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SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

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DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Bahrain

President Sheikh Mohamed and Bahrain's King Hamad attend joint military drill

The National News, November 11, 2022

President Sheikh Mohamed and King Hamad of Bahrain attended the final day of the joint Emirati-Bahraini military antiterrorism exercise in Manama on Thursday. Members of the UAE Armed Forces and the Royal Guard, a unit of the Bahrain Defence Force, participated in Jelmoud 3, the three-day drill. Several other units from the defence force and Bahrain's Ministry of Interior and National Security Agency also took part in the exercise.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2022/11/11/president-sheikh-mohamed-and-bahrains-king-hamad-attend-joint-military-drill/>

Iran

Iran puts 10 US individuals, CIA on its 'Terrorism List'

Albawaba, November 01, 2022

Iran's Foreign Ministry announces sanctions on a host of American individuals and entities for committing human rights violations, supporting terrorism and inciting violence against the Iranian nation during the recent riots. In a statement on Monday, the ministry said the sanctions were imposed in line with a law titled "Countering America's Human Rights Violation and Adventurous and Terrorist Actions" passed by the Iranian Parliament in 2017.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/iran-puts-10-us-individuals-cia-its-terrorism-list-1497089>

Iran is preparing to send additional weapons including ballistic missiles to Russia to use in Ukraine, western officials say

CNN, November 01, 2022

Iran is preparing to send approximately 1,000 additional weapons, including surface-to-surface short range ballistic missiles and more attack drones, to Russia to use in its war against Ukraine, officials from a western country that closely monitors Iran's weapons program told CNN. The shipment is being closely monitored because it would be the first instance of Iran sending advanced precision guided missiles to Russia, which could give the Kremlin a substantial boost on the battlefield.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/01/politics/iran-missiles-russia/index.html>

Iran preparing 1,000 missiles and drones for shipment to Russia

The National News, November 01, 2022

Iran is preparing a massive arms shipment of 1,000 missiles and drones for Russia that will significantly aid Moscow's war in Ukraine, it has been reported. Russia's campaign will receive a major lift with the delivery of hundreds more kamikaze drones and, more worryingly, short-range ballistic missiles supplied by Tehran, experts told The National. It is understood that the consignment is being closely monitored by western intelligence services, particularly as it will be the first occasion that Iran has exported surface-to-surface missiles, potentially the Shahab or Zolfaghar weapons.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iran/2022/11/01/iran-preparing-1000-missiles-and-drones-for-shipment-to-russia/>

Declaration of war! Iran's red flag of revenge

Albawaba, November 02, 2022

Allegations suggested that the alleged 'red flags of revenge' were placed above the dome of the Jamkaran Mosque in the city of Qom and the dome of the Mosque in Shiraz, Iran.

<https://www.albawaba.com/node/declaration-war-iran-red-flag-revenge-1497279>

UNSC not to hold session on Iran

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 02, 2022

President of the United Nations Security Council Harold Adlai Agyeman distanced himself from the media dictatorship of the West and the US media campaign saying that the UNSC will not hold a session on Iran. He made the remarks in response to the IRNA correspondent's question regarding the US attempt to hold a session on Iran's internal affairs. The issue of the Iran nuclear agreement (JCPOA) is discussed in the Security Council, but the situation in Iran is not reviewed by the Security Council. He noted that the sessions are not technically categorized as UNSC meetings. We follow the issue of Iran only at the national level and consider it within the framework of Iran's sovereignty, he stated.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84930440/UNSC-not-to-hold-session-on-Iran>

FM: Iranian delegation due in Vienna for talks with IAEA

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 02, 2022

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Wednesday that

an Iranian delegation is to visit the Austrian capital in coming days for talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The foreign minister made the remarks in a joint press conference in Tehran with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad. He said that Iran's trade exchanges with Syria have risen in a significant way when compared to figures from the preceding year. Amirabdollahian expressed hope that the visit to Vienna by the Iranian delegation will help resolve the outstanding issues between Iran and the UN nuclear agency. He said that he will have a phone conversation later today with UN foreign policy chief Josep Borrell in which they will make the last coordination for the talks.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84931121/FM-Iranian-delegation-due-in-Vienna-for-talks-with-IAEA>

Iran: Conveyed message to US has 'constructive' approach

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 03, 2022

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic had maintained a constructive approach in its views presented to the United States on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal. Amirabdollahian was referring to a message Iran recently conveyed to the US through the European Union. He said that Iran is ready to reach a good, lasting and strong agreement on the revival of the 2015 deal, known as the JCPOA. The two diplomats, during their phone conversation, discussed other issues as well, including the war in Ukraine. Amirabdollahian told Borrell that Iran wants an end to the war. On the recent riots in Iran, the foreign minister said that the

harsh stance some European officials took on those riots resulted in violence in Europe too.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84931260/Iran-Conveyed-message-to-US-has-constructive-approach>

Iranian security forces neutralize terrorist cell

Russian News Agency, November 03, 2022

Iranian security forces have identified and wiped out a terrorist cell in the west of the country, IRNA reported on Thursday. According to the agency, the group was operating in the Ilam Province and was involved in the organization of recent riots in the country. The terrorists were planning to attack facilities run by military and security forces. They were manufacturing homemade grenades and incendiary devices. According to preliminary information, the group had links with foreign organizations.

<https://tass.com/world/1531889>

The Iran 'attack', Saudi jitters and the US circle

Albawaba, November 03, 2022

Just what is happening on the Iran-Saudi front is baffling many an observer can be heard as saying. One day Riyadh and Tehran are trying to hitch it together, another time, like now, they are virtually at each others' throats judging from the media and social platforms chatter who maybe not entirely convinced with one, two, or three in a gleeful mood.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/iran-attack-saudi-jitters-and-us-circle-1497409>

Are talks on the Iran nuclear on or off!

Albawaba, November 03, 2022

Iran said Wednesday it will send a delegation to Vienna in the coming days to hold talks with officials of the UN nuclear watchdog in an effort to revive the 2015 nuclear deal. The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian during a joint press conference with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad in Tehran. "We will be sending a delegation from Iran to Vienna in the coming days to start talks and strengthen cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," he said.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/vienna-are-talks-iran-nuclear-or-1497349>

Exclusive: Iran is seeking Russia's help to bolster its nuclear program, US intel officials believe

CNN, November 04, 2022

Iran is seeking Russia's help to bolster its nuclear program, US intelligence officials believe, as Tehran looks for a backup plan should a lasting nuclear deal with world powers fail to materialize. The intelligence suggests that Iran has been asking Russia for help acquiring additional nuclear materials and with nuclear fuel fabrication, sources briefed on the matter said. The fuel could help Iran power its nuclear reactors and could potentially further shorten Iran's so-called "breakout time" to create a nuclear weapon.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/04/politics/iran-russia-nuclear-program/index.html>

Iran admits sending Russia drones

The Moscow Times, November 05, 2022

Iran admitted for the first time on Saturday that it has sent drones to Russia, but insisted they were supplied to its ally before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "We supplied Russia with a limited number of drones months before the war in Ukraine," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said, quoted by the official news agency IRNA. Ukraine and its Western allies have accused Russia of using Iranian-made drones in recent weeks to carry out attacks in Ukraine. Tehran has repeatedly denied these claims. Iran has repeatedly denied that it has been supplying arms to Russia for use in the Ukraine war.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/11/05/iran-admits-sending-russia-drones-a79298>

Iran says it gave drones to Russia before Ukraine invasion

The National News, November 05, 2022

Iran says it gave drones to Russia in the months before Moscow invaded Ukraine, backtracking on previous claims it never supplied weapons to Russia. Tehran provided a "small number of drones" to Russia in the months before the war, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said in comments published by state-affiliated outlets. Iran had previously refuted growing evidence it had sent drones and other weapons to Moscow. Mr Amirabdollahian denied that Iran had also sent missiles to Moscow and said Tehran will "react" if it is proven Iranian drones have been used by Russia in Ukraine.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2022/11/05/iran-says-it-gave-drones-to-russia-before-ukraine-invasion/>

Iran successfully launches Qaem 100 solid fuel suborbital carrier

Fars News Agency, November 05, 2022

The Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) successfully launched Qaem 100 three-stage solid fuel suborbital carrier. Qaem 100, the first of its kind manufactured by Iranian scientists, is capable of putting satellites weighing up to 80 kilograms into orbit 500 kilometers from the earth's surface. The launch vehicle's solid-fueled first-stage engine, which had been subjected to ground tests early this year, successfully completed its first suborbital spaceflight on Saturday. That means, according to IRGC officials, that Qaem 100 is now ready to launch Nahid, a satellite manufactured by Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, into orbit in the near future. Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh and other senior military officials supervised the flight test of the satellite carrier.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010814000818/Iran-Successfully-Launches-Qaem-100-Solid-Fuel-Suborbital-Carrier>

Iran plans to upgrade atomic energy schools: AEOI chief

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 05, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami has underscored that his organization is determined to provide students with better equipment to improve the training situation at nuclear energy schools throughout the country. Eslami made the remarks in a ceremony commemorating the National

Day of Fighting Global Arrogance or Student Day, noting that the Islamic country is in dire need of scientific, talented and hardworking humans more than ever. Nobody will do a thing for us; so, we should try and go ahead in the path of progress in accordance with believing in our homeland and protecting the flag of the country, he underlined, adding that we should not be trapped in fake and unfounded storytelling.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84933340/Iran-plans-to-upgrade-atomic-energy-schools-AEOI-chief>

Iran unveils advanced home-made missile defense system

Fars News Agency, November 06, 2022

New edition of Iran's homegrown missile defense system, Bavar-373 with an extended engagement range of 300 kilometers, called Sayyad 4B was unveiled on Sunday in the presence of Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani. The Sayyad 4B guided missile production line was inaugurated on Sunday. Iranian engineers have increased the range of the Bavar-373 long-range road-mobile surface-to-air missile system to 300 km. Bavar 373, as the first Iranian indigenous long-range defense system which was unveiled in August 2019, is a mobile missile defense system designed to intercept and destroy incoming hostile targets. The Bavar-373 air defense missile system is a product of creativity and reliance on internal capabilities in terms of design, development, and deployment of a strategic missile system.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010815000398/Iran-Unveils-Advanced-Hme-Made-Missile-Defense-System>

Top military spokesman dismisses US, Ukraine allegations on Iran's role in war

Fars News Agency, November 06, 2022

Spokesman of the Iranian Armed Forces categorically dismissed allegations by the United States and Ukraine that the Islamic Republic is involved in the war in Ukraine. "The ruling regime in Ukraine is totally subservient to the Zionists and the Americans," Spokesman of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said. "These remarks and accusations attributed to Iran by the presidents of the United States and Ukraine are sheer lies and slander," he added. General Shekarchi reiterated that Iran has had military equipment exchanges with Russia which date back to years before the war between Moscow and Kiev, and said that "Iran is not involved in the war between these two states".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010815000629/Top-Military-Spokesman-Dismisses-US-Ukraine-Allegations-Iran's-Role-in>

Minister: Bavar-373 missile defense capable of confronting ballistic missiles

Fars News Agency, November 06, 2022

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani announced that Bavar-373 missile defense has the capability of confronting ballistic missiles. Addressing the unveiling ceremony of the extended homegrown missile defense system, Bavar 373 and the Sayyad-4 guided missile production line, General Ashtiani said that Iran's Defense Ministry has the mission of providing the armed forces with weapons and equipment to confront the threats to the country. This missile defense can deal with stationary

aerial targets, ballistic missiles and all kinds of fighter and bomber planes, he added. General Ashtiani reiterated that the defense system can destroy 6 targets, and many countries with technology in the world are keen on having such a system.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010815000856/Miniser-Bavar-33-Missile-Defense-Capable-f-Cnfrning-Ballistic-Missiles>

Iran says it successfully tested satellite launch rocket

The National News, November 06, 2022

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps tested a new satellite-carrying rocket on Saturday, in a move the US called "unhelpful and destabilising". Washington fears the same long-range ballistic technology used to put satellites into orbit could also be used to launch nuclear warheads. Tehran has regularly denied having any such intention. "The flight test of this satellite carrier with a solid-fuelled engine ... was successfully completed," state news agency Irna reported.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iran/2022/11/06/iran-says-it-successfully-tested-satellite-launch-rocket/>

Iran says it shipped drones to Russia before Ukraine war

CNBC, November 06, 2022

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said a "small number" of drones had been shipped a few months before Russia's Feb 24 invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Tehran of lying, saying Kyiv's forces were downing at least 10 of the unmanned aerial

vehicles every day. In Iran's most detailed response to date, Amirabdollahian denied Tehran was continuing to supply drones to Moscow.

<https://www.cnb.com/2022/11/06/iran-says-it-shipped-drones-to-russia-before-ukraine-war.html?&qsearchterm=defense>

Iran says it tests satellite-carrying rocket, U.S. calls move 'destabilising'

Reuters, November 06, 2022

Iran's Revolutionary Guards tested a new satellite-carrying rocket on Saturday, state media reported, a move the United States called "unhelpful and destabilising".

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/iran-successfully-tests-ghaem-100-space-launcher-state-tv-2022-11-05/>

Unrest in Iran caused by US in order to disrupt JCPOA talks, army commander says

Sputnik International, November 07, 2022

The riots in Iran were part of the United States' plan to disrupt negotiations on the restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the army commander Maj. Gen. Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi said on Monday. "The recent unrest in Iran was part of US efforts to disrupt the negotiations in Vienna [on the JCPOA]," Mousavi was quoted as saying by Iranian state media. Earlier in the day, Iran's special services intercepted a cargo with money and intelligence equipment from Saudi Arabia, which was intended for rioters, Mousavi added.

<https://sputniknews.com/20221107/unrest-in-iran-caused-by-us-in-order-to-disrupt-jcpoa-talks-army-commander-says-1103864505.html>

Military chief: Iran ready to share defense experiences with Iraq

Fars News Agency, November 08, 2022

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said that Tehran is ready to transfer its experiences in defense and anti-terrorism fields to Iraq. Maj. Gen. Baqeri made the remark in a Monday phone call with new Iraqi Minister of Defense Thabet Muhammad Al-Abbasi. "The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys high potentialities and capabilities in various fields, including the fight against terrorism and defense industry and can transfer this experience and knowledge to the Iraqi armed forces to help bolster security in Iraq," the Iranian commander noted. "The level of the two countries' military relations does not conform to my expectations. The two countries' people and armed forces must have excellent relations with each other and [realization of] this issue is among important responsibilities of me and you," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010817000091/Military-Chief-Iran-Ready-Share-Defense-Experiences-wih-Iraq>

Iran says insists on 'four topics' in nuclear talks

Gulf News, November 08, 2022

Iran said on Tuesday that, in its protracted talks with major powers to restore its tattered 2015 nuclear deal, it is insisting on resolving "four topics". The four points, addressed by the government spokesman, relate to US assurances a new deal will hold, relief from punishing sanctions, and to the UN monitoring of Iranian sites. "As

Iran's president (Ebrahim Raisi) has said, we have pursued and will pursue four topics in the negotiations," the spokesman, Ali Bahadori-Jahromi, told a press briefing.

<https://gulfnews.com/world/mena/iran-says-insists-on-four-topics-in-nuclear-talks-1.90374676>

Putin aide in Iran for security consultations over 'western interference'

The National News, November 09, 2022

Nikolai Patrushev, a powerful Russian aide to President Vladimir Putin, visited Iran on Wednesday for security talks, Russian state news agency Tass reported. "In Tehran, Patrushev will hold scheduled Russian-Iranian security consultations with the participation of security council experts and representatives from both countries' ministries and agencies," Tass said, citing the Russian security council's press service. The visit by Mr Patrushev, who is secretary of the Russian security council, to the region comes as scrutiny surrounds Iran for sending drones to Russia that are being used in its invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iran/2022/11/09/putin-aide-in-iran-for-security-consultations-over-western-interference/>

Israeli F-35s escort US nuclear bombers as regional tensions rage

Sputnik International, November 10, 2022

The olive branch extended to Iran by the Biden administration in 2021 as Washington sought to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action turned into a worthless fig leaf this year after the nations failed to find a compromise, with

the US joining Israeli drills simulating attacks on the Islamic Republic's peaceful nuclear energy program. A pair of Israeli Air Force Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II fighter jets escorted US Air Force Boeing B-52 Stratofortress bombers on Thursday as they passed through Israel on route out of the Persian Gulf.

<https://sputniknews.com/20221110/watch-israeli-f-35s-escort-us-nuclear-bombers-as-regional-tensions-rage-1103994358.html>

Iran says it has built hypersonic ballistic missile -Tasnim

Reuters, November 10, 2022

Iran has built a hypersonic ballistic missile, the semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted the Revolutionary Guards' aerospace commander as saying, in remarks likely to heighten concerns about Iranian missile capabilities.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-it-has-built-hypersonic-ballistic-missile-tasnim-2022-11-10/>

Iran touts hypersonic missile as UN atomic watchdog says uranium enrichment increases

The National News, November 10, 2022

Iran has developed a hypersonic missile capable of penetrating all defence systems, the commander of its Revolutionary Guard's aerospace unit said on Thursday. The announcement came on the same day that UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Iran had once again stepped up production of highly enriched uranium. Experts say Iran has enough highly enriched uranium to create a nuclear bomb, if it so desired. The IAEA also re-iterated in a recent report that Iran

had yet to co-operate in an inquiry into unexplained traces of uranium at three sites, which experts say points to a cover up of nuclear activities.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iran/2022/11/10/iran-says-it-has-built-a-hypersonic-ballistic-missile/>

Iran envoy to UN says IAEA should act independently

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 10, 2022

Iran's Permanent Envoy to the United Nations Amir Saeed Iravani said that the UN nuclear watchdog should not be under control of big powers. The Iranian envoy was speaking at the UN General Assembly plenary meeting on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for 2021 on Wednesday. He said that nuclear energy plays a key role in the socioeconomic development of countries. That's an issue which has been clearly mentioned in the charter of the IAEA, and obliges the agency to help its member states in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, Iravani added. He noted that the IAEA's duty to verify member states' activities and concerns over nuclear proliferation should not turn into a hurdle in the way of peacefully using nuclear energy as an inalienable right of the member states.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84937849/Iran-envoy-to-UN-says-IAEA-should-act-independently>

Military chief: using Iranian drones in Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan dispute unacceptable to Tehran

Fars News Agency, November 10, 2022

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said that

Tehran has asked Dushanbe not to employ Iranian drones in the border clashes with neighboring Kyrgyzstan. Maj. Gen. Bagheri held a telephone conversation with the Kyrgyz Defense Minister General Lieutenant Baktybek Bekbolotov on Wednesday. The chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces noted that Tehran is ready to peacefully resolve the border dispute between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Pointing to the issue of delivering Iranian drones to Tajikistan, he stated that "Ababil 2" drones have only reconnaissance capability and are not equipped with weapons and offensive equipment. "The Iranian Armed Forces have always emphasized that the Tajik Armed Forces should not use 'Ababil 2' drones in the border disputes against Tajikistan," the top commander stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010819000240/Military-Chief-Using-Iranian-Drones-in-Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-Dispute>

Iran agrees to visit by UN's nuclear watchdog

The National News, November 11, 2022

Iran has reportedly agreed to a visit by the UN's nuclear watchdog this month as the International Atomic Energy Agency seeks answers on Tehran's continued uranium enrichment. The watchdog on Wednesday said Iran was further expanding its production of enriched uranium above levels prohibited under the abandoned 2015 nuclear deal. It has enough highly-enriched uranium to produce a nuclear bomb. The IAEA is set to hold its next quarterly board meeting next week, where western powers are expected to push for a resolution urging Tehran to co-operate. Concerns over Iran's

nuclear capabilities were further raised on Wednesday after it announced it had developed a hypersonic missile able to breach "all" missile defence systems.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iran/2022/11/11/iran-agrees-to-visit-by-uns-nuclear-watchdog/>

What is a hypersonic missile and which countries say they have them?

The National News, November 11, 2022

Iran claims it has built a hypersonic missile, sparking concern across the international community. Although Tehran has not presented evidence to show a successful test of the advanced superfast weapons, Iran's opponents are concerned about a major escalation in arms. The announcement came after Iran said that it had sent drones to Russia, but did so before the Ukraine war began in February.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iran/2022/11/11/what-is-a-hypersonic-missile-and-which-countries-say-they-have-them/>

IAEA watchdog expresses concern over Iran's nuclear programme

Qatar Tribune, November 11, 2022

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has expressed concern about the uncertainty around Iran's nuclear programme. "The longer the current situation persists, the greater such uncertainty becomes," IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said on Thursday. The agency has not been able to access data from its monitoring systems in Iran since the beginning of 2021, and last June it had to dismantle 27 cameras. Even with a return to

the earlier inspection mode, information would still be lacking, it said.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/30271/world/iaea-watchdog-expresses-concern-over-irans-nuclear-programme>

Iran's drones are unlikely to help Russia win in Ukraine — and could backfire for Tehran

CNBC, November 11, 2022

Iran's drones have been used to brutal effect on Ukraine's civilian centers and critical energy infrastructure, as Russia's bombardment appears intent on making parts of the country unlivable as winter sets in. They have also been increasingly deployed by Russia's military as it runs low on its more advanced weaponry like guided missiles. The reason for those shipments centers on Iran pursuing strengthened relations with a key strategic ally, Russia; helping Moscow in its effort to combat Western hegemony; and enhancing its own role as a major weapons exporter.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/11/iran-drones-are-unlikely-to-help-russia-win-the-war-in-ukraine.html?&qsearchterm=defense>

FM: Iran's weapons trade not included in UNSC resolution 2231

Fars News Agency, November 12, 2022

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian once again rejected the Western states' claims over his country's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war, but meantime said that the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 is not restricting Tehran's exports and imports of weapons. Amir Abdollahian made the remarks during

a Friday phone call with his Bulgarian counterpart Nikolay Milov. The Iranian diplomat dismissed Western allegations that Tehran has been providing drones to Moscow to use in the Ukraine war. "According to Security Council Resolution 2231, we do not have a ban on the export and import of weapons, but we have not given any weapons to Russia to use in the Ukraine war," he stated. The foreign minister added that Tehran also opposes the expansion of NATO in the region.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010821000313/FM-Iran's-Weapons-Trade-N-Included-in-UNSC-Reslin-223>

As EU sanctions come, Macron says Iran 'revolution' harms nuclear deal prospects

Reuters, November 12, 2022

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday characterised the protests in Iran as a "revolution" and said the crackdown by Iranian leaders would make it harder to reach agreement on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. Macron also said he favoured tougher action against Iranian officials over the crackdown. Speaking after he met four Iranian women activists over the weekend, Macron told France Inter radio that more European Union sanctions would be adopted in reaction to Tehran's actions.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/frances-macron-children-irans-revolution-carrying-out-their-own-revolution-2022-11-14/>

One killed in Iranian missile strike on Kurdish dissidents' HQ

The National News, November 14, 2022

At least one person was killed when several Iranian missiles struck the headquarters of

the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) in northern Iraq on Monday morning. Ten others were wounded, said the mayor of the city of Koya, Tariq Haydari. Koya is near Erbil, the regional capital of Iraq's self-ruled Kurdistan region. Mr Haydari put the number of missiles at five. The casualty figures are likely to increase, he said. Tehran confirmed the strike in a brief statement carried by the semi-official Fars news agency. Iran released video of the strikes through its semi-official news agency Tasnim.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2022/11/14/missiles-strike-kurdistan-democratic-party-of-iran-in-erbil-koya-district/>

US condemns Iran strikes against Kurdish dissidents in Iraq

The National News, November 14, 2022

The US has condemned Iran strikes against Kurdish dissidents in northern Iraq on Monday that killed at least one person. Tehran hit the headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) outside the cities of Erbil and Sulaimaniyah in Iraq's self-ruled Kurdistan region with missiles, artillery fire and drones. At least one person was killed and 10 others wounded, local officials said.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2022/11/15/us-condemns-iran-strikes-against-kurdish-dissidents-in-iraq/>

Top commander: Enemy's drones in crosshairs

Fars News Agency, November 14, 2022

Commander of the Iranian Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi underlined Tehran's high military capabilities and deterrence power, and warned enemies that

their drones are within the range of the country's advanced air defense system 'Bavar-373'. Maj. Gen. Mousavi stated that development of the highly advanced defense system was a great achievement which required a combination of knowledge and complicated technology. "The hegemony of Western media prevents Iran from showing its defensive achievements to the world," he added. The senior commander noted that the 'Bavar 373' system is capable of targeting offensive drones at a range of 304km.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010823000182/Top-Commander-Enemy's-Drones-in-Crosshairs>

IRGC pounds terrorists' positions in Iraq's Kurdistan

Fars News Agency, November 14, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) conducted a fresh round of military strikes on anti-Iran terror groups in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region with in a barrage of missile and drone attacks. The IRGC's Ground Force smashed the the strongholds of terror groups in Kurdistan region in Northern Iraq on Monday, with ballistic missiles and suicide drones. Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour gave details of the fresh round of military operation, saying his forces are cautious to prevent any collateral damage. He added that attacks on the positions of terrorists based in Northern Iraq involved the strongholds that were away from centers of population.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010823000252/IRGC-Pounds-Terrorists'-Positions-in-Iraq's-Kurdistan>

Iran FM, EU's borrell discuss JCPOA on phone

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 15, 2022

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell discussed the negotiations aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and removing sanctions against the country. Those negotiations began in April 2021, three years after the US pulled out of the nuclear deal and threw it into disarray. The talks, however, have been stopped for several months now over what Iran calls a lack of political decision by the United States to return to its commitments under the accord. Amirabdollahian and Borrell held their talks on phone Monday night. They also talked about Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84943206/Iran-FM-EU-s-Borrell-discuss-JCPOA-on-phone>

Iran terms Israel as main obstacle to creating ME free of WMD

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 15, 2022

The ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations described the Zionist regime of Israel as the main obstacle to creating a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. "Such baseless accusations against Iran are raised in a situation where the main threat and obstacle to creating a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, namely, Israel, is provenly equipped with all types of these inhumane weapons," Amir Saied Irvani

said addressing the Third Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84943414/Iran-terms-Israel-as-main-obstacle-to-creating-ME-free-of-WMD>

Iraq

Biden blames inflation on 'war in Iraq' in latest gaffe

The National News, November 02, 2022

US President Joe Biden made another gaffe on Tuesday, briefly mixing up the war in Ukraine with that in Iraq. Speaking at a campaign event in Florida about inflation, Mr Biden, who turns 80 this month, referred initially to Iraq instead of Ukraine. "They talk about inflation ... inflation is a worldwide problem right now because of a war in Iraq and the impact on oil and what Russia's doing. I mean, excuse me, the war in Ukraine," Mr Biden said.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2022/11/01/biden-blames-inflation-on-war-in-iraq-in-latest-gaffe/>

Iraqi maimed in reform protests saddened by Iran-allies return to government

The National News, November 02, 2022

Haider Al Mirjan says the life-changing injuries he sustained during the October 2019 pro-reform protests were a sacrifice made in vain as the parties he was rallying against solidify their hold under the new government. Like other protesters, Mr Al Mirjan says he is disappointed and frustrated about the makeup of the new government formed on October 22, in which Iran-backed political factions made

a significant comeback. “The day when this government was endorsed by the parliament was a gloomy and miserable one for all of us,” Mr Al Mirjan told The National from Germany, where he lives as a political refugee.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2022/11/02/new-iraq-government-too-close-to-iran-pro-reform-activists-say/>

Ex-intel chief talabany warns Iraqi Kurds risk civil conflict leaving Turkey, Iran room to meddle

Al-Monitor, November 03, 2022

Iraqi Kurdistan is gripped by turbulence as it comes under mounting aggression from Iran and Turkey, and as Baghdad seeks to wrest full control of its oil and gas industry. Rampant corruption and a lack of economic opportunity are prompting a rising number of young Iraqi Kurds to flee the country. As if things were not bad enough, the two largest political parties — the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by Massoud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) that was founded by Iraq’s first post-war president, the late Jalal Talabani — are quarreling again over power and money, prompting worries of a resurgence of the civil conflict that convulsed the region in the mid-1990s.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/ex-intel-chief-talabany-warns-iraqi-kurds-risk-civil-conflict-leaving-turkey-iran#ixzz7lGO31Fv7>

Plans to reintroduce military service in Iraq divide opinion

The National News, November 07, 2022

Plans to bring back military conscription in Iraq have sparked controversy in a nation

that has endured decades of war. Legislation was prepared and approved by the previous caretaker government in August last year and sent to parliament. But it was delayed by the political stalemate that followed elections two months later. The first reading for the bill was scheduled for Sunday, but postponed until Tuesday because of widespread objections inside the legislative body, mainly from Shiite factions in the Iran-backed Co-ordination Framework, which controls nearly 150 seats in the 329-seat parliament.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2022/11/07/plans-to-re-introduce-military-service-in-iraq-divides-opinion/>

Saddam Hussein’s grandnephew handed to Iraq over alleged ISIS links

The National News, November 07, 2022

Lebanon has handed over a grandnephew of former dictator Saddam Hussein to Iraq after he was accused of involvement in the Camp Speicher massacre by ISIS militants in 2014, security sources said. Abdullah Yasser Sabawi, the grandson of Saddam's half-brother Sabawi Ibrahim Al Tikriti, was detained in the Lebanese city of Jbeil in August and was extradited on November 9, a security official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "He is accused of having been a member of ISIS and having participated in the Speicher massacre", in which as many as 1,700 air force cadets were executed by the terrorist group, said the security official.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2022/11/14/saddam-husseins-grandnephew-handed-to-iraq-over-alleged-isis-links/>

Iraqi prime minister to head intelligence service

Al-Monitor, November 07, 2022

Iraq's Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Mohammed Shia al-Sudani visited the headquarters of the Intelligence Service on Nov. 6, one day after it was announced that he will be the one managing this service temporarily instead of Raed Jouhi, whom former Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi appointed on July 27. Sudani's government justified Jouhi's dismissal by saying that it is part of the instructions to cancel all decisions made by the previous caretaker government. While reports described what happened as "political exclusion" with legal cover, Sudani replied to these claims on Nov. 1, saying that "this measure is not part of a policy to exclude political parties or settle scores but rather to implement the Federal Court's decision."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/iraqi-prime-minister-head-intelligence-service#ixzz7IGOGuNYq>

Defense minister discusses with the Chinese ambassador ways to develop bilateral relations

Iraqi News Agency, November 08, 2022

Defense Minister Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi discussed, on Tuesday, with the Chinese ambassador to Iraq (Cui Wei), the development of bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields. "Defense Minister Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi received in his office at the ministry's headquarters the Chinese

ambassador to Iraq (Cui Wei) and his accompanying delegation, in addition to the presence of a number of senior commanders of the ministry." the Ministry of Defense said in a statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). The statement added, "The meeting witnessed a discussion of bilateral relations between the Republic of Iraq and the People's Republic of China, and their development in various fields."

<https://ina.iq/eng/22844-defense-minister-discusses-with-the-chinese-ambassador-ways-to-develop-bilateral-relations.html>

Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq border target Iranian fuel convoy

Al-Monitor, November 09, 2022

Tension is rising again between Iranian-linked armed factions and the US after airstrikes near the Syrian-Iraqi border targeted a fuel convoy shortly before midnight on Tuesday. No one claimed responsibility for the airstrikes, which killed more than ten people. Iraqi officials claim that the vehicles were carrying a legal shipment of fuel from Iran to Lebanon. Some reports claim that munitions were believed to be hidden in some of the vehicles. The attack reportedly occurred shortly after the first part of the convoy of over 20 vehicles entered Syrian territory from Iraq, near the city of Albu Kamal across from the Iraqi city of al-Qaim.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/airstrikes-syria-iraq-border-target-iranian-fuel-convoy#ixzz7IGOWc2sk>

SMC: 5 terrorists eliminated in an air strike in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, November 12, 2022

The Security Media Cell announced that 5 terrorists were killed in an air strike in Kirkuk Governorate. The cell stated, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Joint Operations Command is continuing to develop plans aimed at pursuing the remnants of ISIS terrorist gangs, backed by a great intelligence effort. Within the sector of the controlling headquarters of the Tuz Khurmatu operations in Kirkuk, to inspect the location of the air strike carried out by the Iraqi Air Force's F-16 aircraft, according to accurate information and follow-up from the Counter-Terrorism Service and the Iraqi Intelligence Service, and with technical and scientific work and continuous efforts of the targeting cell of the Joint Operations Command, the Counter-Terrorism Service and the Intelligence Service The National Assembly, on the outskirts of Bir Ahmed village, Kirkuk governorate.

<https://ina.iq/eng/22912-smc-5-terrorists-eliminated-in-an-air-strike-in-kirkuk.html>

One person killed, 8 injured in the missile attack on Koya

Iraqi News Agency, November 14, 2022

Minister of Health of Kurdistan Regional Government, Saman Al-Barzanji, announced on Monday the toll of martyrs and wounded in the missile attack on Koya district in Erbil. Al-Barzanji said, in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "one person martyred and 8 others wounded due to the missile attack on Koya district in Erbil." For his part, the mayor of

Koya district, Tariq Haidari, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "5 missiles fell this morning targeting the headquarters of the Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party," explaining that "3 of them landed at 8:49 minutes, and after 5 minutes a missile landed and 20 minutes later the last rocket landed."

<https://ina.iq/eng/22946-one-person-killed-8-injured-in-the-missile-attack-on-koya.html>

Iran renews assaults on Iraq's Kurdistan region

Al-Monitor, November 14, 2022

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) bombed the Koysinjaq area in both Erbil and Sulaimaniyah provinces on the morning of Nov. 14. At least five rockets hit both sides of the border between the two provinces, injuring many residents, according to the local health authorities. Two deaths have been reported so far. IRGC attacks in the Kurdistan Region have become frequent in the past few months, as the protests in Iran continue and the Iranian authorities accused some of the Kurdish opposition located in northern Iraq of being involved in the protests in Iran. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces, said Oct. 16, "We will never accept that 3,000 armed men on the other side of the Iranian border have factories to produce bombs. We will carry on with the operations targeting them, and there will be large-scale operations," in reference to the Iranian opposition in Iraqi Kurdistan.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/iran-renews-assaults-iraqs-kurdistan-region#ixzz71G0mOO4U>

Al-Araji stresses the importance of the international community being cohesive against terrorism

Iraqi News Agency, November 15, 2022

National Security Adviser Qasim Al-Araji stressed today, Tuesday, the importance of the international community being cohesive against terrorism. A statement issued by the media office of the National Security Adviser and received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "Al-Araji received in his office today, Tuesday, the American ambassador in Baghdad, Alina Romanowski, and they discussed the latest political and security developments in Iraq and the region, and the continuation of cooperation and partnership in the field of combating terrorism, as well as Looking forward to ending the file of the Syrian al-Hol camp and the need to dismantle it, to prevent the emergence of a new generation of terrorist Daesh. During the meeting, Al-Araji stressed the importance of the international community being cohesive against terrorism, noting that the recent bombing incident in Istanbul is a terrorist act, and it is necessary to stand against terrorism and pursue it wherever it is, until it is eliminated, according to the statement.

<https://ina.iq/eng/22976-al-araji-stresses-the-importance-of-the-international-community-being-cohesive-against-terrorism.html>

Israel

Israel must come clean about its nuclear arsenal

Albawaba, November 01, 2022

Palestinian foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki says Israel must come clean about its

nuclear weapons. He said it must join the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). He also called on the Jewish state to destroy its nuclear stockpile and establish a Middle East nuclear free zone.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/israel-must-come-clean-about-its-nuclear-arsenal-1497107>

Mikati says US guarantees will protect border deal if Netanyahu wins elections

Naharnet, November 02, 2022

Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said Wednesday that U.S. guarantees would protect a maritime border deal with Israel even if Israel's ex-PM Benjamin Netanyahu wins a majority in elections. Veteran politician Netanyahu appeared on the cusp of returning to power Wednesday, with initial election results showing his alliance with the extreme right taking a narrow lead. "We are close to a big victory," he told supporters of his right-wing Likud party at a rally early Wednesday.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/293442-mikati-says-us-guarantees-will-protect-border-deal-if-netanyahu-wins-elections>

Border deal cannot easily be cancelled if Netanyahu wins

Naharnet, November 03, 2022

Lebanon has secured "American guarantees" that its maritime border deal with Israel cannot be easily scrapped should Benjamin Netanyahu return to the Israeli premiership, Beirut's chief negotiator said. Israel and Lebanon struck a U.S.-brokered sea border agreement last month that opens up lucrative offshore gas fields for the neighbors that remain technically at war. Hawkish former Israeli premier Netanyahu,

who on Wednesday appeared on the cusp of returning to power, has staunchly opposed the deal, dismissing it as an "illegal ploy" and warning he would not be bound by its terms.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/293477-bou-saab-border-deal-cannot-easily-be-cancelled-if-netanyahu-wins>

Israel kills 2 more Palestinians as violence continues to rise

Daily Saba, November 03, 2022

Israeli forces killed two more Palestinians, one in the occupied West Bank and another in Jerusalem, as the recent uptick in violence continued to climb Thursday. The Palestinian Health Ministry said a man, identified as Daoud Mahmoud Khalil Rayan, 42, was killed during an Israeli military raid in the village of Beit Duqqu in the occupied West Bank. Rayan was killed after an altercation broke out between the Palestinians and Israeli forces that raided the home of a man accused of carrying out a car-ramming attack at a checkpoint near the city of Modiin on Wednesday. The accused, 54-year-old Habas Abdel Hafeez Yousef Rayan man was shot dead at the site of the reported attack that seriously wounded a soldier.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/mid-east/israel-kills-2-more-palestinians-as-violence-continues-to-rise>

Israel strikes Gaza in intense bombing raids

Albawaba, November 04, 2022

Israeli military planes have launched strikes on a number of positions on Gaza early Friday morning. These Israeli military

actions are trending all over the social media with news being posted and reposted of the strikes. There is some commentary on social media posts and it shows the Israeli military strikes are intense.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/israel-strikes-gaza-intense-bombing-raids-1497464>

Netanyahu ally: I believe he'll strike in Iran if nuclear talks fail, US doesn't act

The Times of Israel, November 04, 2022

A longtime ally of opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said he believes the presumed incoming prime minister will order a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities if the US does not secure a new nuclear deal with Tehran and fails to take action itself. Speaking to Channel 12 news on Friday, Tzachi Hanegbi said that in such a situation, Netanyahu "will act, in my assessment, to destroy the nuclear facilities in Iran." Hanegbi, a longtime Likud MK and former minister who is not expected to make it into the next Knesset (after placing 46 on the party's slate in primaries), has made threats of a potential Israeli strike in the past to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-ally-i-believe-hell-strike-in-iran-if-nuclear-talks-fail-us-doesnt-act/>

Russia said to threaten retaliation if Israel supplies defense aid to Ukraine

The Times of Israel, November 04, 2022

Russia has warned Israel that it will retaliate if Jerusalem sends defensive weapons to Ukraine, according to US media. Citing two unnamed sources familiar with Russian

policy, Bloomberg news reported that Russia would respond if Israel passed along air-defense systems directly or through a third party to Ukraine. The report did not specify what action Moscow might take. Jerusalem has seemed to warm to the idea of supplying defensive equipment as Iran supplies the Kremlin with attack drones. Prime Minister Yair Lapid told Ukraine's foreign minister in October that Moscow's ties with Tehran put "the whole world in danger." However, the coming change of government in Israel leaves future policy under question. Benjamin Netanyahu, who is expected to form the next government, has been known for his good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-said-to-threaten-retaliation-if-israel-supplies-defense-aid-to-ukraine/>

Israel fires missiles at Hamas military training camp in Gaza in reply to rocket attack

Arab News, November 04, 2022

A Hamas military training camp on Friday came under missile attack in the first Israeli bombardment of Gaza for three months. Palestinian sources said Israeli warplanes fired around 13 missiles at a site in Maghazi used by Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. The early morning strike was carried out in response to the launching on Thursday evening of three rockets from Gaza toward Israeli towns. No injuries or damage were reported in Thursday's attack and no Palestinian group has claimed responsibility for it. Sources said security chiefs in Israel believed the rockets had been fired from Gaza in retaliation for the same day killing of the leading Islamic

Jihad movement member, Farouk Salameh, during an Israeli military operation.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2193711/middle-east>

Iran's weapons are slowly dragging Israel to Ukraine's defense

The Japan Times, November 05, 2022

After months of reluctance, Israel is softening its opposition to providing military aid to Ukraine, as Iran's deepening support for Russia's invasion evolves into a threat to Israeli security. A turning point came late last month, when Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz took a long-requested call from his Ukrainian counterpart Oleksii Reznikov. Israel committed to help Ukraine develop an early-warning system, similar to one that alerts Israelis to incoming fire from the Gaza Strip. Gantz also agreed to assess Ukraine's air-defense alert needs, though Israel is declining to provide Ukraine the means to shoot down incoming drones and missiles.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/11/05/world/israel-ukraine-defense/>

Gantz: Israel doesn't have production capacity to supply air defense systems to Ukraine

The Jerusalem Post, November 09, 2022

Israel does not have the production capabilities to supply Ukraine with air defense systems, outgoing Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Tuesday. "It is clear that even if it decided that we change our policy, it is impossible to empty our supply of air defense systems," Gantz told reporters. "We are checking every day what

can be done and how we can expand our aid, but we must not forget that NATO stands behind Ukraine.” Israel’s air defense systems, including the Iron Dome and Arrow systems, are jointly produced with the United States. Last year Washington passed a \$1 billion USD funding bill to replace the Tamir missile interceptors used in Iron Dome batteries after they were used to intercept the over 4,300 missiles fired by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad during Operation Guardian of the Walls in May 2021.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-721882>

Netanyahu pressed on supplying weapons to Ukraine

Al-Monitor, November 09, 2022

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was one of the first world leaders to congratulate Benjamin Netanyahu on his election victory, first on Twitter and then by phone. The call took place Nov. 7 and was friendly. Reports said Zelenskyy asked for Israeli arms and invited Netanyahu to visit Kyiv. Netanyahu reportedly promised to examine the arms issue once formally entering office. After this conversation, Zelenskyy tweeted again: “I had a phone call with Netanyahu. I congratulated him on winning the elections and wished him a successful formation of the new government. I expressed hope that the level of Ukrainian-Israeli interaction will correspond to the security challenges facing our countries.” Over the past few months Zelenskyy has often expressed his disappointment over Israel’s refusal to supply Ukraine with Iron Dome batteries against missiles and other weapons.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/netanyahu->

[pressed-supplying-weapons-ukraine#ixzz7lGtVUqzk](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-11-09/ty-article/in-a-first-israeli-general-opens-up-about-use-of-armed-drones/00000184-5c9d-daa9-adf5-fdddbb60000)

In a first, Israeli general opens up about use of armed drones

Haaretz, November 09, 2022

Israel on Wednesday described what has been an open secret for two decades – that it has used drones not just for surveillance but also in strikes within the country, against Palestinian militants in Gaza, and possibly targets as far away as Iran or Sudan. Israeli censors in July permitted publication of information about the armed drones and the chief of Israel’s artillery corps – which runs the drones together with the air force – used his speech at an industry forum to give what he described as a first public account of the armed versions of the pilotless planes. Whereas previously he could only offer hints, “today I can speak of this openly,” Brigadier-General Neri Horowitz told the annual UVID Drone Tech conference hosted by Israel Defense magazine in Tel Aviv.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-11-09/ty-article/in-a-first-israeli-general-opens-up-about-use-of-armed-drones/00000184-5c9d-daa9-adf5-fdddbb60000>

About 70,000 bullets, 70 grenades stolen from army base in Golan heights

Haaretz, November 12, 2022

About 70,000 5.56 mm bullets and 70 grenades were stolen from an Israel Defense Forces base in the Golan Heights overnight Saturday, the military reported. Police confirmed that the Tznohar base was broken into and robbed of weaponry, and that six suspects have been arrested in connection with the case thus far.

According to inventory counts carried out at the base during the night, about 70,000 5.56 mm bullets and 70 grenades were taken from the site, among other things. The military reported that “The circumstances of the theft are being investigated by the Military Police, and at the end of the investigation, the findings will be handed over to the Military Advocate General for examination.”

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-11-12/ty-article/.premium/weapons-stolen-from-israeli-military-base-army-says/00000184-6bc8-d89b-a9c4-7fce42d40000>

Ukrainian army spotted using Israeli-made armored vehicles

The Défense Post, November 14, 2022

The Ukrainian Army was spotted using several Israeli-made armoured vehicles for the first time in the newly-liberated city of Kherson. A Twitter account that tracks weapons and equipment supplied to Ukraine showed photos of the Gaia Amir Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles used in the invasion. They were parked along residential buildings in an unspecified village in the Kherson region and are believed to have taken a large part in Ukraine’s retaking of the city. While there is no information on how these vehicles appeared in the war-torn nation, Israel has made it clear that it would not supply military aid to Kyiv. The Middle Eastern country only agreed to send humanitarian aid and early warning systems due to “operational restrictions.”

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/11/14/ukrainian-army-israel-armored-vehicles/>

Under secretary of defense for policy Dr. Colin Kahl’s travel to Israel, Bahrain, and United Arab Emirates

US Department of Defense, November 15, 2022

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl departed for international travel to the Middle East, November 14. He arrived in Israel today with follow-on visits to Bahrain and United Arab Emirates this week. In Israel, Under Secretary Kahl will meet with senior members of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, lead the U.S. delegation to the Defense Policy Advisory Group to discuss shared security interests, and visit some of Israel’s most innovative defense technology companies to see demonstrations of cutting-edge emerging and critical capabilities.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3218343/under-secretary-of-defense-for-policy-dr-colin-ka-hls-travel-to-israel-bahrain-a/>

Israel accelerating Arrow-4, sensor development due to Iranian hypersonic threat

Breaking Defense, November 15, 2022

While Israeli intelligence is trying to confirm Iran’s recent declaration that it has successfully developed a hypersonic ballistic missile, the Israeli Defense Forces have already been anticipating such an announcement — and in the last two months have begun accelerating efforts to develop measures to counter the potential new threat, sources say. Concerns about hypersonic weapons are not new, and Israel started work some years ago on developing the advanced Arrow-4 interceptor, once it

became clear that Iran was working to develop more versions of long-range missiles, including cruise missiles. But once Israeli intelligence confirmed that hypersonic missiles were on the wish list for Iran and assessed that Teheran was trying to get relevant technologies, especially from North Korea, a new push began to counter that threat.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2022/11/israel-accelerating-arrow-4-sensor-development-due-to-iranian-hypersonic-threat/>

Jordan

World defence contractors in Jordan's Aqaba

Albawaba, November 01, 2022

A premier international defence exhibition has opened in Jordan's Aqaba beach resort. The Special Operations Forces Exhibition and Conference (SOFEX) has become a household name for Jordan and in attracting international defence contractors. The Middle East Special Operations Commanders Conference (MESOC) kicked off in Aqaba on Monday, featuring representatives from 38 countries, in addition to more than 300 armament and defence contractors according to the Jordan Times.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/sofex-world-defence-contractors-jordans-aqaba-1497127>

Jordan buys 10 US military training helicopters

The National News, November 02, 2022

The Jordanian military signed a deal with US company Bell Textron to buy 10

training helicopters at a military exhibition in the port city of Aqaba opened by King Abdullah, the official news agency reported. It said Jordan's chief of staff, Maj Gen Youssef Al Huneiti and a Textron executive signed the agreement for 10 Bell 505 helicopters on Tuesday in the presence of the US ambassador in Jordan, Henry Wooster. The helicopters will be delivered with "a comprehensive array of computerised training equipment", the agency said, but gave no date of delivery or the cost of the purchase.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2022/11/02/jordan-buys-10-us-military-training-helicopters/>

Kuwait

Kuwait calls for Gulf military alert amid challenging times

Kuwait Times, November 10, 2022

It is imperative for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to put their militaries on a raised level of alert given the turbulent turn of events around the world, Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah said on Tuesday. Underlining the need to ratchet up military capabilities within the six-nation bloc, the Kuwaiti minister told a gathering of his GCC counterparts in the Saudi capital that more defense cooperation would be instrumental in keeping potential foreign threats at bay.

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwait-calls-for-gulf-military-alert-amid-challenging-times/>

Lebanon

Hezbollah mad at Bassil for disclosing talks with Nasrallah

Naharnet, November 01, 2022

Hezbollah is deeply dismayed by the bragging of Free Patriotic Movement Jebran Bassil about refusing to bow to Hezbollah's pressure regarding the presidential election, reports said. Bassil had met Wednesday with Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who reportedly asked him to support al-Marada leader Suleiman Franjiyeh for presidency, but media reports revealed that the latter refused. "Bassil bragged to the FPM political bureau about refusing to endorse the nomination of Franjiah," ad-Diyar quoted "credible" sources as saying.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/293416-report-hezbollah-mad-at-bassil-for-disclosing-talks-with-nasrallah>

Lebanon-Israel deal a landmark but with limits, experts say

Naharnet, November 03, 2022

U.S. mediators tried for more than a decade to broker a maritime border agreement between Lebanon and Israel. Finally, the elements fell into place for a landmark deal between two countries officially — and sometimes actively — at war since 1948. Russia's war in Ukraine this year and Europe's resulting energy crisis have increased demand for natural gas, which the deal will enable Lebanon and Israel to extract from the Mediterranean Sea. At the same time, Lebanon's spiraling economic crisis, impending Israeli elections and rising tensions between Israel and

Hezbollah added more incentive to finalize the deal.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/293472-lebanon-israel-deal-a-landmark-but-with-limits-experts-say>

Qassem says Hezbollah not seeking new system in Lebanon

Naharnet, November 07, 2022

Hezbollah deputy chief Sheikh Naim Qassem has said that his Iran-backed party is not seeking a change of the political system in Lebanon. "During this period, Hezbollah has not called for amending or changing the political system related to the Taif Accord, in light of the sensitivities present in Lebanon, and because the problem in the first place is not in amending it or not but rather in implementing what was stipulated in the Taif Accord," Qassem said in an interview with Iran's FARS news agency.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/293570-qassem-says-hezbollah-not-seeking-new-system-in-lebanon>

Bou Saab says Lebanon must 'directly and publicly' talk to Syria over sea border

Naharnet, November 09, 2022

Lebanon wants direct talks to demarcate its maritime border with Syria so it can begin offshore gas exploration, weeks after reaching a similar agreement with Israel, Deputy Speaker Elias Bou Saab told AFP. The U.S.-brokered sea border deal with Israel guarantees "stability" in a volatile region, where the two enemy states seek to exploit potentially gas-rich Mediterranean waters, Bou Saab said. Lebanon now

wishes to define its maritime borders with Syria to the north, and Cyprus, to the west, to consolidate its offshore rights.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/293609-bou-saab-says-lebanon-must-directly-and-publicly-talk-to-syria-over-sea-border>

Oman

Joint Omani-British military exercise Musandam Fort 2022 begins today

Times of Oman, November 06, 2022

The joint Omani-British military exercise (Musandam Fort 2022) began this morning and will continue until November 10. This morning, in Musandam Governorate, the joint Omani-British military exercise (Musandam Fort 2022) began, represented by the Musandam Security Force and the umbrellas of the Sultan of Oman in the Royal Army of Oman with units of the Marines in the British Armed Forces, which will continue until the 10th of November.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/123144-joint-omani-british-military-exercise-musandam-fort-2022-begins-today>

Strategic and defence studies academy head receives British military official

Oman Observer, November 06, 2022

Air Vice Marshal Saleh Yahya al Maskari, Head of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies received on Sunday at Musakar Bait Al Falaj Air Marshal Martin Sampson, UK Chief of Defence Staff's Senior Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa. The two sides discussed several academic matters. They also exchanged views on various matters of mutual interest. The event was attended by Brigadier Abdullah Hamad al Harthy,

Director General of Studies and Academic Affairs at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1127987/oman/strategic-and-defence-studies-academy-head-receives-british-military-official>

Oman participates in GCC joint defence council session

Oman News Agency, November 08, 2022

The Sultanate of Oman took part today in the 19th session of the Joint Defence Council of GCC Ministers of Defence, held at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Oman's delegation was headed by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs. The Joint Defence Council's session touched on a spectrum of military matters of common interest in a bid to enhance the march of GCC military cooperation.

<https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/110684>

Oman, US organise first strategic dialogue

Times of Oman, November 09, 2022

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken received here today Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister to celebrate the Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights, signed on 20 December, 1958, as well as the long history of cooperation that began with its predecessor, the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, signed 189 years ago on 21 September, 1833. Recognizing the strength of the bilateral relations, the two sides announced the commencement of the first US-Oman

Strategic Dialogue, which will include three working groups focusing on education and cultural exchange, trade and investment, and renewable energy. The working groups intend to meet regularly and tangibly advance shared goals.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/123256-oman-us-organise-first-strategic-dialogue>

RAO Commander receives British Military Official

Oman Observer, November 09, 2022

Maj Gen Mattar Salim al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) received here on Thursday Lt Gen Ralph Wooddisse, Commander of the British Field Army. The guest and his accompanying delegation are visiting the Sultanate of Oman to attend the practical demonstration of the joint Oman-UK military drill “Khanjar Oman 2022”. The drill was conducted on the RAO training fields in the Governorate of Al Wusta. During the meeting, the two side discussed several military matters of common concern.

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1128237/oman/rao-commander-receives-british-military-official>

Qatar

Attiah inspects readiness of security forces

Qatar Tribune, November 04, 2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs HE Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah inspected the readiness of the joint special forces and the military police forces participating in securing the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

During the inspection tour, Dr Al Attiyah listened to a briefing about the readiness of land troops in securing the tournament.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/29064/front/attiah-inspects-readiness-of-security-forces>

First batch of joint hawks squadron 11 pilots graduates

Qatar Tribune, November 13, 2022

The joint squadron, which carries the Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) badge, will enable Qatari and UK pilots to train together on the latest versions of Hawk training aircraft (HAWK MK-167). These aircraft use advanced air simulation to look, feel and operate like the latest generation of fighters. The graduation was attended by Qatari Military Attaché in London Brig Ali bin Mohammed Al-Fadala, Assistant Military Attaché in London Brig (Sea) Jarallah bin Hamad Al-Nabit, and from the British side by Senior Officer of Qatar Air Programmes Air Commodore Richie Yates and Training Commander of Air Group 22 Brig Aleen Sharoks.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/30569/nation/first-batch-of-joint-hawks-squadron-11-pilots-graduates>

Defence unit against weapons of mass destruction continues security scanning for tournament stadiums

Qatar Tribune, November 14, 2022

The Defence Unit Against Weapons of Mass Destruction at the Ministry of Defence proceeded with carrying out a security scan for FIFA World Cup Qatar stadiums to ensure they are devoid of

chemical and radioactive materials in cooperation with the Security and Safety Operations Committee (SSOC) of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and friendly forces. The security scan included Al-Bayt Stadium and Stadium 974, where the state-of-the-art technologies and sophisticated devices were used in the scanning process. Defence Unit Against Weapons of Mass Destruction had commenced the security scan procedures for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums last week which included Al Janoub Stadium and Ahmed Bin Ali Stadium.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/30808/nation/defence-unit-against-weapons-of-mass-destruction-continues-security-scanning-for-tournament-stadiums>

Saudi Arabia

RSAF to participate in Eagle Eye 3 drill maneuvers in Greece

Saudi Gazette, November 01, 2022

The Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) is scheduled to participate in the Eagle Eye 3 Drill Maneuvers between Nov. 7- 20 at Souda Airbase in Greece. The participating group in the maneuvers was seen off at the King Fahd Airbase in the Western Sector by Deputy Commander of the RSAF Maj. Gen. Talal Al-Ghamdi who checked on the preparations and listened to a briefing by Commander of the participating group Col. Khalifa Al-Onzi. Maj. Gen. Al-Ghamdi said: "Eagle Eye 3 Drill Maneuvers are among the promising bilateral air drills between the two countries, where their previous editions have realized success at all strategic, operational and tactical levels." For his part, Col. Al-Onzi said that

the air force is participating with several F-15 aircrafts with all their air, technical and backing up crews.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/626562/SAUDI-ARABIA/RSAF-to-participate-in-Eagle-Eye-3-Drill-Maneuvers-in-Greece>

Saudi interest in joining brics indicates US becoming 'The Pariah Nation,' senate candidate says

Sputnik International, November 01, 2022

Saudi Arabia's interest in becoming a member of the BRICS group indicates that the United States is becoming more isolated under the current administration, LaRouche independent Senate candidate Diane Sare told Sputnik. "I don't think it's right for Biden to threaten Saudi Arabia given what we have been doing with our sanctions and the price of oil," she said. "The danger is that we do have the nuclear arsenal. I fear we have some people who have absolutely no conscience, who are prepared to unleash hideous destruction of people. That's why it's very urgent that we get off the trajectory that we are on."

<https://sputniknews.com/20221101/saudi-interest-in-joining-brics-indicates-us-becoming-the-pariah-nation-senate-candidate-says-1102905790.html>

Royal Saudi air force arrives in Greece for military drill

Saudi Gazette, November 04, 2022

Saudi Royal Air Force group participating in Falcon Eye 3 Air Drill has completed its arrival at Souda Air Base on the Greek island of Crete, where the drill scheduled to start next week. The Air Force is participating in the drill with F-15 fighter jets, along with their entire air, technical

and support crews. The Air Force group was received by Chargé d'Affairs at the Saudi Embassy Ahmed bin Hamad, Commander of the Air Force Group Colonel Khalifa Daghfak Al-Enezi, and a number of officers.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/626643/SAUDI-ARABIA/Royal-Saudi-Air-Force-arrives-in-Greece-for-military-drill>

Defense ministry organizes 2nd annual strategic communication forum

Saudi Gazette, November 05, 2022

Ministry of Defense, represented by the General Administration of Strategic Communication at the Ministry's Agency for Strategic Affairs, has organized the second annual Strategic Communication Forum, in the presence of the Assistant Minister of Defense for Executive Affairs, Dr. Khalid Bin Hussein Al-Bayari, and the Ministry's Undersecretary for Strategic Affairs Ahmed Bin Ali Asiri. The forum, which was held at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, was opened with a speech by the Director General of the General Administration of Strategic Communication, Abdulrahman Bin Sultan Al-Sultan, in which he highlighted the importance of the forum as it is one of the main initiatives to enhance internal communication in the Ministry of Defense.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/626662/SAUDI-ARABIA/Defense-Ministry-organizes-2nd-Annual-Strategic-Communication-Forum>

Saudi Arabia: F-15S fighter jet crashes, pilots survive

Khaleej Times, November 07, 2022

A Royal Saudi Air Force F-15S fighter jet crashed at the King Abdulaziz Air Base

training area due to a technical malfunction, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence Brigadier General Turki Al Maliki said on Monday. The air crew, which consisted of two officers, survived the crash after using their ejector seats, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) cited the spokesperson as saying.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/mena/saudi-arabia-f-15s-fighter-jet-crashes-pilots-survive>

Lt. Gen. Al-Ruwaili, Gen. Floros discuss cooperation in defense sector

Saudi Gazette, November 09, 2022

The Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Fayyad Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, received here Wednesday the Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff, General Konstantinos Floros. During the meeting, they discussed relations of cooperation and joint work between the two friendly countries, especially in the defense and military fields, in addition to issues of common interest.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/626817/SAUDI-ARABIA/Lt-Gen-Al-Ruwaili-Gen-Floros-discuss-cooperation-in-defense-sector>

Political will needed to keep nuclear weapons out of Middle East

The National News, November 15, 2022

Gulf Co-operation Council members will spare no effort to ensure the Middle East remains a nuclear weapons-free zone, even as countries begin exploring peaceful nuclear energy production, member states said on Monday. The decision will require the “political will” of all members, they said. Abdulaziz Al Wasil,

Saudi Arabia's permanent representative to the UN, said the kingdom supports all efforts to ensure the Middle East remains free of nuclear weapons and said Riyadh would pursue "co-operation with the countries of the region to achieve that desired objective".

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf-news/saudi-arabia/2022/11/15/gcc-political-will-needed-to-keep-nuclear-weapons-out-of-middle-east/>

Gulf cooperation council renews commitment to nuclear weapon-free middle east

Arab News, November 15, 2022

Gulf Cooperation Council member nations on Monday vowed to work together "and spare no effort" to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, while acknowledging that it will require the "political will" of all parties. They also underscored "the legitimate right of states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy," in line with the aims of the UN's landmark 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty, and called for full access to such technology, free of additional obligations.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2199901/middle-east>

Lt. Gen. Al-Ruwaili, Adm. Sir Tony review defense and military relations

Saudi Gazette, November 15, 2022

Chief of General Staff of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Lt. Gen. Fayyad Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili received Tuesday Chief of the Defense Staff of the United Kingdom Adm. Sir Tony Radakin. During the meeting, they reviewed the defense and military relations

between the two friendly countries, and a number of issues of common interest.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/627004/SAUDI-ARABIA/Lt-Gen-Al-Ruwaili-Adm-Sir-Tony-review-defense-and-military-relations>

Syria

Terrorists carry out two attacks on Syria's idlib zone in past day - reconciliation center

Sputnik International, November 02, 2022

Jabhat al-Nusra* has shelled Syria's Idlib de-escalation zone twice over the past 24 hours, Maj. Gen. Oleg Yegorov, deputy head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria, said at a briefing. "Two shelling attacks from the positions of the Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist group were registered in the Idlib de-escalation zone over the past day," Maj. Gen. Yegorov said. "There was one attack in the Idlib province, and one in Hama," he said. Maj. Gen. Yegorov said one Syrian soldier was wounded in Idlib in sniper fire.

<https://sputniknews.com/20221102/terrorists-carry-out-two-attacks-on-syrias-idlib-zone-in-past-day---reconciliation-center-1102934131.html>

Why doesn't Syria respond to Israeli military strikes?

Albawaba, November 02, 2022

Syria will not stand with its hands behind its back. Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad it will not remain silent to Israeli aggression and military strikes on his country, made hundreds of times in the past years and

which resulted in the shutting down of its airports several times.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/why-doesnt-syria-respond-israeli-military-strikes-1497236>

Syrian army foils militants' attempt to break out of US-controlled area – defense ministry

Russian News Agency, November 03, 2022

According to the Deputy Head of the Russian Center for the Reconciliation of Warring Parties in the SAR, Major General Oleg Yegorov, nine militants were found in an area 22 km west of the Jebel al-Ghurab mountain. Syria's army has repelled an attack by a group of militants who attempted to break out of the US-controlled area in the country, Oleg Yegorov, deputy chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria, said on Wednesday. "A group of militants attempted to break out of the US-controlled area on two pickup trucks and three motorcycles. Syrian government forces successfully repelled the attack. One Syrian soldier was seriously wounded," Yegorov said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1531765>

Resettlement of refugees from Syria's Rsas camp completed — Russian defense ministry

Russian News Agency, November 05, 2022

The Russian side and the Syrian authorities have completed the process of re-settling refugees from the Rsas camp in Syria's al-Suwayda governorate, Oleg Yegorov, deputy chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in

Syria (division of the Russian defense ministry), said on Friday. "The Russian Center of Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties jointly with the Syrian Ministry of Municipal Governance and Ecology have completed activities to resettle refugees and closed the Rsas camp in the al-Suwayda governorate," he said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1532607>

Sabbagh: Western countries' insistence to hold UNSC sessions on chemical file in Syria unacceptable

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 07, 2022

Syria's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh, said on Monday that the Western countries' baseless accusations against Syria on the chemical file are illegal, unprofessional and categorically rejected. "Those accusations come in the framework of the western hostile campaigns against Syria that aim to impede Syria's stability and security and destroy its capabilities," Sabbagh said at UN Security Council session on the Chemical File in Syria. He wondered why the UN Security Council insists to hold sessions about "the chemical file" in Syria without convening any session to discuss the negative impacts of the western blockade imposed on the country. "The feverish endeavors of western states to hold such debates and repeat the same accusations against Syria are unacceptable and don't suit their duties according to the UN convention on keeping international peace and security." Sabbagh added.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=289509>

Iran: holding successive UN meetings on chemical weapons file in Syria is evidence of politicization

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 08, 2022

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeed Irvani, has criticized the holding of successive meetings of the UN Security Council on the chemical weapons file in Syria despite its full cooperation in this regard, considering that this reinforces the suspicion of politicization and the repeated accusations against Damascus. Irvani's remarks came in a speech during a meeting of the UN Security Council on the "Syrian chemical file." "The holding of meetings related to this file in the Security Council at short intervals without change reinforces the suspicion of politicization and the repetition of accusations against Syria," the Iranian diplomat said. He added that "the Syrian Government's move to submit a monthly report to the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the details of the destruction of such weapons and their production facilities deserves to be appreciated."

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=289537>

Next Astana format international meeting on Syria to take place on November 22-23 – envoy

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 08, 2022

The next Astana Format international meeting on Syria will take place on November 22-23, says Russian Special Presidential Envoy on the Middle East and Africa Mikhail Bogdanov. "On November

22-23," the diplomat said, answering a question from TASS. According to Bogdanov, Iran and Turkey agreed to take part in the meeting. In addition, the meeting will be attended by representatives of Syrian sides, as well as observer states. "[Foreign Minister Sergey] Lavrov was in Amman, where they also discussed Jordan's participation as an observer state. The same is true for Iraq and Libya as Syria's neighbor states that have high interest in what is happening in Syria, because there are present issues of borders, refugees and security. We welcome these countries' participation," the diplomat said.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=289569>

Air strike on Iranian fuel tankers in Syria kills 15

The National News, November 09, 2022

An air strike late on Tuesday hit fuel tankers in Syrian territory shortly after they entered from Iraq, killing about 15 people, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The strike hit two of the eight tankers that entered from Al Qaim border crossing in western Iraq to Albu Kamal in Syria, a senior Iraqi official told The National. The vehicles were part of a 22-tanker convoy transporting fuel oil from Iran to Lebanon, he said. The convoy entered Iraq and then Syria legally in coordination between the governments.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2022/11/09/air-strike-on-iranian-fuel-tankers-in-syria-kills-15/>

Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq border target Iranian fuel convoy

Al-Monitor, November 09, 2022

Tension is rising again between Iranian-linked armed factions and the US after

airstrikes near the Syrian-Iraqi border targeted a fuel convoy shortly before midnight on Tuesday. No one claimed responsibility for the airstrikes, which killed more than ten people. Iraqi officials claim that the vehicles were carrying a legal shipment of fuel from Iran to Lebanon. Some reports claim that munitions were believed to be hidden in some of the vehicles. The attack reportedly occurred shortly after the first part of the convoy of over 20 vehicles entered Syrian territory from Iraq, near the city of Albu Kamal across from the Iraqi city of al-Qaim. Iranian state TV claimed the attack was carried out by US drones and helicopters after eight of 22 tanker trucks had crossed into Syria. Multiple reports suggest that at least some of those killed were Iranian nationals.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/airstrikes-syria-iraq-border-target-iranian-fuel-convoy#ixzz7ILLN76Ns>

Syrian government aligned forces, islamic state battle in south

Al-Monitor, November 10, 2022

Battles resumed Nov. 4 between local factions supported by the Syrian government and Islamic State cells in the city of Daraa in southern Syria with the end of the truce that began Nov. 2 to allow civilians to evacuate the affected areas. Armed clashes have broken out in several neighbourhoods of Daraa since Oct. 31 between local groups of former fighters from the Free Syrian Army supported by the Eighth Brigade, which is backed by the government and Russia, and armed groups accused of belonging to IS. The fighting has caused casualties on both sides as well

as deaths and injuries among civilians and journalists.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/syrian-government-aligned-forces-islamic-state-battle-south#ixzz7ILLgJFWn>

US failed to bring Syria down through terrorism, so it tries to do so via embargo Seyyed Nasrallah

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 11, 2022

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stressed that the Americans, who failed to topple Syria through terrorists and funding Takfiris, are trying to bring it down through economic siege and sanctions. Delivering a speech to mark Martyr's Day on Friday, Seyyed Nasrallah said: "What Syria is suffering today, after its victory over a global war on the economic and living levels, is untold suffering caused by the so-called Caesar's Law set by the Americans". "The Americans who, by their own admission, brought hundreds of thousands of takfiris, could not bring Syria down. Thus they want hunger and cold in the winter to bring it down." Sayyed Nasrallah went on to say.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=289954>

5 Syrian soldiers killed in Israeli attack on Shayrat Airport

Albawaba, November 13, 2022

Three soldiers were killed and three others injured in an Israeli attack on Syria's Shayrat military airport in Homs, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/5-syrian-soldiers-killed-israeli-attack-shayrat-airport-1498509>

Lebanon condemns Israeli 'breach of air space' after bombing in Syria

The National News, November 14, 2022

Lebanon has condemned Israel's apparent bombing of an airbase in Syria and for breaching Lebanese air space to carry out the attack. The Syrian military said the missile attack on the Shayrat airbase in Homs province killed two soldiers and injured three. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a warehouse for Iranian militias and Hezbollah at Shayrat were destroyed in the strike on Sunday.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/lebanon/2022/11/14/lebanon-condemns-israeli-breach-of-air-space-after-bombing-in-syria/>

Russian MoD: (al-Nusra) and (White Helmets) terrorists planning provocative act in Idleb

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 14, 2022

The Russian Defense Ministry has revealed preparations by "Jabhat al-Nusra" terrorists, in cooperation with the so-called "White Helmets" terrorist organization, in their areas of deployment in Idleb countryside, to fabricate "indiscriminate strikes" on civilians with the aim of accusing the Syrian Arab Army and Russian forces. Deputy Head of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim Oleg Yegorov stated in a press statement that the center had received information about preparations by "Jabhat al-Nusra" terrorists, in cooperation with the so-called "White Helmets" organization, for provocations in the de-escalation zone in

Idleb with the aim of accusing the Syrian Arab Army and Russian forces of launching indiscriminate strikes on facilities and civilians in Idleb.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=290142>

Ambassador Sabbagh: Establishing weapons of mass destruction free-zone in the Middle East requires Israel's accession to the non-proliferation treaty

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 14, 2022

Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh affirmed that the establishment nuclear weapons free-zone and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East requires Israel's accession to the non-proliferation treaty, noting that the protection umbrella provided by Western countries, led by the United States, has contributed to its unilateral possession and development of weapons of mass destruction and its refusal to subject its nuclear facilities to international supervision, which made it the main source of threat to peace and security in the region.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=290245>

Ambassador Sabbagh: Manipulating work rules within the United Nations is a consistent practice for the West to target countries that do not follow its political agendas

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 15, 2022

Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh, affirmed that exploiting the General Assembly to manipulate work rules

within the international organisation and impose new, illegal and unprecedented mechanisms through pressure and blackmail has become a constant practice for Western countries to target member states that do not follow their political agendas, indicating that The escalation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine came as a result of the West fuelling the Ukrainian extremist tendency and continuing to incite neo-Nazis and supplying them with weapons and various equipment, which has become a threat to the security of the region and the safety of its countries.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=290228>

Infighting in Turkish-backed faction leads to tension in Syria's Afrin

Al-Monitor, November 15, 2022

Tension has grown in recent days between rival currents within Ahrar al-Sham, which is affiliated with the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA), over Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), leading to clashes between fighters supporting HTS and others opposing it in the vicinity of Afrin in the countryside of Aleppo. Ahmed Ibrahim, a journalist based in Afrin, told Al-Monitor that “clashes have been ongoing since Nov. 10 in the area surrounding the Teranda base [of Ahrar al-Sham] in the west of Afrin between groups affiliated with the Ahrar al-Sham leadership close to HTS and fighters from the faction holed up in the base, after the latter appointed their own leader while isolating Ahrar al-Sham’s leadership.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/infighting-turkish-backed-faction-leads-tension-syrias-afrin#ixzz7ILMZuFr4>

Türkiye

Turkish defense industry takes stage at major expo in Indonesia

Daily Saba, November 02, 2022

More than 30 Turkish defense industry companies are displaying their products at a leading defense fair in the Indonesian capital Jakarta. The Indo Defense Expo & Forum which is marking its ninth edition opened its doors on Wednesday after a four-year hiatus and will continue until Saturday. Under the leadership of Türkiye's Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), the Turkish defense industry, which has shot up its export activities recently, is participating in the four-day exhibition to reach new markets. Various Turkish products and equipment such as land, air and naval platforms, drones, weapon systems, ammunition, software solutions and simulators are being exhibited at the fair.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-industry-takes-stage-at-major-expo-in-indonesia>

Turkish soldier killed by PKK terror attack in northern Iraq

Daily Saba, November 03, 2022

A Turkish soldier was killed in a terrorist attack in northern Iraq, the Defense Ministry said Sunday. Infantry Contract Private Mustafa Öztürk was killed after PKK terrorists opened fire at a military base zone, the ministry said. Three soldiers were also injured in the attack. The Defense Ministry conveyed condolences to the soldier's family, the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and the Turkish people.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-soldier-killed-by-pkk-terror-attack-in-northern-iraq>

Türkiye to export long-range artillery missile Khan to Indonesia

Daily Saba, November 03, 2022

Major Turkish defense manufacturer Roketsan announced its first export deal for the land-to-land, long-range artillery system Khan to Indonesia, a company official said Thursday. Talking to Anadolu Agency (AA), Roketsan's Assistant General Manager Murat Kurtuluş mentioned the importance of the Southeast Asian market for the company noting that the region's developing economy and population, as well as its geopolitical effects, will continue to play an important role in the upcoming years. His statements came during the Indo Defense Expo & Forum 2022 held in Jakarta, where several Turkish defense industry companies took place together with Roketsan.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-to-export-long-range-artillery-missile-khan-to-indonesia>

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Forum 2022 held in Jakarta, where several Turkish defense industry companies took place together with Roketsan. Pointing to Roketsan's product variety, Kurtuluş said, as one of the leading Turkish defense companies, they have signed two agreements with the Indonesian Ministry of Defense under the coordination of Türkiye's Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-to-export-long-range-artillery-missile-khan-to-indonesia>

US may approve F-16 sale to Türkiye in two months, Erdogan's spokesman says

Arab News, November 04, 2022

President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman said the process of the United States approving the sale of F-16 fighter jets to NATO member Türkiye was going well and could be completed within a couple of months. Türkiye made a request to the United States in October 2021 to buy 40 Lockheed Martin Corp. F-16 fighters and nearly 80 modernization kits for its existing warplanes to update its air force after the purchase of F-35s fell through. CNN Turk cited spokesman Ibrahim Kalin as saying in an interview with the broadcaster on Thursday evening that the administration of President Joe Biden was making sincere efforts on the issue.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2193491/middle-east>

Turkish award-winning arms maker CANiK to open factory in US

Daily Sabah, November 07, 2022

Turkish defense company Samsun Yurt Savunma (SYS), which took to the global

stage with its brand CANiK, one of the world's leading light weapons manufacturers, will open a new weapons factory in the United States, as early as February 2023, according to the company's officials. Utku Aral, SYS' general manager said that construction of the weapons factory located in the U.S. state of Florida will be completed in February 2023, while the machinery will be settled in March, and production is set to start in the second quarter. Speaking on the construction and production capacity of the factory Aral noted that it was planned to increase the total monthly production capacity to 8,000 units in the first stage and then to 15,000 per month gradually in 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-award-winning-arms-maker-canik-to-open-factory-in-us>

Türkiye's role crucial in Iraq's development: Iraqi PM

Daily Saba, November 09, 2022

Türkiye can play a vital role in Iraq's development, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said on Tuesday. "We have a high trade volume between the two countries," al-Sudani said in a press conference in Iraq's capital city, Baghdad. "Türkiye is an economically developed country and can play a vital role in the development of Iraq," he added. Türkiye's military operations were also limited as a result of the invasion. Iraq's soil became defacto U.S. territory and as a result, Türkiye needed the permission of the U.S. to launch a military operation in Iraq. Limited relations with Iraqi Kurdish leaders, military operations, and very limited relations with the central

government in the 1990s soon became useless. As a result, Türkiye faced a deadlock in Iraq and needed a new strategy different from that of the 1990s.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/turkiyes-role-crucial-in-iraqs-development-iraqi-pm>

Turkish police detain man who left bomb on Istiklal street in Istanbul — Interior Ministry

Russian News Agency, November 14, 2022

Turkish police have detained a man who is believed to have left the bomb, which detonated on Sunday on Istiklal Street in Istanbul's Beyoglu district, Minister of Internal Affairs of Turkey Suleyman Soylu. "The man who left the bomb in Beyoglu was detained by the Istanbul security department. He is under interrogation," he said. A video with his statement was published on Twitter. Soylu also pointed out that the investigation has evidence indicating that the traces of the terrorist attack lead to Syria and groups recognized as terrorist by Ankara are involved in it.

<https://tass.com/world/1535993>

Türkiye says Istanbul bomb suspect is Syrian national with ties to Kurdish groups

CNN, November 14, 2022

The woman detained under suspicion of carrying out the deadly bomb blast in Istanbul on Sunday is a Syrian national who was trained by Kurdish militants, according to Turkish authorities. Turkish police said in a statement that the suspect entered the country through the city of Afrin in northern Syria without

documentation to carry out the attack in the heart of Turkey's largest city, which killed at least six people and injured more than 80 others.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/14/world/istanbul-turkey-attack-suspect-syria-intl/index.html>

Türkiye arrests Syrian woman, accuses PKK over Istanbul attack

Muscat Daily, November 14, 2022

Turkey on Monday accused a Syrian woman of planting a bomb that killed six people in Istanbul, blaming the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) of carrying out the attack. Two girls, aged nine and 15, were among those killed when the bomb exploded shortly after 4pm (1300 GMT) on Sunday in Istiklal Avenue, home to smart boutiques and European consulates. More than 80 other people were wounded. "The person who planted the bomb has been arrested," Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said in a statement broadcast by the official Anadolu news agency early on Monday.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2022/11/14/turkey-arrests-syrian-woman-accuses-pkk-over-istanbul-attack/>

Türkiye points to Kurdish militants for deadly Istanbul bombing

Al-Monitor, November 14, 2022

Ankara pointed the finger at the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and its Syrian offshoot as the hand behind Sunday's bomb attack in a bustling pedestrian street in central Istanbul that killed at least six people and wounded 80. "Our assessment is that the order for the deadly terror attack came from Ayn al-Arab

[Kobani, a Kurdish-majority city in northern Syria], where the PKK/YPG has its Syrian headquarters," Suleyman Soylu, Turkey's iron-fisted interior minister, said early Monday. YPG refers to the People's Protection Units, the military wing of Syria's Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD). Turkey considers both the YPG and PYD terrorist groups and repeatedly urges its allies to sever ties with both. Within hours of Soylu's initial statement, the Istanbul police released footage of a house raid carried out in the early hours of Monday and announced that they had arrested a Syrian woman, Ahlam Albashir, who admitted to planting the bomb.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/11/turkey-points-kurdish-militants-deadly-istanbul-bombing#ixzz7lMSW4G5>

28 Turkish companies participate in Pakistan's defense expo

Anadolu Agency, November 15, 2022

Some 28 leading defense manufacturers from Türkiye are showcasing their military hardware at a defense fair that began in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Tuesday. Over 500 international defense manufacturers and over 260 delegates from 64 countries are taking part in the four-day defense exhibition, a leading defense expo in South Asia. The biennial event billed as "IDEAS 2022," is taking place after a gap of four years as the 2020 fair could not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic. Apart from Türkiye, defense manufacturers from China, the US, the UK, European Union, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa are showcasing their products at the 11th edition of the fair, according to Maj. Gen. Mohammad Arif Malik, the head of

the country's defense exports promotion authority.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/28-turkish-companies-participate-in-pakistans-defense-expo/2738152>

US govt to continue to support F-16 sale to Türkiye: Biden

Daily Sabah, November 15, 2022

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that his government will continue to support the potential sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye. The remarks came during a closed-door meeting between President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Biden on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. Both presidents discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly trade and security issues, and regional developments, according to a Directorate of Communications statement. Biden thanked Erdoğan for his efforts to help remove obstacles in the Istanbul grain deal and to resume the exports from Ukrainian ports, the statement read.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/us-govt-to-continue-to-support-f-16-sale-to-turkiye-biden>

Türkiye to pursue Syria targets after Iraq operation against PKK

Daily Saba, November 15, 2022

Türkiye plans to pursue targets in northern Syria after it completes a cross-border operation against PKK terrorists in northern Iraq, a senior official said on Tuesday, after a deadly weekend bomb in Istanbul. The government blamed the PKK for the blast on Istanbul's Istiklal Street on Sunday that

killed six people and injured more than 80. Threats posed by the PKK or Daesh terrorist groups to Türkiye are unacceptable, the official told Reuters, adding that Ankara will clear threats along its southern border "one way or another." "Syria is a national security problem for Türkiye. There is work being done on this already," the official said, declining to be named as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkiye-to-pursue-syria-targets-after-iraq-operation-against-pkk>

UAE

‘Aerial Warfare and Missile Defense center 2022’ drill kicks off in UAE with participation of RSAF

Saudi Gazette, November 01, 2022

Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates Monday saw the launch of the 25-day “Aerial Warfare and Missile Defense Center 2022” Drill with the participation of the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) and forces of the UAE, Greece, Oman, France, Germany, India, the UK, the USA, and Australia. Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force group participating in the drill Lt. Col. Mohammed Bin Said Al-Ahmari said: “The Air Force is participating with six Tornado aircrafts with their full aerial and technical staff.” He noted that the drill aims to train in air combat operations in an alliance of international forces and to take advantage of the application of the concept of joint action in a war environment similar to real war.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/626561/SAUDI-ARABIA/Aerial-Warfare-and->

[Missile-Defense-Center-2022-Drill-kicks-off-in-UAE-with-participation-of-RSAF](#)

President Sheikh Mohamed and Joe Biden discuss energy security

The National News, November 03, 2022

President Sheikh Mohamed and US President Joe Biden held a video call on Wednesday. The leaders spoke about their strategic relationship and addressed global challenges, including energy security. During the meeting, they also talked about the strategic Partnership for Accelerating Clean Energy that was signed on Tuesday to help accelerate the energy transition, advance shared climate goals and strengthen global energy security. The agreement was signed at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in the presence of Sheikh Mohamed.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/government/2022/11/02/president-sheikh-mohamed-bin-zayed-and-joe-biden-discuss-energy-security/>

UAE takes the lead in counter-piracy strategy

Khaleej Times, November 10, 2022

This is the first time UAE vessels have been attacked so frequently and so early in the season, and that does not include the MV Arrilah I, which was rescued from hijackers last week. Let us not underestimate the importance of the Dubai meet on piracy where over 50 nations, affected by the menace, are gathering today for debate on how to end the attacks. Only recently the UAE Special Forces conducted daring raids and arrested several pirates — thus not only

issuing clear warning of intent but also sending out the message that putting ships and crew into jeopardy is not acceptable.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/uae-takes-the-lead-in-counter-piracy-strategy>

UAE President attends ‘Jelmoud 3’ joint military exercise with King of Bahrain

Gulf News, November 11, 2022

President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain today attended the final stage of the joint Emirati-Bahraini military anti-terrorism exercise, titled “Jelmoud 3.” The three day exercise involved the participation of the UAE Armed Forces and the Royal Guard, a unit of the Bahrain Defence Force, as well as several other units from the defence force and Bahrain’s Ministry of Interior and National Security Agency, as part of the close cooperation between the two countries.

<https://gulfnews.com/videos/news/uae-president-attends-jelmoud-3-joint-military-exercise-with-king-of-bahrain-1.1668164562403>

UAE has no interest in choosing sides between great powers, says Anwar Gargash

The National News, November 14, 2022

The UAE will not take sides between nations but will engage with multiple partners to maintain its security and sovereignty, Dr Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the President, said on Monday. “The UAE has no interest in choosing sides between great powers,” Dr Gargash said, in his address at the Abu Dhabi Strategic

Debate at Emirates Palace. “Indeed, it is the central principle ... that we will not, under any circumstances, sacrifice our sovereignty. “Our primary strategic security relationship remains unequivocally with the United States.”

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/government/2022/11/14/uae-has-no-interest-in-choosing-sides-between-great-powers-says-anwar-gargash/>

Top Pentagon official to visit UAE and region to boost global security

The National News, November 15, 2022

A top Pentagon official is visiting the UAE and other countries in the region this week to underline the importance of Washington working closely with its allies and partners to strengthen global security, the US Department of Defence said on Tuesday. Dr Colin Kahl, the US under secretary of defence for policy, will also reinforce the need for allies to work together to maintain prosperity in the region. The defence official arrived in Israel on Tuesday where he will lead the Defence Policy Advisory Group to discuss the two countries' shared interests.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2022/11/15/top-pentagon-official-to-visit-uae-and-region-to-boost-global-security/>

Yemen

US Navy seizes 70 tonnes of missile fuel on ship from Iran to Yemen

The National News, November 15, 2022

A fishing vessel smuggling missile fuel and a large quantity of explosives from Iran to

Yemen has been intercepted by the US Navy in the Gulf of Oman. More than 70 tonnes of ammonium perchlorate, a powerful oxidiser commonly used to make rocket and missile fuel, were found, as well as explosives, the Navy said. The US 5th Fleet stopped the vessel and its four Yemeni crew in international waters on November 8. It was the fleet's first ever ammonium perchlorate discovery.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf-news/2022/11/15/us-navy-seizes-70-tonnes-of-missile-fuel-on-ship-from-iran-to-yemen/>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

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



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