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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## IRAN

### Iran not ready to recognize Taliban government

Al-Monitor, January 3, 2022

Iran is not ready to formally recognize the Taliban government in Afghanistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday, citing the importance of an inclusive Afghan government. "Today, we are basically not at the point of recognizing," Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a news conference. "We hope that the governing body of Afghanistan will move, through its actions, in a direction that will enable it to achieve international recognition." "Iran and the neighboring countries of Afghanistan insist particularly on the formation of an inclusive government which reflects the ethnic and demographic diversity of this country," Khatibzadeh added.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/iran-not-ready-recognize-taliban-government#ixzz7IGABEYFB>

### IRGC attributes loud sound near Tehran to rocket shooting in training exercise

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 5, 2022

A loud sound heard on Wednesday in the suburbs of Karaj, the capital city of the Iranian northern province of Alborz was due to shooting a rocket in a training exercise, according to the official website of IRGC. The statement said that the rocket was shot in a controlled way in one of IRGC's bases. The loud sound of the shooting had provoked some speculations and rumors on social media.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84603858/IRGC-attributes-loud-sound-near-Tehran-to-rocket-shooting-in>

### Bagheri Kani terms Vienna talks as constructive, progressive

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 5, 2022

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani has described the talks underway in Vienna as constructive and progressive. Asked about the results of the recent talks in Vienna, which is being held to remove the imposed sanctions on Iran, Bagheri Kani said that the efforts are being made to yield results. The key to the success of the Vienna talks is to reach an agreement on the effective lifting of cruel sanctions imposed on Iran, he noted.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84603982/Bagheri-Kani-terms-Vienna-talks-as-constructive-progressive>

### Iran FM: Talks in Vienna proceeding in right direction

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 7, 2022

Iran's initiatives brought the talks back on track in a constructive atmosphere and the talks in Vienna are proceeding in the right direction, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said. "We want the lifting of sanctions imposed on Iran by Trump, especially those contrary to the nuclear agreement," Amirabdollahian said. Amirabdollahian further said that "we want guarantees that include not imposing new sanctions and not returning the current sanctions after they are lifted". The Iranian foreign minister regarded Iran's oil exports and access to its revenues as among these guarantees. He also said that there is currently an informal exchange of messages with the Americans in Vienna with the aim of facilitating negotiations.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84604886/Iran-FM-Talks-in-Vienna-proceeding-in-right-direction>

### **Official: World Bank approves granting \$90m loan to Iran**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 7, 2022

Head of the Organization for investment Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran said despite US and the Zionist lobby opposition, the World Bank has approved granting \$90 million worth of loan to Iran to fight COVID-19 pandemic. Ali Fekri said that the World Bank has ignored the attempts made by the United States and the Zionist lobby and agreed to grant loan to Iran's Health Ministry. He added that the loan will have the lowest interest rate compared with other international finances.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84605301/Official-World-Bank-approves-granting-90m-loan-to-Iran>

### **France reports 'bits of progress' in Iran nuclear talks**

Al-Monitor, January 7, 2022

The Iran nuclear talks have made progress in recent days but time is quickly running out to secure a deal, the French foreign minister said on Friday. "Bits of progress have been made in the last few days," Le Drian said. "We have been heading in a positive direction in the last few days, but time is of the essence, because if we don't get an accord quickly there will be nothing to negotiate." On Tuesday, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters there had been some "modest progress" in the latest round of discussions, noting, "There has been some progress relative to the beginning of December in identifying the hard issues left to be negotiated."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/france-reports-bits-progress-iran-nuclear-talks#ixzz7IG9BdpZK>

### **Iran exports 110 MW of power to Afghanistan**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 8, 2022

A senior advisor to Iran's energy minister said that the country was exporting 110 megawatts of electricity to Afghanistan, with the maximum export capacity being 175 megawatts. Iran's power grid is connected to Afghanistan's Herat and the power transfer is carried out through four transfer lines, Mohammad Ali Farahnakian said in an exclusive interview with IRNA's economic correspondent on Saturday. Farahnakian said that Iran was working on plans to add 500 to 600 megawatts to the capacity, adding that Iran and Afghanistan had struck good deals, but the Afghan side didn't cooperate. The new governing body in Afghanistan showed positive pulse and made promises when the first Taliban minister visited Tehran last month, the advisor to energy minister noted.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84605708/Iran-exports-110-MW-of-power-to-Afghanistan>

### **Iran's top negotiator: Parties narrowing differences in Vienna talks**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 8, 2022

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister and Top Negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani in his latest evaluation about the negotiations aimed at removal of unlawful sanctions pointed out on Saturday evening that the differences of views among negotiating parties are now decreasing. Bagheri Kani who was speaking in a press conference after holding several hours of talks with the P4+1 delegations and before leaving the Coburg Hotel also confirmed that the negotiations are progressing towards an agreement. Almost all participating delegations in the negotiations, too, confirm that it can thus be cautiously claimed that despite the complications and ups and downs in that

path, the negative count down towards the final agreement has already started.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84606617/Iran-s-top-negotiator-Parties-narrowing-differences-in-Vienna>

### **Afghanistan's acting foreign minister arrives in Tehran**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 9, 2022

Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi arrived in Tehran on Saturday, heading an economic and political delegation. Afghanistan's acting ministers of economy and commerce and industry and the deputy chiefs of several economic ministries of Afghanistan are also in the delegation. The Afghan delegation is slated to discuss economic cooperation, including in banking, border markets, mining, business, and sports, with Iranian officials.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84606835/Afghanist-an-s-acting-foreign-minister-arrives-in-Tehran>

### **Amirabdollahian talks with Indian counterpart on phone**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 9, 2022

Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Saturday evening in a phone talk with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar exchanged views on the most important bilateral, regional and international issues. About the prevailing conditions in Afghanistan, the Iranian foreign minister emphasized the need for establishment of a comprehensive government there and referring to India's humanitarian aids to Afghanistan, said that Iran, too, has forwarded many batches of wheat, medicine, and coronavirus vaccines to Afghanistan. About the Vienna negotiations for removal of sanctions, Amirabdollahian said that the talks are

progressing in the right direction, reiterating, "We have good intentions and have the required will for achieving a good agreement and if the western side, too, has the same good will and strong determination, then we can reach a good agreement."

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84606631/Amirabdollahian-talks-with-Indian-counterpart-on-phone>

### **Iran denies reports of interim deal**

Al-Monitor, January 10, 2022

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has denied media reports about a possible interim nuclear deal. Speaking to reporters Jan. 10, Saeed Khatibzadeh said, "We want a durable and reliable agreement and any agreement that does not have these two criteria is not on the agenda for us."

Khatibzadeh continued, "We all have to be certain that America's return [to the original deal] is verified and guaranteed and the cycle of sanctions have to be removed — none of these can happen with an interim agreement." Arab-language newspaper Rai Al-Youm originally reported on the possibility of an interim agreement, though this is not the first time in these latest rounds of talks that reports have surfaced of its possibility.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/iran-denies-reports-interim-deal#ixzz7IG9qO5hy>

### **Deputy Judiciary Chief Stresses Punishment of Criminals behind Assassination of Iranian N. Scientists**

Fars News Agency, January 12, 2022

Iran's Deputy Judiciary Chief and Secretary-General of Human Rights Headquarters Kazzem Qaribabadi said that the culprits behind assassination of the country's nuclear scientists will be punished for their crime. "Today marks

tenth anniversary of martyrdom of one of the glories of my country, Dr. Ahmadi Roushan, a scientist who was tireless in promoting and localizing peaceful nuclear knowledge,” Qaribabadi wrote on his twitter page on Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the assassination of senior nuclear scientist Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan. He praised the scientist for his tireless efforts toward “promoting and localizing peaceful nuclear knowledge”. “The crime of assassinating scientists will not go unpunished as a gross violation of Human Rights,” Qaribabadi said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001022000193/Depy-Jdiciary-Chief-Sresses-Pnishmen-f-Criminals-behind-Assassinain-f>

### **Iran, Pakistan to Increase Maritime Security Cooperation**

Fars News Agency, January 12, 2022

High-ranking Iranian and Pakistani military officials in a meeting conferred on ways to boost cooperation in maritime security and joint operations. The meeting was held between Iranian Border Guards Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi and Director General of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Rear Admiral Mirza Fawad Amin Beg in the port city of Karachi on Wednesday.

Iran's military attaché in Pakistan Colonel Mostafa Ghanbarpour and members of the delegations of the two countries also attended the meeting. During the meeting, General Goudarzi called for a mechanism based on the principles of equality and common interests, mutual respect, respect for border integrity, jurisdiction and the establishment of a continuous framework for maritime cooperation and exchange of information between two neighboring countries.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001022000677/Iran-Pakistan-Increase-Maritime-Security-Cooperation>

### **Iranian commander promises more satellite launches**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 13, 2022

Commander of IRGC Aerospace Force said on Thursday that Iran will launch more satellites by using inexpensive propellers. Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh mentioned the successful test last week of solid-fuel satellite carrier and said that it was made of non-metal materials and its propeller had no moving parts which helps save energy and costs. He said Iran has progressed so much in aerospace and satellite field that assassinations, threats and sanctions won't impact it anymore.

He cited the US CENTCOM Commander saying that Iran has gained air dominance by developing drones.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84612439/Iranian-commander-promises-more-satellite-launches>

### **IRGC holds biggest combinatory drill in southeast Iran**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 13, 2022

Qods Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force held the biggest compound civil-military exercise in southeastern Iran on Thursday. The exercise, codenamed Mohammad Rasoulallah, was held in two civil and military phases in Sistan-and-Balouchestan Province in southeastern Iran. Different units of the Qods Headquarters, including missile, artillery, drone, helicopter, armored, engineer, special forces and special operation forces units, successfully simulated real confrontations and operations.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84612453/IRGC-holds-biggest-combinatory-drill-in-southeast-Iran>

### **FM Amirabdollahian in China to discuss Iran-China 25-year deal**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 14, 2022

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian arrived in Wuxi Thursday afternoon local time to hold talks with Chinese authorities on Iran-China 25-year strategic cooperation program. The Iranian top diplomat is going to discuss the latest situation of Iran-China 25-year strategic cooperation program with his Chinese counterpart in a Friday meeting. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Islamic Republic of Iran and People's Republic of China is a 25-year cooperation agreement on the further development of Iran-China relations signed in Tehran by the Chinese and Iranian foreign ministers on 27 March 2021. According to the strategic plan, China is to invest 400 billion dollars in Iran's economy over a 25-year period in exchange for a steady supply of Iranian oil.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84612683/FM-Amirabdollahian-in-China-to-discuss-Iran-China-25-year-deal>

### **1st phase of Qeshm ultra-heavy crude oil refinery becomes operational**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 14, 2022

First phase of the Pasargad Energy Development Company's Qeshm ultra-heavy crude oil refinery project has officially become operative in the presence of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi. In accordance with directives made by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the need for decreasing crude oil sales, the first phase of the Pasargad Energy Development Company's Qeshm ultra-heavy crude oil refinery project with the capacity of producing 35,000 barrels comes into effect in the presence of President Raisi on Friday. The refinery,

which is located in Qeshm Island in the southern Hormozgan province, is now prepared to produce refined ultra-heavy crude oil with full capacity.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84612997/1st-phase-of-Qeshm-ultra-heavy-crude-oil-refinery-becomes-operational>

### **Blinken says 'a few weeks' left for Iran to resume nuclear compliance**

Al-Monitor, January 14, 2022

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said only "a few weeks" remain to bring Iran back into compliance and salvage the landmark nuclear deal before the United States considers its "other options." "We're very, very short on time," Blinken said in an interview with NPR on Thursday. "They're making advances that will become increasingly hard to reverse because they're learning things; they're doing new things as a result of having broken out of their constraints under the agreement," he said.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/blinken-says-few-weeks-left-iran-resume-nuclear-compliance#ixzz7IGAqyqq5>

### **JCPOA delegations to return to capitals from Vienna**

Islamic Republic News Agency, January 14, 2022

The heads of diplomatic delegations in Vienna will return to the capitals of their countries to hold consultations.

According to IRNA, the heads of diplomatic delegations, senior Iranian officials and E3 (three European countries UK, France and Germany) as well as Iran will temporarily return to their countries for some consultations. Accordingly, this return to capital will continue for two days, and expert meetings will continue their job. The return of the heads of diplomatic

delegations negotiators does not mean stopping the eighth round of negotiations.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84613091/JCPOA-delegations-to-return-to-capitals-from-Vienna>

## IRAQ

### **Air Defense: Iraq's airspace is secure, drone processing systems will enter service**

Iraqi News Agency, January 2, 2022

The Air Defense Commander, Lieutenant-General Maan Al-Saadi, confirmed today, Sunday, that the Iraqi airspace is completely secured and that no violations or threats to the country have been recorded, while indicating that the drone handling systems will enter service. Al-Saadi told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Iraqi airspace is fully secured within the available capabilities of the radar detection system, and so far, no violations or air threats targeting the sky of Iraq have been recorded." He continued that "We have anti-drone systems to deal with small drones, but they are limited and few, so the government, headed by the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, seeks to obtain a better quality of these systems to address all the threats that affect officials and vital places in Iraq in Baghdad and the provinces."

<https://ina.iq/eng/16528-air-defense-iraqs-airspace-is-secure-drone-processing-systems-will-enter-service.html>

### **SMC: Two drones targeting Ain al-Assad base shot down**

Iraqi News Agency, January 4, 2022

The security media cell announced Tuesday that the Ain al-Assad base was targeted by two drones. "The Ain al-Assad air base in Anbar province was targeted by two drones," the cell said in a statement received by the Official Iraqi News Agency

(INA), adding that they were shut down without casualties,"

<https://ina.iq/eng/16560-smc-two-drones-targeting-ain-al-assad-base-shot-down.html>

### **Iraqi Ground Forces opens up about new arming contracts and others facts**

Iraqi News Agency, January 5, 2022

Commander of the Ground Forces, Lieutenant-General Qassim Al-Muhammadi, revealed new contracts to import advanced drones and artillery from France. He explained, "There are many contracts that include armed drones flying in Iraqi airspace for 30 hours and capable of addressing targets and continuous monitoring towards various regions as they have proven their ability and effectiveness," noting that "there are excellent artillery that will be imported from France with high accuracy, in addition to weapons with night vision and many contracts, some of which arrived at the port and some in the factories to support the armed forces,"

<https://ina.iq/eng/16589-iraqi-ground-forces-opens-up-about-new-arming-contracts-and-others-facts.html>

### **US troops in Syria, Iraq targeted with renewed rocket and drone attacks**

Al-Monitor, January 5, 2022

Rockets rained down near bases used by US troops in Iraq and Syria on Wednesday, marking the third straight day of such attacks since the two-year anniversary of the US killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani on Monday. No one was reported injured in the barrages, which targeted the US-led coalition's site near al-Omar oilfield in Syria, Iraq's Ayn al-Asad airbase in Anbar province and the international airport in Baghdad, which houses Iraqi and coalition troops. At least five rockets also landed near Asad Airbase west of Baghdad today. The coalition said none of the

projectiles hit the base, with the closest landing more than a mile away. Iraqi security forces said they recovered a launcher and unfired 240mm rocket in the al-Jihad neighborhood of Baghdad on Wednesday morning. A group calling itself Saraya Qasem al-Jabaareen claimed credit for the attempted attack on Ayn al-Asad in a written statement released Wednesday. The group vowed to continue the strikes until US forces fully withdraw from the country.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/us-troops-syria-iraq-targeted-renewed-rocket-and-drone-attacks#ixzz7INWEPjLd>

### **SMC: Five missiels target Ain Al-Asad base**

Iraqi News Agency, January 5, 2022

Security Media Cell - SMC announced on Wednesday, targeting Ain Al-Assad base with five missiles. "The security forces are conducting an inspection and are beginning to investigate the incident of targeting Ain Al-Assad Air Base, affiliated to the Iraqi Air Force Command in Anbar Governorate, with five missiles by outlaw elements," SMC said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/16592-smc-five-missiels-target-ain-al-asad-base.html>

### **Coalition hits back at Iran-backed groups**

Al-Monitor, January 6, 2022

According to a Jan. 5 coalition statement, "Coalition forces were targeted this morning by eight rounds of indirect fire at Green Village, a Syrian Democratic Forces base with a small Coalition advisory presence, in northeast Syria. According to Coalition forces, the attack did not cause any casualties, but several rounds impacted inside the Coalition base and caused minor

damage." It added, "Coalition forces, acting on credible and actionable intelligence, responded swiftly and fired six rounds of artillery towards the point of origin of the attack just outside Mayadin, Syria. The Iran-supported malign actors fired on the Coalition and SDF from within civilian infrastructure with no regard for civilian safety."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/coalition-hits-back-iran-backed-groups#ixzz7INXcMzt5>

### **Yarallah, NATO mission commander discuss progress of projects to increase Iraqi army capabilities**

Iraqi News Agency, January 11, 2022

Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah discussed on Tuesday, with the commander of the NATO mission the progress of projects to increase the capabilities of the Iraqi army. "Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah received in his office the commander of the NATO mission in Iraq and a number of mission advisers," the defense ministry said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "The meeting discussed the progress of projects submitted by the mission aimed at increasing the capabilities of the Iraqi army and discussing options for developing the level of mission's work in the country," the statement said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/16722-yarallah-nato-mission-commander-discuss-progress-of-projects-to-increase-iraqi-army-capabilities.html>

### **Al-Sadr: The Green Zone attack delays the US forces withdrawal**

Iraqi News Agency, January 13, 2022

The leader of the Sadrist movement, Muqtada al-Sadr, confirmed today,

Thursday, that the Green Zone attract delays the withdrawal of US forces. Al-Sadr said in a tweet received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "There are parties claiming to be resistance and claiming to hit the US embassy in the Green Zone, and they have injured civilians, children, women and destroyed the edifices of science and education.". He added: "The people should not be deceived by such movements. They are doing this in order to delay the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq in order for them to have an excuse to use weapons, and the fate of the people remains in their hands. There is no existence for them without the presence of the occupier."

<https://ina.iq/eng/16787-al-sadr-the-green-zone-attack-delays-the-us-forces-withdrawal-.html>

### **Iraqi Army announces completing the trench along the border with Syria**

Iraqi News Agency, January 14, 2022

The 20th Division Command of the Iraqi army announced on Friday, completing the trench along the border with Syria, while indicating the development of new plans to secure the border barrier. According to the directives issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Sinjar district is fully secured by the cooperation between all security agencies , including Army, Police, Popular Mobilization Forces, Tribal Mobilization Forces and The Peshmerga, in addition to the great role of the local government, stressing that "the army is able to provide security and safety and the best services in Sinjar and Mosul, The commander of the 20th Division, Brigadier General Atheer Hamza Jassim, said in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/16798-iraqi-army-announces-completing-the-trench-along-the-border-with-syria.html>

## **ISRAEL**

### **2 rockets fired from Gaza hit off central Israel coast; terror groups blame weather**

The Times of Israel, January 1, 2022

The Israel Defense Forces said Saturday morning that two rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip toward central Israel. Large explosions were heard in a number of central Israel cities around 7 a.m. Video circulating on social media showed an explosion in the sea off the coast of Jaffa. Other footage apparently showed the two rockets being fired from Gaza. There were no sirens warning of incoming rockets, in a sign that no projectiles were headed for populated areas. The Iron Dome missile defense system was not activated for the same reason. Armed factions in Gaza said the rocket fire was "caused by weather conditions," not the first time the excuse has been used to explain the firing of projectiles toward Israel.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/explosions-off-central-israel-coast-idf-probing-if-rockets-fired-from-gaza/>

### **Israel carries out airstrikes in Gaza in response to rockets off Tel Aviv coast**

The Times of Israel, January 2, 2022

The Israel Defense Forces carried out retaliatory airstrikes in Gaza late Saturday night after two rockets fired from Gaza landed off the Tel Aviv coast on Saturday morning. "Fighter jets and helicopters attacked a series of targets in a rocket production facility belonging to the Hamas terror group," the IDF said in a statement.

Israeli tanks also shelled Hamas military posts near Gaza's border with Israel. Hamas media said Israeli warplanes struck a Hamas outpost west of Khan Younis, in the southern part of the Strip, while tanks targeted outposts in northern Gaza. "Hamas is responsible and bears the consequences

for all activity in and emanating from the Gaza Strip,” the IDF said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-reportedly-strikes-gaza-after-rockets-land-off-tel-aviv-coast/>

### **Anti-aircraft missiles fired at IDF helicopters during Gaza strike, but miss**

The Times of Israel, January 2, 2022

In a rare incident, Gazan terrorists targeted Israeli military helicopters with shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles over the Strip early Sunday morning during airstrikes carried out by the Israel Defense Forces. During retaliatory airstrikes shortly after midnight, Hamas operatives fired two SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles toward raiding helicopters west of Gaza City, Palestinian media outlets said. The IDF confirmed that anti-aircraft missiles were fired at the helicopters, but would not comment on how many. The military said the missiles missed their mark and caused neither injury nor damage.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/anti-aircraft-missiles-fired-at-idf-helicopters-during-gaza-strike-but-miss/>

### **IDF intel chief reportedly says restored Iran nuke deal better than talks failing**

The Times of Israel, January 5, 2022

The head of Military Intelligence reportedly told the high-level security cabinet that it would be better for Israel if a deal is reached to curb Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, appearing to break with the government’s position that the failure of talks is preferable to anything but a significantly bolstered pact. Citing two unnamed ministers who took part in the meeting this week, the Walla news site reported Tuesday that Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva said restoring the 2015 nuclear agreement would provide greater certainty about the limitations on Iran’s atomic activities than if talks between Iran

and world powers fall apart. According to the report, Haliva’s comments were in response to Mossad chief David Barnea, who did not express support for a restored nuclear deal and told ministers he believed there was still time to influence the United States regarding the conditions for an agreement.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-intel-chief-reportedly-says-restored-iran-nuke-deal-better-than-talks-failing/>

### **Amid talk of Iran strike, Bennett says Israel rearming as it hasn’t for years**

The Times of Israel, January 10, 2022

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett tells the Knesset that the country’s security services, chiefly the Israel Defense Forces, are rearming as they haven’t for years. Bennett’s comments come as the IDF is working intensively to prepare for a potential military strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities, amid growing concerns that ongoing talks between the world powers and Tehran in Vienna on curbing the latter’s nuclear program may result in an agreement that Israel deems unacceptable. “We are investing in security rearmament of the IDF and the entire defense establishment. I would say this was rearmament that we haven’t seen for years. This rearmament is important to our survival, and I am very glad about it and am determined to see it through quickly,” Bennett says, speaking to the parliament’s powerful Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/amid-talk-of-iran-strike-bennett-says-israel-rearming-as-it-hasnt-for-years/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/amid-talk-of-iran-strike-bennett-says-israel-rearming-as-it-hasnt-for-years/)

### **Bennett to Putin: World must stand firm against Iran’s nuclear progress**

The Times of Israel, January 13, 2022

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday that countries negotiating with Iran in Vienna must stand firm against

progress in Tehran's nuclear program. According to the Prime Minister's Office, the two spoke via phone about regional security issues, and agreed on "continued close cooperation in this area" — a likely reference to Israeli Air Force activity in Syria, where Moscow maintains a military presence. "Against the backdrop of the nuclear talks in Vienna, the prime minister stressed the importance of a strong and determined stance against Iran's progress in the nuclear project," the statement read.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-to-putin-world-must-stand-firm-against-irans-nuclear-progress/>

## LEBANON

### Geagea: Nasrallah's Speech Full of Lies, Taking Up Arms Not LF's Plan

Naharnet, January 5, 2022

Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea on Wednesday charged that the latest speech of Hizbullah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was "full of fallacies and lies" regarding Saudi Arabia's role in Lebanon and the region. Speaking to Sky News Arabia, Geagea added that "taking up arms is not at all the LF's plan." "What happened in Tayyouneh showed that we have no right at all to take up arms, seeing as the incident showed that there is a Lebanese state institution, the Lebanese Army, which is ready to protect the Lebanese and separate between them," the LF leader said.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/286883-geagea-nasrallah-s-speech-full-of-lies-taking-up-arms-not-lf-s-plan>

### Israel downed a Hezbollah drone that came from Lebanon

Ya Libnan, January 5, 2022

The Israeli military shot down a Hezbollah drone that crossed into Israel, the IDF said on Tuesday according to a report by Haaretz "The drone was monitored by our soldiers throughout the incident from the

moment it crossed the border from inside Lebanese territory, where air control forces followed it throughout the incident." , " the military added in a statement. According to the report incursions by Hezbollah drones into Israel are reported every few months. Last August, Israel shot down a Hezbollah drone that flew into Israeli territory following an unprecedented exchange of fire between Israel and Hezbollah a few days prior.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/01/05/israel-downed-a-hezbollah-drone-that-came-from-lebanon/>

### Israeli Security Says Downed Drones Show Hizbullah Surveillance

Naharnet, January 7, 2022

Israeli security sources claimed Friday that drones captured after being flown across the frontier from neighboring Lebanon have provided insight into the growing aerial surveillance capabilities of Hizbullah. Drones have become a regular feature of heavily guarded border between Lebanon and Israel. Images extracted from one drone downed in August -- shown to AFP -- showed what the source said was Hizbullah drone operators and pictures of other drones, as well as an aerial shot of a northern Israeli settlement and military post. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he believed the footage showed Hizbullah special forces training in how to use drones, which he said was the first such glimpse for Israel.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/286917-israeli-security-says-downed-drones-show-hizbullah-surveillance>

### US to allow Lebanon to import energy through Syria, despite Caesar Act

Ya Libnan, January 14, 2022

The US will allow Lebanon to import natural gas and electricity from Egypt and Jordan through Syria, without being subject to restrictions imposed by the US Caesar

Act which prohibits cooperation with Syria, Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib has said. The US authorities have informed Egyptian officials about Lebanon's capability of importing energy through Syria, Bou Habib said on Thursday during his meeting at Baabda Palace with President Michel Aoun to inform him about his recent visit to the US. The Energy and Oil Ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon had agreed last September to supply Lebanon with electricity from Jordan and natural gas from Egypt through the Arab Gas pipeline to solve the electricity crisis in Lebanon, Xinhua news agency reported.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/01/14/us-to-allow-lebanon-to-import-energy-through-syria-despite-caesar-act/>

### **Blast Heard between Houmine and Deir al-Zahrani**

Naharnet, January 14, 2022

The sound of a blast was reportedly heard overnight between the southern towns of Houmine and Deir al-Zahrani of the Nabatiyeh district. The causes of the blast, followed by a fire outbreak, remain unknown. Media reports said that at 1:30 am, the residents of the area heard a blast, then saw a fire erupting in the outskirts of the town. "Partisans prevented reporters from reaching the site," an-Nahar newspaper reported, adding that "there is a military center for Hizbullah at the area where the blast went off."

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/287101-blast-heard-between-houmine-and-deir-al-zahrani>

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Coalition forces intercept three booby-trapped Houthi drones**

Saudi Gazette, January 2, 2022

The command of the Saudi-led coalition to support the legitimate Yemeni government

announced late Saturday the downing of three explosives-laden drones that were fired by the Yemeni Houthi militias towards the southern Saudi cities. The command tweeted that the drones were launched from Houthi militants from a site in the Yemeni capital Sanaa. It added that more intelligence information is currently being gathered to prepare for the coalition's response to the source of the terrorist attack. Meanwhile, the Kingdom of Bahrain has strongly condemned the terrorist Houthi militia's launch of three drones against the southern region of Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/615407/SAUDI-ARABIA/Coalition-forces-intercept-three-booby-trapped-Houthi-drones>

### **Arab Coalition carries 49 operations against Houthis**

Saudi Gazette, January 5, 2022

The Arab Coalition Supporting Legitimacy in Yemen said on Wednesday that it carried 49 operations in the last 24 hours against Houthi militias in Marib and Shabwah governorates. According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the operations in Shabwah led to the killing of over 190 terrorists and the destruction of 23 military vehicles. In Marib, operations there led to the death of 70 terror elements and the destruction of nine Houthi machinery.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/615530/SAUDI-ARABIA/Arab-Coalition-carries-49-operations-against-Houthis>

### **Houthi piracy of ships off Yemen coast was planned by Iran: Arab Coalition**

Saudi Gazette, January 8, 2022

The Arab Coalition said on Saturday that the Iran-backed Houthis continue to violate international navigation in the Red Sea. The Coalition said in a press briefing headed by the Arab Coalition spokesman Brig. Gen. Turki Al-Maliki that the militia violated

international laws with piracy and kidnappings in international waters. He stressed that the ships that were subjected to Houthi piracy attacks were planned by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, presenting a set of evidence including photos and videos. Al-Maliki said the Houthis launched 432 ballistic missiles from Yemen's Hodeidah port, in addition to 100 booby-trapped boats to target navigation in the Red Sea.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/615621/SAUDI-ARABIA/Houthi-piracy-of-ships-off-Yemen-coast-was-planned-by-Iran-Arab-Coalition>

### **Saudi energy min calls for flexibility in 'complicated' energy transition**

Alarabiya News, January 12, 2022

Saudi Arabia's energy minister said on Wednesday that the world needed more flexibility as the transition to clean energy is "complicated", adding that the kingdom would develop its nuclear programme to take advantage of uranium resources. "We should not forfeit energy security for the sake of a publicity stunt", said Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman al-Saud, speaking at a mining conference in Saudi Arabia. The world's top oil exporter has said it wants to tap nuclear technology and use nuclear power to diversify its energy mix. "Let me be very specific about it, we do have a huge amount of uranium resources that we would like to exploit and we will be doing it in the most transparent way, we will be bringing in partners," the minister said, adding that Saudi Arabia would be manufacturing and developing uranium.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/business/energy/2022/01/12/Saudi-energy-min-calls-for-flexibility-in-complicated-energy-transition>

### **Coordination with Gulf increases as US, world powers align focus on Iran nuclear deal**

Alarabiya News, January 12, 2022

Gulf countries' involvement in the Vienna talks to revive the abandoned 2015 Iran nuclear deal has increased significantly as of late, as GCC officials meet with their US and Western counterparts while direct negotiations between Tehran and world powers are ongoing. Saudi Arabia's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Prince Abdullah bin Khaled said on Wednesday that GCC representatives in Vienna met with US special envoy to Iran Robert Malley to discuss Iran's nuclear deal and its malign activities in the region. "[During the meeting] Mr. Malley reviewed the latest developments of the Vienna Talks, and we emphasized the security concerns regarding the Iranian nuclear program and Iran's interventions in the region to destabilize security through its support for terrorist militias," the Prince tweeted.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/01/12/Coordination-with-Gulf-increases-as-US-world-powers-align-focus-on-Iran-nuclear-deal>

## **SYRIA**

### **Syrian soldiers killed in deadly Islamic State ambush in Deir Ezzor**

Al-Monitor, January 4, 2022

Syrian state-run media said five soldiers were killed in an Islamic State missile attack on a transport convoy in the country's eastern desert on Sunday evening. Twenty others were wounded, state-run SANA news agency reported. The attack occurred in the Badia desert between Palmyra and Deir Ezzor, according to SANA. The remote area remains a hotbed of IS insurgent activity even after nearly all of the country was recaptured from the

jihadist group by the Syrian regime and Kurdish forces two years ago. Two years ago, a Russian major general was killed in a roadside bomb attack in the desert outside Deir Ezzor city. Russia militarily backs the Assad regime.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/syrian-soldiers-killed-deadly-islamic-state-ambush-deir-ezzor#ixzz7IOkGvsgp>

### **Western states continue to fabricate lies on Syria's cooperation with OPCW, Sabbagh affirms**

Syrian Arab News Agency, January 6, 2022

Syria has renewed its condemnation of the use of chemical weapons anywhere, anytime and by anyone, under any circumstances, noting that Western countries continue to fabricate lies on Syria's cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to pass resolutions and establish illegitimate mechanisms to flagrantly politicize the work of the organization. Syria's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh reiterated in a UN Security Council's session on Wednesday that Syria has never used any kind of the prohibited weapons or any toxic chemicals despite of the huge challenges that faced the Syrian Arab Army and its allies due to the crimes of the terrorist organizations and its supporters.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=259912>

### **China renews rejection of politicizing OPCW work**

Syrian Arab News Agency, January 6, 2022

China stressed that Western states which continue to propose the so-called chemical file in Syria to UN Security Council lack objectivity and they politicize the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). During a UN Security Council's session on Wednesday,

Advisor to the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN, Sun Zhejiang, said that these Western works undermine the authority of the Organization and the mutual trust among the States Parties, adding that China urges the relevant countries to change their track and stop politicizing the work of the organization.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=259947>

### **UN accuses Syria of failing to answer for chemical weapons program**

Al-Monitor, January 7, 2022

The United Nation's top representative for disarmament told the Security Council on Wednesday that Syria has failed to provide complete answers on its history with chemical weapons. Damascus' transparency record remains incomplete, Izumi Nakamitsu told the international body on Wednesday. Nakamitsu said the Bashar al-Assad government has submitted 17 amendments and several supplementary documents to its original weapons declaration, but still has left 20 out of 24 requests for disclosure unresolved since a 2013 agreement to rid the country of chemical weapons. "Full cooperation by the Syrian Arab Republic with the OPCW [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons] Technical Secretariat is essential to closing these outstanding issues," she said.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/un-accuses-syria-failing-answer-chemical-weapons-program#ixzz7IOICQ3Bl>

### **Syria, China sign MoU in framework of Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative**

Syrian Arab News Agency, January 12, 2022

Syria and China signed on Wednesday a memo of understanding within framework of the initiative of "Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk

Road” at the Planning and International Cooperation Commission’s building in Damascus. The memo was inked by Head of the Planning and International Cooperation Commission Fadi al-Khalil on behalf of the Syrian side, while China’s Ambassador in Damascus Feng Biao signed it on behalf of the Chinese side. According to the memorandum, Syria joins the initiative, which helps open broad horizons of cooperation with China and a number of partner countries in the initiative in several areas, including the exchange of goods, technology, capital, activating the movement of individuals, in addition to cultural exchange.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=260411>

## TURKEY

### Turkiye 'neutralized' 1,140 terrorists in 2021: Minister

Anadolu Agency, January 4, 2022

Turkish forces neutralized a total of 1,140 terrorists, including members of the PKK/KCK, Daesh/ISIS and leftist groups, in nationwide operations in 2021, the country’s deputy interior minister said on Tuesday. Ismail Catakli made the remarks at a press conference in the capital Ankara. He briefed the media on ongoing anti-terror operations and Turkiye's efforts against irregular migration. In 2021, the minister said, Turkish security forces carried out 143,321 anti-terror operations – 124,159 in rural areas and 19,162 in urban areas. There are fewer than 156 PKK terrorists left in the mountains, Catakli added.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkiye-neutralized-1-140-terrorists-in-2021-minister/2465202>

### Turkey’s fighter jet to make first flight in 2025, Erdoğan says

Daily Sabah, January 7, 2022

The National Combat Aircraft (MMU), Turkey’s long-awaited 5th generation

fighter jet, will make its first flight in 2025, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said on Thursday. Turkey’s first indigenous combat aircraft will emerge from the hangar in 2023, he said at a mass opening ceremony of 16 factories that will operate in the Space and Aerospace Industry Zone in the capital Ankara, an engineering hub for manufacturing the groundbreaking jet fighter. "It will take its place in the skies in 2029 as the strike force of the Turkish Air Force, after successfully completing its test procedures," said Erdoğan. Some 2,300 engineers involved in the project will carry out their work at this hub, Erdoğan stressed.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-fighter-jet-to-make-first-flight-in-2025-erdogan-says>

### Pakistan's army denies reports of cancellation of helicopter deal with Turkiye

Anadolu Agency, January 7, 2021

Pakistan’s army Friday rejected some digital media reports that Pakistan has canceled a T-129 ATAK helicopter deal with Turkiye. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, clarified that speculations over the cancellation of Pakistan’s deal for acquiring T-129 ATAK helicopters from Turkiye are baseless.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistans-army-denies-reports-of-cancellation-of-helicopter-deal-with-turkiye/2467954>

### Greece undermines NATO alliance: Turkish defense chief

Anadolu Agency, January 8, 2022

Greece has undermined NATO by attempting to form alliances against Turkiye within the bloc, the Turkish national defense minister said on Saturday. Addressing a news conference in the capital Ankara, Hulusi Akar said Athens was

pursuing expansionist policies in the region, violating international law. Akar said the two countries were at odds on a number of issues, including Greece's aggressive armament policy, its arming of non-militarized islands in the Aegean Sea, policy of suppression of its Turkish minority, and unfounded claims in the Eastern Mediterranean violating the rights of Türkiye and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Disputes on maritime delimitation, air space and flight information, were also among the major issues between Ankara and Athens, he said.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/greece-undermines-nato-alliance-turkish-defense-chief/2468879>

### **Turkey moves forward with mass production of light attack aircraft**

Daily Sabah, January 13, 2022

Turkey's Defense Industry Executive Committee on Wednesday decided to move forward with the first-phase mass production of the Hürjet, Turkey's indigenously developed advanced jet trainer and light attack aircraft. Besides the Hürjet production, which will be unveiled in 2023, the committee discussed adding more indigenous systems to the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) inventory and other security agencies, the Communications Directorate said in a statement. The Hürjet project was initially kicked off by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) in 2017 and is expected to make a maiden flight in 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-moves-forward-with-mass-production-of-light-attack-aircraft>

### **'Turkey's eyes, ears at sea': 1st intelligence ship joins naval fleet**

Daily Sabah, January 14, 2022

The Turkish defense industry has made a promising start to 2022 with another breakthrough Friday as Naval Forces

Command received the country's first intelligence collection ship. Defined as a test and training ship, TCG Ufuk (A-591) has been developed and built with national resources and capabilities, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said at the delivery ceremony in Istanbul Shipyard. Dubbed "Turkey's ears and eyes at sea," the ship marks the latest effort by Turkey, one of the few countries that can build its own warships, to boost its naval power.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-eyes-ears-at-sea-1st-intelligence-ship-joins-naval-fleet>

### **Turkey to equip warships with domestic vertical launch system: Erdoğan**

Daily Sabah, January 14, 2022

Turkey has domestically produced a vertical launch system (VLS) for naval platforms that will replace the ones procured from abroad while the systems will also equip warships to be constructed in the near future, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Friday. "Until now, we had been outsourcing the VLS, which is the main weapon group of our frigates. Now we have a national and locally produced one," the president said. Erdoğan was speaking during the delivery ceremony of the country's first intelligence collection ship in Istanbul Shipyard.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-to-equip-warships-with-domestic-vertical-launch-system-erdogan>

## **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

### **UAE's nuclear energy corporation set to produce 85% of Abu Dhabi clean electricity by 2025**

The New Arab, January 12, 2022

The UAE said Wednesday it can produce around one million tonnes of hydrogen per year from nuclear power once all its four units are operational, according to the CEO of the Emirates Nuclear Energy

Corporation (ENEC). The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) said on Wednesday it was set to produce 85 percent of Abu Dhabi's clean electricity by 2025. The Barakah nuclear power plant's fourth unit had the potential to create one million tonnes of hydrogen per year, Mohamed Ibrahim al-Hammadi, chief executive of ENEC, said. "This low carbon fuel is essential to transition to a net zero world," he said at an energy conference.

The plant in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE, is the first nuclear power plant in the Arab world and is part of the Gulf oil producer's efforts to diversify its energy mix.

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/uae-moving-towards-net-zero-world-says-enec-chief>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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