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

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijani-Turkish joint flight drills wrap up

Azer News, September 17, 2021

The Azerbaijani-Turkish TurAz Falcon-2021 joint flight drills have wrapped up in Turkey's Konya city, the Defence Ministry reported on September 16. The TurAz Falcon-2021 joint drills started on September 2 with the participation of Azerbaijani and Turkish military pilots.

Azerbaijan's two MiG-29 fighters and two Su-25 attack aircraft were involved in the joint exercises. The TurAz Falcon-2021 joint exercises aimed to improve the interaction between the two countries' army units during combat operations, to develop the commanders' military decision-making and unit management skills.

https://www.azernews.az/news.php?news_id=183378&cat=nation

Azerbaijani-Turkish-Pakistani joint drills wrap up

Azeri News, September 21, 2021

The Three Brothers-2021 joint drills of the Azerbaijani, Turkish and Pakistani special forces have wrapped up in Baku, the Defence Ministry reported on September 21. Azerbaijani Special Forces Commander Lt-Gen Hikmat Mirzayev congratulated the servicemen for successfully completing the drills, the report added.

https://www.azernews.az/news.php?news_id=183527&cat=nation

President: Azerbaijan ready for peace treaty talks with Armenia

Azer News, September 24, 2021

President Aliyev has said that Azerbaijan is ready to start talks on a peace agreement

with Armenia, based on the mutual recognition of sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other, Azertag has reported. He made the remarks in a video format speech presented during the annual General Debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly at the level of heads of state and government on September 23.

https://www.azernews.az/news.php?news_id=183633&cat=nation

IRAN

Iran Voices Concern about Israel's Unsupervised Military Atomic Program

Fars News Agency, September 16, 2021

Iran's Representative at International Organizations in Vienna Kazzem Qaribabadi Blasted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for turning a blind eye to Israel's clandestine nuclear program and arsenals. "The international community and the IAEA have been blind over the [Israeli] regime's nuclear activities for over five decades, having no supervision over them," Qaribabadi said, addressing the IAEA board of governors. The senior Iranian diplomat made the comments in response to allegations by the Israeli ambassador to the US and the UN, Gilad Erdan, that the IAEA has been blind about Iran's nuclear activities during the past seven months.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000625000213/Iran-Vices-Cncern-ab-Israel's-Unspervised-Miliary-Amic-Prgram>

Official: Iran Deactivates Cameras at N. Installations

Fars News Agency, September 16, 2021

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami announced that due to the failure of the western parties to remain committed to

their nuclear deal undertakings, the cameras installed at the country's nuclear sites based on the 2015 agreement are no longer active. "In addition to the obligations that Iran needs to undertake under the Safeguards Agreement and it needs to be transparent, a number of cameras were installed as part of the JCPOA. However, the other parties did not honor their commitments, so there was no need to keep the cameras," he added.

Eslami said that a number of the cameras were damaged in the wake of recent "terrorist operations", thus resulting in two "extremely strict and destructive" reports by the IAEA.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400062500250/Official-Iran-Deacivaes-Cameras-a-N-Insallains>

Iranian Fuel Reaches Lebanon

Fars News Agency, September 16, 2021

Tankers carrying Iran-sent fuel arrived in the Lebanese territories on Thursday. A convoy of tankers loaded with Iranian mazut had entered the village of Hawsh al-Sayyed Ali in Lebanon's Northeastern Baalbek-Hermel province on Thursday, Lebanon 24 News reported. The media director of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah said that the tankers will first stop between the villages of Ain and Laboueh and that their last station would be the entrance to Southern Baalbek. Speaking on Wednesday night, Hezbollah Secretary-General Seyed Hassan Nasrallah urged people not to gather to observe the convoy both for their own safety and the movement of the tankers.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400062500335/Iranian-Fel-Reaches-Lebann>

Envoy: Origin of Contamination Declared by IAEA Unknown to Iran

Fars News Agency, September 16, 2021

Iran's Representative at International Organizations in Vienna Kazzem Qaribabadi referred to the recent UN nuclear watchdog's report on the country's nuclear program, and said that the origin of contamination declared by the IAEA is unknown to Iran. "It is regrettable that despite Iran's written explanations regarding the presence of depleted uranium contamination, which were delivered to the Agency on 26 May 2021, the Agency still keeps repeating that 'Iran had yet to provide an explanation'. The Agency has to rectify this situation," Qaribabadi said, addressing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s board of governors' meeting on 'Report of the IAEA Director General'.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400062500452/Envy-Origin-f-Cnaminain-Declared-by-IAEA-Unknwn-Iran>

Official: India Seriously Seeking Extensive Ties with Iran

Fars News Agency, September 16, 2021

India's Deputy Commerce and Industry Minister Subrahmanyam said that New Delhi is seriously keen to further expand relations and cooperation with Iran. Subrahmanyam made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador in India Ali Chegini, discussing bilateral relations in varied areas. In the meeting, the Indian official named the millennia-long cultural and civilization interaction between the two nations as a component of intimacy and brotherhood between Iran and India.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400062500490/Official-India-Serisly-Seeking-Exensive-Ties-wih-Iran>

Iran president, Pakistan PM insist on formation of comprehensive government in Afghanistan

Tehran Times, September 17, 2021

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan insisted on the need for formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan during a meeting on the fringes of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Thursday afternoon. "We should help formation a government in Afghanistan that includes all ethnic groups, and groups that arise from the will of the people of this country. The key to solving Afghanistan's problems is to form an inclusive government and prevent foreign interference in the country's affairs," Raisi said. The meeting between the two senior officials took place as Raisi accepted a request by Prime Minister Khan to hold a joint meeting on the developments in Afghanistan.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465160/Iran-president-Pakistan-PM-insist-on-formation-of-comprehensive>

Iran Endorsed as Full SCO Member

Fars News Agency, September 17, 2021

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) officially admitted Iran as a new member of the Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance at its 21st summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Friday. "Perfectly pleased to announce that the permanent membership document of the Islamic Republic of Iran was approved by the leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Dushanbe in the presence of our esteemed President," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian tweeted Friday. "This strategic membership

has an important impact on the process of comprehensive cooperation between Iran in line with the policy of neighborhood with and pivot to Asia," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000626000308/Iran-Endrsed-as-Fll-SCO-Member>

Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb belong to Iran: Foreign Ministry

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 17, 2021

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh rejected on Friday a recent statement by foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council about three islands in southern Iran. Khatibzadeh said the islands of Abu Musa, the Lesser Tunb, and the Greater Tunbs belong to Iran, adding that the repetitive and tedious statements issued in this regard will not change the status of these islands. The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman also said the country rejects any interference in its missile and peaceful nuclear energy programs as well as in its defense deterrent policies. He also reiterated that Iran prioritizes expansion of cooperation and relations with all neighboring states, while rejecting any foreign interference.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84473937/Abu-Musa-Greater-Tunb-Lesser-Tunb-belong-to-Iran-Foreign-Ministry>

More advanced models of Bavar 373 on the way, top general says

Tehran Times, September 18, 2021

The Deputy Chief of the Army Air Defense for Operations has announced that in due time very good news about the next models of the "Bavar 373" system would be released by high-ranking army officials. Iran unveiled Bavar 373, the long-range,

surface-to-air missile air defense system in August 2019. In an interview with the Mer news agency published on Saturday, Brigadier General Khoshghalb said, "The actions of Iran's integrated air defense network in recent years in detecting, controlling and finally destroying the attacking planes, including the Hermes UAV belonging to the Zionist regime and the U.S. Global Hawk drone in our airspace has proved the capability of the Islamic Iran's air defense to the world.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465203/More-advanced-models-of-Bavar-373-on-the-way-top-general-says>

Iranian President: SCO States Agree on Necessity for All-Inclusive Gov't in Afghanistan

Fars News Agency, September 19, 2021

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi said that members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are in a consensus that Afghanistan needs an inclusive government consisting of all ethnic groups. During a security meeting on Afghanistan, which was held on the sidelines of the SCO Summit, Iran's stances were explained and the participants reached a consensus on the situation in the war-ravaged country, Rayeesi said on Saturday upon returning from a three-day visit to Tajikistan, where he attended the 21st SCO summit. "They agreed that they should pursue the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan with the participation of all ethnic groups that can represent the noble and dear people of Afghanistan," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000628000176/Iranian-Presiden-SCO-Saes-Agree-n-Necessiy-fr-All-Inclsive-Gv'-in>

Iran's IRGC Unveils More New Strategic Equipment

Fars News Agency, September 20, 2021

The opening ceremony of the exhibition of IRGC's strategic achievements in area of bombs and explosives detection and diffusion was held on Monday morning in the presence of the IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami. The strategic achievements of the IRGC included 'Younes' Robot Diver with a mission to monitor and identify the subsurface of ships and oil rigs, racket control inspection for inspecting the body, 'Ra'ad-1' explosive trap with the ability to destroy explosive packages, 1st and 2nd generation of explosives detector, types of robots to detect and neutralize bombs and explosives. "Gaza" drone, "9th of Dey" surface-to-air missile system and "Qods" radar system were the three strategic products unveiled by IRGC on Friday. The wide-body drone (Gaza) is a new defense achievement made by the experts in IRGC that can carry out various surveillance, combat, reconnaissance missions with a flight duration of 35 hours. "This drone is capable of carrying 13 bombs in a range of over 2,000 kilometers in combat missions, as well as carrying 500 kilograms of various reconnaissance and signal equipment," General Hajizadeh said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000629000421/Iran's-IRGC-Unveils-Mre-New-Sraegic-Eipmen>

Iran, Hezbollah planning attacks on US to retaliate for Soleimani slaying: Officials

Alarabiya News, September 21, 2021

Iran is planning ways to retaliate against the US for the slaying of Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani, and

Lebanese Hezbollah is being closely watched for potential attacks on American soil, a top US intelligence official warned Tuesday. “Protecting against such threats is even more important now, as Iran, its agents, and proxies plan ways to retaliate against the United States for the January 2020 killing of IRGC-QF Commander Qassem Soleimani,” Christine Abizaid, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, said during testimony before the US Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Abizaid said the US had assessed that Iran-backed Hezbollah maintained a “high threshold for conducting attacks in the Homeland.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/09/21/Iran-Hezbollah-planning-attacks-on-US-to-retaliate-for-Soleimani-slaying-Officials>

Iran, IAEA Agree to Continue Cooperation

Fars News Agency, September 21, 2021

The AEOI Chief Mohammad Eslami and IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi reached the agreement during their talks in Austrian capital of Vienna on Monday evening. During the meeting, the two sides stressed the need to establish ties based on mutual respect and good faith.

In addition, AEOI chief and IAEA director general exchanged their views on mutual cooperation in various areas and issues of mutual interests. Earlier, AEOI Chief Mohammad Eslami, who is in Vienna to take part in the 65th General Conference of IAEA, met and held talks with his Russian counterpart, the Director-General of Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation (ROSATOM) Alexey Likhachev.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000629000604/Iran-IAEA-Agree-Cnine-Cperain>

Ministers of foreign affairs of Iran, India emphasize need for broader ties

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 21, 2021

Hossein Amirabdollahian’s first bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the 76th UN General Assembly was with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the foreign minister of India, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry Public Relations. In the meeting the two sides surveyed the existing level of bilateral ties and exchanged viewpoints in regional and international developments. The two foreign ministers focusing on the latest status of Afghanistan, said that it is necessary to establish an all-encompassing government inclusive of representatives of the entire Afghan tribes and ethnic groups, and refraining from foreign interference.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84479426/Ministers-of-foreign-affairs-of-Iran-India-emphasize-need-for>

Spokesman: Iran, G4+1 to Resume Talks in Weeks

Fars News Agency, September 21, 2021

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Tuesday that Tehran and the Group 4+1 (China, Russia, Britain and France plus Germany) will resume nuclear deal talks in Vienna within the next few weeks. “As previously emphasized, the Vienna talks will resume soon and in the next few weeks, and the G4+1 has been informed of it,” Khatibzadeh said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000630000689/Spkesman-Iran-G4--Resme-Talks-in-Weeks>

Resistance Front Takes Revenge from US, Israeli Army for Assassination of General Soleimani

Fars News Agency, September 22, 2021

The resistance front has killed a US and an Israeli top commander in a drone attack on a Mossad station in Northern Iraq in retaliation for the assassination of Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, media sources reported. Senior security sources said that the resistance front has killed two high-ranking American and Israeli commanders in a military operation in Erbil in Northern Iraq, the Cradle, a journalist-driven publication covering West Asia, reported on Monday.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000631000175/Resisance-Frn-Takes-Revenge-frm-US-Israeli-Army-fr-Assassinain-f>

Iran Confirms "Good" Bilateral Talks with S. Arabia

Fars News Agency, September 23, 2021

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said that Iran has had regular contacts with Saudi Arabia in recent months, stressing that the two countries have had good talks on bilateral issues. He said that Iran and Saudi Arabia had several rounds of talks and negotiations in Baghdad during the last few months. There has been remarkable progress in the talks over security in the Persian Gulf, the spokesman noted, stressing that the talks have never been stopped and messages have been exchanged in proper level after the new administration in Iran took office. His comments came after Saudi King Salman Ben Abdul-Aziz delivered a speech in the UN General Assembly meeting on Wednesday, expressing hope that the talks

with Iran would lead to confidence building.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000701000426/Iran-Cnfirms-Gd-Bilaeral-Talks-wih-S-Arabia>

Tehran vows tough response against U.S., Israeli bases in Iraqi Kurdistan

Tehran Times, September 25, 2021

Iranian Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib has warned U.S. and Israeli bases in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region that they will receive an "active and aggressive" action if they try to stoke insecurity in the Islamic Republic. "All counterrevolutionary elements and their supporters in the region must know that in case of disrupting security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they will face a decisive response from the Armed Forces and security apparatus," Khatib said on Friday, Press TV reported. He urged Iraqi officials to expel the elements in the Kurdistan region and disarm them at the earliest.

Earlier this month, anti-Iran armed terrorists made some activity in the northwestern border areas. That prompted warnings from senior Iranian military officials.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465453/Tehran-vows-tough-response-against-U-S-Israeli-bases-in-Iraqi>

Envoy says IAEA report on cameras of the Tesa Complex in Karaj 'inaccurate'

Tehran Times, September 27, 2021

Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based international organizations has said the report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general on the cameras of the Tesa Complex in Karaj is inaccurate and goes beyond the

understandings reached in a joint statement by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the IAEA. The remarks by Ambassador Kazem Gharibabadi came after Sunday night's report by the IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi on Iran's refusal to re-install surveillance cameras at the Tesa Complex in Karaj, IRNA reported on Monday. "It is deeply unfortunate that after three terrorist sabotage operations at the facility over the past year, the IAEA has not yet condemned these heinous acts, contrary to numerous resolutions of the IAEA General Conference and the UN General Assembly, and even because of its equipment and assets and the safety and security of its inspectors," Gharibabadi tweeted on Sunday.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465479/Envoy-says-IAEA-report-on-cameras-of-the-Tesa-Complex-in-Karaj>

Iran, Russia to speed up implementation of Bushehr projects to make up for delay

Tehran Times, September 29, 2021

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami explains about the achievements of his trip to Russia, telling reporters that the AEOI and Rosatom have signed bilateral contracts, IRNA reported on Wednesday. Eslami said in his meeting on Tuesday with Alexey Likhachev, the director general of Russia's Rosatom, an initial understanding was made to carry out joint projects and plans in the field of nuclear energy with a higher speed. He said these projects include use of radiation in medicine, building new nuclear power plants, especially development of the second and third units of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

According to Press TV, Eslami's visit to Moscow came after unconfirmed reports

that the Russians had slowed down work at new projects in Iran over unpaid funds.

"It was also agreed that our financial

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465590/Iran-Russia-to-speed-up-implementation-of-Bushehr-projects-to>

IAEA access to cameras conditioned to U.S. return to JCPOA obligations: MP

Tehran Times, September 29, 2021

A legislator on Wednesday criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency for renegeing its commitments toward Iran, saying as it had been agreed the IAEA can get access to its surveillance cameras at Iran's nuclear sites only if the United States rejoins the 2015 nuclear deal and fulfill its obligation. "But if the United States doesn't return to the JCPOA, Iran will not give the memory cards to the Agency," Hadi Beiginejad told the Fars news agency, using the acronym for the nuclear deal. Beiginejad, who sits on the Parliament Energy Committee, said the IAEA has accepted this condition with Iran but unfortunately the world's public opinion has been manipulated in a way that Iran is the main culprit.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465591/IAEA-access-to-cameras-conditioned-to-U-S-return-to-JCPOA-obligations>

IRAQ

Security Meeting results in reducing US combat units

Iraqi News Agency, September 17, 2021

The Joint Operations Command announced on Friday, a security agreement to reduce U.S. combat units and capabilities from military bases in Ain al-Assad and Erbil this September. "A meeting was held between the Iraqi Military Technical Committee headed by Deputy Commander of Joint

Operations Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir al-Shammari and his U.S. counterpart headed by The Commander of OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE Forces in Iraq, Major General John Brennan, as part of the technical security talks agreed in the Iraqi-American strategic dialogue and the plan to move to a non-combat role for the international coalition forces operating in Iraq under the outcome of the meeting held in July 22, 2021. The statement added that "both parties have agreed to reduce U.S. combat units and capabilities from military bases in Ain al-Assad and Erbil in terms to be completed by the end of September.

<https://ina.iq/eng/14127-security-meeting-results-in-reducing-us-combat-units.html>

Iraqi Sunnis look to KRG for safety as militias concerns fester

Al-Monitor, September 18, 2021

As attacks believed to be by Iran-linked armed groups continue amid questions over how long US forces will retain a presence in Iraq, Sunni Arabs are again seeking safety in the Kurdistan Region of the country. A deadlier attack in Erbil earlier this year had been claimed by murky Iraqi Shiite jihadist armed groups with links to Iran. Meanwhile, the Sunni Arab community from both eastern Syria and parts of western Iraq seem to be creating stronger bonds with the Kurdistan Region of Iraq — or at least seeing it as a place of refuge from increasing attacks by sectarian armed groups. Attacks on Erbil by Iran-linked groups now seem to be bringing Iraq's Kurds and Sunni Arabs even closer together in ways that would have been unexpected during and immediately following the years under Saddam Hussein.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/iraqi-sunnis-look-krg-safety-militias-concerns-fester#ixzz77ykIqNO>

Military Chief of Staff: Iraq rejects using its lands for aggression against neighbors

Iraqi News Agency, September 21, 2021

The military chief of Staff confirmed on Tuesday, Iraq's refusal to use its lands for aggression against neighbors, while stressing the need for everyone to adhere to brotherhood and cooperation in joint relations. A statement issued by the military Chief of Staff, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "the bilateral relations that link Iraq with the neighboring Islamic Republic of Iran are close relations based on cooperation and good neighborliness. According to the statement, the army staff expressed its "astonishment at the unjustified statements recently attributed to the Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Muhammad Hussein Baqeri, regarding the presence of hostile movements from Iraqi territory towards the Islamic Republic of Iran." It stressed, "Iraq strongly rejects the use of its territory for aggression against its neighbors, and that it adheres to good neighborliness and brotherly relations with neighboring countries."

<https://ina.iq/eng/14200-military-chief-of-staff-iraq-rejects-using-its-lands-for-aggression-against-neighbors.html>

Iraqi air forces blast ISIS hideouts in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, September 22, 2021

The Security Media Cell announced on Wednesday, that Iraqi Air Force carried out three strikes targeting ISIS hideouts in Kirkuk province. "Under the supervision of the Joint Operations Command, and the coordination with the military intelligence and the targeting cell of the JOC, Iraqi Air Force carried out three strikes in Wadi Shai within Kirkuk Operations Sector using Sukhoi Su-25 aircraft, during which they

targeted terrorist hideouts," according to the statement of SMC, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/14216-iraqi-air-forces-blast-isis-hideouts-in-kirkuk.html>

IRGC General Gholamali Rashid: Hizbullah In Lebanon, Hamas And PIJ In Palestine, PMU In Iraq, And The Houthis In Yemen Are All Armies Ready To Defend The Iranian Regime

MEMRI TV, September 25, 2021

General Gholamali Rashid, the commander of Khatam Al-Anbiya central headquarters of Iran's armed forces, said that the U.S. and the Zionist regime are angry at Iran's "regional power," because they know that in addition to Iran's local military forces, it now has armed forces in countries beyond its border, who will come to its defense if invaded. General Rashid said that three months before the "martyrdom" of IRGC Qods Force Commander Qasem Soleimani, he briefed the Iranian joint military command at the Khatam Al-Anbiya central headquarters, saying that he created a "corridor" to the Mediterranean Sea, with six "armies" outside of Iran who will fight on its behalf. He went on to list the forces, saying that in Lebanon there is Hizbullah, in Palestine, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), an army in Syria, in Iraq there is the PMU and Ansar Allah, or the Houthis, in Yemen.

<https://www.memri.org/tv/irgc-general-gholamali-rashid-hizbullah-hamas-pmu-houthis-defend-iranian-regime>

Contracts with Russia to enhance the capabilities of the Army

Iraqi News Agency, September 28, 2021

The Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee confirmed today, Tuesday, that Iraq has concluded multiple contracts to

enhance the capabilities of the Army and the Air Force. The head of the Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee, Muhammad Rida Al Haider, said in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "An Iraqi delegation went to Russia, headed by the Air Defense Commander, to discuss the contract to purchase the S-300 missile system, but the discussion about this matter had stopped." Al Haider pointed out that "Iraq has previous contracts with Russia about equipping an armored brigade considering the Iraqis' experience mostly with Russian weapons, especially armor."

https://ina.iq/eng/14384-contracts-with-russia-to-enhance-the-capabilities-of-the-army.html?_cf_chl_jschl_tk_=pmid_STn_qyeWACVet5_WmbvfHjyElmaimDyZ7nz_QXLaDFQm8-1633031292-0-gqNtZGzNAjucnBszQgl

ISRAEL

Morocco Partners With Israel to Develop Local Loitering Munitions Industry

Morocco World News, September 17, 2021

In the latest step to accelerate the rapprochement between Rabat and the Israeli defense industry, Morocco plans to develop a domestic industry to produce "loitering munitions." Loitering munitions, sometimes described as "kamikaze drones," are drones that do not fire missiles, but instead self-destruct upon hitting their target. This Wednesday, French publication Africa Intelligence revealed that the two countries are currently working on the development of a project to manufacture the single-use drones in Morocco. The French publication explains that the launch of this industry in Morocco comes after several months of negotiations with the group Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). Back in July, Israel's National Cyber

DIRECTORATE announced that its CEO, Yigal Unna, signed a cooperation agreement with Moroccan authorities, which would help Israeli companies sell knowledge and technology.

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/09/344481/morocco-partners-with-israel-to-develop-local-loitering-munitions-industry>

US Iron Dome funding holdup feeds internal Israeli political dispute

Al-Monitor, September 23, 2021

The news arrived quickly on the evening of Sept. 21: Washington had removed funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system from the upcoming budget shortly before approving it. It was an embarrassment for President Joe Biden as well as the Israeli government. Biden had promised Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett the \$1 billion at their meeting in the White House, less than a month earlier. Biden has been having problems with the progressive end of his party, which tends to take a critical position on US aid to Israel. Now it has become a problem for the leaders of Israel's new government as well. The opposition, led by the Likud, took the news as proof of how weak and politically inexperienced the new government is and how little it understands American politics.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/us-iron-dome-funding-holdup-feeds-internal-israeli-political-dispute#ixzz77ywNReIY>

Israel hails declaration by Iraqi group in favor of normalization

Al-Monitor, September 28, 2021

Israeli politicians this weekend hailed calls by an Iraqi group for normalizing ties between the two countries and for Iraq to

join the Abraham Accords. In a rare move, more than 300 Iraqis, including tribal and religious leaders, participated Sept. 24 at a conference in Erbil, in the autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan region. Sahar Karim al-Ta'i, a senior official in Iraq's Ministry of Culture, told the gathering, "As you know, Israel today is a powerful country. It constitutes an inseparable part of the United Nations and the world. Iraq must not neglect this fact." "We demand our integration into the Abraham Accords," she said, referring to the measure signed last year between Israel, the Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. "Just as these agreements provide for diplomatic relations between the signatories and Israel, we also want normal relations with Israel. No force, local or foreign, has the right to prevent this call."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/israel-hails-declaration-iraqi-group-favor-normalization#ixzz77yw2ThQ>

Boeing Israel taps former air force chief as next president

The Times of Israel, September 29, 2021

Former Israeli Air Force chief Maj. Gen. (res.) Ido Nehushtan was chosen to take over as president of the Boeing defense contractor's Israel office, the company announced Wednesday. Nehushtan will replace Maj. Gen. (res.) David Ivry, who has served in the role for the past 18 years. Ivry, 87, is stepping down from the position in order to retire, according to Boeing. Nehushtan served as head of the Israeli Air Force from 2008 to 2012 and has since served as an adviser to a number of Israeli defense contractors, including Israeli Aerospace Industries. "Maj. Gen. (res.) Ido Nehushtan will lead Boeing Israel to deepen the activities and the involvement of the firm in Israel and to find new engines of

additional growth. He will lead the conglomerate's strategy of expanding its business with the local market and will coordinate Boeing's activities in Israel," the company said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/boeing-israel-taps-former-air-force-chief-as-next-president/>

Fire in Iran occurred at secret IRGC missile base - Israeli report

The Jerusalem Post, September 30, 2021

A fire erupted in an IRGC facility in Iran on Sunday leaving two dead and one injured. On Thursday, Tel Aviv-based ImageSat International - ISI, a commercial servicer for satellite images - estimated that the facility was not just any military compound - it was a secret missile base. It is still unclear why the fire erupted on Sunday. A series of explosions and fires have hit industrial sites across Iran, including a number of petrochemical plants, in recent months and over the past year. Iranian officials have referred to most of the cases as incidents or accidents, although some reports have claimed that at least some of them involved foul play.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/fire-in-iran-occurred-at-secret-irgc-missile-base-report-680760>

JORDAN

Syria's defense chief visits Jordan to discuss border security

Al-Monitor, September 20, 2021

A high-level delegation from Syria led by the country's defense minister met with Jordan's army chief on Sunday, in a rare meeting between the two neighboring countries. Jordanian news outlets reported that Syrian Gen. Ali Ayoub and Jordanian

Gen. Yousef Huneiti met in Amman to discuss border control. According to Syrian state-run agency SANA, "They discussed the cooperation between armies of the two brotherly counties," with a focus on combating terrorism and border security. The talks were held "to intensify future coordination over all common issues," Jordan's army said in a statement

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/syrias-defense-chief-visits-jordan-discuss-border-security#ixzz77z2CRBVY>

JAF thwarts infiltration attempt from Syria, seizes narcotics

Ammon News, September 27, 2021

The Northern Military Zone, in coordination with the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND), has thwarted on Saturday, an attempt to infiltrate the Kingdom and smuggle a quantity of drugs from Syrian territory. In a press statement, an official military source at the General Command of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) said the rules of engagement were applied in the incident, leading to arresting a suspect who tried to infiltrate Jordanian borders. After searching the area, 50,000 Captagon pills were seized, and the person and the seized items were transferred to the competent authorities, the source pointed out.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/53020>

LEBANON

Hezbollah-organized fuel arrives in crisis-hit Lebanon

Ya Libnan, September 16, 2021

A convoy of tanker trucks carrying Iranian diesel crossed the border from Syria into Lebanon early Thursday, a delivery

organized by the militant Hezbollah group to ease crippling fuel shortages in the crisis-hit country. The delivery violates U.S. sanctions imposed on Tehran after former President Donald Trump pulled America out of a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers three years ago.

It was portrayed as a victory by Hezbollah, which stepped in to supply the fuel from its patron, Iran, while the cash-strapped government grappled with the fuel shortages for months. The first Iranian oil tanker arrived in the Syrian port of Baniyas on Sunday and the diesel was unloaded to Syrian storage places and later brought overland to Lebanon.

<https://yalibnan.com/2021/09/16/hezbollah-organized-fuel-arrives-in-crisis-hit-lebanon/>

US 5th Fleet kicks off first-ever Central Partnership Station exercise in Lebanon

Ya Libnan, September 22, 2021

U.S. 5th Fleet is beginning the inaugural Central Partnership Station exercise in Lebanon, meant to marry partner-building military training with humanitarian work in U.S. Central Command. The exercise, which mirrors the partnership station series that have been conducted in U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, will grow the Lebanese Armed Forces' ability to conduct missions like mine countermeasures, naval construction and disaster-related public health activities, as well as deliver goods like baby formula to the Middle East partner nation, 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Tim Hawkins told Defense News. Expeditionary fast transport (EPF) Choctaw County arrived in Beirut today for the exercise, after some personnel flew in last week to prepare for it. About 40 U.S.

Navy and military personnel will participate in the event alongside their Lebanese counterparts. The exercise is set to last through Sept. 29.

<https://yalibnan.com/2021/09/22/us-5th-fleet-kicks-off-first-ever-central-partnership-station-exercise-in-lebanon/>

Lebanon, Israel clash over gas exploration

Ya Libnan, September 25, 2021

Lebanon, in full crisis mode, has rejected Israeli gas exploration in a disputed area in the Levant Basin. Israel has already signed a contract for exploration with Halliburton. This isn't an end to negotiations over the disputed area. Rather, Lebanon objects to the fact that while UN-sponsored negotiations are still ongoing, Israel has jumped the gun by signing a contract with Halliburton. Lebanese president Michel Aoun said this week that all exploration would be frozen until there is a resolution on the disputed area. Negotiations began in the fourth quarter of 2020. The area in question is an 860sq km swath of the Mediterranean Sea (Zone #9). Negotiations are faltering at a time when Hezbollah is increasing its strength and trying to get the Iranians to explore for oil and gas offshore Lebanon.

<https://yalibnan.com/2021/09/25/lebanon-israel-clash-over-gas-exploration/>

U.S., Qatar Launch Joint Action on Hizbullah 'Financing'

Naharnet, September 29, 2021

The United States said Wednesday it was imposing sanctions on Hizbullah financiers in coordination with Qatar, a U.S. ally that has kept cordial relations with Iran. The Treasury Department announced that it was taking action against seven people

including Qatari nationals Ali al-Banai and Ali Lari, who it said have secretly sent tens of millions of dollars to the Iranian-backed Lebanese armed group.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Hizballah uses "global networks of financiers and front companies to support its malign activity" and praised the cooperation of Qatar. "This represents one of the most significant joint actions we have taken with a Gulf Cooperation Council partner to date and underscores our extensive bilateral cooperation on countering terrorism finance," Blinken said in a statement.

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/28443-4-u-s-qatar-launch-joint-action-on-hizballah-financing>

Jordan PM vows to expedite Egyptian gas shipments to Lebanon

Ya Libnan, September 30, 2021

Jordan says it has discussed ways to expedite Egyptian natural gas shipments via its territory and Syria to Lebanon, which is dealing with a grueling energy-crisis. Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh arrived in Beirut late Thursday, the first foreign official to visit Lebanon's new prime minister who took office earlier this month. "We will not hold back our capabilities, we'll respond with all we can for our brothers in Lebanon," Khasawneh said in a press conference with Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati. "We discussed ways to expedite Lebanon receiving Egyptian gas to help some of the energy challenges and electricity sector."

<https://yalibnan.com/2021/09/30/jordan-pm-vows-to-expedite-egyptian-gas-shipments-to-lebanon/>

Hizballah Downs Israeli Drone in South

Naharnet, September 30, 2021

Hizballah on Thursday announced downing an Israeli unmanned drone in south Lebanon. In a statement, the group said its militants downed the drone at 1:55 pm after targeting it with the "appropriate weapons." The statement said the drone was brought down as it was hovering over the Maryamin valley in the outskirts of the southern town of Yater. The Israeli army meanwhile announced that the drone "fell during routine activity" and that the incident was being "investigated."

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/28447-8-hizballah-downs-israeli-drone-in-south>

SAUDI ARABIA

Modi receives Prince Faisal, lauds Saudi Arabia's leadership role in protecting the planet

Saudi Gazette, September 20, 2021

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received here on Monday the Saudi foreign minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. During the reception, Prince Faisal conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and the Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman to his country, government and the Indian people. Modi also conveyed his greetings and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Crown Prince, and the government and people of Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/611120/SAUDI-ARABIA/Modi-receives-Prince-Faisal-lauds-Saudi-Arabias-leadership-role-in-protecting-the-planet>

Saudi Land Forces in Greece to participate in special operations exercise

Saudi Gazette, September 21, 2021

A team from the Paratroopers Units and the Special Security Forces of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) arrived in Greece to participate in the special operations exercise to be held on Tuesday with the Greek Special Operations Forces. The exercise aims at enhancing joint cooperation, exchanging experiences and concepts, and raising the level of combat readiness to confront challenges in the region. Emirati and Egyptian Special Forces are also participating in the quadruple exercise.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/611160/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Land-Forces-in-Greece-to-participate-in-special-operations-exercise>

Arab Coalition foils Houthi attack, destroys booby-trapped boats in the Red Sea

Alarabiya News, September 22, 2021

The Arab Coalition on Thursday said it foiled an imminent attack by the Iran-backed Houthi militia using two booby-trapped boats off the coast of the Hodeidah port in Yemen. The coalition was able to destroy the boats off the coast of the As-Salif village before the Houthis carried out their operation, according to a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). The Iran-backed group continues to threaten maritime navigation and international trade in the southern Red Sea, the Arab Coalition said. The Houthis also continue to violate the Stockholm Agreement by planning hostile attacks from the Hodeidah governorate, which is

currently under their control, the statement added.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/09/22/Arab-Coalition-foils-Houthi-attack-destroys-booby-trapped-boats-in-the-Red-Sea>

Saudi Arabia's defense forces destroy Houthi ballistic missile, three drones

Alarabiya News, September 23, 2021

Saudi Arabia's Defense Forces destroyed three explosive-laden Houthi drones that were heading towards the Kingdom and a ballistic missile that was targeting the Jazan region, the Arab Coalition announced on Thursday. The defense forces' efficiency helped to thwart all the attempts by the Iran-backed militia to attack Saudi Arabia, the coalition added. The coalition will be taking the necessary operational measures to target the sources of the threat in accordance with international humanitarian law, the coalition said in the statement.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/09/23/Saudi-Arabia-s-defense-forces-destroy-ballistic-missile-heading-to-Jazan>

Crown Prince, Sullivan discuss means to boost two countries' strategic relations

Saudi Gazette, September 29, 2021

Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, deputy prime minister and minister of the defense received on Monday evening the US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. They discussed during the meeting the means to strengthen the two countries' strategic relations in all fields. The discussions covered the issues of the region and other matters of common interest. With respect to the Yemeni issue, the Crown Prince affirmed the Saudi

initiative to end the Yemeni conflict which includes reaching a comprehensive ceasefire under the UN supervision, and supporting the UN proposal regarding allowing ships carrying oil derivatives to Hodeidah port and the opening of Sanaa international airport to flights — from and to — selected destinations. On his part, Sullivan affirmed the strategic partnership between the two countries' and the iron-clad US commitment to support the Kingdom's territorial defense against all threats, including Iranian sponsored missile and drone attacks.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/611540/SAUDI-ARABIA/Crown-Prince-Sullivan-discuss-means-to-boost-two-countries-strategic-relations>

SYRIA

Turkey-backed Syrian opposition groups merge under new banner

Al-Monitor, September 16, 2021

On Sept. 9, five factions affiliated with the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army announced that they had merged into the new “Syrian Liberation Front.” They include the Sultan Suleiman Shah Division, Hamza Division, al-Mutasim Brigade, Suqour al-Shamal Brigades and the 20th Division. Mutasim Brigade leader Mutasim al-Abbas was appointed as commander of the new Syrian Liberation Front, with Hamza Division leader Saif Bolad serving as his deputy. Nearly 15,000 fighters have joined the front from the three Syrian areas where Turkey led military operations — the Euphrates Shield, the Olive Branch, and the Peace Spring areas — in the countryside of Aleppo, Raqqa and Hasakah.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/turkey->

[backed-syrian-opposition-groups-merge-under-new-banner#ixzz77zEYYhNp](#)

Ambassador Khaddour : Syria fulfilled all its obligations regarding Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 17, 2021

Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Hasan Khaddour, affirmed that Syria has fulfilled all its legal obligations under the comprehensive safeguards agreement and nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty and met all requests on time. Khaddour, during the works of Board of Governors' session for September, held by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, said in a statement on Thursday that the disturbance track followed by some well-known parties, aim to exert more pressure on Syria which managed to carry out all the international obligations required under the Safeguards Agreement despite the difficult circumstances it has passed through.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=248798>

Russia intensifies Idlib attacks ahead of summit with Turkey, Iran on Syria

Al-Monitor, September 23, 2021

Since early September, Russia has been stepping up its military attacks and airstrikes in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib and its surroundings. Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad in Moscow on Sept. 13, at about the same time the hostilities began to intensify. Some believe the escalation is a prelude to a Syrian government offensive to take Idlib, the country's last rebel stronghold. Others, meanwhile, believe the activity is merely to

gain leverage in the upcoming tripartite summit between Russia, Turkey and Iran. The summit, slated for the end of September, will bring together Putin, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, as part of the Astana peace process.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/russia-intensifies-idlib-attacks-ahead-summit-turkey-iran-syria>

Russian MoD: Terrorists carry out 26 attacks from Idlib de-escalation zone over past hours

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 23, 2021

The Russian Ministry of Defense has announced that the terrorist organizations which spread in Idlib de-escalation zone have carried out 26 attacks over the past 24 hours. Deputy Head of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim Airport, Rear Admiral Vadim Kolet, said in a statement that 26 attacks were monitored from areas in which terrorist organizations spread, 11 in Idlib, 11 in Lattakia, 1 in Hama and 3 in Aleppo. Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists, who are deployed in Idlib and some areas in its countryside, continue their attacks with rocket shells on nearby safe areas.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=249157>

Syria calls on Indian companies to participate in reconstruction process

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 25, 2021

Syrian Ambassador to India, Dr. Riad Abbas called on the Indian companies to invest in Syria and take advantage of opportunities available for the friendly countries, which have stood by the Syrian

people, in the reconstruction process. Abbas's remarks came during a meeting at the Indian Center for Technology and Global Trade on the global trade relations and how to develop them and overcome obstacles they face. He pointed out to the situation in Syria and the continued attacks of US, Turkish and Israeli occupation forces on its territories ,and their support for terrorists who target the Syrian people.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=249406>

Syrian officials, SDF look to Russia for support against Turkey

Al-Monitor, September 26, 2021

Russian President Vladimir Putin received his Syrian counterpart, Bashar al-Assad, in Moscow on Sept. 13 — the first meeting between the two in Russia since 2018. The meeting was primarily about the Idlib de-escalation zone, which is under the control of the Turkish military, as well as the terrorist organization Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and the pro-Turkish Syrian National Army (SNA), representing the so-called moderate opposition. The SNA also controls zones named after various Turkish operations in northern Syria, including operations Olive Branch, Shield of the Euphrates and Peace Spring.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/syrian-officials-sdf-look-russia-support-against-turkey#ixzz77zGfx88t>

Mikdad meets Jaishankar. India supports Syria in war against terrorism

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 26, 2021

Foreign and Expatriates Minister, Faysal Mikdad, discussed with his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar means of developing bilateral relations

between the two countries in various fields. The Indian minister affirmed his country's willingness to boost economic cooperation with Syria and providing every possible assistance to Syria to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people. He underlined India's firm commitment to respecting Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and its support for Syria in the fight against terrorism. For his part, Minister Mikdad expressed Syria's appreciation for India's stance in support of Syria and the assistance it provided, saying that Syria gives great importance to develop relations with India.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=249492>

Hmeimim air defense system downs a drone launched by terrorists

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 28, 2021

The air defense system in Hmeimim base has downed a drone launched by terrorist organizations positioned in Idleb that was heading towards the base in Lattakia countryside, according to the Russian Ministry of Defense. "At 12:30 p.m. a drone launched from the territories controlled by terrorist organizations in Idleb de-escalation zone was tracked," the Ministry said in a statement published on its website on Tuesday. The statement added the "Pantsir-S" air defense system at the base destroyed the aerial target a long away from the base, and no casualties or material damages were reported as the base continues to operate normally.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=249587>

TURKEY

US Treasury sanctions five Turkey-based al-Qaeda facilitators

Alarabiya News, September 17, 2021

The US Treasury placed five Turkey-based al-Qaeda facilitators and financiers on its sanctions blacklist Thursday, as it focuses its attention on the extremist group's network in the country. The Treasury said Egypt-born Turkish lawyer Majdi Salim and another Egyptian citizen, Muhammad Nasr al-Din al-Ghazlani, acted as financial couriers for al-Qaeda in Turkey. The group, designated by the United States as a terror organization, "used Turkey-based financial couriers... to facilitate funds transfers on behalf of al-Qaeda, including providing money to the families of imprisoned al-Qaeda members," the Treasury said in a statement.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/09/17/US-Treasury-sanctions-five-Turkey-based-al-Qaeda-facilitators>

Turkish firm introduces newest UAV engines at Teknofest

Daily Sabah, September 22, 2021

Turkish engine producer Erin Motor introduced its newly developed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) engines at the country's largest technology and aviation event, Teknofest, being held this year in Istanbul. The firm showcased its two types of UAV engines, 6-hp and 11-hp, which can be used in observer drones. The engines are particularly well suited for vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) UAVs, Ersin Şahin, Erin Motor general manager, told Anadolu Agency (AA).

At this year's Teknofest, many aviation companies introduced VTOL UAVs, including the country's leading defense firm Baykar, he said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-firm-introduces-newest-uav-engines-at-teknofest>

Turkey extends lobbying deal on F-35 jet program with US law firm

Daily Sabah, September 23, 2021

Turkey has extended its lobbying contract with a United States law firm over its participation in the F-35 fighter jet program, according to newly disclosed U.S. Justice Department records. Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer's \$1.5 million contract for "strategic counsel and legal consultancy services" was disclosed on Sept. 20 and runs until August 2022. Turkey first hired Arnold & Porter in February for six months to lobby for readmission to the fighter-jet modernization program after the Trump administration suspended the country's participation.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-extends-lobbying-deal-on-f-35-jet-program-with-us-law-firm>

Morocco receives 1st Turkish Bayraktar TB2 delivery: Reports

Arab News, September 25, 2021

Morocco took delivery earlier this month of Turkish combat drones, the Far-Maroc unofficial website dedicated to military news reported. The report, also carried by several local media outlets, comes as tensions have spiked between Morocco and neighboring Algeria in recent weeks. The two countries are mainly at odds over the disputed Western Sahara territory, and Algeria severed ties with Morocco in

August claiming "provocations and hostile" action by its neighbor. According to Far-Maroc, the North African kingdom ordered 13 Bayraktar TB2 drones from Turkey in April and a first batch of the unmanned aircraft arrived this month. Rabat, said the report, seeks to "modernize the arsenal of the Moroccan Armed Forces (FAR) in order to prepare for any danger and recent hostilities," but did not elaborate on these topics.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1935236/middle-east>

Turkey vows to proceed with new round of S-400 air defenses

Daily Sabah, September 26, 2021

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said Turkey would consider buying a new batch of Russian missile systems despite U.S. opposition. In an interview with American broadcaster CBS News, Erdoğan said Turkey would make its own choices on its defense systems. The president explained that Turkey wasn't given the option to buy American-made Patriot missiles and that the U.S. had not delivered F-35 stealth fighter jets despite a payment of \$1.4 billion. "Nobody will be able to interfere in terms of what kind of defense systems we acquire, from which country, at what level," Erdoğan told CBS News correspondent Margaret Brennan in New York this past week. "We are the only ones to make such decisions," the president said, when asked if he intends to buy another round of S-400s. When Brennan said, "that sounds like a yes," Erdoğan answered, "Of course, of course, yes."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-vows-to-proceed-with-new-round-of-s-400-air-defenses>

Turkish military begins to use unmanned ground vehicles

Daily Sabah, September 29, 2021

The Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) have started using unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), a statement from the Ministry of National Defense said Wednesday. “Unmanned ground vehicles, which make it possible to observe and enter areas where it’s not possible to do so in every type of operation, have begun to be used in combat,” the ministry said. The ministry also attached an infographic for Acrob, a UGV developed by Turkish manufacturer Elektroland Defense.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-military-begins-to-use-unmanned-ground-vehicles>

Turkey, Russia mull fighter jet, submarine partnership

Daily Sabah, September 30, 2021

Turkey is considering more joint steps with Russia in the defense industry, including for fighter jets and submarines, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Thursday, a day after meeting with President Vladimir Putin. Talks with Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi focused on steps that would deepen defense cooperation between Turkey and Russia, including partnerships for aircraft engines, fighter jets and submarines, Erdoğan told journalists onboard the presidential plane. “We had the opportunity to discuss comprehensively what steps to take in the production of plane engines, what steps to take regarding fighter jets,” he said, adding that other measures could include building ships and submarines. “We spoke to Mr. Putin about building two more nuclear plants, besides

Akkuyu. He agreed to work on the issue,” Erdoğan said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-russia-mull-fighter-jet-submarine-partnership>

UAV magnate Baykar to build centers for Turkish drones in Ukraine

Daily Sabah, September 30, 2021

The Turkish drone magnate Baykar will be establishing joint training and maintenance centers for Turkish armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in Ukraine, a statement on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s website said. “We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. This is an important event for us,” Zelenskyy said after the signing of the memorandum with Baykar on Wednesday. The memorandum was a step toward joint Ukrainian-Turkish production of the drones, the statement said. Ukraine has previously bought the landmark drones from Baykar to bolster its armed forces in their fight against Russian-backed separatists in the war in the eastern Donbass region. Kyiv plans to procure 24 more Bayraktar TB2s in the coming period, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lieutenant-General Valeriy Zaluzhny, said earlier this month.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/uav-magnate-baykar-to-build-centers-for-turkish-drones-in-ukraine>

YEMEN

Houthi attack kills five people, injures 17 others in Yemen

Saudi Gazette, September 26, 2021

Five people were killed and 17 others wounded, including three journalists, by a

ballistic missile launched by the Houthi militia targeting a celebration event in the city of Midi in Hajjah Governorate, northwest of Yemen, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Muammar Al-Eryani confirmed early Sunday. In a press statement, Al-Eryani strongly condemned the terrorist attack that occurred Saturday evening targeting the celebration of the 59th anniversary of the September 26, 1962 revolution, which was attended by the Governor of Hajjah Maj. Gen. AbdulKarim Al-Senini.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/611386/World/Mena/Houthi-attack-kills-five-people-injures-17-others-in-Yemen>