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FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia, U.S. discuss Karabakh as Azerbaijan escalates tensions

Panarmenian, August 2, 2022

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried spoke on the phone on Monday, August 1 to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the situation in the region.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/301851/>

Pashinyan, Putin talk Karabakh, Armenia-Azerbaijan border

Panarmenian, August 9, 2022

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke over the phone on Monday, August 8 to discuss issues related to the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as ensuring security on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/301983/>

Armenia-Azerbaijan-Russia meeting in the works, says Moscow

Panarmenian, August 11, 2022

High-level trilateral contacts between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia are expected by the end of August, Deputy Director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Ivan Nechaev told a briefing on Thursday, August 11.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/302044/>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan accuses Armenia of targeting military positions in Karabakh

Daily Sabah, August 8, 2022

As tensions rise in the Karabakh region, Azerbaijan on Monday said Armenia targeted its military positions 10 times over the past 24 hours.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/azerbaijan-accuses-armenia-of-targeting-military-positions-in-karabakh>

Azerbaijan, Algeria eyeing bolstering economic, political relations

Azernews, August 10, 2022

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has welcomed Ramtane Lamamra, Algerian foreign minister and special presidential representative, in Baku, Azernews reports, citing the ministry.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/197870.html>

US and Azerbaijani-Armenian peace process

Azernews, August 12, 2022

Although the South Caucasus as a whole and the Azerbaijani-Armenian dimension, as an integral element, remain important to the US, the past few years have witnessed certain developments that, at first glance, may be interpreted as signs of retrenchment of Washington's involvement vis-à-vis Baku and Yerevan.

<https://www.azernews.az/our-writers/197935.html>

No tangible results in Azerbaijan, Armenia relations so far: Aliyev

Daily Sabah, August 15, 2022

No tangible results have been achieved in relations between Baku and Yerevan since the 44-day war over the Karabakh region in 2020, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on Monday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/no-tangible-results-in-azerbaijan-armenia-relations-so-far-aliyev>

Azerbaijan, Turkiye conduct joint underwater military drills

Azernews, August 15, 2022

Azerbaijan and Turkiye are conducting joint Underwater Offensive military drills, Azernews reports, citing the Turkish National Defense Ministry.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198042.html>

Iran

Iran's N. Chief: MPs Emphasize on Legalization of Nuclear Roadmap

Fars News Agency, August 1, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Iranian lawmakers are pushing to line up a roadmap for the development of the country's nuclear industry in order that the change of administrations would not have an impact on Tehran's nuclear program. "The lawmakers are seeking to turn the 50-year roadmap for nuclear industry into law so nuclear development would be shielded from decisions by the next administrations," Eslami stated after a meeting with the parliament's Energy Committee on Sunday evening. He added the AEOI has planned to develop nuclear

energy, including use of radiations and radiopharmaceuticals, so the nuclear technology would be more tangible in people's lives.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010510000323/Iran's-N-Chief-MPs-Emphasize-n-Legalizain-f-Nclear-Radmap>

AEOI Chief Underlines Iran's Opposition to Military N. Drive Despite Capability

Fars News Agency, August 1, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami on Monday said Tehran enjoys the capability to develop a military nuclear program, but has no intention to do so. "As Mr. [Seyed Kamal] Kharazi [Head of Iran's Strategic Foreign Relations Council] stated, Iran has the technical ability to build an atomic bomb, but such a program is not on agenda," Eslami told FNA. The nuclear chief highlighted that these accusations are being raised by "the Zionist regime to deceive the public opinion". Tehran says it is refining uranium only for civilian energy uses, adding all nuclear activities of Iran are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the IAEA's verification activities and reports have proved the peaceful nature of the country's nuclear program.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010510000611/AEOI-Chief-Underlines-Iran's-Oppsiin-Miliary-N-Drive-Despie-Capabiliy>

AEOI Spokesman: Iran Starts Injecting Gas into Hundreds More IR6 Centrifuges

Fars News Agency, August 2, 2022

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has started injecting gas into hundreds of

new centrifuge machines, (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. Kamalvandi said that the order to launch and inject gas to hundreds of centrifuges including IR1 and IR6 advanced machines was issued on Monday evening. He also added that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has already been informed of the measure. "The order is in line with the implementation of the Law on Strategic Action on Removing Sanctions and Safeguarding the Interests of the Iranian nation," the official continued. The official stated that "the order also aims to fulfil the target of enrichment using 190,000 separative work units (SWUs), which is the least amount that the country needs".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010511000110/AEOI-Spkeman-Iran-Sars-Injecing-Gas-in-Hndreds-Mre-IR6-Cenrifges>

Feeding gas to centrifuges a response to U.S. sanctions: nuclear chief

Tehran Times, August 3, 2022

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, said on Wednesday that Iran's move to inject gas into a new batch of advanced centrifuges was a response to recent U.S. sanctions against Iran. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session, Eslami said the move came within the framework of a nuclear law known as the strategic action law and a response to the recent oil sanctions imposed by the U.S. "Americans regularly admit the failure of the policy of maximum pressure and have no hope for this policy. However, we are witnessing the dual and multiple behaviors of America and the false accusation that they attribute to the country for 20 years," he said, according to IRNA. Eslami said that the West used

allegations made by Israel and anti-revolutionary forces to exert pressure on Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475366/Feeding-gas-to-centrifuges-a-response-to-U-S-sanctions-nuclear>

Nuclear chief: Iran will turn on IAEA cameras if accusations dropped

Tehran Times, August 5, 2022

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Thursday that Iran will turn on the International Atomic Energy Agency's surveillance cameras provided that all accusations levelled against the Islamic Republic are withdrawn. Eslami made the comment in an interview with IRNA on whether Iran would turn on the cameras if an agreement is reached over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the JCPOA. The official explained that the cameras will be switched on again only after all anti-Iran allegations are withdrawn and they return to their commitments under the JCPOA. The cameras, that were switched off, were beyond Safeguards agreement installed under the JCPOA, Eslami explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475377/Nuclear-chief-Iran-will-turn-on-IAEA-cameras-if-accusations>

AEOI Spokesman: Safeguard-Related Issues Discussed During Vienna Talks

Fars News Agency, August 7, 2022

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that safeguard-related issues are being argued during the ongoing negotiations in Vienna. The AEOI spokesman is in Austria's Vienna for talks on the differences with the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) over the safeguard-related issues. "We are yet talking about that," Kamalvandi told reporters, speaking about the settlement of the issue. He made the remark on the sidelines of a meeting between the Iranian negotiating team and EU Coordinator of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) talks, Enrique Mora. In response to a question on how the talks are going on, Kamalvandi snoted, "It's not bad."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010516000146/AEOI-Spkesman-Safegard-Relaed-Isses-Discssed-Dring-Vienna-Talks>

Vienna talks end with proposal on table

Tehran Times, August 8, 2022

The latest round of nuclear talks in Vienna to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) ended on Monday with a modified text on the table. An Iranian foreign ministry official told IRNA that on Monday that Enrique Mora, the EU coordinator for the talks, presented some ideas on the remaining issues to the parties. "We conveyed our initial response and reservations as soon as we received them. But these items require a comprehensive review and we'll convey our additional views to the coordinator and others," the official said. The official also said that progress was achieved on some subjects. "Undoubtedly, the principled policy for us is to protect the rights and interests of the Iranian nation. Realizing these rights and providing benefits and ensuring the sustainable implementation of the other party's commitments and preventing the repetition of illegal U.S. behavior are the serious concerns of the negotiating team," the official reiterated.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475443/Vienna-talks-end-with-proposal-on-table>

Khayyam: The sky is the limit

Tehran Times, August 9, 2022

According to Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos, a Fregat booster delivered the Iranian Khayyam satellite launched from the Baikonur spaceport in Kazakhstan into orbit on Tuesday, marking a landmark moment in Iranian history. "A Russian Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome and a Fregat booster successfully delivered the Iranian Khayyam Earth's remote sensing satellite into the designated orbit," Roscosmos reported. It was launched at 08:52 a.m. Moscow time. The launch of the satellite marks a watershed moment in Russia-Iran collaboration, according to Roscosmos chief Yury Borisov. "The successful launch of the satellite for and an order from Iran has become a landmark event in the Russia-Iran bilateral cooperation that paves the way for implementing new and more dimensional projects," he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475480/Khayyam-The-sky-is-the-limit>

Iran to Inaugurate Major Water Desalination Project at Bushehr Power Plant

Fars News Agency, August 15, 2022

Governor of Bushehr Province Ahmad Mohammadzadeh said that Iran will begin construction works for a major water desalination project at Bushehr nuclear power plant within weeks. Mohammadzadeh stated on Sunday that works for Iran's first nuclear-powered desalination plant will start in late August concurrent with ceremonies to mark the Administration Week in the country. "The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) will contribute to the construction

of the desalination plant in Bushehr which will have a capacity of 70,000 cubic meters per day," he added. "The nuclear power can solve the water crisis and this project has become final ... the execution phase will begin during the Administration Week and it will come on line based on the schedule," he was quoted as saying by the semi-official Fars news agency. The governor added that nuclear reactors in the two planned power plant units in Bushehr will be used to operate two desalination projects with a combined capacity of 150,000 cubic meters per day.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010524000177/Iran-Inagrae-Majr-Waer-Desalinain-Prjec-a-Bshehr-Pwer-Plan>

Iraq

D30 Cannon manufactured by national efforts : Defense Ministry

Iraqi News Agency, August 4, 2022

Ministry of Defense announced Thursday the manufacture of the D30 cannon with national efforts, while it indicated the success of its pilot test, it sent a letter to the Defense Industries Commission. The Director of the Examination and Acceptance Department in the Ministry, Major General Muhammad Sabih Muhammad, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Defense Industries Commission was able to manufacture the 120-mm D30 cannon with 100% national efforts," noting that "the initial examination of the cannon was conducted and it proved successful." Muhammad added, "The cannon is important, and has high accuracy in the field in contact with the enemy, and it is one of the weapons approved by the world armies and can be used with the artillery of the Iraqi army," noting that "the performance of firing by the cannon is very

good, and there were no interruptions or defective side effects in manufacturing."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21137-d30-cannon-manufactured-by-national-efforts-defense-ministry.html>

Iraq rehabilitates drones used to spot ISIS movements

Iraqi News Agency, August 8, 2022

The Ministry of Defense (MOD) announced on Monday, a campaign to rehabilitate the drones used to monitor ISIS movements. A statement by the MOD, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "the Minister of Defense, Jumaa Enad Saadoun, attended the celebration of the completion, rehabilitation and repair of armed drones type (CH4), which was set up by the Army Aviation Command, with the self-efforts of its members." The statement added, "The campaign came for the purpose of using these drones to monitor the whereabouts of ISIS terrorist gangs and their sleeper cells, and launch strikes against them."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21204-iraq-rehabilitates-drones-used-to-monitor-isis-movements-mod-says.html>

Syria hands over 50 terrorists to Iraq, JOC reports

Iraqi News Agency, August 13, 2022

The Joint Operations Command-JOC announced on Saturday, that the Syrian authorities had handed over more than 50 terrorists to Iraq. The Security Media Cell(SMC) said in a statement , received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that: "Through joint understandings and agreements, the aim of combating ISIS terrorist gangs at the regional and international levels, JOC has received 50 terrorists from ISIS gangs who hold Iraqi

citizenship through the Rabia border crossing road.” The ISIS members were handed over to Federal Intelligence and Investigation Agency (FIIA) at the Iraqi Ministry of Interior for purpose of investigation and taking the necessary legal measures against them, according to SMC.

<https://ina.iq/eng/21281-syria-hands-over-50-terrorists-to-iraq-joc-reports.html>

Military Intelligence seizes a group of missiles, west of Anbar

Iraqi News Agency, August 13, 2022

A group of missiles seized in Heet district, west of Anbar as announced by the Military Intelligence on Saturday. "Based on accurate information from the Intelligence Department of the Al-Jazeera Operations Command, and in coordination with intelligence and force from the 4th Regiment, 29th Infantry Brigade, and by search operations for remnants of Daesh terrorist weapons as well as equipment, the force was able to seize 7 missiles of Katyusha, 6 Hellfire missiles, 2 explosive devices, in Al Ghurair area, Heet district, Anbar," according to a statement by the Military Intelligence received by the Iraqi News Agency - INA. The statement included, "The materials were lifted by the engineering effort and detonated on site."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21295-military-intelligence-seizes-a-group-of-missiles-west-of-anbar.html>

Israel

Lebanon-Israel Border Dispute: 'Hezbollah Is Calling the Shots'

Haaretz, August 1, 2022

While Israeli officials have expressed optimism that with American help Jerusalem could soon wrap up an

agreement with Lebanon over the border between the two countries' maritime economic zones, the final disposition of the dispute remains in the hands of the Shi'ite militia movement Hezbollah, according to one of Israel's top security experts.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2022-08-01/ty-article/.highlight/lebanon-israel-border-dispute-hezbollah-is-calling-the-shots-israeli-expert-says/00000182-58f1-da34-abf7-ddfba7190000>

PM Lapid at Atomic Energy ceremony: 'Other capabilities' keep Israel alive

The Jerusalem Post, August 1, 2022

“The operational arena in the transparent dome above us is made up of defense capabilities and attack capabilities and what is commonly called in the foreign media ‘other capabilities,’” he said at a ceremony for the new head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. “These other capabilities keep us alive and will keep us alive as long as we and our children are here.”

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-713642>

Book explores why Israel failed to recognize the Armenian Genocide

The Jerusalem Post, August 6, 2022

In the spring of 1982, shortly before the First International Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide was scheduled to begin in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the Turkish government demanded that the six sessions on the Armenian Genocide (out of 150 overall) be canceled, and Armenian speakers prohibited from participating.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-713855>

Israel's Military Success Pushes Gaza Solution Even Further Away

Haaretz, August 8, 2022

On the face of it, Operation Breaking Dawn was a resounding success. At least from the Israeli perspective. The entire military leadership of Islamic Jihad in Gaza was eliminated in a relatively brief offensive that didn't last long enough to register on the international diplomatic scene, let alone lead to any type of pressure on Israel to cease fire.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-08-08/ty-article/.highlight/israels-military-success-pushes-gaza-solution-even-further-away/00000182-7f02-dc1e-aff2-ffa6c5160000>

Foreign interest rises as Israel's Iron Dome shows improved success rate

i24, August 8, 2022

Israel's recent Operation "Breaking Dawn" in the Gaza Strip highlighted Iron Dome's improved interception rate saving the country's economy billions of dollars and prompting interest among foreign buyers.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1659958754-foreign-interest-rises-as-israel-s-iron-dome-shows-improved-success-rate>

The One Predictable Outcome of Israel's Gaza Operation

Haaretz, August 8, 2022

It's not at all clear that the military events in the Gaza Strip constitute an "operation." It's not clear why an operation was announced, it's not clear what its goals are, it's not clear who started the campaign, and

the public hasn't been informed of any trigger that would justify a war.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-08-08/ty-article/.highlight/the-one-predictable-outcome-of-the-gaza-operation-a-larger-defense-budget/00000182-7a15-dce0-afee-fe9d57190000>

Next Time Israel Fights Gaza, It Could Face a Nuclear Iran

Haaretz, August 9, 2022

For two decades, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have fired tens of thousands of rockets indiscriminately at Israel's civilian population, over 1,100 in the recent round alone. It is an unacceptable situation that no country would tolerate. Unfortunately, it is also one of a number of "unacceptable" situations that Israel has had to accept over the years.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2022-08-09/ty-article-opinion/.premium/next-time-israel-fights-gaza-it-could-face-a-nuclear-iran/00000182-82cf-d5f9-a5e2-f6cf869a0000>

Pegasus Spyware Maker NSO Has 22 Clients in the European Union. And It's Not Alone

Haaretz, August 9, 2022

Members of the European Parliament Committee of Inquiry came to Israel to investigate Pegasus, and were surprised to discover contracts with their countries of origin. In Europe's bustling spyware market, these are NSO's biggest competitors.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/security-aviation/2022-08-09/ty->

[article/.premium/israeli-spyware-maker-nso-has-22-customers-in-12-eu-countries-and-its-not-alone/00000182-8403-df1d-a3a7-ae9bce800000](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-08-09/ty-article/.premium/israeli-spyware-maker-nso-has-22-customers-in-12-eu-countries-and-its-not-alone/00000182-8403-df1d-a3a7-ae9bce800000)

Iran Unlikely to Sign Nuclear Deal, Israeli Officials Say, Despite Reported Progress in Talks

Haaretz, August 9, 2022

Western and Iranian diplomats returned home after the EU circulated a final text of the nuclear agreement. Iran is expected to give an answer in the coming days, but Israel is convinced Khamenei will block the move.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iran/2022-08-09/ty-article/.premium/iran-unlikely-to-sign-nuclear-deal-israeli-officials-say-despite-reported-progress/00000182-83ad-df6b-a5de-d3ede3760000>

Israeli officials say little chance Iran will agree to 'final' nuke deal proffer

The Times of Israel, August 9, 2022

Israeli officials reportedly believe Iran is unlikely to agree to a return to the 2015 nuclear deal, a day after European officials submitted a final proposal for an agreement.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-officials-say-little-chance-iran-will-agree-to-final-nuke-deal-proffer/>

UN Middle East Envoy: Violence Will End Only if There Is a Palestinian State Alongside Israel

Haaretz, August 9, 2022

'How many more children do we have to bury until someone says enough is enough?' the Palestinian envoy to the UN said at a

Security Council session over the fighting in Gaza over the past weekend.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-08-09/ty-article/.premium/un-envoy-the-violence-will-end-only-if-there-is-a-palestinian-state-alongside-israel/00000182-8221-d42e-a1f3-d22bc5590000>

Cyber expert: US-Israel homeland security cyber defense cooperation spiking

The Jerusalem Post, August 9, 2022

There is an "increasingly pressing need for effective data protection in today's uncertain world," and Israel has a special role in meeting this need.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-714280>

Benny Gantz: Israeli counterterrorism ops ongoing despite ceasefire

The Jerusalem Post, August 10, 2022

"Significant achievements in weakening Islamic Jihad" were achieved, and "Israel's deterrence in the Gaza Strip was regained" the defense minister said.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-714314>

New Iran satellite presents significant challenge to Israel, US and allies

The Times of Israel, August 10, 2022

Though touted for agriculture and water planning, Khayyam said able to monitor sites in Israel and Mideast; Iran scoffs at claims, calls spying allegations 'childish'.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-iran-satellite-presents-significant-challenge-to-israel-us-and-allies-experts/>

Theodor Herzl: The founder of Zionism was ahead of his time

The Jerusalem Post, August 13, 2022

Well before OurCrowd, Herzl undertook the second crowdfunding campaign in Jewish history – the Tabernacle in the desert 3,700 years earlier was the first.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-714501>

Trump letter authorized Israeli sovereignty in West Bank

The Jerusalem Post, August 14, 2022

Trump gave Netanyahu the green light to annex as long as he accepted a future Palestinian state, in contrast with the description in Kushner's book.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-714710>

Israel marks 2-year anniversary of Abraham Accords

i24, August 14, 2022

Two years on from the announcement of the historic Abraham Accords between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain and much progress has been made.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy/1660488469-israel-marks-2-year-anniversary-of-abraham-accords-signing>

Israeli airstrikes in Syria said to hit Iranian targets near Russian naval base

The Times of Israel, August 15, 2022

Israeli airstrikes near Russia's main navy base in the coastal Syrian city of Tartus on Sunday night targeted Iranian sites, an

unidentified Syrian officer told the Reuters news agency on Monday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-airstrikes-in-syria-said-to-hit-iranian-targets-near-russian-naval-base/>

Qatar

Qatar welcomes truce extension in Yemen

Gulf Times, August 3, 2022

Qatar welcomed the UN announcement of a truce extension in Yemen for another two months. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Qatar's hope that the extension would pave the way for an expanded armistice agreement and the resumption of the political process, in order to reach a just and sustainable peace that fulfils the aspirations of the brotherly Yemeni people for security and development.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/722166/Qatar-welcomes-truce-extension-in-Yemen>

FM discusses relations, global issues with Turkish, Cambodian and Greek counterparts

Qatar Tribune, August 4, 2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on Wednesday met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, being held in the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Prak Sokhon.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/12717/nation/fm-discusses-relations-global-issues-with-turkish-cambodian-and-greek-counterparts>

Qatar strongly condemns recent Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip

The Peninsula, August 5, 2022

The State of Qatar expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the recent Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip which led to several deaths and injuries, stressing the need for the international community to move urgently to stop the occupation's repeated attacks against civilians, especially women and children.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/05/08/2022/qatar-strongly-condemns-recent-israeli-aggression-on-gaza-strip>

Fm, US Secretary of State discuss bilateral and international issues

The Peninsula, August 5, 2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met yesterday US Secretary of State H E Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Foreign Ministers' meeting, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/05/08/2022/fm-us-secretary-of-state-discuss-bilateral-and-international-issues>

Minister of State for Defence Affairs meets British Defence Secretary

The peninsula, August 15, 2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs HE Dr. Khalid bin

Mohammed Al Attiyah met with British Defence Secretary HE Ben Wallace, during His Excellency's current visit to the United Kingdom.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/15/08/2022/minister-of-state-for-defence-affairs-meets-british-defence-secretary>

National Cyber Security Agency reviews efforts to keep Qatar's cyberspace safe

Qatar Tribune, August 15, 2022

President of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) Abdulrahman bin Ali Al Farahid Al Malki on Sunday said the agency continues its efforts to ensure the optimum cyber security systems nationwide during the forthcoming FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/14501/nation/national-cyber-security-agency-reviews-efforts-to-keep-qatars-cyberspace-safe>

Saudi Arabia

US approves sale of 300 Patriot missiles, costing \$3.05 billion, to Saudi Arabia

Saudi Gazette, August 3, 2022

The State Department of United States has approved the sale of 300 Patriot missiles to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth \$3.05 billion, the Pentagon said on Tuesday. In a statement released by the Pentagon, the US said Riyadh requested PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical Ballistic missiles (GEM-T). The sale will include other tools and test equipment. The principal contractor will be US-based Raytheon. "This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country

that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf region,” the Pentagon said. This sale would improve Saudi Arabia’s ability to meet current and future threats by “replenishing its dwindling stock of PATRIOT GEM-T missiles,” the Pentagon said while citing “persistent Houthi cross-border” drone and ballistic missile attacks on civilian sites and critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

[https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/623601/SAUDI-ARABIA/US-approves-sale-of-300-Patriot-missiles-costing-\\$305-billion-to-Saudi-Arabia](https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/623601/SAUDI-ARABIA/US-approves-sale-of-300-Patriot-missiles-costing-$305-billion-to-Saudi-Arabia)

Saudi Arabia: Israel's refusal to join UN treaty a 'grave obstacle' to nuclear disarmament

Middle East Eye, August 4, 2022

Saudi Arabia has raised concerns about Israel's refusal to join a United Nations nuclear non-proliferation treaty, saying it was an obstacle to achieving peace in the region. The warning was a rare moment of Saudi criticism of Israel, with Riyadh and other Gulf countries recently working together, along with Israel, to combat Iran's nuclear programme. Saudi Arabia's new permanent representative to the United Nations, Abdulaziz al-Wasil, made the comments on Wednesday during a conference to review the UN's Non-Proliferation Treaty. "There is Israel's continuing refusal to accede to the [Non-Proliferation Treaty] and this is a grave obstacle" for nuclear disarmament, Wasil said.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-arabia-israels-refusal-join-un-treaty-grave-obstacle-nuclear-disarmament>

Saudi Arabia warns of Iran and Israel 'nuclear practices'

Middle East Monitor, August 4, 2022

Saudi Arabia's envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohamed Al-Wasel, has warned of the repercussions of "Iran's nuclear practices" and Israel's non-accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. "The danger of nuclear weapons spread threatens the Middle East and the world," he said, stressing on the need to "confront nuclear proliferation in the Middle East". Dr. Al-Wasel considered that Israel's non-accession to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons "reinforces the risks of nuclear proliferation". He further said that Iran's practices enhance the dangers of nuclear proliferation, adding that ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons is a "collective responsibility". "Iran's lack of transparency with the IAEA violates the UN Charter," he said, stressing that "transparency is necessary for the peaceful use of nuclear energy".

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220804-saudi-arabia-warns-of-iran-and-israel-nuclear-practices/>

Korea Needs U.S. Cooperation to Win Saudi Nuclear Power Plant Project

Business Korea, August 11, 2022

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol is planning to have summit talks with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in November this year. Attention is focusing on the outcome of the meeting in the nuclear power industry as South Korea is aiming to export at least 10 nuclear power

plants by 2030 and Saudi Arabia is resuming nuclear power generation projects adding up to 12 trillion won. In May this year, Saudi Arabia sent its bid invitation to South Korea, China, France and Russia regarding the construction of two nuclear power plants, 1.4 GW each. According to experts, South Korea and Russia have comparative advantages in the project in that France's supply price is very high and China has no experience in desert-area nuclear power plant construction. South Korea's biggest risk in the project is the fact that Saudi Arabia is against IAEA inspections, which may cause the United States to block South Korea's project in Saudi Arabia. According to the U.S. Atomic Energy Act of 1954, a country using U.S. nuclear power technology cannot conduct, for example, uranium enrichment without U.S. consent. South Korea's export model APR1400 was developed based on Westinghouse's technology.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=98243>

Suicide bomber blows himself up in Saudi Arabia

Iraqi News Agency, August 12, 2022

The Saudi State Security announced that there were casualties in a suicide bombing in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The State Security in Saudi Arabia stated in a statement that a resident and three security men were injured in the Al-Samer neighborhood in Jeddah during the detonation of the wanted man with an explosive belt," noting that "a wanted man blew himself up in Jeddah during the process of his arrest." He added:

"We affirm the firm action to confront all those who may be tempted to prejudice the security and stability of the country and the safety of citizens and residents."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21269-suicide-bomber-blows-himself-up-in-saudi-arabia.html>

Trump Admin-Saudi Nuclear Probe Resurfaces Ahead of Warrant Unseal

Newsweek, August 12, 2022

A probe into Donald Trump's interactions with Saudi Arabia has resurfaced following a report FBI agents who raided the former president's Florida residence were seeking documents related to nuclear weapons. That House of Representatives report highlighted whistleblowers' concerns with the Trump Administration's "efforts to transfer sensitive nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia," and was tweeted on Thursday by Judd Legum, who runs the Popular Information newsletter. "We don't know why Trump took classified nuclear docs," Legum said in a follow-up tweet. "But certain nuclear information would have very high economic value to Saudi Arabia and other governments." That committee report made a number of accusations against the Trump administration, including that it tried "to rush the transfer of highly sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia." This was without congressional review and in potential violation of the Atomic Energy Act that restricts the export of U.S. nuclear technology.

<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-saudi-arabia-nuclear-mar-lago-raid-washington-post-1733182>

Syria

Syrian escalation risks all-out conflict involving Turkey, Russia, Iran

Al-Monitor, August 1, 2022

After the tripartite meeting in Tehran between Russia, Turkey and Iran to discuss the Syrian file, shelling and attacks escalated between the parties to the conflict in Syria. The regime forces and Russia attacked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and other factions in Idlib, while the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fought off the Turkish army and the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) in northeastern Syria and north-central Syria. The escalation began after the Russian air force launched airstrikes on the outskirts of the village of Yacoubiyeh in the Jisr al-Shughur countryside west of Idlib, killing seven civilians and injuring several others, including women and children who were trapped under the rubble. In response, HTS and some factions in Idlib affiliated with Al-Fatah al-Mubeen operations room bombed areas under the control of the Syrian government forces

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/syrian-escalation-risks-all-out-conflict-involving-turkey-russia-iran#ixzz7ciQULLbZ>

Russian aviation destroys terrorists' dens in the Syrian al-Badia

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 5, 2022

The Russian Ministry of Defense said that Russian aircraft destroyed hideouts of a terrorist group backed by the US occupation forces and killed many of its members. "On the 4th of August, after investigation operations, the Russian

fighters eliminated a terrorist group of the so-called (Shuhada' al-Qaryatayn Brigade) that was hiding in prepared dens in the Syrian al-Badia (desert), the ministry said in a statement on Friday. The ministry added the headquarter of this terrorist group is in al-Tanf area, occupied by the US occupation forces, as it was trained there by the occupation forces which supplied it with weapons. The ministry pointed out that these terrorists committed terrorist killings in al-Badia desert against the civilians.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=279880>

Al-Nusra terrorists with White Helmets filming fake videos of air strikes at civilians in Idlib

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 8, 2022

"White Helmets" terrorist organization and terrorist organizations are filming fake videos in Idlib to later accuse Russia's forces and Syrian Arab Army of delivering strikes at civilians, deputy chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation in Syria, Oleg Yegorov said. Tass quoted Yegorov as saying that according to reports received by the Center for Reconciliation, terrorists of the Jabhat al-Nusra jointly with the pseudo-humanitarian organization White Helmets are filming fake videos in Qatan area, Idlib countryside to later accuse the Russian forces and the Syrian Arab Army of delivering strikes at the civilians and civil infrastructure.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=280075>

Drones strike US base in Syria

Al-Monitor, August 15, 2022

Al-Tanf, a remote US military outpost in southern Syria, came under attack by

“multiple” drones early Monday morning in the latest attack on American forces and the militias they support in the country. No one was reported hurt and no property damaged, though one of the drones exploded within a compound used by the local US-backed Syrian militia known as Maghawir al-Thawra (Commandos of the Revolution). Another drone was “successfully engaged” by the US-led coalition, according to a statement released this morning. Other drones involved in the attack “were not successful” in causing any harm, the coalition said.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/drones-strike-us-base-syria>

Turkey

Turkey leading contributor of forces to NATO

Daily Sabah, August 2, 2022

Turkey is the leading country in terms of contribution of forces to NATO, Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-leading-contributor-of-forces-to-nato-ankara>

Being NATO allies strengthens Turkey, Netherlands ties: Envoy

Daily Sabah, August 3, 2022

Turkey and the Netherlands being NATO allies helps strengthen bilateral ties, Dutch Ambassador to Ankara Marjanne de Kwaasteniet said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/being-nato-allies-strengthens-turkey-netherlands-ties-envoy>

Erdogan Navigates Between Ukrainian Wheat, Russian Nukes and Israeli Gas

Haaretz, August 4, 2022

A Russian-owned nuclear power plant is under construction in Turkey, one explanation for why Moscow is letting Ukraine export grain through the Bosphorus.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-08-04/ty-article-magazine/.premium/erdogan-navigates-between-ukrainian-wheat-russian-nukes-and-israeli-gas/00000182-689e-d2f5-a3e6-ed9f32420000>

Turkey to contribute to regional peace in Black Sea

Daily Sabah, August 6, 2022

Turkey will contribute to regional peace in the Black Sea region, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said on Saturday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/erdogan-turkey-to-contribute-to-regional-peace-in-black-sea>

Turkish army receives 1st domestic multi-rotor mini UAV

Daily Sabah, August 7, 2022

Head of the Presidency of Defense Industries, Ismail Demir, said the initial deliveries of the mini-spotter unmanned aerial system (UAS), TOGAN, developed domestically, were made to the security forces.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-receives-1st-domestic-multi-rotor-mini-uav>

Improved Israel ties to help Turkey's Palestinian advocacy

i24, 2022, August 8, 2022

Turkey will leverage its improved ties with Israel to promote the rights of Palestinians vis-à-vis Jerusalem, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy/1659967196-erdogan-improved-israel-ties-to-help-turkey-s-palestinian-advocacy>

Ankara-Baku ties mark level of strategic alliance: FM Bayramov

Daily Sabah, August 9, 2022

Turkish-Azerbaijani "relations have risen to the level of strategic alliances. However, we have a long way to go and goals to reach," Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan's foreign minister, said at the 13th Ambassadors Conference in the Turkish capital Ankara.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/ankara-baku-ties-mark-level-of-strategic-alliance-fm-bayramov>

Mass production of Türkiye's 1st unmanned marine craft begins

Daily Sabah, August 11, 2022

Mass production of Türkiye's first armored unmanned surface vessel (AUSV), the first marine craft within the scope of the ULAQ project, has started, according to a company official Thursday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/mass-production-of-turkiyes-1st-unmanned-marine-craft-begins>

FM Çavuşoğlu has brief discussion with Syrian counterpart for 1st time

Daily Sabah, August 11, 2022

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Thursday that he had a quick word with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in October in Serbia's capital Belgrade.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/fm-cavusoglu-has-brief-discussion-with-syrian-counterpart-for-1st-time>

'Partnership deal shows importance Türkiye, Slovenia give each other'

Daily Sabah, August 14, 2022

The strategic partnership agreement that was signed between Slovenia and Türkiye in 2011 shows the importance the two

countries gave each other, Slovenian President Borut Pahor said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/partnership-deal-shows-importance-turkiye-slovenia-give-each-other>

United Arab Emirates

US State Department approves billions of dollars' worth of arms sales to Saudi Arabia, UAE

Middle East Monitor, August 3, 2022

The US State Department announced, Tuesday, that it has approved the potential sale of arms to two of its key Middle East partners in separate deals with a total value of more than \$5 billion, Anadolu News Agency reports. The United Arab Emirates

would buy \$2.25 billion worth of Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system missiles. The UAE would receive two THAAD launch control stations, two THAAD tactical operations stations and 96 missile rounds under the proposed deal.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2022-08-03-us-state-department-approves-billions-of-dollars-worth-of-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia-uae/>

Yemen

Infighting in southern Yemen exposes fragility of leadership council

Al-Monitor, August 14, 2022

Deadly infighting rocked Yemen's Shabwa province over the last few days, with dozens of deaths and injuries, amid tensions between pro-government forces in Attaq, the capital of Shabwa, an oil-rich province in southern Yemen.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/infighting-southern-yemen-exposes-fragility-leadership-council>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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