



Volume 2 | Issue 16

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

16 August - 31 August 2022



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani army defuses over 990 mines in liberated Lachin

AZERNEWS, August 16, 2022

The Azerbaijani army's engineer-sapper units have defused some 991 mines in liberated Lachin District, Azernews reports per the Defense Ministry. An anti-personnel minefield, planted by illegal Armenian armed groups after the second Karabakh war in 2020, was discovered in the eastern part of Lachin District, in the north-western direction of the Saribaba height, the ministry said. The area was examined by engineer-sapper units of the Azerbaijani army and detected mines were rendered harmless by a highly-trained sapper team, the ministry added.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198107.html>

Azerbaijani president promotes border servicemen of State Border Service

AZERNEWS, August 17, 2022

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev promoted in military ranks a group of servicemen of the State Border Service, Azernews reports. The state-registered parties in Azerbaijan are submitting their proposals on the new draft law being developed by the Milli Majlis. The political parties (the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, the Azerbaijani People's Party, the Citizen and Development Party, the Ag Party, the National Revival Movement Party, the Modern Musavat Party, the New Times Party, the Unity Party, the National Democratic Party of Azerbaijan and National Congress Party) have sent their proposals on the new draft law to the Azerbaijani parliament. As a result, the

number of political parties addressing their proposals to the Milli Majlis has risen to 39.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198164.html>

Azerbaijani military police patrolling Lachin, Zabukh & Sus

AZERNEWS, August 29, 2022

The military police of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry have started patrolling the city of Lachin, the villages of Zabukh and Sus, Azernews reports, citing the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry. The military police are carrying out activities to ensure security in the indicated territories. The military police detachments carry out round-the-clock service at stationary and mobile posts in settlements and carry out access control and control over the observance of the daily routine by military personnel during service and combat duty. At the checkpoints, patrols are carried out, facilities are guarded, equipment entering the territory is recorded, and activities are carried out in the direction of the movement of military vehicles and escort of convoys for their safety.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198595.html>

Azerbaijani Defense chief arrives in Turkiye

AZERNEWS, August 30, 2022

Azerbaijani Defense Minister Col-Gen Zakir Hasanov has arrived in Ankara, Turkiye, on a working visit, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. The top general said this in his remarks at an official reception at the Turkish Embassy in Baku to mark Turkiye's Victory Day commemorated on August 30. "Currently, the necessary steps are being taken to adapt

the Azerbaijani army to the modern army model, especially to the standards of the Turkish armed forces. Mutual military cooperation between our countries has further strengthened our alliance. This unity contributes to the preservation of the regional peace and stability," Valiyev stressed.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198674.html>

Azerbaijan implementing Turkish military model in army building - deputy defense chief

AZERNEWS, August 31, 2022

Azerbaijan has been implementing a Turkish military model in its own armed forces, Azernews reports, citing Col-Gen Karim Valiyev, First Deputy Defense Minister and Chief of the General Staff. The top general said this in his remarks at an official reception at the Turkish Embassy in Baku to mark Türkiye's Victory Day commemorated on August 30. "Currently, the necessary steps are being taken to adapt the Azerbaijani army to the modern army model, especially to the standards of the Turkish armed forces. Mutual military cooperation between our countries has further strengthened our alliance. This unity contributes to the preservation of the regional peace and stability," Valiyev stressed.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198705.html>

Greek missiles locking on Turkish fighters over Med challenges NATO – Erdogan

AZERNEWS, August 31, 2022

Greece has challenged NATO and its allies, not Türkiye, by locking its air defense

systems on Turkish jets carrying out a NATO reconnaissance mission, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday, Trend reports citing Daily Sabah. The Greek air defense system's harassment of Turkish jets is a "hostile act," the president said ahead of a celebration concert for the centenary of Türkiye's Victory Day at the presidential complex in Ankara. Greek surface-to-air missiles locked on to Turkish F-16 fighter jets carrying out a reconnaissance mission in international airspace, it was reported on Sunday. The F-16s were at an altitude of 10,000 feet to the west of Greece's Rhodes island when the Russian-made S-300's target tracking radar locked on.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/198728.html>

Armenia

Armenian, Russian Defense Chiefs discuss Karabakh peacekeeping mission

PanARMANIAN.com, August 16, 2022

Armenian and Russian Defense Ministers Suren Papikyan and Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday, August 16 discussed the activity of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh. The two met on the sidelines of the X Moscow Conference on International Security. "We have things to discuss, there are traditional issues related to our military cooperation. And, of course, issues related to the activities of our peacekeeping contingent, which performs tasks in Nagorno-Karabakh. We remain as confident as you that the main stabilizing factor is the ceasefire along the entire line of contact," Shoigu said.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/302106/>

Armenia NSS seeking to set up border crossing points with Azerbaijan

PanARMANIAN.com, August 19, 2022

The National Security Service of Armenia has unveiled a bill on creating border crossing points in some sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani frontier. The new checkpoints will be set up in the provinces of Gegharkunik, Ararat and Syunik. On August 4, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated that Armenia is ready to provide communication between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan "even today".

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/302135/>

Russia ready to further help Armenia boost defense capability

PanARMANIAN.com, August 19, 2022

Russia is ready to continue to help Yerevan as a key ally in strengthening its defense capability and border security, as well as in regulating relations with its neighbors, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday, August 29. The statement was issued on the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Armenia and Russia.

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/302186/>

Armenia says cooperation with U.S. has nothing to do with bio-weapons

PanARMANIAN.com, August 19, 2022

Armenia and the United States' cooperation through the Biological Threat Reduction Program have nothing to do with biological weapons, the Security Council of Armenia

said in a statement on Monday, August 29. "The Covid-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of strong national capacities for infectious disease surveillance, diagnosis, and response. International cooperation and assistance play a critical role in building these capacities," the statement reads. "Our governments have partnered openly and transparently through the Biological Threat Reduction Program, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. These partnerships are devoted exclusively to peaceful purposes; they have nothing to do with weapons."

<https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/302200/>

Armenia, Azerbaijan leaders to hold EU-mediated talks

EURACTIV, August 25, 2022

The leaders of ex-Soviet rivals Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to meet in Brussels next Wednesday (31 August) for EU-mediated talks, Armenia's government said. The meeting comes after a recent outbreak of fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh left at least three dead. "Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev will meet in Brussels on 31 August," the press service of the Armenian government told AFP. European Council chief Charles Michel will be present at the meeting. In recent months the EU has tried to help put in place a peace treaty to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/armenia/news/armenia-azerbaijan-leaders-to-hold-eu-mediated-talks/>

Armenia refuses to provide information on mass graves of slain Azerbaijanis

AZERNEWS, August 31, 2022

Armenia is refusing to share information on sites of mass graves of Azerbaijanis, who went missing during the first Karabakh war, Azernews reports, citing Habib Mikayilli, sector manager of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198673.html>

Armenia returns presumed remains of 138 Azerbaijanis missing in first Karabakh war

AZERNEWS, August 31, 2022

Armenia has handed over the presumed remains of 138 Azerbaijanis, who went missing during the first Karabakh war (1988-1994), Azernews reports, citing Ismayil Axundov, Secretary of the State Commission on POWs, Missing Persons and Hostages.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198666.html>

Israel

Israeli Defense Minister in US to Discuss Iran Nuclear Talks

US News, August 26, 2022

Israel's defense minister said Friday it was important to maintain capabilities for "defensive and offensive purposes" as he met with a senior U.S. official to reiterate Israel's opposition to an emerging nuclear deal with Iran.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-08-26/israeli-defense-minister-in-us-to-discuss-iran-nuclear-talks>

Israeli strikes hit Iranian positions in Syria

AZERNEWS, August 26, 2022

Air strikes hit positions of Iranian-aligned militia in Syria's Hama region causing "several casualties", a war monitor said, blaming Israel for the attacks, Trend reports citing Al Arabiya. "Israeli strikes targeted positions and depots of arms and ammunition of Iran-affiliated militias," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The Britain-based monitor, which has an extensive network of sources inside Syria, reported multiple heavy explosions that sparked fires and resulted in "several victims".

<https://www.azernews.az/region/198557.html>

Iran

AEOI Chief Stresses All Countries' Right to Peaceful Nuclear Technology

Fars News Agency, August 16, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami renewed support for the basic right of all nations to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes, and said that Tehran is entitled to use nuclear technology despite the pressures and hostilities from world powers. Eslami stated on Monday that acquiring nuclear technology is a legitimate source of power for any country. The nuclear chief argued that all countries, including Iran, are entitled to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and that Iran intends to use that right. However, certain powers have abused their veto right at the UN Security Council to prevent Iran from developing its peaceful nuclear program, he

added. "Numerous allegations have been leveled against the country over the years and its nuclear dossier has been sent to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nation Security Council (UNSC)," the official said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010525000361/AEOI-Chief-Sresses-All-Cnries'-Righ-Peacefl-Nclear-Technlgy>

Iranian DM: Defense Equipment Production Rises by 125%

Fars News Agency, August 20, 2022

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said that the country's progress in the defense and industrial sectors has made enemies worried and surprised, and added that the production of defense equipment has grown by 125%. "Iran's tremendous progress in the industrial and defense fields is quite evident and has made the enemies surprised and worried," the defense minister stated on Friday. Brig. Gen. Ashtiani noted that the country has witnessed a 125 percent increase in its defense equipment production last year, 25 percent ahead of the schedule. "Building various types of equipment for the army, navy, and air forces, ballistic missiles, offensive drones, surface and subsurface vessels, electronic warfare, smart and precision strike ammunition, and cognitive warfare are some of the achievements by the indigenous knowledge-based defense companies," the minister continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010529000430/Iranian-DM-Defense-Eipmen-Prdcin-Rises-by-25-در صد-25>

Iran's president denies making concessions in nuclear talks

Al-Monitor, August 22, 2022

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has denied that his country has made major concessions in talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). During a speech on Sunday, Raisi said that Iran has been able to get "a considerable amount of its demands" from other countries since his administration came to office. "In no meeting or negotiation did we sell the rights of the people short," he said, adding that his administration did not "tie the lives of the people to foreign factors." Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanani said that in its latest proposal Iran had shown "flexibility" and also responded to the European proposal in a "timely manner." He added that what is important now is the "American delay" in responding to Iran's offer. He did not go into any details.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/irans-president-denies-making-concessions-nuclear-talks#ixzz7dx3xwpRC>

Who Searched for Nuclear Weapons in Iraq, Dies at 82

The New York Times, Aug. 22, 2022

David A. Kay, a nuclear weapons expert who led a fruitless hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq after the United States invasion in 2003, then resigned his position after determining that the case for going to war over Saddam Hussein's suspected stockpile of unconventional weapons was deeply flawed, died on Aug.

13 at his home in Ocean View, Del. He was 82.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/22/us/dead.html?searchResultPosition=7>

IRGC Aerospace Commander: Iran Exporting Drones

Fars News Agency, August 22, 2022

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh lauded the country's astonishing progress in production of different types of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and said that Tehran has become self-sufficient in drone industry and turned to an exporter. Brigadier General Hajizadeh stated that Iran used to import everything such as barbed wire but it's now exporting drones. "There is no doubt that Iran has reached this point through linking the knowledge-based companies, universities and elites together," he added. The military official noted that in the aerospace sector, Iran initially made investment in research work in order to remove obstacles on its way toward progress, saying that this gave Iran air superiority. The commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force cited Iran's edge as the reason why the Western countries push for limiting the country's drones and missile might.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010531000860/IRGC-Aerspace-Cmmander-Iran-Expring-Drnes>

Iran's Envoy Voices Doubt About US Seriousness on Nuclear Disarmament

Fars News Agency, August 23, 2022

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi expressed his doubts

about US political determination to adhere to nuclear disarmament commitments, and accused Washington of turning a blind eye to the nuclear arsenals of the Israeli regime. Speaking at the Tenth NPT Review Conference on Tuesday, Takht Ravanchi share Iran's deep concern of the NNWS regarding the lack of progress in the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments. "My delegation has contributed constructively to the discussions and draft reports. However, regrettably due to some imbalanced contents of draft reports, none of them garnered consensus," he noted.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010601000201/Iran's-Envy-Vices-Db-Ab-US-Serisness-n-Nclear-Disarmamen>

Nuclear Chief Stresses Iran's Tough Stance Against IAEA's Israeli-Driven Attitude

Fars News Agency, August 23, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami on Wednesday called on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief Rafael Grossi to stop Israeli-influenced approach, and emphasized that Tehran would never surrender to the political behavior of the United Nations nuclear watchdog that is affected by the Zionist pressures. Eslami rejected as "uproar" comments by Grossi over "unexplained traces of uranium" amid efforts to restore the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The nuclear chief advised the IAEA director general not to raise accusations against Iran based on claims made by the Tel Aviv regime and anti-Tehran groups. "We will never accept that the Zionist regime's positions and pressures will be followed upon as an

agenda for the director general of the UN agency,” Eslami stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010601000667/Nclear-Chief-Sresses-Iran's-Tgh-Sance-Agains-IAEA's-Israeli-Driven>

Iran Tests Drones Amid U.S. Concern of Possible Supply to Russia

US News, August 24, 2022

Iran on Wednesday launched exercises to test its combat and reconnaissance drones, state media reported, amid U.S. concerns over the possible supply of Iranian-made unmanned aircraft to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-08-24/iran-tests-drones-amid-u-s-concern-of-possible-supply-to-russia>

Iranian Drones Annihilate Mock-Up Targets on Second Day of Drills

Fars News Agency, August 25, 2022

Iranian drones practiced destroying sensitive and vital enemy points using state-of-the-art weapons with pinpoint accuracy on the second day of large-scale wargames. Spokesman for the drone exercises Vice Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi said on Thursday that the second day of the maneuvers witnessed “combat training using actual weapons”. He added that a considerable part of the designated targets have so far been destroyed and the mission will be concluded in the hours to come. Mousavi noted that various types of combat drones operated by the four units of the Army, namely the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force and Air Defense Force, hit the pre-determined targets in the general area of the exercises — which cover almost all Iranian

territory and strategic Southern waters — with precision and high-accuracy weapons in the major operational phase of the maneuvers.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010603000419/Iranian-Drnes-Annihilae-Mck-Up-Targes-n-Secnd-Day-f-Drills>

Nuclear Chief: Iran to Turn into Nuclear Power Plant Construction Hub in Coming Years

Fars News Agency, August 25, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Thursday that his country plans to become a hub for designing and constructing nuclear power plants in the near future. Speaking on the sidelines of an event to launch the production line of a domestically designed, portable gamma radiation device to be used in the agriculture sector, Eslami stated that an ongoing global fuel crisis had made the use of nuclear energy more relevant. “Today, the world is facing a fuel crisis, and almost all countries, European states in particular, have all turned to constructing nuclear plants. We lag behind by several years in that area,” the official noted. He added Iran had a 20-year plan related to the use of nuclear energy to produce electricity. “What is of very high importance to us is to be able to increase the uses of nuclear technology in the country by the day,” the nuclear chief continued. “With the implementation of that plan, Iran should become a hub for designing and building nuclear plants,” Eslami stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010603000622/Nclear-Chief-Iran-Trn-in-Nclear-Pwer-Plan-Cnsrcin-Hb-in-Cming-Years>

Nuclear Chief Reiterates Iran's Firm Stance on Complete Removal of Sanctions

Fars News Agency, August 27, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Tehran's approach in negotiations with the world powers entails a complete removal of all sanctions imposed by Washington, and underlined the Iranian negotiating team's firm stand on the country's redlines. In a meeting in the Southern Iranian city of Bushehr on Friday night, Eslami stated the Iranian negotiating team in the Vienna talks "has stood up against the other side and, while maintaining the red lines, has put canceling the sanctions as its priority". Efforts to salvage the the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) should put Iran in the path of trade exchanges, progress and development without the current disturbances, the AEOI head noted. "If we will not take long stride and not aim at great goals, relying on precise plans and strong will, the enemy will definitely proceed faster, and the stronger we will move towards advancement, their speed in moves against us will naturally decrease every day," he said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010605000533/Nclear-Chief-Reieraes-Iran's-Firm-Sance-n-Cmplee-Remval-f-Sancins>

Senior Commander: All Movements of Enemies within Range of Iranian Radar System

Fars News Agency, August 27, 2022

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard underlined the country's high

military capabilities and deterrence power, and said that the country's Air Defense Force is able to monitor even the slightest movements of enemies within the range of 3,000km. "The Air Defense Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken important measures in recent years to increase national security," Brigadier General Sabahifard stated. "Today, the Air Defense Force is equipped with detection and identification systems such as radars with a range of 3,000 kilometers, which is rare in the world," he noted. "Now we have reached a point where we proudly announce that all the equipment and systems used in the Air Defense Force of the Islamic Iranian Army are made by genius Iranian youths and we do not use any foreign equipment," the top commander added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010605000387/Senir-Cmmander-All-Mvemens-f-Enemies-wihin-Range-f-Iranian-Radar>

Iran to Produce 10,000 Megawatts of Nuclear Power

Fars News Agency, August 27, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami announced that 10,000 megawatts of electricity generation is on AEOI's agenda. "We have predicted producing a total of 10,000 new megawatts in the Southern coasts, and wherever we build a power plant, apart from using seawater for the process inside the power plant, we are planning to build a desalination complex next to it so that we can provide water and electricity for the areas determined," Eslami said. "The desalination project with a capacity of 70,000 cubic meters will be completed within 2 to 2.5 years, and we should be able to connect it to a consumption network," he

added. Bushehr desalination plant is vital in solving the southern county's water shortage.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010605000836/Iran-Prdce-0-000-Megawas-f-Nclear-Pwer>

Iran Showcases New Precision-Striking Drone

Fars News Agency, August 28, 2022

The Iranian Defense Ministry unveiled a new state-of-the-art precision-striking combat drone named Ababil (Flock of Birds) days after the country's Armed Forces put its drone power on display in large-scale drills. The new drone was unveiled during a visit by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf to an exhibition held by the defense ministry on Saturday. The Iranian Armed Forces' latest achievement in the field of the unmanned aircraft is a cruise missile carrying drone with high destructive power. The aircraft has been outfitted with an optical seeker and a warhead capable of detecting targets. It is also able to capture and relaying live images of the targets, lock on terrestrial targets and destroying them with precision.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010606000138/Iran-Shwcases-New-Precisin-Striking-Drne>

Iran to Continue Supporting Integrity of NPT

Fars News Agency, August 28, 2022

A senior Iranian foreign ministry official referred to the 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York, and said that Tehran will continue support for upholding the integrity of the NPT in all three pillars. Director General for International Peace and

Security Asadollah Eshraq Jahromi made the remarks in the closing ceremony of the 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York. He underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran remains steadfast in its support for upholding the integrity of the NPT in all three pillars. The full text of Eshraq Jahromi statement is as follows: Mr. President, I would like to begin by sincerely appreciating your hard efforts, diligence and serenity in steering the work of this Review Conference. I would also like to associate with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010606000478/Iran-Cnine-Sppring-Inegriy-f-NPT>

Iran wants IAEA probe closed before nuclear agreement implemented

Al-Monitor, August 29, 2022

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi spoke today about the negotiations to revive the nuclear deal. Iran is currently reviewing a proposal by the United States regarding a revived deal that came in response to an Iranian proposal. The details of the proposals, which originated as a European "final offer" to resolve the dispute between Iran and the United States, have not been shared publicly, but officials and media leaks have offered insights to some of the sticking points. In a press conference today, Raisi said addressed the International Atomic Energy Agency's ongoing probe concerning previous nuclear activities by Iran. "When we talk about negotiations," Raisi said, "all of the issues of additional protocols must be resolved."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/iran-wants->

[iaea-probe-closed-nuclear-agreement-implemented#ixzz7dx4PJBDV](https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-awaits-iran-deal-response-new-vienna-round-unlikely#ixzz7dx4PJBDV)

As US awaits Iran deal response, new Vienna round unlikely

Al-Monitor, August 29, 2022

A deal is taking shape that would revive the landmark Iranian nuclear agreement, but US and Iranian negotiators are unlikely to return to Vienna to hash out their remaining differences, a European Union source told Al-Monitor. Asked whether further talks could be held to bridge the gaps between the two sides, an EU source said “there will be no new round of any kind. Next time in Vienna will be a ministerial [meeting] to adopt the agreement — if there is an agreement.” In recent weeks, the United States and Iran have indirectly exchanged views on what the EU described as a “final” proposal to revive the 2015 nuclear accord known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has called both the US and Iranian responses “reasonable.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-awaits-iran-deal-response-new-vienna-round-unlikely#ixzz7dx4kQ1FW>

AEOI Spokesperson Blames IAEA for Raising Excessive Demands from Iran

Fars News Agency, August 30, 2022

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for making excessive demands beyond the scope of the Safeguards agreement from Tehran, saying that the UN nuclear agency's requests cannot be accomplished due to the sanctions. In a radio interview on Tuesday,

Kamalvandi noted the IAEA’s current “demands are considered to be excessive since they cannot be fulfilled to the sanctions”, which the US imposed on Iran after exiting the 2015 nuclear deal. “Of course, if the Westerners remove the sanctions and return to their obligations, Iran will likewise return to its commitments under the nuclear deal,” he added. Kamalvandi explained that the Safeguards agreement revolves around nuclear materials, and under that agreement, Iran is required to inform the IAEA of the amount of the nuclear materials it has, where they are located and how they are put to use. As part of the Additional Protocol, countries, including Iran, place their uranium enrichment equipment under the nuclear agency’s monitoring, he continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010608000869/AEOI-Spkespersn-Blames-IAEA-fr-Raising-Excessive-Demands-frm-Iran>

US Navy thwarts Iran's attempt to capture sea drone in Gulf

Al-Monitor, August 30, 2022

The crew of a ship affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attached a cable to a US Navy unmanned maritime drone in the Persian Gulf on Monday night and attempted to tow it away, the US military said. The IRGC Navy support ship Shahid Baziar later released the Sairdrone after the US Navy coastal patrol ship USS Thunderbolt, an MH-60S Sea Hawk Helicopter and an inflatable US boat approached on the Iranian vessel in response. Officers aboard the Thunderbolt made bridge-to-bridge contact with the IRGC Navy ship via radio, prompting its crew to untether the Sairdrone, Cdr. Timothy Hawkins, a

spokesperson for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, told Al-Monitor.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-navy-thwarts-irans-attempt-capture-sea-drone-gulf#ixzz7dx5CSqLx>

Nuclear Chief: No Deal Before Safeguards Issues Closed

Fars News Agency, August 31, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami warned on Wednesday that a deal in the Vienna talks will be impossible unless the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) drops its false allegations against Tehran's nuclear program. Eslami said that there would be no "re-implementation day" for the 2015 nuclear deal, despite the diplomatic efforts being made to restore the multilateral accord, if the United Nations nuclear watchdog fails to drop its baseless claims against Tehran's nuclear work. "The IAEA's demands from Iran had no basis under the Safeguards agreement between the two sides and were part of the so-called possible military dimension (PMD) dossier, which had been closed under the 2015 agreement," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010609000356/Nclear-Chief-N-Deal-Befre-Safegards-Isses-Clsed>

Iran nuclear talks continue - MFA

AZERNEWS, August 23, 2022

The Vienna negotiation for the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal still continues until there is agreement on all details, said the Iran Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani, Trend reports citing IRNA. Iran has not received any response to the

European suggestions from the other side, specifically, the US, he pointed out. Speaking in his weekly press conference Kanani noted that Iran has not received the details of the next rounds of talks. "We would be able to speak about the fruitfulness of this round of talks whenever the European side announces that they have received the Americans' response, but this has not occurred yet," he said.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/198394.html>

US denies making new concessions to Iran in bid to revive 2015 nuclear deal

AZERNEWS, August 20, 2022

The White House denied reports that the US has made new concessions to Iran as talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal approach their 500th day, Trend reports citing Al Arabiya. London-based Iran International had earlier published a list of reported concessions the Biden administration had agreed to in a bid to get Iran to come back into full compliance with the deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Biden administration has repeatedly stated its belief that reviving the deal would be the best way to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, something which US officials have said was "weeks away" for several months now.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/198277.html>

Iranian, Kazakh, Russian warships leave Baku port after Sea Cup contest

AZERNEWS, August 26, 2022

The warships and military personnel of the Iranian, Kazakh, as well as the Russian naval forces, have left the Baku port after the Sea Cup contest came to end, Azernews

reports, citing the Defense Ministry. The naval teams attended the Sea Cup contest held as part of the International Army Games-2022 in Azerbaijan's territorial waters in the Caspian Sea on August 15-25. During the contest, the Azerbaijani, Iranian, Kazakh, and Russian naval teams competed "Artillery shootings," "Struggle for ship survival and rescue training," and "Maritime training" phases. The Azerbaijani servicemen performed well in the contest, the Defense Ministry stressed.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/198542.html>

Iraq

Weapons warehouse blasts frighten Iraqis

Al-Monitor, August 16, 2022

As extreme heat and power outages continue to weigh heavily on Iraqis' lives, explosions reported on Aug. 11 near Baghdad at sites hosting Iran-linked, government-salaried armed groups raised questions once again about the safety of munitions and those in control of them. Daytime temperatures hover near 50 degrees Celsius, overheating phones, spoiling food and blasting faces as if a furnace door had been opened when leaving air-conditioned spaces. Allergy-provoking dust storms, meanwhile, continue to choke and stultify, as long-neglected environmental conditions worsen and hit Iraq especially hard.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/weapons-warehouse-blasts-frighten-iraqis#ixzz7dxDIUNFM>

Iraqi Air Force blasts ISIS hideouts in Hamrin Mountain

Iraqi News Agency, August 20, 2022

The Security Media Cell-SMC announced on Saturday, that the Air Force aircrafts targeted ISIS hideouts in Hamrin Mountains within Salah al-Din Governorate. "The detachments of The Federal Investigations And Intelligence Agency (FIIA) at the Ministry of Interior, in coordination and cooperation with the targeting cell of the Joint Operations Command and the Counter-Terrorism Service, monitored the movements of terrorist members in the Hamrin mountain range within Salah al-Din Governorate," SMC said in a statement, received by The Iraqi News Agency (INA). The statement continued, "FIIA and the Targeting Cell provided the Iraqi Air Force with accurate intelligence information about the whereabouts of prominent leaders of ISIS terrorist gangs in this place, " noting that "the full details of the names and positions of the criminals whom targeted will be revealed in a later statement."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21394-iraqi-air-force-blasts-isis-hideouts-in-hamrin-mountain.html>

6 airstrikes carried out on 5 Daesh hideouts in Rutba: SMC

Iraqi News Agency, August 24, 2022

The Security Media Cell - SMC announced the implementation 6 strikes on 5 ISIS hideouts in areas south of Rutba district. SMC said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), on Wednesday that according to accurate intelligence

information, the special forces of the Iraqi army, at dawn on Wednesday, carried out air landings by helicopters, preceded by six air strikes by air force aircraft on five targets in areas south of Rutba district, where terrorist hideouts were targeted." SMC added during the statement that "this joint operation, which was participated by the air force, army units, Special Forces and internal intelligence, is one of the important joint qualitative operations carried out by the heroes in our security forces to follow up the remnants of the terrorist gangs of Daesh."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21468-6-airstrikes-carried-out-on-5-daesh-hideouts-in-rutba-smc.html>

Iran-linked attacks on US forces in Syria rekindle Iraq border concerns

Al-Monitor, August 26, 2022

The stepped-up targeting of bases in eastern Syria by Iran-linked militias consisting mainly of Iraqi nationals has raised alarms once again about the country's borders. Continuing cross-border movement of men and weapons by Iraqi armed groups linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has long been of concern but relatively little has been done to stop it for various political reasons. An Aug. 24 press release from US Central Command stated, "US forces responded today to rocket attacks at two sites in Syria, destroying three vehicles and equipment used to launch some of the rockets."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/iran-linked-attacks-us-forces-syria-rekindle-iraq-border-concerns#ixzz7dxE5VOKy>

Iraqi Air Force carries out two airstrikes on ISIS hideouts in Rawa

Iraqi News Agency, August 29, 2022

The Security Media Cell (SMC) announced on Monday, that Iraqi Air forces had carried out two air strikes on an ISIS hideout in the city of Rawa. A statement by the SMC, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that ", The military intelligence detachments, in coordination with the targeting cell of the Joint Operations Command, continued one of the dens, which is a cave and a tunnel north of the city of Rawa, within the sector of the Al-Jazeera Operations Command." The statement added that "The detachments provided the heroes in the Air Force aviation with accurate intelligence information, who carried out two air strikes using F-16 aircraft, which turned the two targeted places into rubble after completely destroying them, "noting that" a force from the Seventh Division, began to inspect the targeted place."

<https://ina.iq/eng/21552-iraqi-air-force-carries-out-two-airstrikes-on-isis-hideouts-in-rawa.html>

Four missiles target the Green Zone, SMC reports

Iraqi News Agency, August 30, 2022

The Security Media Cell-SMC announced on Tuesday, that the Green Zone was targeted with four missiles. SMC stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Green Zone in Baghdad was targeted by four missiles that landed in the residential complex, causing damages." "The missiles was launched from the areas of Al-Habibiya and Al-

Baladiyat, east of the capital, Baghdad," the statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/21583-four-missiles-target-the-green-zone-smc-reports.html>

Syria

US base in Syria targeted with rocket fire, coalition says

Al-Monitor, August 16, 2022

Two rockets landed near a US-led coalition base in eastern Syria on Monday night, marking the second reported attack on US forces in the country in one day. The projectiles struck near the Green Village base in Syria's eastern Deir ez-Zor province. Several other rockets that had failed to fire were later located by US troops and the local Syrian Democratic Forces militia, the coalition said in a statement. No one was hurt and no damage reported in the latest incident, according to the coalition.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-base-syria-targeted-rocket-fire-coalition-says#ixzz7dxN5mcun>

Nasrallah: Syria is cornerstone of resistance axis and Hezbollah will remain part of this axis

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 23, 2022

"Syria is the cornerstone of the resistance axis and our partner in refusing to surrender to Israeli conditions," Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has affirmed. Sayyed Nasrallah's remarks came in a speech on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of Hezbollah, which was broadcast by al-Manar TV. Nasrallah said "Today, tomorrow, and at any time, if the resistant Syria is exposed to any aggression, we will

not hesitate in getting involved in that confrontation and stand by it." Sayyed Nasrallah underscored the importance of the return of normal relations between Syria and Lebanon, especially that the biggest beneficiary of it is Lebanon.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=281546>

Mikdad calls for the withdrawal of US and Turkish forces from Syria... Lavrov: Solution to crisis in Syria is political

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 23, 2022

Foreign and Expatriates Minister Fayssal Mikdad called for the withdrawal of the US and Turkish occupation forces from Syria, stop their support to terrorist originations and separatist militias, stop their intervention in Syria's domestic affairs as well. Mikdad, in a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, described the Syrian-Russian relations as strategic that come in implementation of the two peoples' will in establishing best relations. He added "we appreciate Russia's support for Syria in its war against Western countries-backed terrorism." "The US state is the side which supports terrorism in Syria, destroys its infrastructure and economy, and continue to plunder its resources and impose coercive economic measures in flagrant violation of UN charter," Mikdad went on to say.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=281621>

US airstrikes target bunkers used by Iran-linked militias in Syria

Al-Monitor, August 24, 2022

The US military said it carried out precision airstrikes against a bunker complex used by

Iran-backed militias in eastern Syria early on Wednesday. US President Joe Biden authorized the strikes on Tuesday in response to the recent targeting of two US bases in Syria with rockets and armed drones. US military officials said groups tied to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps were behind those attacks, but have not specified which. Eight US fighter jets, four F-16s and four F-15s, dropped guided bombs on nine bunkers at the Ayyash depot in Syria's Deir ez-Zor province around 4 a.m. local time on Wednesday, US officials said.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-airstrikes-target-bunkers-used-iran-linked-militias-syria#ixzz7dxNISG1k>

Russian MoD: a camp for Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists in Syria destroyed

Syrian Arab Zews Agency, August 24, 2022

The Russian Ministry of Defense has announced that its Aerospace Forces destroyed a camp for Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists in Syria. "The Russian Aerospace Forces destroyed a camp for Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists involved in the bombing of the cities of Khan Sheikhoun and Saraqeb in Idleb province," Deputy Head of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim Oleg Egorov, said in a statement. The Russian military official stated that "a communication site and a headquarters for terrorists were destroyed, as well as an ammunition depot." The Russian Defense Ministry has announced several times over the past two years that it had monitored dozens of attacks carried out by Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist organization in the de-escalation zone in Idleb, northwest of Syria, which have been targeting the neighboring

safe areas in the provinces of Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Aleppo.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=281651>

US strikes Iran-backed militias in Syria for third day

Al-Monitor, August 25, 2022

American military aircraft struck Iran-backed militia targets in eastern Syria for the third day in a row on Thursday as commanders sought to suppress a new flurry of attacks on US bases in the country. The US deployed Apache helicopters, AC-130 gunships and M777 artillery in response to rocket fire that lightly injured three US soldiers at the Conoco base in Syria's Deir ez-Zor province around 7:20 p.m. on Wednesday. At least two additional rockets later landed outside the United States' Green Village base at al-Omar oilfield. The military's response has killed four "enemy fighters" and destroyed seven rocket launchers, US Central Command said today. The command called the retaliation "proportional and deliberate" in a statement last night.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-strikes-iran-backed-militias-syria-third-day#ixzz7dxOaKte5>

Sabbagh: The concluding Document of the 10th Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) ignores worry about Israel's arsenal

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 27, 2022

Syria said that what has been included in the draft document of the conference/review of the 10th Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 2020/ on the Middle East

is weak and does not meet the concerns of the countries of the region, especially since it did not include any article to oblige Israel to join it and subject all its nuclear facilities to the comprehensive safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency, stressing that the 1995 Middle East resolution remains in force until its goals and objectives are fully achieved and implemented. Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations, head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh, said during the concluding session of the conference held at the UN building in New York that Syria had hoped a successful outcome of this conference which would open a new page in the process of reviewing the treaty, but the political selfishness of the Western countries and their preference for its geopolitical interests over those of the treaty parties led to this regretful outcome.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=282049>

Saudi Arabia

Hercules-2 joint training kicks off in Egypt with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Greece, Cyprus

Alarabiya, August 22, 2022

The Hercules-2 joint military training kicked off in Egypt with the participation of special units from the Royal Saudi Land Forces, the UAE, Greece and Cyprus, the Egyptian Ministry of Defense said in a statement Sunday. The training, which is set to last for several days, started at the Mohamed Naguib Military Base in the Marsa Matrouh governorate and is expected to expand to military exercises areas in the northern military district, the statement said. It added that Jordan, the US, Democratic Republic of Congo and Bahrain

have participated in the exercises as observers. Hercules-21 was held in September 2021 in Greece with the participation of forces from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Greece and the UAE.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/08/22/Hercules-2-joint-training-kicks-off-in-Egypt-with-Saudi-Arabia-UAE-Greece-Cyprus->

Saudi, Emirati Concerns Regarding West's Nuclear Deal With Iran: It Disregards Iran's Threat To Region, Support Of Terror; Due To U.S. Hesitancy, Iran Is Greatest Winner In Negotiations

MEMRI, August 24, 2022

Amid reports in the global media that Iran and the superpowers, headed by the U.S., are close to renewing the nuclear deal, many articles in the Saudi and Emirati press express concern regarding the emerging agreement. They note that, like the deal of 2015, the renewed one does not address the demand of the Gulf states to restrain Iran's problematic conduct in the region, and does not include firm restrictions on Iran's missile program or the terrorist militias it deploys in Arab countries. The articles warn that dismissing these concerns will exacerbate the tension and violence in the region and in the world. The articles also accuse the Biden administration of conducting the negotiations in haste out of a desire to reach an agreement, which can be presented as an achievement to the American voter, before the U.S. Midterm Congressional Elections in November. The Biden administration, they say, was excessively weak and hesitant in the negotiations, whereas Russia and China firmly supported Iran, as a result of which Iran received many concessions and

emerged as the big winner in the negotiations.

<https://www.memri.org/reports/saudi-emirati-concerns-regarding-west-nuclear-deal-iran-it-disregards-irans-threat-region>

Iran Resumes Diplomatic Relations with UAE and Kuwait, Talks Continue with Saudi Arabia

VOA News, August 23, 2022

Amid positive signals surrounding nuclear talks among Iran and Western nations, both the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have quietly restored diplomatic ties with Tehran. Iran's Foreign Ministry indicated Monday that talks with Saudi Arabia over resuming ties are also going in a positive direction. Eyes are focused on the bigger prize of a diplomatic rapprochement between Tehran and its long-time nemesis, Riyadh. Ties between Iran and both the UAE and Saudi Arabia were cut in 2016 following the execution of Saudi Shi'ite cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told journalists Monday that the positive regional climate is bolstering optimism over the possible resumption of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. Both Iraq and Oman have helped broker unofficial talks between Tehran and Riyadh.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-resumes-diplomatic-relations-with-uae-and-kuwait-talks-continue-with-saudi-arabia/6713647.html>

Turkey

Turkish airstrikes target Syrian regime forces on border post

DAILY SABAH, August 17, 2022

Turkish airstrikes on Syria border posts run by Bashar Assad regime forces killed 17

fighters on Tuesday, according to a war monitor. "Seventeen fighters were killed in Turkish airstrikes that hit several Syrian regime outposts ... near the Turkish border," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said. It did not specify if the victims were affiliated with the regime or the PKK terrorist group's Syrian branch YPG.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-airstrikes-target-syrian-regime-forces-on-border-post>

Missile strike targets Syria's al-Bab, kills 9 civilians

DAILY SABAH, August 19, 2022

At least nine civilians were killed and 15 others injured when a missile targeted the town of al-Bab in northern Syria on Friday, according to initial reports from the ground. Children were among those killed in the attack, which hit a civilian-heavy part of the town. The injured were taken to hospitals by civil defense teams. Hospitals in the region called for the need for all blood groups for the treatment of the injured. There was no immediate claim of responsibility so far.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/missile-strike-targets-syrias-al-bab-kills-9-civilians>

Turkey plays down US sanctions threat over Russia ties

EURACTIV, August 26, 2022

Turkey's finance minister told businesses on Friday (26 August) they should not be concerned by the threat of sanctions that Washington warns will follow if they do business with sanctioned Russians. Nureddin Nebati's Twitter comments represent Ankara's first official response to a letter the US Treasury sent to Turkish

businesses on Monday. US Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo warned Turkish banks and companies they would face secondary sanctions if they cooperated with Russians sanctioned in response to the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/turkey-plays-down-us-sanctions-threat-over-russia-ties/>

Turkish armed forces eliminate 9 PKK terrorists in northern Iraq

DAILY SABAH, August 27, 2022

Turkish security forces eliminated nine PKK terrorists in northern Iraq, near the Turkish border, authorities said Saturday. Seven terrorists were targeted in the Operation Claw-Lock zone, the Turkish National Defense Ministry said on Twitter. "Our operations will continue until the last terrorist is neutralized," it added. Two more PKK terrorists were neutralized in operation carried out by the Turkish National Intelligence Organization in northern Iraq's Sulaymaniyah and Asos regions, according to security sources. Turkish authorities use the term "neutralize" to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-armed-forces-eliminate-9-pkk-terrorists-in-northern-iraq>

United Arab Emirates

UAE returns ambassador to Iran as region prepares for potential nuclear deal

The Times of Israel, August 21, 2022

The United Arab Emirates planned to reinstate its ambassador to Iran for the first time in six years, the Emirati Foreign Ministry announced Sunday, as the Gulf

Arab federation accelerated efforts to improve ties with the nation it has long viewed as a regional threat. The Emirates' ambassador to Iran, Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi, will return to Tehran in the coming days to "continue pushing bilateral relations forward to achieve the common interests of the two neighbors and the region," the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported. The move comes as American and Iranian diplomats now seek to end 16 months of negotiations over the revival of Tehran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uae-returns-ambassador-to-iran-as-region-prepares-for-potential-nuclear-deal/>

UAE's space exploration to reach new heights in 2023

The National News, August 23, 2022

From landing a rover on the Moon to sending an Emirati astronaut for a six-month trip to the space station, 2023 is set to be the UAE's busiest year for space exploration. The Emirates will etch its name in history books many times next year if its space missions go as planned. Astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi will take on the Arab world's first long-duration mission, while the Rashid rover could become the first Arab spacecraft to reach the Moon. The impending missions follow a string of achievements by the UAE, including reaching Mars with its Hope probe in 2021 and launching Hazza Al Mansouri, the first Emirati astronaut, into space in 2019. But a number of advanced missions are lined up to take place in the same year for the first time, all being carried out by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC).

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2022/08/23/uaes-space-exploration-to-reach-new-heights-in-2023/>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Aasi Ansari

with inputs from Mr. Niranjana C. Oak, Mr. Kushal Agrawal and Mr. Stephen Koshy James

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**



**MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्थयन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान