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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

AZERBAIJAN

Armenia, Azerbaijan take small step towards peace deal

Aljazeera, 24 May 2022

Armenia and Azerbaijan have announced that they had set up a border commission, a potential step towards ending a dispute over the ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh that has festered for 30 years. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on Monday posted a decree on his website creating a border delimitation commission under Vice-Premier Shahin Mustafayev.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/24/armenia-azerbaijan-take-small-step-towards-peace-deal>

Azerbaijan agrees with Armenia on Zangezur corridor, says Aliyev

YeniSafak, 24 May 2022

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said Monday that Baku agreed with Armenia on the opening of the Zangezur corridor, including the construction of both railways and highways. In a statement, Azerbaijan's Presidency said Aliyev spoke over the phone with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and updated him on a trilateral meeting between himself, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and European Council President Charles Michel in Brussels on Sunday.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/azerbaijan-agrees-with-armenia-on-zangezur-corridor-says-aliyev-3621069>

Airshow held within TEKNOFEST festival in Baku

Azer News, 26 May 2022

An air show was held within the TEKNOFEST International Aviation, Space and Technology Festival in Baku, with participation of fighter jets and helicopters of the Air Forces of Azerbaijan and Turkey, Trend reports. TEKNOFEST in Baku is held by the Ministry of Digital

Development and Transport of Azerbaijan. At the same time, the TEKNOFEST production office operates in Baku.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/194467.html>

Cementing links, Turkey, Azerbaijan to cooperate on space, tech

Daily Sabah, 27 May 2022

Ankara and Baku are due to further strengthen their links and will sign several agreements that will cover space, technology and industry areas, a Turkish official said Friday. The deals will be signed on the sidelines of the Teknofest Azerbaijan, the first foreign edition of the leading Turkish aviation, space and technology festival, which is underway in Baku. "Here, we are bringing together young people, technology developers and companies to further develop our countries and, at the same time, we will become a very different power in the regional sense," Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/tech/cementing-links-turkey-azerbaijan-to-cooperate-on-space-tech>

CYPRUS

Anastasiades urges EU leaders to adopt targeted sanctions on Russia

Cyprus Mail, 23 May 2022

President Nicos Anastasiades took part in a teleconference of EU leaders on Monday chaired by president of the European Council Charles Michel, centred on Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. With a sixth package of EU sanctions on Russia still being debated, the meeting was called ahead of next week's session in Brussels on May 30 and 31. Anastasiades reiterated the importance of EU unity in light of Russia's invasion – supporting measures which could facilitate the end of the war – but stressed that sanctions must be targeted so

as not to disproportionately harm member states.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/05/23/anastasiades-urges-eu-leaders-to-adopt-targeted-sanctions-on-russia/>

Large-scale military exercise with Israel begins Sunday

Cyprus Mail, 28 May 2022

A large-scale military exercise ‘Agapinor-2022’ in which the national guard and the armed forces of Israel will participate will take place from Sunday until June 2, the defence ministry announced. The exercise will take place in a large part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by water, land and air. It is part of the agreed bilateral defence cooperation programme of the Republic with Israel, the ministry said, “highlighting the excellent relations between the two countries in recent years in the field of defence and security.”

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/05/28/large-scale-military-exercise-with-israel-begins-sunday/>

Anastasiades: We will not stop petitioning the EU and UN to act on Turkey

Cyprus Mail, 28 May 2022

It is regrettable that Turkey remains a ‘pampered child’ for some despite its continued provocations, President Nicos Anastasiades said on Saturday, expressing the wish that the current situation in Ukraine would “stir up justice” and hold Turkey accountable for its actions. He was speaking at the unveiling ceremony for a monument erected in the memory of 1974’s missing persons in Limassol. “The monument is a constant reminder of the responsibility and debt we have as a state, as a people, as a nation, to determine the fate of all the missing,” he said. “Despite the investigation of a large number of cases,

and despite best efforts made on our side, the fate of 775 Greek Cypriots and Greeks remains uncertain”.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/05/28/anastasiades-we-will-not-stop-petitioning-the-eu-and-un-to-act-on-turkey/>

Ankara asserting ‘absolute authority’ over north

Cyprus Mail, 29 May 2022

A controversial financial aid protocol signed recently between the northern part of Cyprus and Ankara has enraged large segments of the Turkish Cypriot community and instigated an unprecedentedly open conversation about Turkey’s ever-increasing oppression on the island. The ‘Economic and Financial Cooperation Protocol’, which was signed on April 14 and kept secret until last weekend, foresees a loan of 4.25 billion TL (around €240 million) payable in dollars to the Turkish Cypriot community in 2022. In exchange, the protocol introduces conditions that, according to observers, will limit fundamental rights and freedoms including the freedom of expression in the northern part of Cyprus; undermine civil society; and strengthen the role of Islam in Turkish Cypriot society.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/05/29/ankara-asserting-absolute-authority-over-north/>

Israel defence minister in Cyprus to view military exercise

Cyprus Mail, 31 May 2022

Israel’s Defence Minister Benny Gantz arrive in Cyprus on Tuesday to see the large bilateral military exercise Agapinor, which started on Sunday. He was greeted at Paphos international airport by permanent secretary of the defence ministry Andreas Louka and National Guard chief, General Demokritos Zervakis. The large-scale

exercise involved Cyprus and Israel Sea, land and air forces.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/05/31/israel-defence-minister-in-cyprus-to-view-military-exercise/>

IRAN

Foreign Ministry says Washington has not yet responded to Iran's new solutions

Tehran Times, 16 May 2022

Mora visited Tehran to re-energize the Vienna talks that started in April last year. The talks in Vienna had stalemated in Vienna since March as the Biden administration has failed to take political decision to take a number of steps, including removing the name of the IRGC from foreign terrorist organizations. However, while Mora was in Tehran the Zionist regime of Israel created a commotion over his visit. "Whenever there is an initiative and a diplomatic move, the fake regime of Israel carries out its movements against diplomacy and this is nothing new," Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a weekly press briefing.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472674/Foreign-Ministry-says-Washington-has-not-yet-responded-to-Iran-s>

Blinken and Le Drian talk about return to full JCPOA implementation

Tehran Times, 16 May 2022

The two talked about efforts to achieve a mutual return to full JCPOA implementation with Iran," the U.S. Department of State said on its website. The statement by the Department of State came a few days after European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the stalemate in the nuclear talks in Vienna has been broken. Borrell made the remarks immediately after his deputy Enrique Mora, who acts the coordinator of the nuclear

talks, returned from Tehran to Brussels on Friday.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472679/Blinken-and-Le-Drian-talk-about-return-to-full-JCPOA-implementation>

Iran's new ambassador urges enhanced relations with Iraq

IRNA News, 16 May 2022

Al Sadeq made the remarks during a meeting with the Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein where he presented a copy of his credentials to the Iraqi minister. Referring to some concerns shared by the two countries, like the climate change and its consequences, the new minister said that dealing with such issues requires more dialogue and cooperation between Iran and Iraq and regionally. The Iraqi foreign minister, for his part, said that Iraq also believes in further activating dialogue between the two countries for solving the shared challenges. Hussein wished success for Al Sadeq during his tenure as Iran's new ambassador to Iraq.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84755580/Iran-s-new-ambassador-urges-enhanced-relations-with-Iraq>

Shiite-Sunni Unity a Strategy for Islamic Republic

Iran News Daily, 16 May 2022

President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi describes the position of Sunni people and clerics in Iran important in the history of the country and said, "Sunni clerics and thinkers have provided many services in their own country, and Shiites and Sunnis have lived together in Islamic Iran for many years". Speaking in a meeting with a group of Sunni scholars and clerics, President Raisi referred to the government's serious efforts to solve people's livelihood problems, and stated, "The government pays attention to the concerns of the people that are

conveyed to the clerics and tries to solve these problems”.

<https://irannewsdaily.com/2022/05/shiite-sunni-unity-a-strategy-for-islamic-republic/>

Iran opens drone factory in Tajikistan

Tehran Times, 17 May 2022

The Ababil 2, an all-Iranian UAV production plant, was inaugurated in Dushanbe with the aim of boosting defense and military cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan. The plant was set up with expertise provided by the specialists of the Iranian ministry of defense. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Major General Bagheri pointed out that Iran, with the efforts of its committed specialists and scientists and the use of domestic capabilities, has been able to achieve a significant growth in all military and defense dimensions, especially drones. “Today, we are in a position where we can export military equipment to allied and friendly countries in addition to meeting domestic needs in order to increase security and lasting peace,” he pointed out.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47270/4/Iran-opens-drone-factory-in-Tajikistan>

Iran underlines strategic relations with Russia

Tehran Times, 17 May 2022

In an interview with the Russian news agency RIA Novosti, Saeed Khatibzadeh stated that NATO expansion and the West's disregard for Russia's security concerns are the reasons for the current Ukraine crisis and that “NATO should know that there is no happy ending for the path of confrontation.” Khatibzadeh stressed the continuation of Iran's efforts to broker peace between Moscow and Kiev. “We think that the root of everything we see today is NATO expansion or ignoring the facts of Europe as well as the Western countries' disregard for the political and security considerations of a number of

countries, especially Russia, and the agreements that were finalized a decade ago,” he said, according to Fars News.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47270/2/Iran-underlines-strategic-relations-with-Russia>

VP calls Raisi's upcoming visit to Oman strategically important

Tehran Times, 17 May 2022

Speaking in a live radio show on Tuesday, Seyed Mohammad Hosseini stated that one of the priorities of the government's foreign policy is to pay attention to the neighbors and countries in the region. “In this regard, it is natural to have economic trade and political cooperation with neighbouring countries and to discuss security issues.” Speaking about the positive results of the president's visits to neighbouring countries, he said that during Raisi's visit to Tajikistan, the issue of Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was raised. “The issue of gas swap was also raised during the visit to Turkmenistan. Following the president's visit to Qatar, the Emir of Qatar came to Iran and announced his readiness for extensive cooperation in various fields,” Hosseini added.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47271/5/VP-calls-Raisi-s-upcoming-visit-to-Oman-strategically-important>

New page opened in Iran, UAE ties: Amirabdollahian

IRNA News, 17 May 2022

Writing on his Twitter account, Amirabdollahian said that a new chapter was opened in the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates, adding that Iran warmly shakes hands with its neighbors, which disappoints the enemies of the region. Amirabdollahian met with the UAE's new president Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on Monday. He left Tehran for the United

Arab Emirates earlier on Monday to pay tribute to former ruler Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan who passed away on Friday at the age of 73. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was elected president on Saturday.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84755897/New-page-opened-in-Iran-UAE-ties-Amirabdollahian>

Iran, Tajikistan discuss cooperation on battle against terrorism

IRNA News, 17 May 2022

The two officials also called for holding joint military drills and enhancement of military equipment. Bagheri and Mirzo also discussed regional cooperation with the focus on Afghanistan. The Tajik defense minister welcomed Iran's plans for joint cooperation on fight against terrorism, organized crimes and drug trafficking. He said that holding joint military drills and enforcement of military equipment are among top priorities of the armed forces of Iran and Tajikistan.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84755616/Iran-Tajikistan-discuss-cooperation-on-battle-against-terrorism>

Iranian military chief visits Dushanbe

Iran News Daily, 17 May 2022

Iranian Armed Force chief Mohammad Bagheri visited Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Monday by leading a high-level military delegation. His visit is intended to promote defense and military cooperation between Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan. Major General Mohammad Bagheri and his high-ranking military delegation were welcomed by Major General Imam Ali Saberzadeh, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and First Deputy Defense Minister of Tajikistan, and other high-ranking Tajik military officials.

<https://irannewsdaily.com/2022/05/iranian-military-chief-visits-dushanbe/>

Iranian military chief, Tajik president insist on need to establish peace in Afghanistan

Tehran Times, 18 May 2022

During the meeting, President Rahmon noted that historical affinities and common language used by the two nations have provided a unique chance for enhancing bilateral relations in different defensive, military, cultural, political, and economic areas. Referring to the inauguration of an Iranian factory for building drones in Tajikistan, the Tajik leader said that the armed forces of his country welcome any kind of defensive and military cooperation with Iran. In the meantime, the Iranian side referred to the strategic position of Iran and Tajikistan in the region and said that expansion of different military cooperation with Tajikistan is high on the agenda of Tehran.

Iran's advanced military technology luring customers

Tehran Times, 18 May 2022

The drone production unit was opened in Tajikistan's capital at the presence of Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Bagheri and Tajik Defense Minister General Shirali Mirzo. The production of Ababil 2, an all-Iranian UAV, in Dushanbe is intended to increase defense and military cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan. The factory was built with the assistance of specialists from the Iranian Ministry of Defense. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Major General Bagheri pointed out that Iran, with the efforts of its committed specialists and scientists and the use of domestic capabilities, has been able to achieve a significant growth in all military and defense dimensions, especially drones.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472757/Iran-s-advanced-military-technology-luring-customers>

Iranian military chief, Tajik president insist on need to establish peace in Afghanistan

Tehran Times, 18 May 2022

During the meeting, President Rahmon noted that historical affinities and common language used by the two nations have provided a unique chance for enhancing bilateral relations in different defensive, military, cultural, political, and economic areas. Referring to the inauguration of an Iranian factory for building drones in Tajikistan, the Tajik leader said that the armed forces of his country welcome any kind of defensive and military cooperation with Iran. In the meantime, the Iranian side referred to the strategic position of Iran and Tajikistan in the region and said that expansion of different military cooperation with Tajikistan is high on the agenda of Tehran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472759/Iranian-military-chief-Tajik-president-insist-on-need-to-establish>

Iran, Tajikistan Determined to Further Expand Military Cooperation

Far News, 18 May 2022

Tajikistan is among the main priorities of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces given the two countries' strategic position in the West Asia region, General Baqeri said during the meeting in Dushanbe on Tuesday. "Strengthening, upgrading and developing the level of joint military interaction and relations between the two countries and increasing cooperation in various military fields are among the important priorities of Iran's Armed Forces with Tajikistan," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010228000259/Iran-Tajikistan-Determined-Further-Expand-Military-Cooperation>

Who is MKO? Why it is backed by US?

IRNA News, 18 May 2022

The MKO began carrying out terrorist operations from June 20, 1981, with about 12,000 terrorist attacks so far listed in the organization's history. The victims of the MKO's terrorist operations included both officials and ordinary people of 3-89 years of age. The organization has carried out mass terrorist actions, including detonation of a bomb at the office of the Islamic Republic Party that led to the killing of 72 officials, the then Chief Justice of Iran Mohammad Beheshti being among them. The MKO's terrorist operations also included bombing the offices of the President and Prime Minister of Iran in 1981 and late assassination of high-ranking military commanders.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84758608/Who-is-MKO-Why-it-is-backed-by-US>

Iran winner of Tehran-Washington clashes: American analyst

IRNA News, 18 May 2022

Walid Phares, a Lebanese-born American scholar and conservative political pundit, wrote on American conservative news and opinion website Newsmax that he studied over 41 years of developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran and its international relations. Phares, who was also Donald Trump's foreign policy advisor in 2016 presidential campaign, wrote in the article for Newsmax, "After having studied the Iran regime, from its genesis to present time, from the [Imam Khomeini's] revolution of 1979, the alliance with Assad, the launching of Hezbollah, the hostages crises of the 1980s, the proxy wars with Israel, the rise of its nuclear project, and the militias' control of four Arab countries over the past decade, my conclusion at this point

is that Tehran's rulers are winning — at least so far.”

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84758657/Iran-winner-of-Tehran-Washington-clashes-American-analyst>

AEOI Chief: Iran Gains Self-Sufficiency in N. Fuel Cycle

Fars News, 19 May 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that his country has gained full self-sufficiency in nuclear fuel cycle, adding that Iran is now working on 60% enriched fuel.

"The efforts of the enemies by committing sabotage in the field of nuclear technology have made it the frontline. Our scientists stood up at the order of the Leader who said, "produce yourselves", Eslami said on Wednesday. "They acted on the issue of 20% fuel, which was needed by Tehran's research reactor, and today we produce not only 20% fuel but also working on production of 60% fuel," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010229000272/AEOI-Chief-Iran-Gains-Self-Sfficiency-in-N-Fel-Cycle>

Iranian Armed Forces Spokesman Warns of US, Israel's Attempts to Destabilize Region

Fars News, 19 May 2022

The US, the Israeli regime, and their allies in the region seek to destabilize countries and support terrorist groups, including the ISIL, General Shekarchi said. He called for boosting regional coordination to fight terrorism. Fighting against terrorism, drug trafficking, the strengthening of border security were the main focus of Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri's trip to Tajikistan, General Shekarchi said. Tajikistan is of great strategic importance due to its geographical location in Central

Asia including its border with Afghanistan, he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010229000370/Iranian-Armed-Frces-Spkeman-Warns-f-US-Israel's-Aemps-Desabilize>

President Raisi: Constructive ties with neighbors to boost regional security

IRNA News, 19 May 2022

President Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Republic Shahin Mustafayev while elaborating on Islamic Republic of Iran's basic stance on supporting the territorial integrity of all countries, including Azerbaijan. He said that Iran also favors improving the level of economic, political, cultural and commercial cooperation with Azerbaijan, including in transit of goods, which is in need of taking practical steps by Azerbaijan.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84760286/President-Raisi-Constructive-ties-with-neighbors-to-boost-regional>

Armed forces spox: Iran ready to help regional countries produce recon drone

IRNA News, 19 May 2022

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi made the comment in an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, IRINN. He referred to the latest trip by Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major-General Mohammad Bagheri to Tajikistan earlier this week. Shekarchi said that such trips take place under Iran's security and defense diplomacy at the regional and international level, adding that the visits bring good achievements for both Iran and destination countries.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84759792/Armed-forces-spox-Iran-ready-to-help-regional-countries-produce>

Pres. Raisi inspects aerospace achievements in West Azarbaijan

IRNA News, 20 May 2022

Upon his arrival at Shahid Bakeri International Airport, President Raisi unveiled Orum SAT, which has been built at Roshd (Growth) Center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Urmia. Urmian young inventors explained manufacturing and performance of ultra-light aircrafts, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) as well as satellite during the visit. Orum SAT with the highest resolution has the capability to be placed in Earth orbit with spending 600k dollars, which is very economical in comparison to similar models made by other countries.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84760502/Pres-Raisi-inspects-aerospace-achievements-in-West-Azarbaijan>

Iran diplomat calls for collective coop. to fight terrorism

IRNA News 20 May 2022

Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Nourian published a message on Friday, noting, "The Iranian people and government censure any kind of creating insecurity and chaos as well as promoting fear caused by terroristic moves and satanic acts committed by common enemies of regional nations." Nourian reiterated condemnation of recent terroristic attacks in Karachi city of Pakistan, expressing solidarity with injured people and families of victims of the incidents, adding that "Iran itself is the biggest victim of terrorism and from the beginning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution up to now, our 17k citizens lost their lives by satanic elements of terrorism as well as their supporters."

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84760456/Iran-diplomat-calls-for-collective-coop-to-fight-terrorism>

Raisi: Strong relationships between neighbors help to secure region

Tehran Times, 21 May 2022

Raisi made the comments at a meeting in Tehran on Thursday with Azerbaijan's First Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Abdulla Oghlu Mustafayev. Raisi emphasized Iran's "principled position" on maintaining the unity and territorial integrity of all countries, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, during the meeting. "The existence of constructive relations on the basis of mutual interests between neighbouring countries, including Iran and Azerbaijan, is the most effective factor in maintaining and bolstering the regional security," Iran's president pointed out.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472840/Raisi-Strong-relationships-between-neighbors-help-to-secure>

MPs: U.S. must give up hostility, return to its JCPOA obligations

Tehran Times, 21 May 2022

"Unfortunately, experience has shown that the United States has never been trustworthy and we always see lies and deception by its politicians," Mohammad Saleh Jokar, the representative of the people of Yazd, told the ICANA news agency about the United States' negative stance on the release of Iran's frozen assets in South Korea. Talks to revive the nuclear deal started in Vienna in April 2021. However, the U.S. has caused the talks to stalemate as it refuses to delist the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps from the list of foreign terrorist organizations.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472838/MPs-U-S-must-give-up-hostility-return-to-its-JCPOA-obligations>

ICT Minister: Iran among 10 top producers of satellite in world

IRNA News 21 May 2022

Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology Isa Zarepour said that Iran is among the top 10 producers and launchers of satellite in the world. Zarepour said that a space station will be established in West Azarbaijan Province. He stressed that countries such as the UK are now dependent on Russia to launch satellites, which did not allow this country to do so. This is while, Iran is proudly one of the countries that has indigenized this knowledge, he noted. Earlier, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced that Iran is the first Muslim country that launches satellite into orbit.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84761241/ICT-Minister-Iran-among-10-top-producers-of-satellite-in-world>

FM: Iran has good will, determination to reach agreement

IRNA News 21 May 2022

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a phone talk on Friday evening with the EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Vienna talks to remove sanctions, in which also the most important international developments, including the Ukraine crisis was discussed. The top Iranian diplomat in the phone talk referred to a recent visit of Tehran of Borrell's deputy Enrique Mora in which certain initiatives were surveyed.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84761110/FM-Iran-has-good-will-determination-to-reach-agreement>

IRGC demolishes network of thugs affiliated with Israeli regime

Tehran Times, 22 May 2022

The statement which was issued on Sunday afternoon said, "This network, by the

direction of the Zionist regime's intelligence service, attempted to steal and destroy personal and public property, kidnap and obtain fake confessions through a network of thugs. The agents of this network were arrested by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472886/IRGC-demolishes-network-of-thugs-affiliated-with-Israeli-regime>

Raisi admin. ready to expand ties with Persian Gulf states: Diplomat

IRNA News, 22 May 2022

Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs Ali Reza Enayati told IRNA on Sunday that last Iranian year (March 21, 2021 to March 20, 2022) was the year of numerous breakthroughs in the Persian Gulf area. Positive and constructive talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran as well as President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Qatar, where the two sides inked 15 memoranda of understanding, and the upcoming trip to Oman indicate the administration's effort to expand ties, Enayati noted.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84762775/Raisi-admin-ready-to-expand-ties-with-Persian-Gulf-states-Diplomat>

Iran never condones Israeli bases in the region: IRGC

Tehran Times, 23 May 2022

General Sharif stated that the Zionist regime has publicly stated that they are hostile to the interests of the Islamic Republic. The Israeli rulers have openly said that they consider the targeting of "our figures" and the identification of "our bases" seriously, the spokesman said. To preserve the Islamic Republic's security and national interests, the top general said, Tehran never tolerates the Israeli bases in the region. General Sharif warned that if the Islamic Republic of Iran is assured of any

wicked deed by the Zionists wherever, it will repeat its previous devastating and crushing responses. “We’ll never budge an inch on people’s rights,” he underscored.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472924/Iran-never-condones-Israeli-bases-in-the-region-IRGC>

Iran Successfully Carries Out Interception Test for 'Azarakhsh' Missiles from Drone

Fars News, 23 May 2022

“For the first time across the Armed Forces, an interception test with Azarakhsh missiles fired from a drone was successfully carried out,” General SabahiFard said. He stressed that the Iranian experts have “made possible every impossible” concerning air defense technologies and the country is now an exporter of the know-how. Elsewhere, General SabahiFard said that domestically-developed Bavar-373 missile defense system has been supplied to the country's air defense forces and is now fully operational.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010302000667/Iran-Successfully-Carries-Out-Interception-Test-for-'Azarakhsh'-Missiles-from-Drone>

Qalibaf: IRGC member assassination revealed Zionist regime’s unworthiness

IRNA News, 23 May 2022

Qalibaf made the comment in a message he issued on the Sunday assassination of Khodaei, who was a member of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). He was shot dead by two motorcyclists in front of his house in the capital Tehran. The Iranian parliament speaker offered his condolences on Khodaei’s martyrdom to the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as well as the martyr’s family and the Iranian people. In his message, Qalibaf said that Iran’s enemies’ resort to terrorist acts,

because they cannot stand against the resistance of the Iranian nation. He called on intelligence and security bodies to identify and punish the main culprits of the terror act.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84764989/Qalibaf-IRGC-member-assassination-revealed-Zionist-regime-s>

Iran calls for recognizing UN member states’ right to manage their conventional weapons

IRNA News, 23 May 2022

The Iranian envoy was speaking on Monday during the first substantive session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Conventional Ammunition. The four-day session began on May 23 and is attended by Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84764928/Iran-calls-for-recognizing-UN-member-states-right-to-manage>

Saudi Arabia willing to partner with Iran to solve regional issues: Iranian MP

IRNA News, 23 May 2022

In interview with IRNA on Monday, ranking member of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission in Iran’s Parliament Abbas Moqtadaei said that cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia could pave the way for solving regional issues and putting an end to foreign influence in the region. Moqtadaei also made comments on Iran’s expansion of ties with neighbours as President Ebrahim Raisi left today to pay a visit to Oman heading a high-profile political and economic delegation. He highlighted the parliamentary efforts in Iran’s Parliament – the Majlis – including efforts to improve economic diplomacy and creating structures within the commission or

parliamentary friendship groups, to help the administration move the policy forward.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84763892/Saudi-Arabia-willing-to-partner-with-Iran-to-solve-regional-issues>

Iran, Oman sign 12 cooperation documents

IRNA News, 23 May 2022

President Raisi arrived in the Omani capital earlier today upon an invitation by Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. The Iranian president's visit to Muscat took place in line with the new Iranian government's policy to strengthen all-out cooperation with the neighbouring countries. The 12 cooperation documents were signed by the Iranian Ministers of Industry, Mine and Trade, Foreign Affairs, Road and Urban Development, and the head of the Trade Promotion Organization with their Omani counterparts. Travel of President Raisi to Oman is the first one taking place during the tenure of the new Omani Sultan since January 2020 when the former Sultan Qaboos passed away.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84764692/Iran-Oman-sign-12-cooperation-documents>

Senior Iranian official slams Western governments' silence on terrorism

IRNA News, 24 May 2022

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani said maintaining silence on terrorism should be equally condemned as terrorism itself. He made the comment in reaction to the assassination of Hassan Sayyad Khodaei, a member of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The official denounced some Western governments for keeping silent on terrorism, describing the stance as a reward for terrorists. He added that terrorism will not be uprooted as long as terrorists receive such rewards. Kani also

said acts of terrorism cannot affect Iran's determination to fight terror in the region and the country will undoubtedly go ahead with its policy to promote security.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84765002/Senior-Iranian-official-slams-Western-governments-silence-on>

AEOI Spokesman: Iran to Further Expand Cooperation with Russia in N. Industry

Fars News, 25 May 2022

Kamalvandi said on Wednesday that Iran and Russia had good bilateral relations, including in the nuclear field, and were negotiating to develop phases 2 and 3 of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran's South. He said the development projects at the Bushehr power plant were major ones that required large investment. "Therefore, we have to be mindful of financial issues, and we are negotiating with Russia in that regard," Kamalvandi said. The Iranian spokesman said Iran also sought to enhance its ties with Russia in the nuclear industry field more generally.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010304000767/AEOI-Spkesman-Iran-Frher-Expand-Cperain-wih-Rssia-in-N-Indsry>

Iranian Leader: Atomic Powers' Reciprocal Threats Challenge of Today World

Fars News, 25 May 2022

"Hostile rivalries of (world) powers and threats of atomic powers against each other, increasing military moves and threats and war near Europe, as one of the most war-prone regions in the world, the unprecedented spread of a disease and food threats around the world are all factors that have resulted in special conditions in the world," Ayatollah Khamenei said, addressing a meeting with Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and

other Iranian legislators in Tehran on Wednesday. "Under the current circumstances, countries' (capability) to manage (their affairs) has become more difficult and more complicated," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010304000895/Iranian-Leader-Amic-Pwers%E2%80%99-Reciprcal-Threas-Challenge-f-Tday-Wrld>

Iran Underlines Need for Increased Anti-Terrorism Cooperation with Uzbekistan

Far News, 25 May 2022

Mutual cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan must be enhanced in counterterrorism efforts, countering drug trafficking as well as common security issues in the region to strengthen regional stability and secure the interests of the two states, Baqeri Kani said in a meeting with his Uzbek counterpart Farhat Sadiqov in Tehran on Wednesday. To achieve the favourable objectives, the official processes must be speeded up, he pointed out. Baqeri Kani said that long-term cooperation would lead to strengthening diplomatic relations among regional states.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010304000831/Iran-Underlines-Need-fr-Increased-Ani-Terrism-Cperain-wih-Uzbekisan>

Official stresses need for strengthening Iran-Turkey cooperation

IRNA News, 25 May 2022

In the meeting on the sidelines of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers Conference, Mahdi Safari and Faruk Kaymakci exchanged viewpoints on broadening bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The deputy foreign minister referred to the increased bilateral trade volume of Iran and Turkey this year, stressing the importance

of evermore expansion of bilateral and regional cooperation between the two countries, especially in science-based and modern technologies fields.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84766463/Official-stresses-need-for-strengthening-Iran-Turkey-cooperation>

New sanctions against Iran indicate US ill will: Spox

IRNA News, 26 May 2022

In a statement issued on Thursday, Saeed Khatibzadeh said that the Islamic Republic of Iran and its Armed Forces are a nightmare for the terrorist and extremist groups in the region and it's natural that the US, as their godmother, would spare no effort to support them. The US has imposed illegal, cruel sanctions against the Iranian people and Iran's IRGC from many years ago and assassinated the late General Qasem Soleimani during Trump's presidency, Khatibzadeh added.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84768375/New-sanctions-against-Iran-indicate-US-ill-will-Spox>

Developing ties with Moscow strategic for Tehran: Veep

Tehran Times, 27 May 2022

In a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, Mokhber stressed the need to set goals for boosting bilateral ties. He asked the Joint Commission of Iran-Russia to seriously work in that regard. The joint commission is headed by Novak. Mokhber said Iran has a serious will to comprehensively enhance ties with Russia. "The development of relations with Moscow in all dimensions is one of Tehran's strategic and serious policies," he noted. He called for the improvement of relations between Iran and Russia as a basis for providing the

necessary conditions for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473050/Developing-ties-with-Moscow-strategic-for-Tehran-Veep>

Foreign Ministry says new U.S. sanctions shows Biden's ill intentions

Tehran Times, 27 May 2022

Regarding the new U.S. sanctions against the Iranian citizens, Khatibzadeh said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran and its official and legal armed forces, especially the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, have always been a nightmare for terrorist and extremist groups in the region." The spokesman added that it is natural that the U.S. government, as a mother who nurtures these terrorist groups, should not refrain from making any effort to support them, as it has imposed cruel and illegal sanctions against the Iranian people for years.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473056/Foreign-Ministry-says-new-U-S-sanctions-shows-Biden-s-ill-intentions>

Iranian ambassador hails Iraqi parliament's ban on normalization of relations with Zionist regime

IRNA Times, 27 May 2022

Al-e Sadeq said that the passing of the law was a "historic and prideful" decision. The decision by the Iraqi Parliament was a new prideful episode of the series of courageous stands of the Iraqi people in relation to decisive issues of the Muslim Ummah, the ambassador said. A vast majority of the 275 Iraqi lawmakers present at the Parliament session on Thursday voted in favor of the law. After the approval of the law, the Iraqi Members of Parliament chanted "No to Israel".

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84768997/Iranian-ambassador-hails-Iraqi-parliament-s-ban-on-normalization>

Report: Iran unveils underground drone base

I-24 News, 28 May 2022

State TV said 100 drones were being kept in the heart of the Zagros Mountains, including Ababil-5, which it said were fitted with Qaem-9 missiles, an Iranian-made version of the air-to-surface US Hellfire. An Iranian state TV correspondent said he made the 45-minute helicopter flight on Thursday from Kermanshah in western Iran to a secret underground drone site. He was allowed to take his blindfold off only upon arrival at the base, he said. TV footage showed rows of drones fitted with missiles in a tunnel, which it said was several hundred meters underground.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/1653758987-report-iran-unveils-underground-drone-base>

Israel finally admits assassinating IRGC colonel

Tehran Times, 28 May 2022

"The Israelis told the Americans the killing was meant as a warning to Iran to halt the operations of a covert group within the Quds Force known as Unit 840, according to the intelligence official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss classified information. Unit 840 is tasked with abductions and assassinations of foreigners around the world, including Israeli civilians and officials, according to Israeli government, military and intelligence officials," the New York Times claimed. Big revelation! Israel has become so impudent that it openly and brazenly acknowledges committing state terrorism. From the very beginning, it was clear as a day that the Israelis were behind the assassination. The pattern, the execution, and every single bit of evidence proved so.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473064/Israel-finally-admits-assassinating-IRGC-colonel>

Iranian Army Unveils Cruise Missiles for Drones

Fars News, 28 May 2022

The new achievements were unveiled during a visit by the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri to an Army-owned secret drone base on Saturday. During his visit, the 'Heidar-1' cruise missile and 'Heidar-2' cruise drone were unveiled by the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran. 'Heidar-1' cruise missile has a range of 200 kilometers and its speed at the moment of hitting the target is 1,000 km/h. It is the first cruise missile capable of being firing by a drone.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010307000763/Iranian-Army-Unveils-Cruise-Missiles-fr-Drnes>

Army Commander says upgrading Iran's drone capability unstoppable

IRNA News, 28 May 2022

Speaking during a visit to a secret underground base for drones, Major General Mousavi said that "our biggest achievement is that we have never relied on anywhere and provided whatever we need for our defense". He said that the launch of this secret base by the Iranian Army is in line with the main mission of the armed forces to defend the country's independence and territorial integrity. The commander added that the need for enhancement of long-range drones with high flight resistance capacity and the high capacity of carrying ammunition for targeting strategic bases led the country to promote the capacity of the existing drones and equipping them with different types of missiles and bombs with different ranges.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84770124/Army-Commander-says-upgrading-Iran-s-drone-capability-unstoppable>

Iran's ambassador to Moscow holds talks with Amir Abdollahian

Tehran Times, 29 May 2022

Ambassador Kazem Jalali, who was in Tehran at the time while Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Russian side of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission visited Iran, briefed Amir Abdollahian on the joint commission and the growing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation. Amir Abdollahian stressed the significance of bilateral cooperation in many political, economic, and cultural spheres and offered the appropriate suggestions to follow through on the agreements signed within the framework of the two nations' Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation. Referring to the positive outcomes of bilateral cooperation...

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473143/Iran-s-ambassador-to-Moscow-holds-talks-with-Amir-Abdollahian>

Commander: Army's Secret Bases Aimed at Defending Iran's Territorial Integrity, Independence

Fars News, 29 May 2022

"Our biggest achievement is that we have never relied on anywhere and provided whatever we need for our defense," General Mousavi said on Saturday. He added that the launch of the secret base by the Iranian Army to keep drones is in line with the main mission of the armed forces to defend the country's independence and territorial integrity. General Mousavi added that the need for enhancement of long-range drones with high flight resistance capacity and the high capacity of carrying ammunition for targeting strategic bases led the country to promote the capacity of the existing drones

and equipping them with different types of missiles and bombs with different ranges.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010308000275/Cmmander-Army's-Secre-Bases-Aimed-a-Defending-Iran's-Territorial>

Iran Voices Opposition to Turkey's Threat of Military Attack against Syria

Fars News, 29 May 2022

“The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any military action and the use of force on the territory of other countries with the aim of resolving disputes between them, and considers it a violation of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of those countries,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Saturday. He said the use of force would further complicate the situation, increase the tensions and lead to humanitarian disasters in the region. The spokesman further said while the Islamic Republic understands Turkey’s security concerns, the only way to alleviate those concerns is through dialog and respect for bilateral agreements with neighbors as well as agreements reached within the Astana peace process to end the Syrian crisis.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010308000217/Iran-Vices-Oppsiin-Trkey's-Threa-f-Miliary-Aack-agains-Syria>

Iran slams Turkey's threat to launch incursion into Syria, urges dialogue

Tehran Times, 30 May 2022

The statements were made following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's vow to begin a fresh military operation in Syria with the ostensible goal of safeguarding Turkey's southern border. “The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any military action and use of force on the territory of other countries with the aim of resolving disputes..., and considers it a violation of the territorial integrity and

national sovereignty of those countries,” Khatibzadeh underlined. According to Khatibzadeh, using force will exacerbate the situation, heighten tensions, and result in humanitarian disasters in the region.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473191/Iran-slams-Turkey-s-threat-to-launch-incursion-into-Syria-urges>

Iran, Tajikistan call for enhancing bilateral ties

IRNA News, 30 May 2022

Qalibaf met and held talks with Emomali Rahmon on Monday in Tehran, Iran. Referring to the progressed and developed relations between Iran and Tajikistan, Qalibaf said that they are far from the desired point. Pointing to the policy of the 13th government and the Eleventh Majlis regarding prioritizing the development of relations with neighbouring states, he added that Tajikistan as a neighbouring country with a lot of mutual interest is one of the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand bilateral cooperation, and this is an opportunity to deepen the political, economic and cultural relations between the two states.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84772602/Iran-Tajikistan-call-for-enhancing-bilateral-ties>

Foreign Ministry: Israelis must be worried, even in their beds

Tehran Times, 31 May 2022

Speaking at his weekly press briefing held on Tuesday, Saeed Khatibzadeh said, “We know who carried out the assassination of martyr Sayyad Khodaei, and who the third party is, and from the ways in which it should have received the desired messages, and it must know that it will receive a crushing response.” In response to a question about the travel warning notice of the Israeli regime to Turkey due to fear of an Iranian revenge in response to the

assassination of Khodaei, the spokesman said, “They should be worried even in their beds.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473230/Foreign-Ministry-Israelis-must-be-worried-even-in-their-beds>

Iran Blasts IAEA's Approach as Unconstructive

Fars News, 31 May 2022

Qa'ebi said on Monday that a latest report by the IAEA on Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium is one-sided and fails to reflect Iran's extensive cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog. He made the remarks after the IAEA claimed that it estimated Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium had grown to more than 18 times the limit laid down in the 2015 deal between Tehran and world powers. The limit in the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was set at 300 kg (660 pounds) of a specific compound, the equivalent of 202.8 kg of uranium. The report by Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the UN nuclear agency, also claimed that Iran was continuing its enrichment of uranium to levels higher than the 3.67 percent limit in the landmark accord.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010310000360/Iran-Blasts-IAEA's-Approach-as-Unconstructive>

Spokesman Warns Greece of Third Parties' Attempts to Darken Ties with Iran

Fars News, 31 May 2022

Athens should use legal channels rather than hues and cries to release its ships, Khatibzadeh told reporters in a press conference in Tehran on Tuesday. He said Iran also went for the diplomatic channels after its tanker was confiscated illegally by Greece. Khatibzadeh said that Iran's foreign minister held a phone call with his

Greek counterpart, but Athens showed that it attaches more importance to the “orders from a third party”. He said Athens should pay attention to the fact that neither the US, nor a third party, cares about Iran-Greece ties, which he said have been “respectful” so far, and should remain so.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010310000687/Spokesman-Warns-Greece-of-Third-Parties'-Attempts-to-Darken-Ties-with-Iran>

IAEA burning opportunity to solve remaining issues with Iran

IRNA News, 31 May 2022

The IAEA chief issued two reports, raising allegations against Iranian nuclear activities based on preplanned claims made by the Zionist regime, so the organization resorted to unconstructive and destructive approach in dealing with Iran. The Western media outlets covered the alleged reports, which are contrary to the IAEA's commitment to protect confidential information of Iran. The Islamic Republic warned the UN nuclear body that the IAEA should revise the mechanism of spreading documents. The Iranian authorities have once and again underlined that the agency's responsibility is not limited only to updating developments, but they are expected to secure protection of confidential data.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84773116/IAEA-burning-opportunity-to-solve-remaining-issues-with-Iran>

Iran Could Not Advance Without Sanctions

Kayhan News, 31 May 2022

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Monday Iran has made good progress in various fields despite sanctions imposed on the country. “Despite the sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made good advances in various fields,” he told visiting President

of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon here. “If it were not for the sanctions, those advances could not be achieved, because sanctions caused Iranians to rely on their domestic capacities and power,” the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei said the world powers use sanctions as a weapon against other countries. “What renders this weapon useless is attention to internal forces and capacities.”

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/103203>

IRAQ

Iraqi PM calls for expanding ties with Iran

IRNA News, 18 May 2022

He made the comment in a meeting with the new Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Mohammad-Kazem Al Sadeq and his accompanying delegation in the capital Baghdad. According to a statement issued by Al-Kadhimi’s office, he said that Iran and Iraq should develop their ties in line with their own interests as well as the interests of all regional countries. The Iraqi prime minister also stressed the need for diplomatic work in order to adopt common approaches aimed at protecting the interests of the two countries as well as the region. The Iranian ambassador expressed gratitude for Al-Kadhimi’s efforts to promote Tehran-Baghdad relations and enhance their cooperation in all fields.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84759188/Iraqi-PM-calls-for-expanding-ties-with-Iran>

Missile attack targets a base for Turkish regime near Mosul

SANA News, 22 May 2022

Baghdad, SANA- A missile attack targeted on Saturday a military base belonging to the Turkish regime near the city of Mosul, Nineveh Governorate, northern Iraq. The Iraqi Alsumaria TV quoted a security source as saying that “the Zlikan base, where Turkish forces are stationed near

Mosul, was targeted by missiles.” The base itself was subjected to a similar missile attack last April. In late 2015, the Turkish regime forces violated the sanctity of Iraqi territory and stationed in the Bashiqa area near Mosul, which the Iraqi government considered an aggression against Iraq and a violation of its sovereignty and a violation of the rules of international law and demanded the withdrawal of Turkish forces.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272499>

A drone attack targets US base in vicinity of Baghdad airport

SANA News, 24 May 2022

Baghdad, SANA- An Iraqi security source reported that a drone attack on Tuesday targeted an American base in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport. Alsumaria news website quoted the source as saying that the US Victory base was targeted by a drone at dawn today as sirens sounded, but there have been no reports of casualties. The American base “Victory” has been subjected to more than one attack over the past months, as it was targeted by a number of Katyusha missiles on January 4th and 28th, which led to material damages, and it was also attacked by drones on Jan. 2nd.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272632>

Iraq Passes Law Making It Illegal to Normalize Ties with Israel

Haaretz, 26 May 2022

Iraq's parliament approved a law on Thursday that will ban normalizing relations with Israel, at a time when several Arab countries have established formal ties. The Iraqi parliament has been unable to convene on any other issue including electing a new president and forming its own government, prolonging a political standoff. Iraq has never recognized the state of Israel since its establishment in 1948 and Iraqi citizens and companies cannot visit

Israel, but the new law goes further, specifically criminalizing any attempts to normalize relations with Israel.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iraq/2022-05-26/ty-article/.premium/iraq-passes-law-making-it-illegal-to-normalize-ties-with-israel/00000181-0191-d1e9-adc5-2df326450000>

Iraq banning ties with Israel, demonstrates only Iran-aligned Arab states oppose Zionism

Middle East Monitor, 16 May 2022

On Wednesday the Iraqi Council of Representatives approved, in the first reading, a draft bill banning normalisation of ties with Israel. If passed, it will make Iraq the first Arab state to formally criminalise normalisation with the occupation state. The legislation, which will also apply to the autonomous Kurdistan Region (KRI), entitled "Banning Normalisation and Establishment of Relations with the Zionist Entity" was submitted by the Sadrist bloc, the largest bloc in the Iraqi parliament, led by the influential Shia cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr who announced his intention to introduce the bill last month.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220516-iraq-banning-ties-with-israel-demonstrates-only-iran-aligned-arab-states-oppose-zionism/>

Rockets fired at Iraq military base with foreign troops

Arab News, 31 May 2022

FALLUJAH, Iraq: Five rockets on Monday targeted an Iraqi military base hosting troops from an international anti-jihadist coalition without causing deaths or damage, a military official said. A coalition source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said five rockets struck the Ain Assad base in Anbar province, according to initial reports.

"Iraqi security forces responded. No casualties or damage reported for the time being," the source added.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2093211/middle-east>

ISRAEL

Israeli Military Mulls Using Helicopters, Drones in West Bank Operations

Haaretz, 16 May 2022

The Israeli military is considering reinforcing its operations in the West Bank with helicopters and drones, in the wake of an officer's death during a raid in Jenin last week. It is rare nowadays for the Israeli Air Force to take part in military operations in the West Bank. In the proposed revamp of the military's West Bank defensive strategy, helicopters and drones may be used to secure ground troops through the use of deterrent fire and possibly shoot at armed combatants.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-05-16/ty-article/.premium/israeli-military-mulls-adding-air-force-helicopters-drones-to-west-bank-ops/00000180-e9f4-d189-af82-f9fd28970000>

Report: Russia fired at Israeli planes in Syria for first time

I-24 News, 16 May 2022

Russia for the first time fired at Israeli planes in Syria, *Channel 13* reported on Monday, citing "foreign publications." After hundreds of alleged aerial attacks on targets in Syria by Israeli forces, an air defense battery operated by the Russian military on Friday responded to a wave of Israel Air Force planes attacking targets in the western part of the country.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1652723734-report-russia-fired-at-israeli-planes-in-syria-for-first-time>

An American-Israeli working group for the advancement of operational technologies

eMOD GOV, 17 May 2022

BHead of Mapat (Administration for Research and Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure) in the Ministry of Defense, Brigadier General (Res.) Dr. Daniel Gould and US Deputy Secretary of Defense for Security Research and Engineering) OUSDR & E, (Ms. Heidi Shaw, held last week in the United States the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on the United States and Israel on the Promotion of Operational Technologies (OTWG). During the meeting, opportunities for cooperation in a variety of areas were discussed and defined, including: artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomy, biotechnology, directed energy (DE), a system of integrated and linked systems, advanced combat capabilities and measures against unmanned systems.

<https://www.mod.gov.il/About/Pages/NewsRoom.aspx>

Israel to simulate striking Iran in military drill

I-24 News, 17 May 2022

Israel's army will simulate a strike on targets far from the country's borders by deploying many aircraft on different fronts in a large-scale exercise called "Chariots of Fire," Israel's military announced Tuesday. The army, which is seriously considering several military options against Iran in the event of a failure of nuclear talks between the West and the Islamic Republic, will train on one of the possible options.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1652802840-israel-to-simulate-striking-iran-in-military-drill>

Iran working to complete 1,000 advanced centrifuges – Gantz

I-24 News, 17 May 2022

Iran is currently working to complete the production and installation of 1,000 advanced IR6 centrifuges at its nuclear facilities, Israel's Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Tuesday. In remarks delivered at Reichman University in Herzliya, the minister also confirmed that two UAVs launched by Iran in February and intercepted by Israel were on their way to terrorist organizations in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1652779563-iran-working-to-complete-1-000-advanced-centrifuges-gantz>

Sirens sound in northern Israel after Iron Dome incorrectly launched

I-24 News, 19 May 2022

Rocket sirens were heard in northern Israel on Thursday morning after a misidentification of a possible infiltration from Lebanon. Iron Dome interceptors were fired after misidentifying a target, causing rocket sirens to be activated in the Upper Galilee region. The army later confirmed: "There was no intrusion of an air target from Lebanese territory into Israeli territory." This comes several days after the Israeli military downed a drone flown by Hezbollah that flew into the northern region of the country. The machine, which had been under surveillance by air traffic control units since its departure from Lebanon, was shot down over Israeli territory.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1652941501-sirens-sound-in-northern-israel-near-lebanon-border>

Israel joins 6 other countries in Cyprus to drill evacuations from conflict zones

Times of Israel, 21 May 2022

Seven countries including the US, France, Italy, Israel and Greece have taken part in a series of drills in and around Cyprus designed to ease civilian evacuations from conflict zones and to conduct offshore rescue operations, amid a renewed sense of urgency due to the war in Ukraine. For the first time, Egypt took part in the Friday leg of the annual drill with its own military forces, while Saudi Arabia sent a delegation of observers to “Argonaut 2022,” which Cyprus has billed as one of the most important civilian evacuation drills in the world.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-joins-6-other-countries-in-cyprus-to-drill-evacuations-from-conflict-zones/>

Scoop: U.S. negotiating deal among Saudis, Israelis and Egyptians

Axios, 24 May 2022

The Biden administration has been quietly mediating among Saudi Arabia, Israel and Egypt on negotiations that, if successful, could be a first step on the road to the normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. It involves finalizing the transfer of two strategic islands in the Red Sea from Egyptian to Saudi sovereignty, five U.S. and Israeli sources told Axios.

<https://www.axios.com/2022/05/23/saudi-arabia-egypt-israel-red-sea-islands>

Explainer: The West Bank security barrier and its gaps

I-24 News, 24 May 2022

Last month, Israeli engineers began working on sealing gaps in the West Bank

security barrier after a terrorist entered through a gap in the fence and killed five people in the Israeli ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak. Israeli officials suspect that an assailant who shot three people dead in Tel Aviv did the same. Last month, Israeli engineers began working on sealing gaps in the West Bank security barrier after a terrorist entered through a gap in the fence and killed five people in the Israeli ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak. Israeli officials suspect that an assailant who shot three people dead in Tel Aviv did the same.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/palestinian-territories/1652960258-explainer-the-west-bank-security-barrier-and-its-gaps>

Iran said to have utilized confidential IAEA papers to cover up its nuclear activity

Times of Israel, 25 May 2022

Iranian intelligence accessed confidential UN documents and used them to evade and mislead the world body’s nuclear watchdog over 15 years ago, the Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday, citing evidence of the operation uncovered in a huge stash of nuclear documents that Israel seized and spirited out of Iran in 2018. Reacting to the report, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called the revelations “a wake-up call to the world.” According to the report, Iranian officials secured access to International Atomic Energy Agency documents and circulated them among top officials involved in its nuclear program between 2004 and 2006, and were thus able to prepare cover stories, falsify information and gain insight into what inspectors did and did not know.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-said-to-have-utilized-confidential-iaea-papers-to-cover-up-nuclear-activity/>

Israeli, Turkish FMs announce next steps to warm ties, but no mention of envoy swap

Times of Israel, 25 May 2022

Speaking alongside his Turkish counterpart, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid announced on Wednesday two additional steps in the slow reconciliation process between the regional powers. “We agreed to relaunch our Joint Economic Commission,” said Lapid, “and to begin working on a new civil aviation agreement between our countries.” Lapid and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu gave their public statements in English in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem after holding a one-on-one meeting, followed by a larger meeting with their staffs.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-cavusoglu-announce-next-steps-in-rapprochement-but-no-mention-of-envoy-swap/>

Scoop: U.S. made mistake by exiting Iran nuclear deal, Israeli official says

Axios, 25 May 2022

One of Israel’s most senior defense officials told Pentagon and State Department counterparts during a recent visit to Washington that the U.S. made a mistake by withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, according to three Israeli and U.S. officials. Why it matters: Current Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and other senior officials within the government are still lobbying the U.S. publicly and privately to not return to the 2015 deal. The Trump administration withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018 with the enthusiastic backing of the Israeli government, including then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

<https://www.axios.com/2022/05/25/iran-nuclear-deal-mistake-israel-dror-shalom>

Israeli PM says Biden told him Iran's IRGC will remain on U.S. terror list

Axios, 25 May 2022

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett tweeted Tuesday that President Biden informed him last month that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps will remain on the U.S. terror blacklist. Why it matters: Despite earlier signs of some progress, indirect talks to restore the Iran nuclear deal have been stalled for months. Tehran's demand that the U.S. remove the IRGC from Foreign Terrorist Organization list was one of the last major sticking points.

<https://www.axios.com/2022/05/25/irgc-terror-list-biden-bennett-iran-nuclear-talks>

Scoop: Israel rejects U.S. request to approve missile transfer to Ukraine

Axios, 25 May 2022

Israel turned down a U.S. request to allow Berlin to supply Ukraine with anti-tank missiles produced in Germany with Israeli technology under an Israeli license, two U.S. and Israeli officials said. Why it matters: The issue of weapons supply is one of the last policy differences between the U.S. and Israel when it comes to the war. Under pressure from the Biden administration, Israel has adjusted its policy toward Moscow and gradually taken a more pro-Ukraine position than it did when Russia began its invasion. But it has so far not supplied advanced weaponry to Ukraine.

<https://www.axios.com/2022/05/25/israel-rejects-spike-missile-ukraine-germany-russia>

FM: Iran-Oman relations are of loyal one

Tehran Times, 25 May 2022

The following is the full text of the foreign minister’s article. “Oman has always sympathetically sought to play a positive

role in regional equations without entering into categorizations, conflicts and polarizations. In the course of regional challenges, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always considered the moderate and balanced policy of the Omani kingdom as part of the solution. Oman, like the Islamic Republic of Iran, has made every effort to reduce gaps, pave the way for peace, friendship and religious brotherhood, and is a loyal friend and trusted neighbour to the Iranian people.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473014/FM-Iran-Oman-relations-are-of-loyal-one>

Biden's Decision on Iran's Guards Signals Nuclear Deal Is Off the Table. But Israel Is Still Worried

Haaretz, 26 May 2022

U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to keep the Iranian Revolutionary Guards on America's list of sanctioned terrorist organizations apparently reflects Washington's acceptance that the chances of signing a new nuclear deal with Iran this year have shrunk.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-05-26/ty-article/.premium/bidens-decision-on-irans-guards-signals-nuclear-deal-is-off-the-table/00000180-fe99-d443-afae-fedf2e930000>

Israel must decide on its West Bank borders, says former Trump envoy

I-24 News, 27 May 2022

Israel should decide once and for all on the exact borders separating it from the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and pursue that territorial goal with determination, a former Republican envoy to Jerusalem said on Thursday. According

to former US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, "A grown-up nation decides for itself, by itself, what is best for its citizens. Respect yourselves and your right — I would say your sacred obligation — to chart the right course for the Jewish State. That's what a grown-up nation does."

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1653667815-israel-must-decide-on-its-borders-says-former-trump-envoy>

A new Iran deal 'the lesser evil' for Israel, says fmr intel chief

I-24 News, 29 May 2022

A renewed nuclear deal between Iran and world powers is the "least bad" option for Israel as things stand, former Israel Defense Forces military intelligence chief Tamir Hayman told the Hebrew-language *Channel 12 News* on Saturday, without offering further details. Negotiations between Iran and world powers to restore the nuclear deal stalled in March. One of the main sticking points is Tehran's demand, rejected by Washington, to remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps from the US blacklist of terrorist organizations. Iran acquired new nuclear capabilities, but "it is still a long way off from the atomic bomb," Hayman said.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1653767211-new-iran-deal-the-lesser-evil-for-israel-security-official-says>

Israeli Attack on Plant in Gaza Released Hazardous Substances Into Air, Study Shows

I-24 News, 29 May 2022

The army hit a warehouse containing many tons of pesticides and other chemicals even though no fighting was going on nearby, the group Al-Haq says. The army wouldn't say whether the site was considered a target or

environmental damage was taken into account

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-05-29/ty-article/.premium/study-israeli-attack-in-gaza-last-year-released-hazardous-substances/00000181-0fc6-dcf3-a395-3fe6c7b60000>

Bennett says Israel has proof Iran spied on IAEA to evade nuclear probe

I-24 News, 31 May 2022

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Tuesday posted a tweet with an embedded Google Drive link containing documents that apparently prove allegations of Iran spying on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to "evade nuclear probes." Last week, the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) reported that Iranian intelligence stole confidential documents from the United Nations and used them to evade and mislead the nuclear watchdog almost 20 years ago.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/1653991211-israel-s-pm-posts-documents-proving-iranian-fraud-of-iaea>

SYRIA

Several rockets hit US occupation base in al-Shadadi, Hasaka

SANA, 17 May 2022

Hasaka, SANA- Several rocket shells targeted US occupation base in al-Shadadi area, Hasaka southern countryside. Local sources told SANA reporter that before midnight on Monday, a rocket hit al-Jibsa residential complexes where the US base is present, and another rocket hit the directorate of al-Jibsa oil fields used by the occupation to manufacture drones for QSD militia. The sources pointed out that the sirens of the ambulances were heard while the occupier's aircraft flew over the area

and there was a mobilization among the armed QSD militia.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272149>

Syria says 3 soldiers killed in Israeli missile strikes near Damascus

Times of Israel, 21 May 2022

Three Syrian soldiers were killed after the Israeli military struck targets using surface-to-surface missiles near the Syrian capital of Damascus on Friday night, Syria's official state media reported. It was the second alleged Israeli attack in Syria in a week, after airstrikes last Friday targeted a structure in the country's north-western Masyaf region. A Twitter account tracking Israeli military activity in Syria claimed the strikes targeted sites in the suburb of Sayyidah Zaynab, south of Damascus. Syria's Sham FM radio station said a fire had ignited near Damascus International Airport, southeast of the city, as a result of the strikes. The claims could not immediately be independently verified.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/explosions-rock-syrian-capital-in-alleged-israeli-airstrikes/>

Syria, Bulgaria discuss means to enhance cooperation, bilateral relations

SANA, 22 May 2022

Syria and Bulgaria have discussed means to develop and strengthen bilateral relations in various fields. That came during a meeting that brought together Chargé de' Affairs of the Syrian Embassy in Bulgaria, Muhammad Muhammad and representatives of the Bulgarian-Syrian Parliamentary Friendship Group at the Bulgarian Parliament. Head of the Friendship Group, Victoria Vasileva highlighted the deep-rooted historic relations binding the two friendly countries. Vasileva said that the new Bulgarian Parliament intends to play an effective role in revitalizing the bilateral relations and

pushing them forwards, particularly in the domains of economy, trade and investment.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272503>

The UN affirms adherence to Syria's unity and territorial integrity

SANA, 25 May 2022

The United Nations has reiterated its adherence to Syria's unity and territorial integrity, declaring its rejection of the schemes of the Turkish regime on launching an act of aggression on part of the Syrian territory to establish a so-called "safe" zone in northern Syria. In response to a question about the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's threat to conduct a military operation at the Syrian border, Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General, said: "We affirm our adherence to our position in support of Syria's unity and territorial integrity." "Syria does not need more military operations by any side, but what it needs is a political solution and more humanitarian assistance... These are the two things that we are working on," Dujarric added.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272722>

Syria, Iraq discuss cooperation in fields of security and border control

SANA, 25 May 2022

Syria and Iraq have discussed means of boosting relations in the domains of security and control of joint border. That came during a meeting on Tuesday between Iraqi Defense Minister Juma Inad Saadoun and Syrian Ambassador to Iraq Sattam Jadaan al-Dandah. Talks during the meeting dealt with the bilateral relations in the military and security fields and the exchange of information between the two countries, and the prospects for developing them," al-Dandah said in statement to SANA correspondent in Baghdad.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272726>

US occupation brings in logistic materials and military munitions to its bases in Hasaka

SANA, 26 May 2022

Occupation forces brought in on Thursday 50 vehicles carrying logistic materials and military munitions to back their bases in Syrian al-Jazeera. "A convoy consists of 50 vehicles and tankers entered the country through the illegitimate al-Walid crossing along borders with Iraq," local sources in Rmielan told SANA. The sources added that the convoy carries military munitions and equipment, accompanied by a number of military armored vehicles for the US occupation.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272890>

Turkish aggression with heavy artillery and missiles on villages in Hasaka countryside

SANA, 26 May 2022

The Turkish occupation and its mercenaries of terrorist organizations have launched new attacks with heavy artillery and rocket shells on a number of villages in the north western countryside of Hasaka province. Civil sources told SANA reporter that on Wednesday evening, the Turkish occupation and terrorist groups affiliated with it bombed with heavy artillery the homes and properties of citizens in the vicinity of the villages of Dada Abdel and al-Nuwaihat, north of Abu Rasen town in the northern countryside, which led to material losses in public and private properties. The sources added that the rockets launched by the Turkish occupation warplanes from far away fell in conjunction with the artillery shelling in the vicinity of the aforementioned villages, and the losses have not been verified until now.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272836>

Army unit shoots down a drone of Turkish-backed mercenaries in Idlib countryside

SANA, 27 May 2022

A unit of the Syrian Arab Army operating in the southern countryside of Idlib shot down a drone launched by the terrorist organizations affiliated with the Turkish occupation over Ma'ardabssa. "An army unit dealt Friday evening with a hostile target in the airspace of the southern countryside of Idlib, shot it down in the Maardbissa village." a field source told SANA reporter. The source added that it was a drone sent by the terrorist mercenaries affiliated with the Turkish occupation to attack army posts and safe areas. "The drone is equipped with three cameras and several projectiles" He said.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=272946>

Defense Minister and his Abkhaz counterpart sign a joint cooperation agreement

SANA, 29 May 2022

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces and Minister of Defense, Major General Ali Mahmoud Abbas, discussed Sunday with his Abkhaz counterpart Lieutenant-General Vladimir Ivanovich Anwa and the accompanying delegation the bilateral relations between the two friendly armies and ways to develop them. During the meeting, a joint cooperation agreement was signed which comes within the framework of boosting friendship and cooperation relations between Syria and the Republic of Abkhazia.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=273144>

Syria, Abkhazia to enhance mutual cooperation

SANA, 31 May 2022

Syria's Ambassador in Moscow, Riad Haddad, discussed on Tuesday with Foreign Minister of Abkhazia, Inal Ardzinba, bilateral relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them. Haddad, during a meeting held at the Syrian Chancery in Moscow, hailed the level to which the Syrian-Abkhaz, has reached since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states in 2018. The Ambassador underlined the importance of boosting mutual economic, trade cooperation, particularly during the current conditions prevailing in the world. Ardzinba, for his part, expressed his country's willingness to develop cooperation with Syria in all domains, particularly in the economic and trade ones.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=273320>

Military and civilian sources: US forces redeploy to former positions in northeastern Syria

Syria Direct, 31 May 2022

In a surprising move, United States (US) forces began to redeploy their forces to several points in north eastern Syria in mid-May, local sources told *Syria Direct*. The apparent step comes as Turkey threatens to launch a military operation in northern Syria to complete a 30-kilometer "safe zone" along its southern border. Civilian and military sources affiliated with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said US forces returned to the 17th Division base north of Raqqa and Tabqa airport to the south. US forces are also reportedly preparing for a return to the KharabIshk base 43 kilometers southeast of Kobani (Ayn al-Arab) in Aleppo province, located at the former headquarters of French multinational Lafarge.

<https://syriadirect.org/military-and-civilian-sources-us-forces-redeploy-to-former-positions-in-northeastern-syria/>

TURKEY

Turkey's defense, aerospace industry turnover tops \$10B threshold

Daily Sabah, 17 May 2022

Turkey's defense and aerospace industry sector turnover exceeded the \$10 billion threshold in 2021 and returned to pre-pandemic figures, Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Ismail Demir said Tuesday. Demir was speaking at the 4th Defense Industry Meetings organized by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) and the Defense and Aviation Cluster (SAHA) Istanbul, where he attended via videoconference. Speaking about the activities of the SSB, Demir stated that while only 62 defense projects were carried out 20 years ago, this number has reached 800 today. "More than half of these projects have been initiated in the last six years.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-defense-aerospace-industry-turnover-tops-10b-threshold>

Turkish combat drone Akıncı reaches Azerbaijan in unseen flight

Daily Sabah, 22 May 2022

In a new milestone, Turkey's most advanced and sophisticated drone has conducted an unprecedented flight that saw it departing from north-western Turkey and landing in Azerbaijan. The Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) will be put on display at Teknofest in Azerbaijan this week, marking the first edition abroad for one of the world's biggest aviation, space and technology festivals. Two Akıncı drones took off from north-western Tekirdağ's Çorlu district on Saturday, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon hours, and traveled through Turkey and Georgia before they landed at Heydar Aliyev International Airport in Baku, the developer, Baykar, said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-combat-drone-akinci-reaches-azerbaijan-in-unseen-flight>

'No other NATO ally suffered more terrorist attacks than Turkey'

Daily Sabah, 24 May 2022

In a new milestone, Turkey's most advanced and sophisticated drone has conducted an unprecedented flight that saw it departing from north-western Turkey and landing in Azerbaijan. The Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) will be put on display at Teknofest in Azerbaijan this week, marking the first edition abroad for one of the world's biggest aviation, space and technology festivals. Two Akıncı drones took off from north-western Tekirdağ's Çorlu district on Saturday, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon hours, and traveled through Turkey and Georgia before they landed at Heydar Aliyev International Airport in Baku, the developer, Baykar, said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/no-other-nato-ally-suffered-more-terrorist-attacks-than-turkey>

Iranian envoy stresses right of UN members to self-defense

Tehran Times, 24 May 2022

The Iranian ambassador made comments in an address to the General Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Conventional Ammunition. "...We believe that conventional ammunition should be handled with caution, taking into account the legitimate needs and concerns of member states, including the need to address their national security concerns," he underlined. TakhtRavanchi went on to say that "the elaboration of any framework to manage the conventional ammunition ... must not jeopardize the legitimate rights of all states to the inherent right to individual or collective self-defense."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/472966/Iranian-envoy-stresses-right-of-UN-members-to-self-defense>

Turkish military finds Swedish-made anti-tank weapons in PKK caves

Daily Sabah, 25 May 2022

Turkish security forces discovered Swedish anti-tank weapons while carrying out a raid on a cave used by the PKK terrorists in northern Iraq within the scope of Operation Claw-Lock, a report said Wednesday, as Swedish officials denied providing assistance to the terrorists, which has become a stumbling block for the country's NATO membership. The security forces carried out raids on several caves in the area after five Turkish soldiers fighting against the terrorists were killed in action. They discovered AT-4 anti-tank weapons built by Sweden's Saab Bofors Dynamics Ammunition during the raids, TRT Haber reported.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-military-finds-swedish-made-anti-tank-weapons-in-pkk-caves>

Will Turkey block Finland, Sweden NATO bid?

Tehran Time, 25 May 2022

Efforts by Finland and Sweden to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have become a hot topic in international relations. On May 13, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan clearly announced Ankara's objection to applications by these two Nordic states. According to Anadolu Agency, Erdogan said that Turkey had made a mistake by not blocking Greece's membership in NATO and does not want to repeat that mistake. He also accused Finland, Sweden, and the Scandinavian countries as a whole of backing the PKK and its supporters. Despite the Turkish objection, Finland and Sweden officially submitted their bid on May 18.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47299/9/Will-Turkey-block-Finland-Sweden-NATO-bid>

Turkey's National Security Council hints at new ops on southern border

Daily Sabah, 26 May 2022

Turkey's top security body hinted Thursday at a new military operation on the country's southern border following recent statements from Turkish officials and clashes with PKK terrorists. "Current and future military operations being conducted on Turkey's southern borders do not target the territorial integrity of its neighbours, but stem from national security needs and will contribute to their security as well," the National Security Council (MGK) said in a statement.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkeys-national-security-council-hints-at-new-ops-on-southern-border>

NATO chief supports Turkey's stance on YPG/PKK security concerns

Daily Sabah, 26 May 2022

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg supported Turkey's stance regarding opposition to Sweden and Finland's membership bid over their support for terrorist groups. Stoltenberg told Spanish media that no country, other than Turkey, has suffered from terrorist attacks and that Ankara, as an important NATO ally, has legitimate security concerns that need to be addressed and resolved. The NATO chief also objected to Spanish journalists' attempt to equalize the PKK's Syrian offshoot, the YPG and Kurds. He noted that there are several Kurdish groups and the PKK is recognized as a terrorist organization by the European Union.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/nato-chief-supports-turkeys-stance-on-ypgpkk-security-concerns>

Turkey Expands Zionist Ties Despite Claims of Support for Palestine

Kayhan, 26 May 2022

Turkey's diplomatic thaw with the Zionist regime will help the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has claimed in the first trip to the occupied territories by Ankara's top diplomat in 15 years. Cavusoglu, who met Palestinian officials in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, was in Al-Quds as Turkey and the occupying regime seek to mend ties following a breakdown that began during a military operation in Gaza in 2008 by the Zionist regime. Cavusoglu and the regime's foreign minister Yair Lapid said that economic ties had continued to grow despite years of acrimony between the two sides.

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/102986>

Aselsan to ramp up drone electro-optics output, unveil upgraded versions

Daily Sabah, 27 May 2022

Prominent Turkish defense contractor Aselsan will increase the production capacity of its high-performance electro-optical reconnaissance, surveillance and targeting system that has been equipping the country's drones, its general manager said Friday. The company's engineers are also working on an upgraded version of the Common Aperture Targeting System (CATS), which Haluk Görgün said will be soon ready for use. Dubbed the "eye" of the indigenous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), CATS is designed for fixed-wing and rotary-wing airborne platforms, including unmanned air systems (UASs), helicopters and aircraft. The country's drones were previously using electro-optic systems purchased from abroad but embargos led local defense industry firms to develop the equipment at home.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/aselsan-to-ramp-up-drone-electro-optics-output-unveil-upgraded-versions>

Turkey says resolve to fight all forms of terrorism should be part of NATO's new strategic concept

YeniSafak, 27 May 2022

NATO's new strategic concept should include a resolve to fight all forms of terrorism, the Turkish foreign minister said on Friday. In a joint news conference with his Romanian and Polish counterparts following a trilateral meeting, Mevlut Cavusoglu said Sweden and Finland should end their support of terrorism if they want to join NATO. Also, they must lift restrictions on Turkey's defense industry, he added. Cavusoglu said Turkey's stance on the two countries' NATO bids is "clear and unequivocal." "I hope Finland and Sweden understand our messages," he also said. "Other NATO member states should also encourage Finland and Sweden to take steps to address Ankara's concerns. Solidarity within NATO is important to all of us. We understand the security concerns of Finland and Sweden. Everyone also needs to understand Turkey's legitimate security concerns."

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkey-says-resolve-to-fight-all-forms-of-terrorism-should-be-part-of-natos-new-strategic-concept-3621338>

Turkey on track to complete S-400 rival air defense missile Siper

Daily Sabah, 29 May 2022

Development of Turkey's Siper high-altitude long-range air defense missile system continues successfully and a new test will be held soon, Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) said Sunday. Demir was speaking to Anadolu Agency (AA) at the sidelines of Teknofest Azerbaijan, the first foreign edition of the leading Turkish aviation, space and technology festival. "As Turkey puts forward ambitious projects and achieves them, we also ignite the spirit of unity, togetherness and success in the country," Demir said. Along with that

ignited spirit, the excitement, happiness, unity and solidarity among our young people is constantly developing, he said, adding: "As such projects increase, we see this in most of the defense industry projects, our project teams are working with all their strength for the happiness, welfare and security of our country. They are happy and proud to do this work."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-on-track-to-complete-s-400-rival-air-defense-missile-siper>

‘Message to the world:’ Lithuanians fundraise to buy Bayraktar TB2 for Ukraine

Daily Sabah, 29 May 2022

Hundreds of Lithuanians clubbed together to buy an advanced military drone, the Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2, for Ukraine in its war against Russia, in a show of solidarity with a fellow country formerly under Moscow's rule. The target of 5 million euros (\$5.4 million) was raised in just three and a half days, largely in small amounts, to fund the purchase of the military drone, according to Laisves TV, the Lithuanian internet broadcaster that launched the drive. "Before this war started, none of us thought that we would be buying guns. But it's a normal thing now. Something must be done for the world to get better," said Agne Belickaite, 32, who sent 100 euros as soon as the fundraising launched on Wednesday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/message-to-the-world-lithuanians-fundraise-to-buy-bayraktar-tb2-for-ukraine>

Dialogue, Not Threats, Solution to Turkey-Syria Disputes

Kayhan, 30 May 2022

When hopes had risen of reason returning at last to government circles in Ankara of the need to bury the hatchet and start talks for resumption of relations with Damascus, they seem to have been dashed again

following the Turkish president's sudden threat to send more troops across the border into Syria to carve out a so-called safe zone. President Bashar al-Assad and other senior Syrian officials have categorically rejected President Rajab Tayyeb Erdogan's provocative call for carving out a 30-km zone in Syria as an "aggressive, colonial threat," saying Damascus will respond through all legitimate means to the ongoing ground offensive by Turkish forces in the northern part in Idlib Province. The Syrian statement added that Turkey's measures are illegal and devoid of any legal effect, and even amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/103156>

Turkey, UAE ink 2 MoUs for defense industry cooperation

Daily Sabah, 30 May 2022

Two memorandums of understanding (MoU) were signed between Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday for the development of defense industry relations between the two countries. According to the statement made by the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), state officials and companies of the two countries came together in the capital Ankara as a continuation of the intensifying defense industry cooperation relations between Turkey and the UAE. The meeting, hosted by the SSB, was attended by SSB head Ismail Demir, UAE Supply Organization Tawazun Economic Council General Manager Tareq Abdul Raheem Al Hosani, senior military officials and company executives.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-uae-ink-2-mous-for-defense-industry-cooperation>

After Ukraine, 'whole world' is customer for Turkish drone: Bayraktar

Daily Sabah, 31 May 2022

Ukraine's destruction of Russian artillery systems and armoured vehicles with Turkish Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial

vehicles (UCAVs) has made "the whole world" a customer, according to its designer. Selçuk Bayraktar, who runs the Istanbul firm Baykar with his brother Haluk, said the drones had shown how technology was revolutionizing modern warfare. "Bayraktar TB2 is doing what it was supposed to do – taking out some of the most advanced anti-aircraft systems and advanced artillery systems and armored vehicles," he told Reuters in English beside the new Akıncı drone at an exhibition in Baku. "The whole world is a customer," he added.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/after-ukraine-whole-world-is-customer-for-turkish-drone-bayraktar>.

Turkish Cypriots file complaint against terror group EOKA members

YeniSafak, 31 May 2022

The families of Turkish Cypriots, who were killed in a string of decades-old attacks by EOKA terrorists, have filed a police complaint against the gruesome murders after their confession was aired on television, according to local media on Tuesday. On behalf of the families, Gursel Baran, head of the Association of Martyrs Families and War Veterans in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), filed the complaint at the General Directorate of Security in Northern Cyprus. Members of the Greek Cypriot terrorist group claimed responsibility for the killings in a confession aired on television last Thursday. Neoptolemos Leftis and Athos Petridis, the two former members of EOKA terror group, admitted to killing 68 Turks and "throwing them into a pit" in the 1960s. "We killed 10 Turks for each lost Greek Cypriot ... Even today they ask me the graveyards of these Turks. How will you find it? So many years have passed," Leftis told Omega TV.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkish-cypriots-file-complaint-against-terror-group-eoka-members-3621541>

PALESTINE

US slaps sanctions on Hamas moneymen funding \$500 million terror finance network

Times of Israel, 24 May 2022

The US Treasury Department on Tuesday announced that it had sanctioned a Hamas official along with a network of backers of the terror group. The network is overseen by Hamas's Investment Office, which runs the day-to-day management of more than \$500 million in assets, including firms in Sudan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates. The targeted individuals being sanctioned by the Treasury Department under a 2001 executive order that allows for the financial holdings of designated individuals or groups to be blocked in order to stem terror funding. "Today's action targets the individuals and companies that Hamas uses to conceal and launder funds," says Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Elizabeth Rosenberg while in Israel to discuss terrorism financing efforts.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-slaps-sanctions-on-hamas-moneymen-funding-500-million-terror-finance-network/>

Islamic Jihad says 'closely monitoring' activities in Jerusalem

i24news, 29 May 2022

A senior Islamic Jihad official said on Sunday morning that the Palestinian terrorist group was "closely monitoring" Jerusalem Day activities. "The situation on the ground in the coming hours" would determine the Gaza faction's reaction, the source indicated. Gaza rulers Hamas sent a general message that "the resistance cannot stand idly by in the face of the occupation's abuses," while not issuing specific threats or ultimatums. Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhum told the Lebanese *al-Mayadeen* network that Israel "seems to have not understood the messages of the resistance

well."Barhum said that Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque were "red lines."

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/palestinian-territories/1653811028-islamic-jihad-says-closely-monitoring-activities-in-jerusalem>

Hamas test fires missiles ahead of Israel flag march

IRNA, 29 May 2022

Israeli media said that Hamas fired eight missiles from the besieged Gaza Strip into the sea, describing the launch as a warning to the regime. Israel holds the flag march to mark its 1967 capture of Al-Quds' Old City where Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site to Muslims, is located. Palestinians say occupied Al-Quds is the capital of their future independent state and see the march as a clear provocation. Different Palestinian groups have already warned Israel against desecration of Al-Aqsa.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84770235/Hamas-test-fires-missiles-ahead-of-Israel-flag-march>

Israeli attack on Gaza Strip an "indirect" use of "chemical weapons"

Tehran Times, 31 May 2022

The revelations by Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq follows its extensive 18-month-long probe on the Israeli strike, which the NGO says has left local residents struggling with health problems. On the evening of 15 May 2021, which coincided with the 73rd anniversary of the al-Nakba, the Israeli occupation forces bombed the Khudair Pharmaceuticals and Agricultural Tools Company in Beit Lahiya, the largest agricultural chemical warehouse in Gaza. The regime forces is said to have fired artillery shells at the warehouse in the north of the besieged coastal enclave, setting

hundreds of tons of pesticides, fertilizers, plastics, and nylons on fire.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/473216/Israeli-attack-on-Gaza-Strip-an-indirect-use-of-chemical-weapons>

JORDAN

US-Jordan relationship is "strategic and strong" says Commander of US Central Command

Ammon News, 22 MAY 2022

Commander of the US Central Command, General Michael "Erik" Kurilla, stressed the depth of the relationship between the United States and Jordan. Speaking to an interview while visiting Jordan with Director of Military Media, Colonel Mustafa Abdul Halim Al-Hiyar, Kurilla said the US-Jordan ties are strong and strategic.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/58395>

Foreign Ministry condemns Israeli court decision allowing extremists' rituals at Al Aqsa Mosque

Ammon News, 23 May 2022

The Foreign Ministry on Sunday condemned an Israeli court decision allowing extremists to perform rituals in the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram/Al-Sharif compound. Ministry Spokesperson Haitham Abu Al Foul said the decision is null and has no legal impact according to international law, which does not recognize the authority of the Israeli judiciary over the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem. "The decision is a flagrant violation of international legitimacy resolutions related to Jerusalem, including Security Council resolutions, all of which stress the need to preserve the status quo of the holy city," Abu Al Foul added.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/58429>

Foreign minister, Egyptian counterpart talk cooperation

Ammon News, 24 May 2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi, met with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sameh Shoukry, on Monday evening to discuss further collaboration and coordination. On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Safadi and Shoukry discussed steps taken by both countries to translate their "brotherly strategic relations" into comprehensive cooperation and in context of the trilateral cooperation with Iraq. The two ministers also discussed how to put the outcomes of the Jordanian-Egyptian-Emirati summit, which was held in Cairo on April 24th, into practice.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/58489>

Jordan warns of absence of prospects for comprehensive regional peace

Ammon News, 25 May 2022

Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi Tuesday raised the alarm on the lack of prospects for realising comprehensive regional peace and of the illegal Israeli actions that undermine the two-state solution. Safadi added that Israel's illegal actions are aimed at making the one-state solution a fait accompli, "a hideous reality that would perpetuate apartheid. "In a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Safadi said that there is no alternative to the two-state solution as a way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/58509>

Jordan, Georgia talk ties; regional, international developments

Ammon News, 30 May 2022

Jordan Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and his Georgian counterpart Ilia Darchiashvili

Sunday held a meeting in Amman for a discussion on ties and regional and international developments. Safadi and Darchiashvili said that the two countries are keen to bolster bilateral cooperation. They highlighted the importance of expanding cooperation in different areas, especially in the scopes of agriculture, economy, education, defence, tourism and culture. The top diplomats urged concerted efforts to facilitate direct flights between Amman and Tbilisi to promote tourism. The meeting discussed regional and international developments, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause and efforts to resolve crises.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/58594>

KUWAIT

Kuwait: Shared vision to defeat terror

Arab Times Online, 26 May 2022

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait said on Tuesday the meeting of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) Working Group, affiliated to the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh/ISIS, has made a stride towards working out a joint vision for rehabilitating the FTFs and reintegrating them into their respective communities. The FTF Group Meeting, hosted by Kuwait and co-chaired by Kuwait, Turkey and The Netherlands, saw the Coalition partners debating intensively a host of counter terrorism issues, according to a press release from the Ministry. The conferees reviewed the latest developments of the fight against the so-called Islamic State (IS or Daesh), including the prosecution of former FTFs and the humanitarian and security situations of women and children living in camps.

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/kuwait-shared-vision-to-defeat-terror/>

OMAN

Oman's Sultan issues decree on cooperation with Iran

IRNA News, 18 May 2022

According to Times of Oman, the decree calls for “the ratification of an agreement of cooperation between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on maritime transport, signed in Tehran on 8 December 2019.” Omani media have reported that a high-ranking Iranian trade delegation making up of 30 representatives from Iranian private and government sectors visited Oman on Monday, May 16, for talks on removing obstacles to trade cooperation between the two countries. Head of the Trade Development Organization of Iran (TPOI) Alireza Peimanpak is also on a visit to Oman. On Wednesday, he met with the managing director of Oman Shipping Company to discuss the formation of a joint venture on maritime transportation.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84759241/Oman-s-Sultan-issues-decree-on-cooperation-with-Iran>

Oman, Iran official talks explore cooperation

Muscat Daily, 23 May 2022

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik held a round of official talks with President Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran at Al Alam Palace on Monday. The talks explored various aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways of enhancing the strong ties binding the peoples of Oman and Iran. They exchanged views on issues of common concern. Then, His Majesty the Sultan and President Raisi held a closed-door session. The session was attended from the Omani side by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr Hamad bin Said al Oufi, Head of the Private Office, and Ibrahim bin Ahmed al Muaini, Ambassador of Oman to Iran. From the

Iranian side, it was attended by Dr Hossein Amir Abdollaian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Jamshidi, Deputy Head of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, and Ali Najafi, Ambassador of Iran to Oman.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2022/05/23/oman-iran-official-talks-explore-cooperation/>

Oman welcomes EU Gulf strategy

Muscat Daily, 25 May 2022

H E Sayyid Badr al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, has welcomed the formation of European Union’s ‘Strategic Partnership with the Gulf’. The European Commission adopted a Joint Communication on ‘Strategic Partnership with the Gulf’ with the aim of broadening and deepening EU’s cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council and its member countries on May 18. The Joint Communication addresses a series of key policy areas, presenting concrete proposals for strengthened EU-GCC cooperation on energy, green transition and climate change, trade and economic diversification, regional stability and global security, humanitarian and development challenges, and closer people-to-people contacts.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2022/05/25/oman-welcomes-eu-gulf-strategy/>

Visit to lead to wider horizons of cooperation: Raisi

Muscat Daily, 25 May 2022

Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has expressed his delight in visiting Oman and meeting His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. President Raisi affirmed that his talks with His Majesty the Sultan laid emphasis on the necessity of taking steps to develop relations between the two countries in economic, commercial and tourism fields further. In an interview

with Oman TV, President Raisi reiterated that His Majesty the Sultan is pursuing the approach espoused by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said in consolidating Omani-Iranian relations. The president described relations between the two countries “centuries-old bonds that are deeply engrained in memory” and that “this visit constitutes a point of transformation towards wider horizons of cooperation between the two countries”.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2022/05/25/centuries-old-bond-deeply-engrained-in-memory-ebrahim-raisi/>

Oman condemns Israel’s provocative practices against Palestinians

Muscat Daily, 25 May 2022

The Foreign Ministry of Oman has condemned the illegal and provocative practices of the Israeli forces on the Palestinian territories. The ministry said in a statement, ‘The Foreign Ministry condemns the continuing and illegal provocative practices of Israel and its occupying forces on the Palestinian territories, and its enabling of extremist Israeli settlers to storm the courtyards of the Al Aqsa Mosque under the protection of the occupation forces. ‘Their attack on the sacred places is a flagrant violation of international law and a grave provocation for Muslims around the world’. ‘The international community must shoulder its responsibilities by promoting justice and law, by achieving peace through the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. ‘Thousands of flag-waving Israelis on Sunday marched through Jerusalem’s Old City during a nationalist procession that regularly stokes Palestinian anger, a year after Jerusalem tensions exploded into war.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2022/05/31/oman-condemns-israels-provocative-practices-against-palestinians/>

Joint Oman-Iran Communiqué Underscores Economic Partnership, Security, Stability

Times of Oman, 23 May 2022

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have reaffirmed the positive role of the private sector in augmenting the volume of investments and commercial exchange. They also laid emphasis on the significance of exerting more efforts to establish security and stability in the region and the world at large. This was stated in a communiqué issued on the occasion of the visit of President Raisi to the Sultanate of Oman. “In response to a fraternal invitation from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman on Monday, 23 May 2022.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/117072-joint-oman-iran-communicu-underscores-economic-partnership-security-stability>

Oman, Iran sign eight pacts in various fields

Times of Oman, 23 May 2022

Eight agreements have been signed between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran at Al Alam Palace. Oman News Agency (ONA) revealed that the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran sign at Al Alam Palace eight memoranda of understanding and four cooperation programmes in the fields of oil and gas, transport, diplomatic studies and training, radio and television, higher education, research and innovation, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, plant protection and quarantine, specifications, standards and conformity assessment. The two friendly countries also signed cooperation programmes, the first related to the fields of trade, investment and services, the second to an executive programme for

technical cooperation in the fields of labour and employment, and the third to an executive programme for cooperation in the field of environment.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/117054-oman-iran-sign-eight-pacts-in-various-fields>

Oman, Syria to boost bilateral relations

Times of Oman, 23 May 2022

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Sunday Dr. Lubanah Mshaweh, Minister of Culture in the Syrian Arabic Republic. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the Omani-Syrian relations and reviewed areas of cooperation. The two ministers lauded the efforts exerted to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries in terms of organizing arts exhibitions and antiquities restoration. The meeting was attended by several officials from both sides.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/116999-oman-syria-to-boost-bilateral-relations>

Oman, UK sign mutual defence agreement

Times of Oman, 23 May 2022

The Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom on Saturday signed a mutual defence pact. Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Royal Armed Forces, and Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, Chief of the Defence Staff, signed the Executive Order of the Mutual Defence Agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at the headquarters of the Royal Military College Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. “The signing of the executive order of the joint defence agreement comes as a continuation of the efforts of the two countries to enhance the historical relations of cooperation between

them in a number of fields, including the military, in addition to the keenness of the leadership of the two friendly countries to deepen the bonds of close relations in a way that achieves the common national goals of the two countries.”

<https://timesofoman.com/article/117249-oman-uk-sign-mutual-defence-agreement>

Oman’s joint military drill concludes

Times of Oman, 23 May 2022

The practical demonstration of a joint military drill codenamed “Guarding Oman” was concluded on Wednesday. The drill was carried out by the Command of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (COSAF) with the participation of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) and the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO). The concluding event, held at Said bin Sultan Naval Base, was held under the patronage of Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, RNO Commander. The implementation of this exercise comes within the framework of training plans of the Ministry of Defence and the SAF. Meanwhile, Al Rahbi and several senior officers toured an exhibition which was held on the sidelines of the drill.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/117159-omans-joint-military-drill-concludes>

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Deputy Minister of Defence meets with US Secretary of State

GDN Online, 22 May 2022

Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has met here with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. During the meeting, they reviewed the strategic and historical relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America and ways to strengthen them. The efforts being made

concerning the Yemeni issue and its latest developments were also discussed, as the Deputy Minister of Defence, currently on a visit to the United States of America, affirmed the Kingdom-led coalition's support of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council and its supporting entities, and the Kingdom's aspirations for the Yemenis to reach a comprehensive political solution that would move Yemen to peace and development.

<https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/1082862>

Saudi FM discusses strategic relations between Kingdom and US with Blinken

Arab News, 30 May 2022

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister discussed the strategic relations between the Kingdom and the US with Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday. During a phone call, Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Blinken discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations in order to achieve more stability and prosperity for the two countries. They also discussed the most prominent regional and international issues and efforts made with regards to them.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2092846/saudi-arabia>

YEMEN

A Gulf Security Framework

Yemen Post, 15 May 2022

The security system of the Gulf rests on three poles: Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia including other GCC states and Yemen. While GCC States welcomed the American presence as a strategic and political asset to keep the status quo, Iran did not. Iran felt the United States military and political presence in the area was denying it the right to play its role as a leading power in the Gulf and in the Middle East at large. Threats to the regional stability over the next decade may occur in three main areas of critical activity: Iraq's security and political reconstruction, Iran's nuclear program, and internal unrest in the states of the GCC and Yemen. Terrorism and internal instability represent the most imminent threats to the states of the GCC and Yemen. A gulf security framework that involves GCC member states, Iraq, Iran and Yemen would likely be welcomed by all;

<http://yemenpost.net/Detail123456789.aspx?ID=100&SubID=5706&MainCat=6>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Stephen Koshy James
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