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IRAN

Top Commander: Iran, Pakistan Agree to Hold Joint Naval Drills

Fars News Agency, October 17, 2021

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri announced that Iran and Pakistan have agreed to work towards establishment of full security along common borders and improve military cooperation by holding joint naval drills. "Iran and Pakistan have agreed to improve security along common borders and have made great efforts to create border barriers, control border traffic, fight drugs smuggling and human trafficking and combat other factors causing insecurity at borders," General Baqeri said. "Today, fortunately, the common border between the two countries is much safer than in the past," the top commander added. General Baqeri recalled that the two neighboring states have enjoyed military cooperation in recent years, and said, "During this visit, good agreements were reached, including on holding joint naval drills whether in Pakistan's waters or in the southern waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the future."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000725000503/Top-Commander-Iran-Pakistan-Agree-Hld-Jin-Naval-Drills>

Commander: IRGC Navy to Be Equipped with 2,000-KM-Range Cruise Missiles Soon

Fars News Agency, October 18, 2021

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami announced that the IRGC's Naval Forces will be armed with cruise missiles with an operational range of up to 2,000

kilometers in the near future which will be capable of targeting moving vessels. "IRGC navy has made considerable progress in development and manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles, and now possesses hundreds of reconnaissance, surveillance, combat and kamikaze drones with different operational ranges of up to 1,200 kilometers (745 miles)," General Salami said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000725000773/Commander-IRGC-Navy-Be-Eipped-wih-2-000-KM-Range-Crise-Missiles-Sn>

Top Commander: Iran Planning Purchase of Defense Equipment from Russia

Fars News Agency, October 19, 2021

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said that he is following the implementation of contracts for purchasing defense equipment from Russia in his visit to Moscow. General Baqeri, who is in Moscow to meet with Russia's military officials, made the remarks during a meeting with experts and managers of Iranian institutions at the Iranian Embassy in Moscow. "Contracts for purchasing defense equipment from Russian Federation have been concluded after lifting Iran's arms embargo," the top Iranian commander said. During the meeting, General Baqeri talked about the status of defense cooperation between the two countries, the latest regional and international developments and the fight against terrorism as objectives of his visit to Moscow.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000727000733/Top-Commander-Iran-Planning-Prchase-f-Defense-Eipmen-frm-Rssia>

Grossi says has no credible evidence Iran is developing nuclear weapon

Tehran Times, October 20, 2021

Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who has expressed hope that he would travel to Tehran in the next few days, has said he has no “credible information” that Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons. Grossi told Bloomberg on Tuesday that there’s a new government in Iran, a government coming from a group that expresses very strong views about the nuclear program cooperation with international organizations like the IAEA, “so we need to adjust to each other like in any relationship.” The director general emphasized he doesn’t have “any credible information” that Iran is seeking a nuclear weapon. Iran’s leaders have always insisted they don’t seek to build nuclear weapon.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/46625/4/Grossi-says-has-no-credible-evidence-Iran-is-developing-nuclear>

Iranian Army Air Force Starts Massive Drills

Fars News Agency, October 21, 2021

The Iranian Army Air Force kicked off the 10th edition of the drills, codenamed Fada’eyan-e Harim-e Velayat (Devotees of the Velayat Sanctuary), in several airbases across the country on Thursday, destroying hypothetical enemy targets with home-made ‘Yasin 90’ bombs. In the main and operational phase of the 10th Fada’eyan-e Harim-e Velayat military wargames on Thursday, vital targets of hypothetical enemy were destroyed by the indigenized ‘Yasin 90’ bombs. The drills are participated by all bases of Army Air Force and with a focus on airbases of

Shahid Babayee in Isfahan, Shahid Yasini in Bushehr, Shahid Abdolkarimi in Bandar Abbas, Vahdati in Dezful and Shahid Fakouri in Tabriz under the direct command of the Army Air Force Headquarters.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000729000278/Iranian-Army-Air-Frce-Sars-Massive-Drills>

Taliban ready to buy oil from Iran, says ACCI chief

Tehran Times, October 26, 2021

Afghanistan is ready to buy oil from Iran, says the chairman of Afghanistan’s Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) Tawakal Ahmadyar. This comes amid a time when trade with the war-torn nation is currently complicated for many companies as the country is run by the Taliban, a group which has not yet been recognized by any country. However, the ACCI chief, during a video conference with Iranian commercial attaché Ebrahim Hosseini, discussed general trade issues between the two nations and said that Afghanistan is ready to buy oil from Iran if Tehran paves the way for it.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/46638/1/Taliban-ready-to-buy-oil-from-Iran-says-ACCI-chief>

Taliban welcomes Ayatollah Khamenei’s remarks on Shia-Sunni unity

Tehran Times, October 26, 2021

A Taliban spokesman has issued a statement welcoming the remarks by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the unity of Shias and Sunnis, the Mehr news agency reported on Tuesday. Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naem tweeted that the group welcomed

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks on the unity of Sunnis and Shias. "The Islamic Emirate welcomes the words of the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, who called for more unity of Shias and Sunnis in Afghanistan," Naeem wrote on his Twitter: Naeem also wrote that the Afghans would stand together against the conspiracies as much as possible and thwart them.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466379/Taliban-welcomes-Ayatollah-Khamenei-s-remarks-on-Shia-Sunni-unity>

Iran, S. Arabia have made initial agreement on certain issues: spokesman

Tehran Times, October 31, 2021

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Sunday that Iran and Saudi Arabia have made initial agreements on certain issues but "we are waiting for their finalization." So far, Iran and Saudi Arabia have held four rounds of talks to settle their disputes. Iraq has been hosting the talks. Khatibzadeh said contacts between the two countries have never been cut off. "The talks have been held in Baghdad, that is, we have sat down and talked for four rounds; but regarding the question that 'are there constant messages and contacts between us and the Saudi government? Yes! This has happened,'" Khatibzadeh told the Mehr news agency. On a possible reopening of the embassies of the two countries, the spokesman said: "We are still some distance away from reopening of the embassies in Tehran and Riyadh."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466542/Iran-S-Arabia-have-made-initial-agreement-on-certain-issues>

IRAQ

Iraqi air force destroys ISIS hideouts in Wadi al-Shai in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, October 18, 2021

The Security Media Cell announced on Monday that Iraqi Air Force destroyed ISIS's hideout in Wadi al-Shai in Kirkuk province. "Based on accurate intelligence information from the Targeting Cell of the Joint Operations Command, the Air Force carried out 25 air strikes by F-15 Sukhoi aircrafts targeted ISIS gangs hideout in Wadi El shai in Kirkuk province", said SMC in a statement, received by The Iraqi News Agency(INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/14869-iraqi-air-force-destroys-isis-hideouts-in-wadi-al-shai-in-kirkuk.html>

Iraq captures mastermind of 2016 Islamic State terror attack that killed hundreds

Al-Monitor, October 19, 2021

Al-Qaeda militant Ghazwan al-Zawbaee, who carried out attacks throughout Iraq on behalf of the Islamic State (IS), was captured by Iraqi security forces. In a tweet, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi confirmed Ghazwan's capture: "Five years after the terrorist bombing of Karrada, our brave forces succeeded in capturing the terrorist Ghazwan [al-Zawbaee in a complex intelligence operation outside the country. He is the primary culprit behind the Karrada atrocity and many others." The young IS militant, alongside suicide bomber Abu Maha al-Iraqi, coordinated a suicide truck packed with explosives to target late-night shoppers in the Karrada district during Ramadan in 2016. The bombing was one of the deadliest attacks in the world since 9/11 and left at least 346 dead.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/iraq-captures-mastermind-2016-islamic-state-terror-attack-killed-hundreds#ixzz7BjrgIwQ>

Nasr Al-Shammari, Deputy Leader Of Iraqi Al-Nujaba Militia: We Will Resume Targeting U.S. Forces If They Don't Withdraw By End Of 2021; The U.S. Created ISIS; ISIS Was Paralyzed Thanks To Iraqi Airstrikes

MEMRI TV, October 20, 2021

Nasr Al-Shammari, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Iraqi Hizbullah Al-Nujaba Movement, said in an October 20, 2021 interview on Al-Sumaria TV (Iraq) that the Hizbullah Al-Nujaba Movement will "absolutely" resume attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq if they do not withdraw by the end of 2021, if not sooner. He said that the U.S. created ISIS and that he saw with his own eyes American forces evacuating besieged ISIS leaders and providing weapons and food to ISIS forces. When asked about American airstrikes against ISIS, Al-Shammari said that any airstrikes the U.S. may have carried out against ISIS pale in comparison to the 1,000 airstrikes he said were carried out by Iraq's air force, which paralyzed ISIS.

<https://www.memri.org/tv/senior-iraqi-militia-leader-hizbullah-nujaba-shammari-resume-targeting-us-forces-end-year>

ISIL attack on Iraqi village kills 11 'defenceless civilians'

Aljazeera, October 27, 2021

At least 11 people have been killed and others wounded in an ISIL (ISIS) attack on a village in Diyala province in eastern Iraq, according to the country's security forces. The attack on Tuesday targeted "defenceless civilians" in the village of al-

Hawasha, near the town of Muqdadia, the Joint Operations Command said in a statement. Police said the gunmen used several vehicles and semi-automatic guns in their attack. The Associated Press news agency cited two officials as saying that ISIL fighters had kidnapped two villagers earlier and then raided the village when their demands for ransom were not met. The dead and wounded were all civilians, they added.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/27/isil-attack-iraqi-village-kills-11>

ISRAEL

Israel expects 2,000 rockets a day in any war with Hezbollah: Army

Alarabiya, October 18, 2021

Israel does not want war with Lebanon's Hezbollah but is prepared to face about 2,000 rockets a day from the armed group if conflict breaks out, a senior Israeli military official told AFP. In May this year, the Israeli army fought an 11-day war against Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip, who fired around 4,400 projectiles towards Israel. Israel says its Iron Dome defense system, which has been in use for around a decade, intercepted around 90 percent of the rockets headed for populated areas, while just under 300 hit inhabited districts.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/10/18/Israel-expects-2-000-rockets-a-day-in-any-war-with-Hezbollah-Army>

IAI sets up \$40m fund to adapt military drone, energy tech to civilian market

Times of Israel, October 27, 2021

Israel's aerospace and aviation manufacturer IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries) has set up a \$40 million (NIS

127 million) fund to adapt and commercialize some of its existing military technology for the mainstream civilian market, in partnership with Israeli AI robotics startup SixAI. The first phase of the fund will focus on three core initiatives, according to the announcement: technologies for the production, extraction, and storing of energy; the development of commercial drones, including command and control platforms in urban environments; and the automation of production lines and autonomous machines in the manufacturing space, aka Industry 4.0. The fund will be jointly owned and operated by both IAI and SixAI, based in Neve Ilan outside of Jerusalem.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iai-sets-up-fund-to-adapt-military-drone-energy-tech-to-civilian-market/>

‘Obsessive anti-Israel bias’: Erdan rips up human rights report at UN podium

Times of Israel, October 30, 2021

Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan chastised the United Nations Human Rights Council on Friday for its disproportionate condemnation of Israel, tearing up the organization’s annual report while at the podium. In a speech to the General Assembly, the Israeli envoy slammed the UNHRC for its “obsessive anti-Israel bias” during a special session at which the council presented its annual report. “Since the establishment of the council 15 years ago, it has decided to blame and condemn Israel not 10 times like Iran or 35 times like Syria,” Erdan said. “The Human Rights Council has attacked Israel with 95 resolutions. Compared to 142 against all other countries combined.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/obsessive-anti-israel-bias-erdan-rips-up-human-rights-report-at-un-podium/>

Israel, India to build 10-year defense cooperation plan

The Jerusalem Post, October 31, 2021

Israel and India have agreed to form a task force that will build a 10-year cooperation plan to identify new areas in defense cooperation between the two countries.

The plan, which will include defense procurement, production and research and development, was agreed upon last week during a visit last week by Ajay Kumar, the director-general of the Indian ministry of defense. Kumar met with his Israeli counterpart, director-general of the defense ministry Maj.-Gen. (ret.) Amir Eshel at the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv for the 15th meeting of the Joint Working Group on defense cooperation. “The two sides reviewed the progress made in military-to-military engagements, including exercises and industry cooperation,” an Indian official was quoted by the Times of India report, adding that “it was also decided to form a new sub-working group on defense industry cooperation.”

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israel-india-to-build-10-year-defense-cooperation-plan-683591>

Iran official blames Israel, US for cyberattack that crippled gas stations

Times of Israel, October 31, 2021

Iran’s head of civil defense on Saturday blamed Israel and the United States for a cyberattack this week that crippled gas stations across the country. “We are still unable to say forensically, but analytically I believe it was carried out by the Zionist regime, the Americans and their agents,” Gholamreza Jalali told state TV in an interview, according to Reuters. He said the investigation was still ongoing, however. Iran’s president said Wednesday the

cyberattack was designed to get “people angry by creating disorder and disruption.” Ebrahim Raisi’s remarks stopped short of assigning blame for the attack, which rendered useless the government-issued electronic cards that many Iranians use to buy subsidized fuel at the pump.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-official-blames-israel-us-for-cyberattack-that-crippled-gas-stations/>

Israel’s army launches week-long simulation of full-scale war with Hezbollah

Alarabiya, October 31, 2021

Israel’s Defense Forces (IDF) and the defense ministry’s National Emergency Management Authority launched on Sunday a week-long exercise simulating a full-scale war with Lebanon’s Iran-backed Hezbollah militia, Israeli media reported. The military drill will simulate a conflict in which Hezbollah may utilize “100,000 rockets and missiles of different ranges, as well as a smaller but still significant quantity of precision-guided missiles, which have emerged as a potentially major issue for Israel,” the Times of Israel reported. Israeli military officials assessed that Hezbollah’s military capabilities are the “second most serious threat” facing Israel, after an Iranian nuclear weapon.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/10/31/Israel-s-army-launches-week-long-simulation-of-full-scale-war-with-Hezbollah>

LEBANON

U.S. Envoy Meets Lebanese Leaders over Israel Border Dispute

Naharnet, October 20, 2021

U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein met Wednesday with President Michel Aoun,

Speaker Nabih Berri and PM Najib Miqati in a bid to rekindle moribund talks over a maritime border dispute between Lebanon and Israel that is holding up oil and gas explorations. The Presidency said Aoun and Hochstein discussed “the course of the negotiations process regarding the sea border demarcation and the prospects in this file.” The National News Agency meanwhile said Berri and Hochstein reemphasized “the framework agreement that was announced in October last year.”

Berri for his part noted that “there is a new chance to resume the negotiations in Naqoura with the new U.S. efforts that are being exerted in this regard.” He also stressed to Hochstein “the importance of exempting Lebanon from the restrictions of the Caesar Act in the issues of drawing Egyptian gas and electricity from Jordan.”

NNA said the U.S. envoy expressed optimism to Berri about the two topics.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/285056-u-s-envoy-meets-lebanese-leaders-over-israel-border-dispute>

5 Dead in Israeli Strike on 'Lebanon-Bound Arms Shipment'

Naharnet, October 30, 2021

An Israeli missile strike killed five pro-Iran militiamen near Damascus on Saturday, a war monitor said, while state media said two Syrian soldiers were wounded in the attack. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strike “destroyed a Hizbullah and Iranian weapons and ammunition” convoy heading towards Lebanon. At least five pro-Iranian fighters were killed and several wounded, said the war monitor. Earlier state news agency SANA, quoting a military source, said two Syrian soldiers were wounded after explosions were heard in the Syrian capital. “The Israeli enemy fired a salvo of

surface-to-surface missiles from northern occupied Palestine targeting positions near Damascus," SANA said. "Our anti-aircraft defenses were activated and were able to hit some of the enemy missiles," the source said, adding that the attack wounded two soldiers and caused damage. AFP correspondents in Damascus heard multiple explosions at around midday.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/285341-5-dead-in-israeli-strike-on-lebanon-bound-arms-shipment>

KSA Slams Iran 'Dominance' as Qatar, Oman Urge Calm with Lebanon

Naharnet, October 31, 2021

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan has blamed his country's row with Lebanon on Hizbullah and Iran's "dominance" over Lebanese politics. "There is no crisis with Lebanon but a crisis in Lebanon because of Iranian dominance," he told Al-Arabiya television, adding: "Hizbullah's dominance of the political system in Lebanon worries us." The kingdom, which wields strong influence over many of the smaller Gulf states, has stepped back from its former ally Lebanon in recent years, angered by the influence of Hizbullah. Qatar -- which in January this year repaired a rift of its own with Saudi Arabia -- and fellow GCC member Oman meanwhile urged restraint and dialogue between Lebanon and the Gulf countries. "The (Qatari) foreign ministry calls on the Lebanese government to take the necessary measures... urgently and decisively, to calm the situation and to mend the rift," it said. Oman said all parties should strive "to work to avoid an escalation, and address differences through dialogue."

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/285346-ksa-slams-iran-dominance-as-qatar-oman-urge-calm-with-lebanon>

SAUDI ARABIA

Coalition air strikes hit Houthi military site in Sanaa

Saudi Gazette, October 21, 2021

The Saudi-led coalition launched a series of air strikes against Houthi rebels positions in the eastern area of Yemen's capital on Thursday, according to the coalition's official spokesman. A statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, Brig. Gen. Turki Al-Malki, said, "Coalition Air Force has conducted today, Thursday, a military operation against legitimate military targets in the Capital Sana'a in response to the threats, neutralizing the dangers of imminent attacks using ballistic missiles and bomb-laden drones to target civilian infrastructures in the Kingdom."

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/612511/SAUDI-ARABIA/Coalition-air-strikes-hit-Houthi-military-site-in-Sanaa>

Saudi air defenses intercept, destroy five ballistic Houthi missiles targeting Jazan

Alarabiya, October 28, 2021

Saudi Arabia's air defenses have intercepted and destroyed five ballistic missiles launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia toward Jazan, the Arab Coalition said in a statement on Thursday. The defenses the "Houthi militia's hostile attempts to target civilians and civilian objects," the Coalition said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA). "We are taking the necessary measures to neutralize specific capabilities in accordance with international humanitarian law." Since January, the Iran-backed militia ramped up their attacks on

the Kingdom and launched dozens of cross-border aerial attacks on Saudi Arabia.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/28/Saudi-air-defenses-intercept-destroy-five-ballistic-Houthis-missiles-targeting-Jazan>

SYRIA

El-Sisi: Egypt, Cyprus and Greece commit to Syria's territorial integrity

Syrian Arab News Agency, October 19, 2021

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi stressed Egypt, Cyprus and Greece firm stance towards adhering to the Syria's territorial integrity and regional safety.

This came in a joint press conference in Athens on Tuesday held with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the president of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, after the tripartite summit between Egypt, Greece and Cyprus following the tripartite summit between Egypt, Greece and Cyprus. El-Sisi asserted the importance of confronting the threat of terrorist organizations and the need to address them, expressing rejection of the attempts of some regional parties to violate Syrian sovereignty. He pointed out to the three countries' support of a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria, reiterating the three countries identical stances towards adhering to the need of preserving the territorial integrity of Syria and its regional safety.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=251788>

Russian Defense Ministry: 13 terrorist attacks from de-escalation zone in Idlib observed

Syrian Arab News Agency, October 22, 2021

The Russian Ministry of Defense said that the terrorist organizations deployed in the de-escalation zone of Idlib carried out 13

attacks during the past 24 hours. Rear admiral Vadim Collet, deputy commander of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmemim added in a statement that 13 attacks were monitored from areas in which terrorist organizations affiliated to "Jabhat al-Nusra" organization are deployed, five attacks in Aleppo, five in Idlib, two in Lattakia, and one in Hama.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=252114>

US kills senior al-Qaeda leader in Syria with drone strike

Aljazeera, October 23, 2021

The US military has killed senior al-Qaeda leader Abdul Hamid al-Matar in a drone strike in Syria, a US Central Command spokesman said. "The removal of this al-Qaeda senior leader will disrupt the terrorist organisation's ability to further plot and carry out global attacks threatening US citizens, our partners, and innocent civilians," US Army Major John Rigsbee said in a written statement late on Friday. There were no other known casualties from the strike, he said, adding it was conducted using an MQ-9 aircraft.

The strike comes two days after a US outpost in southern Syria was attacked.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/23/us-says-it-killed-al-qaeda-leader-in-syria-with-drone>

Officials: Iran behind drone attack on US base in Syria

Aljazeera, October 25, 2021

United States officials believe Iran was behind a drone attack last week at a military outpost at al-Tanf in southern Syria where American troops are based. Officials said Monday the US believes that Iran provided resources and encouraged the attack, but that the drones were not launched from

Iran, The Associated Press news service reported. The drones were Iranian, and Iran appears to have facilitated their use, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details that have not been made public. Officials said they believe the attacks involved as many as five drones laden with explosive charges, and that they hit both the US side of al-Tanf garrison and the side where Syrian opposition forces reside.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/25/officials-iran-behind-drone-attack-on-us-base-in-syria>

US military exit from Syria unlikely anytime soon, officials say

Aljazeera, October 26, 2021

The United States will not be withdrawing its roughly 900 troops from northeast Syria any time soon, despite mounting speculation it would do so following its much-maligned August pull-out from Afghanistan, according to officials with knowledge of the Biden administration's plans. In recent weeks, Syria-watchers have pondered whether President Joe Biden's hallmark decision to end the US's longest-ever war, in Afghanistan, which saw the last American aircraft leave Afghan airspace on August 30, may presage a similar retreat from Syria. Officially, the US has 900 troops in the country's northeast, whose mandate is to help Washington's local counterterrorism partner, the Kurdish YPG-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), ensure the enduring defeat of the armed group, ISIL (ISIS).

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/26/will-us-leave-syria>

An attack with explosive device targets Russian military convoy in Syria

Syrian Arab News Agency, October 26, 2021

A Russian military police convoy was targeted with an explosive device in Daraa Countryside, according to the Russian Ministry of Defense. "At about 09:00 a.m., an improvised caseless explosive device went off before the head car of the Russian military police convoy, which was on a patrolling mission along the M-5 highway near Um al-Mayazen town in Daraa eastern countryside," Deputy Commander of the Russian Coordination Center, Rear Admiral Vadim Kulit said in a statement on Monday. The Russian military official affirmed that no Russian servicemen were not hurt in the explosion.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=252493>

TURKEY

US consulting with Turkey on resolving F-35 row: State Department

Anadolu Agency, October 18, 2021

The US remains in active consultations with Turkey over resolving an ongoing row concerning Ankara's expulsion from the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, the State Department said on Monday. Spokesman Ned Price said the Biden administration is engaged with Turkey over "an F-35 dispute resolution," but said he would not "prejudge the outcome of" those discussions. "I don't want to go into private conversations between the Turkish government and this administration so I will leave it at that," he said.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-consulting-with-turkey-on-resolving-f-35-row-state-department-/2396026>

Turkey to buy Russia fighter jets if the US fails to deliver F-16s, Turkish defence head says

Middle East Monitor, October 18, 2021

The head of Turkey's Defence Industry, Ismail Demir, has said that Turkey is still keeping its options open to considering the purchase of Russian Su-35 fighter jets, in the case that the United States refuses an agreement to deliver F-16 fighter jets. According to Turkey's *NTV* news channel, Demir stated today that "If the United States does not approve a deal on the F-16s after the situation with F-35 aircraft, Turkey won't be left without alternatives. The issue of Su-35 and Su-57 planes may surface again at any time." Over the past few weeks, Ankara has been attempting to secure the delivery of four F-16 fighter jets from Washington, as an alternative to the F-35 fighter jets which Turkey has already paid \$1.4 billion for.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2021/10/18-turkey-to-buy-russia-fighter-jets-if-the-us-fails-to-deliver-f-16s-turkish-defence-head-says/>

Angola sought Turkish drones, new talks include armored carriers

Daily Sabah, October 18, 2021

Angola has requested to acquire Turkish-made combat drones, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Monday, noting that the latest talks also included covered armored carriers. Erdoğan's remarks came on the sidelines of his visit to the southern African nation Monday, the first stop of his three-nation Africa tour. Angola's initial request for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) was made during President Joao Lourenco's visit to Turkey three months ago. Angola's bid

comes amid growing interest in the Turkish UCAVs after their successful use in international conflicts. Just last week, Turkey was reported to have expanded the export of its renowned drones by negotiating deals with Morocco and Ethiopia.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/angola-sought-turkish-drones-new-talks-include-armored-carriers>

Kyrgyzstan becomes latest buyer of Turkish combat drones

Daily Sabah, October 22, 2021

Kyrgyzstan is becoming the latest buyer of renowned Turkish combat drones in an effort to rev up its defense industry capabilities, a senior official announced late Thursday. Kamchybek Tashiev, the deputy prime minister of Kyrgyzstan and chairperson of the State Committee for National Security, said they placed an order to buy Turkish drone magnate Baykarmade Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs). The Central Asian nation will be taking the delivery of the drones soon, Tashiev told reporters.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/kyrgyzstan-becomes-latest-buyer-of-turkish-combat-drones>

Turkey extends Syria and Iraq military missions by two years

Aljazeera, October 26, 2021

Turkey's parliament has extended the military's mandate to launch cross-border operations in Syria and Iraq by two more years. The motion was first approved in 2013 to support the international campaign against ISIL (ISIS) and has since been renewed annually. However, Tuesday's decision marked the first time that the motion was extended by two years, giving

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a longer mandate to pursue campaigns against Kurdish fighters in the restive region.

It also marked the first time the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) voted against the measure, ahead of an important general election due by June 2023.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/26/turkey-extends-syria-and-iraq-military-missions-by-two-years>

US lawmakers call for Biden to not sell F-16 fighters to Turkey

Daily Sabah, October 27, 2021

Democratic and Republican U.S. lawmakers urged President Joe Biden's administration not to sell F-16 fighter jets to Turkey and said they were confident Congress would block any such exports.

In a letter to Biden and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, 11 members of the House of Representatives cited "a profound sense of concern" about recent reports that Turkey may purchase 40 new Lockheed Martin F-16s and 80 F-16 modernization kits. The letter was dated Oct. 25 and reviewed by Reuters on Tuesday. "Following President (Recep Tayyip) Erdoğan's September announcement that Turkey will purchase an additional tranche of Russian S-400 missile defense systems, we cannot afford to compromise our national security by sending U.S.-manufactured aircraft to a treaty ally that continues to behave like an adversary," the lawmakers wrote.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/us-lawmakers-call-for-biden-to-not-sell-f-16-fighters-to-turkey>

In Ukraine's 1st combat use, Bayraktar TB2 destroys Russian armament

Daily Sabah, October 27, 2021

Once again video of a Turkey-made unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), namely Bayraktar TB2, destroying a Russian-made land vehicle went viral on social media. The footage, showing a familiar scene from Syria and Azerbaijan, was this time shared by the Ukrainian Armed Forces on Tuesday. It was the Bayraktar TB2 combat drone's first-ever deployment by the Ukrainian army – which has quite a few of them in its inventory – to destroy a howitzer used by pro-Russian separatists in Donbass. The Bayraktar TB2 was used for the first time to force the separatists to abide by a cease-fire, the armed forces said in a Facebook statement. The Kremlin said Wednesday that its fears about Turkey's decision to sell strike drones to Ukraine were being realized and that the Turkish drones risked destabilizing the situation in eastern Ukraine.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/in-ukraines-1st-combat-use-bayraktar-tb2-destroys-russian-armament>

Greece signs letter of intent with Netherlands for more warships

Daily Sabah, October 30, 2021

Greece has signed a letter of intent with the Netherlands to transfer Dutch warships to its navy, being the country's latest move in its drastically increasing arms purchases in recent years, a French-based military news outlet reported Saturday. The letter of intent covers the possible transfer of two M-class frigates and six Alkmaar-class mine countermeasures vessels (MCMV) to the Greek navy from the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Naval News reported. Despite saying it has no intention of entering into an

arms race with its neighbor and NATO ally Turkey, Greece has geared up its military purchases this year. The country recently signed multiple big-ticket arms deals with Israel for the purchase of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and missiles, with France for the purchase of Rafael fighter jets, and with the United States for the update of its F-16s to the latest Viper configuration.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/greece-signs-letter-of-intent-with-netherlands-for-more-warships>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Hosting UAE Air Force chief, Israel sees airpower cooperation

Alarabiya, October 25, 2021

The chief of the United Arab Emirates Air Force visited Israel on Monday on what the host country described as a harbinger of cooperation in air power. The US allies normalized relations last year, brought together by shared worries about Iran and a desire for business ventures. Their public embrace has so far been in the diplomatic and commercial, rather than military, spheres. Major-General Ibrahim Nasser Mohammed Al Alawi, commander of the UAE air force, made the previously unannounced appearance during a multinational drill, Blue Flag, hosted by Israel this week. “This is a truly historic day with tremendous significance for the future of cooperation between our air forces,” his Israeli counterpart, Major-General Amikam Norkin, tweeted. The statement did not elaborate on how such cooperation might look.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/10/25/Hosting-UAE-Air-Force-chief-Israel-sees-airpower-cooperation>