region, the ministry added.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/-turkey-launches-new-operation-to-root-out-terrorism/2425206>

Greece engaging in provocative, aggressive actions: Turkish defense minister

Anadolu Agency, November 22, 2021

Greece is engaging in provocative and aggressive actions in the region, Turkey's national defense minister said on Monday.

Hulusi Akar said that in contrast, Turkey carries out all its activities in a "reasonable, logical and calm manner." "While we are acting this way, Greece is engaging in actions and rhetoric that are provocative, aggressive, and raising tensions," Akar said in a video conference meeting with top military officials. Saying that Greek officials are trying to create a false perception that Turkey is moving against Greece, he added: "We are not in any way aggressive, we're defending our rights."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/greece-engaging-in-provocative-aggressive-actions-turkish-defense-minister/2427606>

Turkey's Aselsan inks \$75M export deal for radars, border security

Daily Sabah, November 23, 2021

Turkish defense giant Aselsan on Tuesday announced an export deal worth some 66.8 million euros (\$75 million) with an international client. The contract is for the supply of radar, border security and communication systems, the company said in a statement posted on Turkey's Public Disclosure Platform (KAP). "The deliveries will be made between 2022-2024," added

the statement, which did not mention the client's name.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-aselsan-inks-75m-export-deal-for-radars-border-security>

Turkey's defense industry rolls up sleeves for aircraft carrier

Daily Sabah, November 23, 2021

As the Turkish defense industry prepares the flagship-to-be amphibious assault ship TCG Anadolu – a landing helicopter dock (LHD) vessel – for delivery, plans to build an aircraft carrier also feature prominently on the country's agenda. Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), spoke to Anadolu Agency (AA) about the current projects being carried out by the Turkish defense industry. He outlined that building an aircraft carrier should be considered part of Turkey's vision of “being a global power.” Demir stated that an aircraft carrier cannot be categorized as a single type of ship and that it is a concept they have the ability to work around.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-defense-industry-rolls-up-sleeves-for-aircraft-carrier>

Turkey to launch Turksat 5B communications satellite in Dec

Hurriyet Daily News, November 25, 2021

Turkey will launch its Turksat 5B communications satellite into orbit next month, a senior official said on Nov. 24. "One of the prominent features of Turksat 5B, which will be launched into an orbital slot at 42 degrees East, is to increase Turkey's Ka-band data communication capacity 15-fold," Transport and Infrastructure Minister Adil Karaismailoğlu said in a statement. Turkey signed a contract for Turksat 5B satellite with Airbus Defence and Space (Airbus

D&S) in order to ensure the redundancy of the satellite, he said. "The design and the production stages of the satellite were successfully completed and it is aimed to increase the export revenues of Turksat and our country with effective communication solutions to be provided via our satellite," he said. Private firm SpaceX will deliver Turksat 5B into orbit on a Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Base in the US state of Florida.

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-launch-turksat-5b-communications-satellite-in-dec-169622>

Kazakhstan buys 3 Turkish Aerospace-made Anka UCAVs: Report

Daily Sabah, November 25, 2021

Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) will sell a total of three of its medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), Anka, to Kazakhstan, according to a media report.

Negotiations between the company and the Central Asian country have been ongoing for a while and resulted in an agreement signed in October, a report by Turkish daily HaberTürk said. Back in May 2021, a military cooperation agreement was signed between Turkey and Kazakhstan that also foresees sharing tactical and experience of reconnaissance and attack unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/kazakhstan-buys-3-turkish-aerospace-made-anka-ucavs-report>

Philippines to receive first Turkish attack helicopter in Dec

Daily Sabah, November 25, 2021

The Philippines will receive its first Turkey-made T129 Tactical Reconnaissance and Attack Helicopter (ATAK) next month, officials from the Southeast Asian country said Wednesday.

The country has ordered six of the helicopters designed and developed by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), which will be delivered gradually as of December, said the incumbent chief of the Philippines' air force, Lt. Gen. Allen Trio Paredes. The Philippines – which is buying six choppers worth approximately \$280 million (TL 3.37 billion) – will be the first country abroad to use the ATAK.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/philippines-to-receive-first-turkish-attack-helicopter-in-dec>

Turkey's STM to exhibit naval platforms, UAVs at Expodefensa 2021

Daily Sabah, November 28, 2021

Turkish defense firm STM will showcase its naval platforms and tactical mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems at Expodefensa 2021 being held in Colombia next week. "Under the leadership of our parent institution, the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), we will be attending Expodefensa 2021 to share our experience in projects in which we are proud to have participated as a trusted solution partner of various world navies, including Pakistan and Ukraine," STM said in a statement. The firm said it will introduce its tactical mini-UAV product family – which includes Alpagu, Kargu and Togan – to South America, along with its MILGEM (National Ship) Ada-class corvette as well as the I-class frigate, which is Turkey's first national frigate project.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-stm-to-exhibit-naval-platforms-uavs-at-expodefensa-2021>

Erdogan planning steps to improve relations with Israel

Jerusalem Post, November 29, 2021

Turkey is planning a rapprochement with Israel, Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan said on Monday. Erdogan made the remarks in the context of his meeting with the United Arab Emirates' leader Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, which was followed with a plan for the UAE to invest \$10 billion in Turkey. "They [UAE] put up a \$10 billion investment plan. By putting this \$10 billion into place, we will have built a very different future," Erdogan was cited as telling reporters on a flight back from Turkmenistan, adding he would visit the UAE in February. Asked about ties with Israel and Egypt, Erdogan said, "Whatever kind of step was taken with the UAE, we will also take similar ones with the others."

<https://www.jpost.com/international/erdogan-says-also-plans-steps-with-egypt-israel-after-uae-visit-687292>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Saudi Ministry of Energy delegation visits Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant

Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, November 16, 2021

His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant located in the Al Dhafra region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, along with a delegation of senior energy officials. The delegation witnessed the progress and success of the first operational multi-unit nuclear energy plant in the Middle East Region, which is

delivering clean electricity for the UAE and rapidly decarbonizing the Nation's power sector. His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al Saud said: "My visit to the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, the pioneering project of the United Arab Emirates, comes in line with the growing awareness of the importance of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy technologies play a vital role in diversifying energy sources and

the economy to achieve sustainable development.

<https://www.enec.gov.ae/news/latest-news/saudi-ministry-of-energy-delegation-visits-barakah-nuclear-energy-plant/>

UAE, Israel to jointly design unmanned military, commercial vessels

Alarabiya, November 18, 2021

United Arab Emirate's state-owned defense conglomerate EDGE and Israeli state-owned aerospace firm IAI on Thursday signed an agreement to jointly design unmanned military and commercial vessels. A joint statement said the “17 M” unmanned surface vessels would be designed to carrying out security operations, mine sweeping and surveillance, among other capabilities. “Comprising advanced sensors, sonars and imaging systems that are integrated into a unified command and control system, the USV can operate either remotely, semi-autonomously or autonomously, requiring no human intervention,” the statement said.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/11/18/UAE-Israel-to-jointly-design-unmanned-military-commercial-vessels>

YEMEN

Houthis say drone attacks target several Saudi cities

Aljazeera, November 20, 2021

Yemen’s Houthi fighters said they fired 14 drones at several Saudi cities on Saturday, including at Saudi Aramco facilities in Jeddah, with the Saudi state news agency reporting that the Saudi-led coalition attacked 13 targets in Yemen during a military operation against the group. Yahya Saree, the Houthi military spokesman, said in a televised press conference on Saturday

that the group had attacked Aramco’s refineries in Jeddah as well as military targets in Riyadh, Jeddah, Abha, Jizan and Najran. Saree said the attacks were in response to the escalation of “aggression” by the Saudi-led Arab coalition “and the continuation of its crimes and siege” of Yemen.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/20/yemens-houthis-say-they-attacked-saudi-cities-aramco-facilities>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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