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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

ARMENIA

Armenian forces open fire on Azerbaijani army in Kalbajar

Yeni Safak, June 19, 2022

Armenian armed forces opened fire on Azerbaijani military positions located in the border regions of Kalbajar and Basarkecher early on Sunday, according to Baku's Defense Ministry. Armenian forces reportedly fired large-caliber small arms in their intensive shelling of the Azerbaijani army's positions in the settlements of Yukhar Ayrim, Barmagbin and Zivel.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/armenian-forces-open-fire-on-azerbaijani-army-in-kalbajar-3622684>

Armenian analyst: US will continue to provide military assistance to Azerbaijan

News.am, June 24, 2022

President Joe Biden has bypassed Section 907; the United States will continue to provide military assistance to Azerbaijan. International Studies expert Suren Sargsyan wrote this on Facebook. "Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act prohibits the US government from providing assistance to Azerbaijan. This can only be done if the president bypasses that law, notifies the Congress about it, and can provide military assistance to Azerbaijan. This is what all US presidents do—every year since 2002.

<https://news.am/eng/news/708754.html>

Armenian and Qatari FMs exchange opinions on regional security issues

News.am, June 22, 2022

Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia held a phone conversation with Mohammed bin

Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar today. The interlocutors discussed steps toward the intensification of political dialogue, reciprocal high-level visits and development of economic ties.

<https://news.am/eng/news/708519.html>

Zakharova: Russia is interested in normalization of Azerbaijan-Armenia relations

June 22, 2022

"The Russian side is interested in the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It cannot allow the politicized steps of some foreign players to thwart the already difficult efforts to restore peace and stability in the region. We will continue to do everything depending on us for the unconditional fulfillment of obligations and those tasks that have been recorded in the statements of the leaders of the three countries," Zakharova added.

<https://news.am/eng/news/708442.html>

Donfried: US is willing to continue to cooperate with Russia in facilitating settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

News.am, June 20, 2022

The United States is willing to continue to cooperate with Russia in facilitating a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Karen Donfried told Radio Azatutyun. "The U.S. has continued to say that we support the Minsk Group co-chair process. We continue to believe that it is a very important format, particularly on Nagorno-Karabakh...

<https://news.am/eng/news/708209.html>

Prime Ministers of Armenia and Georgia discuss prospects for bilateral cooperation

News.am, June 18, 2022

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili is in Dilijan on a working visit to Armenia, the press service of the Armenian government informed Armenian News-NEWS.am. The sides discussed issues on the agenda and prospects of the Armenian-Georgian cooperation. They exchanged views on the regional situation and developments. The sides reaffirmed the readiness for the continuous deepening of friendly relations and agreed to continue the active dialogue.

<https://news.am/eng/news/707960.html>

Armenia Security Council Secretary and Donfried discuss regional security issues

News.am, June 18, 2022

Armenian Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan met with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried on Saturday. During the meeting, Grigoryan presented the regional security situation and Armenia's views on addressing priority security issues,

<https://news.am/eng/news/707936.html>

FMs of Armenia and Netherlands discuss number of regional and international security issues

News.am, June 17, 2022

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan had a phone conversation with Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra today. The Armenian and Dutch Ministers of Foreign Affairs expressed satisfaction

with the positive dynamics of the political dialogue between the two countries, close cooperation in various spheres, as well as high and high-level reciprocal visits, the Armenian MFA said.

<https://news.am/eng/news/707869.html>

Former Serbian President: Belgrade can help reconcile Baku and Yerevan

News.am, June 16, 2022

Serbia can help reconcile Baku and Yerevan, former Serbian President Boris Tadic told the journalists at the 9th Global Baku Forum. According to him, Belgrade can share its experience in dealing with the return of internally displaced persons and help in the reconciliation between the former parties to the conflict...

<https://news.am/eng/news/707643.html>

Armenian Security Council Secretary and French presidential advisor discuss Karabakh conflict settlement

News.am, June 28, 2022

Secretary of the Armenian Security Council Armen Grigoryan met with French President's Diplomatic Advisor Isabelle Dumont in Paris, the press service of the Armenian Security Council Secretariat informed Armenian News-NEWS.am. During the meeting, they discussed issues of peace in the region and the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

<https://news.am/eng/news/709444.html>

Ibrahim Kalin says Turkey has no enmity with Armenia

News.am, June 27, 2022

The official representative of the Turkish President, Ibrahim Kalin, said that Turkey

has no enmity with Armenia; Ankara has begun the process of normalization.

<https://news.am/eng/news/709144.html>

Armenia special representative: Not much progress in process toward normalization of relations with Turkey

News.am, June 30, 2022

Armenia has been very constructive ever since the beginning of the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. National Assembly (NA) deputy speaker Ruben Rubinyan, who is also Armenia's special representative in the aforesaid process, stated this Thursday at a briefing with reporters in the NA of Armenia. "Armenia has political will [to normalize these relations], and it has shown that political will to achieve a quick normalization. The success of the process depends on the corresponding constructiveness and political will of Turkey. [But] as you can see, there is no particularly great progress so far [in this regard]; this is visible," Rubinyan said.

<https://news.am/eng/news/709731.html>

PM receives Israel's new ambassador to Armenia

News.am, June 30, 2022

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the newly appointed Ambassador of Israel to Armenia, Joel Lion, whose respective diplomatic residence is in Jerusalem. The PM congratulated the newly appointed envoy of Israel on assuming this post, and wished him fruitful work for the benefit of the development of the Armenian-Israeli relations.

<https://news.am/eng/news/709744.html>

AZERBAIJAN

Aliyev warns Armenia against territorial demands over Karabakh

Yeni Safak, June 17, 2022

Azerbaijan's president warned Armenia on Thursday against making territorial claims from Karabakh, a region liberated from nearly three decades of Armenian occupation in 2020. "If Armenia continues to question the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan will have no other choice and will question the territorial integrity of Armenia," he said.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/aliyev-warns-armenia-against-territorial-demands-over-karabakh-3622570>

Azerbaijan, Pakistan eye multifaceted military cooperation

Azer News, June 29, 2022

Azerbaijani Defense Minister Col-Gen Zakir Hasanov and Pakistani Air Force Commander Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu have discussed military, military-technical, and military-educational cooperation, Azernews reports per the ministry. It was highlighted that the Azerbaijani-Pakistani ties have greatly increased and reinforced and that there is a big potential for bilateral military cooperation.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196129.html>

Summit of Caspian littoral states to contribute to dev't of co-op in various fields - Iranian experts on Ashgabat Summit

Azer News, June 30, 2022

A summit of the presidents of five Caspian littoral states (Azerbaijan, Russia,

Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran) was held in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat on June 29. A number of issues, including cooperation and security were discussed at the summit. "There are two important issues for the establishment of infrastructure and increased security for regional cooperation among the Caspian littoral states. These issues may result in a further increase in the level of relations among the Caspian littoral states," Falahatpishah noted.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196155.html>

Bayramov: Bolstering Azerbaijani-Turkish ties contribute to regional peace, prosperity

Azer News, June 29, 2022

Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has stated that the strengthening of Azerbaijani-Turkish ties contributes to regional peace and prosperity, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. He made the remarks at a meeting with the Turkish Maarif (Education) Foundation Chairman Birol Akgun on June 28 in Baku.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196123.html>

Azerbaijan blames Armenia for aggravating situation on state border

Azer News, June 29, 2022

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has said that the Armenian military-political leadership bears full responsibility for aggravating situation on the state border, Azernews reports per the ministry. Units of the Azerbaijani army took appropriate retaliatory measures to suppress the opposite side, the report added.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196109.html>

FM upbeat about Azerbaijan-Turkiye-Kazakhstan trilateral format in boosting regional security, stability

Azer News, June 28, 2022

Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stated that the Azerbaijan-Turkiye-Kazakhstan trilateral format will play an efficient role in strengthening regional security, stability, and cooperation, Azernews reports. Bayramov made the remarks at the first trilateral meeting of the foreign and transport ministers of Azerbaijan, Turkiye, and Kazakhstan on June 27 in Baku. The minister stressed that Azerbaijan's new goal is to achieve stability in the region.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196059.html>

Serious efforts being made to develop Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan-Türkiye collaboration - Turkish FM

Azer News, June 27, 2022

Serious efforts are being made to develop the Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan-Türkiye cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye Mevlut Cavusoglu said at a briefing on the results of the first trilateral meeting of the Azerbaijani, Turkish and Kazakh foreign ministers on June 27, Trend reports

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196021.html>

Representatives of Azerbaijani army will be appointed to military formations of NATO and Turkey - Defense Minister

Azer News, June 27, 2022

Representatives of the Azerbaijani army will be appointed to the military formations of NATO and Turkey, Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan, Colonel-General Zakir

Hasanov said in an interview with AZERTAG, Trend reports. In accordance with the Action Plan of Azerbaijan and NATO on joint training and education, a new subject called "Defense Strategy and Planning" has been added to the curriculum of the educational institutions of the Azerbaijani army.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/196013.html>

Bayramov: Baku hails Moscow's role in Azerbaijani-Armenian post-war normalization

Azer News, June 25, 2022

Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has said that Baku appreciates Moscow's role in the Azerbaijani-Armenian post-war normalization process, Azernews reports. Bayramov made the remark during a joint presser with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Baku on June 24. He mentioned that the issue of the post-conflict settlement was covered in his discussion with Lavrov today. The need of fostering a climate of peace and collaboration in the area was emphasized.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/195911.html>

Azerbaijan successfully implements measures to ensure cybersecurity

Azer News, June 18, 2022

The country continuously takes measures to prevent cyber threats and threats related to information security. In 2021, Azerbaijan ranked 40th among 194 countries in the Global Cyber security Index. In this context, Azerbaijan has a goal of becoming one of the leading regional and world countries in the information security sphere. Azerbaijan has developed a strategy

for cyber security, which covers the years from 2019 to 2022. The strategy was developed based on the need to increase the level of national cybersecurity in Azerbaijan and reduce threats to information systems.

<https://www.azernews.az/business/195577.html>

IRAN

Iran Asks IAEA Chief Not to Make Comments for Media Consumption

Fars News Agency, June 16, 2022

Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi blasted the UN nuclear watchdog's Chief Rafael Grossi for making "unprofessional" remarks for media consumption. "I amicably advise Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the [International Atomic Energy] Agency, to take distance from making unprofessional statements of political hue and color intended for media" consumption, Kamalvandi said on Wednesday. His remarks came after the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) called on Iran to resume talks "now" on reviving the 2015 nuclear accord before things get "much more problematic". "It is clear that if there is a technical issue, it should be presented professionally within the framework of the Agency's duties and followed through its own channels and through the usual mechanisms of the Agency. Obviously, the arena for such interactions is not the media," he said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010326000331/Iran-Asks-IAEA-Chief-N-Make-Cmmens-fr-Media-Cnsm-pin>

Iran's Home-Made 'Zoljanah' Satellite Carrier under Launch Tests

Fars News Agency, June 16, 2022

Spokesman of the Space Department of the Iranian Defense Ministry Ahmad Hosseini said that the country plans to test its domestically-developed Zoljanah satellite carrier. "Three launches of the Zoljanah satellite carrier were planned for research; one has so far been conducted and two others will be carried out later," Hosseini said on Wednesday. The performance of the three-stage carrier, which uses compound fuel, can be evaluated in each launch, he said. The satellite carrier weighs 52 tons and is 25.5 meters in length. It can carry loads of up to 220 kilograms at an orbit of 500 kilometers above the surface, Hosseini said. Last week, the Iranian Space Agency said work has been underway to prepare seven more satellites for launch into the orbit.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010326000309/Iran's-Home-Made-'Zoljanah'-Satellite-Carrier-under-Launch-Tests>

Ex-IRGC Commander: Israel's Assassination Attempts Have No Technical Operational Value

Fars News Agency, June 16, 2022

Former Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said that the assassination attempts made by the Israeli agents against Iranians have no technical operational value, and stressed that the Zionist regime will find itself under Iran's several times stronger responses. "The Zionist regime and its authorities know better what blows they have received from the Islamic Republic," General Jafari said on Wednesday. "Some of these blows are

still continuing and they (the Zionists) are being hit," he said, adding "These are the blows that the Islamic resistance has inflicted on them in the region and in different countries, and even inside the occupied territories". Gen. Jafari was commenting on statements by Israeli officials about some recent incidents in Iran, for which they have tried to imply responsibility.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010326000364/Ex-IRGC-Commander-Israel's-Assassination-Attempts-Have-No-Technical-Operational-Value>

Armed Forces Spokesman: Iran Relies on Indigenous Power to Maintain Security

Fars News Agency, June 16, 2022

Iranian Armed Forces Spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said that the country is standing on its own feet to establish security without any foreign assistance. Unlike the dependent countries, Iran is self-sufficient and independent in ensuring its security, General Shekarchi said. He stated that many countries, that are heavily dependent on the United States, Britain, Zionist regime and Western countries, have delegated the provision of their security to foreign countries with utmost humiliation.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010326000554/Armed-Forces-Spokesman-Iran-Relies-on-Indigenous-Power-to-Maintain-Security>

Iranian Army's F14 Fighter Jet Crashes in Isfahan, Nobody Killed

Fars News Agency June 18, 2022

An F14 fighter jet crashed in Isfahan, Central Iran on Saturday due to a technical failure, but no one was killed as the two pilots ejected before the crash. "The aircraft

faced a technical defect in the engine at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning during the mission," Head of Army Public Relations in the Isfahan region announced. "The pilot and co-pilot landed with a parachute and were taken to the hospital for medical treatment due to some injuries during landing," Rasoul Motamedi said. In a similar incident in May, an F-7 fighter of the Iranian Army crashed in Isfahan province, killing two officers on board.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010328000532/Iranian-Army's-F4-Figher-Je-Crashes-in-Isfahan-Nbdy-Killed>

AEOI Spokesman: IAEA Notified of Iran's Natanz Construction Work

Fars News Agency, June 18, 2022

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi confirmed that Iran had notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of AEOI's plan to relocate the activities of the TESA complex in Karaj to the Natanz facility. The AEOI spokesman's remarks came in response to reports by the western media about construction activities near the Natanz nuclear site. Kamalvandi underlined that the relocation was taken to intensify security measures around Iran's nuclear facilities. "Even though Iran has no obligation to provide such information to the IAEA, the agency had been informed of the same," he added. Referring to last year's sabotage at the TESA complex, the AEOI spokesman said the transfer of some of the activities to an area near the Natanz nuclear site aims to prevent the recurrence of such attacks. The complex in Karaj, on the outskirts of Tehran, saw a sabotage attack in June last year, which Iranian authorities blamed the Israeli regime for it.

The attack damaged surveillance cameras at the site.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010328000430/AEOI-Spkeman-IAEA-Nified-f-Iran's-Naanz-Cnsrcin-Wrk>

Iran Downplays US B-52 Bombers' Flight over Persian Gulf

Fars News Agency, June 21, 2022

Iranian Armed Forces Spokesman Abolfazl Shekarchi said that the recent flights of the US B-52 bombers over the Persian Gulf are merely a show by Washington. General Shekarchi downplayed the flying of US B-52 bombers over the Persian Gulf, saying it was just a show. "The US is well aware that in case of a strategic mistake, it will experience irreparable and more dangerous blows than ever before," he added. The Israel military said in a February statement that Israeli F-15 fighter jets have escorted an American B-52 bomber as it made its way en route to the Persian Gulf. The B-52H Stratofortress, which is capable of carrying a nuclear weapon, flew from its base in the United Kingdom, through the Straits of Gibraltar, over the Mediterranean, and out over the Red Sea, before traveling back on roughly the same route to the UK.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010331000342/Iran-Dwnplays-US-B-52-Bmbers'-Fligh-ver-Persian-Glf>

Commander: Iranian Air Defense Force Advancing in Accordance to Threats

Fars News Agency, June 22, 2022

Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Elhami underlined advancement of military equipment and weapons in accordance with existing threats.

Addressing the military cadets at Khatam Al-Anbia Air Defense Academy on Wednesday, General Elhami stressed the key role of Army Air Defense Force. He stated that today, the Army Air Defense has a valuable and sensitive role in challenging the hegemony of superpowers and changing the military equations in the Middle East region. Scientific progress and achievements, specially in the field of defense sciences as well as promotion of military achievements are a trump card and ensure the deterrent power and defense capability of the country, Brigadier General Elhami stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010401000897/Cmmander-Iranian-Air-Defense-Frce-Advancing-in-Accrdance-Threas>

Spokesman: Iran Determined to Materialize Technical N. Rights

Fars News Agency, June 22, 2022

Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi underlined that Tehran is serious about materializing its rights in technical fields according to the safeguards agreements. Rapporteur of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Commission Malek Shariati quoted Kalmalvandi as saying in a meeting with the Commission members that Iran is determined to materialize the inalienable rights of the country in the technical and safeguards agreements fields. The legislator told MNA that Kamalvandi had participated in a meeting of the Commission on Tuesday evening to review the recent decisions adopted by the AEOI against the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s excessive demands. After hearing a report by Kamalvandi, members of the parliament's Energy Commission unanimously condemned the

recent anti-Iran draft resolution issued at the IAEA's Board of Governors, and stated that the IAEA issued anti-Iran resolution under the influence and political pressures of the world powers, Shariati said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010401000313/Spkesman-Iran-Deermined-Maerialize-Technical-N-Righs>

IRGC Appoints New Intelligence Chief

Fars News Agency, June 23, 2022

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami appointed Brigadier General Mohammad Kazzemi as the new head of the IRGC Intelligence Organization to replace Hossein Ta'eb. IRGC Spokesman Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif announced the new appointment on Thursday. "Former Head of the IRGC Intelligence Organization was also appointed as the advisor to the IRGC commander upon a decree by Major General Hossein Salami," he said. The spokesman added that the new head of the IRGC Intelligence Organization has been presiding the IRGC Intelligence Protection Organization for many years and has extensive experiences in security, protection and intelligence issues.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010402000529/IRGC-Appins-New-Inelligence-Chief>

Concrete Pouring Operations Starts at 2nd Unit of Iran's Bushehr N. Power Plant

Fars News Agency, June 25, 2022

Iran started concrete pouring operations at the second unit of its nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad

Eslami said. Eslami said that Iran began pouring concrete for the wall of the reactor of the second unit of its Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant aimed at expanding the site in the South of the country. He added that the concrete pouring operation starts from the -4.5 to the 0 level. He added that in that vein, necessary plans have been put in place to expedite the construction of the second and third reactors of the Bushehr Power Plant. Eslami noted that Iran is also building a water desalination unit at the power plant, saying a team of experts was accompanying him on his visit to Bushehr for conducting complementary studies on the project.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010404000286/Cncree-Pring-Operains-Sars-a-2nd-Uni-f-Iran's-Bshehr-N-Pwer-Plan>

‘Martyr Soleimani’ Helicopter-Carrier Warship to Join IRGC Navy

Fars News Agency, June 28, 2022

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said that a new home-made warship named after Iran’s anti-terror commander martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani will be delivered to the IRGC Navy Soon. “We now manufacture our own frigates. Shahid (Martyr) Soleimani helicopter carrier is also expected to join the IRGC naval fleet in the near future. We indigenously build various types of high-speed boats that cruise at speeds of 70 to 90 nautical knots,” Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said at a ceremony in Tehran on Monday. Head of the Marine Industries Organization of Iran Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari announced in April 2020 that the country will build a 6,000-ton destroyer, and said it has the ability to produce nuclear-powered

submarines. “The destroyer will be a trimaran ship – a vessel consisting of multiple hulls – equipped with very special capabilities,” Rear Admiral Rastegari said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010407000618/‘Maryr-Sleimani’-Helicper-Carrier-Warship-Jin-IRGC-Navy>

DM: Iran, Pakistan Defense Cooperation Benefits Regional Security

Fars News Agency, June 29, 2022

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani called for booting defense cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad to establish security in West Asia. General Ashtiani made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan General Nadeem Raza in Tehran on Tuesday. “We are still far from the desired situation (in the region),” he said. “But there is no doubt that cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in various defense domains in such tense conditions can be an effective contribution to improving the security situation in the West Asian region.” General Ashtiani also warned of attempts made by “meddlesome countries” to influence Tehran-Islamabad ties, saying Tehran attaches great importance to the deepening of relations with neighboring and regional countries.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010408000441/DM-Iran-Pakistan-Defense-Cperain-Benefis-Reginal-Secriy>

AEOI Chief: New Centrifuges Installation Part of Strategic Action Plan

Fars News Agency, June 30, 2022

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

that the moves by Iran to install new centrifuges at the Fordow Nuclear Facility is happening under the Strategic Action Plan of the Iranian Parliament. "This issue has been pursued within the Iranian Parliament's Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation's Interests, which was approved in late 2020," Eslami said while referring to installation of new centrifuges in Fordow Facility. The AEOI chief reiterated that his organization will move according to the plans.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010408000633/AEOI-Chief-New-Cenrifges-Insallain-Par-f-Sraegic-Acin-Plan>

IRAQ

Iraq connects electrical grid with Saudi Arabia

Al-Monitor, June 16, 2022

Iraq has started connecting its electricity system to Saudi Arabia's. Iraq's Ministry of Electricity said yesterday that it has begun establishing interconnection stations with Saudi Arabia, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. Electricity interconnectors run under water, underground or via overhead cables and can connect electricity stations between two countries, allowing one to send electricity to another. Iraq has long been plagued by electricity problems and large swaths of the country are without power for much of the day. It is particularly an issue in the summer, when temperatures can near 50 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit). Many Iraqis use gas-powered generators to power cooling systems. Iraq has been working with Saudi Arabia on electricity sharing for some time. In 2020, Iraqi officials discussed importing electricity with their

Saudi counterparts in order to avoid the Trump administration's sanctions on Iran.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/iraq-connects-electrical-grid-saudi-arabia#ixzz7YyFLlk4>

Silence from Baghdad as Turkish drone kills Yazidi child in Sinjar

Al-Monitor, June 16, 2022

The government of Iraq has yet to comment on a Turkish drone strike that killed a 12-year-old boy in the town of Sinune yesterday, the latest in a string of attacks in the Sinjar region of northern Iraq, adding to fury among Yazidis, a marginalized community that was subjected to genocide by the Islamic State. Nobel laureate Nadia Murad, a Yazidi genocide survivor who was enslaved by IS, called Turkey's attack "an act of terrorism." "Iraq has the ultimate responsibility to stop Turkey from attacking Sinjar," said Murad Ismael, a prominent Yazidi activist. "The international community also has a moral responsibility towards Yazidis and the people of Sinjar. It is both painful and illogical that these attacks go [unaddressed] as if they are legitimate. It seems Turkey can get away with anything," Ismael told Al-Monitor. The Turkish drone targeted a local council associated with the Shingal Resistance Units (YBS), an all-Yazidi militia that was established with the help of an armed Turkish Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), to help defend their people in the wake of IS' genocidal sweep through Sinjar in August 2014.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/silence-baghdad-turkish-drone-kills-yazidi-child-sinjar#ixzz7YyFhwtk>

Baghdad, Erbil discuss cooperation between the Iraqi army and the Peshmerga

Iraqi News Agency, June 19, 2022

Kurdistan Prime Minister Masrour Barzani discussed on Sunday, with Iraqi military and security delegation headed by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Amir Yarallah, cooperation between the army and the Peshmerga. The media office of the President of the Regional Government said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Masrour Barzani, received today Sunday, a high-ranking Iraqi military and security delegation headed by the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army, Lieutenant-General Abdul Amir Yar Allah." "Combating terrorism requires enhanced cooperation between the Iraqi army and the Peshmerga forces in the areas of Article 140 of the constitution," Barzani stressed.

<https://ina.iq/eng/20172-baghdad-erbil-discuss-cooperation-between-the-iraqi-army-and-the-peshmerga.html>

Counterterror ops rake in 'high-value targets' in Iraq, Syria

Al-Monitor, June 19, 2022

As the fifth anniversary of Iraqi forces' retaking of Mosul from the Islamic State (IS) approaches, counterterrorism operations in the country in recent weeks continue to kill important targets. These operations have largely focused on areas disputed between the central government and the Kurdistan Region. IS hideouts and operatives in Iraq's western desert stretching to the Syrian border have also been targeted, however, as well as in and close to the capital. On June 15, Iraq's

Counterterrorism Services (CTS) announced they had killed three members of "IS gangs" in Kirkuk in an operation that started at dawn that day. A week before, the CTS had conducted an airdrop into the Anbar desert that resulted in the killing of a local leader there. Kirkuk is an oil-rich region that both Baghdad and Erbil lay claim to but under the central government since late 2017.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/counterterror-ops-rake-high-value-targets-iraq-syria#ixzz7YyGGK291>

Iraq announces the new cannon called "Al-Tahadi – Challenge"

Iraqi News Agency, June 20, 2022

The Military Industrialization Authority announced on the production of an Iraqi cannon called the "Tahadi; Challenge cannon", while indicating that there are requests from the security services to supply the Babel pistol. "The Babylon pistol was the first experience of typical production. The military industry is a deterrent to peacekeeping in our country," said the head of the commission, Muhammad Sahib Al-Daraji, to the "Al-Ashira" TV show on Al-Iraqiya News TV followed up by the Iraqi News Agency - INA. He added, "We seek to produce a military industry that covers part of the needs of the Iraqi armed forces," noting that "the Babel pistol is an Iraqi manufacture in a very large proportion." "The choice of the name Babel on the new pistol to denote the force," he added, noting that "some foreign experts were hired to supervise the qualitative control of the weapon."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20200-iraq-announces-the-new-cannon-called-al-tahadi-challeng.html>

Yarallah praised Britain's support for Iraq in the fields of armaments and training

Iraqi News Agency, June 22, 2022

Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah praised Britain's support for Iraq in the fields of armament and training. A statement issued by the Ministry of Defense received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said that "the Chief of Staff of the Army, First Lieutenant General, Special Forces Staff Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah, met in his office the military and commercial attaches of the United Kingdom of Britain, to discuss strengthening the capabilities of the Iraqi army and developing its military system." The Chief of Staff of the Army praised the size of the logistical support provided by the United Kingdom at the level of armament and training, praising these steps that enhance the capabilities of our armed forces and keep pace with technological development in global armies, according to the statement.

<https://ina.iq/eng/20235-yaraallah-praised-britains-support-for-iraq-in-the-fields-of-armaments-and-training.html>

Militias target again Iraq's intelligence service

Al-Monitor, June 25, 2022

In a scenario reminiscent of events in 2020, Iraqi media outlets close to Iraqi factions and parties loyal to Tehran have been trying in the past few days to accuse the Iraqi National Intelligence Service of participating in the assassination of the Iranian Quds Force commander Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, and the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) deputy head

Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. Tehran's supporters in Iraq did not stop at media accusations of the Iraqi intelligence service, but went beyond that to threaten senior officers of the agency by name and post their photos with personal information, which caused a wave of anger in the political and popular quarters. Also, the headquarters of the intelligence service in Baghdad was hit with an explosive device. All this seems to fall within the scope of a systematic campaign of escalation launched by the Shiite militias against the intelligence service, targeting Kadhim.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/militias-target-again-iraqs-intelligence-service#ixzz7YyKuoRCs>

A third time missile attack on Kormor gas field in Sulaymaniyah

Iraqi News Agency, June 25, 2022

Kurdistan Counter-Terrorism Service announced on Saturday, that the Kormor gas field in Sulaymaniyah was attacked by a missile for the third within 72 hours. "Kormor gas field in the Qadir Karam district of Chamchamal district was attacked by a missile a while ago for the third time," said the Counter-Terrorism Service Agency in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency - INA. He added that "for the third time in 72 hours, a missile was launched at the Kormore gas field a while ago as this comes at a time when two separate attacks took place on the field during the past two days, and five missiles were launched towards the field at separate times."

<https://ina.iq/eng/20296-a-third-time-missile-attack-on-kormore-gas-field-in-sulaymaniyah.html>

ISRAEL

Israel, U.S. Conducted Joint Exercise Simulating Escalation on Northern Border

Haaretz, June 22, 2022

Israel and the United States held a joint military exercise over the past week to assess the readiness of both countries to cope with security challenges, particularly a military escalation on Israel's northern front. The drill held by senior U.S. and IDF officers coordinated joint action plans for intelligence, air defense and logistical assistance — but did not include U.S. involvement in a conflict with Hezbollah

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-22/ty-article/.premium/israeli-u-s-conducted-joint-exercise-simulating-escalation-on-northern-border/00000181-8c48-d2c2-a3a5-ce7d72fd0000>

Hamas, Hezbollah wary of Israeli-Arab security cooperation

The Jerusalem Post, June 28, 2022

Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups have been holding meetings in Lebanon over the past few days to discuss the “dangers” of the impending emergence of a security alliance between Israel and some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. The proposed alliance, whose chief goal is to confront Iranian threats and “expansionist” schemes, is expected to be at the top of US President Joe Biden’s agenda during his visit to Israel and Saudi Arabia next month.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-710627>

Iran deal results: Mossad vs. Mossad, IDF vs. IDF – analysis

The Jerusalem Post, June 27, 2022

Despite Yediot Aharonot’s report on Sunday that there is a current fight between IDF intelligence and the Mossad over whether the US returning to the 2015 JCPOA Iran nuclear deal is a good idea, the situation is more complex. The truth is, there are wars within the IDF, and wars within the Mossad. In fact, the Israeli political class — where outgoing prime minister Naftali Bennett, incoming prime minister Yair Lapid and former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu all agree that a return to the deal would be bad — may be the only place where there is consensus.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-710549>

Military Intelligence, Mossad at odds over Iran deal – report

The Jerusalem Post, June 27, 2022

As Western powers are set to return to the negotiating table with Iran over its nuclear program, the Israeli defense establishment is at odds over whether a deal would be good for the country, according to a report in Yediot Aharonot. Several Israeli generals, including OC Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Aharon Haliva, are in favor of a return to a deal with Tehran, in opposition to IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi and Israel’s official policy, the report said.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-710479>

IAI extends lifespan of VENμS satellite

The Jerusalem Post, June 23, 2022

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) doubled the lifespan of the Venus satellite by adjusting its altitude in space from 410 km (255 mi) above Earth to 560 km (348 mi). The satellite, which was originally intended to return to Earth, will instead continue its mission to monitor vegetation on Earth using a camera with 12 spectral bands developed by EL-OP and a propulsion system built by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-710241>

Zelensky: Israel must join international sanctions regime against Russia

The Jerusalem Post, June 23, 2022

Israel must join the international sanctions regime against Russia and allow visa-free entry for refugees fleeing Moscow's aggression, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem during a special video address on Thursday. "Unfortunately, we have not yet seen Israel join the sanctions regime," said Zelensky, whose words were translated from Ukrainian into English. It is about values and general security. This is about everyone who is willing to destroy another nation [being] held accountable.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-710185>

Israel cannot have both security and political instability – analysis

The Jerusalem Post, June 21, 2022

It seems that when Israel is not sending troops to war, it's sending its citizens to the

ballot box. For the fifth time in three-and-a-half years, Israelis will once again be choosing who they would like to lead the country. It's a movie that we've seen before, yet another round of mudslinging and dirty political fights. But as the movie runs ahead, life goes on and Israel's enemies, be they in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria or the West Bank, are wide awake looking for an opportunity to strike.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709990>

Gantz: Israel building regional air defense alliance under US

The Jerusalem Post, June 20, 2022

Israel is building a US-sponsored regional air defense alliance, the Israeli defense minister said on Monday, adding that the apparatus has already foiled attempted Iranian attacks and could be boosted by President Joe Biden's visit next month. Drawing closer in recent years to US-aligned Arab states which share their concerns over Iran, Israel has offered them defense cooperation. They have been publicly reticent on the idea.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-709885>

Was Iran behind siren cyberattacks in Jerusalem, Eilat?

The Jerusalem Post, June 20, 2022

False rocket warning sirens that were activated in Jerusalem and Eilat on Sunday evening were likely caused by a cyberattack, the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD) confirmed on Monday morning. By Monday, there was rampant speculation that Iran was the perpetrator of the hack, with a slew of cyber experts opining as such in interviews about the

possibility of Iranian involvement. However, a diplomatic source said there was still uncertainty whether the Islamic Republic was the source of the attack.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709867>

Russia using Israel to distract world from Ukraine, analysts say

The Jerusalem Post, June 21, 2022

Russia is attempting to draw attention away from its ongoing war in Ukraine by stirring up a crisis with Israel on the international stage, Israeli analysts believe. Moscow is set to put forth a proposal for a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its recent alleged attack on Damascus International Airport, Israeli officials told the KAN News on Sunday. The strike caused serious damage to the airport and put it out of commission for days. The draft proposal blames the attack on Israel and says that it undermines regional stability and goes against international law, according to Kan.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709863>

PM Bennett: Zero tolerance for rockets from Gaza

The Jerusalem Post, June 19, 2022

Israel is seeking to allow residents of the South to live a quiet life while preventing Hamas from growing stronger in Gaza, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said at the opening of Sunday's cabinet meeting. "Unlike in the past, we are not making excuses for the terrorists," Bennett said. "We're not calling them rebels [against Hamas] or [saying there was] an electrical short. As far as we are concerned, Hamas is the address." The prime minister's

remark came after a rocket was launched into Israel, and the IDF struck back at what it said was a workshop for manufacturing weaponry.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709812>

Regardless of who is PM, Biden will want to talk Saudi Arabia – analysis

The Jerusalem Post, June 17, 2022

When US President Joe Biden lands at Ben-Gurion Airport next month, will Prime Minister Naftali Bennett be there to welcome him? Or will his coalition fall at the hands of a right-wing MK, making Yair Lapid prime minister until the next government is formed? Regardless of who is the prime minister, the focus of US-Israel talks will be Saudi Arabia

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-709672>

Israel brings out the big guns at Eurosatory

The Jerusalem Post, June 17, 2022

Several Israeli companies, mostly known for their aviation and space technologies, presented at Eurosatory new products they developed, based on their missile and airplane expertise, for soldiers on the ground. One such company was BIRD Aerosystems. The two companies agreed for the Israeli Hybrid Eye all-in-one detection system to be installed on Safran's military goggles. The Hybrid Eye system supports the protection of armored vehicles from wide-ranging threats.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709681>

Israel's 99th Division trains ground and air units together

The Jerusalem Post, June 16, 2022

One of the Israeli units training this week to improve its skills is the 99th Division. It is one of the IDF's new units and, according to the army, was established in the last two years and includes a cross-section of units that give the division "multi-dimensional" qualities. According to an article at the IDF's website, the unit includes the "Kfir Brigade, the multi-dimensional 'Ghost' Unit and three additional reserves brigades." It can therefore draw on unique capabilities, including technology, drones, commandos, a canine unit and air force officers who aid in conducting close air support missions.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709595>

Israel to ask Biden for help funding futuristic laser defense system

The Jerusalem Post, June 16, 2022

The Defense Ministry's laser interception system project will be presented to US President Joe Biden during his visit to Israel next month, according to sources from the ministry and the IDF on Thursday. IDF sources said that it was no secret that the Defense Ministry was looking for partners for the project, which will have a high cost. Talks on the project have already been held between the ministry, the IDF and the US Defense Department.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709538>

Herzog met Abdullah this week in Amman, president's office reveals

The Times of Israel, June 29, 2022

President Isaac Herzog met with Jordan's King Abdullah earlier this week, the

president's office announced on Wednesday, ahead of US President Joe Biden's visit to the region. Herzog's visit to the Royal Palace on Monday also dealt with "diplomatic developments in the region," according to a statement from the president's spokesman.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-met-abdullah-this-week-in-amman-presidents-office-reveals/>

Israel has drastically damaged Iran's intelligence operations, Iranian officials say

The Times of Israel, June 29, 2022

Israel has deeply infiltrated and drastically shaken Iranian intelligence operations in recent months, a senior Iranian official told the New York Times. The report published Wednesday cited the recent ousting of the intelligence chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the secret arrest of a senior commander accused of spying for Israel as examples of the growing levels of distrust in Iran.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-drastically-damaged-irans-intelligence-operations-iranian-officials-say/>

Gantz says Iran and Hezbollah tried to hack UN peace force, steal deployment data

The Times of Israel, June 29, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Wednesday said Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah recently attempted a cyberattack against a United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, in order to steal information about its activities in the area. "The leader of global, conventional terrorism is Iran. This is also true for cyberterrorism," Gantz said at the Cyber Week conference in Tel Aviv. "Iran

operates via proxies such as Hezbollah in all dimensions — including cyber.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-says-iran-and-hezbollah-attempted-to-hack-unifil-steal-deployment-information/>

‘Mess with Israel, you’ll pay a price,’ PM warns Iran, after steel plant cyberattack

The Times of Israel, June 28, 2022

Outgoing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned Tuesday, a day after Iran’s major steel companies were hit by a cyberattack, that anyone who attempts a cyberattack against Israel will “pay a price.” “[The] approach with our enemies, especially Iran... we don’t go around wreaking havoc in Tehran — that’s never been our policy. Our policy is, if you mess with Israel, you’ll pay a price,” Bennett said at the Cyber Week conference in Tel Aviv. He also highlighted the benefits of using cyber warfare over more traditional military offensive methods...

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/mess-with-israel-youll-pay-a-price-pm-warns-after-iran-steel-plant-cyberattack/>

Israel to ask Biden for okay to provide air defense laser to Saudi Arabia – report

The Times of Israel, June 28, 2022

Israel intends to ask US President Joe Biden to approve the delivery of an Israeli laser-powered air defense system to Arab countries aligned against Iran, including Saudi Arabia, according to a Monday report. The move would be part of a US-led effort to establish regional cooperation against the threat of Iranian attack drones and missiles. Recent reports have said the parties include the United Arab Emirates,

Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-ask-biden-for-okay-to-provide-air-defense-laser-to-saudi-arabia-report/>

US says progress made toward elusive Israel-Lebanon maritime border deal

The Times of Israel, June 28, 2022

The Biden administration said Monday that recent meetings held between its energy envoy and Israeli and Lebanese officials have resulted in progress toward resolving a long-held maritime border dispute between the neighbouring countries. Israel and Lebanon have no diplomatic relations and are technically in a state of war. They each claim about 860 square kilometres (330 square miles) of the Mediterranean Sea as being within their exclusive economic zones. The US has unsuccessfully sought to mediate between the sides for over a decade, with the last three administrations dispatching envoys to the region with the same task.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-says-progress-made-toward-elusive-israel-lebanon-maritime-border-deal/>

Do signs point to an emerging Israel-Saudi normalization deal?

The Times of Israel, June 27, 2022

The United States has hinted that more Arab nations could take steps to improve ties with Israel, ahead of President Joe Biden’s trip to the Middle East. All eyes are on Saudi Arabia, which Biden will visit in mid-July, after he once vowed to treat the kingdom as a “pariah” state over the 2018 murder and dismemberment of Saudi

journalist Jamal Khashoggi. However, despite the recent signs of a US-Saudi rapprochement, analysts say it is improbable that Riyadh will agree to diplomatic ties with Israel — at least, not during Biden’s visit or while King Salman, 86, still reigns.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/do-signs-point-to-an-emerging-israel-saudi-normalization-deal/>

Israel, Arab allies agree to tighten cooperation ahead of Biden visit

The Times of Israel, June 27, 2022

Senior diplomats from Israel, the US, and regional Arab allies agreed to increase efforts to improve security, stability and prosperity in the Middle East during a Negev Summit follow-up meeting in Bahrain on Monday. The first meeting of the Negev Summit Steering Committee — consisting of Israel, Bahrain, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, and the US — is “especially important in light of US President Joe Biden’s expected visit in Israel and Saudi Arabia, and America’s commitments to widen the circle of peace,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement after the meeting.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-arab-allies-agree-to-tighten-cooperation-ahead-of-biden-visit/>

Gantz: Israel is building a Middle East air defense alliance against Iran

The Times of Israel, June 27, 2022

Israel is building a regional air defense alliance to defend its members from Iran, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Monday, appearing to confirm, at least in part, a report that the Israeli military was in talks with its Saudi and Qatari counterparts

on the matter. “We are building our wide partnership with additional countries in the region to ensure a secure, stable and prosperous Middle East. Among other things, this also includes aerial defense,” Gantz said

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-israel-is-building-a-middle-east-air-defense-alliance-against-iran/>

Lapid slams EU foreign policy chief for trip to Iran to push reumption of nuke talks

The Times of Israel, June 26, 2022

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid harshly criticized the European Union’s top diplomat Sunday for his decision to travel to Iran in a bid to push along talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic. In a letter addressed to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Lapid wrote Sunday that “this is a strategic mistake that sends the wrong message to Iran,” according to the Politico news site. Lapid also slammed the EU official for his “lack of care for the lives of Israeli citizens,” considering the recent reports of Iranian operatives targeting Israelis in Turkey.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-slams-eu-foreign-policy-chief-for-iran-nuke-talks-push-in-tehran/>

Israeli defense chief said to talk anti-Iran alliance with Saudi counterpart

The Times of Israel, June 26, 2022

The US convened a summit of top regional defense officials from Israel and Arab counties to discuss coordination against Iran’s missile and drone threat, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday, citing US and regional sources to reveal details of the

previously undisclosed meeting. The talks were held at Sharm el Sheikh in the Egyptian-controlled Sinai Peninsula sometime in March and included participants from Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Jordan.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-defense-brass-said-to-talk-anti-iran-alliance-with-saudi-arabia-and-others/>

Military Intelligence backs revived Iran deal, breaking with IDF chief, Mossad

The Times of Israel, June 26, 2022

Senior defense officials are at odds over Israel's stance on talks aimed at reviving the Iran nuclear deal, according to an unsourced report Sunday in Hebrew-language media. According to the Ynet news site, several Israeli generals, including the chief of Military Intelligence, have begun to support a return to the 2015 accord between Iran and world powers, against Israel's official policy. But senior intelligence officials now believe that a bad agreement is preferable to no agreement at all, as it gives Israel time to prepare for extensive military responses against Iran, Ynet said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/military-intelligence-backs-revived-iran-deal-breaking-with-idf-chief-mossad/>

In Ankara, Lapid praises security ties with Turkey after alleged Iran terror bust

The Times of Israel, June 23, 2022

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid hailed security cooperation with Turkey in helping foil an Iranian plot to kidnap or kill Israeli nationals in Istanbul, as he met his counterpart in Ankara for high-level talks

aimed at cementing the countries' rapprochement Thursday. "The lives of Israeli citizens have been saved thanks to security and diplomatic cooperation between Israel and Turkey," said Lapid, using the country's new official name.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-ankara-lapid-praises-security-ties-with-turkey-after-alleged-iran-terror-bust/>

PM: Biden's visit 'vital,' goal is to finalize joint plan against nuclear Iran

The Times of Israel, June 20, 2022

Israel's primary goal during US President Joe Biden's upcoming visit will be "to finalize a clear joint plan of action together with the US to stop Iran's nuclear program," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Monday. "This visit is vital for Israel," said Bennett, explaining that it would deal with key priorities for Israel over the past year, especially Iran's nuclear program. Bennett said that "the world is waking up to Iran's true face," pointing to the International Atomic Energy Agency's censure of Iran earlier this month during its Board of Governors meeting in Geneva.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-bidens-visit-vital-goal-is-to-finalize-joint-plan-against-nuclear-iran/>

IDF limited strike on Hamas post overlooking town to avoid Hamas casualties – report

The Times of Israel, June 20, 2022

The Israel Defense Forces damaged, but did not destroy, a Hamas observation post that overlooks an Israeli town close to the border with the Gaza Strip because it did not want to cause casualties in the attack, the Kan public broadcaster reported Sunday. The report said the attack on the

post was carried out with a targeted strike from a helicopter gunship, instead of being bombed by a warplane, because the IDF preferred not to kill the Hamas operatives on the ground near the post in order to prevent a further escalation along the Gaza border.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-carried-out-limited-strike-on-hamas-post-because-it-did-not-want-casualties/>

Gantz: Israel preparing offensive options against Iran 'if and when' they're needed

The Times of Israel, June 19, 2022

Israel is preparing offensive options against Iran in case they are needed, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said in an interview with Channel 12 News on Sunday. Tensions between Israel and Iran have intensified in recent weeks, after the assassination of a top Iranian officer in Tehran last month that it blames on Israel, a number of other deaths of security and scientific personnel inside Iran, airstrikes against Iran-linked targets in Syria, threatening rhetoric from Iranian leaders, and Iran's increasing violations of nuclear agreements.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-israel-preparing-offensive-options-against-iran-if-and-when-theyre-needed/>

Israel-Iran Cyberwar Escalates, Dealing Greater Damage Than Before

Haaretz, June 29, 2022

The Israel National Cyber Directorate says it has foiled about 1,500 cyberattacks in the past year, some of them by Iran. Prime Minister Bennett says 'you can no longer hit Israel indirectly through proxies'

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-29/ty-article/.highlight/israel-iran-cyberwar->

[escalates-dealing-greater-damage-than-before/00000181-ae94-d786-a1a7-ff97c6dc0000](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-27/ty-article/.premium/israeli-foreign-ministry-chief-in-bahrain-for-second-meeting-of-mideast-forum/00000181-a4ef-de5c-a98b-b5ffe5e90000)

Israeli Foreign Ministry Chief in Bahrain for Meetings in First Since Negev Summit

Haaretz, June 27, 2022

Hosted by Bahrain and chaired by Israel, this is the first meeting since Lapid hosted the Foreign Ministers of states which signed the Abraham Accords. Senior foreign ministry representatives of several Middle Eastern states, including Israel, concluded their first conference on Monday hosted in Bahrain's capital of Manama.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-27/ty-article/.premium/israeli-foreign-ministry-chief-in-bahrain-for-second-meeting-of-mideast-forum/00000181-a4ef-de5c-a98b-b5ffe5e90000>

Biden's Middle East Defense Network Against Iran Is Working

Haaretz, June 27, 2022

Ahead of Biden's visit to the region, progress has been made both in advancing an alliance with friendly Arab countries and in the U.S. returning to nuclear deal talks with Iran. With U.S. President Joe Biden planning to visit the Middle East in mid-July, there has recently been an uptick in American activity in the region. On one hand, thanks to vigorous European mediation, the nuclear talks with Iran seem likely to resume in the near future. On the other, Washington has intensified its efforts to create a regional defense alliance against Iranian drones and missiles that will include Israel and several friendly Arab countries.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-27/ty->

[article/.premium/bidens-regional-middle-east-defense-network-against-iran-is-working/00000181-a19c-db6b-afbf-f3fe2f280000](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-21/ty-article/israel-keeping-u-s-in-the-dark-about-iran-strikes-report-says/00000181-a19c-db6b-afbf-f3fe2f280000)

Israel Took Part in Unprecedented Meeting with Arab States About Iranian Threat, Report Says

Haaretz, June 26, 2022

Israel took part in a secret, U.S.-initiated meeting of top military officials from throughout the Middle East in Egypt in March in order to discuss combatting the shared threat of Iran's missile and drone capabilities, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. The talks, held at Sharm El Sheikh, included senior military officers from Israel, Egypt, Jordan and two countries with whom Israel does not have relations: Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-26/ty-article/report-israel-participated-in-secret-meeting-with-arab-states-about-iranian-aerial-threat/00000181-a003-dca5-a5c1-b48716180000>

Israel Keeping U.S. in the Dark About Iran Attacks, Report Says

Haaretz, June 21, 2022

As Israel increases its attacks on Iranian nuclear sites and scientists, current and former U.S. officials said it has not been keeping its American counterparts updated on its actions, CNN reported on Tuesday. According to the report, as U.S. President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and other Middle Eastern states draws nearer, military and intelligence officials in the United States are keeping a lookout for

signs of an escalation between Israel and the Islamic Republic, considering the rising rate of strikes attributed to Israel on Iran.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-21/ty-article/israel-keeping-u-s-in-the-dark-about-iran-strikes-report-says/00000181-8718-d0ac-a7bd-a71bf78c0000>

Israel's Gantz Say New Air Defense Alliance Already Thwarted Iran Aggression, Warns Tehran of 'Powerful Response'

Haaretz, June 20, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Monday that Israel has prepared "powerful reactions" against Iran in case the latter executes the recent threats to attack Israeli citizens in Turkey. Iran says Israeli, Gulf operations are act of 'desperation'

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-20/ty-article/.premium/gantz-say-new-air-defense-pact-already-thwarted-iran-attacks-warns-of-powerful-response/00000181-80ab-d5d7-abc9-b3ef8d740000>

Israel Sees Improved Ties with Turkey Over Terror Threat

Haaretz, June 20, 2022

President Isaac Herzog called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday to thank him for Turkey's efforts to find Iranian terrorist squads in Istanbul. Their conversation was termed "positive and warm" by Israeli sources. Ever since Herzog assumed office, Erdogan has marked him as a partner to move toward reconciliation between the two countries,

calling him from time to time to discuss various topics.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-19/ty-article/israel-sees-improved-ties-with-turkey-over-terror-threat/00000181-7d78-d541-a9ad-ff7c3f950000>

Israel Strikes Gaza in Response to Rocket Fire

Haaretz, June 18, 2022

The Israeli military attacked the Gaza Strip on Saturday morning in response to rocket fire from the coastal enclave, a military spokesperson said, shattering a two-month lull that prevailed along the Gaza-Israel fence in contrast to soaring tensions in the West Bank.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-06-18/ty-article/.premium/rocket-sirens-sound-in-ashkelon-gaza-border-towns/00000181-7431-d292-addb-fc7f8ded0000>

Amid political chaos, Bennett warns Hamas: Do not challenge the stability

I24 News, June 22, 2022

'The new normal in the south is peace, security, and a normal life'. Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visited the Israeli army's Gaza division on Wednesday, The Times of Israel reported. He assessed the security situation with the leader of the Southern Command and other senior officials. Bennett warned Palestinian terror organizations in the Strip not to take advantage of the instability characterizing Israel's political situation at the moment.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1655902613-amid-political-chaos-bennett-warns-hamas-do-not-challenge-the-stability>

Israel Defense Forces to hold military drills near border with Lebanon

I24 News, June 16, 2022

The Israel Defense Forces announced it would hold military drill which will include artillery fire on Thursday morning near the border with Lebanon. As tensions between Israel and Lebanon have risen in recent weeks over rights to the Karish gas field, Israeli forces are on high alert. While Israel claims Karish as part of its exclusive economic zone, Lebanon insists the field is in contested waters and should not be developed until the dispute is resolved.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1655325624-israel-defense-forces-to-hold-military-drills-near-border-with-lebanon>

IDF official: Israel thwarted cyberattack targeting US power plants

I24 News, June 29, 2022

Israel halted hackers from attacking US power plants, the deputy chief of the Israeli army's signals intelligence branch, Unit 8200, said at Tel Aviv University's annual cyber week on Wednesday. The IDF official said that his unit became aware of the cyber threat in the process of stopping another attack aimed at Israel.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1656493089-idf-official-israel-thwarted-cyberattack-targeting-us-power-plants>

Report: Israel aims to transfer laser tech to Saudis

I24 News, June 29, 2022

Government will seek US permission to sell Iron Beam to Saudi Arabia, UAE during Biden's visit next month. Israel wants to sell its laser defense technology to Saudi Arabia

and the United Arab Emirates, according to Israeli reports. Iron Beam is Israel's newest defense system and it has been hailed as a far less costly way of shooting down drones and rockets.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1656484116-report-israel-aims-to-transfer-laser-tech-to-saudis>

WSJ: Israel, Arab nations held secret US talks on Iran

I24 News, June 26, 2022

Talks were described as the first step towards regional cooperation and covered Iranian aerial threats. The United States held a secret meeting last March in Egypt with senior Israeli army (IDF) officials and military chiefs from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and other Arab nations over the Iranian threat, according to a Sunday report by The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). According to the report, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi, his Saudi counterpart Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, and military officials from Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates met in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1656260191-wsj-israel-arab-nations-held-secret-us-talks-on-iran>

QATAR

Qatar stresses importance of accountability for violations in Syria

Gulf Times, June 30, 2022

Qatar has stressed the importance of accountability for all those responsible for human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, and for bringing them to international criminal justice. Al-Suwaidi said that, since the beginning of the conflict, the Syrian regime

has used arbitrary detention and “enforced disappearance” as a means of war.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/720242/Qatar-stresses-importance-of-accountability-for-vi>

Defence minister meets French chief of staff

Gulf Times, June 30, 2022

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attayah met the French Chief of Staff General Thierry Burkhard and his accompanying delegation, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting reviewed issues of joint interest and military co-operation between the two sides and the means to enhance it. The meeting was attended by a number of ranking Qatari and French officers.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/720238/Defence-minister-meets-French-chief-of-staff>

Qatar announces \$60mn in support of Lebanese Army

Gulf Times, June 30, 2022

In implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar announced that it has provided \$60mn in support of the Lebanese Army, the official Qatar News Agency (QNA) reports. The announcement comes within the framework of Qatar's firm commitment to support Lebanon, stand by the brotherly Lebanese people, and its firm belief in the importance and necessity of joint Arab action, the QNA report states.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/720221/Qatar-announces-60mn-in-support-of-Lebanese-Army>

'Qatar's foreign policy earned itself international recognition'

Gulf Times, June 29, 2022

President of Malta Dr George Vella affirmed that the foreign policy of Qatar has made it a country of great importance at the international level, pointing out that Qatar is being viewed as an honest mediator in many regional and global issues. In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the occasion of his visit to Doha, the president said that with the problem of energy supplies in Europe due to the Russian-Ukrainian war, Qatar has become an important player in this scenario.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/720139/Qatar-s-foreign-policy-earned-itself-international>

FM meets Jordanian counterpart

Gulf Times, June 28, 2022

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani met Tuesday with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ayman Al Safadi, who is visiting the country. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral cooperation relations between the two countries and ways of supporting and developing them. Also, they touched on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause,

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/720102/FM-meets-Jordanian-counterpart>

Amir's visit to Algeria reflects strength of ties: Qatar's envoy

Gulf Times, June 26, 2022

Qatar's ambassador to Algeria Abdulaziz Ali al-Naama has stressed that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Algeria to attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Mediterranean Games in Oran, reflects the strength of the bond between the two countries. Al-Naama said that the Qatari-Algerian relations has witnessing continuous development and steady growth since the visit of His Highness the Amir to Algeria in February 2020.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/719971/Amir-s-visit-to-Algeria-reflects-strength-of-ties->

SAUDI ARABIA

Malaysia, Saudi Arabia boost defence ties

New Straits Times, June 19, 2022

Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have agreed to take their defence cooperation to greater heights through the formalisation of a high-level committee (HLC). Senior Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the HLC will be founded on three key pillars — military-to-military cooperation, defence industry collaboration and cooperation for military veterans' welfare. He said both countries agreed to step up military-to-military cooperation in three key areas — military expertise, military medicine and military intelligence. He made the announcement on Friday after his trip to Saudi Arabia on official

invitation from the kingdom's deputy prime minister and defence minister, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. "Crown Prince Mohammed and I also discussed developing the defence industries of both countries.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/06/806178/malaysia-saudi-arabia-boost-defence-ties>

Saudi Arabia ends embargo on Turkish exports after MBS visit

Middle East Eye, June 24, 2022

Saudi Arabia has lifted its unofficial embargo against Turkish exports, a senior Saudi official told a group of Turkish and Saudi businessmen in Ankara. Majid Bin Abdullah al-Qasabi, Saudi minister of commerce, said at a trade event between the two countries that as of Thursday there were no custom restrictions against Turkish goods in Saudi Arabia, according to a report by Turkish state news agency Anadolu. "Let's come together and make a fresh start by convening Saudi and Turkish businesspeople in a joint forum and move forward," al-Qasabi said. Saudi Arabia has been imposing a silent embargo on Turkish goods since 2018 when relations collapsed after Saudi agents murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. A subsequent joint declaration by the two governments underlined an intention to deepen trade, energy and defence ties as well as political and regional cooperation and consultations.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-arabia-ends-its-embargo-against-turkish-exports-after-mbs-visit>

Israel and Saudi Arabia 'in talks over joint defence against Iran'

The Guardian, June 27, 2022

Top military officials from Israel and Saudi Arabia have met in secret US-brokered talks to discuss defence coordination against Iran, according to a report. Delegations from Riyadh, as well as Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan and Egypt, met the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) chief of staff in the Egyptian town of Sharm el-Sheikh in March, the Wall Street Journal revealed on Sunday, citing US and regional officials. The US was represented by Gen Frank McKenzie, the former head of US Central Command, whose area of responsibility was expanded under Donald Trump to include Israel. The unprecedented summit marks the first time Israeli officials have met with such a wide range of counterparts from the Arab world, with the aim of countering the shared threat of Tehran's growing missile and drone capabilities.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/27/israel-and-saudi-arabia-in-talks-over-joint-defence-against-iran>

Secret talks between Israel, Saudi military chiefs, WSJ reveals

Middle East Monitor, June 27, 2022

For the first time, an Israeli army chief held talks with his Arab counterparts, including Saudi Army Chief Fayyad Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, in Egypt's resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh, the Wall Street Journal revealed yesterday. The talks, held under the auspices of the United States in March, included discussions on how to explore coordination possibilities against Iran's

alleged nuclear missile and drone threats. According to the WSJ, it was for the first time that such high ranking Israeli and Arab officers have met under US military auspices to discuss how to defend themselves against a common threat. In addition to Saudi's Al-Ruwaili and Israel's Aviv Kochavi, top military officials from Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain attended the talks.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2022/06/27-secret-talks-between-israel-saudi-military-chiefs-wsj-reveals/>

India, Saudi Arabia hold talks to boost defence cooperation.

The Economic Times, June 29, 2022

India and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday held wide-ranging talks to further bolster bilateral defence cooperation. It is learnt that both sides explored the possibility of cooperation between the defence firms of the two countries. Officials said the main focus of the deliberations was to expand overall defence and security cooperation between the two sides. The talks were held in Delhi and were co-chaired by Joint Secretary in the defence ministry Dinesh Kumar and Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Defence and Strategic Affairs Ahmed A Aseeri, officials said. Deputy Minister of Defence and Strategic Affairs Ahmed A Aseeri, officials said.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-saudi-arabia-hold-talks-to-boost-defence-cooperation/articleshow/92554298.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

SYRIA

US-led coalition carries out special operation in Syria, detains top ISIS leader

Alarabiya, June 16, 2022

US-led coalition troops detained a senior ISIS leader overnight Thursday inside Syria, the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) said. "The detained individual was assessed to be an experienced bomb maker and facilitator who became one of the group's top leaders in Syria," according to the statement. Videos on social media showed multiple choppers flying over an unspecified area in Syria. The Coalition did not elaborate on where or how the operation was carried out. "The mission was meticulously planned to minimize the risk of collateral damage, particularly any potential harm to civilians," the Coalition said, adding that no civilians were harmed.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/06/16/US-led-coalition-carries-out-special-operation-in-Syria-detains-top-ISIS-leader>

Syrian-Russian talks in field of communications and cybersecurity

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 16, 2022

The Telecommunications and Postal Regulatory Authority discussed with a delegation of the Russian Coordination Body means to enhance and develop cooperation between Syria and Russia in the field of communications, information technology (IT), and cybersecurity. That came on the sidelines of the 4th Syrian-Russian Joint Meeting to follow up on the

International Conference on the Return of Syrian Refugees and Displaced.

The two sides discussed ways to benefit from the experience of the Russian companies in a way that would contribute to achieving integrated cooperation with telecommunication service operators and providers in Syria.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=274898>

Kurdish, Syrian, Iranian forces coordinate ahead of Turkish operation

Al-Monitor, June 17, 2022

Last month, several Syrian groups and battalions with different affiliations have increased coordination ahead of an expected Turkish operation in northern Syria, according to news accounts and different not-for-attribution sources. The disparate Syrian groups have reportedly established a joint operations room, so-called 'North Thunderbolt' located at a Russian base in the village of Hardatnin in the northern countryside of Aleppo, according to Bas News, a news site based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. According to sources cited in the report, the operations room includes the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG); a battalion affiliated with the Iran-backed Fatemiyoun; a battalion affiliated with the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah movement; Iranian-backed groups from the towns of Nubl and al-Zahraa; formations of the Syrian regime forces from the towns of Abna al-Sahel, Hayyan, Haraytan, Anadan and Masakan; and the Baath Brigades.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/kurdish-syrian-iranian-forces-coordinate-ahead-turkish-operation#ixzz7YyXbgmmo>

Bogdanov: Moscow will continue its efforts to prevent a new Turkish attack on Syrian territory

Syrian Arab News Agency, June 20, 2022

Russian President's Special Representative for the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said that Moscow will continue its efforts to prevent the Turkish regime from launching a new attack on the Syrian territory. "We continue our contacts with Turkey and hope to reach a political and diplomatic agreement," RIA Novosti News Agency quoted Bogdanov as saying in a press statement on Monday. Bogdanov noted that the parties concerned with the crisis in Syria are discussing the possibility of moving the venue of a meeting of the Committee of Discussing the Constitution from Geneva to another place.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=275349>

Idlib sees new escalation between Syrian government, opposition forces

Al-Monitor, June 22, 2022

Military tension has escalated on the battlefronts between government forces and the Syrian opposition in Idlib. Since mid-June, violent clashes, shellings and attacks have occurred on the battlefronts, with both sides carrying out infiltration attempts and causing major losses within their ranks. On June 18, al-Nasar Army (Victory Army), a faction of the National Liberation Front of the Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA), attacked one of the Syrian government forces' posts in the Fatatira village in the Ghab Plain northwest of Hama. The targeted axis is located to the south of the M4 highway, south of Idlib. The attack killed a number of government forces, including an officer.

Government-affiliated official media outlets did not report any casualties within the government forces' ranks, while several pro-government Facebook pages mourned the killing of Capt. Ali Shabasi as well as Mahmoud Khouzami, Muhammad Jaara and Omar Hamdo, all of whom served in government forces.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/idlib-sees-new-escalation-between-syrian-government-opposition-forces#ixzz7YyYAQxbR>

US carries out strike inside Syria, targeting 'senior' terrorist leader: CENTCOM

Alarabiya News, June 28, 2022

The US military said it conducted a "kinetic strike" overnight Monday in Syria in an operation that targeted a senior al-Qaeda-linked terrorist. "CENTCOM Forces conducted a kinetic strike in Idlib province, Syria, June 27, targeting Abu Hamzah al Yemeni, a senior leader of Hurras al-Din, an Al Qaeda-aligned terrorist organization," a statement from the US Central Command read. The US has come under increased criticism for airstrikes that have killed civilians. But the US said al-Yemeni was alone while traveling on a motorcycle, and no civilian casualties were reported. Extremist organizations like Hurras al-Din continue to present a threat to America and its allies, CENTCOM said, adding that al-Qaeda-aligned militants use Syria as a safe haven to coordinate with external affiliates and plan operations outside of Syria.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/06/28/US-carries-out-strike->

[inside-Syria-targeting-senior-terrorist-leader-CENTCOM](#)

TURKEY

Erdogan personally welcomes MBS as Turkey, Saudis hail 'new era of cooperation'

The Times of Israel, June 23, 2022

Turkey and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday declared their determination to start a "new era of cooperation" during a visit by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as they set aside years of acrimony following the brutal slaying of a Saudi columnist. A joint statement released following their meeting said the sides "strongly emphasized a joint determination to start a new era of cooperation in bilateral relations ... including political, economic, military, security and cultural relations."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/erdogan-personally-welcomes-mbs-as-turkey-saudis-hail-new-era-of-cooperation/>

Turkish firm sells armed drone Songar to African, Asian countries

Daily Sabah, June 21, 2022

Songar, which entered the inventory of the security forces as Turkey's first armed drone, continues to be exported to several markets, according to the company developing the product. Asisguard General Manager Barış Düzgün told Anadolu Agency (AA) that his company works to develop armed drones, land vehicle electronics and electro-optical cameras. He said that Africa, the Asia Pacific and the Arabian Peninsula come to the fore as their initial focus regions where they can get a market share. We made our first export to

North America, Düzgün said, explaining that there is a great interest from Africa and that they host a delegation from the continent every two weeks

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-firm-sells-armed-drone-songar-to-african-asian-countries>

Landmark Turkish drone Akıncı sets new altitude record

Daily Sabah, June 23, 2022

Turkey's cutting-edge combat drone has set a new national aviation record, the developer company said Wednesday. The unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Akıncı flew at an altitude of 45,118 feet (13,716 meters), drone magnate Baykar said in a statement via Twitter. The UCAV's model equipped with two 750 horsepower engines, Bayraktar Akıncı B, thus broke the record it already holds, for the third time.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/landmark-turkish-drone-akinci-sets-new-altitude-record>

Now official: Turkey's Bayraktar TB2 spotted in military parade in Djibouti

Daily Sabah, June 27, 2022

The Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Turkey exported to Djibouti was displayed for the first time at the military parade for the East African country's 45th independence anniversary. Baykar, the company that developed the combat drone, shared the images of the UCAV during the parade via its official Twitter account, celebrating the independence anniversary. "We celebrate the 45th independence anniversary of the

friendly and brotherly country Djibouti," the statement read.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/now-official-turkeys-bayraktar-tb2-spotted-in-military-parade-in-djibouti>

Baykar donates drones to Ukraine after crowdfunding campaign

Daily Sabah, June 27, 2022

Turkish drone magnate Baykar said on Monday that it would donate three unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to Ukraine, asking that the money raised in a successful crowdfunding campaign to buy several of its famed Bayraktar TB2s be poured back into the war-torn country. The TB2 has been hugely popular in Ukraine, where it helped destroy Russian artillery systems and armored vehicles. It even became the subject of a patriotic expletive-strewn hit song in Ukraine that mocked Russian troops, with the chorus "Bayraktar, Bayraktar."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/baykar-donates-drones-to-ukraine-after-crowdfunding-campaign>

Turkey invites 'friendly' countries to collaborate in defense sector

Daily Sabah, June 28, 2022

The head of Turkey's top defense body, Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) chief Ismail Demir on Tuesday called on "friendly and allied" countries to cooperate with Turkey in meeting their defense industry and security needs. He said that the Turkish defense industry continues to work effectively to meet the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and security units, from design to mass production, research

and development (R&D) and innovation to industrialization, all under the coordination of the SSB.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-invites-friendly-countries-to-collaborate-in-defense-sector>

Erdogan meets with Dutch prime minister in Madrid

Yeni Safak, June 30, 2022

Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday met with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Madrid. The closed-door meeting is the seventh bilateral contact of the Turkish leader at the high-level summit in the Spanish capital.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/erdogan-meets-with-dutch-prime-minister-in-madrid-3647976>

Türkiye takes lead of task group within NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force

Yeni Safak, June 30, 2022

Türkiye on Wednesday took charge of a task group of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, responsible for the alliance's naval operations and training activities for mine warfare. Naval ships from Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Romania will serve on the task group. As part of planned activities, mine warfare exercises will be hosted by member countries and bilateral training will be held with riparian countries.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkiye-takes-lead-of-task-group-within-natos-very-high-readiness-joint-task-force-3647919>

Biden, Erdogan agree on 'continued close consultations' between US, Türkiye

Yeni Safak, June 30, 2022

The Turkish and US presidents agreed on "continued close consultations" between Washington and Ankara during a meeting in Madrid, the White House said on Wednesday. The meeting between Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Joe Biden took place on the margins of the NATO summit. The two leaders discussed Sweden and Finland's NATO membership bids, the Ukraine war, as well as the situation in the Aegean and Syria.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/biden-erdogan-agree-on-continued-close-consultations-between-us-turkiye-3647916>

Erdogan meets Johnson in Madrid

Yeni Safak, June 29, 2022

Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday met British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Madrid. The closed-door meeting was the third bilateral contact of the Turkish president at the high-level summit in the Spanish capital. Earlier, Erdogan held separate meetings with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and European Council President Charles Michel at the IFEMA Convention Center.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/erdogan-meets-johnson-in-madrid-3647908>

Ankara wants to contribute to peace between Russia, Ukraine: Turkish official

Yeni Safak, June 27, 2022

Türkiye's goal is to contribute to a just peace between Russia and Ukraine, the Turkish communications director said. To a

question about sanctions on Russia, Altun said the issue of sanctions has been “seriously politicized” in recent years. Recalling that some “politically motivated sanctions” were imposed on Türkiye’s defense industry, Altun said: “For this reason, we believe that sanctions will only be meaningful and legitimate if they are decided under the UN’s umbrella.”

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/ankar-a-wants-to-contribute-to-peace-between-russia-ukraine-turkish-official-3647749>

Türkiye neutralizes 5 YPG/PKK terrorists in northern Syria

Yeni Safak, June 26, 2022

Türkiye neutralized five YPG/PKK terrorists in northern Syria, the National Defense Ministry said on Sunday. The terrorists were preparing to attack areas of Türkiye’s anti-terror operations, Peace Spring and Olive Branch, the ministry said on Twitter.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkiye-neutralizes-5-ypgpkk-terrorists-in-northern-syria-3647672>

British defense chief set to visit Türkiye on Thursday

Yeni Safak, June 22, 2022

The UK Defense Secretary Ben Wallace will visit Türkiye on Thursday. He will be visiting the Turkish capital Ankara at the invitation of Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar. Wallace will be welcomed with a military ceremony at the Turkish National Defense Ministry. Akar and Wallace will have a tete-a-tete meeting as well as delegation-level talks

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/british-defense-chief-set-to-visit-turkiye-on-thursday-3622911>

Türkiye, Bosnia Herzegovina to improve strong relations: Bosnian FM

Yeni Safak, June 18, 2022

Türkiye and Bosnia and Herzegovina are constantly working to improve already strong relations, Bosnian Foreign Minister Bisera Turkovic said before an official visit of Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu to Sarajevo. Turkovic told Anadolu Agency that Cavusoglu's visit is proof of cooperation and good relations between the two countries. “We mutually nourish our relations strongly. We are constantly working to improve our relations. We have many agreements signed with Turkey and we are very pleased with it.”

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/turkiye-bosnia-herzegovina-to-improve-strong-relations-bosnian-fm-3622611>

Turkish, British, Ukrainian defense chiefs discuss Ukraine

Yeni Safak, June 16, 2022

Turkish, British, and Ukrainian defense chiefs met on Thursday to discuss the latest situation in Ukraine, as well as the transportation of grain from the in-war country to the rest of the world. Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar met with British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace and his Ukrainian counterpart Oleksii Reznikov on the sidelines of the NATO Defense Ministers Meeting in Brussels to discuss regional defense and security issues, as well as the latest developments in Ukraine, facing war from Russia that started on Feb. 24.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkish-british-ukrainian-defense-chiefs-discuss-ukraine-3622527>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE licenses third unit of Barakah nuclear power plant

Reuters, June 17, 2022

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has licensed the third unit of its Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, the UAE's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hamad Al Kaabi, told reporters on Friday. Construction of the unit in Abu Dhabi's Al Dhafra region was completed last year and it is on track to start up and deliver clean electricity in 2023, according to the UAE's Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC). The Barakah nuclear plant is the Arab world's first multi-unit operating nuclear energy plant.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/uae-licenses-third-unit-barakah-nuclear-power-plant-2022-06-17/>

UAE's Barakah nuclear plant to begin fuel loading in unit 3

S&P Global, June 19, 2022

The UAE's Barakah nuclear power plant will begin fuel loading for its third reactor, the country's atomic regulatory said in a statement on June 19, as the OPEC producer diversifies its electricity mix away from hydrocarbons. The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation will deploy inspectors to oversee the fuel loading "to ensure the fuel load and testing processes are completed according to requirements," it said. On June 17, the FANR granted Nawah Energy Co., the operations and maintenance unit of Emirates Nuclear Energy Corp., the license to operate the third of four units at the Barakah nuclear power plant located in the emirate of Abu

Dhabi. FANR expects to start looking at the operating license application for the fourth and final unit in the fourth quarter of 2022.

<https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/market-insights/latest-news/electric-power/061922-uaes-barakah-nuclear-plant-to-begin-fuel-loading-in-unit-3>

YEMEN

Houthi: Yemeni army's defense capabilities greater than many Arab states

Press Tv, June 29, 2022

The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement on Wednesday commended the country's meteoric progress in developing indigenous long-range ballistic missiles, stressing that Yemenis have overcome difficult stages and challenges over the past eight years of Saudi-led war. In a speech broadcast live from the Yemeni capital, addressing a group of visiting tribal leaders and locals from the northern Yemeni province of Hajjah, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi declared that the Yemeni forces and fighters from allied Popular Committees today possess military capabilities much superior than those of many Arab countries. "We now manufacture long-range ballistic missiles that can hit the depths of Saudi-led coalition member states. The production of various types of missiles is well underway and continues to improve," the Yemeni resistance leader remarked.

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2022/06/29/684768/Yemeni-forces'-military-capabilities-much-superior-than-many-Arab-countries--Ansarullah-chief>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Stephen Koshy James
with inputs from Mr. Aasi Ansari, Mr. Kushal Agrawal and Mr. Niranjana C. Oak*

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

**No. 1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110 010
Telephone: 91-11-26717983;
Fax: 91-11-26154191,
Website: www.idsa.in**



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